

**Piedmont Friends Fellowship
Annual Report to Chapel Hill Friends Meeting
June 2021**

This annual report includes excerpts from the Piedmont Friends Fellowship (PFF) Clerk's Report at PFF's annual meeting in April 2021. Jasmine McKewen serves as CHFM representative to PFF. Jeff Brown serves as interim recording clerk for the Representative Body.

PFF Clerk Bill Moore of Raleigh Friends Meeting reported that the Fellowship had a difficult year in 2020-21. The pandemic challenged PFF and its member meetings to persevere with new ways to worship. Fellowship in 2020 required increased effort as some Friends experienced online fatigue and other Friends reported difficulty staying connected and maintaining community through online interaction.

PFF continued its practice of holding Representative Body Meetings on First Days to enable representatives to worship with different meetings each time, but online worship sharing did not appeal to everyone, and numbers attending shared worship remained low over the course of the year. Participation in Representative Body meetings has also declined and a growing number of PFF meetings no longer send representatives.

PFF representatives met in August 2020, October 2020, and January 2021. Both the 2020 PFYM retreat and PFF's annual meeting in 2020 were delayed by the pandemic until August. PFF's fall retreat turned into an online gathering in November that shared Quaker History in Song and with Panelists. A Quaker history panel of Curt Torell, John Hunter, Lloyd Kramer, and Max Carter shared their thoughts on "Learning from the Past and Facing the Present." PFF also enjoyed guest Paulette Meier's songs and chants that she created from historic Quaker quotes.

PFF continues to enjoy its relationship with the Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting (PFYM). The respective representatives hold a joint meeting each August, and PFF and PFYM collaborate on fellowship at annual meetings and fall retreats. The annual gathering in 2021 was held April 9-11. The theme "Cultivating the Garden of Diversity and Inclusion" featured author Niambi Jaha-Echols. PFF also collaborates with PFYM on social justice initiatives, including supporting the work of the Friends Committee on North Carolina Legislation (FCNCL). The fellowship and yearly meeting share a website and use shared google groups in an effort to promote common work on social justice initiatives.

PFF supports other Quaker organizations by making annual donations to Friends General Conference (FGC), Quaker House, American Friends Service Committee, Friends Committee on National Legislation, and the Guilford College Archives for document archiving services. PFF also provides representatives to the FGC Central Committee, and other PFF members serve on several key national FGC committees.