

Piedmont Friends—Yearly Meeting & Fellowship
Representative Body, November 11, 2023
Representative Report on FGC Central Committee Meeting 2023

Through October 26-29 Friends Kristofer Loy of Spring Meeting and David Haines of Durham Meeting attended the annual meeting of the Central Committee of Friends General Conference. David attended virtually, while Kristofer attended in-person at the Pendle Hill Center for Study and Contemplation.

Key to business this year was the approval of a five-year process proposed by the Finance Committee and Executive Committee to bring expenses and revenues into closer alignment. As part of this process is the formation of a working group to analyze and develop working criteria, as well as a working group to educate and consult relevant stakeholders and bring an organizational assessment to Central Committee 2024. There was much discernment as Friends struggled with how the Light was leading them in financial matters.

As a key ask, the Institutional Assessment Implementation Committee (IAIC) continued to promote the organization's anti-racist ideals. Friends on the IAIC spoke to the need for committees to de-silo and collaborate to overcome the institutional racism inherent to FGC. They also asked representatives to return to their Meetings and encourage them to collect demographic data to make a more effective argument to Friends that still refuse to recognize, or grapple with our Society's weaknesses. Yet, Friends that identify as anti-racist also spoke to the obsession with data that is directly indicative of the white culture.

The Committee on Christian and Inter-Faith Outreach also had an ask that Friends assist their attempts to network Kenyan Friends with American boy and girl scout opportunities. Their ask prioritized that these Friends are searching for opportunities that centralize cross-cultural interaction over evangelical "Christ-centered" experiences.

As a part of FGC's larger efforts to support the ministerial, and spiritual deepening of Friends, is the project "**God Is Within Her: Quakers Experience the Color Purple.**" This project is tailored to lift-up the literary work of Alice Walker's "The Color Purple," and the importance it has played in the Black American spiritual tradition as a musical film adaption is set to release this Christmas. Friends are encouraged to learn more about this ministry opportunity by looking to FGC resources online.

The Gathering 2024 is set for June 30th through July 6th. This year's host will be Haverford College in Philadelphia. This will be the first time in 50 years that the Gathering will be hosted within the city of brotherly love. Friends drawn to attend are encouraged to register early in March, as capacity is expected to be reached given the location amid the very active center of Friend's community.

Report prepared by Kristofer Loy
For the Piedmont Friends Representative Body meeting on the 11th of November, 2023