

MINUTE OF APPRECIATION

Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting expresses deep appreciation for Jan Schmidt and Helene Hilger for their dedicated service as PFYM representatives to Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL). Since her appointment in 2016 as PFYM's representative, Jan developed a foundational connection between PFYM and FCNL. Her advocacy for Friends participation in the legislative process included a leading for a statewide collaboration of Friends to address North Carolina legislation, a vision that became Friends Committee on North Carolina Legislation (FCNCL), under the spiritual care of PFYM.

Upon Jan's departure for New Zealand in 2019, Helene Hilger stepped into complete Jan's term of service as PFYM's representative to FCNL. Simultaneously, Helene was integrally involved in the establishment of FCNCL, being appointed one of the organization's first co-clerks.

Together, Jan and Helene have been committed to the importance of Friends speaking truth to power, advocating for Friends testimonies within national and state legislation, and facilitating meetings and individual Friends awareness of issues in order to strengthen the Quaker witness. Their spirit-led service has set a path for PFYM's engagement in national and statewide advocacy.