

**Piedmont Friends Fellowship
Annual Report to Chapel Hill Friends Meeting
June 2022**

This annual report includes excerpts from the 2022 Piedmont Friends Annual Sessions documents. Jasmine McKewen serves as CHFM representative to PFF. Jeff Brown serves as interim recording clerk for the Representative Body.

PFF representatives met jointly with PFYM in August 2021 and separately in January 2022 on Zoom. In June 2022 PFF met jointly PFYM for the first time in person since the beginning of the pandemic. The in-person portion of the annual retreat was held at Guilford College.

The theme of the annual retreat was “Radical Hospitality—Welcoming the Light in Others.” The retreat began with online conversation guided with queries by Deborah Bromiley and John Shuford on Friday evening. Saturday included fellowship and morning refreshments; guest speakers Leah and Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove from the School of Conversion, the Poor People’s Campaign, and Restorative Justice Durham from the Religious Coalition for a Nonviolent Durham; a presentation by president of Guilford College Kyle Farmbry; fellowship over lunch, a walking history tour with Max Carter; the annual sessions; a book sales table with books from FGC and Piedmont Friends; and fellowship of Adult Young Friends over dinner. The retreat concluded with online meeting for worship on Sunday morning.

The main work of this past year has been the unification of Piedmont Friends Fellowship and Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting into “Piedmont Friends—Yearly Meeting and Fellowship,” combining organizational functions and leadership and maintaining core values of inclusivity, fellowship, and peace building. The meetings of PFYM are designated as “Yearly Meeting” members and PFF meetings not currently members of PFYM are designated as “Fellowship” members of the joint body. Regardless of affiliation, all meetings are invited into the unified work of “Piedmont Friends—Yearly Meeting and Fellowship.” This includes representation to larger Quaker organizations, appointing representatives to quarterly/interim meeting, annual spiritual condition reporting, participating in various workshops, presentations and meeting clerks’ calls, and participation in annual retreat and annual sessions.

Functionally, Piedmont Friends will now have one representative body, one annual meeting/sessions, one leadership group, one set of representatives to Friends organizations. The unified body will continue to plan the spring and fall retreats for fellowship and support, offer opportunities for member meetings and individual Friends to share information and concerns, maintain the shared website, as well as opportunities to participate in the wider work of Friends.

At the annual sessions this month, Friends acknowledged the more than fifty years of Piedmont Friends coming together in fellowship, in support of peace building, and in welcoming inclusivity. Building upon this foundation of collaboration, Friends affirmed the unification as strengthening Piedmont Friends into the future.