

## **Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting Annual Status Report, 2017**

*Prepared for 2018 Annual Sessions by Katherine Metzko and Sally Freeman for the working group on status and statistics, which also included Kathy Walker. Besides this summary report, individual reports received from each meeting will be included in the PFYM archive.*

### **Query**

In our second year of preparing the comprehensive annual status report, we continue to ponder the best way to represent the collective experiences of the body of PFYM, given the variety in our member meetings. As Friends consider this report, please reflect on what it is we might want to understand about the corporate experience of PFYM and what we want to know about the diversity of experience of individual meetings in such a report. If suggestions arise in response to this query, please share them with a member of the working group or with your PFYM representative.

### **Synthesis of Spiritual Condition Reports**

A strong theme in our Meetings' spiritual condition reports is that our meetings for worship provide deep spiritual sanctuary. They are an environment of welcome, a safe place to share concerns, a sacred place among trusted friends, a time that provides restorative energy and calmness, a place to quiet the noise from the world, and a place to discover one's gifts and have them nurtured. These are the ways we describe our time of worship together.

Our Meetings are deeply grateful for the centered worship that fosters a sense of belonging to a community that is caring and loving. Friends have felt the experience of spirit in meetings for worship, a centered worship that grounds us to do our work in the world, it helps us to see the workings of the spirit in our daily lives.

Spirit is felt in our meetings for worship with attention to business, our service in committees, interest groups, and clearness committees. All of these aspects of our Meetings help encourage spiritual connections and awareness of God's love.

We work together to deepen our understanding of Quaker practices—through forums, discussions, outreach, developing queries, we see that these Meeting activities are part of our worship experience. Working through a series of decisions together, differences are handled well, deepening relationships rather than causing on-going conflict. We work together through challenges, seeking inclusivity and unity.

Outreach plays an important part in the lives of our Meetings. Together we have participated in marches and rallies, helped to fill food pantries, invited incarcerated persons into our Meeting, sponsored refugee families, helped our homeless neighbors, worked in the Alternatives to Violence Project, hosted a Muslim group's worship services, and provided medical transportation to those in need. In the words of one of our monthly meetings, we did this knowing that "the real ministry is walking the road with those we serve, helping them to discern God's presence on the journey as well." We have engaged in our concerns for the environment and climate change, we have worked for racial justice, LGBTQ rights, and support for immigrants. Meetings find meaning in supporting other Quaker organizations, FCNL, Quaker House, and AFSC.

Our Meetings feel blessed to be part of PFYM, to be among a group of Friends who strive to be open and accepting. We look forward to deepening our connections and coordinating our peace and social

concerns efforts through our on–line groups. There is hope that intergenerational program activities can strengthen our sense of community in the yearly meeting.

Though we are committed to creating a welcoming environment, seeking inclusivity, we ask, “How can be more diverse?” and “How do we increase our membership and participation of youth?” Although we have welcomed new Friends, challenges remain in filling and maintaining leadership positions.

We also ask, “How do we relate to our fractured world, how do we reach across the divide to others with differing views?” Our Meetings continue to work to adapt in order to thrive in an ever-changing world, while maintaining our values. We work to meet our challenges and embrace the joys of the fellowship of Friends.

### Member and Attender Demographics

	Infants/ Toddlers	Elementary	Middle/ High School	18-34	35-64	65+
<b>Abingdon</b>	0	0	0	0	1	11
<b>Chapel Hill</b>	6	16	18	25	115	52
<b>Charlotte</b>	2	6	3	10	26	15
<b>Eno (Hillsborough)</b>	0	0	0	4	20	5
<b>Fancy Gap</b>	0	1	1	5	10	2
<b>New Garden</b>	2	5	8	38	92	111
<b>Raleigh</b>	0	0	1	3	20	21
<b>Salem Creek</b>	1	0	0	4	5	6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>289</b>	<b>223</b>
<b>Average (whole #)</b>	1	4	4	11	36	28

### Membership

Meetings:	Members	Transfers in	Transfers out
<b>Abingdon</b>	11	0	0
<b>Chapel Hill</b>	133	0	0
<b>Charlotte</b>	69	0	0
<b>Eno (Hillsborough)</b>	15	8	0
<b>Fancy Gap</b>	16	0	2
<b>New Garden</b>	253	11	3
<b>Raleigh</b>	51	0	0
<b>Salem Creek</b>	8	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>556</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>5</b>

Weekly attendance

<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>Adults</b>	<b>Adult Education/Forum</b>	<b>Children</b>	<b>First Day School Children</b>
<b>Abingdon</b>	9	0	0	0
<b>Chapel Hill</b>	78	28	10	13
<b>Charlotte</b>	31	17	0	5
<b>Eno (Hillsborough)</b>	13	6	0	0
<b>Fancy Gap</b>	10	0	0	0
<b>New Garden</b>	120	0	18	7
<b>Raleigh</b>	25	0	0	0
<b>Salem Creek</b>	8	0	0	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>294</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Average (whole #)</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>