

## Presiding Clerk's Report to 2017 Annual Sessions

*Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting's 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.*

During this second year of living into its vision and core values the yearly meeting has focused on strengthening our organizational grounding and interrelationship to PFF, building relationships within the yearly meeting and with other Friends organizations, welcoming new meetings seeking to affiliate with PFF/YM, and extending love and witness to those who are near and the wider body of Friends.

Interim Meeting (IM), the yearly meeting representative body, has met four times for worship and fellowship with attention to matters referred by yearly meeting and to leadings within the body. In its work Interim Meeting

1. approved and distributed the *2016 PFYM Epistle to 'Friends Everywhere'*;
2. seasoned the work of committees and working groups, asked for guidance from monthly meetings and prepared reports for Annual Sessions;
3. appointed representatives to the three Quaker organizations with whom yearly meeting agreed to affiliate including FCNL, AFSC and FWCC;
4. clarified guidance from Guilford College on submitting yearly meeting and monthly meeting records for archival purposes;
5. established a *financial working group* with a charge to hold and help season concerns regarding the finances of PFYM; and
6. prepared travel minutes and messages of encouragement for the presiding clerk to carry to Friends in Ramallah (Palestine) and RSWR (Right Sharing of World Resources) staff in Sierra Leone who work with recipients of micro finance grants designed to help empower poor women who are most in need.

With affiliated meetings in North Carolina, Virginia and South Carolina, Interim Meeting encourages Friends to consider describing the yearly meeting as 'Friends in the greater piedmont'.

In August 2016 Interim Meeting joined with PFF Representative Body for a fruitful time of worship and consideration of our common concerns. Together we

1. appointed clearness committees for Abingdon Meeting (VA) and Hillsborough (NC) worship group (now Eno Monthly Meeting) who are both seeking affiliation with PFF/YM;
2. conferred on the Annual Retreat and Yearly Meeting sessions;

3. considered the management of our joint PFF/YM website (<https://piedmontfriendsfellowship>); and
4. conferred on financial support from PFF funds (to which all PFYM meetings contribute) for appointed representatives to FGC, FCNL, AFSC, FWCC, training for PFF/YM presiding clerks and annual support of \$200 for Guilford College archival services.

The sense of the meeting was the mutual benefit of this joint meeting on an annual basis.

At annual sessions, we will welcome Abingdon and Eno Friends of Hillsborough into affiliation; be asked to approve the PFYM Handbook as guidance for the yearly meeting and affiliated meetings; receive our first report on the state of our meetings; and hear from meeting on their concerns. Out of worship we will hear meetings' responses to the query: "*What has been most on the hearts of our meeting this year?*" At the rise from supper Saturday evening we will celebrate and say 'thank you' to Lynn and Steve Newsom for their five years of faithful service as directors of Quaker House. Please take time to prepare by reviewing the posted agenda, reports, and minutes that have been prepared for Annual Sessions. Packets of the documents will also be available.

As Friends gather and throughout the weekend I invite us to take opportunity to share deeply with each other on how we are being faithful in self-care even as we are caring for others during these tender times.

Faithfully yours,

Marian Beane, clerk