

Piedmont Friends Fellowship

**Representative Body Meeting
June 4, 2017, 1:00**

Wilkes County Friends Meeting

Present:

Jeff Brown (clerk)	Chapel Hill
Dylan Buffum	Durham
Laura Buffum	Durham
John Hunter	Durham
Linda Hunter	Durham
Bob Mers	New Garden
Joyce Mers	New Garden
Dick Connell	Salem Creek
John Cardarelli	Salem Creek
Gary Hornsby	Salem Creek
Melissa Meyer	Wilkes County
Ted Edgerton	Wilkes County
Bill Moore	Raleigh
Kathy Walker	Abingdon
Terry Walker	Abingdon
Lisa Crose	Eno
Michael Crose	Eno

The meeting began with a period of silent worship, followed by introductions.

Review of Minutes

Friends present found that no changes were necessary to the Minutes for the Representative Body meeting on March 12, 2017.

Reports

Communications

A new and updated version of the Listserve and PFF Directory will be sent out by Laura Buffum soon. John Hunter reported that the website combines PFF and PFYM information, events and relevant documents. There was discussion of the types and frequency of announcements and messages to be sent to PFF Representatives as well as PFF Clerks using the PFF Listserve. Bill Moore who is the PFYM representative to AFSC would like to share announcements with PFF Clerks and PFF Representatives. An ad hoc committee was suggested to further consider this issue: Bill Moore, Jeff

Brown, and Dick Connell volunteered for this work. Appreciation was minuted to Laura Buffum and John Hunter for their diligent attention to the PFF Listserve, PFF Directory, and PFF/PFYM website.

Treasurer's Report:

Dylan Buffum reported on the various costs and income from our March Retreat at Carolina Friends School. Income slightly exceeded retreat costs. Friends agreed to send a check for \$250 to the school as an honorarium (200) and for a minor repair (50). We anticipate an expenditure of \$1,800 to support Piedmont Friends who are going the FGC Gathering at Niagara Falls this summer. Dylan recommends that PFF Representatives develop a budget that includes PFF/PFYM shared expenses, and eventually agree on a plan for investment, possibly with Friends Fiduciary. John Hunter encouraged the Treasurers to come up with a specific proposal for placing a certain amount of money in an investment vehicle with a greater return. Dick Connell emphasized the value of having FDIC insurance which is not included with Friends Fiduciary or other mutual funds. The Representative Body's upcoming August meeting will be a joint meeting with PFYM, and a budget plan may be discussed at that time. Regular donations from PFF to Quaker House and/or FGC will be an additional item for consideration in a budget plan.

Discussion / Decision

Friends General Conference & Gathering 2017:

John Hunter reported on the critical importance of PFF/PFYM's formal connections with FGC and its annual Gathering. Other FGC services include First Day School materials, internet Cloud with website support, training for Clerks, bookstore, and spiritual growth programs. FGC has increasing financial needs, and depends on Quaker meetings for almost all of its support. A large proportion of FGC staff has been laid off in the past year, and given these tenuous times, may call for even more downsizing. The FGC Gathering continues to be a strong source of renewal and is a large part of FGC's identity. Friends are urged to attend the Gathering next month.

PFF Representatives agreed to donate \$400 to Friends General Conference at this time, and will discuss making a line item for an annual donation to FGC when our budget is developed.

Representatives also agreed to donate \$400 to Quaker House at this time, and will place Quaker House as a line item in our future budget.

Topics for Joint Meeting with PFYM in August 2017:

- A budget plan as a priority
- Review of the annual weekend retreat

- Description of the fall retreat at Seven Springs
- Management of the PFF/PFYM website
- Review of what PFF and PFYM see as their priority work
- Joint representatives to Quaker organizations and how to share information
- Communications within PFF/PFYM

Planning our September 23 (22 and 24 optional) Fall Retreat at Seven Springs:

Details about what Friends need to bring, and camping or hotel (self-pay) options need to be communicated. Friends may also need information about Saturday lunch and dinner. A potluck on Friday evening and improvised breakfasts are included. John Hunter and John Cardarelli will coordinate the two Saturday meals, and Salem Creek Meeting will help with dinner. The overriding theme will be Fellowship. During Saturday afternoon, Friends will share how our monthly meetings build a sense of Quaker Community as well as how we build connections with the wider community. A moderator will clerk and facilitate this worship sharing. Bill Moore and Gary Hornsby agreed to be co-clerk, with Marion Beane proposed as back up.

Youth Activity Opportunities:

Meetings will encourage PFF youth to participate in the fall camping retreat.

Looking to the annual retreat, in order to avoid conflicts with SAT testing and spring breaks, March 30th & 31st-April 1st weekend (including Easter) appears to be the preferred choice, pending approval from Carolina Friends School. Friends were equally easy with the weekend before or weekend after the Easter weekend. A sharing and possibly a program about conscientious objection might be included in the spring retreat to focus on PFF youth.

Archiving PFF documents:

Guilford College may want a hard copy of PFF minutes and other statements. The clerk will check into requirements and bring this back for discussion at a future PFF Representatives meeting.

Upcoming Meetings:

Saturday, August 26th, at New Garden Friends Meeting, beginning at 10 AM and closing around 3 PM

Sunday, October 22nd, possibly at Spring Friends Meeting, or at Eno Friends Meeting (Dylan Buffum will reach out to Meetings)

Sunday, January 28th, at Eno Friends Meeting or Davidson Friends Meeting

March 30th – April 1st 2018 retreat at Carolina Friends School (March 23-25 or April 6-8 as backups)

Announcements & Other Business

Friends were exceedingly grateful for the worshipping, gracious hosting and fabulous lunch provided by Wilkesboro Friends Meeting.

Closing Worship

The meeting closed with silent worship.

John Cardarelli
Recording Clerk
