

**Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting Interim Meeting Minutes
Eighth month twenty-fifth day 2018 at New Garden Friends Meeting**

PFYM clerks, monthly meeting and worship group representatives, and others in attendance:

Kathy Walker	Abingdon	Bob Mers	New Garden
Emilie Condon	Chapel Hill	Martin King	Raleigh
Alice Carlton	Chapel Hill	John Shuford	Raleigh
Sally Freeman	Eno	Gary Hornsby	Salem Creek
Paul Klever	Eno	Christina Connell	Salem Creek
Marian Beane	Charlotte		
Julie Stafford	Charlotte		
Kathy Metzko	Charlotte		

Presiding clerk Gary Hornsby invited Friends to settle into worship. After a period of worship we introduced ourselves and checked in briefly.

Regrets. Emilie Condon reported regrets from Naveed Moeed, who is unwell today.

After review and acceptance of the proposed **agenda**, Friends confirmed the following up-coming Interim Meeting **meeting dates**:

November 10	Meeting at New Garden Friends
February 16, 2019	Meeting at New Garden Friends

Minutes from the June 2, 2018 Interim Meeting were **approved as distributed**.

Review, reflection and comments on PFF/YM joint meeting

Friends agreed that the joint meeting was helpful. We found the discussion working with the tension around the PFF – PFYM relationship continues to lead to better articulation and is a positive working through the differing perspectives.

In reviewing the discussion about reports at our annual retreat and annual sessions from national organizations, IM supported the idea of a joint meeting time for this reporting, while maintaining an opportunity for our own representatives to give reports in individual sessions. Speakers will need to know the expectation and presiding clerk Gary Hornsby will confer on this with Jeff Brown, clerk of PFF.

Use of term *Assisting Clerk* and Recording Clerk Rotation

In the PFYM Handbook, only the term Assisting Clerk is used, so that will be the practice followed.

After some discussion of the Recording Clerk rotation, **Friends approved adopting a new practice** at this time: The recording clerk term will begin with the second year of the presiding clerk, and the term of the

recording clerk will be changed to two years. After living this practice for a time, we will consider making this change to the Handbook.

Updates to Leadership Directory and Annual Calendar

Friends adjusted and corrected annual calendar dates before March 2019 (attached). We kept the meeting statistical and status report submission on January 6, with the website to be determined and noted that the report forms and instructions will need to be distributed to meetings in November. Review of these forms will be an item for our November 10 meeting, as will 2019 dates beyond February.

Quaker 'Pilgrimage' (Marian Beane)

Marian Beane asked to test interest in the idea of developing a "Quaker Journey" for groups of PFYM Friends to the Philadelphia area. Enthusiasm for these ideas was expressed, with the suggestion of adding a trip to "George Fox Country" later. Marian will continue her exploration of this idea.

Brief Committee and Working Group Reports

Working Group on Advocacy (John Shuford for Jan Schmidt)

Jan reports (see attached) that the working group (Jan Schmidt, Dorothy Mason, Vernie Davis, Dylan Buffum, Helene Hilger) has met three times and plans to meet again on September 8. In their formal and informal assessing of interest in the idea for a state-based advocacy effort to strengthen Friends voice on legislation impacting North Carolinians, they are finding active interest among PFF and PFYM Friends and meetings and believe such an advocacy effort is feasible. They have drafted a mission statement for this advocacy effort, which they are calling Friends Committee on North Carolina Legislation (FCNCL), and besides continuing work assessing the interest in this work among PFF and PFYM meetings and Friends, they are considering possible values, structure and process to recommend for FCNCL. The working group requests approval from Interim Meeting to invite PFF to partner in this work and to add members to the workgroup as interest from monthly meetings arises or other expertise is available.

Interim Meeting Friends expressed warm appreciation for the energy and progress of the working group on advocacy, and for the information shared with IM to date. It was noted that PFYM is always in partnership with PFF, and that the work of this working group is under the care of PFYM. **As a PFYM working group, the Advocacy group is able and encouraged to add members from PFF Friends as interest and expertise lead others to join them.** IM supports the work and spirit of the working group on advocacy as they continue to explore the interest and feasibility of a state-based advocacy effort. We will also take steps to keep PFF representative body apprised of this work and its findings.

Interim Meeting requests that the Working Group on Advocacy make a report on their work to Interim Meeting in person in our November 10 meeting, with as many members of the working group present as possible to facilitate meaningful consideration and discussion. Any recommendations to IM from the working group developed by that time can be presented and considered as well.

Statistics and Status Working Group (Kathy Metz)

Kathy and Sally Freeman, the other member of this working group, request input from IM representatives on their preference for the summary report prepared from monthly meetings' spiritual condition report. Do Friends prefer a summary of the report responses question by question, as had been done for 2017 annual sessions, or a whole-report summary as was done for the 2018 annual sessions? Please contact Kathy with your preference katherinemetzo@gmail.com. Also, Kathy and Sally would love to be joined by others interested in this work. Please contact them.

Nominating Committee (Sally Freeman)

Sally reports that the committee is working on the positions of recording clerk, FWCC representative, and next assisting clerk. Representatives' thoughtful ideas about Friends with appropriate gifts are appreciated.

Friends settled into a period of silent worship before rising to join the closing joint session with PFF Representative Body.

Julie Stafford
Recording clerk

Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting 2018-19 Calendar

8-25-18 draft

- March 31, 2018** 2018 Annual Sessions in conjunction with PFF Spring Retreat, March 30 – April 1; Carolina Friends School (CFS)
- June 2, 2018** Interim Meeting at New Garden Friends Meeting (NGFM) 9:00 fellowship; 10:00 - 2:30
- August 25, 2018** Interim Meeting joint meeting with PFF Representative Body; NGFM; 9:00 fellowship; 10:00 – 3:00
- Nov. 10, 2018** Interim Meeting; NGFM; 9:00/10-2:30 meeting
Review of Statistics and Spiritual Condition report forms and instructions for subsequent distribution to meeting clerks
- January 6, 2019** Meetings submit Annual Statistics & Spiritual Condition Reports to: _____
Instructions & forms are posted at (website location);
Contact: _____
- Feb. 16, 2019** Interim Meeting; NGFM; 9:00/10-2:30 meeting
- March 6, 2019** Meetings submit the following to the PFYM recording clerk- Julie Stafford maryju@bellsouth.net
- Names of up to three (3) Friends appointed as representatives to annual sessions
 - Brief message prepared by meeting in response to the query: “What has been most on the hearts of your meeting this year?” Meetings are asked to identify someone to read the meeting’s response during annual sessions.
 - Names of members/attenders who have transitioned during this year including a brief (1-2 sentence) statement on how they will be remembered. Meetings are asked to name someone to read these remembrances during annual sessions.
- March 20, 2019** Advance documents are prepared and posted at: _____
- April 20, 2019** 2019 Annual Sessions -in conjunction with PFF Spring Retreat CFS

PYFM FCNCL Working Group Report to PFYM Interim Meeting, August 25, 2018

The Working Group has met three times. We are meeting again Sept. 8th. At the June meeting members agreed that a state-based Friend's advocacy presence was feasible and that it was time to glean whether there was interest from PFF. Vernie Davis shared the document below with PFF interim meeting and PFF representatives agreed to share the information with their meetings. Working group members at the June meeting agreed that for the present the FCNCL would encompass PFYM and PFF to develop principles, structure and process and once that was accomplished, then look to including other yearly meetings, with the approval of PFYM and PFF. We also approved a draft mission statement. **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.

The working group would like the approval of PFYM to invite PFF to partner in this work and add membership to the workgroup as interest from these monthly meetings arises or other expertise is available and interested. For example:

- As a result of the March meeting, a member of Durham meeting has met with the working group and has invaluable experience with a Massachusetts state-based Friend's advocacy organization,
- Rising from the PFF discussion with Vernie, interest has already been expressed from a member of a PFF meeting to assist with this work.
- Christine Ashley, field director for FCNCL, has recently moved to NC and will be joining a meeting in the Durham-Hillsborough area and would be an informed member and resource for our work.

The Working Group has discussed asking the Peace and Social Concerns about how the google groups might be a foundation for communication and action, if an FCNCL comes to fruition.

Working Group members are gleaning the interest of the meetings both formally and informally. RFM was informed about this work, both the Peace and Social Concerns Committee and Business Meeting, and interest was expressed.

The Working Group is hoping to meet September 8th. We will continue to discuss process, structure and values for FCNCL. With your approval we will continue this work with additional PFF meeting participation and others as the way opens.

Jan Schmidt
Working Group convener

Document presented to PFYM:

PYFM Working group: Friends Committee on NC Legislation, June 24, 2018:

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) 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)

This group was formed in 1972. It employs 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)

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.