

NCFE Business Session
19 March 2022
9:00 am – 12:00 pm (Hybrid)

Friends gathered both virtually (18) and at Jamestown Meeting (6) in centering worship to consider the business of the NC Fellowship of Friends.

Clerk's Reflections

Clerk Richard Wilcox spoke about new beginnings - repenting and cleansing ourselves, noting where we might need to change. Next he asked those present to share what excited them in their Meetings and a favorite/meaningful moment of worship in the last three months.

Approval of 13 November 2021 Gathering Minutes

These minutes were approved.

350th Celebrations/Observations

Max Carter reported on events relating to the 350th Celebration of Quakers in NC.

- He has recently been to Albemarle and Perquimans County and hopes to take Friends on a field trip there this year.
- A series on NC history is being developed and taped.
- Tours of the New Garden Cemetery and Underground Railroad Tours in the Guilford Woods are being offered.
- He encouraged Friends to attend the unveiling of a historical marker on the front campus of Guilford College on Friday, March 25 at 3:30pm, celebrating the life of African American Vina Curry, who assisted 15 enslaved men in gaining freedom by allowing them to use her deceased husband's manumission papers as they traveled north to Indiana. (The papers were passed to Levi Coffin, who returned them for the next man to utilize.) He stated that clearly the Underground Railroad movement was an interracial civil disobedience movement.
- Frank Levering is doing research in preparation for writing a play.
- Snow Camp Outdoor Drama is being revived, and they will be producing *Pathway to Freedom* June 16-18, 2022. (There is a list on Facebook of items needed for the property.)

Anti-racism Working Group Report

A summary of this report (<https://www.ncfriends.org/anti-racism-working-group-report-spring-2022/>) was shared by Kate Seel. It was not a scientific survey, but an effort to see how our Meetings were addressing anti-racism. 49 individual Friends responded and 3 came from Meetings as a whole. The majority of respondents think anti-racism work is important and are working on it. Survey results were sent to participating Meetings. All received the overall graphs and open-ended question results were sent to each Meeting which had individual responses.

Additional Reports

Reports are attached from Friends United Meeting (<https://www.ncfriends.org/friends-united-meeting-fum-report-spring-2022/>), Alternatives to Violence Project (<https://www.ncfriends.org/alternatives-to-violence-project-report-spring-2022/>), Friends World Committee for Consultation (<https://www.ncfriends.org/fwcc-section-of-the-americas-report-spring-2022/>), the Outreach Working Group (<https://www.ncfriends.org/outreach-working-group-report-spring-summer-2022/>) and Quaker House (<https://www.ncfriends.org/quaker-house-report-spring-2022/>).

Clergy Card Project

Deborah Suess, who has agreed to spearhead this project, reported. The cards to be developed, and signed by Richard as Clerk of NCFE, will give recorded pastors easier access to hospitals, prisons, etc. Although recording is now done by Monthly Meetings, those assembled agreed that having their card signed by our clerk would be the appropriate way to acknowledge the recording. Meetings are asked to be sure all who are recorded are listed in their records. Requests for cards are to be sent to Deborah Suess (notaDoctorsuess@gmail.com).

Upcoming NCFE gatherings

- August 20, 2022 at Quaker Lake – This has been reserved for the entire weekend. It is hoped that we can be in-person, and perhaps on Zoom as well. Volunteers are needed to help organize the gathering. Kathy Adams will facilitate the group. Dottie Hobbs agreed to assist, as did Lou Gordh. Max and Jane Carter will present a program. Remaining needs - guest speaker, seminars, activities, worship, childcare, food and music.
- November 12, 2022 at TBD. A host Meeting is needed.

FCNCL (Friends Committee on North Carolina Legislation) Report

Dot Mason reported that help is needed for the Communication Committee – with doing spreadsheets, newsletters, website, etc. Anyone interested in this work can send an email to Dot (hmason@triad.rr.com).

NCFE Books

There are a number of Quaker books that have been stored at Jamestown Meeting which are available for Friends to take. (See the list here)

NCFE Directory Project and Organizational Proposal

Clerk Richard Wilcox proposed some new structure for NCFE. One need is contact information for Meetings, Meeting clerks, pastors, Finance Committee clerks and an NCFE Nominating Committee member from each Meeting. Kate Seel has agreed to manage the gathering and organizing of information. This was approved. Kate will create a form to complete to be sent to each Meeting. It was noted that the NCFE website needs updating, so each Meeting should check its listing for accuracy and Mike Shaw can make the necessary changes.

There is \$125,000 in the NCFE checking account that needs to be spent. Richard also proposed that every committee take responsibility for the funds related to its function. Judith Cranford at the NCYM office (336-875-8615) is responsible for our finances and the financial recordkeeping, and it would help her to receive an explanatory note along with each receipt. NCFE as a whole can approve the spending of funds, but in between sessions having a committee clerk provide note and receipt would make things cleaner and auditing simpler.

There was discussion about the need for knowing the guidelines for spending the trust funds, and whether having the responsibility spread out rather than rest with one person or the Finance & Stewardship Committee would create problems. A grant process, with a form to complete, was suggested. And a distribution of fund guidelines. These guidelines could be published in the directory. [There was a request to have the guidelines distributed in written as well as electronic form.] It was approved to have a grant process ready by our August gathering, to include requiring a voucher from committee clerks going to Judith.

An example: Max Carter will be responsible for having Frank Levering paid for writing the 350th Anniversary screenplay out of the appropriate fund. He will ask about an appropriate amount and submit a form to Judith. As it happens, FCNC, the Friends Church of NC, will also be celebrating and can assist with funding the project.

Outreach Working Group Report

Beth Massey had some questions for the group. She referenced an insightful article in the February 2022 issue of *Friends Journal* regarding how to retain young families in Meetings, and wondered if an interest group on this topic should be offered at our August gathering. Friends were asked to let Beth know (@) of their interest. She will work in concert with Tanna Shipwash, clerk of the Youth & Children Working Group.

The Clerk reminded Friends of their “homework”:

- Provide contact information for each Monthly Meeting to Kate Seel, via the form to be distributed.
- Check the website and send updates to Mike Shaw (mshawvideo@gmail.com) .
- Provide contact information on recorded pastors requesting a Clergy Card to Deborah Suess (notadoctorsuess@gmail.com).

He then adjourned the meeting and offered a prayer. The Outreach Working Group met following the full meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Kate Hood Seel, Recording Clerk