

Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting (PFYM)
Report to PFF
August 2, 2020

Co-clerks, Sally Freeman & Paul Klever
Assisting Clerk, Gary Hornsby
Recording Clerk, Alice Carlton

The PFYM annual sessions were held virtually on the weekend of July 24 - 26. The intent of the gathering was to deepen connections of Friends in the yearly meeting, as well as inspire Friends to take up the work that “this moment” calls to us. Over 100 Friends were able to join us over the course of the weekend. All nine member meetings (eight monthly meetings and one worship group) were represented. In addition, several visiting Friends from other monthly and yearly meetings attended.

On Friday evening, we enjoyed meaningful sharing in small groups and an activity for each meeting to introduce itself using historic and descriptive information. On Saturday morning, we had a very inspiring session with two young adult Friends from Quaker Voluntary Service. Liz Nicholson and Hilary Burgin led us in a process of consideration of the query, *“What opportunities do Quakers find in the pandemic and the current awakening to injustice for creating the world we seek?”*

The Saturday afternoon meeting for worship with attention to business session was “stream-lined,” with brief verbal highlights of submitted written reports. The yearly meeting approved a minute of appreciation for Friends Committee on North Carolina Legislation (FCNCL). A new position for a yearly meeting representative to FCNCL was approved, in keeping with the yearly meeting’s commitment to provide spiritual care to FCNCL.

We celebrated the work of FCNCL with an engagement session on Saturday afternoon, as well as a workshop on Sunday afternoon with both FCNL and FCNCL on building skills for advocacy.

Friends across the piedmont were invited to join us for unprogrammed meeting for worship on Sunday morning. Adding to the richness of worship, Tim Lindeman, clerk of New Garden Friends Meeting, offered inspiring piano music for part of the time together.

We are deeply grateful for this meaningful time together, and thankful to our Chapel Hill Tech Friends who handled all of the technical aspects of our virtual sessions.

PFYM’s member meeting clerks have been meeting virtually on a regular basis since the outbreak of COVID-19 and the closing of our meetinghouses. Interim Meeting has also met virtually. Both of these groups will continue to meet via zoom for the foreseeable future.

Respectfully submitted,
Sally Freeman and Paul Klever, Co-clerks

Attachments:

Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting (PFYM)

*Appointed Representative to
Friends Committee on North Carolina Legislation (FCNCL)*

The appointment and responsibilities of the representative to FCNCL will follow the general procedure as laid out in the PFYM Handbook (Page 14):

1. Annual Session approves the establishment of the position
2. Nominating Committee brings to Annual Session the name of an individual to serve as the representative as a part of the roster of appointments
3. The usual term is three years with option to serve another term, etc.
4. Responsibilities include serving as a channel of communication, bringing PFYM's concerns to FCNCL and arranging for regular reports on the work of FCNCL at Annual Session and Interim Meetings.

The appointed representative will also be available to provide spiritual care and encouragement as requested by the FCNCL organization and its leadership during regular meetings and at other times and to serve as a conduit for messages of spiritual care, deep listening, and support from PFYM. The representative is encouraged to bring concerns and related matters to PFYM's Executive Committee for discernment as is deemed helpful.

This is in keeping with the PFYM minute on the establishment of Friends Committee on North Carolina Legislation (FCNCL) as described in its founding document to be an organization under the spiritual care of PFYM. (*Annual Sessions April 20, 2019*)

*PIEDMONT FRIENDS YEARLY MEETING
July, 2020*

A Minute of Appreciation for Friends Committee on North Carolina Legislation (FCNCL)

As the Friends Committee on North Carolina Legislation (FCNCL) takes on a life of its own while remaining under the spiritual care of Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting, we are reminded with thanks of those serving on the original working group who brought forward the proposal for a Friends Committee on North Carolina Legislation to the 2019 annual sessions (Jan Schmidt, clerk, Helene Hilger, Deborah Britton, Vernie Davis, Nancy Haines, Dorothy Mason, Dylan Buffum).

PFYM expresses gratitude for all that has been accomplished in this first year and we thank those serving on its Executive Committee who have made FCNCL charge forward at all Quaker speed (Helene Hilger, Vernie Davis, Deborah Britton, Susan Davis, Andrew Leslie, Christine Ashley, Katherine Metzko, Pam Schwingl, Dorothy Mason, Zana Cranfill, Karen Porter, Marian Beane). FCNCL's establishment, including its invitation to all Friends in North Carolina to join in this effort, is a true example of living into PFYM's vision to "witness to our collective truth in the wider world."