

Piedmont Friends Fellowship Clerk's Report to the 2020 Annual Meeting

August 2, 2020

Piedmont Friends Fellowship started 2019 expecting to continue the successful practices of previous years, albeit with a change of PFFClerk .

Jeff Brown of Chapel Hill Friends meeting stepped down as clerk after a much appreciated term and was replaced by Bill Moore from Raleigh Friends Meeting.

Instead we finished the year in the midst of a pandemic and with widespread protests on our streets seeking racial and social justice.

While the pandemic has been especially challenging, I am encouraged by all the efforts friends have made to keep connected and maintain community, as so much of our work has shifted to online tools.

The year began normally and PFF continued its practice of holding Representative Body Meetings on First Days to enable representatives to worship with different meetings each time.

Recent hosts were Quaker House Fayetteville June 2019 , Wilkes County Friends Meeting, Wilkesboro October 2019, and Salem Creek Friends Meeting, Winston-Salem January 2020.

In August 2019 we met at New Garden Friends Meeting, Greensboro for both a reps meeting and for a joint meeting with PFYM Interim Committee.

PFF's fall retreat was held for again at Seven Springs Retreat Center near Winston-Salem in September. The weekend emphasized fellowship and free time to enjoy the lodge, pond and lovely outdoor setting. Friends had a worship sharing on Saturday afternoon.

Things did stay normal as the Covid pandemic deepened and lockdowns meant most of our meetings were forced to move online.

By March 2020 we had to cancel out 2020 Annual Sessions and Spring retreat and instead of being hosted by Chapel Hill Friends Meeting our June 2020 reps meeting was online.

PFF continues to enjoy its relationship with the Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting.

In addition to the joint meeting of the PFF Representative Body and the PFYM Interim Meeting in August, we maintain fellowship with PFYM at annual meetings and fall retreats.

PFF also collaborates with PFYM on social justice initiatives, including supporting the work of the Friends Committee on North Carolina Legislation (FCNCL).

PFF and PFYM share a Quaker Cloud website, and while this remains a work in progress it supports our vision to have a site that is easier to maintain and allows us to show our support to FGC as the cloud provider.

We have a joint effort to make better use of our Google For Non Profits tools.

Google groups to share concerns about peace and social justice are up and running.

We are slowly moving our email lists and other resources to the Google tool set.

More work remains to be done to make full use of the Google tools and to avoid fragmentation of our internet resources across multiple sites and tool sets.

PFF supports other Quaker organizations by making annual donations to Friends General Conference, Quaker House, American Friends Service Committee, Friends Committee on National Legislation, and the Guilford College Archives for document archiving services.

We also provide representatives to the FGC Central Committee and other PFF members serve on several key national FGC committees.

PFF continues work hard to maintain the tradition of inclusiveness and working successfully together across the multi-state region.

Even before the widespread protests for racial justice triggered by the killing of George Floyd, PFF was helping member meetings respond to calls to for Quakers to truly become anti racist.

In responding to a FGC request for details on PFF/PFYM anti-racism efforts PFF was challenged to work with PFYM and our member meetings, to consider how we strive to practice inclusion and love, and seek ways to live our testimony on equality in a positive manner.

With an equally inclusive Yearly Meeting as part of our organization, we look forward to continuing to meet the needs of Friends in the wider Piedmont.

Together we hope for a future of taking up the work that “this moment” calls us to do.

Bill Moore, Clerk