

Draft

Friends Church of North Carolina Seventh Annual Sessions

August 9-10, 2024
Quaker Lake Camp

Friday, August 9, 2024 – 3:00 Pm

The seventh Annual Sessions of Friends Church of North Carolina met at Quaker Lake Camp in Climax, NC. The theme for these sessions was “We Have a Story to Tell the Nations.”

Roger Holt, Presiding Clerk opened the session with prayer and welcomed everyone present. Roger presented the agenda of the business session with a few changes. This adjusted agenda was **approved**.

Roll Call: Christine Blamer, Recording Clerk, conducted the roll call for Friday session, but had Sign-In sheets for the Business session on Saturday. Overall, between the two business sessions (Friday 8/9 and Saturday 8/10), there were 75 Friends representing 23 Meetings and 6 visitors present at these business sessions.

Regrets were from: Etta Florence Winslow; Bev Jessup; David and Rausie Hobson

Minutes from March 23, 2024 Representative Body at Deep Creek Meeting:

Christine Blamer, Recording Clerk sent out the Minutes in advance. Corrections were submitted and made to the Minutes. These were approved at this meeting.

NCYM Inc. Board

Kevin Smitherman and David Briles are rotating off the NCYM Inc board. Recommended Nominations of new FCNC representatives to NCYM Board are Brent McKinney and Ryan Beesom. A few Friends spoke in support of these two individuals. They were approved.

AOC Report: Erin Mintmeir

September 21, 2024 is budget day for 2025 Annual Budget.

The next Representative Body Meeting is October 26, 2024 and will be held at Science Hill Friends.

Superintendent Report—Mike Wall

There has been some interest shown by Nahunta Friends and Oakhill Friends that they may possibly want to join FCNC. Some of them may show up to Saturday’s business session. Please make them feel welcome if they do come.

The Superintendent continues to try and meet with as many pastors as possible to provide encouragement. This can be a challenging task when many pastors are bi-vocational. He has tried to give special attention to our struggling Kenyan church (Baltimore Friends) and our Hispanic church (Odre Nuevo).

He continues to visit at least one church a month.

Currently there are 7 Meetings without Pastors. Another pastor has notified the Superintendent that he will retire next summer in 2025.

This year Pastor Wade Craven (Randleman Friends) retired after 58 years. John Porter (interim pastor at Science Hill) has left and moved to Indiana. We are in need of pastors and youth leaders. Good news...a young man from the INTERN Program lead by Terry Linthicum, has been approved by the leadership at MarMac Friends to come and preach once a month for them.

The Superintendent continues to send out a Prayer email each week to all on his Prayer email list. If you do not receive this and would like to, email him at mike1975wall@gmail.com.

The Superintendent continued....

FCNC needs a lot of prayer. He posed the question..."How good is your Vision in your local church? Just surviving or looking forward. The Bible says in Proverbs 29:18, 'Where there is no vision, the people perish.' Is your vision looking forward?" There are currently 28 Meetings/churches, not including the new Kenyan church or the Hispanic church. Average membership is approximately 79. Attendance in churches ranges from 10 to 268. This does not mean 200 is the Average. A slide was shown of the total projected FCNC membership from 2020 to 2035... a downward trend. It shows the fact that as a denomination, we are dying. Positively, FCNC does many good things with a very generous people. A list of what FCNC does was handed out. However, It's time to get back to "keeping the Main Thing, the Main Thing."—reaching lost souls, not insisting on having it or doing it our way or the same way.

It's time to emphasize Evangelism. For FCNC that is to plant new churches with younger people in population centers where people are gathering. This does not negate the Local church. It needs to find God's vision for their church as well. We can thrive if we move ahead; Look forward, not back. God did not put a steering wheel on our backs. Let's move forward.

Finance Committee: David Millikan

Budget day is set for September 21, 2024 at 10 A.M at Archdale Friends. Get your Statistical Report into Roger Holt by the end of August.

Program Committee: Monica Williams

No report

Ministry & Council Report: Judy Ritter presiding clerk of M&C

FCNC M&C received a letter of recommendation from Yadkin Valley Quarterly Meeting requesting the placement of Pastor Gilbert Imbayi and Associate Pastor Ronald Sikinyi from Baltimore Friends under the care of the FCNC Recording Committee. Clerk Judy Ritter asked for approval from the Body. Presiding Clerk, Roger Holt presented these two recommendations to the Body. They were both approved.

FUM/FWCC: Brenda McKinney

FUM staff has submitted an application to the Lilly Foundation for a \$1.25M grant for what they call, "The Samuel Project." This project is designed for youth between the ages of 6-12 to nurture them in prayer and worship. This age group is often overlooked with more attention given to the teenage youth. A national coordinator will be hired who will overlook the entire project. Four regional coordinators will work with Yearly Meetings and individual monthly meetings to nurture this age group. Please pray about this project receiving a grant from the Lilly Foundation.

Singing For Shepherds Fundraiser which raises funds for sustainability projects and other projects deemed necessary in Kenya will be held September 15th from 9:00 A.M. to 6 P.M. It will be available via Zoom. See the July "Bearing Fruit" newsletter for the link to register for receiving the Zoom link. There will be a "call-in" number to take donations. It will focus on the Samburu and Turkana Missions which are both grossly underfunded.

Another hope that will come from this fund raising project is the continuation of a girl's education program that was started a few years ago and has been very successful. It is hoped that this fundraising project will also raise enough funds to allow for a boy's program to be started.

FWCC: Robin Moore, Executive Secretary of Section of the Americas, has resigned. The new Executive Secretary is Evan Welkin. He is a member of the North Pacific Yearly Meeting.

QUAKER HOUSE: Wayne Finegar

Wayne gave a short presentation on what Quaker House is and what it does. It provides support to military personnel who have been injured, mentally, by war. They are an organization that promotes peace with the goal of no more war. They do not promote Jesus Christ as that peace, but rather refer to the “inner light” that each person can experience. Wayne also works with FCNCL (Friends Committee on North Carolina Legislation).

Roger closed this portion of the meeting with prayer

6:00 pm Special music by Joe Davis**6:30 pm Speaker Samuel Vasquez—Superintendent of Mexico Yearly Meeting**

7:15 pm – Roger adjourned the Friday evening session with prayer after noting the schedule for Saturday, August 10th.

Saturday, August, 10, 2024

8:30 AM - Morning Praise on the Porch led by Dusty Ball, pastor of White Plains Friends

9:00 AM— Roger Holt, Presiding Clerk opened the Saturday Business Session with prayer and welcomed all to this session.

Outreach Committee—Brent McKinney

Current members of this committee: Brent McKinney, Michael Fulp, Jr; Hugh Spaulding; Sandra Brown; Sandra Moore; Larry Griffith. This committee could use a few more people. If you are interested, give your name to the nominating committee.

Reviewed the Commission’s purpose:

Assist in the organization, spiritual life and financial needs of new meetings, existing meetings and small meetings. Give support with grants for a new building, salary for the minister, and program needs; offer financial assistance to students studying in the area of Christian vocations; promote Evangelism efforts and growth in the local Meetings.

The Outreach commission is responsible for looking after four (4) investment funds. The balances: as of 7/31/24...

Church Vocations Funds: Total: \$69,390.55. Two funds are under this category—General Funds 13,114.93 to be used for students entering ministry; Barker Fund: \$56,275.62, for pastor needs and events. Church Extension Funds: \$186,220.16 and Evangelism Funds: \$12,260.99

Activity on funds:

-Evangelism: FCM \$4000; Rep Body workshop \$2100; Program committee \$2000;

-Barker Funds: \$1100 for Marlboro Pastor, continuing education.

-Church Extension: \$20,000 Intern coordinator; \$20,000 Thomasville Friends; \$20,000 Harmony Grove

Procedures for Administration of the Church extension funds were reviewed

Anything that meetings need, reach out to Brent McKinney to see if the Outreach committee can help you or your Meeting.

Odre Nuevo: Roger Holt

It was approved by Yadkin Valley Quarterly Meeting to move Odre Nuevo under the care of Deep Creek Friends as they prepare to becoming a preparatory meeting. They are in the process of becoming a 501c3 so that donations made to them are tax deductible. They currently have a foundation for a new building, but need additional funds for the building itself.

Thomasville Friends: Eric Morrison

Shared Scripture from Mark 2:13-17 "... it is not the healthy that need a doctor, but the sick."

Doesn't know exactly what he is doing, but.... to bring sinners to Christ as Jesus stated in the Gospel of Mark. Lots of valleys in this work of building. Working on bringing in sinners. He has a dedicated team of 5 who come together two times a month to pray.

The AC unit has been replaced along with all the windows

Presently working with a young lady from Union Cross Friends who is a music major to be an intern at Thomasville as a Worship Leader.

September 8th is Homecoming (revival). Jonathan Lotz is the guest speaker. Kernersville Worship team to do special music

Left FCNC with a challenge: why can't we bring someone from the outside, a consultant, who has the knowledge, has done the research to help us out. We have the money.

Baltimore Friends—Brenda McKinney

Thriving and growing. Their pastors are Gilbert Imbayi and Robert Sikinyi. Both are well educated and are passionate speakers; They are currently under the care of White Plains Friends to become a Preparatory Meeting. Both pastors have asked to be Recorded and Yadkin Valley Quarterly Meeting has approved this request and FCNC Ministry & Council has approved YVQM's request. They will be under the care of the FCNC Recording Committee. They are currently renting but are looking for a new location to worship instead of a school room. They need many things. Your donations would be appreciated.

Kernersville Friends: Jeff Barnes

Jeff Barnes was not present today. Roger Holt updated everyone that they haven't been able to recruit their family life minister yet.

Jamaica Ministry—Brent McKinney

Vacation Bible School started July 22nd and went for 12 days. There were of 13 VBS team members of which four were from FCNC: Brent McKinney, Michael Fulp Jr; Amanda Draga; William Draga. The rest were from Jamaica. Provided VBS to 175 students/children in 8 Meetings. Visited each Meeting 3 times. Brent gave reports on each of the 8 Meeting houses and their activities at each place. Meetings: Top Moro, Highgate; Cascade, Quaker Hill, Friendstown, Dover Friends, Belfield Friends, and High Gate Friends. VBS in Jamaica has been going on for 32 years! They need more people to go and help.

Friends Campus Ministries—Eric Morrison

Beulah Gullion is no longer FCM Campus coordinator; working on getting a new person to fill that position. There are 3 campus ministries: Wilmington, Raleigh, and Boone—all have campus ministry leaders. In Greensboro, there are students but no leader. If your Meeting has any students going to any of these colleges, contact Eric Morrison via email or Paul Routh or Rita Mintmeir.

FUM Sustainability Committee: Judy Ritter

The Sustainability Committee met by zoom August 1st. Last year was the first year of leasing this 900 acre farm so the soil wasn't quite ready. Maze was planted and harvested but didn't make much money. Canola was planted in the interim. However, they had a hail storm that ruined the canola crop.

Good news... they have gotten the needed tractor and chisel plow. Therefore, they are no longer dependent on someone else to do the labor.

A Challenge was given to each quarter to raise funds to finish paying off the tractor. The tractor cost is \$65,000. Already \$20,000 has been raised.

In the Samburu and Turkana Kenyan missions, they have gone from drought to flooding. But they are managing the farming situation there.

FUM owns 2 acres In Belize. These 2 acres will be planted possibly with plantain or bananas. The land needs fencing. If the land is not utilized, the government will take the land. Kenya—the project of taking on the new resort to raise funds is not going to happen because it is a larger project than thought to take on. However, the fish pond project is still being considered. Funds are needed.

Missions—Scott Carter

Mexico and Jamaica and Kenya— biggest issue is money to fund our missions because they are Growing! Not like here where we are seeing declining numbers. 3 ways to support these Missions: 1) Missions Sunday; 2) Silent Auction—today during Annual Sessions; 3) Trust Funds

Barclay College—Katey Moran

Two programs: Friends Preaching Initiative and Kaleo Academy
Kaleo Academy: for High School kids. Seventy-eight (78) students and their mentors have completed this program. On September 20-23rd the first ever National Youth Workers Retreat will be held at Quaker Ridge Camp in Colorado. It is designed to energize and equip and rejuvenate Youth workers. Open to any Youth workers. Get in touch with Katey Moran if interested in going. A new director was hired for Kaleo Academy, Jacob Newton. Questions: ask Katey.
 New initiative among Friends: *Friends Preaching Initiative*—at Barclay college: to equip aspiring preachers to help develop preaching skills ; serve active English and Spanish preachers; develop Friends vocal preaching initiative.
 Rusty Savage will serve as the new chair of the Theological Studies program

Quaker Lake Camp—Heather Varner via video

Had a Great summer; 628 campers this summer, up over last summer; 50+ volunteers for camp this year. Plus many full time/part time help to make the summer ministries at QL successful.

Projects this year: got the gazebo built; lights were installed in the fields and throughout camp for night time illumination of the grounds.

Theme this year at camp was taken from Philippians 4:7-8

Pumpkin festival coming up October 19th; Volunteers are needed. A few videos were shown, one of summer camp and some of its activities; another one of Worship time at the camp fire pit. Roger Holt commented and encouraged a Quaker Lake scholarship fund if you don't have one at your Meeting.

Additional reports:

Workshops, times, and locations of these workshops for this afternoon were explained by Brenda McKinney and Joy Reavis. Each are explained on the handout.

David Millkan—Doing local mission work:

David has been meeting with "Sleep in Heavenly Peace" outreach which makes beds for kids. He is flying to Utah for training to build beds for kids ages 3-17. Beds cost \$250 to build but are complete with bedding. It is estimated that 3% of the population is affected by "bedlessness." David will then be able to start up the Randolph County Chapter of "Sleep in Heavenly Peace.

Paul Routh: Website update

New ICON on the menu: "shop" for books. Now you can shop online for books in the FCNC bookstore

Announcements

Pastor's Retreat Leadership team meeting at/near lunch time for conference on next retreat.

Gilbert Imbayi and Ronald Sikinyi, pastors of Baltimore Friends, now approved to be under the care of the Recording Committee, came up to the microphone and spoke a little about themselves and their present facilities where they are meeting.

David Hobson talked about FEMAP. He gave a little history about the Allen Jay house which is located on the Springfield Meeting campus. It had a fire back in the late July of last year. Insurance said it is not salvageable or too costly to repair. Springfield Meeting has generously allowed FEMAP space to continue its work. FEMAP provides emergency kit for farmers in eastern North Carolina; school kits, hygiene supplies; education kits and many more things. They meet the first month of each calendar quarter. FEMAP would greatly appreciate any funds or materials to restock their supplies. Contact David Hobson via email if you wish to help with these needs. He does have a list of items needed.

Quaker Men: They will meet September 30th at MarlboroFriends;

Quaker 2024 World Plenary in South Africa: Rausie Hobson sends her thanks to all in FCNC to allow her to represent us at this conference.

David Hobson prayed to end our business session and blessed the food.

Afternoon:

1:00pm Memorial service and Retirement reception

2:00-5:00pm Workshops

5:00-6:00pm Dinner

After dinner, **Beth Saunders** Summarized our Annual Sessions in an Epistle that will be sent to other Friends national and international. It was read aloud and FCNC approved of the Epistle.

Roger Holt adjourned the final part of our Annual Business Session at 7:15.

We enjoyed the following after the Business session:

7:15 pm Special music Baltimore Friends

7:45 pm Speaker Samuel Vasquez

**Respectfully Submitted,
Roger Holt, FCNC Presiding Clerk**

**Christine Blamer,
FCNC Recording Clerk**