

Friends Church of North Carolina  
**Representative Body Meeting**  
March 23, 2024  
Deep Creek Friends Meeting

Representative Body Meeting started at 10:00 AM. Presiding clerk, Roger Holt, welcomed all and started with a little history of Deep Creek, it being the oldest church of any variety in Yadkin County and it became a member of North Carolina Yearly Meeting in 1793. Part of the original wood structure is still part of the Meeting house today.

**Devotions/Prayer were lead by Randy Quate.**

Randy read from Galatians 6:14...*May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.*

He quoted from A.W. Tozer: "A frightened world needs a fearless church."

There is a spirit of anxiety in the world today. It needs a fearless church. If we are under the spell of the world we cannot minister well. Be in love with Jesus. Can we be fearless Christians? Randy ended with prayer.

**Roll call:** Recording Clerk, Christine Blamer, conducted the roll call. There were 40 Friends representing 17 Meetings and 10 visitor(s) present.

Regrets: Geraldine Brannon, Branon Friends; Ray Luther, Marlboro Friends; Pat Hurley Asheboro Friends.

**Reading/Approval of Minutes from Representative Body Meeting 10-14-2023:**

These were posted on the FCNC website for view prior this Meeting. Therefore they were not read aloud. Roger Holt asked if there were any corrections needed to the minutes. There were a few corrections. Corrected Minutes were then approved by the Body.

Roger Holt asked if Meetings were getting the "Bearing Fruit" newsletter out to their congregations. Email Jenny Gullion with anything going on in your Meeting you wish to have published.

**Update Reports from 3 Meetings under the Outreach Committee:**

**Thomasville: Eric Morrison**

Eric has now been the pastor for a year and a half. Slow but good progress. Currently, the average attendance on Sunday is between 15-20 people. A "prayer and praise" time was started back in September. A "movie night" was started; A Bible study is held on Sunday evenings. This past Christmas, kids from the community participated in the church Christmas play; The Meeting house received a new air conditioning system and new windows. Prayer needs right now are for an Intern for young people and a Worship Leader. If you know of anybody for either of these positions, speak with Eric. At present, there are 81,000 people in a 10 mile radius of the church.

**Odre Nuevo: Misael Morales-Pastor, not present**

Roger Holt did speak with Misael Morales and expected to see him here today. Kevin Smitherman did attempt to attend one of their Sunday morning Worship services, but the Worship time had changed for that Sunday due to a wedding. Kevin reported that they are still active and meeting together. Roger Holt commented that they are in the process of building a Meeting house. The foundation has been laid.

**Harmony Grove: Dennis Jessup;**

Judy Ritter gave the report for Dennis since he is sick. The attendance for Sunday Worship is averaging 10-15 people; they continue to struggle to grow. Prayer is requested for needed property repairs, and the money to do this. They have visiting Pastors speak. They have put selling the Parsonage on hold with so many other things going on. Their Sunday morning Worship time is 9:00am.

Brenda McKinney is going to visit **Baltimore Friends** the first week in April. She will clarify if they have changed their name.

**Superintendent Report: Mike Wall**

New Pastor ID's were created for 2024. Working on getting them to all Pastors. Mike continues to visit pastors although it can be challenging with varying schedules.

The following changes have taken place:

Hood Swamp Friends—Otto Griffin is the interim pastor; Tim Grant is the Part-time pastor at Goldsboro Friends; Daniel Jordan-interim pastor at Centre Friends; Interim Pastor John Porter is leaving Science Hill at the end of June; Pilot Mountain Friends has withdrawn from FCNC.

Rusty Parsons has volunteered to help get FCNC in front of our Meetings;

Quarterly meetings are attended when possible.

The Superintendent has met and spoken with some Meetings who left NCYM, and who align with our beliefs, to see if they want to join FCNC.

Mar Mac Friends is looking for ways to hear sermons since Pastor Howard Seymour has passed away. They have purchased a TV and a DVD player. If any Meeting is able to record and send sermons from your Meeting via DVD to them, talk with or send to Connie Seymour.

The Superintendent gave a report on "Where FCNC is as a denomination" He presented graphs that showed trends on membership from 2000 to projected 2035. Showed projections of 10 unnamed Meetings and their trends. The trend for membership at current status continues to trend downward. By the year 2035 only 1135 members are projected if current trends stay the same; This is a report to look at the reality of things—not to be negative. We have some growing Meetings and we look to them for examples and ideas and possibilities to grow. Things can turn around.

Quarterly projects bring us together; meeting together for fellowship/meal without business — suggestions that create unity and excitement.

In the Bible, Nehemiah was determined to do whatever it took to keep on track to build that wall around Jerusalem. Can we be that determined to build up our denomination?

### **Ministry & Counsel: Judy Ritter 2024 M&C presiding clerk**

M & C met this morning. Very involved/very concerned about our Meetings—spiritually and in numbers. Youth leaders—appreciative of the all the work they do—their influence and ability to draw other youth outside our own youth.

The Pulpit supply list is updated. Get in touch with someone on M&C if needed: Don Farlow, Karen Walton, Rusty Parsons, David Millikan, or Mike Fulp

The Recording committee continues to work with M&C and sends over possible candidates for the Recording process.

As the Revitalization Committee works with struggling Meetings, M&C will reach out to pastors and Meetings to sense their needs and come back with suggestions at Yearly meeting.

### **Program Committee: Monica Williams**

Annual Sessions will be held August 9-10, 2024 at Quaker Lake. The theme this year is “We Have A Story To Tell The Nations” with guest speaker, Samuel Vasquez, Clerk of Mexico Yearly Meeting. A “Save the Date” handout for this event was created to take back to our Meetings. The Intergenerational Service will be held on Friday evening this year. There will also be something available for small children. Contact Monica Williams if you are planning on bringing your children. The sign-up forms will be available shortly.

Judy Ritter is doing the Memorial Service and has requested any memorials be sent to her by July 8th.

### **Finance Committee: David Millikan**

David Millikan shared something from the Everance Financial seminar held at the pastor’s retreat back in February. Instead of looking at how much money we have and then deciding what to do with it, we need to reverse that and say... “What do we want to do? And How much money does it take to do it?” Work from that perspective. If we as a group, decide to do something, we, then, figure out how to do that.

### **Outreach Committee: Brent McKinney**

The Outreach Committee oversees the administration of 4 endowment funds. The current balances on those funds are: General funds (used for loans to students)—\$12,037 with an additional \$1075 still expected to be added this year; Barker funds (used primarily for pastors...pastor training, continuing education; pastor needs)—\$51,555 with an additional \$5,800 still expected this year; Church extension—\$164,758 as of 2/29/24 with an additional \$31,000 still expected this year. Currently there are commitments for \$65,000 of this money; Evangelism funds— \$9611 with an additional \$2300 still expected this year. Of this, \$5000 has already been approved for

a special project for the Program Committee. And typically, \$4000 goes to Friends Campus Ministries.

Kernersville Friends has requested church extension funds for a “Family Life Minister.” A description of a “Family Life Minister” is...”One who will dedicate time and resources to reach out to current young families in the church to advocate for the young (children, youth, early adults, and their parents) because they are least knowledgeable and least experienced in Christian life.” This was approved by the Committee as a new “Pilot Project” and the overseer of the project will be Yadkin Valley Quarterly Meeting where Kernersville Friends is part of instead of the Outreach Committee. This allows for some freedom of funds that would otherwise be restricted due to endowment requirements. Because this is a new “Pilot Project” the committee would like to see statistical progress reports from the Quarter to measure success of the project in order to possibly duplicate this project someplace else. Judy Ritter, clerk of YVQM will be advised of the statistical criteria the Committee is requesting. The funding for this project is \$12,000 for each of the next 3 years.

#### **Jamaica Ministry: Brent McKinney**

This summer has a planned visit to Jamaica in late July for vacation bible camp. The date is pending due to waiting on the Jamaican school schedule. VBC has been going on for 32 years now. Participation is requested for this trip. Supplies are in good shape, but more substantive food is needed—sandwiches instead of just snacks. If money is sent in advance, they will buy in advance. Take this idea back to your Meetings to get contributions for Jamaica VBS

#### **FUM Sustainability Committee: Judy Ritter**

Because of declining numbers of members and therefore, declined giving, FUM created the Sustainability Committee in order to sustain the mission work of FUM abroad. They began to search out ways to raise money to support its missions. A Kenyan farmer offered up his 900 acre field to be used for growing corn and canola to be sold to the government for redistribution to the people. Needed equipment was a chisel plow and a tractor. YVQM gave money for the chisel plow. Money is still needed for the tractor which costs \$65,000. Judy Ritter extended invitations to all the Quarters to send money to FUM for this tractor or for use in the mission work.

The Committee looked at the possibility of a Fish pond project to raise funds. However, they ran into issues with the farm the ponds were located on so that project is on hold for now.

Another possibility to raise funds is owning a “sheywe” hotel in Kakamega, Kenya and possibly moving the African FUM office from Kisumu KE to the hotel saving rent money.

Turkana Missions—there are buildings on the property without electricity. If electricity can be installed in these buildings, they may be able to raise funds by renting out the buildings.

In Belize—FUM owns about 2 acres. Possibly turning part of it into a plantain field. The land needs to be utilized or the government will take it back.

**FUM Global Ministries: Roger Holt**

Roger Holt attended the FUM meeting. The speakers included Karla James, FUM Global Ministries Director; John Muhanji, African Ministries Director and Michael Sherman, North American/Caribbean Ministries Coordinator/Director.

Karla James spoke about the leadership change in Belize Friends Ministries. Oscar Mmbali and Miriam Mmbali are the new leadership in Belize. Most of the leadership in the Belize Friends church and the school and the Friends center is under 25 years old which is exciting.

John Muhanji spoke on how the growth in the African ministries continues to keep growing beyond their expectations.

In Tanzania, their Yearly Meeting is now stable and they have new leadership. Infrastructure in the country is underdeveloped and therefore traveling to a main meeting place for Annual Sessions is impossible. Instead, 3 separate regions were created and in each region, the Meetings in these areas meet together for Annual Sessions.

Turkana and Samburu Missions are both chronically poor and underfunded areas that need our help. If you have a Missional urge to give, mark it for Turkana or Samburu. It costs about \$5,000 per month to fund each of these across FUM.

Michael Sherman is the new Director for the North America and Caribbean ministries. That ministry is going to be supported by the Billy Britt Fund. Michael has been in contact with FUM.

**Other Announcements:**

Roger Holt received a Thank you note from FEMAP for the \$1000 money given them by FCNC.

David Hobson mentioned a new Quaker devotional called "Fruit of the Vine." available from Barclay press.

Roger Holt adjourned the meeting at 11:55 a.m. and ended with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Roger Holt, Presiding Clerk  
Christine Blamer, Recording Clerk