

Piedmont Friends Fellowship

**Representative Body Meeting
June 6, 2015 – 1:00**

Raleigh Friends Meeting, Raleigh, NC

Attending

John Hunter
Marian Beane
Martin Doherty
Robert Cooper
Tony Lowe
Scott Taylor
Karen McKinnon
Tommy Kagan
Gedd Rigler
Doris Wilson
Jeff Brown

Meeting

Durham
Charlotte
Charlotte
Fayetteville
Fancy Gap
Fancy Gap
Durham / Hillsborough Worship Group
Raleigh
Davidson
Upstate
Chapel Hill

The meeting opened after a period of silent worship. John Hunter, clerk, welcomed Representatives.

Friends had no comments on the Minutes of the Representative Body Meeting on March 15, 2015.

Reports

1. Listserve (managed by Micah Barnhill-Wright)

John Hunter urged Representatives to take responsibility to provide current email addresses for Representatives to Micah Barnhill-Wright, and copy John Hunter on the message (email addresses in the Directory). Representatives will think about another Friend you may be willing and able to manage the listserv.

2. Updating PFF Directory

Robert Cooper recommended and Friends approved three actions:

- (1) Remove the PFF Directory from the PFF website.
- (2) Share the Directory internally via email with Friends listed in the Directory.
- (3) Post information about member meetings on the PFF website including location, times of worship, and directions, in text format and as a downloadable document.

3. Report on the PFYM Interim Meeting

Marian Beane, Clerk of Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting, reported on the Yearly Meeting and its Interim Meeting. Her report is attached. She read excerpts from the Epistle (attached). The Epistle is posted on the PFYM website and was sent to member meetings, yearly meetings, and other Quaker organizations. Friends

confirmed that PFYM and PFF are one organization for identification purposes for the Friends General Conference Gathering and other Quaker events and organizations. There are some instances where separate communications to PFYM and PFF from Quaker organizations may be appropriate.

4. Report from the Nominating Committee

Marian Beane reported that Lori Fernald Khamala, Friendship Meeting, is willing to serve as a representative on the FGC Central Committee. Acknowledging upcoming coordination with PFYM, PFF Representatives approved Lori Fernald Khamala as a representative from PFF.

5. Report on Effort to Build a Cadre of Children within PFF & NCYM(C) Meetings

John Hunter reported that Durham Friends Meeting has organized retreats for middle school students. Progress on building attendance is slow, but some youth are participating from PFF member meetings outside of Durham. Andrew Wright will report to PFF in the fall.

6. Treasurer's Report

Robert Cooper presented the Treasurer's Report (attached). In brief, the total cash balance as of June 6 is \$19,654.95. His report includes recommendations for improving processes for the Treasurer. The agenda for the next Representative Body meeting will include those recommendations. Also, the nominating committee will look at the recommendation about an assisting treasurer before the next meeting.

Discussion / Decision

7. Planning for the November 7 Fall Retreat. (John Hunter)

For the fall retreat, Friends would like to invite Lori Fernald Khamala of AFSC to do a program on the topic of immigration issues and stories. Friends discussed the opportunity for a related service experience, and the benefit of having a concurrent children's program. Doris Wilson will contact her.

Other topics for future consideration are "What is the Quaker Way?" and Quaker history in conjunction with a visit to the Mendenhall Plantation in Jamestown.

8. Location for Annual Meeting

The youth Epistle from the last annual meeting included a recommendation to consider a different location for the retreat. Considerations are cost, kitchen capacity, youth participation, meeting spaces, and location with respect to member meetings, as well as capacity to accommodate the Yearly Meeting. Karen McKinnon will review the facilities at Carolina Friends School in Durham at report to PFF. The tentative date is March 11-13, 2016. There will be coordination with PFYM.

9. Initial Program Planning for Annual Meeting

John Hunter will inquire about the availability of George Lakey.

Alternatives include Max Carter on Quaker testimonies or Quaker history, and environmental issues. Concerning the latter, Doris Wilson will find a contact from the Palmetto Meeting.

10. Strategy for Providing Mailing Lists to Friends General Conference

John Hunter distributed FGC's statement on the "Use of Yearly Meeting Mailing Lists." FGC seeks only mailing addresses for three mailings per year. Email is used only for Friends who register at FGC events. FGC expects PFF to provide a mailing list twice a year. PFF will ask member meetings to send address lists directly to FGC. The clerk will forward the FGC statement to clerks of member meetings with an appeal to send mailing lists to FGC. PFF Representatives will follow up with clerks in their respective meetings.

12. Confirm Meeting Locations and Times for Upcoming Meetings

Friends confirmed the following:

August 23, 2015, to be held in Fancy Gap

November 7, 2015, in the Greensboro area tentatively, depending on program

January 16 or 17, 2016, in Davidson tentatively

March 11-13, 2016, location to be determined

Announcements and Other Business

Friends expressed gratitude for the hospitality of Raleigh Friends Meeting today including a fine lunch and warm fellowship prior to the meeting.

The meeting closed with worship.

Jeff Brown
Recording Clerk

Attachments

Report on Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting 15th of Third Month, 2015

Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting held its first annual session on the 14th of Third month, 2015 with 76 Friends in attendance. There was a true sense of joy and anticipation for the opportunities that this new yearly meeting can provide for strengthening the spiritual life of meetings, strengthening our service and witness in the world and connecting with the broader body of Friends. Out of worship a member of each affiliated meeting read their meeting's minute on affiliation. Those meetings include: Chapel Hill, Charlotte, Fancy Gap, New Garden, Salem Creek, Raleigh and Upstate Worship Group.

Yearly Meeting received reports & recommendations from the ad hoc Yearly Meeting committee that has been meeting with the yearly meeting formation committee during this past year. Yearly Meeting approved three documents that provide guidance for the yearly meeting. These include: The (1) Vision Statement & Core Elements, (2) the PFF/PFYM Relationship, and (3) Policy & Practice Handbook (draft). The latter document provides for three officers including: presiding clerk, assistant providing clerk and recording clerk. Session approved the slate of officers that was brought forward by the yearly meeting ad hoc nominating committee as follows: Marian Beane, presiding clerk (2 years), John Cardarelli, assistant presiding clerk (1 year) and Julie Stafford, recording clerk (1 year). Finally Yearly Meeting approved preparation of an epistle informing Friends 'everywhere' about the establishment of Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting and the spirit of its first session that was held in coordination with Piedmont Friends Fellowship's annual weekend retreat.

Interim Meeting is the representative body of the Yearly Meeting and will meet 3 or 4 times during the year. Its task and charge is to further the work of the yearly meeting between annual sessions. All affiliated meetings are asked to appoint up to three representatives. Individuals from any of the PFF meetings are also invited to participate in Interim Meeting and other yearly meeting programs as they are led. Interim Meeting will hold its first session on Saturday, May 2nd. PFF can expect to receive regular reports from the Yearly Meeting and Interim Meeting in particular as we our mutual relationship and shared visions.

Report prepared by Marian Beane, clerk
Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting.

2015 Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting
Epistle from the First Annual Session Third Month, Fourteenth Day 2015

Greetings to Friends Everywhere,

In a spirit of joy and anticipation, and after years of discernment Piedmont Friends Fellowship was led to take under its care the formation of a new yearly meeting. Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting (PFYM) emerged as a result of this nurture and we held our first Annual Session on Saturday afternoon, March 14th, 2015. PFYM intends to act as a 21st century yearly meeting well-grounded in Quaker tradition and history.

The yearly meeting intends to continue and build upon Piedmont Friends Fellowship's 47-year tradition of loving and inclusive fellowship. PFYM seeks to be a loving community of Friends in the Piedmont area and adjacent areas of North Carolina, Virginia and South Carolina, guided by spirit, and deepening our experience of Quaker worship, faith, and practice. The new yearly meeting seeks to strengthen our service and witness to the world through broadened connections with wider Quaker organizations.

Piedmont Friends Fellowship held its spring retreat and annual meeting on March 13-15, 2015. Ninety-two adult Friends and twenty young Friends from North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia gathered under budding maple trees and worshipped in the historic New Garden Friends Meetinghouse in Greensboro, NC. Friends greeted each other with excitement and joy, and enjoyed unity in both worship and fellowship.

Within this loving context on the afternoon of March 14, Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting convened its first Annual Session with 76 Friends in attendance. Five North Carolina monthly meetings, a Virginia monthly meeting and a South Carolina worship group minuted their affiliation with the new Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting: Chapel Hill, Charlotte, Fancy Gap (VA), New Garden, Raleigh, and Salem Creek Friends Meetings, and Upstate (SC) Worship Group. Friends then proceeded to establish basic elements of the new yearly meeting through approval of recommendations from the Piedmont Friends Fellowship Yearly Meeting Formation Committee and the Interim Body of Representatives from affiliating meetings—groups that had been working jointly on these recommendations for two years.

First to be approved were The Vision Statement and Core Elements, intended to clarify the guiding principles of the new yearly meeting. The last sentence of the Vision Statement reads, "Our primary goals are to nurture monthly meetings and worship groups by supporting spiritual growth and to witness to our collective truth in the wider world." The Core Elements include inward experience of the spirit leading us to loving ways; Quaker practices of discernment, continuing revelation and outward expression of truth in our lives; inclusiveness and welcoming a diversity of individuals and families into our meetings; strengthening our monthly meetings and worship groups; holding to a simple and sufficient structure in the yearly meeting; and demonstrating transparency and openness in all of our actions. A copy of the Vision and Core Elements document is appended to this epistle.

Next PFYM approved a document which will serve as a guide to the relationship between Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting and Piedmont Friends Fellowship. The two

entities will act in Friendly partnership, with the Fellowship developing programming (including youth programming), planning semi-annual workshops and retreats, maintaining a joint website, and handling finances. The Yearly Meeting will turn to the work of nurturing service to monthly meetings and strengthening service and witness in the world. Membership in the Yearly Meeting will require that the monthly meeting or worship group also begin or maintain active membership in the Fellowship.

The final basic elements put in place by the new yearly meeting were approval of a beginning Policy and Procedures Handbook and approval of Friends to serve in the three positions provided in that Handbook: Presiding Clerk, Assisting Clerk, and Recording Clerk. The Handbook also provides for an Interim Meeting of representatives from affiliating meetings and worship groups, which will meet quarterly to do the work of the yearly meeting between annual sessions.

The PFF/YM weekend retreat was rich with activity before and after the yearly meeting annual session. Friends participated in a sharing of our spiritual stories, led by Mary Kay Glazer from Friends General Conference (FGC) traveling ministries. We met in pairs and small groups to answer a variety of queries around our spiritual experiences. One of the highlights of the entire weekend was the storytelling exercise on the history of Piedmont Friends Fellowship and creation of Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting, by way of two or three sentence contributions from over twenty different Friends who rose and spoke out of the silence.

We heard from Lynn and Steve Newsom, directors of Quaker House, which was born in 1969 from the efforts and discernment of Piedmont Friends Fellowship and continues to be a strong witness for peace and healing among military personnel. We also heard about the important work of the American Friends Service Committee in our area from AFSC Friend Lori Fernald Khamala, and the supportive services of FGC from visiting Friend, Eric Evans. Young Friends were treated to a campus tour of nearby Guilford College. Later, some of us participated in a musical drumming session and evening bonfire. Inspired by the yearly meeting annual session, some 18 Friends met to establish a yearly meeting ad hoc working group around local peace and social concerns activities in our various communities.

Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting, in partnership with Piedmont Friends Fellowship, will continue our inward search for spiritual growth and outward witness and service to the world with much joyful unity.

Marian Beane Presiding clerk

Marian.beane@gmail.com; 704 568 6920 <http://piedmontfriendsfellowship.org/>

Treasurer's Report for PFF Representative Body Meeting June 6, 2015

As of June 6, 2015, the current total cash balance is \$19,654.95. We have received \$6,091 so far this year and have spent \$4,839.

Money received included \$2,350 in donations from Davidson, Durham, Fancy Gap, Fayetteville, New Garden, Raleigh, Salem Creek and Wilkes County, \$3,726 from the Spring Retreat and \$15 in interest.

We spent \$4,229 on the Spring Retreat including our donation of \$300 to New Garden Meeting, \$ 10 in bank fees, and I made two years of donations to Friends Organizations we had agreed to support annually since none were made in 2014 which were a payment to Friends General Conference of \$200 and one to Quaker House of \$400.

I transferred \$3,000 from PNC to Self Help Credit Union, as I felt a little over a years' worth of funds to cover our current expenses was all that we needed to have outside of our Money Market Account.

We ended up spending a little over \$500 more than we brought in for the Spring Retreat, but that was due mostly to the donation made and paying for some cooking labor. I believe as long as we cover the food and housing costs, donations from members is sufficient to pay for other needs at Retreats.

We now have about two years' worth of our current needs in our money market account in addition to the years' worth of funds in our checking account.

I recommend that we establish a tradition of making our annual donations to the two Friends Organizations we have agreed to make donations to, Friends General Conference and Quaker House, when the bills for the Spring Retreat are paid as both organizations have year ends earlier than ours and this allows the donations to be made before their year-ends. I also think they are less likely to be forgotten if paid earlier in the year and on a regular basis.

I also recommend we switch banks. While \$2 a month for producing a paper statement is not lot of money Carter Bank and Trust provides statements, and imaged copies of all checks and deposit slips free of charge. PNC also requires \$450 or more as a minimum balance to avoid fees even if you do not request a written statement while Carter requires no minimum balance.

And there are branches of Carter Bank within 20 miles of all of our current Meetings and Worship Groups.

I would like to ask that we change the position of Assistant Treasurer to Assisting Treasurer as soon as we find someone to replace Tom Kagan with them also becoming the Rising Treasurer as we are doing with the position of Clerk. I think we should also consider people who are involved in PFF including coming to Retreats even if not currently Representatives as I think we can find someone to take the position and who would be willing to attend our Meetings. And looking at the cost of housing for the Spring Retreat, and knowing how difficult it is to get Hotels and Motels to accept checks; I suggest we consider getting a debit card so someone who wants to become Treasurer (or Clerk) doesn't need to have a Bank Account with a large available balance to use their Debit Card, or a Credit Card with a large available credit line or we end up making large deposits to guarantee Rooms; which creates more paperwork for the Treasurer.