

Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting
Fifth Annual Sessions
Saturday July 25, 2020
via Zoom Video Conferencing

Sally Freeman & Paul Klever, Co-clerks; Alice Carlton, Recording Clerk

Attendance: Michael Galovic (Swannanoa Valley), Tom Roberts (Noblesville, Western Yearly Meeting), Alice Carlton (Chapel Hill), Amy Mackintosh (Raleigh), Andrew Leslie (Salem Creek), Ann Miller (Chapel Hill), Annette Broadwell (Chapel Hill), Hart Pillow (Chapel Hill), Betsy Brinson (Chapel Hill), Bill Moore (Raleigh), Bobby Trice (Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) & Friends Meeting of Washington), Buzz Borchardt (Chapel Hill), Carol Cothorn (New Garden), Carolyn Stuart (Chapel Hill), Chris Stanley (Chapel Hill), Cindy Nelson (Charlotte), Daniel Washburn (Raleigh), Dave Curtin (Chapel Hill), David Perry (Davidson), Deborah Warot (Charlotte), Deborah Bromiley (Raleigh), Doris Wilson (Upstate Worship Group), Dorothy Cole (Charlotte), Ellie Beach (Eno Friends of Hillsborough), Emilie Condon (Chapel Hill), Faith Josephs (Charlotte), Gary Hornsby (Salem Creek), George Jack (Raleigh), Hedwig Weiler (Charlotte), Helene Hilger (Charlotte), Jan Vazquez-Benjamin (Upstate), Jasmin McKewen (Chapel Hill), Jeff Brown (Chapel Hill), Jennifer Murdock (Charlotte), John Shuford (Raleigh), Karen McKinnon (Eno), Katherine Metz (Charlotte), Kathy Kamphoefner (Raleigh), Kindra Bradley (Quaker House & Fayetteville), Laura Manigrasso (Eno), Lori Khamala (Chapel Hill), Lyle Adley-Warrick (Raleigh), Marian Beane (Charlotte), Martin Hubbe (Raleigh), Mary Luckhaus (New Garden), Mary Jo Klingel (Charlotte), Meg Zulick (Salem Creek), Michael Johnson (Upstate), Nancy Riemer (Raleigh), Naveed Moeed (Chapel Hill), Pam Schwingl (Chapel Hill), Paul Klever (Eno), Phayth Myer (Friendship), Quaker Harmon (Chapel Hill), Rachel Lea (Raleigh), Robert Mers (New Garden), Sally Freeman (Eno), Sue Tideman (Eno), Susan Adley-Warrick (Raleigh), Vernie Davis (Raleigh), Wendy Michener (Chapel Hill), Page Marsh (Raleigh), Ted Edgerton (Wilkes County), Melissa Meyer (Wilkes County), Leedon Lefferts (Chapel Hill), Ric Shepard (Chapel Hill), Christine Ashley (Eno), Art Mines (Eno), Madelyn Ashley (Chapel Hill), Marshal Eddleman (Fancy Gap), Susan Ikenberry (Swannanoa Valley).

1. We welcomed member meetings and welcomed and introduced visitors from Swannanoa Valley Friends, Michael Galovic; from Davidson Meeting, David Perry; from Friends Meeting of Washington Bobby Trice, FCNL & Baltimore Yearly Meeting (co leading advocacy session with Christine Ashley on Sunday).
2. We settled into worship.
3. Henry Schneider, Chapel Hill Friends Meeting (CHFM), read the Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting (PFYM) Vision Statement.
“As a Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, we seek to foster a loving community of affiliated monthly meetings and worship groups by increasing and strengthening connections among members, attenders, and seekers and with other Friends’ organizations. Our primary goals are to nurture monthly meetings and worship groups by supporting spiritual growth and to witness to our collective truth in the wider world.”
4. We approved the agenda.
5. Clerks Report to Annual Session (appendix 1). Highlights include a pilgrimage to Philadelphia in May 2019, the establishment and activities of the Executive Committee, the Piedmont Friends Fellowship (PFF) Fall Retreat, the activities of the Interim Meeting (IM) including fellowship with

NC Fellowship of Friends at IM November meeting, the first Zoom calls for PFYM Meeting Clerks, and Clerk's activities engaging with the wider world of Quakers.

- A. **Action:** We approved the new position of PFYM's representative to Friends Committee on North Carolina Legislation (FCNCL).
- B. **Action:** We approved a minute of appreciation to FCNCL celebrating more than a year of existence:

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 Metz, 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."

- C. Announcement of **Epistle Committee:** Alice Carlton (Chapel Hill), Leslie Rountree (Chapel Hill), Susan Adley-Warrick (Raleigh).

6. Leslie Rountree, Clerk of the Nominating Committee, presented its report:

The PFYM Nominations Committee recommended the following nominee for approval at annual session:

Marian Beane, PFYM representative to Friends Committee on North Carolina Legislation (2020-2022).

Marian has served as our representative to FCNCL in an interim capacity this year.

Open positions

At this writing, we lack two of the three PFYM/PFF representatives needed for the Friends General Conference Central Committee, as Ida Trisolini of Durham Friends completed her three year term this spring. Nominations committee members have approached multiple candidates this year, to no avail. If you have interest in serving or know of someone who might, please contact a member of our committee.

Looking Forward

The coming year will be a busy one for us. We will be searching for our next recording clerk and a new candidate for the clerk rotation (serving one year as Assisting Clerk, followed by two years as Clerk, and lastly, one year as Assisting Clerk), in addition to any new or term-limited positions. Suggestions are welcome, and will be held in prayerful consideration. Please hold our work in the Light.

Roster of Clerks and Appointed Representatives for 2020-2021

Clerks:

Presiding Co-clerks: Sally Freeman & Paul Klever, Eno, 2020-2022 (Assisting Co-clerks, 2023)

Assisting Clerk: Gary Hornsby, Salem Creek, 2020-2021

Recording Clerk: Alice Carlton, Chapel Hill, 2019-21

Communications Committee Clerk: Marian Beane, Charlotte, 2019-22

Representatives:

American Friends Service Committee:

Bill Moore, Raleigh 2nd term, 2019-22

Friends Committee on National Legislation:

Helene Hilger, Charlotte (interim representative during Jan Schmidt's sabbatical in New Zealand); Jan Schmidt, Raleigh, 2nd term, 2019-22

Friends Committee on North Carolina Legislation:

Marian Beane, Charlotte, 1st term, 2020-2022 (pending approval)

Friends World Committee for Consultation – Section of Americas:

Christine Ashley, Eno Friends, 1st term, 2019-22

Joint PFF/PFYM Representatives to FGC Central Committee:

Melissa Myer, North Wilkesboro, 1st term: 2018-21

Submitted by Marshal Eddleman, Fancy Gap; Sally Freeman, Eno; Mary Louise Smith, New Garden; Leslie Rountree (clerk), Chapel Hill.

Action: Marian Beane was approved to the position of PFYM Rep to FCNCL

Action: The Nominating Committee report was accepted with gratitude.

7. Kathy Metzko presented the Statistics and Spiritual Condition Report. (appendix 2). PFYM Meetings are diverse but share the intention of centering before stepping into spirit-led action. Our young friends are integral to the life of our meetings. As always, there are challenges to finding Friends with busy lives to fill positions of leadership. "We seek to be grounded in peace rather than in pieces."

Action: The report was accepted, with thanks.

8. Organizational reports:
- A. Friends Committee on National Legislation. Helene Hilger, PFYM Rep and Bobby Trice FCNCL (appendix 3). Helene attended the FCNCL annual meeting last November. As a member of the North Carolina delegation she met with Sen. Tillis to discuss repeal of the Authorization for the Use of Military Force (AUMF). She and Marian Beane met with their House Representatives. They appreciated the opportunity to meet with Friends from other states who have established groups like FCNCL. Bobby Trice reported that Quaker advocacy now happens virtually during the pandemic and is very important in light of current events. He shared links for our engagement in the activities of FCNCL.
 - 1. FCNCL.org/events: join virtual events: weekly worship, lobby training and legislative updates
 - 2. FCNCL.org/congress: action updates
 - 3. FCNCL.org/lobbyfromhome
 - B. Friends General Conference (FGC): Faith Josephs (Charlotte), FGC Associate Secretary for Development (appendix 4). She reported that the recent FGC Gathering was virtual and successful. In March when pandemic began, Friends asked FGC for worship opportunities. There are now three virtual worship opportunities (link on the FGC.org). FGC got a Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan to keep staffing levels. Finance Committee is wrestling with the budget and financial support.
 - C. American Friends Service Committee (AFSC): Bill Moore, PFYM Representative. The strategic Plan has been completed and is posted for comment at AFSC.org. The AFSC report to PFYM will be available in August.
 - D. Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC): Christine Ashley, PFYM Rep (appendix 5). World Quaker Day will be October 4, 2020.

- E. Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW) and Quaker House reports are also available (appendices 6 & 7) as well as minutes from Raleigh and from Charlotte Meetings (appendix 8 & 9).
- F. FCNCL report is also available (appendix 10).

- 9. We settled into Worship before our second session.
- 10. Remembering those who have passed (appendix 11), read by Lyle Adley-Warrick
- 11. Out of the silence, we heard and received meeting responses to the query: *“What has been most on the hearts of your meeting this year.”*
- 12. We had worship sharing reflecting on the query: *“What is on your heart, in awareness of the pandemic and the awakening to racial injustice?”*

A few of the messages shared: Hope that being kept at home and the three crises (pandemic, race, economics) get our attention, more awareness of racial injustice and lack of diversity, HR (Higher Realm) department of the universe is awakening us, encouraged by people who come out to protect groups to which they do not belong, ie: wall of moms and protest groups of mixed race. We are slowed down, focused on pandemic and racial unrest in contrast to when our world was moving so fast we couldn't grasp and absorb realities around us, something to be grateful for. May we link our arms to go out into the world as a Wall of Friends.
- 13. Friends were invited to send reflections to members of the Epistle Committee for inclusion in the Epistle.

The meeting closed with thanks to Paul Klever and Sally Freeman, Co-clerks of PFYM, and the Zoom committee (Jeff Brown, Quaker Harmon and Naveed Moeed of Chapel Hill).

Who knew Friends who worship in silence could pull off all that we shared today through technology? Thanks also to Marian Beane and Christine Ashley for all their support in preparing for this gathering.

- 14. Settling out worship

APPENDICES TO THE MINUTES

Appendix:

- 1. PFYM Clerks' Report
- 2. PFYM Annual Status and Spiritual Condition Report, with member meeting responses
- 3. Nominating Committee Report
- 4. PFYM Representative to FNCL Report
- 5. PFF/PFYM Representative to FGC Report
- 6. PFYM Representative to FWCC Report
- 7. Quaker Earthcare Witness Report
- 8. Quaker House Report
- 9. Raleigh Meeting Minute on Anti-Racism
- 10. Charlotte Meeting Minute on Immigration
- 11. FCNCL Report to PFYM
- 12. Friends who have passed.