**NC Fellowship of Friends**

**23 September 2017**

**Mt Airy Friends Meeting**

Minutes and Notes

**Representatives were present from the following meetings:** Ararat, Winston Salem, Mt Airy, Jamestown, First Friends, Somerton, New Garden, and Springfield

**Friends APPROVED the NCFF Identity Statement** for forwarding to monthly meetings for consideration and feedback.

**Suggested identity statement for NCFF** (all meetings are encouraged to send in their identity statements to be added here). The last two sentences may be changed after imagining who we can be together and listening for God’s vision for us at the Fall Gathering November 11 at First Friends.

North Carolina Fellowship of Friends is a non-creedal, cooperative fellowship of Friends meetings rooted in traditional Quaker teaching, gathered under the leadership of the Holy Spirit, and guided by our vital practice of seeking God's presence and activity today. While our meetings differ in many ways, we do the best we can with the Light we have today to be open and inclusive to anyone who would like to journey with us. Our mission is to affirm the autonomy of each member organization to pursue God's peaceable Kingdom on Earth as put forth in their individual mission statements. Our vision is to be a leading Christ-centered agent for healing, learning, peace, and justice in our communities and the world. The statements below demonstrate the theological and geographical range we cover.

**Report of Financial Commitments to NCFF (also NCYM, Inc. & QLC) from Monthly Meetings**

Most meetings have made a “commitment” to support NCFF and NCYM, Inc. (and therefore QLC) of $40 per member per year, with several meetings committing an additional $10 per member per year to build an endowment for QLC.

All meetings are asked to send your meeting membership numbers to Frank Massey, clerk of NCFF (frank.c.massey@gmail.com). This information is important in determining our commitment to NCYM, Inc. and for the allocation of Endowment Income from NCYM, Inc.

A few meetings are still discerning if they wish to become a part of NCFF. Not to rush the discernment process, but all meetings are encouraged to make a commitment before 12/31/2017, if at all possible.

**Annual All-NCFF Gathering:**  Please see the attached

**Membership in National and International Friends Organizations**

Friends APPROVED continuing membership and participation in these following organizations, which will require individuals to serve as representatives (and involvement in programs and activities) and may require a financial commitment on NCFF, and certainly on representatives attending governing boards. Letters have gone, and are going out to these organizations alerting them to our interest in remaining and/or becoming a member organization.

* FUM
* FWCC
* FCNL
* AFSC
* RSWR
* Quaker EarthCare Witness
* USFW
* Quaker Men
* Friends Disaster Service
* FEMAP
* Friends Peace Teams
* Quaker House (Fayetteville)
* William Penn House
* NC Council of Churches

Friends were not clear to make a commitment to request membership in Friends General Conference (FGC) as NCFF, and encouraged meetings to join FGC if they felt so inclined. NCFF may return to the question of NCFF becoming a member of FGC in the future.

**Report from the “temporary committee” on the Recording (and Care) of Gifts Ministry**

North Carolina Fellowship of Friends

Recording Committee Ad Hoc Report

September 23, 2017

 After exchanging a series of e-mails, Ad Hoc Recording Committee members met for thorough discussion and warm fellowship.  All members were present:  Sara Beth Terrell, Bill Eagles, Mary Simmons, Richard Wilcox and Frank Massey, ex officio in Rocky Mount, NC on September 10, 2017.

Several subject areas were lifted up for discussion:

·         The purpose for recording, historical and present-day,

·         The role of the Monthly Meeting and the role of the Yearly Meeting in the process,

·         The potential benefits of vocational discernment, accountability groups, continuing education opportunities, mentor partnerships, and counseling resources,

·         The possibility for Trust Fund income to be used to help offset above potential benefits,

·         An acknowledgement that there are many vocations and gifts, and the process need not be limited to “pastor” or “preaching” ministries,

·         There may be a need for a standing committee in NCFoF.  It was noted that NCYM had four committees: Recording, Pastoral Care, Pastor-Meeting Relations, and Christian Vocation, and that a NCFF Committee, possibly under the name of “Ministry and Vocation” could provide resources to Monthly Meetings in all four areas formerly covered by NCYM committees.

Committee members look forward to future discussion, and would welcome ideas, concerns, dreams to be submitted to members by e-mail so that they can be included in future dialogue.

The Committee does have the following recommendation to NCFF:

We recommend that all member Monthly Meetings who are receiving a Recorded Minister from NCYM have a minute regarding that recording in their minutes before January 1, 2018.

Submitted by Richard Wilcox, Convener

Friends **APPROVED** the report and encouraged the Recording Committee Ad Hoc as they continued to discern our way forward. Attenders and members of meetings are encouraged to contact members of the Ad Hoc Committee with questions and concerns.

Gregory Woods, of the **Social Media** working group, shared the process on establishing a web presence and social media outreached. [https://ncfriends.org/]

Friends requested that the **anti-discrimination concern** be presented in the form of a Query. The anti-discrimination Query will be ready for review at our next meeting.

Friends adjourned to meet again **20 January 2018, Somerton Friends Meeting, at 10:00 a.m.**

Submitted,

Frank Massey, clerk