

REPORT TO NORTH CAROLINA FELLOWSHIP OF FRIENDS

Re: Friends United Meeting

For the Fellowship's Annual Session 2023

By: Bill Eagles

NC Fellowship of Friends is meeting in the wake of Friends United Meeting holding its Triennial in July in Nakuru, Kenya. It was a joint meeting of FUM, Quaker Men International, and United Society of Friends Women International. The format had originally been planned for the Triennial that was postponed due to the pandemic. This time it was considered quite successful.

The Triennial theme was "Come. Abide. Go." Over 600 Friends from around the globe gathered in worship, prayer, and fellowship and left with a renewed energy and commitment to work and worship together in Spirit and in Truth.

Our other work continues. From the Caribbean to Palestine, Africa to North America, and scattered places between, FUM continues to build a global partnership in a world seemingly filled with strife.

In Kenya, for instance, land has been leased and maize planted looking toward additional support for FUM's East African work to be financed by East Africans. NC FoF has been generous in participating in the loaning of money to facilitate this program, with the re-payment to go, not back to us, but to the other work of FUM.

The Ramallah Friends School continues to be educationally and organizationally strong in the face of difficult regional circumstances. Jane & Max Carter again led an FUM Living Letters trip to Palestine.

In North America, the Billy Britt Fund seems to raise new challenges and opportunities. Among the continuing areas of work is facilitating inclusion of African immigrants into the FUM family. You will recall that Billy Britt served the former North Carolina Yearly Meeting as its superintendent and as a pastor for many years and that this fund was established by FUM in his honor and with his and his family's blessings.

We are entitled to two representatives on the FUM Board. I am willing to continue that service if Friends wish. Scott Wagoner has served as a Board member. He is at High Point Meeting which will be presented for approval as an independent FUM member in October. Further, he is one of the two assistant clerks of FUM for the next Triennium. He is willing to continue to be involved in reporting on FUM to the Fellowship, but recommends that we identify an additional Board Member to represent us.