

HIGHLIGHTS from Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting (PFYM) Second Annual Sessions (2017)

* The second Annual Sessions convened on Saturday, March 11, within the framework of the PFF Annual Retreat – now in its 50th year.

* Friends settled into worship and out of the silence the PFYM vision was read:

As a Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, we seek to foster a loving community of affiliated monthly meetings and worship groups by increasing and strengthening connections among members, attenders, and seekers and with other Friends' organizations. Our primary goals are to nurture monthly meetings and worship groups by supporting spiritual growth and to witness to our collective truth in the wider world.

* Seventy-Six Friends answered the roll call representing the seven PFYM meetings/worship group, two meetings seeking affiliation, other PFF meetings, visitors from FGC, Quaker House and AFSC.

* Clerk Marian Beane highlighted the work of Interim Meeting (yearly meeting representative body) during this past year that has focused on strengthening our organizational grounding and interrelationship to PFF, building relationships within the yearly meeting and with other Friends organizations, welcoming new meetings into affiliation and witnessing to those who are near and in the wider body of Friends.

* We joyfully welcomed into affiliation Abingdon Friends Meeting (Virginia) formerly of Baltimore YM; and Eno Friends Meeting of Hillsborough, previously a worship group under care of Durham Friends Meeting.

* We approved the PFYM Handbook to be used for guidance by the yearly meeting and affiliated meetings (copy attached).

* We heard highlights from our first annual report on the status of our meetings for 2016 and asked Interim Meeting to consider possible responses to some of the common concerns of our meetings that are reflected in the report.

* We considered minutes of concern from Raleigh Friends for refugees and from Charlotte Friends on torture. We approved a minute of concern for the wellbeing and relief of refugees and immigrants both documented and undocumented and support for Guilford College's initiative on 'Every Campus a Refuge'. We asked Interim Meeting to labor further around the content of a possible minute on support for the NC Commission of Inquiry on Torture.

* Nominating Committee reported on officers for 2017-18:- Presiding Clerk- Marian Beane (Charlotte) extended to 2018; Assistant clerk- Gary Hornsby (Salem Creek) extended to 2018;- Recording Clerk- Julie Stafford 2015-18; and Representatives appointed by Interim Meeting to: AFSC – Bill Moore (Raleigh); FCNL- Jan Schmidt (Raleigh); FWCC- Susan Ikenberry (New Garden)

* Naming Committee reported on the Nominating Committee membership- new is Sally Freeman (Eno Friends) for a 3-year term; continuing are: Vernie Davis (Raleigh), Emilie Condon (Chapel Hill), Ruth Moeller (Charlotte). We united in offering thanks to Dot Mason (New Garden) who is completing her service as yearly meeting's first clerk of nominating and to Dee Edelman (Salem Creek) completing her 2-years of service on Nominating.

* Peace & Social Witness reported on the survey, initiated during the weekend, that is intended to facilitate connections among PFF/YM Friends who share common peace & social witness concern (s). The Survey will be sent to all PFF/YM meetings inviting greater participation.

* Out of worship we heard and were moved by meetings' responses to the query: *what has been most on the hearts of your meeting this year?* and we remembered those of our meetings who have passed from our midst this year.

* In closing Friends lifted elements of yearly meeting sessions and the PFF weekend retreat to help the appointed epistle committee prepare the yearly meeting 's message, that will be seasoned by Interim Meeting in June and then sent to all PFF/YM meetings and 'Friends everywhere'. Members of the epistle committee are: Gary Hornsby (Salem Creek), Kathy Walker (Abingdon), Julia Cleaver (Chapel Hill), Deborah Bromiley (Raleigh), Julie Stafford (Charlotte). We then gathered for a photo that will be included with the epistle.

Prepared by Marian Beane, clerk

