

Piedmont Friends Fellowship

**Representative Body Meeting  
October 22, 2017, 1:00**

Eno Friends Meeting of Hillsborough  
Charles House, Chapel Hill

Present:

Jeff Brown (clerk)	Chapel Hill
Dylan Buffum	Durham
Laura Lipps Buffum	Durham
Robert Mers	New Garden
Joyce Mers	New Garden
Karen McKinnon	Eno
John Cardarelli	Salem Creek
Bill Moore	Raleigh
Ted Edgerton	Wilkesboro
Melissa Meyer	Wilkesboro
Judy Williams	Friendship
Lisa Crose	Eno
Kindra Bradley	Fayetteville
John Hunter	Durham

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

Review of Minutes

Friends present found one spelling correction in the Minutes for the Representative Body meeting on August 26, 2017 (Jan Schmidt instead of Jan Smith).

**Reports:**

Clerk's Report

Jeff Brown reviewed all of the meetings that are part of PFF and their yearly meeting affiliations. The Clerk also reviewed PFF's main goals and purposes for the year. See attachments.

Communications:

Laura Lipps Buffum reported on recent updates to our PFF Directory and listserv. Laura's email is [laura.lipps@gmail.com](mailto:laura.lipps@gmail.com) for any additional updates.

There was discussion about the PFF website and the option of the Quaker Cloud. Friends have earmarked \$400 in our budget for communications. A committee of Jeff

Brown, Bill Moore, and Alice Carlton will meet to discuss this option as a possible replacement for the current PFF website. One question is to enumerate the advantages of switching to Quaker Cloud as well as the comparative costs.

### Friends General Conference

Karen McKinnon will be attending FGC Central Committee this week of October 26<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup>. She explained that the focus will be on FGC's mission and vision, and articulating these in greater detail. The past year's emphasis has been on racism as well as cost-cutting measures. FGC exists to serve yearly and monthly meetings, and as a home for diverse individuals, to build and grow Quaker faith and practice. PFF representatives agreed to ask FGC to send a representative our annual spring retreat. PFF Friends John Hunter, Karen Stewart, Marian Beane, Karen McKinnon, Lori Khamala, and Ida Trisolini will all be attending FGC Central Committee this week, and we will be holding them in the Light.

### Treasurer's Report:

Dylan Buffum reported on expenses and total contributions from member Meetings. Dylan will move some money from our PNC checking account into the Self-Help Credit Union which has requested some activity on our account. Chapel Hill donated \$60 to cover the cost of damage to a paddleboat during our September retreat, and this will be forwarded to Seven Springs. We agreed to continue the practice of showing the past three years of contributions from member meetings on the Treasurer's Report.

### **Discussion / Decision**

#### PFF Fall Retreat: Sharing

Friends enjoyed the fellowship and facility at Seven Springs. It was reminiscent of our weekends at Quaker Lake in many ways. Five Durham youth and one young Friend from Greensboro, and about fifty adults were in attendance. The kitchen was very functional, acoustics in the lodge were fine, and camping accommodations were enjoyable. The teens were very nice young people and enjoyed it greatly. Perhaps more structure for teens on Saturday afternoon would be an improvement.

Worship sharing seemed to be quite worthwhile. Whether to record and how to share the wisdom of these spoken contributions was discussed. Perhaps a follow-up discussion to note the major ideas and threads to the worship sharing is a suggestion worth doing. A little more guidance on camping and information at the welcoming table would also help. Friends agreed that Seven Springs was an excellent venue and we hope to use the facility next fall. The food was appreciated as well, and Salem Creek Friends were thanked for their contributions.

Friends agreed to donate \$500 to Seven Springs as a love offering and appreciation for

their generosity, and we hope to continue to meet there.

### Youth Activities

Friends discussed opportunities for youth activities. Durham Friends Meeting expect to have a paid Youth Coordinator who will organize events for young Friends and teens. New Garden Meeting has a Youth Coordinator who supervises grades 6-12, and their program is reviving at the present. Also, Chapel Hill Friends Meeting has a First Day School coordinator. PFF hopes to involve young Friends from a number of monthly meetings at our future retreats. A listserv was suggested to help communication among these adult coordinators, and Kindra Bradley volunteered to contact Andrew Wright and work with Laura Lipps Buffum to set this up. A calendar of quarterly or annually scheduled PFF events might also be helpful in growing the participation of youth.

### Planning our Spring Annual Retreat

Friends had a lengthy discussion of plans for the PFYM yearly meeting and PFF spring retreat, March 30 through April 1 which is Easter weekend.

On Good Friday, the Carolina Friends School campus will be available for the retreat starting at 1:00 PM. This provides more time for setting up various rooms and potentially an earlier start on fellowship.

Friends expressed a need for more fellowship time compared to last spring, and for an inviting space for informal fellowship. Formal programming and/or business on Friday afternoon will be considered for 2019. The Friday afternoon time for 2018 may be best spent by volunteers helping Karen McKinnon set up rooms for Quaker organizations and other parts of the campus for fellowship. The plan is to set up a room for each organization (AFSC, Quaker House, FCNL, FGC, Earthcare Witness) to display resources and to accommodate a presentation on Saturday afternoon. Also a room(s) might be set up for Quaker authors and/or Quaker artists. More discussion is needed with Ida Trisolini about using various rooms on campus

Friends proposed structured fellowship for Friday evening. First choice would be engagement activities from Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP), to be led by John Shuford and Deborah Bromiley of Raleigh Friends Meeting. Bill Moore will ask them to consider leading Friday evening. Alternatives discussed included a music presentation.

The favored concept for adult programming on Saturday morning is to divide the morning into two programs. First, John Shuford and Deborah Bromiley would present their success with AVP training and NC prisons and share insights from the conference in Nepal. Second, a panel of young Friends would share their experience with conscientious objection to military service including letters to their Monthly Meetings. Alternatives discussed included Christopher Sammond from NY Yearly Meeting (who presented "Opening the Heart to Worship" at the FGC Gathering), and Right Sharing of World Resources.

Friends favored a schedule on Saturday that would place short workshops by Quaker organizations on Saturday afternoon concurrent with the first business session for PFYM yearly meeting, followed by fellowship time for all in late afternoon. Saturday evening might involve a musical performance, but the costs will need to be clarified; up to a thousand dollars for a musician seems feasible for the budget. A related possibility that could include youth could be a songwriting workshop. Jeff Brown will work with Mike Johnson of Upstate Friends on music.

In a review of tasks for the spring retreat, Bill Moore will request help with publicity and flyer layout from Raleigh Friends Meeting for a "Save the Date" communication with PFF member meetings.

Durham Friends Meeting will be asked to take care of planning the youth program. New Garden Friends will be asked to help with food planning and preparation. Charlotte may be available to assist with the adult program.

A discussion of rates charged for attendance resulted in a decision to raise the general cost of attendance from \$40 to \$45, and keeping the cost of a second night at a hotel to \$20 per person. The choice of local hotel will be changed, and Jeff Brown will investigate options in Hillsborough. Home hospitality will again be an option for Friends needing lodging.

For this and other planning by the Representative Body, Friends approved the purchase of a white board and markers to help record and visualize plans at future meetings.

Jeff Brown will update the retreat task assignments list and distribute a proposed daily schedule.

### Appreciation

Friends expressed much appreciation to Eno Friends Meeting of Hillsborough for hosting our business meeting and providing a gourmet, delicious lunch!

### Upcoming Meetings:

Sunday, January 28<sup>th</sup>, Spring Friends Meeting  
March 30<sup>th</sup> – April 1<sup>st</sup> 2018 retreat at Carolina Friends School  
June: to be determined by email communication  
August: TBD  
October: TBD

### Announcements & Other Business

Other business or announcements.

### Closing Worship

The meeting closed with silent worship

John Cardarelli  
Recording Clerk

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#### Attachments

PFF Member Meetings List with Yearly Meeting Affiliations  
The Work of PFF in Brief  
Treasurer's Report

## **Piedmont Friends Fellowship Meetings and Worship Groups**

### **Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting**

Abingdon  
Chapel Hill  
Charlotte  
Eno Friends Meeting of Hillsborough  
New Garden  
Fancy Gap  
Raleigh  
Salem Creek  
Upstate Friends Worship Group

### **NC Yearly Meeting (Conservative)**

Davidson  
Durham  
Fayetteville  
Friendship

### **NC Yearly Meeting (FUM)**

Fancy Gap  
New Garden  
Spring  
Winston-Salem

### **Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting**

Boone

### **No Yearly Meeting**

Ashe County Worship Group  
Catawba Valley  
Laurinburg  
Rockingham County  
Wilkes

## **Piedmont Friends Fellowship Work in 2017**

The work of Piedmont Friends Fellowship in 2017 emphasizes programming for fellowship of Friends in member meetings.

- Provide rewarding opportunities for fellowship and learning.
- Collaborate with PFYM to provide common fellowship opportunities and complementary work.
- Develop an annual budget to clarify financial aspects of PFF.
- Provide opportunities for Quaker organizations in the region to engage with and reach out to Friends in member meetings.
- Catch up on documentation of PFF, including archiving minutes with Guilford College.
- Continue to consider ways to provide programming for youth in the region.

Jeff Brown, Clerk  
Piedmont Friends Fellowship  
August 2017

Piedmont Friends Fellowship  
 Treasurer's Report  
 Oct. 20, 2017

	August 11, 2017	Oct. 20, 2017	Difference
PNC	\$7,741.67	\$8,269.65	+ \$527.98
Self-Help*	\$11,412.06	\$11,436.02	+ \$23.96
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$19,153.73</b>	<b>\$19,705.67</b>	<b>+551.94</b>

\*(Last available statement for Self-Help dated 9/30/17)

Checking WITHDRAWALS:

DATE	Recipient	Purpose	Amount
8/28/17	Jan Schmidt*	FGC Gathering assistance	\$200.00
9/15/17	Quaker Books*	Spring retreat invoice	\$226.32
9/25/17	John Carderelli	Fall Retreat food	\$294.96
9/26/17	Seven Springs	Event insurance	\$180.74

\* These payments also appeared on the last report, but the check had not yet been debited against the account.

Checking DEPOSITS:

DATE	MONTHLY MEETING	AMOUNT
8/4/17	Friendship Friends	\$200
8/28/17	Upstate Friends	\$50
9/15/17	Charlotte Friends	\$900
9/21/17	Raleigh Friends	\$420
10/17/17	Jeff Brown – for retreat contrib	\$60
10/20/17	New Garden	\$150