

PIEDMONT FRIENDS—YEARLY MEETING & FELLOWSHIP

Clerking Committee Report

Annual Sessions, May 31, 2025

This report summarizes the ministry of Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting & Fellowship (PF-YM&F) for 2024-2025.

The Piedmont Friends Representative Body approved the following priorities for 2024-2025. The priorities guide the work of the Clerking Committee, the Executive Committee, and the Representative Body.

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 and Social Concerns, FCNCL, Quaker Call-NC, Minutes of Concern, etc.)
6. Strengthening ties with Friends and Friends bodies in the Piedmont

1. Creating opportunities for Friends to gather across Piedmont Friends

2024 Fall Gathering – In September, 35 friends from many meetings gathered for fellowship, a picnic lunch, and a guided tour of the Historic Bethabara Park, the birthplace of Winston-Salem, founded by the Moravians in 1753.

Quaker House Gathering - In April, over 60 Friends from throughout North Carolina gathered in Fayetteville (at Highland Presbyterian Church) for fellowship and to learn about the current priority work of Quaker House. This gathering was particularly celebratory because it was jointly planned by the four primary yearly meetings: NC Friends Church, NC Fellowship of Friends, NC Yearly Meeting Conservative, Piedmont Friends-Yearly Meeting & Fellowship.

The 2025 Retreat & Annual Sessions Planning Committee started meeting in February to discern and think through the details for our retreat. The clerks were joined by Jeff Brown, Sally Freeman, Paul Klever, and Will Rogers. The Clerking Committee is grateful to these Friends, and others who have helped to make this a meaningful time together for fellowship, education, inspiration, and business.

2. Supporting Adult Young Friends (AYF):

The Piedmont Adult Young Friend group is an email listserv for Friends in their 20's and 30's, loosely. Formed during COVID with online gatherings, the group shifted toward in-person gatherings over the last few years. While there were no formal group gatherings in the last year, online or in-person, members of the group have gathered in small groups of 3 at least twice, and folks have appreciated the opportunity to check in periodically over email and share information about what is happening in the world. Will Rogers served as the group's convener for two years and is seeking another convener for the group.

3. Encouraging opportunities for young adult Friends, young families, and youth to connect across PF meetings:

The Clerking Committee supports the initiatives of monthly meetings and individuals primarily by helping to spread the word of events that are open to all PF meetings.

In the summer, Michelle Downey of Fayetteville Friends Meeting convened a series of Zoom sessions for those meetings interested in starting or restarting First Day Programs that had stopped due to Covid or other reasons. Andrew Wright (Durham Friends Meeting) spoke to the group, sharing his experience and resources.

In August, Mary Linda McKinney of Friendship Meeting shared a leading to develop a North Carolina Quaker teen program. Since then, FANCY (Friendly Assembly of North Carolina Youth) has been formed. They held their first retreat in January and plan to meet monthly.

4. Strengthening the unification of Piedmont Friends:

The Piedmont Friends Website lists each member meeting and worship group, including meeting times and contact information. In addition, the website posts information about the history of Piedmont Friends, meetings' minutes of concern, upcoming events, and advance documents for Annual Sessions and Representative Body meetings. <https://www.piedmontfriends.org/>

Monthly Piedmont Friends Events Listing compiles recurring meetings and events from member meetings, particularly those gatherings, in-person and virtual, in which Friends from other PF meetings may want to participate. The Monthly Events Listing is distributed to meetings and posted on the website.

The Spiritual State of the Meeting Report Committee gathers the individual meeting Spiritual Condition reports, making them all available on the Piedmont Friends website. A synthesis of the individual meeting reports, highlighting common threads and themes was prepared for Annual Sessions.

Piedmont Friends Leadership Directory - the Clerking Committee updates semi-annually the Directory that contains the names and contact information for leadership positions within each of the member meetings, as well as for Piedmont Friends. The hope is for committee clerks and others to be able to reach out to peers in other meetings. Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW) and other Earthcare contacts within PF will be added to the Directory this year.

Monthly Meeting Clerks Calls - The Clerking Committee hosts a quarterly Zoom call for Clerks of member meetings. Clerks share updates and concerns from their meetings, have informal conversation, learn about happenings with Piedmont Friends and build connections. The clerks have found this to be a strengthening and meaningful time.

The Communications Working Group - Under the care of the Clerking Committee, the working group compiles the **monthly events listing**, participates in the planning of Piedmont Friends events and gatherings, assists with communications to Piedmont Friends and beyond.

The Finance Working Group – Under the care of the Clerking Committee and Treasurer, brings together Friends from several member meetings to carry the financial concerns and work of Piedmont Friends. The working group communicates with member meeting Treasurers periodically to share the PF budget and financial reports.

5. Creating Opportunities for Friends to share common concerns and work together toward response and action:

Panel on Palestine-Israel - In support of concerns lifted up at the 2024 Annual Sessions, PF hosted a Panel of Friends on Palestine-Israel in September, reflecting on 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?"

Panelists shared from their professional and personal experiences their perspectives on the complex situation in Palestine-Israel, including thoughts on the historical influences contributing to the current war, their understanding of the personal costs and struggles of both Palestinians and Israelis, and their commitment to the potential for peace in the region.

Fayetteville Meeting's Minute of Intent to Protect - The Clerking Committee shared the information through the meeting clerks list, monthly announcements and the representative body meeting.

Minutes of Concern - The Clerking Committee has requested clerks of monthly meetings to send approved Minutes of Concern for posting on the PF-YM&F website and available for the encouragement of others.

<https://www.piedmontfriends.org/meetings-minutes-of-concern>.

6. Strengthening ties with Friends and Friends bodies in the Piedmont (a new priority this year)

2025 Spring Gathering Quaker House - In April, over 50 Friends from throughout North Carolina gathered in Fayetteville (at Highland Presbyterian Church) for fellowship and to learn about Quaker House. This gathering was particularly celebratory because it was jointly planned by the four primary yearly meetings: NC Friends Church, NC Fellowship of Friends, NC Yearly Meeting Conservative, Piedmont Friends-Yearly Meeting & Fellowship.

Piedmont Friends Organization

Piedmont Friends Clerking Committee: Marian Beane, Charlotte Friends Meeting; Nancy Riemer, Raleigh Friends Meeting; John Shuford, Raleigh Friends Meeting

Piedmont Friends Executive Committee includes: The Clerking Committee, as well as Leslie Rountree, Recording Clerk, Chapel Hill Friends Meeting; Paul Klever, Treasurer, Eno Friends Meeting; and a representative of the Nominating Committee and the Spiritual State of the Meeting Committee

Piedmont Friends Representative Body: The Executive Committee, Representatives from member meetings, and Piedmont Friends appointed representatives to Quaker organizations.

Piedmont Friends Working Groups: Communications under the care of the Clerking Committee, Finance under the care of the Treasurer.

Piedmont Friends Appointed Representatives to: American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL), Friends Committee on North Carolina Legislation (FCNCL), Friends General Conference (FGC), Friends World Committee for Consultation – Section of the Americas (FWCC-SofA), and Quaker House; liaison to Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW).

We, the Clerking Committee, are grateful for the opportunity to be of service and are grateful to all Friends who give of their time and Spirit to deepen the life of Piedmont Friends,

Marian Beane, Nancy Riemer, John Shuford