

## Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting (PFYM) Representatives Annual Report Sixth Month, 2022

Chapel Hill Friends Meeting (CHFM) representatives have met with the body of PFYM representatives quarterly since the annual sessions of the Yearly Meeting on the tenth day of the fourth month in 2021. At each of these interim meetings, PFYM continued its work to nurture its member meetings and the greater Friends community despite the continuing challenges brought by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Many of these challenges have also afforded us unique opportunities. Our reliance on virtual zoom meetings throughout the year gave us a chance to plan for and provide fellowship and spiritual care for our member meetings. For example, outside of interim meetings, PFYM has continued to host Member Meeting Clerks Calls, where clerks can share updates and concerns from their meetings, informal conversation, and building connections.

In early November, PFYM Friends began considering moving to a clerking committee as an alternative to finding an assisting clerk who would rise to presiding clerk. The February Interim Meeting approved the proposed clerking committee as the leadership structure for PFYM, with Sally Freeman and Paul Klever of Eno Meeting, Marian Beane of Charlotte Meeting, and Nancy Riemer of Raleigh Meeting as members.

Broader changes were also in the works. In December, member meetings received a proposal for the unification of Piedmont Friends Fellowship and Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting, and were asked to help facilitate their meeting's discernment prior to a scheduled March 5 joint meeting of PFF and PFYM representative bodies. At the joint meeting of the PFF Representative Body and the PFYM Interim Meeting considered the feedback received from various meetings and approved a minute recommending unification:

*"Friends are in unity to recommend to PFF & PFYM unification of the two bodies into Piedmont Friends—Yearly Meeting & Fellowship, with core values of inclusivity, fellowship and peace building and with a sense that unification can be strengthening for Piedmont Friends."*

The joint meeting also approved an Interim Clerking Committee, an Interim Nominating Committee and joined their ongoing work into the Interim Unified Representative Body.

On a beautiful and joyous Saturday in early June, PFYM and PFF held their joint Annual Sessions on the Guilford College Campus for the first in-person meetings since the pandemic began. Chapel Hill Friends Meeting was well represented. In their respective business meetings, the two organizations were officially laid down, and the unification of the two bodies into the Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting and Fellowship was then approved by all. An epistle from the Annual Session is forthcoming this summer.

Looking forward, Piedmont Friends have set the following priorities:

1. Continue holding in our spiritual care the development of the Adult Young Friends community within Piedmont Friends.
2. Continue holding in spiritual care the work of FCNCL.
3. Hold in spiritual care and hosting of the 2022 FGC Gathering.
4. Increase outreach of the Yearly Meeting within member meetings, building understanding of the Yearly Meeting as a bridge to the larger world of Friends.
5. Survey smaller Meetings within PFYM for ways we can offer them support.

Member Meetings of Piedmont Friends include: Abingdon, Celo, Chapel Hill, Charlotte, Durham, Eno, Fancy Gap, Fayetteville, Friendship, New Garden, Raleigh, Salem Creek, Swannanoa Valley, Upstate Friends Worship Group, and Wilkes County Friends.

Respectfully submitted by  
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CHFM Representatives to PFYM