

Friends Church of North Carolina, August 2-4, 2019, Annual Sessions Message

To Friends Everywhere:

We send greetings from the Friends Church of North Carolina (FCNC) Yearly Meeting. This is our second Yearly Meeting since the reorganization effective January 1, 2018. The theme for our Yearly Meeting was based on a scripture verse from Nahum 1:7, "The Lord is good, a strength and stronghold in the day of trouble; He knows and cares for those who take refuge in Him."

Our sessions began at 7:00 PM on Friday evening, August 2, 2019 as we gathered for worship on the beautiful campground of Quaker Lake in southern Guilford County, NC. Roger Greene, FCNC Presiding Clerk, welcomed everyone and we sang "God Will Take Care of You." An offering was taken for Jamaica Missions and Ben Hurley's trio and daughter blessed us with beautiful, worshipful music. Rusty Parsons, Pastor of Archdale Friends Meeting brought the prepared message using Nahum 1:7 based on our theme for the weekend. He challenged us with several questions: Does your desire lead you to God? Where is your desire leading you? Rusty emphasized that obeying Him should be our desire. Are we committed to God, our church, FCNC?

Mitchell See led the Morning Praise on the porch overlooking the beautiful lake on Saturday morning at 8:30. The Representative Body session for business and worship was opened by Roger Greene reading Mat. 22:35-39 reminding us that when we encounter the love of God we are never the same. Roll call was held with representation from 19 meetings present. Guests were introduced from FUM and Associated Organizations.

Reports were received from all FCNC committees. Highlights were reported from the Missions Committee including ongoing mission projects and this summer's Quaker Life Camp in Jamaica.

The Administrative Oversight Committee reported that our part-time superintendent, Mike Wall, is on board and a plan of action has been developed. "To Know God and Make Him Known", has been developed by them and approved by this body to be our Mission statement.

The Outreach Commission highlighted Friends Campus Ministry, upcoming projects and activities. The Small Church Assistance Fund has been well funded and this was approved to continue under the care of Ministry & Counsel. The Technology Committee reported that a new website is being developed for FCNC and we were encouraged to see this. New Technology Committee members were approved.

We were encouraged by the report of well-attended Young Friends Activities and MOWA VBS in June. The Committee on Clerks and the Nominating Committee presented new appointees to be effective January 1, 2020 that were approved.

Ministry & Counsel presented a recommendation for two candidates, Jared Warden and Jeff Barnes, to be placed under the care of the Recording Committee and this was approved. Queries for Pastoral Conduct to be inserted into Faith & Practice was presented and approved.

Heather Varner, Director of Quaker Lake reported on a very successful summer camp season. Two videos were shared with the group and future activities were reported. Quaker Lake Camp is a very busy and effective place, not only in the summer, but year round.

The Superintendent, who has only been in his job a little over one month, reported he met with pastors in Contentnea Quarter and several others. He is working to produce a video to be placed on our YM website and will be sending an email to contacts in each meeting encouraging members to pray. He emphasized that we must develop more leadership in our Meetings and Yearly Meeting.

We heard from Kelly Kellum, Gen. Secretary of Friends United Meeting encouraging all to get prepared to attend FUM and USFWI/QMI in Kenya, East Africa in July, 2020. He asked for support in helping Nikki Holland, the new Director of Belize Friends Ministries, raise funds for her salary to be 100% funded by August 5th. A special prayer was led for Kelly and his family as he has been called from us to a family emergency.

Walter Shore, a member of the FCNC Faith and Practice committee presented revisions in the draft that are being recommended for our consideration and they were approved. The committee was given approval for the F&P and Literature Committees to print the new F&P in the most efficient manor.

At the completion of the business session on Saturday afternoon Friends enjoyed free time, camp activities and three workshops were offered on "Your New Front Door: Building a Basic Website", "Why Technology WILL grow your church", "Imagine: Friends Obedient to Christ Serving Others" and "Quaker House." Dinner was followed by a time of Intergenerational Fun led by the Quaker Lake Staff. Intergenerational Worship was led by Terry Linthicum as speaker. The Saturday evening service concluded with a time of honoring Jon Reece who recently retired at the end of June after serving Back Creek Friends and other meetings in NC for many years. An offering was taken for Quaker Lake.

Sunday morning began with "Morning Praise on the Porch" overlooking the lake led by Gloria Simmons. Don Farlow led the Bible Study using Nahum 1:7. The Memorial Service was led by Western Quarter in recognition of those members who died during the previous year. A report was received from Friends Disaster Service. During the Sunday Morning worship hour the Yearly Meeting Choir led us in worshipful music and Ray Luther, Pastor of Marlboro Friends brought the message entitled "A Faithful Response to Change." An offering was taken for MOWA Choctaw.

The FCNC Yearly Meeting message, which is to be sent to other Yearly Meetings and Quaker groups, was read and approved. The closing minute was read by the clerk and a final prayer was offered adjourning the second annual session of Friends Church of North Carolina.

Prepared by Contentnea Quarter – Mary Anna McCullen

Read and Approved, 8/4/2019
Roger Greene, Presiding Clerk