

1 Minutes: Friends Church of North Carolina (FCNC) Representative Body
2 Time October 24, 2020
3 Location: Archdale Friends Meeting

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SETTING

6 The Covid-19 Pandemic continues to present health risks in the world, especially in large gatherings.
7 Each FCNC Meeting was asked to send only one representative to this Representative Body Meeting.
8 Exceptions were made if multiple persons from a Meeting were scheduled to make presentations at this
9 meeting. Across FCNC most Meetings are continuing to meet in the manner most appropriate for their
10 memberships. We Friends know that our Lord is still on the throne and in charge, but we also know He
11 created us with a brain with which to reason. Therefore, we try to use our brains and exercise common
12 sense practices, while trusting Him to guide us along the path He would have us follow.

13 In some Meetings group singing is not done, masks are worn during worship services and business
14 meetings, hand sanitizers are available, and offering plates are not passed but conveniently placed for
15 members to drop their offerings in as they enter or leave the sanctuary. Several Meetings provide
16 worship services live on their web site or record them and then place them online for viewing. Some
17 pastors post weekly study notes, devotionals, or mini messages to provide spiritual support and
18 encouragement during the week. Visitation to the housebound is limited, and if conducted, they are
19 conducted in accordance with established proper protocol for this pandemic situation. Business and
20 committee meetings are conducted as needed, sometimes with members attending in person, and
21 sometimes joining in virtually or by teleconferences. Some groups, like USFW circles, have chosen to
22 meet bi-monthly or as-needed.

23

MEETING

24 Greetings: FCNC Presiding Clerk, Brenda McKinney, saluted representatives present, expressed gratitude
25 to Archdale Friends Meeting for use of their facilities, and extended a welcome to those viewing online.
26 She requested that those attending online sign in so we would have accurate knowledge of meetings
27 represented in attendance.

28 Devotions: Rusty Parson, pastor of Archdale Friends Meeting presented a devotion quoting Isaiah
29 40:31: "But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as
30 eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint." He reminded us of the
31 children's song, "Deep and Wide", which most present remembered. It seems that today too many are
32 not deep in their relationship with God. At Archdale they send out 10-20 public Bible readings each
33 week, at least two per day, to offer strength, guidance, and help for souls in need. Isaiah prophesied of
34 hope the Messiah would bring and of the pronouncement upon nonbelievers when the Lord returns in
35 the air like a whirlwind and the earth sees His glory. He said that God sent His Son to die for men, "for
36 me." Before closing, he shared a couple of experiences. While in Canada one summer, He had seen
37 eagles in action, soaring with wings on winds God had created as a part of nature's majesty. For us it is
38 the power and strength of Christ which allows us to ride upon the wings of His Spirit. Second, he told a
39 story of a driver stopped along the side of a road with car trouble. He waved to an oncoming car which
40 stopped, and the driver got out and asked what the problem was. The driver told him. The man looked

1 under the hood, made a few adjustments, and started the car. Both the driver and the Good Samaritan
2 cheered. When the driver asked his name, the stranger said it was “Henry Ford”. God made us. He
3 knows how to make us over. We can wreck ourselves, but when Christ is in control, we can run. We can
4 soar like Eagles. When people say they “can’t understand the Bible”, tell them to ask you questions.
5 Read aloud to them. Tell them to ask their pastor, a Sunday School teacher, or a Christian friend for
6 help. The session closed with prayer.

7 Letter: Following devotions Clerk, Brenda McKinney, read aloud a letter from Chuck Schobert regarding
8 FCNC affiliation with Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) Section of the Americas. He
9 expressed joy that FCNC was putting back in place a formal relationship with FWCC. He planned to be in
10 attendance virtually at our meeting on October 24. He would report back to the Executive Committee
11 and they will recommend that FCNC be welcomed into affiliation. This should be done in March. That
12 will leave only the formality of a minute to complete the process. For answers to questions regarding
13 communications between FCNC and FWCC, Chuck Schobert may be reached at (608) 770-1801 or
14 poodledok@gmail.com. Bill Eagles may be reached (336) 312-4421 or billeagles@billeagles.com. The
15 Section of the America’s Office in Philadelphia may be reached at (215) 241-7250 or at
16 america@fwccamericas.org.

17 Roll Call : Fourteen Meetings were physically represented by seventeen (17) persons at Archdale
18 Meeting House, plus four (4) virtual attenders. In addition, five other Meetings were represented
19 *virtually* by ten (10) persons. Chuck Schobert attended as an out-of-state guest, representing FWCC.
20 This brought our total attendance to 20 persons.

21 Agenda: The body **approved** accepting changes to the published agenda.

22 Annual Sessions Minutes: The minutes from the August 7-8, 2020 Annual Sessions were **approved**.

23 Assignment of Rights Document: Brenda McKinney reported that the NCYM, Inc., Board approved
24 assigning rights to Friends Fellowship and FCNC. She had received a letter from Don Farlow to the effect
25 that NCYM, Inc., has a spreadsheet of Meetings which have received grants from the JR Williams Fund.
26 NCYM, Inc., will refund payments of grant monies to the yearly meeting from which the funds were
27 withdrawn. In addition, NCYM, Inc., gives FCNC and Friends Fellowship the right to collect funds owed
28 them if a Meeting withdraws from their yearly meeting. The Assignment of Rights Document **was**
29 **approved as presented**.

30 Approval of Kay Coltrane to NCYM, Inc. Board: Gwen Taylor had volunteered to serve as a Trustee and
31 on the NCYM, Inc., Board. The Board recommended Kaye Coltrane to fill the two-year vacancy left by
32 Gwen Taylor. The Representative Body **approved**.

33 Summary of Epistles: David Hobson provided a loose-leaf summary of “2020 Epistle from Quaker
34 Groups Around the World” which included directions for how to view them online. David defined the
35 epistle purpose and process, “An Epistle articulates a collective sense of experience and how God has
36 moved among Friends during a gathering, be it a yearly meeting session or an FWCC Section meeting, or
37 a Young Friends gathering. It is approved by that group during a meeting for business. It is typically
38 shared with yearly meetings so that they might read some of them out in meeting or publish some for
39 people to read. It was historically, and continues to be, an important way for Friends and others to learn
40 about each other in that which is eternal. They help us appreciate that we are part of a world family of

1 Friends.” He added, “Epistles have potential to facilitate understanding among Friends” and asked that
2 one read Epistles with an open mind and heart. Each meeting writes its own Epistle which is not
3 altered or edited. Friends are encouraged to address concerns directly to the sending meeting. Epistles
4 can be found online. <http://fwcc.world/epistles-from-quaker-groups-from-around-the-world>
5 One of the epistles he highlighted was from the **Wilmington Yearly Meeting**. They said this year (2020)
6 had been like none other in history. They missed being able to sit together and share. Friends found
7 themselves facing the challenge of new technology, making many errors, and being quickly and
8 patiently forgiven. Our world has changed and is changing, but the Holy Spirit is still moving. There are
9 still blessings to celebrate. People who could not have attended meetings in person had been able to
10 able to attend/participate online.

11 Faith and Practice Committee: David Briles reported the task of this committee is to review and update
12 the Faith and Practice. Concerns the committee is considering include the suggestions made by the
13 Nominating Committee to some bylaws, and issues regarding choices of committee chairs. A sub-
14 committee consisting of Brenda McKinney, Roger Holt, and David Briles is reviewing bylaws and
15 suggestions. They will make recommendations to the Representative Body at the Mid-Year Gathering.

16 Administrative Oversight Committee (AOC) :

17 Item #1 - Roger Holt presented information that Rusty Parson had volunteered to assist Mike Wall with
18 visiting meetings. Rusty has asked for no compensation. AOC suggests that FCNC provide mileage
19 compensation. Representative Body **approved paying mileage** for Rusty as a traveling pastor.

20 Item #2 - Harmony Grove facilities need attention. The basement has severe water problems. There is
21 some money in the Meeting’s building fund to use toward needed repairs. They are seeking estimates
22 now. We will be updated of the status of the situation in the future. No approval needed at this time.

23 Item #3 – Roger said it had been suggested that a traveling Minute be prepared and go forward with
24 Rusty to the Meetings he visits. The body **approved the traveling Minute** for Rusty .

25 Ministry and Counsel : Mike Fulp, Sr., asked that Meetings share with clerks the message that if they do
26 provide a person for the Ministry and Counsel Nominating Committee, they will be the person. Positions
27 need to be filled.

28 Recording Committee: Brent McKinney reported that the Committee is working to update the reading
29 list for recording candidates. They continue to meet with candidates. Some candidates should be ready
30 to be recorded in 2021.

31 Revitalization Committee: Mike Fulp, Sr., reminded everyone this is the committee originally known as
32 the Small Church Needs Committee. The identity was changed in recognition of the fact that although
33 most of FCNC’s Meetings are small, larger Meetings can also have needs. The Revitalization Committee
34 meets monthly and feels they have lots of ideas and a lot to offer Meetings of all sizes. Mike said Covid-
35 19 seems to have worn everybody out and has people going in every direction. We need to be prepared
36 for opportunities which arise. This group may have all the answers a Meeting needs, but they doubt it,
37 so they are reaching out for ideas. November 14, they will sponsor a seminar on how to empower your
38 church. It is titled, “LIGHT A FIRE MINISTRY.” The group wants to go out and meet with churches to
39 figure out things, like who are you trying to reach. This committee wants to know how they can share
40 with local monthly meetings, but they need an invitation. They will go as they are invited. When a
41 group comes together for a shared purpose, they can see things more clearly. Mike asked the question,
42 “Are you reaching out and showing love to the unchurched? Lives need to be and can be changed.” He

1 reminded those in attendance of a Seminar on November 14 at Archdale Friends Meeting beginning at
2 10:00 a.m. The committee would like for a representative from each Meeting to attend in person. FCNC
3 can be a strong instrument again for God.

4 Finance Committee: Jimmy Spaulding presented an itemized listing of each Meetings' Obligation for
5 2021 per Quarterly Meeting. A Meeting's obligations are determined by multiplying \$63.25 per member
6 by the total Meeting membership. Totals had been calculated for each Meeting per month and for the
7 year. The 2021 annual obligation for FCNC Meetings totaled \$151,483.75. It had been decided at the
8 2020 Annual Sessions that any obligations for the Thomasville Meeting would be forgiven for 2021.
9 Jimmy presented and reviewed an itemized spreadsheet which compared the 2020 budget to the
10 proposed 2021 budget. He provided information line by line and answered questions as they were
11 asked. The Finance Committee had worked to reduce expenses as possible.

12 > Brenda McKinney noted that an arrangement had been made to regenerate some basement space at
13 Archdale for FCNC document storage since the FCNC office there was not actually being used. This
14 reduced FCNC's rent to \$125 per month and helped the budget. Archdale will still permit use of their
15 facilities for meetings scheduled in advance. It was noted that some Meetings are helping themselves
16 financially by keeping their memberships updated. Some meetings have contacted long-time
17 nonattenders to find they were regularly attending other places or had even moved away. Deciding
18 whether to explore this option is left to each individual Meeting.

19 >During the focus on the proposed budget, several related questions were raised, and comments
20 offered both in house and from online representatives. A suggestion was made that churches
21 investigate installing equipment for live streaming so that Paul does not have to haul around so much
22 equipment every time there is a meeting. AOC had received concerns about how the position of
23 Superintendent was approved at Annual Session; people could not get online with their concerns about
24 the position. Some people expressed concerns about how the position of Superintendent in the budget
25 had been handled.

26 >Brenda McKinney expressed that the streaming equipment suggestion was an excellent idea which
27 would be turned over to the Technology Committee to investigate. She explained that AOC
28 recommended making the decision at Annual Session rather than end of the calendar year so that the
29 position could be included in the 2021 budget. They continue to receive emails regarding obligations
30 and donations for the Superintendent position. Jimmy Spaulding said that giving should not be viewed
31 as a burden but as in opportunity.

32 >More issues for consideration relative to the budget were submitted from online participants, including
33 the possibility of allocating some trust fund money for the care of records, and the quality and quantity
34 of work of the Social Media coordinator. Representatives felt the Social Media Coordinator needs to be
35 doing more. Brenda explained that Jenny is still learning her job. Meetings can help Jenny by sending
36 her information to share. Brenda said she would share with Jenny Gullion the Representatives' concerns
37 that more needs to be available through Social Media. A specific concern about the Superintendent
38 sponsorship/fundraising letter online was presented by an online participant who felt that soliciting
39 funds to cover budget items sent mixed messages to readers from outside FCNC. We learned that AOC
40 had discussed this same concern. We need to be attentive to the messages we send to the world as we
41 present ourselves online.

42 >When there were no more questions and concerns raised, the **2021 FCNC Budget was approved** as
43 presented by the Finance Committee.

1 Committee on Clerks: The report from David Millikan was that as of October 24, FCNC still needed a
2 recording clerk for 2021. Some who had been asked to serve had said “Maybe” instead of “No.”

3 NCYM, Inc., Presentations: Brenda McKinney, Presiding Clerk, said that NCYM, Inc., had directed FCNC
4 to prepare and present a power point presentation on all expenditures for their review. She reminded
5 us of the presentation Brent shared from the Outreach Commission at Annual Sessions. It was a
6 detailed power point showing expenditures, and some corrections that had been made shifting funds
7 from one account to repay another fund when the committee became aware that funds had been used
8 incorrectly. NCYM, Inc., had also directed the Technology/Social Media Committee to provide them a
9 similar presentation of how funds were and are being used. Brenda showed a video from Jenny Gullion
10 who was not in attendance to present. The information in the video was much like her presentation at
11 Annual Session in August: sharing goals, purposes, benefits of social media, and encouraging individuals
12 and Meetings to get involved. She said to contact her or another Social Media Committee member for
13 help, as needed. Input from in house and online representatives followed the video. Again, Brenda told
14 representatives that she will share their concerns with Jenny.

15 Announcements:

16 #1 - Science Hill Friends Meeting has posted a notice on FCNC website that they are seeking a new
17 pastor.

18 # 2 - Rusty Parsons complimented the work Mike Wall is doing as Superintendent and announced that
19 Archdale Friends Meeting is looking for someone to work with families and children.

20 # 3 – Brenda McKinney reminded everyone of the Multiplication Conference to be held November 11-13
21 and provided registration information.

22 # 4 – Mike Wall shared several comments -- Cheryl Benson is now a fulltime pastor at Cane Creek.
23 Relative to the Multiplication Conference, he said, “As you drive down the road, you look ahead. Ask
24 yourself what FCNC will look like in twenty-five (25) years. We need to plant new churches in areas
25 where people live, where industry and businesses are. We need to reach a new generation of people.”
26 Mike talked about an upcoming FCNC Revival. He announced that seven of FCNC’s younger pastors were
27 scheduled to bring messages, some were scheduled to present their testimonies, and talented musicians
28 would be sharing nightly, November 27 through December 5 at 7:00 p.m. He emphasized this is a no
29 cost opportunity to meet some of our newer and younger pastors and receive spiritual nourishment.
30 He encouraged everyone to reach out to those around them, to get together in small watch parties, and
31 to get revived.

32 #5 - Mid-Year Gathering is scheduled to convene April 10 in Yadkin Valley Quarter. Watch the FCNC
33 website for the location.

34 Closing Minute: presented by Brenda McKinney, FCNC Presiding Clerk.

35 Respectively Submitted: Presiding Clerk, Brenda McKinney

36 Recording Clerk, Gloria Simmons