

Friends Church of North Carolina
Representative Body
March 18, 2023
Concord Friends Meeting

Roger Holt, Presiding Clerk of Friends Church of North Carolina, called the business session to order at 9:00 AM and he welcomed all of those present.

Roger reported that the minutes of the FCNC Representative Body session for October 1, 2022 have been posted on the FCNC website for you to read and review. He asked if anyone had questions or corrections. There were none and he asked the body for approval of these minutes. They were **approved**.

Roger led the group in opening prayer.

Terry Linthicum, Internship Coordinator, reported on the “Externship Program.” The Internship Program manual is probably larger and more complicated than young people want to deal with, so he is working on making it easier and it will be on line in the near future. He stated that he had coached high school sports for 34 years and although he is not a Carolina fan, he respected and attended a clinic led by Coach Dean Smith. Coach Smith stated that the goal is to get to the point where people can do things for themselves, and what made him happy is to sit on the bench and do nothing. This is starting to happen with our Internship Program . We are growing, but slowly. Instead of being an Internship Program we are going to go to an “Externship Program.” We will work around other people’s schedule, after school, Sunday morning, etc., working on satellite sites if needed. He has conducted monthly workshops with one held last month and another planned next month. Marlboro Friends youth had mission trips and leadership groups planning sessions. Terry gave an overall view of great enthusiasm and can see the possibility of a future children’s minister. The only problem he has had is young friends wanting to serve inside their own church and not wanting to venture out. He is working of this and asked for continued prayers.

Clerk Roger reported that we need to appoint representatives to the FUM Triennial to be held in Kenya in July, 2023. Roger Holt, Ginger Holt, Rita Mintmier, Erin Mintmier, Brent and Brenda McKinney are planning to attend and he asked that these be appointed as representatives from FCNC. Etta Florence Winslow is on the nominating committee, Brent McKinney has been asked to serve on the New Business Committee and Brenda McKinney has been asked to serve on the Epistles and Message committee. This was **approved**.

Brenda McKinney, Clerk of the Administrative Oversight Committee said that she has been asked what her job duties are. She is currently Assistant Clerk of FCNC, therefore, is Clerk of the AOC. Erin Mintmier is Assistant Program Clerk, mentoring for one year and she will become Assistant Clerk of FCNC next year.

Brenda reported that a presentation on the cemeteries owned by North Carolina Yearly Meeting, Inc. was made at Annual Sessions last August on how to carry on with this responsibility. A committee was formed by the AOC to consider and their recommendation was approved by the AOC (see list of cemeteries attached to these minutes). The AOC recommended that we currently have an obligation to maintain these nine cemeteries that extends "in perpetuity". The ongoing maintenance and associated costs are a significant financial liability to NCYM, Inc., a few of these are still in use and others are on the verge of being reclaimed by nature. Many have few, if any, markers. We (FCNC) believe that the best policy going forward for NCYM, Inc. is to divest themselves of the cemeteries and the attendant maintenance requirements as soon as possible. This should be handled on a case by case basis. In some instances, we only need to stop doing any ongoing maintenance. Others might be turned over to a family or a funeral home who are in closer proximity and therefore in a better place to provide the necessary maintenance. We wish to carry this out by honoring those interred in marked graves to the fullest extent possible and free ourselves of a financial obligation that last forever. This was **approved**.

Brenda McKinney, presented a report on the FUM Sustainability Project. (See report attached to these minutes.) A proposal was made last fall from the Ambwere family in Kenya to lease their 900 acre farm to FUM to grow corn to feed hungry people in Kenya instead of growing sugar cane to sell. Hardship has arisen with the drought and the limited supply of grain coming from the Ukraine. FUM approved this and established a Farm Management Committee to oversee project and to take out a loan. A highly skilled farm manager has been hired, the land prepared with special equipment to dig deeper into the soil and 60 acres of corn was planted yesterday with the remaining corn to be planted as soon as possible. A report came that it rained last night with a prediction of heavy rains coming by the end of the month when planting is completed. Solicitation has begun for funds to support this project and FCNC has sent \$2,000 from undesignated funds. It is projected that this project will net \$100,000. See more details on the attached report and opportunity to invest in this project with FUM at 6% return on your money. More information about investing will be available in the next issue of our newsletter, Bearing Fruit.

Brent McKinney gave a report on Jamaica. He stated that we will be going back to Jamaica this summer for VBS. It will scaled back a little and everyone is excited. The group will go during the last two weeks in July for 8 to 10 days. He has firm commitment from four people and needs at least four more people to go. The costs will be \$1200 as in the past. They will not be having the Quaker Life Camp but go to individual meetings where they can minister to more children. Staff will not stay in the homes of families but will be staying in a rented house. Please let him know if you are interested or know of someone who might be, so he can make contact with them.

Scot Carter, Clerk of the Mission Committee, asked the Clerk for a short time to speak. A copy of a bulletin insert is in your packet and he asked each meeting to designate a Missions Sunday using this insert. (Copy attached to these minutes). Let him know what

your meeting needs to emphasize this Sunday. New contact information will be on the website. Scot stated that five years ago we had to cut our missions budget, but it is coming back. Work is continuing in Matamoros, Mexico and we need to continue to remember them with prayers and support.

Roger Holt reported on Odre Nuevo Church that is meeting at the Harmony Grove Meetinghouse in Yadkin Valley Quarter. He said they are continuing to meet with up and down attendance and working hard to keep it going. They are beginning the process to become a preparative meeting and plan to present the application at the next quarterly meeting. They are moving forward and much prayer is needed.

The clerk asked Friends present to sign the book of attendance that is going around.

Mike Fulp, Sr., Clerk of Ministry & Counsel presented a new Pulpit Supply List for recorded pastors and lay persons that is attached to these minutes. Rusty Parsons said that his email address is incorrect and should be parsons@northstate.net. Mike presented the name of John Teague from Cane Creek Friends to be added to the list of lay speakers who has been recommended. John has been speaking at Cane Creek one Sunday each month doing a good job. His contact number is 336-264-8541. This was **approved**.

Mike reported that Harmony Grove Friends had stopped meeting, but had never formally submitted a letter laying down their meeting. There has been some interest in trying to revive Harmony Grove and on October 30, 2022, 38 people came for Homecoming. Since then there has been an average attendance of 12 with as many as 20 attending the worship service on Sunday. Jake Penley, along with the Revitalization Group has been working on this and they have had different speakers each Sunday. There is a core group there and they are sharing their meetinghouse with another group, Odre Nuevo Church, who needs a place to meet. FCNC Ministry and Counsel feels we need leadership development as many positions in the yearly meeting have gone unfilled.

Clerk Roger reported that we need to formally approve a representative to FWCC that is meeting next week in NC. Our current representatives are David and Raushie Hobson and Brent McKinney, who wishes to be replaced. Lindsey Shore Wright has been recommended to replace Brent and is willing to serve. David and Raushie will continue. This was **approved**.

With no further business, the business meeting of FCNC was adjourned. There will be a short break and workshop led by Steven Ackley, Pastor of Disciples at Calvary Baptist Church, Winston-Salem, NC will begin at 10:00 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Roger Holt, Presiding Clerk
Mary Anna McCullen, Recording Clerk