

Piedmont Friends Fellowship

**Representative Body Meeting  
June 24, 2018, 1:00**

Raleigh Friends Meeting

Present:

Jeff Brown (clerk)	Chapel Hill
Dylan Buffum	Durham
Michael Misenheimer	Durham
Karen McKinnon	Eno
Ted Edgerton	Wilkes
Melissa Meyer	Wilkes
Judy Williams	Friendship
Virginia Driscoll	New Garden
Bob Mers	New Garden
Joyce Mers	New Garden
John Cardarelli	Salem Creek
Gary Hornsby	Salem Creek
Vernie Davis	Raleigh
Bill Moore	Raleigh
Martin Doherty	Charlotte
Marcel Soopal	Charlotte
Mary Jo Klingel	Charlotte
Marian Beane	Charlotte

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

Review of Minutes

Friends present found that no changes were necessary to the Minutes for the Representative Body meeting on April 1, 2018, and the Minutes were approved.

**Reports**

Communications:

Friends discussed ways to include meeting representatives from small meetings in distant locations in our quarterly representative body meetings. Meetings of PFF might be more inclusive by having more centralized locations. Expectations and needs will be an item on our August joint meeting agenda.

Friends are reminded to contact Laura Lipps Buffum for any changes to the listserve and PFF Directory. A subgroup of PFF Friends (Bill Moore, Jeff Brown, Bob Passmore and John Hunter of Durham Meeting, Dick Connell of Salem Creek) met to discuss

opportunities to move our website into the Quaker Cloud. The PFF website content is appropriate to transfer into the Cloud; this offers a more secure site, and the site will be easier to manage. The cost of joining the Quaker Cloud is \$600 per year; this transition would occur later this summer. A number of Friends have offered their technical support to facilitate and manage this service. After discussion of the reasons for joining the Quaker Cloud and its costs, Friends approved moving forward in this venture. Gary Hornsby will make sure that PFYM is involved in this process, and Bill Moore will coordinate with the co-treasurer, Dylan Buffum.

#### PFF Nominating Committee:

Karen McKinnon and Virginia Driscoll reported on the opening of a third PFF/PFYM jointly appointed representative to Friends General Conference Central Committee. This person will replace Karen this October at Central Committee. PFF Clerks have been notified of this need and will be reminded again via email. Currently, Ida Trisolini and Lori Fernald Khamala are the other two representatives. We hope to have a name to put forward at our next meeting in August. PFF has agreed to support these three representatives to reimburse their costs. PFF/PFYM will strive to articulate these costs related to service and to have more clarity in our budgetary process. Guidelines for PFF/PFYM representatives are needed along with a discernment process and an encouraging attitude toward offering this financial support. Dylan, Vernie, and Melissa have met as an ad hoc committee in the past, and Dylan emphasized the importance of having a discernment process. This ad hoc committee will articulate the proposed guidelines and process for consideration at our August meeting.

It is noted that a naming committee will be needed to consider a replacement for Karen on the Nominating Committee, and the Nominating Committee will need to consider finding a replacement for our PFF Clerk next year.

#### Treasurer's Report:

Dylan reported on account transactions since our last report, which includes our spring retreat at Carolina Friends School, as well as upcoming costs for people attending next month's Gathering in Toledo. Friends appreciated the detail in Dylan's report and accepted his report enthusiastically (see attached excerpts). PFF supports Friends General Conference in various ways: PFF gives \$400 to FGC annually. PFF supports its three representatives for their costs of attending the Central Committee meetings. PFF is also supporting over a dozen Friends who wish to attend the FGC Gathering this July.

#### **Discussion / Decision**

##### Friends General Conference Gathering 2018:

PFF is supporting Friends in the amount of \$150 per individual and \$200 per family to attend the Gathering.

##### PFF Fall Retreat 2018:

The fall retreat is scheduled for September 7, 8, and 9 at Seven Springs. The weekend will feature camping, hiking, swimming, and light programming on Saturday afternoon

and evening. On Saturday, Friends considered and discussed a set of queries, and we agreed to continue that practice this year. A food committee will be needed to plan Saturday lunch and dinner, and Sunday lunch; Judy Williams volunteered to assist John Cardarelli.

#### PFF Annual Spring Retreat 2019:

Friends agreed to request to hold our spring retreat at Carolina Friends School for at least one more year. Feedback from Friends will be requested at the Fall and Spring retreats regarding location. Easter weekend had the advantage of having more people attend on Friday afternoon for workshops, although Good Friday may have presented a conflict for some Friends. Friends agreed to schedule our annual retreat on Easter weekend of April 19<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> of 2019. Friends agreed on a theme of celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Quaker House and the 51<sup>st</sup> anniversary of Piedmont Friends Fellowship. We will discuss specific meeting responsibilities, cost overruns, and a new food format in August.

#### PFYM Working Group on FCNCL:

In February, PFYM Quarterly Meeting established a working group to study the feasibility of and interest in developing a state-level Friends Committee on North Carolina Legislation (FCNCL) among both PFYM and PFF North Carolina meetings. The work group was created based on a report to PFYM Quarterly Meeting on the four states (California, Indiana, Washington and Maine) that have state legislative advocacy organizations. Jeff circulated a handout from Vernie Davis on joining and participating in a new PFF/PFYM Working Group (attached). Vernie reported that Jan Schmidt of Raleigh has been very helpful as Clerk in this initiative, and the Working Group is trying to figure out the level of interest from monthly meetings in developing structure and looking to branch out toward statewide issues. Listserves provide a framework for communication online, at minimal cost. PFF is seeking participation from a number of PFF/PFYM monthly meetings and feedback from the monthly meetings on this initiative. Jan Schmidt is willing to coordinate. Email responses to her from monthly meetings are strongly urged and requested.

#### Youth Activity Opportunities:

The best opportunity for youth activity will be the PFF Fall retreat in September, with camping and fellowship opportunities.

#### Archiving PFF Documents:

Jeff will continue to work with Guilford College Library as the archive for our PFF documents, in consultation with past PFF clerks.

#### Upcoming Meetings – Days and Locations:

August 25<sup>th</sup>, New Garden Meeting  
October 28<sup>th</sup>, TBA  
January 27<sup>th</sup>, Salem Creek Meeting

The next Representative Body meeting will take place on August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2018

Announcements

Friends were very appreciative of the welcome, the worship, and enjoyable lunch provided by Raleigh Friends this morning.

Closing Worship

The meeting closed with silent worship.

John Cardarelli  
Recording Clerk

Attachments

1. Excerpts from Treasurer’s Report

Piedmont FriendsFellowship  
Treasurer’s Report  
June 23, 2018

	LAST YEAR	LAST MONTH	TODAY
	<b>6/1/17</b>	<b>4/1/18</b>	<b>6/22/18</b>
<b>PNC (checking acct)</b>	\$8,841.67	\$6,209.65	\$6,358.08
<b>Self-Help (moneymarket)</b>	\$11,365.70	\$13,505.95	\$13,549.26
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$20,217.37</b>	<b>\$19,712.60</b>	<b>\$19,907.34</b>

Self-Help Money Market Transactions 4/2/18 to 6/22/18

DATE	Transaction	Purpose	Amount
<b>Beginning Balance</b>			<b>\$13,505.95</b>
4/30/18	Dividend	1.42%	\$15.68
5/15/18	Returned Mail Fee	Statement to wrong address	(\$5.00)
5/31/18	Dividend	1.44%	\$16.45
<b>Ending Balance</b>			<b>\$13,549.26</b>

**Spring Retreat Summary:**

The total expenses for the Spring Retreat were: \$6,651.71

The total income from the Spring Retreat was: \$3,860.14

Spring Retreat expenses compared to past years:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Food</b>	<b>Housing</b>
<b>2016</b>	<b>\$1,635</b>	<b>\$1,121</b>
<b>2017</b>	<b>\$1,000</b>	<b>\$1,300</b>
<b>2018</b>	<b>\$1,950</b>	<b>\$2,687</b>

Note that our food expenses included \$660 to Urban Ministries for catering.

We did not pay for overnight teen activities this year.

Our expense for the Saturday evening activity was higher than past years.

2. FCNL Document

**PYFM Working group: Friends Committee on NC Legislation:**

**Background:** In February, PFYM Quarterly Meeting established a working group to study the feasibility of and interest in developing a state-level Friends Committee on North Carolina Legislation (FCNCL) among both PFYM and PFF NC meetings. The work group was created based on a report to PFYM Quarterly Meeting on the four states that have state legislative advocacy organizations. (See below).

The current working group membership includes representatives from Raleigh Friends Meeting, Charlotte Friends Meeting, New Garden Friends Meeting and Durham Friends Meeting. Salem Creek has an ad hoc member. Our current members have met three times. The advocacy organization would be open to PFYM and PFF members initially. We have reviewed the organizational structure and mission of the four state advocacy organizations and considered how such an organization might be organized and function in our unique NC circumstances. Based on these discussions, the working group sees merit in the establishment of such a group and believes it may be feasible. Next steps would be (i) to hear from more PFF meetings and learn if they generally agree and whether this is a direction they deem worthy of further exploration; and (ii) add some additional PFF members to the working group.

**Draft Mission Statement:** Friends Committee on North Carolina Legislation (FCNCL), guided by Quaker testimonies, advocates for NC state laws and policies that are just, compassionate and respectful of the inherent worth of every person and the Earth upon which we live.

## Report to PFYM Quarterly Meeting - 02/03/18:

The following has been prepared based on both discussion with and/or research of websites on statewide efforts of Quakers in support of state legislative advocacy. All are led by the Quaker Testimonies, are nonpartisan, and have an advocacy network.

1. **Friends Committee on Legislation of California** ([www.fclca.org](http://www.fclca.org)) 916-443-3934:

This group was organized in 1952. It employs three staff members, one of whom is the registered lobbyist and legislative director. The organization is a 501(c)4, which is a lobbying organization and donations are not tax deductible. In addition, the organization as a 501(c)3 education fund, which is a tax deductible fund. This is the same model that FCNL uses.

The organization is governed by a General Committee made up of representatives of Quaker meetings and at-large members, both Quakers and non-Quakers. They meet quarterly. The General Committee selects the legislative priorities every two years. In addition to meeting participation, there is an action network of individual who are sent action alerts on legislative actions as needed. The organizations support is 90% from individuals and the rest from Meetings.

2. **The Indiana Friends Committee on Legislation** ([www.quakerifcl.org](http://www.quakerifcl.org))

This group was formed in 1972. It employees one staff member who is both the director and lobbyist. They lobby on both state and federal issues. On federal issues they work with FCNL and led an Advocacy Team on mass incarceration.

The organization is governed by a policy committee that makes its decisions using Quaker process and values. It is a 100% Quaker organization but works with other organizations depending on the issue. Annually the organization holds a policy meeting to determine legislative policy priorities. All Indiana Quakers are invited to attend. The organization does not speak for all Quakers, only the organizations and individual Quakers that support it. It is open to all Quakers. It depends on its support from Yearly meetings, Quaker meetings and individuals.

3. **Quaker Voice on Washington Public Policy** ([www.quakervoicewa.org](http://www.quakervoicewa.org))

This organization is about 15 years old. It is governed by a steering committee of representatives of many of the unprogrammed meetings in Washington who are members of the Pacific Northwest Quarterly Meeting. It is a nonprofit corporation and has a paid lobbyist and technical managers. Quaker process is used to determine policies recommendations.

Many of the supporters and donors are not members of Quaker meetings but support Quaker values and process. (Waiting on call for more information)

4. **Friends Committee on Maine Public Policy** (no website)

This 30-year-old organization is composed of members from Quaker meetings from across the state. They meet every other month in a different location or by phone. The representatives determined two policy priorities at inception and work in coalition with other like-minded organizations. They may add some policy work if urgent. They have no paid staff. They are supported by donations from meetings and individuals for speakers, candidate questionnaires and forums.