

Friends Church of North Carolina
Representative Body Meeting
October 26, 2024
Science Hill Friends Meeting

Representative Body Meeting started at 10:00 AM. Presiding clerk, Roger Holt, welcomed all.

Devotions/Prayer:

Roger Holt had silent worship and then prayer

Roll call: Recording Clerk, Christine Blamer, conducted the roll call. There were 27 Friends representing 14 Meetings and 1 visitor(s) present.

Regrets: None

Reading/Approval of Minutes from Annual Sessions August 9-10, 2024:

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.

Administrative Oversight Committee (AOC)—Erin Mintmier

Last meeting was held in September. Considering all the damage done from Hurricane Helene in Western North Carolina, AOC proposed taking an offering at this meeting with the proceeds going to Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting where considerable damage was done to some of their Meeting houses. This was approved.

AOC met with Young Friends Activities Committee (YFAC). Their discussion revolved around reasons for why the Youth do not participate in Annual Sessions. The main reasons were that it was the beginning of school and it was the beginning of sports programs. They discussed the possibility of changing the date of Annual Sessions from August to November 6-8th in 2026 so that the sessions would be more accessible for youth. Erin asked the Rep body to think about it and to get in contact with her, Roger Holt, or anyone on the AOC committee with comments or questions.

Finance Committee—Budget —David Millikan

The Budget Session was held at Archdale in September. They were able to come up with a balanced budget. Financial Obligations will not increase for 2025. They will remain at \$65/member. Much of the budget still relies a lot on trust fund money. Total Budget amount for 2025 is \$282,597. Trust fund income available for 2025 is \$267,932; Income from Financial Obligations for 2025 is \$138,645. Subtracting the total income available for 2025 (\$406,577) from the budget amount (\$282,597), there is a net gain of \$123,980 by the end of the year. The budget was sent to all Monthly Meetings to look over prior to this meeting. Discussion and questions were answered. The Budget report was approved by the Body.

Friends Campus Ministries (FCM) Concerns: Eric Morrison

After searching for an FCM coordinator, there is a promising candidate that the FCM board will be interviewing in the next few weeks.

After looking at the FCNC draft handbook regarding FCM, it requires 7 members on its board. Presently there are five. FCM is recommending adding two “at large” members to the board, preferably younger members who have energy, passion, and who are more in touch with college campus life. Send recommendations to Eric Morrison who will give to the Nominating Committee. Rotation of board members was discussed. Presently no rotation. Nothing was finalized on that. The term “At Large” means the Board would look for someone inside FCNC first, and then, if necessary, go outside of FCNC. Presiding Clerk, Roger Holt presented the following motion for approval....”Will FCNC approve the addition of two “at large” positions with the stipulation that FCM comes back to the next Rep Body meeting with definitions for the positions and a rotation schedule?” Members Approved. Eric will come back with two recommended people at next Rep Body meeting.

FWCC— Rausie Hobson (representing Section of the Americas)

Report on World Plenary Sessions in South Africa—held in August.

Rausie said, “Every moment was worth it!” Day 1, Worship was well represented by both Programmed and Unprogrammed (silent) worship. Day 2, Section of the Americas (which was all “programmed” worship) was a hybrid meeting (English and Spanish). Kelly Kellum from FUM did the preaching. Epistles of every group are on the FWCC website if you are interested in reading them. Rausie read what Epistles do for understanding of other Friends groups around the world.

Brenda McKinney: Presentation that will be given to NCYM Inc next week: How we spent Trust Fund money in 2023:

Christian Education/Vocations funds: \$458 for childcare for Annual Sessions; Christian Vocations-**General Funds** - no money spent. General Funds are used for students entering ministry. Loans limited to \$3000/year for 4 years, funds to be repaid over time or through service work to the Yearly meeting. Christian Vocations-**Barker Funds** - no money spent. Barker funds are used for Pastor needs and events. Approximately \$50,000 in this fund. Two requests for next year 2025: Total around \$8,000.

Church Extension funds:

-Part-time Intern Coordinator, Terry Linthicum: \$20,000. Salary for mentoring Youth who are interested in children, youth, and music ministries.

-Cane Creek—\$2,300 for expanded sound system in their meeting house.

-New Harmony Grove—\$3,000. Money used for advertising, catered meal for Homecoming, and needed repairs to “spruce up” the meeting house before Homecoming.

-Revitalization committee was granted \$5,000 total for Thomasville Friends and New Harmony Grove—for pulpit supply

Pulpit Supply pastors were each paid \$200/Sunday.

-Yadkin Valley Quarter—\$20,000. Once the Revitalization Committee began the New Harmony Grove project, it was then given to the Quarter for administration. They now have a pastor, Robin Dixon.

-Southern Quarter—\$20,000. Helping Thomasville Friends to be revitalized. Supplementing Eric Morrison as the pastor as well as programs such as VBS and Easter egg hunt which were conducted.

-Marlboro Friends—\$4,386.40 Grant provided for new playground equipment.

Evangelism:

-Friends Campus Ministries: \$4,000. (Four college campuses)

-Ministry & Counsel: \$6,000. For two workshops led by Steve Ackley to further equip North Carolina Friends' leaders to discover the most effective ways to promote healthy growth.

-Program Committee—\$2,000 Annual Sessions

Missions Committee:

-Mexico Missions: \$10,911.89; Breakdown: \$6,000 for pastoral support; \$600-Pastoral Scholarship; \$1000-building repairs for Matamoros Friends; \$2400 to Samuel Vasquez, Superintendent for Northern Mexico Yearly meeting for travel expenses; \$1000 for community outreach; \$911.89 to Beth Saunders for her visit to Matamoros.

-Missions Committee—FUM: Missions contributions: \$21,800

Breakdown: \$1,000 Nikki Holland (Belize staff coordinator). She has stepped down and returned to the United States. \$1,000 Belize School/Meeting; \$1,800 for Belize Pastor support for Miriam Mmbali; \$2,500 Friends Theological College-Principal Robert Wafulu; \$2,000 Lagulu Hospital; \$2,000 Turkana Friends Mission; \$2,000 Samburu Friends Mission; \$2,500 to Kenya; \$1,000 to Ramallah Friends School; \$1,000 Cuban Friends; \$5,000 to FUM for Pandemic relief.

-Other Missions: \$25,800

Breakdown: \$1,200 Bob and Hope Carter; \$4,000 Friends Center, Inc (formerly MOWA); \$500 to Kickapoo Friends Center; \$500 Mesquakie Friends Center; \$4,000 Jamaica VBS and travel; \$4,000 Jamaica projects; \$1,500 Jamaica leadership training; \$6,000 Jamaica Pastoral /Meeting support; \$500 Bolivia—Friends International Bilingual Center Food Security Project; \$600 FCM-Raleigh. Kickoff meeting for the school year; \$1,000 FEMAP; \$2,000 Quaker Lake Camp.

Various Young Friends Activities: \$15,773.90

Main ones: Life 3D Conference \$3,720; G1 Conference \$5,713; Leadership retreat \$4,407.

Publications: No Expenses

Brenda McKinney also showed slides of all the General Expenses for FCNC, Other Committee Expenses, and Affiliated Organizations. A breakdown of these expenses can be found Online at the FCNC website.

FUM—Roger Holt

Roger was able to attend the FUM General Board Meeting in Richmond, Indiana. He reported that it was a very good meeting and that there is a lot going on in FUM. A letter was read from Kelly Kellum, General Secretary, regarding the many things happening in the different international missions we support.

The Israeli situation, especially the impact at Ramallah Friends;

Lots of transition in the Belize missions.

Work in Kenya Expanding into Tanzania and neighboring countries

Friends Theological College graduating 221 new pastors

At the last session of the meeting, all who attended were charged with a query from Kelly Kellum dealing with our upcoming national election and the divided state of our country.... “What are we to say as Quakers who follow Jesus...What are we to say to our members and groups before and after the election?” The group came up with..... “the message we bring should begin with the Gospel.” The group then came up with 5 steps to approach this election and after: #1 Exercise your right to vote; #2 Examine your conscience as you decide to vote; #3 Love your neighbor because there is of God in every man; #4 Seek peace and peaceful interaction in all aspects of this election and in life; #5 Be willing to have the difficult conversations in order to resolve conflicts. The group decided that “we can’t be on the sidelines, but we need a way to go forward.”

Ministry & Counsel: Don Farlow filling in for Judy Ritter

The topic discussed was the ongoing struggles with many Monthly meetings—the development of leadership and being more self-sustainable. M&C is recommending for approval that the Revitalization Committee take the lead on this issue of leadership development and sustainability on an individual Meeting by Meeting basis, utilizing resources across FCNC that might be able to aid in that process. Friends Approved of moving forward with this initiative.

Call for Clerks—Roger Holt

Roger is requesting from each Quarterly Meeting clerk, two names—one for Nominating Committee for FCNC and one for Committee on Clerks because we need to restaff those committees.

Judith Cranford, NCYM, Inc Financial Manager

Currently, FCNC has a \$200,000 CD which matures around 11/12/25. It is currently earning around 5.75%. Judith posed the question, “do we want to put another \$200,000 in a CD now since we have these extra funds.” Much Discussion ensued. One of the questions answered was that the funds can be withdrawn at any time, but you would lose some interest money if you withdraw early. Other questions involved FCNC’s overall vision—What is it, what is driving us forward? How can we use this excess money for that? Also, the present needs of Monthly meetings—what are

those? There was more discussion which showed that there is a lot to think about and pray about in order for FCNC to move forward in a positive direction. For now, it was approved to reinvest the current amount of \$200,000 for another year. In addition, it was approved to invest an additional \$200,000 in a CD right now as well—12-18 months, depending on what is the better interest rate.

Disaster Relief for Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting & Association

Discussion was held on the hurricane disaster in Western North Carolina and surrounding area. Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting was hit pretty hard with two of its Monthly Meetings being affected. Currently there is \$104,000 in Undesignated Trust funds. It was approved to send \$10,000 to SAYMA for immediate help with more to follow as we progress through this disaster time. It was also approved earlier in the meeting that today's Offering be sent to SAYMA as well.

It was suggested by Brent McKinney that a person or committee gather information about the progress of the disaster relief and additional needs to be met and bring a report back to the next meeting. David Hobson has volunteered to continue to look into this. He has been in touch with Evan Welkin, Executive Secretary-FWCC Section of the Americas about the situation. He will report back at the next Representative Body meeting.

Other Announcements:

Kenyan tractor

David Hobson also brought up our financial obligation on the Kenya tractor FCNC approved to purchase. Roger Holt responded that we are about 1/2 half way there on the funds.

Roger Holt adjourned the meeting at 11:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roger Holt, Presiding Clerk
Christine Blamer, Recording Clerk