

**2016 ANNUAL SESSIONS
PIEDMONT FRIENDS YEARLY MEETING
Carolina Friends School, Durham, North Carolina
during Piedmont Friends Fellowship Annual Spring Retreat
Twelfth day of Third month 2016**

The 2016 Annual Sessions of Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting convened Saturday afternoon, March 12, 2016 at 1:30 in the gymnasium at Carolina Friends School, Durham, NC.

Those present and their Monthly Meeting/Worship Group affiliation: Chandlee White (New Garden), Kim Carlyle (Friendship), Dorothy Mason (New Garden), Richard Shepherd (Chapel Hill), Madelyn Ashley (Chapel Hill), Joyce Mers (New Garden), Robert Mers (New Garden), J. Brent Bill (West Newton- Western Yearly Meeting), Lori Fernald Khamala (Friendship), Linda Hunter (Durham), John Hunter (Durham), Max L. Carter (New Garden), Vernie Davis (Raleigh), Jessica Arends (Friends Meeting of Washington-Baltimore YM), Andrei Israel (attending Washington, DC; State College-Philadelphia YM), Ted Edgerton (Wilkes), Melissa Meyer (Wilkes), Kate Hood (New Garden), Bob Passmore (Durham), Gary Hornsby (Salem Creek), Anthony Lowe (Fancy Gap), Naveed Moeed (Chapel Hill), Sam Dempsey (Salem Creek), Mike Johnson (Upstate Worship Group), Philip Carey (Charlotte), Bettie L. Flash (Chapel Hill), Jeff Brown (Chapel Hill), Katherine Metzko (Charlotte), Richard Miller (Chapel Hill), Dylan Buffum (Durham), Marguerite Dingman (Durham), Gertrude Beal (New Garden), Michael Root (Chapel Hill), Tom Munk (Chapel Hill), Karen McKinnon (Durham/Hillsborough Worship Group), Joe Graedon (Durham), Terry Graedon (Durham), Virginia Driscoll (New Garden), Debbie Parvin (Fancy Gap), Martin W. King (Raleigh), Barbara Williamson (Chapel Hill), John A. Shuford (Raleigh), Deborah L. Bromiley (Raleigh), Jan Schmidt (Raleigh), John Schmidt (Raleigh), Wendy Michener (Chapel Hill), David F. Curtin (Chapel Hill), Alice Carlton (Chapel Hill), Lois Ann Hobbs (Chapel Hill), Lynn Drake (Chapel Hill), Carol Morris (Raleigh), Christina Connell (Salem Creek), Dee Edelman (Salem Creek), Larry Barker (Hillsborough), Emilie Condon (Chapel Hill), Lyle Adley-Warrick (Raleigh), Susan Adley-Warrick (Raleigh), Carolyn Stuart (Chapel Hill), Lynn Newsom (Fayetteville), Judy Haughee-Bartlett (New Garden), Mary Louise Smith (New Garden), Martin W. Doherty, Jr. (Charlotte), Monteze Snyder (Chapel Hill), Christin Barnhardt (Salem Creek), Julie Stafford (Charlotte), Marian Beane (Charlotte).

Clerk Marian Beane invited gathered Friends to settle into worship with a reading of the PFYM Vision Statement: *As a Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, we seek to foster a loving community of affiliated monthly meetings and worship groups by increasing and strengthening connections among members, attenders, and seekers and with other Friends' organizations. 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.*

Introductions

After a period of silent worship, Marian welcomed Friends to the first annual sessions of Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting. Acknowledging that we had called last year's sessions the "first annual," she said Friends had suggested that last year was the inaugural meeting; this is the first annual. She then asked for a roll call, with Friends rising to stand in monthly meeting or worship groups and introducing themselves individually.

Friends answered the roll call from all PFYM constituent meetings and worship groups – Charlotte, Chapel Hill, Fancy Gap, Raleigh and Salem Creek Monthly Meetings and Upstate Worship Group. Friends from Friendship, Durham, Wilkes, and Fayetteville meetings also rose, as well as Friends from Hillsborough Worship Group (under the care of Durham Friends).

Visitors and representatives of wider Friends also introduced themselves:

- Lynn and Steve Newsom, co-directors of Quaker House
- Andrei William, member of State College Friends (Philadelphia YM) attending Washington DC Meeting, newly appointed Director of Penn House
- Brent Bill, member of West Newton (IN), Western Yearly Meeting, Associate Secretary for Communication for FGC
- Lori Fernald Khamala of Friendship Meeting, representing AFSC

A travelling minute from FGC General Secretary Barry Crossno for Brent Bill was read and is attached here. Andrei William listed the Penn House purposes of education, activism and hospitality, with a focus on youth, and offered a warm welcome to any Friendly visitors to their facility on Capitol Hill. It was noted that Lori, Brent, and Andrei would be giving their reports to the PFF annual meeting, avoiding duplication.

Regrets received were acknowledged from Ken Bradstock (Fancy Gap), John Cardarelli (Salem Creek), Bernard McNamera (New Garden), who asked to be held in the Light, Doris Wilson (Upstate), and Joan Tillotson (Friendship).

John Hunter, clerk of Piedmont Friends Fellowship (PFF) brought greetings (attached to these minutes) to annual sessions, expressing pleasure in the occasion and in all of the progress made by the yearly meeting in this year. He noted the relationship of PFYM and PFF as both “independent organizations and united as a single organization to provide fellowship and support for our mutual local meetings.” John offered celebration for this yearly meeting gathering that encompasses its traditional functions: “a time for conducting business and for spiritual renewal; a time for considered action and decisions and a time for strengthening social connections and personal support; a time for careful preparations and deep listening and . . . for learning and joyful interactions” and thanked Friends for their continuing effort and energies.

Review of order of our work and approval of agenda

Friends had opportunity to review documents posted in advance of these sessions, and printed copies of such documents were available in printed form at sessions. The agenda presented was accepted by the meeting without additions or changes.

Minutes

Friends agreed that the sense of minutes approved in these sessions will be read and revised if needed during these sessions. Then a draft of the full minutes will be prepared, reviewed and approved by Interim Meeting. Minutes approved by Interim Meeting will be posted on the PFF/YM website.

Appointment of the Epistle Committee

It is the usual procedure for the PFYM Assisting Clerk to lead the Epistle work. The clerk noted that John Cardarelli, our Assisting Clerk, is not able to be present this weekend, the following Friends will serve as an Epistle Committee: Tony Lowe (Fancy Gap), Martin King (Raleigh) and Julie Stafford (Charlotte). They will listen carefully to capture a sense of this gathering and our experience here together. Then they will reflect and craft an epistle to be reviewed and approved by Interim Meeting at their June meeting. The presiding clerk will then distribute the Epistle “to Friends Everywhere.” Friends approved this process.

Presiding Clerk’s Report

Marian Beane, the presiding clerk, gave highlights of her annual report, which is attached to these minutes. She spoke of the work of Interim Meeting on matters of organizational grounding; of relationship building within the body of Friends; of on-going collaboration with PFF; and of outreach to the wider world. Marian asked Friends to consider in what other ways the yearly meeting might carry forward our collective goal of “providing spiritual nurture” as we continue to grow into being a “loving community of affiliated monthly meetings and worship groups.” And in closing she expressed her gratitude “for each who has been called into service for the yearly meeting and the opportunity to serve as your presiding clerk.” Friends accepted the Clerk’s Annual Report.

First Reading of Interim Meeting Recommendations to Annual Sessions

(Friends who are representative to Interim Meeting stood to be acknowledged.)

I. PFYM Policies and Procedures Handbook (Christina Connell)

Interim Meeting, having now considered the PFYM Policies and Procedures Handbook in draft form, and having distributed it to constituent monthly meetings and worship groups for their contributions to the discernment, recommends the document as a whole to annual sessions, seeking approval of this Handbook as a working document.

Christina Connell (Salem Creek) acknowledged the working group who developed the Handbook to date: Gary Hornsby (Salem Creek), Naveed Moeed (Chapel Hill), Marian Beane (Charlotte), Julie Stafford (Charlotte) and Christina, who clerks the working group. Carol Morris (Raleigh) has recently joined this working group. Christina also acknowledged Lake Erie Yearly Meeting, whose handbook of policies and procedures has been a model of clarity, simplicity of style, and organization. Significant portions of their wording have been adapted to our handbook, with their generous permission to borrow as heavily as is helpful to us and their Friendly well wishes.

Christina Connell then reported on the PFYM Policies and Procedures document, which had been posted on the website with advance documents and was available to Friends meeting today in printed form. Question was raised about the wording on page 1, that PFYM at Annual Sessions will “approve the laying down of monthly meetings,” as it suggests that yearly meeting has the authority to lay down a monthly meeting. It was quickly clarified that such authority was not at all the intent of this point, but rather that yearly meeting would help a monthly meeting with the process and record the laying down action. This intent is stated more accurately in the section Changes in Monthly Meeting Status on page 7.

Friends approved the recommendation from Interim Meeting that the PFYM Policies and Procedures Handbook be approved as a working document. Further additions and revisions will be made by the working group in the year ahead, including clarification of the section questioned on page 1 on the

matter of laying down of monthly meetings, and the Handbook will be brought back to Annual Sessions in 2017. Meeting expressed gratitude to the working group for their labors in developing this document.

Friends were asked for suggestions to the section on Resources. These suggestions and advice on improvements to the document can be directed to a member of the working group. In the year ahead more sections will be added, and another draft will be sent to meetings for seasoning prior to presentation for approval at next year's annual sessions.

II. Monthly Meeting Statistics and Status Report form (Brianna Higgins/Deb Parvin)

Interim Meeting recommends the attached Annual Statistics and Status Report and recommends implementing the reports on 2016 data and spiritual condition for 2017 Annual Sessions.

Deb Parvin (Fancy Gap) presented the form with explanation that 2016 information is recommended to be reported to yearly meeting by January 15, 2017 for compilation into a report to 2017 Annual Sessions. Deb and Brianna Higgins (New Garden) are co-clerks of this working group.

Meeting approved the Interim Meeting recommendation of the attached Annual Statistics and Status Report form, and approved implementing the reports on calendar year 2016 data and monthly meeting spiritual condition, to be compiled for reporting to the 2017 Annual Sessions. It is understood that Interim Meeting will be developing a procedure for this data collection and reporting to Annual Session.

III. Quaker organizations for yearly meeting affiliation (Alice Carlton for John Cardarelli)

Interim Meeting recommends that Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting initially affiliate with three Quaker organizations: American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL), and Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC).

Alice Carlton (Chapel Hill) presented the list of organizations recommended, with highlights from the written report on this recommendation (attached). Discussion followed regarding the process of appointment of yearly meeting representatives to these organizations, and the process for insuring Friends' access to information about deliberations and actions made by Interim Meeting between Annual Sessions.

Meeting approved the Interim Meeting recommendation that Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting initially affiliate with three Quaker organizations: American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL), and Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC).

Meeting approved asking Nominating Committee to bring recommendations for PFYM representatives for these organizations to Interim Meeting for approval so their service can begin in this year. The terms of these representatives will be three years unless the organization notes another term.

In response to a concern that members of monthly meetings be well-apprised of business approved by Interim Meeting, meeting approved an on-going procedure that Interim Meeting minutes will be sent to meeting clerks with a summary of cogent points with a request that they be brought to the

attention of their meetings. Interim Meeting minutes as approved will also continue to be sent to IM representatives, and posted on the PFF/YM website.

Peace & Social Concerns Witness Working Group report (Naveed Moeed/John Shuford)

Naveed Moeed (Chapel Hill) presented the report as written (attached). There is a general sense of support in Interim Meeting and PFF Representative Body for a corporate witness. This working group will partner with AFSC in this afternoon's interest group sessions, where Friends can learn more about how they can participate in moving this work forward. **Meeting accepted the attached report from the Peace and Social Witness working group.** Naveed and John Shuford (Raleigh) co-clerk this working group.

The first 2016 Annual Session ended with a period of silent worship to meet again at 4:30.

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The second and final of the 2016 Annual Sessions convened at 4:30 p.m. on the same day, March 12, 2016.

Silent Worship and Reading of the Query Responses

The presiding clerk invited gathered Friends to settle into worship. After a period of worship, the clerk asked Friends to hear and receive out of the silence the responses of each monthly meeting and worship group to the query offered by Interim Meeting, *What has been most on the hearts of your meeting this year?* One by one, a representative from each meeting rose and read their meeting's response to the query.

The meeting was clearly moved by this sharing, with Friends rising to speak of their gratitude for the sense of deep connection and community the query responses evoked for them. **Friends approved that these messages be appended to the minutes, which will be posted on the PFF/YM website. Also, meeting encouraged monthly meeting representatives and meeting clerks to take under discernment how best to present these messages to others in their meetings.**

Finally, it was suggested that responses to this or a similar query become a tradition at our Annual Sessions. Friends approved.

Continuation of Consideration of Interim Meeting Recommendations to Annual Sessions Recommendation on Quaker Organizations for Yearly Meeting Affiliation

In regard to the earlier consideration of appointing representatives to the three Quaker organizations with which PFYM will seek affiliation, question was raised about financial support for PFYM appointed representatives. **Friends agreed Interim Meeting will investigate resources for this support so we have an understanding about what financial support could be provided when Nominating Committee approaches candidates for these positions. It is PFYM's intention to support our appointed representatives as we can, so they can represent us without personal financial burden. Friends approved.**

IV. Guilford College Quaker Archives as repository for PFYM records (Martin King)

Interim Meeting recommends that Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting join in relationship with Guilford College Quaker Archives to be the repository for PFYM records, and to work with PFF to determine what financial contribution could be made to support their archives.

Martin King (Raleigh) presented the Interim Meeting recommendation with an overview of the Interim Meeting discernment on this matter. **Friends approved the Interim Meeting recommendation that Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting join in relationship with Guilford College Quaker Archives to be the repository for PFYM records. Friends also approved that PFYM work with PFF and the Friends Historical Collection (FHC) to determine what financial contribution could be made to support these archives.**

Clerk suggests that the process to move forward on this relationship with the FHC be put under the care of the new PFYM Communications and Website Committee. Friends approved.

Naming Committee Report (Gary Hornsby (Salem Creek) for John Cardarelli)

Naming Committee presented the following names and terms of service on Nominating Committee for Annual Sessions consideration. Items in bold indicate new term or appointment:

Dorothy Mason (New Garden)	1 additional year	(2015-17) member and clerk
Dee Edelman (Salem Creek)	1 additional year	(2015-17)
Vernie Davis (Raleigh)	2 additional years	(2015-18)
Emilie Condon (Chapel Hill)	2 additional years	(2015-18)
Ruth Moeller (Charlotte)	3 years	(2016-19)

Friends approved these Friends for the Nominating committee with gratitude.

Nominating Committee Report (Dot Mason)

Dot Mason (New Garden) acknowledged the members of the Nominating Committee, named in the report above. She noted the on-going term of Presiding Clerk Marian Beane, Charlotte, which continues through the 2017 Annual Sessions.

Nominating Committee brought forth the following recommendations:

- **Assisting Clerk: Gary Hornsby, Salem Creek (2016-17)** (the Assisting Clerk in the first year is also the rising Presiding Clerk for a term of 2 years)
- Recording Clerk: Julie Stafford, Charlotte (2015-18) (extending term for 2 years to 2018)
- **Clerk, Communications and Website Committee: Chandlee White, New Garden (2016-19)**

Also noted: Lori Fernald Kamala, Friendship, PFF/YM first jointly appointed Representative to FGC Central Committee (1st term: 2015-18) approved by Interim Meeting, August 29, 2015; joining Tony Lowe, Fancy Gap, (1st term: 2014-17) previously approved by PFF; and Karen McKinnon, Durham, (2nd term: 2015-18) previously approved by PFF.

Friends accepted these recommendations with deep thanks to the Friends who have agreed to serve, and with gratitude for the work of the Nominating Committee.

Peace and Social Witness (P&SW) Working Group Reporting out of AFSC Interest Group Session

Naveed Moeed and John Shuford (Raleigh) reported a wonderful joint session with AFSC. The working group achieved their objective, as four friends stepped forward to help with the P&SW initiative. Also, sub-groups were developed to carry out specific tasks for the work ahead. The working group found strong support for the work they are setting out to do, and for the innovation their framework represents. Meetings are asked to encourage further support for the P&SW working group.

Other concerns

A Friend noted several mentions of the need for yearly meeting funds, and suggests we revisit consideration of a treasurer and treasury. Clerk responded that this consideration is on the agenda for Interim Meeting, affirming that this need is recognized by others as well.

Reflections for inclusion in yearly meeting epistle message

- Bridge-building with pictures
- Tenderness of responses to the queries
- The joy of the face-to-face opportunity to be together
- The attentiveness and involvement of all the meetings
- Listening to Max Carter and thinking about 350 years of Quaker history in NC, juxtaposed with thoughts of the first year of a new yearly meeting, brings to mind the term “New growth from old wood.”
- Hopefulness
- The brilliant conducting and recording of the first annual sessions
- Not being annoyed by, but enjoying the contributions of baby Zeb
- -Who shall be known as our future presiding clerk [added another Friend]
- Appreciation for the amount of good work done by our representatives to Interim Meeting
- Concern to raise mindfulness about care for the environment among all our meetings
- The Fellowship of sharing meals

Clerk suggested we need two sessions at least in our annual sessions, and Friends agreed that this is the sense of our meeting.

Meeting closed with a period of silent worship, after which Friends rose to clasp hands in a large circle. John Shuford then gathered Friends in one area of the room for a smiling group photograph.

--Julie Stafford, recording clerk