

Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting
Sixth Annual Sessions, Fourth Month 2021

*Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting (PFYM)
Clerks' Report
Sixth Annual Sessions
April 10, 2021*

Presiding Clerks, Sally Freeman & Paul Klever
Recording Clerk, Alice Carlton
Nominating Committee, Clerk, Leslie Rountree
Communication Committee, Clerk, Marian Beane
Statistics & Spiritual Condition Working Group, Leader, Deborah Warot

This report summarizes the activities and work of PFYM since the fifth PFYM annual sessions held on-line in July, 2020.

PFYM On-line WORKSHOPS

September 4, 2020 - A workshop entitled, "A deep dive into Zoom for Quaker Meetings" with Naveed Moeed brought together nine Friends from PFYM & PFF who had some interest, experience or responsibility for Zoom management in their respective meetings.

October 24, 2020 - Nineteen Friends from across the yearly meeting and PFF attended a Clerking Workshop via Zoom. Friends decision-making, maintaining a Spirit of worship during business meetings, and the challenges and joys of clerking were some of the topics discussed.

ADULT YOUNG FRIENDS

Following the 2020 Annual Sessions, the yearly meeting encouraged the formation of an adult young Friends group. Faith Josephs (Charlotte Friends Meeting) responded and created the forum for adult young Friends from the yearly meeting and beyond to gather (virtually) monthly to explore their connections and life as Friends.

2022 FGC GATHERING HOSTING COMMITTEE

The clerks were contacted by FGC requesting Piedmont Friends to serve as the "host" for the 2022 Gathering in Radford, VA. Interim Meeting approved the formation of the Ad Hoc 2022 Gathering Host Committee to work with FGC Long Range Conference Planning Committee and staff, bringing together Friends from throughout the Piedmont to support the 2022 Gathering and carry out the functions of Gathering Host.

RACIAL JUSTICE WORK SHARING—A PFF/PFYM webpage for racial justice work within Piedmont Friends meetings was created by clerk, Paul Klever this past September. Peace & Social Concerns clerks in each meeting were invited to share their meeting's efforts. The link for this page is: <https://www.fgcquaker.org/cloud/piedmont-friends-fellowship-and-yearly-meeting/projects/meetings-racial-justice-work>

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

The Executive Committee of PFYM, including the clerks and committee clerks, continued convening regularly this year.

Aug 15, 2020

- The committee reviewed the clerks' proposed priorities for the year.
- Proposed PFF/PFYM retreat and annual sessions for March/April.

Oct. 29, 2020

- Report from the Ad Hoc PFF/PFYM Planning Committee for the Spring Retreat.
- Review of Nominating Committee open positions.
- Consideration of Minute of appreciation for Jan and Helene's service as representatives to FCNL.
- Recommendation of Lizzie Biddle to complete the term of the rep to FCNL.
- Marian reported on the "Zoom workshop" offered to member meetings in September.
- Prepared for IM meeting, Nov. 7, including various reports.

Jan. 30, 2021

- Reviewed 2021 Spring Retreat Schedule and preparations for annual sessions in April
- Review of Nominating Committee's work and open positions
- Considered request from FGC for Piedmont Friends to serve as "Host" for the 2022 Gathering in Radford, VA. Executive Committee concurred to present to IM the establishment of an Ad Hoc Gathering Hosting Committee.

INTERIM MEETING ACTIVITIES

PFYM Interim Meeting—including the IM Representatives from member meetings, PFYM clerks and organizational representatives—carries on the work of the yearly meeting between annual sessions.

August 22, 2020

- The Epistle of the 2020 PFYM Annual Sessions was approved, with a minute of appreciation for the Epistle Committee. The Communications Committee noted they will distribute the Epistle to various Friends organizations and groups.
- Representatives shared feedback regarding the 2020 Annual Session held online.
- Representatives considered and approved the priorities proposed by the clerks for the coming year, to be shared with PFF at the joint meeting:
 - A. Connecting member meetings across the Yearly Meeting (YM) in discussion, support, and learning opportunities. Topics: Clerking, Recording Clerking, Nominating Clerks, Technical (Zoom).
 - B. Encouraging the North Carolina Friends from Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting (PFYM) to participate in Friends Committee on North Carolina Legislation (FCNCL) action alerts.

- C. Engaging Young Adult Friends across the YM.
- D. Continuing to develop identity with the YM and opportunities to become involved, such as:
 - i. Member meeting Clerks calls,
 - ii. Individual meeting activities which other meetings may want to join in, such as meeting for worship and forums, 3) distribution of opportunities for YM involvement/representatives.
- E. Encourage use of Peace & Social Concerns (PS&C) Google groups. We encourage individual meetings to share minutes they create on social issues. This would be a good use of the Google groups.
- Minute of appreciation to Kathy Metzko for her leadership of the Spiritual Condition and Statistics Working Group was approved. Deborah Warot was welcomed as the new leader of the working group.
- The Communications Committee reported that a letter of care and concern was sent to Friends in Brummana/Beirut following the devastating explosion.

November 7, 2020

- A report from the Spring Retreat Planning Committee noted that the dates are April 9, 10, 11.
- Representatives approved the Nominating Committee's proposal of Lizzie Biddle as PFYM representative to FNCL.
- The meeting received a report from the Quaker Librarian & College Archivist at Guilford College.
- Reports were received from the State of the Meeting Working Group, FCNCL, AFSC and FGC.
- In response to the PFYM priorities, it was reported that Faith Josephs of Charlotte Friends Meeting is organizing a zoom gathering for Adult Young Friends (under 40ish) across the yearly meeting to get to know each other. AYFs will be meeting initially on Sunday, November 8th, from 5:30 - 7 pm, then deciding the best way to continue.

February 13, 2021

- The Clerks reported on their activities.
- Update from the monthly meetings of Young Adult Friends.
- The Clerks shared with representatives that they received a call from FGC asking Piedmont Friends to be Host for 2022 FGC Gathering in Radford, VA, and recommended, with support of Executive Committee, the approval of an *Ad Hoc 2022 Gathering Host Committee*, which the meeting approved.
- The draft schedule for the Piedmont Friends Spring Retreat, with the theme "Cultivating the Garden of Diversity and Inclusion," and agenda for Annual Sessions were reviewed.
- Reports were received from State of the Meeting Working Group, Communications Committee, Nominating Committee and FCNCL.

PFYM MEMBER CLERKS CALLS

The clerks of PFYM member meetings and worship groups continue to meet online.

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August 2, 2020

- Clerks shared that their meetings were experiencing strong participation with online worship and other meeting activities and expressed concern for those who are not joining in virtually.

December 5, 2020

- Clerks shared their meetings' considerations for holding "hybrid meetings" combining in-person and virtual attendance in the future.
- Concerns around Guildford College were shared.

March 13, 2021

- Clerks reviewed items needed for Annual Sessions.
- Clerks continued to find meaning in sharing perspectives on issues arising in their meetings.

PFF/PFYM Combined Meeting

- August 22, 2020. In preparation for a spring retreat and annual sessions, a Spring Retreat Planning Committee was formed, including the clerks of PFF and PFYM, Karen McKinnon, Marion Beane, Nancy Reimer and Sunny Davidson. It was decided that the 2021 PFF/PFYM meeting would be held virtually as a combined spring retreat.

CLERKS ACTIVITIES

- Zoom calls of FGC General Secretary and Presiding Clerk with Yearly Meeting Clerks:
 - September 9, 2020
 - January 25, 2021
- FGC Executive Committee, January 29-30, 2021. Paul participated in the Zoom meeting of the FGC Executive Committee, as a PFYM clerk.

2021 Epistle Committee

The clerks named, with gratitude, the following to the 2021 Annual Sessions Epistle Committee:

- Ann Miller (Chapel Hill Friends Meeting)
- Leslie Rountree (Chapel Hill Friends Meeting)
- Sue Tideman (Eno Friend Meeting of Hillsborough)

Associated Organizational Reports

The clerks reached out to these associated groups of Friends for reports:

- Quaker Earthcare Witness
- Save Guilford
- Right Sharing of the World Resources
- Quaker Voluntary Service
- Quaker House
- Guilford Archives

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The reports received are included in the advance documents uploaded to the PFF/PFYM Website.

The Clerks express appreciation for the support of the Ad Hoc Spring Retreat Planning Committee and the Tech Friends from Chapel Hill Friends Meeting for their guidance and support for the 2021 Piedmont Friends Spring Retreat.

Respectfully submitted,

Sally Freeman and Paul Klever, PFYM Co-clerks