

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

APPENDED TO THE MINUTES

Appendices:

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.

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1

Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting (PFYM)
Clerks' Report
Annual Sessions
July 25, 2020

Presiding Clerk, Gary Hornsby
Co-assisting 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, Kathy Metzko
Peace & Social Concerns Working Group, Leader, Bill Moore

This report summarizes the activities and work of PFYM since the 2019 PFYM annual sessions in April.

PILGRIMAGE TO PHILADELPHIA

May 23-26, 2019

Marian Beane coordinated a group of six Piedmont Friends in a trip to Philadelphia to explore Quaker roots. Marian arranged for hospitality, speakers and visits to many historic sites, meetinghouses and Friends organizations.

FALL PFF/PFYM RETREAT

Thirty to forty Friends attended the gathering at Seven Springs camp, September 6-8, 2019.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

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

May 4, 2019

- First meeting of Executive Committee
- Proposed activation of Communications Committee

Aug 17, 2019

- Preparation for 8.24.19 Interim Meeting and PFF-PFYM Joint Session

Oct. 13, 2019

- Prepare PFYM overview for fellowship gathering with the NC Fellowship of Friends in November
- Review position of PFYM rep to FCNCL
- Directory and email lists updates

Jan. 12, 2020

- Preparation for annual sessions in March
- Review of Nominating Committee openings
- Review of timeline for yearly meeting discernment of minutes of concern submitted by member meetings.

Mar. 1, 2020

- Final preparations for annual sessions.
- Minute of appreciation for FCNCL Executive Committee
- Consideration of “worshiping presence” during annual sessions.

May 16, 2020

- Preparation for 8/24/2020 Interim Meeting
- Consideration of possible online gathering for annual sessions

INTERIM MEETING ACTIVITIES

Meetings hosted by New Garden Friends Meeting in Greensboro
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.

June 1, 2019

- Epistle of 2019 Annual Sessions approved
- Endorsed the activation of the Communications Committee
- Reviewed priority work for the yearly meeting
- Progress report from FCNCL establishment
- Considered process for responding to circumstances of tragedy and concern through letters of condolence from PFYM

August 24, 2019

- Question raise re: PFYM representative to FCNCL; Marian Beane appointed interim representative.
- Helene Hilger appointed as PFYM representative to FCNL, during Jan Schmidt's absence
- PFF/PFYM joint meeting

November 9, 2019

- Preparations for PFYM annual sessions and PFF spring retreat
- Guidance for meetings submitting minutes of concern for yearly meeting discernment
- PFYM referred to PFF a request from FGC for reporting monthly meeting anti-racism activities.
- Approved recommending to annual session the position of PFYM Representative to FCNCL.
- Shared gathering and fellowship with NC Fellowship of Friends

February 15, 2020

- Review of Annual Sessions agenda for March 28.
- Update on the Peace & Social Concerns Google Groups.
- Committee and Working Groups reports.
- Letter of inquiry from Five Rivers Meeting in South Carolina.

June 13, 2020 (held online)

- Clerks report
- Considerations for holding annual sessions online
- Draft agenda for annual session

PFYM MEMBER CLERKS CALLS

For the first time, the clerks of PFYM member meetings and worship groups were invited to meet online.

April 30, 2020

- Concerns of meetings responding to the pandemic
- Clerks shared their meetings successes moving to online gatherings for worship, forums, committee meetings, etc.

May 23, 2020

- Follow up to concerns of meetings responding to the pandemic
- Abingdon reported starting zoom meeting for worship
- Consideration of potentially holding annual sessions online

June 27, 2020

- Preparations for online annual sessions in July

CLERKS ACTIVITIES

- May 23-26, 2019, pilgrimage to Philadelphia
 - Co-assisting Clerks, Paul & Sally, joined the pilgrimage to Philadelphia
- October, 2019, Central Committee Meeting of FGC, Maryland
- May 11, 2020, Zoom call with FWCC meetings in the Americas, regarding planning for annual sessions virtually.
- Zoom calls of FGC General Secretary and Presiding Clerk with Yearly Meeting Clerks:
 - October 2, 2019
 - January 23, 2020
 - April 30, 2020
- FGC Executive Committee, May 2020. Paul participated in the Zoom meeting of the FGC Executive Committee, as a PFYM clerk.

Respectfully submitted,
Sally Freeman and Paul Klever, Co-assisting Clerks

Attachments:

New Position—PFYM Representative to FCNCL

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

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

Annual Sessions

July 25, 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, Christine Ashley).

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."

Appendix 2

Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting Annual Status Report 2019

Prepared for 2020 Annual Sessions by Katherine Metzko. In addition to this summary report, individual reports received from each meeting are included.

Spiritual Condition of the Yearly Meeting

How have you experienced the working of the spirit this year?

The meetings and worship group that make up Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting (PFYM) are diverse in terms of size, history, and geography. And yet, amid this diversity there are many shared challenges,

from the pragmatic concerns of cultivating leadership in aging meetings to spiritual concerns around how we let our lives speak in the wider world. Each of our meetings might find common ground with Chapel Hill Friends as they state, “We seek to be grounded in peace rather than in pieces.”

Friends feel the work of the spirit in many ways. We use our time in silent worship to find balance each week, to become centered before stepping into spirit-led action. We continue our social justice work and several meetings feel uplifted by the formation of the Friends Committee on North Carolina Legislation (FCNCL). We have also found ways to grow closer to one another and closer to spirit even amidst practical challenges. Salem Creek shares that their simplified committee structure has allowed their meeting to better support deepening spirituality and the life of their meeting. Fancy Gap shares how a chance meeting outside of Meeting has led to a weekly gathering that has helped this small meeting grow closer as a community. Several meetings mention the addition of music as a joyful expression of spirit that is a particular draw for families.

With a blend of joy and heaviness, we report how integral young Friends are to the life of our meetings. Meetings with families celebrate the contributions of young Friends, while feeling the challenge of keeping them engaged. Those who have seen a drop in attendance by young Friends or the laying down of First Day School feel that loss deeply. Others point to young adult/Friends, sometimes college students, who find value in what Quaker worship offers and have seen some of these young adults Friends become regular attenders and even step into leadership roles.

Within our meetings, we care for one another in a multitude of ways. Informal gatherings, Friendly/Quaker 8s, and Care Circles/Caring Friends have allowed our meetings to build closer ties within our worship communities while tending to the needs of one another. Several larger meetings speak to the work of communications committees in keeping Friends connected and New Garden has formed a “New Ideas” working group within Ministry and Counsel to create a path for Friends to share suggestions related to the life of the Meeting.

What challenges has your MM/WG faced this past year?

Our meetings, whether small or large, whether growing or shrinking, note the continued challenges of filling leadership positions and those who are able are discerning ways to support newer attenders and younger friends in taking on these leadership roles.

For meetings who are growing, orienting new attenders to Quaker process and discerning ways to increase participation is a joyful challenge. For smaller meetings, finding clarity on the question of owning their own Meetinghouse is a satisfying but difficult challenge as it elevates what these Friends value most. Abington, one of our smallest meetings, shares that they are at a critical juncture as they seek a way forward, acknowledging that laying down their meeting is one potential outcome.

We often struggle with the sense that what we are doing is not enough, and that the process of Quaker discernment puts our action, “behind the curve of social events.” At the same time, our annual reflections open us to the idea that as we stay present in the moment and allow our lives to speak through our actions, that our impact may, in fact, be greater than we know. Several specific challenges of letting our lives speak are outlined in the next section.

During this highly charged political climate, we are challenged with seeing that of God in everyone. While we embrace a diversity of opinions and backgrounds and accept the challenge of getting

comfortable with views that make us uncomfortable, it can be difficult to reconcile seeing that of God in everyone with the social justice work that we embrace, particularly around anti-racism.

Tell us about any leadings that your MM/WG has that you are excited about, ambivalent about, or challenged by?

While our leadings have been diverse, we have collectively been very focused on social justice work, particularly around anti-racism, hunger relief, incarceration, immigration, and climate change (which is discussed in the final query).

For many, the work on anti-racism has been around discerning what it means to do anti-racism work as Quakers and several meetings look forward to having a broader conversation around this work.

In discerning way forward on their community outreach, Fancy Gap Friends chose to take over a local community food bank rather than letting it dissolve and with their leadership, community donations grew to a point where the future of this effort is more certain.

In helping incarcerated men celebrate Christmas with their families, Eno Friends of Hillsborough also created a partnership with the teachers at Carolina Friends School that they hope to foster through future social justice efforts.

Upstate Friends Worship Group has dedicated many of their efforts to immigration, authoring a minute, hosting a public forum, and engaging in direct support to migrant workers in their area. Meetings in the Triangle have been actively involved in protesting against ICE raids.

Raleigh Friends shares some ambivalence around a long-standing tradition of outreach to churches and religious centers that have experienced violence. The regularity with which they have been extending this outreach has brought weariness. "We'd wish to never send another letter."

How does your MM/WG reflect the diversity it seeks? How have you celebrated or been challenged by the diversity you aspire to?

Our meetings share that Quakers have a long history of being welcoming to all. Some of our meetings are successful in attracting racial, ethnic, sexual orientation, and age diversity, while others seek to be more intentional with attracting this type of diversity. Several meetings speak of the enrichment to their community from bringing incarcerated men from Orange Correctional Center to join Meeting for Worship and fellowship afterwards.

Charlotte Friends highlights a new effort to improve inclusivity by adding amplification for hearing impaired friends through the use of microphones.

One of the areas of diversity where we continue to both thrive and be challenged is in the diversity of spiritual beliefs.

What kind of support would your MM/WG like to see from PFYM?

The most frequently mentioned suggestions for support are to encourage inter-meeting visits and to have a place to share resources on the internet. Some suggestions for the later include: training on

clerking, public relations, and other work of the meeting; Quaker 101/history; new attender materials; other committee materials that may be of broader interest.

Friends appreciate the larger gatherings, though some desire more clarity on the respective roles of PFF and PFYM. Some would like a more formal way to stay in touch post, gatherings and others would like to see annual sessions move in other parts of areas of NC to encourage wider participation.

The PFYM Minute on Climate Change approved at the 2018 Annual Sessions is appended to the end of this document. Please briefly share how your meeting has responded to the minute on climate change.

There is a shared sense of urgency around climate change and many meetings have long traditions of working in this space, including activities like Upstate Worship Group’s membership in Green Congregations. Across our meetings, our climate change work is an extension of the life of the meeting and integrates into the work of each committee.

The variety of efforts across the member meetings of PFYM is notable: investments in green funds; energy audit of the Meetinghouse; Hospitality Committee and social justice outreach increasing the use of bio-degradable, organic, or recycled products; weather stripping; LED lightbulbs; researching solar panel installation; periodic free store; participation in climate strikes in Raleigh; tree planting; P&SC forums, including an initiative on “Faithful Responses to Climate Change”; choosing the most fuel efficient cars they can afford for community service outreach; no carbon footprint for small meetings that are renting space.

Membership Demographics

Average attendance					Other (forum, etc) Adults
	Avg MfW Adults	Avg MfW Kids	Avg FDS Adults	Avg FDS Kids	
Abingdon	4	0	0	0	0
Chapel Hill	64	8	9	16	37
Charlotte	30	0	0	6	22
Eno of Hillsborough	14	1	n/a	n/a	12
Fancy Gap	6	0	n/a	n/a	4
New Garden	152	0	5	6	30
Raleigh	28	0	0	0	14
Salem Creek	--	--	--	--	--
Upstate WG	6	1	0	0	10
TOTAL	304	10	14	28	119
Average	50.67	1.67	2.33	4.67	23.80
Range	4-152	0-8	0-9	0-16	0-37

Membership	Members	Txfrs In	Txfrs Out	New
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Abingdon	2	0	0	0
Chapel Hill	135	2	0	3
Charlotte	75	--	--	2
Eno of Hillsborough	16	0	0	1
Fancy Gap	13	0	5	1
New Garden	294	1	0	0
Raleigh	48	0	0	1
Salem Creek	--	--	--	--
Upstate WG	2	0	0	0
TOTAL	510	3	5	6
Average	85.00	0.50	0.83	1.00
Range	0-294	0-2	0-5	0-3

	Inf-Tod	Elem	Mid-High	18-34	35-65	65+
Abingdon						
Chapel Hill						
Charlotte						
Eno of Hillsborough	0	0	2	0	12	11
Fancy Gap	2	0	0	2	6	2
New Garden	3	27	23	89	86	151
Raleigh	0	0	2	8	15	30
Salem Creek						
Upstate WG	0	0	1	0	4	8
TOTAL	5	27	28	99	123	202
Average	0.83	4.50	4.67	16.50	20.50	33.67
Range	0-3	0-27	0-23	0-89	0-86	0-151

ADDENDA
MEMBER MEETING RESPONSES
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Charlotte Friends Meeting
2019 Spiritual Condition Report
February 2, 2020

The working of the Spirit has been a constant presence throughout our meeting this year. We felt it at work as we stepped into leadings and as we faced challenges. It was apparent in the support of individual Friends and through our Care Circles. The richness of our fellowship and community-building activities provided opportunities for the Spirit to work through us.

Spirit is woven throughout our community of Friends, young and old. Young Friends are both the teachers and the taught. During First Day School, young Friends are nurtured and led through the testimonies of our faith. At the same time, those young Friends offer many lessons and become teachers to the rest of our community. Keeping young Friends as a priority through generous childcare funding and scholarships to the FGC Gathering show our commitment to the youngest of our meeting. And, as we care for and seek to include Friends who are aging and/or dealing with physical challenges, we see evidence of the Spirit working through us.

Charlotte Friends Meeting's strong commitment to issues of social concern is carried with the weight of the work of the Spirit. Friends address challenges with prayer, spirit-led action and a strong sense of hope. There has been a sense of Spirit within committee work. It can be felt during opening worship, check-ins, and the group discernment of the committee meetings. The leadings of our meeting have been generally met with a Spirit-filled discernment. This was seen in the planning for a fall retreat on forgiveness.

For a second year, the meeting has undertaken a 3-month initiative to consider an area of social concern. These initiatives, sponsored by Peace & Social Concerns, allow us to focus in a substantial way on an important effort each year. This year we looked at "Faithful Responses to Climate Crisis." The initiative included video screenings, articles to read and discuss, worship sharing, a locally-sourced potluck, and presentations. Charlotte Friends Meeting has a long tradition of being environmentally conscious, and this initiative is leading to additional opportunities for us to adopt even more climate-friendly alternatives such as weather stripping, LED light bulbs, investigating solar panels and a periodic Free Store that allows Friends to recycle unwanted things within the meeting community. These opportunities offer us ways to continue living into our values.

We continue to be grateful for Spirit leading us through our discernment around the rental of our facility to a United Church of God congregation. More than tenants, they have become friends, and partners in our work. Following spiritual discernment about the best way to make our meeting more inclusive for hearing-challenged Friends, the meeting decided to amplify the sound through the use of microphones. They generously offered us the use of their sound system. Several of their members have become reliable participants in our work with our homeless neighbors through Room in the Inn.

We have faced some challenges through the year. Some leadership positions have been difficult to fill or became unexpectedly vacant. However, some newer attenders and younger Friends have been able to contribute and take on leadership roles. As our property ages, repairs and replacements of systems become necessary. Through spiritually grounded planning, the meeting has met the expected expenses in a cost-effective manner.

The enthusiasm for some leadings has been tempered as reality meets our expectations. The technical challenges of the microphones have tempered the initial excitement of becoming a more inclusive community. An effort to make announcements at rise of meeting more relevant and less lengthy has some Friends wondering if the guidelines are too restrictive. The deliberate nature of the Quaker process has at times resulted in leadings and actions being behind the curve of social events. This can result in the actions seeming to be less relevant to the current environment. It can also leave individual Friends feeling as if the wind had been taken from their sails.

During moments of difference, Spirit is at work as we find our way forward. By staying spiritually connected, the personalities that challenge our desire to be loving Friends can be embraced into our community. . The meeting strives to be open and welcoming to all regardless of spiritual orientation

(Christocentric, Universalist, Non-Theist, etc.) or understanding of what it means to be a Friend. We also aim to create a welcoming environment for visitors, new attenders, and those who join us for worship from time to time. Although we don't see the racial diversity we seek, we are grateful for the diversity of ages and the joy our young Friends bring to our meeting.

Our membership in Piedmont Friends Fellowship (PFF) and Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting (PFYM) offers opportunities to meet with other Quakers for spiritual guidance and fellowship. It would be beneficial to have a way to stay connected with these Friends online. Committees may find it helpful to have a way to share information of common interest with other Friends in the yearly meeting. While Friends enjoy attending PFYM wherever it is held, it would be appreciated to have PFYM come to Charlotte occasionally. The retreat topics have been informative and often a call to action. Topics of an inward focus or reflective nature would also be welcome. Seeking Spirit through a wider community of Friends adds a unique perspective and depth.

Our community is stronger for the guidance of Spirit working through us. We know other challenges will face us in the future. As our young Friends grow, there may be challenges in coming years for First Day School to offer lessons and meet the needs of both older youth and younger children aging out of the nursery. We also recognize that our population is generally aging and decreasing and that we continue to have difficulties in filling committee positions. We will face the future challenges as we have lived our past and remain open to the way in which Spirit can work through us.

Chapel Hill Friends Meeting Spiritual Condition Report 2019

Although we feel nurtured by the gathered silence, we are often too busy. Many concerns are expressed in worship. We struggle to balance the political/spiritual messages and to slow down to make room for spirituality. For the most part, we feel safe in our community where we come to ground and center ourselves. We seek to be grounded in peace rather than in pieces.

As a community, we have been stretched thin. Nominations Committee has difficulty filling committee vacancies at times. Yet we recognize that, compared to some other meetings, we are a large and diverse community. We are family! As a large meeting, we struggle to create ways to get to know each other. Our Care & Counsel Committee's clearness and support committees and Quaker 8s groups have proven to be a powerful channel for the workings of the spirit. One Quaker 8s group was conducted entirely in Spanish, using the Claremont dialogue process to respond to our monthly query. The renovations to the Meeting room have been a disruption but were much needed. We are generous with our benevolences, yet the annual decision-making process can be stressful.

The children in our First Day School (FDS) are in our hearts. It is an ongoing challenge to teach them about Quakerism. Another challenge is when parents arrive late and their children miss the experience of worship in the first 15 minutes. The new practice of singing before Meeting and with the children is going well and has been well received.

The presence of current and former residents of Orange Correctional Center (OCC) spiritually enriches us. Not only do they bring racial/ethnic diversity, they also bring socioeconomic diversity. One challenge we continue to address is how best to acquaint our OCC and other visitors/newcomers with the ways of Friends' worship. We need to revisit the testimonies and offer Quakerism 101 again.

Integrating families of young children (many parents teach First Day School) and reaching out to young adult visitors to welcome them can be a challenge.

We appreciate our involvement in Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting (PFYM) and are grateful we have good representation. It is an ongoing challenge to break out of our isolation and to make PFYM more alive for Chapel Hill Friends Meeting (CHFM). Visiting other Meetings could help. The Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) advocacy groups help to acquaint us with other Friends. We celebrate the new Friends Committee on North Carolina Legislation (FCNCL) as another way to get to know other Friends and take our message into the wider world. We need to leave our island and participate in other Quaker groups such as PFYM, Friends General Conference Gathering (FGC), Southern Appalachian Young Friends (SAYF), inter-visitation, etc. The Shotts/Leadership Development Fund is available to underwrite participation in these groups.

There is a real sense of urgency and concern for the climate crisis. We have a newly formed Quaker Earthcare Witness group which has led to increased attendance at our Peace & Justice Committee meetings. We have had two community climate groups, Citizens Climate Collaborative and Extinction Rebellion Chapelboro, offer forums for us. We are beginning to explore the possibilities of installing solar panels.

Overall, we seek a balance of inward spirituality and outward action. We cherish our community and want it to be a place where we all feel safe and can receive support when needed.

Eno Friends Meeting of Hillsborough Spiritual Condition Report, 2019

This year, Eno Friends Meeting grappled with the presence of people coming to Hillsborough to display and wave confederate flags on a prominent corner in town. We discussed many ideas for bringing the Light into the situation, diffusing the tension and seeing that of God in everyone. We were stunned when people in KKK regalia joined the confederate flag bearers. As we made plans to hold impromptu meetings for worship, Way opened for many groups, including our Meeting to come together and celebrate Unity with a peaceful march and gathering at the courthouse. Eno Friends carried the Quaker national message on a banner from FCNL, "Love Thy Neighbor, No Exceptions". We also distributed 75 placards for marchers to carry, all were received with great appreciation.

Our Meeting has become more deeply involved with the men who are incarcerated at Orange Correctional Center (OCC), a state prison in Hillsborough. Many of our members have now gone through OCC's volunteer training, so that they can participate in weekly Yokefellow meetings at the prison. One member now has permission to sponsor men and bring them to our Meeting. This enriches our worship and creates opportunity for meaningful fellowship at an after-meeting lunch. Our Meeting joyfully participated in the pecan sale fundraising efforts for the prison ministry, which pays for the chaplain's salary.

Eno Friends Meeting was moved to provide small Christmas gifts to all the men in the prison, and many individuals donated toys and cards for the men to celebrate Christmas with visiting family. Carolina Friends School teachers wanted to participate and filled up a car with their gifts of toys, clothing and books. They expressed eagerness for our Meeting to include them in future collections as well other actions for social justice.

We are excited that several Yokefellow volunteers have created a new nonprofit organization to open and operate a re-entry house in Hillsborough. This will provide an opportunity for men being released from OCC to have a stable environment in which to live in Hillsborough. An Eno Friend is serving on the board, and the Meeting hopes to be involved and supportive of this project.

In having a concern for hunger in our community, our Meeting committed to buying pasta sauce each month for the Orange Congregations in Mission (OCIM) food pantry. This is in addition to our practice of collecting food for the pantry each month. Members also participated in celebrating OCIM's Anniversary celebration. We are grateful for the opportunity that OCIM gives us to work with congregations of color.

Being deeply troubled by the treatment of immigrants in our community and harmful policies enforced by ICE, we organized a free public event held at our public library. Sarah Hill McIntyre, Staff Attorney for the Immigrant & Refugee Rights Project, NC Justice Center spoke about the history of ICE and how ICE collaborates with local law enforcement. Local immigrants shared stories and Marco Cervantes of Apoyo, gave practical advice for immigrants who have interaction with ICE. We were pleased to have more than 60 people attend the event.

Several members of our Meeting have been trained as ICE verifiers with Apoyo, and are available to be a helpful presence in immigrant communities that suspect ICE raids. Working with Apoyo, we were able to help identify the various immigrant communities in and around Hillsborough and help canvas and give information on community alerts.

Members of Apoyo and other immigrant friends attended our FCNL meet ups that were held monthly in the spring. One of our members has gathered information on the ways that immigrants help our state economically and we hope to arrange a meeting with one of our senators in the near future.

Our Meeting joyfully supported the formation of the Friends Committee on North Carolina Legislation. We are looking forward to collaborating with this important work.

Being acutely aware that racism is woven into our culture, we decided to focus our fall reading and discussion series on white privilege, reading the article, "White Privilege, Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack," by Peggy McIntosh as well as the Pendle Hill pamphlet, "Equality, A White Friend's Experience," by Patience Schenck. We were able to discuss our experiences and feelings openly and honestly. We have hope that this will make us more aware and more able to truly live up to our testimony of equality.

Eno Friends continue to work with other Friends Meetings to maintain the historic Eno Friends cemetery.

Our queries and discussion on "Care for the Natural World" help us to stay aware of Friends' commitment to "seeking an earth restored." Individually, we find many ways to honor our environment and promote sustainability. As a Meeting, we worship in a shared space that is in walking distance for many Eno Friends.

As a young Meeting, we are blessed with enthusiasm and excitement to be led by the Spirit. As we grow, we are discerning ways to reach out to new attenders as well as ways to include more members and attenders in the work of the Meeting. We have newly formed committees that are finding ways to ground our leadings into action. We are deeply enriched by our monthly queries and by the welcoming and loving culture that we are creating.

FANCY GAP FRIENDS MEETING

1. How have you experienced the working of the Spirit this year?

Our humble meeting has managed to keep together for another year; that alone is a blessing all its own. Despite being a small meeting, we have the right combination of people to make it work. When one member steps down, another appears to take the torch.

During this past year we have felt the Spirit drawing the members of our meeting closer to one another. A couple of years ago two families from our meeting, by chance, went to the same restaurant on the same night. They enjoyed being together so much they decided to make it a weekly gathering and invited others in the meeting to come (and outside of the meeting); we still meet once a week. It is just a time of fun and fellowship and Friends have come to enjoy being together in a setting other than meeting. We have also worked together on several projects including a tree planting at the Cancer Center to honor those we have taken there for treatment, a bake sale to support our food ministry, and a meeting picnic and our fall retreat. On the first night of the retreat we were challenged to try and find out something we did not know about each person who was there. Although what was shared that night was in fun, over the weekend Friends did talk a great deal about their lives outside meeting, family and workplace issues, things from our personal histories that had not been shared before. All of this has led to stronger bonds between our members and helped create a genuine love and concern that permeates our meeting.

This year we spent some time during our meeting for worship considering the idea that we are blessed in order to bless others. Prior to our fall retreat everyone was given a little notebook and asked to record daily blessings as well as opportunities we were given to bless others. We then shared our experiences with one another over our retreat weekend. As we were considering this report one member said her understanding of church had shifted from the traditional idea of a place you go on Sunday to who we are and what we do, that Jesus did not command us to go to church, but rather to be the church. While we look forward to gathering in meeting for worship, we find ourselves embracing our Friends' testimony that no day is more sacred than the other and trying to regard every day as another opportunity for worship and service.

2. How does your MM/WG reach out to others?

Our meeting utilizes UFO, Unconditional Friendly Outreach. In every situation we can, we move to be present in the moment with the people around us. Opportunity presents itself often with our volunteer efforts. We do invite people to come to our meeting, but many of the people we work with do not have reliable transportation. Instead of allowing that to dampen our spirits, we simply bring light to where they are at instead of expecting them to come to us.

We are also very excited to be working with the Hillsville Christian Church in a meal delivery program. Once a month a hot meal is prepared and delivered by members of both groups to around 50 people in the community. We were very pleased when they noticed we were using bio degradable containers rather than styrofoam and decided they would follow suit. We have developed a good relationship with the Christian Church partially because one of our members is married to one of theirs, but also because they share our concerns for our community and several folks from there are volunteering in our transportation ministry.

"We are committed to being here to do the ministries to which we have been called, to gather in times of worship and fellowship, to love, care for, and nurture one another for as long as we are able to do so." ~Tony Lowe

3. What challenges has your MM/WG faced this past year?

We also found ourselves with a real challenge this past year. Since we began our food ministry we have been partnering with a non-profit that supplied the larger part of the food and all we had to do was deliver it. They are active in several other states and last spring they decided to discontinue their work in our area. This meant that if the community food bank was to continue we would have to take over the entire operation with a cost that was about three times what we had been contributing to the food ministry. We knew that it was of utmost importance that this ministry continue so we agreed to take it over even though we did not have the extra funds to do so. But with increased giving from some folks in the meeting and donations from individuals and businesses in the community we have been able to keep the food ministry going and are very thankful that we were able to do so.

We have also been led to try and do our part in trying to curb the opioid crisis in our area. There are so many so called pain clinics in our area that do little more for folks

than pass out pills. The meeting made a decision to make a change in our transportation policy and not provide folks with rides to pain clinics unless they had been referred there by their primary care physician so we are no longer enabling the folks we take to the doctor to have access to opioids. This and some other issues have caused the meeting to engage in a series of conversations about the difference between giving a helping hand to those in need and enabling. This has not been an easy discussion because we have been forced to admit that sometimes with the best of intentions we have perhaps done more harm than good. We are continuing to seek more clarity on discerning how to best help all those to whom we minister.

4. Tell us about any leadings that your MM/WG has that you are excited about, ambivalent about, or challenged by.

We are excited to greet a new year full of opportunity to do good work.

5. How does your MM/WG reflect the diversity it seeks? How have you celebrated or been challenged by the diversity that you aspire to?

Our meeting does not approach the subject of diversity in a sense that it is an ever-growing checklist. We are seeking to be a welcoming place to anyone who visits and a loving, and supporting place to those who wish to journey with us. As our Friends at Freedom Friends Church have said: "Being welcoming does not mean making your table a place where everyone wants to sit, but it does mean making a place at your table for anyone who wishes to sit there." We still maintain the idea that the most diverse thing human beings can express or hold is not the color of their skin or their language or nationality or sexual identification, but their mind. We welcome all people of all types of thinking, background, and opinion; while ushering them to express themselves in their fullest capacity. In the past we have had members come into our meeting that have conflicting views and make other members of our meeting uncomfortable, but rather than immediately rejecting them, we have grown to value them for how they are and see it as an opportunity to share how we feel with them as well. Even with members that have parted because of great difference, we have always let them know that our doors are open to them. We are committed to being welcoming to everyone and try to focus on our commonality as children of God and what binds is together rather than the things that divide us.

6. What kind of support would your MM/WG like to see from PFYM?

We do not seek any particular type of support.

7. The PFYM Minute on Climate Change approved at the 2018 Annual Sessions is appended to the end of this document. Please briefly share how your meeting has responded to the minute on climate change.

Our meeting is green-minded, so the minute on climate change was easily acceptable as a basic step in the right direction. On Earth Day, our meeting planted a tree. We choose cars with the best fuel efficiency we can reasonably afford for our medical transport effort. We do not have a meeting house, so we do not bear any carbon footprint attached to keeping one. The houses we meet in are designed to be eco-friendly with low energy usage.

We participate in other environmentally friendly practices as well; such as using paper recyclable products for our food deliveries.

8. Share any additional information that you would like PFYM to know about your MM/WG.

We have no further comments at this time.

Raleigh Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

2019 State of the Meeting Report

Raleigh Friends Meeting is a small Monthly meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quaker) founded in 1926 and located at 625 Tower Street in Raleigh, North Carolina. We are members of Piedmont Friends Fellowship and Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting, which are affiliated with Friends General Conference. We search for truth in a supportive community and attempt to follow our spiritual leadings wherever they may lead us. This Annual Report focuses on various aspects of the Meeting's life and provides a historical record of its internal challenges and activities, as well as its relationship with the local community (roles, challenges, impact) and with the wider Quaker community.

Clerks Report

The 2019 State of the Meeting discussion was held during Second Hour, 12th month, the 1st day, 2019. Many friends were present and participated in the discussion. Friends were asked to consider and respond in a worshipful manner to the queries as posed by Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting (PFYM):

Queries and Responses:

1. How have you experienced the working of the Spirit this year?

The work that has taken place in the formation of FCNCL (Friends Committee on North Carolina Legislation) and the leading of friends to form this entity. Much of the leadership for this initiative came from Raleigh Friends Meeting. There has been tremendous support around the state for this effort. This is bringing together some yearly meetings (PFYM, NCFE, Conserva-

tive Yearly Meeting and interest expressed from SAYMA) to work on some important social justice concerns for Friends.

We are experiencing the absence of friends who have moved away. (Paul and Kathy, Jan and John, Gini and Ted)

Quaker House: leadership (clerk and treasurer) of the Board is from Raleigh Friends Meeting and we have an active representative also.

We have had many visitors this year who are returning on Sundays. We've been actively working to be a welcoming meeting. Some visitors have been college age students; it is very heartening to see that something here draws young people and that they are putting down roots in the Meeting. Earlier in the year, we were worrying about our declining numbers.

AVP (Alternatives to Violence Project) has become more widespread in North Carolina and also in South Carolina. There is a sense that spirit has been helping to expand AVP.

Connection and community with wider Quaker groups: RFM plays a larger role than most meetings in the broader NC Quaker community.

Care and concern for our aging friends or those with special needs.

2. What challenges has your MM/WG faced this past year?

By and large we are an aging meeting and we will need new younger friends to replace our aging group, our leadership, and our spiritual connection. Our "core group" seems to be shrinking (participation at Second Hour is usually sparse). Some of our missing friends, who have re-located, did a lot of heavy lifting for the Meeting and they have not been replaced in terms of their contributions. We need to engage our newer attenders more and think of how we can do that.

Car parking at the Meeting continues to be a challenge and how it affects our ability to remain in our current location is an issue that we will have to address in the near future.

3. Tell us about any leadings that your MM/WG has that you are excited about, ambivalent about, or challenged by.

Our work on anti-racism, our minute on the topic, and the book discussion group based on the book *White Fragility*. We have been challenged by the materials and in our discussions of the materials; that brings value to the process. It is hoped that we take this work into our 2020 Annual Retreat where we can answer the "so what" about the topic.

We have been challenged by the number of letters we have sent to support churches and religious centers where violence has occurred worldwide. We'd wish to never send another letter.

Our efforts on gender identity and equality. We now have pronoun ribbons that are included on our nametags. Visitors feel welcomed to the meeting with the use of the pronoun ribbons.

4. How does your MM/WG reflect the diversity it seeks? How have you celebrated or been challenged by the diversity that you aspire to?

We've come to unity about seeking and welcoming diversity. Our thinking about diversity includes gender, age, culture, race. We still struggle with attracting diversity.

Diversity about understanding the divine and spirituality is present and welcomed at RFM. We have made progress in welcoming more attenders with gender and age diversity. We seek to be intentional about attracting more cultural and racial diversity.

The work that RFM friends do with the local Oberlin community and the Wilson Temple Food Pantry. Interest within RFM has grown for the Oberlin community over the past year; especially important as pressures come for the local area in areas of gentrification, environmental, development and business expansion. Do we have a constructive role to play in this?

5. What kind of support would your MM/WG like to see from PFYM?

Encouragement of inter-Meeting visits within PFYM.

6. The PFYM Minute on Climate Change approved at the 2018 Annual Sessions is appended to the end of this document. Please briefly share how your meeting has responded to the minute on climate change

Efforts continued from last year:

Some of our investments have been shifted to Green Funds. Our building was audited for energy use and we have had discussions on how we can improve our energy footprint. We have changed our energy account to a renewable source.

Our hospitality committee has made a strong effort not to use disposable products in our social functions and to chose organic or recycled products upon purchase.

FCNCL is working on policy priorities in the coming legislative year and there is a strong environmental interest in this work.

RFM friends have attended two climate "strikes" and carried our banner. We'd like to increase our presence in these events.

7. Share any additional information that you would like PFYM to know about your MM/WG.

Our Meeting's association with PFYM has been significant, valued, and welcomed.

The relationship between PFF and PFYM has been significant also.

Salem Creek Friends Meeting
State of the Meeting
February 2020

Salem Creek Friends Meeting remains a valued community that is warm and welcoming; where many appreciate the ability to share deeper parts of ourselves. There have been several initiatives over the past year that seem like small green shoots ready to grow. We have combined 3 former committees—Community Care, Peace and Social Concerns and Religious Education—into one Meeting Life Committee that seems to be functioning more effectively than the former committee structure. Meeting Life initiated a series of discussions on Random Quaker Luminaries that are instructive and well received.

There have also been several challenges over the past year. The building where we meet, previously owned by Winston-Salem Friends Meeting, was sold to Bridges Church and we are currently developing a working relationship with the new owners. Our Meetinghouse Fund has grown and some Friends very much want to have our own building, while others appreciate the freedom and simplicity that comes from not having to deal with ownership issues.

We would value more families with children, but rarely have them. This leads to the sense that we need more outreach, but also a sense that we do outreach by our words and actions in all aspects of our lives. We let our lives speak when we show others that we value that of God in each person. In this way we may be doing more outreach than we recognize. While we have been faithful to monthly donations of food and school supplies to various community organizations, the sense is that as we put energy into our own deepening spirituality and connection with each other, way will open for growth. In this vein we are committed to exploring an Experiment with Light group during the coming year.

Our meeting has grown slightly in numbers over the last year and Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business is very well attended, indicating a commitment to the life of the Meeting. There is a sense that our focus on deepening spirituality is more important than numbers and an acknowledgement that we desire more growth in the area of our spiritual journeys. We see Meeting as a place to center and ground so that we go into the wider community and start each week from a place of strength.

Upstate Friends Worship Group Spiritual Condition and Statistics 2019

1. How have you experienced the working of the spirit this year?

We responded generously to an attender's emergency need.

We have shown deep concern and done meaningful work on immigration issues, and hope to continue. This included a Minute on Immigration, joining and appointing representatives to the Hispanic Alliance, holding a public forum on immigration issues that was well attended, and providing a collection of clothing and food for migrant workers.

2. What challenges have we faced this past year?

Incorporation of new attenders into Quaker process and into the history of small worship group. It is sad to no longer have a First Day School, even occasionally.

3. Leadings?

We have had corporate excitement over the Immigration issue.

4 .Reflection of our diversity?

We have always been fortunate in having African-American attenders. Currently we have two African-American attenders and one Hispanic heritage attender. We are very diverse theologically, but currently we have less diversity in age overall, and we currently have no diversity in sexual orientation among regular attenders.

5.What kind of support would we like from PFF?

We deeply appreciate any visitation, speakers who would be willing to come, and any training on clerking, public relations or other aspects of Meeting that could be offered.

6. Minute on Climate Change?

We recycle and we are a part of Green Congregations (which is not as active in the community as it was) and have a representative for Green Congregations. We hope to offer public education on the climate crisis this spring.

7.It would be wonderful if PFYM could offer trainings or workshops on clerking and other Meeting roles, including media relations, on a regional basis.

Our average attendance is six adults and at most, one youth, who attend less frequently.

We average ten for special activities, with some having excellent attendance balanced by a few, having very poor attendance in the past year.

Two persons are formal members who attend regularly.

We had no births, M K Smith died this fall.

We have one middle schooler, 2 to 4 attenders in the 35-65 range, and about eight who ever attend in the over 65 range.

Upstate Friends Worship Group

Mike Johnson, clerk (report was done corporately, with four in attendance.)

mrjtcu@gmail.com or dbwjw1554@gmail.com

864-439-8788

Mike Johnson, clerk and Doris Wilson, recording clerk

Spiritual Condition Report for 2019 - New Garden Friends Meeting
Prepared for Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting
March 2020

Response to Queries 1-4

This past year, we have again found the spiritual condition of New Garden Friends Meeting to be strong and purposeful. We actively strive to maintain a spirit of welcome and inclusiveness. We have seen our Meeting for Worship grow in attendance and vitality, and we are welcoming younger families into our Meeting.

We remain energetically dedicated to creating a diverse and nurturing faith community. All are welcome at New Garden, no matter one's theology, skin color, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, politics, or any other category that might be used to separate us from unity with the Light.

Our Pastoral Minister, our Religious Education Coordinator, and our various committees review how to make visitors feel more welcome in Meeting for Worship, and they solicit ideas from our members and attenders to this end. Our Meeting continues to create and schedule opportunities for fellowship such as Fun Nights, Seekers classes, a Quaker History and Spirituality discussion group, and Friendly Eights social groups, and we are experimenting with how to make these activities more easily accessible and more frequent. Our Communications Committee works to make our updated website more dynamic, useful and informative for newcomers. This year, our Meeting on Ministry and Counsel created a "New Ideas" working group, to hear and capture beneficial suggestions for improving Meeting life from our members. Ministry and Counsel also has instituted a visitation plan—expanding our Caring Friends effort—to better include and care for our elder and homebound members.

New Garden seeks ways to welcome and support our youth and to make them an integral part of our worship together, and our Meeting has been seeing an increase in attendance of families with young children. Our children's choir continues to share their musical gifts. We strengthen our efforts to re-energize participation in Young Friends and other youth activities. We have noticed more families participating in our Family Camp weekend at Quaker Lake. The creation of more intergenerational opportunities for fellowship and worship has fostered an increased interaction among Friends of different ages. Friends at New Garden challenge one another to expand our understanding of what constitutes "family" and to serve and support our member units, whatever their structure.

Our Meeting encourages an open and compassionate examination of issues related to racism and diversity, among ourselves and in our wider society. We see an increase of ethnically and theologically blended families within our Meeting and beyond, and we are called to explore how to meet their needs. We have hosted anti-racism workshops, and a number of our members regularly participate in the Friendship Community Partnership, a diverse group of local congregations coming together for work and fellowship. A Diversity Task Force convened under the care of our Peace and Social Concerns committee and met regularly for several months, studying and recommending related literature to our members. The group also sponsored a program by Rev. Nelson Johnson and his wife, Joyce, respected for work toward racial and social justice in Greensboro and the wider area. As always, we pledge our support to the promotion of interfaith understanding and respect, here at home and throughout the world.

New Garden Friends Meeting is resolutely dedicated to the realization of peace, environmental stewardship, social justice, and recognition and respect for the basic human rights of every person. As they live out their beliefs, our members participate in a number of organizations and activities, such as preparing a meal monthly for the Urban Ministry shelter, to name but one. We continue to sponsor refugee families with material assistance and guidance in navigating their new living circumstances, and we promote dialogue with those in our area facing immigration issues. Our Meeting partners with Quaker agencies such as FCNL and Quaker House, and we maintain office space here at New Garden for AFSC. Our yearly Alternative Christmas not only provides an enjoyable seasonal event for the Meeting, but a chance for other organizations working for social and economic fairness to profit as well. Also, as in

previous years, we enjoy our simple, soul-satisfying tradition of anonymously paying off Christmas layaway gifts here in Greensboro.

In short, at New Garden Friends Meeting we move forward much as always; meeting other seekers wherever they are on their spiritual journey, supporting one another in times of joy and trouble, discovering and nurturing the Light of God within us all, and reflecting that Light to illuminate our way through a sometimes bewildering world. All are welcome here.

Query 5: What kind of support would your MM/WG like to see from PFYM?

Ongoing, we seek to better understand the roles of PFYM and PFF, and how their activities may intersect and diverge, and how PFYM, PFF and New Garden can be mutually supportive and in community with each other.

Query 6: PFYM Minute on Climate Change was reviewed at New Garden's Monthly Meeting for Business, and as a Meeting, we have approved endorsing the minute and stand in unity with it.

Appendix 3

PIEDMONT FRIENDS YEARLY MEETING 2020 ANNUAL REPORT FROM NOMINATING COMMITTEE Annual Sessions, July 25, 2020

The PFYM Nominations Committee would like to recommend the following nominee for approval at annual session:

Marian Beane, PFYM representative to Friends Committee on North Carolina (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.

Appendix 4

Report on Friends Committee on National Legislation Helene Hilger, PFYM Representative to FCNL March 2020

As PFYM's liaison to FCNL, I attended the 2019 FCNL Annual Meeting and Quaker Public Policy Institute November 13-17, 2019. (<https://www.fcnl.org/updates/love-thy-neighbor-annual-meeting-2019-2467>). Some of the highlights of the Meeting included:



- Representing Friends Committee on North Carolina Legislation (FCNCL) at a Nov 13 session for those involved with state-based advocacy organizations. Four North Carolinians represented FCNCL at this meeting: Eric Ginsburg, Marian Beane, Christine Ashley, and I. Representatives from CA, WA, ME, IN, and OH shared information about their organizations. This was a very productive meeting for our NC team.



- Participating in the FCNL lobbying training and preparing lobbying presentations to Senators Burr and Tillis with our North Carolina lobbying contingent. I also teamed with Marian Beane to lobby Rep. Alma Adams, who represents both of us in Congress. The topic for this year's lobbying thrust was repeal of the 2002 Authorization of Military Action (AUMF). We had 13 members in our NC team, and we met with staff members and not the senators themselves.
- Attending the FCNL Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business. The Business Meeting included reports from many standing committees; approval of the budget; approval of by-laws revisions; approvals of recommendations from the Nominating Committee; and discernment around and approval of the FCNL Statement of Legislative Policy (The World We Seek).
- Hearing from the FCNL lobbyists and the new FCNL cadre of interns. I attended sessions by Emily Wzirba (Environment and Climate Change); and Jose Santos Woss (Criminal Justice).

In addition to my Annual Conference attendance, I bring an appeal to PFYM members to assist them with policy priority discernment. Every two years, FCNL asks to Yearly Meetings, Monthly Meetings, Quaker organizations, and individuals to help them discern their priorities for lobbying. They invite us to review their document called "[The World We Seek](#)," which describes public policy issues of concern to Quakers. You can read more about their discernment process [here](#). Please take this opportunity back to your Meeting. Our collective answers will form the foundation for lobbying priorities at the 2020 Annual FCNL Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Helene Hilger
Charlotte Friends Meeting
PFYM Representative to FCNL

FRIENDS GENERAL CONFERENCE REPORT

From PFF/PFYM Representative Melissa Meyer

Along with trying to bring the budget into a better balance, FGC leadership has spent the last few years identifying and assessing the most pressing needs of FGC Affiliated Friends. Listening to Friends through their Yearly Meetings, workshops and feedback from Central Committee representatives, the following have been brought into focus:

1. Making the Gathering more affordable. An endowment is being set up to help lower the overall cost of the gathering.
2. Expanding the Spiritual Deepening Programs.
3. Better serving youth and young adults and
4. Deeply connecting and communicating with Friends across our yearly meetings. An additional person has been hired to help with our web presence and to facilitate E-retreats.
5. Continuing the work on anti racism. Central committee is hoping to bring more Friends of color into leadership by asking the help of Yearly Meetings to make a concerted effort to put forward the names of people of color for nominations to Central committee and into the decision making structure of FGC. An additional person has been hired to help with this.

At Central Committee, Oct. 2019, we were asked to consider these queries.

- Has your understanding of race and racism changed over the years? In what ways?
- Have you made efforts to notice low stereotypes affect how you experience the world and those you encounter in it? If so, what have you observed about your own unconscious biases?
- Can you feel internal push-back to the idea of white supremacy? Or guilt or shame? Or some other reaction or emotion? What do you do with those feelings?
- Is your current work toward social equity/social justice inter sectional? In what ways could it be more so?
- In what ways could understanding internationalization create potential for positive outcomes?

THE MEETING HOUSE FUND

This fund yearly has lent money to meetings to help buy or renovate a meetinghouse. Now, funds will also be available for Friends schools and nursing facilities.

THE FGC ORGANIZATIONAL GUIDE (THE BLUE BOOK)

Melissa serves on the Organizational Guide Committee preparing recommended changes to the objectives, goals, program purposes, functions and operational details governing FGC.

NEW YEARLY MEETING JOINED FGC

Pacific Yearly Meeting has joined FGC in 2019, including two meetings in Mexico that are primarily Spanish speaking. This is a first for us!

**Friends World Committee on Consultation Report
From PFYM representative Christine Ashley
June 13, 2020**

1. Gretchen Castle is resigning as General Secretary of the FWCC World Office after eight years of service.

2. The Traveling Ministry Corps

As FWCC Traveling Ministry Corps program expanded this past year with 10 Spanish-speaking ministers and 8 English-speaking ministers, there were visitations with over 30 meetings in six countries in the Americas. Visits included NC resident Geeta McGahey of SAMYA traveled to multiple meetings in New England Yearly Meeting, sharing messages and workshops related to Climate EcoJustice and reaching out to some relatively isolated Friends.

3. Activities of Representatives

- FWCC's investment subcommittee is exploring a plan to move more invested funds to funds that avoid investing in fossil fuel production and processing and actively invest in green technologies.
- Regional coordinators were actively engaging local representatives, most clearly shown by the four recent regional gatherings, which included opportunities for worship and fellowship, training of new representatives, informational sessions, and planning for future activities in the regions! These gatherings have happened in Southeast region (in Miami Florida) as well as in Central America, in South America, and in the Northwest region.
 - FWCC Section of the Americas (SOA) Southeast Regional Gathering was held February 6-9, 2020 and the theme was "Sharing historic Quaker values today!" There was no registration fee, no food/hospitality fee. Everything was paid by donations from attendees (all bills paid) and Clara and Eduardo Diaz hosted the weekend. Miami Friends/Iglesia (NCFE/FUM) and potluck dinner (feast) were held at Iglesia de los Amigos. Since this was held weeks before the COVID-19 shutdown, some attendees cancelled participation and attendance was lower than expected.
 - Reports and sessions included Traveling Ministry Corps – facilitated by Geeta Jyothi McGahey and Robin Mohr. Information and group activity, Earth Care Actions (Beverly Ward and Brad Stocker and Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO): presented by Eduardo Diaz and Beverly Ward Examining "What Unifies us a Quakers? My session was on Quaker Faith and Action, but I was still in hospital and so did not attend the event.

4. World Quaker Day

World Quaker Day is always the first Sunday in October. Many Friends meetings and churches participated in 2019, and you can see reports and photos they shared at <http://www.worldquakerday.org/>. The theme for 2020 is, "What does it mean to be a Quaker today?"

Question: How might we plan on celebrating with Friends worldwide on October 4th, 2020?

5. Sustainability Online Consultation

On February 22, 2020, three hundred Friends around the world participated in an online Quaker consultation over the course of 24 hours. For a summary of FWCC's activities in the 2018-2019 fiscal year, please see FWCC's [annual report](#).

Appendix 7

QUAKER EARTHCARE WITNESS ANNUAL REPORT TO PIEDMONT FRIENDS YEARLY MEETING July 2020

Quaker Earthcare Witness is the national Quaker organization working for the healing of the Earth. Our Steering Committee consists of representatives from Yearly Meetings all across the United States and Friends from Canada and Central America.

One way to connect with QEW is by reading our quarterly journal, BeFriending Creation, which reflects the range of our interests. This past issue had an article about “Endless War, Endless Environmental Harm”, by our Friends Emily Wurzba and Alicia Canon from FCNL. Another article, “Caring for God’s Creation”, was written by Jim Kessler, who has preserved his land in Iowa by creating a native prairie. BeFriending Creation is available on the QEW web site, quakerearthcare.org.

Like many Friends, we have been trying to find our way through these pandemic times, including moving our spring meeting to zoom, regretfully letting go of a QEW Meeting at Durham Friends. An unexpected joy is that our virtual meetings have made it possible for beloved Friends to join us without the burden of travel. It is so good to see their faces again.

We are making our speaker’s bureau more available. When you are asking yourselves what to do for the Earth, consider scheduling a QEW forum on zoom. Contact Shelley Tanenbaum, our QEW General Secretary at shelley@quakerearthcare.org to learn about our speakers and a visit from QEW. Let’s gather a few meetings together or meet in one meeting’s forum to seek way forward for our precious Earth.

Thank you, Friends Mary Jo Klingel, clerk

An additional note – Charlotte Friends are welcoming Shelley Tanenbaum from QEW as our Forum Speaker on August 2nd, speaking on “Climate, Covid 19 and an Uprising.” beginning at 11:30 and ending about 1:00. All PYF Friends are welcome to join us on Zoom. Look for more information at the PYF virtual gathering or e-mail me, Mary Jo Klingel at mjklingel@comcast.net.

Appendix 8



July 2019 – July 2020 Dear Friends of PFF and PFYM, What a year it has been since we last met together—and continues to be.

On September 21, 2019, we commemorated 50 years of peace and healing work here in Fayetteville, and it was a great joy to have many of you at that event with us! This was a culmination of much work by our incredible board and committees and included the creation of a special DVD. Our historical overview video (one of the two videos on the DVD) is now available on our YouTube channel at <https://youtu.be/HVxSlkeJlJM>. Thank you to all who helped us get to this point and who are moving forward into the next 50 years with us. We have our work cut out for us!



Fifty years' worth of directors, staff, and special guests who returned to help us commemorate this important landmark. Photo by Michele Falls, September 21, 2019.

GI Rights Hotline: Steve and Lenore, our two counselors to the GI Rights Network, each have 19 years of experience taking calls from anywhere service members are stationed in the world. This past year, we had started having monthly “cases collaboration calls” each month with the entire network in order to share information, trends, and support for the hotline counselors more effectively. As COVID-19 began to add more stress, uncertainty, and problems for service members, we increased these helpful conference calls to twice a month. Then, as National Guard units and even the 82nd Airborne began being called up in response to the Black Lives Matter protests sweeping the nation, these collaboration calls have continued twice a month. In 2019, Steve and Lenore answered an average of **249 unique calls/month for a total 2,992 calls.**

We will be training new volunteer Hotline counselors soon, via Zoom (with an info session first). Please reach out to us if this might be of interest to you.

Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, and Moral Injury Counseling: We continue our one-on-one mental health counseling program at Quaker House with Joanna, a licensed clinical social worker. When

COVID-19 became an issue, she was able to continue seeing clients over a HIPPA-compliant platform for teletherapy. This counseling program has become an important resource as some of our clients, already dealing with significant stress, have suddenly found themselves isolated due to stay-at-home directives and curfews. Joanna has been wonderful and increased the frequency of sessions with some of our clients to twice a week during this time. Joanna has spent **2,347 hours with clients** over the past six years, all at no cost to them, thanks to your support. We continue to receive referrals from the GI Rights Hotline, community organizations, and Ft. Bragg victim advocates.

In addition to our work that reaches out across the globe, Quaker House has been an integral part of the Fayetteville community for the last 50

years. This past year, we organized a protest against the escalation of tensions with Iran and the killing of General Soleimani, and we have continued to be active with several community groups. Since the first Black Lives Matter protests in Fayetteville these past several weeks, Quaker House has been there in a supportive role, and I continue to do so (with masks and distancing!). We feel that this is an important part of our work in the community and as part of the peace testimony.

National Guard activated in Fayetteville June 5, 2020, to protect the Market House, also having been known by some as the Old Slave Market, which is a focal point of tension. Photo taken by Fayetteville Friends Meeting Clerk, Michelle Downey.

We look forward to continuing to work together with you towards peace and healing in the coming year!

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Our quarterly newsletter has both paper and electronic formats. Let me know if you would like to be on the mailing list for either one, or both!



Appendix 9

Minute on Becoming an Anti-racist Faith Community Adopted 7/21/2019 Raleigh Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

Responding to and inspired by Friends General Conference's [report](#) on racism, Raleigh Friends Meeting(RFM) commits to becoming an anti-racist faith community. In making this decision we are acknowledging that systemic racism and white privilege are long-standing and continuing problems in American society. As part of that society, we recognize that as individuals and Quakers we have too often been blind to our own failings and to the part we play in perpetuating racism and white privilege.

In committing to the work of becoming anti-racist we know that confronting our failures will be difficult and painful. Guided by faith and grace, we are willing to accept this challenge and to do the necessary work. We see this work as essential if we are truly to live our Quaker testimonies and recognize that of God in everyone. As part of the work of becoming an anti-racist community and institution RFM will ask committees and business meetings to use the query, "How does this decision support RFM in its goal to transform into an actively anti-racist faith community?" whenever we make a decision.

Appendix 10

Charlotte Friends Meeting, Charlotte, North Carolina Minute on The Treatment of Immigrants

Charlotte Friends Meeting denounces all inhumane treatment of immigrants; those seeking asylum; and the families of these individuals in the United States of America:

Our belief in peace, mercy, and equality motivates us to speak out against the current humanitarian crisis that immigrants and their families are enduring in our country. As of March 2019, the daily average population in Immigration and Customs Centers is around 45,000 people. Detention center conditions, duration of confinement, maltreatment during detention, and separation of children from their families cause unnecessary traumas that last a lifetime. We also believe that too many applications for asylum status are being denied each year. Federal immigration courts in Charlotte, NC denied 88% of applications for asylum status from 2013-2018. That ranks Charlotte 12th of the 54 cities with federal courts. These practices are instilling fear in immigrant families. Immigrants are denied basic resources necessary for thriving and flourishing in our society. Finally, prejudice and racism are fueling a shift in our country to a more nationalist, "America First" sentiment. The collective effect of these abuses endorses the dehumanization of the immigrant population within our country.

Because Quakers believe there is "that of God in everyone," we expect immigrants, asylum seekers, and their families to be afforded the same basic human rights as citizens. We recognize the need for comprehensive immigration reform that creates a more equitable system.

Charlotte is a diverse city where 16% of residents were born outside the US (census 2017), and 1 in 4 Charlotte Mecklenburg School students speak a language other than English at home (CMS).^{3,4} We aspire to be a part of a welcoming region and recognize that immigrants have a positive impact on our

community. Our immigrant neighbors are our teachers, nurses, business owners, and friends. They continue to enhance this regions infrastructure through, academics, job creation, and arts contributions.

We stand in solidarity with immigrants and their families and speak out for justice and mercy. We will seek opportunities to raise awareness about the persecution the immigrant population faces. We will continue to find ways to translate our leadings into action.

Charlotte Friends Meeting commits to the following:

1. We recognize that “we live on stolen land and reside in a society built from stolen labor. Our country was founded on the legacy of dispossession and settler colonialism, rooted in a belief that some are deserving of rights, but only some.”⁵ We commit to seeking out our individual biases and discovering how they negatively impact the treatment of immigrants, asylum seekers, and their families.
2. We continue to search for wisdom and peace in the Light through collective and individual silence. We commit to seek spiritual leadings that guide our efforts to reduce injustices facing immigrants, asylum seekers, and their families.
3. We will continue to educate ourselves on conditions affecting immigrants, asylum seekers, and their families; we will bear witness and will resist the temptation to look away.
4. We commit to raising awareness and speaking out for justice when this group is targeted, harassed, and treated inhumanely. We will ask ourselves: How do our words, actions, and outreach support equality for all?
5. We commit to individually and collectively seek out ways to translate our leadings to action through activism at the local, community, state, and national levels. We will reach out to helping organizations;⁶ we will seek their counsel and learn what they need; we will donate; and we will support legislation pressing for positive change.

We carry these commitments forward while remaining steadfast in our testimonies, humble in our desire to continue learning as guided by the Light, and eager to see change come to our community and our country.

1. <https://www.politifact.com/truth-o-meter/article/2019/jul/08/facts-behind-detention-immigrants/>
2. Charlotte Observer Newspaper <https://www.charlotteobserver.com/news/politics-government/article232315027.html>
3. U.S. Census Bureau 2017. Quick Facts, Charlotte City, North Carolina. <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/charlottecitynorthcarolina/AFN120212>
4. Charlotte Observer Newspaper. *From Spanish to Telugu, almost 41,000 CMS students speak other languages at home.* Ann Doss Helms <https://www.charlotteobserver.com/news/local/education/article121774668.html>
5. Lucy Duncan, Why I got arrested at the border, Friends Journal Feb 2019

6. National: American Friends Service Committee; Amnesty International; American Civil Liberties Union; Local: Comunidad Colectiva, the Latin American Coalition, OurBRIDGE for Kids, and the Charlotte Center for Legal Advocacy.

(February 2020)

Appendix 11

Friends Committee on North Carolina Legislation (FCNCL) Report to PFYM Annual Meeting March 28, 2020

FCNCL focused on four goals: (i) creating an FCNCL infrastructure; (ii) discerning Quaker-value-based policy priorities; (iii) crafting communication paths for alerts when advocacy opportunities arose; (iv) developing a network of alert recipients.

- **Organization and Infrastructure.**
 - On October 5, 2019 33 General Committee representatives from 13 Monthly Meetings met; Policy, Communication, and Nominating Committees were created.
 - Our Executive Committee includes: Vernie Davis and Helene Hilger, co-clerks; Deborah Britton, Recording Clerk, Susan Davis, Assistant Recording Clerk; Katherine Metzo and Pam Schwingl, Policy Committee co-clerks; Andrew Leslie and Christine Ashley, Communications Committee co-clerks; Dorothy Mason, Nominating Committee clerk; Zana Cranfill, Treasurer, and Marian Beane, PFYM liaison.
 - By-laws were approved in January 2020
 - In February 2020 we completed all steps to accept donations and make payments. Incorporated with the NC Secretary of State, we registered our TIN with the IRS and are a 501-c-4 nonprofit.
- **Outreach.** Yearly Meetings (PFYM, PFF, SAYMA, NCYM (Conservative), NC Friends Churches and NC Fellowship of Friends) and individual meetings were invited to participate and, most accepted. NC Friends Churches, who will discern if they will participate in FCNCL later.
 - Guilford QLSP is represented, and outreach continues to other NC Quaker organizations.
 - Meetings and individuals with interest but little capacity for active involvement are included in communications as requested. A Membership Committee will be convened in the near future.
- **Policy Priorities Discernment and Dissemination.** All participating Monthly meetings were asked to help with discernment to guide our advocacy work in 2020.
 - Friends from nine North Carolina Quaker meetings and organizations submitted leadings and concerns for potential advocacy.
 - The priorities discerned are: (i) electoral reform (independent commission to eliminate gerrymandering, voting rights); (ii) access to quality healthcare (Medicaid expansion and reproductive rights); (iii) environmental protection measures (conservation, air and water quality, environmental justice, and addressing the climate crisis); and (iv) criminal justice reform (end to ICE raids and ending the death penalty).
- **Communication.** We have an email address and a website (fcncl.org) with a digital form for Action Alerts sign-up.
 - Over 50 participants receive Action Alerts, and new Alert recipients are being solicited.
 - A protocol for sending out alerts was developed that ensures oversight but fast action.

- Action Alerts are also distributed via whole-meeting email groups, and others will be encouraged to use this or other methods to build our list of recipients.
- **Anti-Racism Minute.** We approved an anti-racism minute and committed to ask ourselves in committee decisions and in General Committee the query: “How does this decision support FCNCL in its goal to transform into an actively anti-racist faith community and in supporting anti-racism policies and regulations in state government?” as decisions are contemplated.
- **Lobbying Visits.** Visits to NC legislators are conducted to help us get briefings on likely legislature actions, and a “leave-behind” FCNCL handout was created to inform legislators about our work.

Appendix 12

PFYM Friends who have passed, 2019- 2020

Abingdon Friends Meeting

Elizabeth Matthews

Chapel Hill Friends Meeting

Bill Jenkins, 1945 - 2019

Claire Kunkel, 1930 - 2019

Mack Ivey, 1930 – 2019

Max Hendrickson, 1989 – 2019

Fancy Gap Friends Meeting

Jack Rainsford, 1953 –2019

Gladys Combs, 1939 –2020

Robert Kenneth “Ken” Bradstock, 1947 –2020

Rita Ayers, 8/2/1961 –2020

Jarrell Williams, 1931 – 2020

Jenny Davis, 1957 – 2020

New Garden Friends Meeting

Ellen Deagon Perry, 1962 – 2019

Saundra Wilson, 1936 – 2019

Wendy Greene, 1936 – 2019

Wendell Ott, 1940 – 2019

Leila Mae Jernigan, 1925 -2019

Eppie Turner, 1921 – 2020

Helen Wolff, 1920 – 2020

Hugh Dixon White, Jr., 1929 – 2020

Elizabeth Riggs, 1950 – 2020

Raleigh Friends Meeting

Erling Gamble, 1924 - 2019

Upstate Friends Worship Group

Mary K. Smith, 1933 – 2019