

**Piedmont Friends—Yearly Meeting & Fellowship
Representative Body Meeting**

August 17, 2024, 10 am – 12 pm (via Zoom)

*Note: * indicates an advance document*

In attendance: Marian Beane (*Charlotte, clerking committee*), Deborah Bromiley (*Raleigh, nominating*), John Cardarelli (*Salem Creek*), Vernie Davis (*Raleigh*), Wayne Finegar (*Fayetteville & Quaker House*), Sally Freeman (*Eno, clerking committee*), Peter Furst (*Eno*), David Haines (*Durham*), Paul Klever (*Eno, Treasurer*), Amy Mackintosh (*Raleigh*), Will Rogers (*Friendship*), Leslie Rountree (*Chapel Hill, recorder*), John Shuford (*Raleigh, clerking committee*), and Deborah Warot (*Charlotte*).

Regrets: Nancy Riemer and Karen McKinnon.

After introductions and sharing something we have noticed this summer, we settled into silent worship.

Approval of Agenda*

Marian, the presiding clerk, welcomed and thanked everyone for being there. The proposed agenda for today was approved.

Approval of Minutes*

Marian asked for approval of (first) the April interim representative body minutes, and (second) the Annual Sessions minutes. Both were approved, with gratitude.

Approval of the Annual Sessions Epistle*

The Epistle was approved.

Minute of Appreciation to Epistle Committee*

Marian read the following proposed minute:

Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting & Fellowship expresses deep gratitude to the Epistle Committee for lovingly crafting an epistle to convey to Friends everywhere the activities and sense of joy and fellowship of the PFYM&F 2024 Retreat and Annual Sessions. Thank you, Carolyn Stuart (Chapel Hill), Leslie Rountree (Chapel Hill) and Will Rogers (Friendship).

The minute was approved.

Clerking Committee/Executive Committee Report

Follow-up to Retreat and Annual Sessions

After the discussion and ultimate endorsement at Annual Sessions of the “Quaker Vision for Peace,” AFSC’s minute on the conflict in Gaza, clerking committee members reached out to and met with those who had requested that they be minuted as standing aside in the decision. These meetings proved fruitful and were met with appreciation. The committee hopes to continue the conversation in a Zoom panel discussion on Middle East concerns September 3rd. Raleigh Friends Vernie Davis, Mark Davison, Kathy Kamphoefner and Paul Pierce will be joined by New Garden Friends Max and Jane Carter, to help Piedmont Friends consider the query: “How do we, as Quakers, face the challenge of living our values

and principles as we respond to the violence in Palestine/Israel?" Friends are encouraged to register and participate.

Plenary Speaker Recognition

On the approval of the Executive Committee, Treasurer Paul Klever recommended a donation of \$250 to Friends Committee on National Legislation in recognition of plenary speaker Amelia Kegan's presentation at Annual Sessions, along with a personal letter of appreciation to her from the Clerking Committee. When asked, Paul clarified the donation would support the lobbying efforts of the organization. The action was approved.

Proposed Working Group

The Clerking Committee proposes we establish a new working group to assist with communications and the logistical details of Piedmont Friends events and programs. Sally and Paul have agreed to lead the group; Sally continues to prepare the monthly meeting events newsletter and Paul has been coordinating event flyers and registration. Currently, Paul and Bill Moore continue to maintain and build the website, while Nancy maintains the directory. We are still using the clerking committee email for all communications. Our hope is to hand over these activities to a future communications committee.

Leadership Directory

As many monthly meetings change leadership terms on July 1, the clerking committee plans to update the Leadership Directory in September. Nancy Reimer will contact the meetings to gather any needed changes to clerks and representatives.

Member Meetings Clerks call

The next clerks' call is scheduled for October 12.

Minute of Appreciation for Sally Freeman

John Shuford presented and read aloud the minute of appreciation for Sally Freeman:

Piedmont Friends Representative Body expresses deep appreciation to Sally Freeman for her faithful and Spirit-led service as assisting co-clerk and presiding co-clerk of Piedmont Friends Yearly meeting 2019- 2022 in partnership with her husband and partner Paul Klever, and then as a member of the clerking committee in 2022-24. Her thoughtful leadership and tender spirit were vital in discerning the formation of Piedmont Friends—Yearly Meeting & Fellowship as a unified body of Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting and Fellowship. We acknowledge her many contributions and generous spirit toward making our annual retreat and gatherings deeply meaningful ever with an invitation to be in loving community with one another and with the stranger. We are grateful that Sally has generously agreed to continue her service by joining with Paul to guide the communications and logistical details for future Piedmont Friends events and programs.

The minute was approved.

Nominating Committee Report *

Deborah Bromiley presented the Nominating Committee Report. The committee nominates Will Rogers, sojourner at Friendship Meeting, as our representative to American Friends Service Committee (2024-2027), and Sally Freeman as clerk of the Spiritual State of the Meeting Committee. In addition, they are

seeking an additional member for the Clerking Committee and a representative to Quaker House. Deborah noted there are several roles that become open in June of 2025, and they are asking for Friends to share any leadings they may have. The nominees were approved with enthusiasm, and with gratitude to the Nominating Committee.

Treasurer's Report*

In his presentation of the mid-year finance report, Paul stated we are on track with the budget. The Interim Finance working group will be convening this fall to begin work on next year's budget as well as proposed guidelines for the distribution of PFYM&F funds. The report was accepted with gratitude.

Spiritual State of the Meeting Committee Report

Sally Freeman presented the SSOM Committee report. She screen-shared the 2023 queries (below):

- *How has your Meeting experienced the working of the Spirit this year?*
- *Are there any specific leadings you would like to share?*
- *How has your Meeting responded to peace and social justice issues?*
- *What kind of support would your Meeting like to see from Piedmont Friends (PF-YM&F)?*
- *Share any additional information that you would like Piedmont Friends to know about your meeting*

Sally shared that the monthly meetings have used the queries in a variety of ways. For example, some hold a separate forum for each query, while others have an annual Spiritual State of the Meeting where the queries are used to reflect on the previous year in the life of the meeting. Meetings also consider the queries at various points in the year. Paul clarified that despite this, the Yearly Meeting determines the year the report represents even if monthly meetings hold them in different years. The report was accepted with gratitude.

[Break]

Vernie Davis joined the meeting.

Discerning PF Priorities for 2024-25 (see 2023 priorities below)

John Shuford presented the recommended changes in the priorities from 2023 to 2024 as crafted by the executive committee. He read the priorities aloud (revised priorities are in bold):

1. Creating opportunities for Friends to gather across PF both virtually and in-person
2. Supporting Adult Young Friends group
- 3. Supporting meetings in their efforts to support young families and youth**
4. Strengthening the unification of Piedmont Friends
5. Sharing opportunities for Friends to join in common concerns and work toward response and action (encourage meetings to extend opportunities to other PF meetings—workshops, forums, Peace & Social Concerns, FCNCL, Quaker Call-NC, Minutes of concern, etc.)
- 6. Strengthening ties with Friends and Friends bodies in the Piedmont**

In light of the third priority, one Friend (Leslie Rountree) volunteered to organize a Yearly Meeting workshop for monthly meetings who are forming a First Day School. A Friend commented the last reflects our organizational maturity; how can we initiate and engage other Quaker bodies? Another

Friend saw it as an aspirational priority. One way to engage other types of Friends is to find a common project that can unite the groups and overcome differences.

The 2024-2025 priorities were approved.

PF Fall Gathering— Bethabara; September 21

Sally and John are planning the Fall Gathering. The Moravians, a historic peace church, were among the first groups in the Piedmont and like Friends were anti-slavery. The Gathering at Historic Bethabara Park will include a bring-your-own picnic, followed by a guided tour of the buildings and garden, a hike, and refreshments hosted by Salem Creek Meeting. Registration is now open. The suggested donation is five dollars. Quaker House in Fayetteville may be a future site for a Gathering.

Planning for 2025 Retreat & Annual Sessions

The planning committee for the 2025 Retreat and Annual Sessions has proposed convening the weekend of May 30, 31, and June 1, returning to Guilford College. After discussion and review of this year's meeting, the Executive Committee has developed a set of queries about how to better the retreat and annual sessions. John read these suggestions, which were provided in advance. Paul shared that we would send the queries along with the suggestions and the epistle to all those attended. He encouraged members to reply by email. All responses will be forwarded to the planning and clerking committee.

Interim Body Representative Meetings

The proposed dates for the remaining rep body meetings this year are November 16, February 15, and April 19 (third Saturdays, from 10 am – 12 pm). Might we consider holding one in person meeting during the year? Or perhaps offer a hybrid option? Another possibility is to schedule a meeting so that it overlaps with another Quaker body's quarterly meeting, allowing an opportunity for fellowship. We could also support members by offering childcare, travel expenses, etc. Friends will hold over these ideas.

Announcements of upcoming events/initiatives

Quaker Call to Action will hold a national call this coming Wednesday. See Paul for details.

Friends are encouraged to sign up for Friends Committee on North Carolina Legislation's action alerts and meetings. They are currently working on outreach regarding the protection of water quality from PFAS pollutants in North Carolina. The 2024 Annual Meeting of the General Committee will be held Saturday, October 5, in person at New Garden Friends Meeting with a Zoom link for those who cannot attend in person. Sign up information is available at their website.

On October 12, Raleigh Friends Meeting will be hosting a potluck and musical event featuring Dan Pell, a visiting Quaker from Exeter Meeting in Pennsylvania. All are invited. The potluck begins at 6:30pm and the music at 7:30 pm.

The meeting closed with silent worship.

*Respectfully submitted by
Leslie Rountree, recording clerk*