

Piedmont Friends Fellowship

PFF Report to Chapel Hill Friends Meeting

5/19/2019

Piedmont Friends Fellowship (PFF) held its 51st annual meeting and weekend retreat April 19-21, 2019 at Carolina Friends School in Durham. A subset of the member meetings of PFF are members of the Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting, including Chapel Hill Friends Meeting. The Yearly Meeting held its business meetings in the same location on April 20, intertwined with PFF.

The theme of the weekend was Working for Peace and Justice, featuring the 50th anniversary of Quaker House of Fayetteville. Chapel Hill Friends Meeting had vital roles in the founding of both PFF and Quaker House. Fittingly, Chapel Hill had by far the largest attendance at the retreat. As Clerk of PFF for the past three years, I would like to thank the committee that oversees the Mary and Claude Shotts Memorial/Leadership Development Fund for covering registration fees for Friends from Chapel Hill Friends Meeting. Two dozen Friends from this Meeting made up about a quarter of the 85 attendees and brought wonderful energy and spirit to the weekend.

The Friday schedule was delayed and shortened by tornado warnings and severe weather, yet Quaker organizations managed to present updates and engage Friends in discussion of the good work on peace and justice (Friends General Conference, Friends Committee on National Legislation, Quaker House, Quaker Earthcare Witness, and American Friends Service Committee).

The Saturday morning program was led by Kindra Bradley, Executive Director of Quaker House. The stories told by former directors Chuck Fager and Lynn and Steve Newsome, and by counselors, in person and in videos, were moving and inspiring. Friends realized that “we are Quaker House” in a memorable discussion of the history and value of the services delivered in Fayetteville.

Fellowship time was informal this year, and Friends took advantage of Tom Munk’s games, songs accompanied by Claire Bates and others, and impromptu discussions.

On Easter Sunday, PFF held its annual business meeting, which was well attended by Chapel Hill Friends. PFF was grateful that CHFM shifted its Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business to a Thursday evening to avoid a third First Day conflict with PFF.

Jeff Brown