

1 Friends Church of North Carolina (FCNC) Mid-Year Gathering  
2 Date: April 10, 2021, 10:00 am  
3 Location: Forbush Friends Meeting Family Life Center, East Bend, NC 27018  
4

#### 5 SETTING

6 Friends Church of North Carolina Mid-Year Gathering met at Forbush Friends Meeting on  
7 April 10, 2021. Since March 2020 the COVID-19 Pandemic continues to present health  
8 risks in the world, especially in large gatherings, each FCNC Meeting was asked to send only  
9 one representative to the in person meeting for this Mid-Year Gathering. Exceptions were  
10 made if multiple persons from a Meeting were scheduled to make presentations at this  
11 session. Other representatives and attenders were invited to join on YouTube or Facebook  
12 Live. Sanitary precautions were observed, masks worn and seating was arranged for social  
13 distancing. Paul Routh and Forbush members did an excellent job setting up the video and  
14 sound systems. Coffee, bottled water and prepackaged snacks were provided to those  
15 wishing to partake. Those participating on line were asked to sign in so they could be  
16 counted in attendance. There were 26 members present in person and 11 members who  
17 participated on line.  
18

#### 19 MEETING

20 Brenda McKinney, Presiding Clerk, welcomed everyone present and on line to this Mid-  
21 Year Gathering and expressed appreciation to Forbush Friends for hosting our meeting  
22 today. She called upon David Millikan, Clerk of the Committee on Clerks committee to  
23 come and make a presentation. He stated that at the last Representative Body meeting on  
24 October 24, 2020 he reported that the committee was unable to find a person to serve as  
25 Recording Clerk of FCNC. Mary Anna McCullen from Goldsboro Friends Meeting in  
26 Contentnea Quarter has agreed to serve in this position and he presented her today. Clerk,  
27 Brenda McKinney asked the body for approval for Mary Anna to serve in this this position.  
28 This was **approved**. David also said that there is still a need for an Assistant Recording  
29 Clerk and the committee will continue to seek someone to fill this position.  
30

31 Monica Williams gave the welcome to Forbush Friends, housekeeping comments and  
32 stated that offering containers for Quaker Lake and Allen and Juanita Bullard have been  
33 placed on the table at the entrance to the building.  
34

35 Mitch See, Pastor of Forbush Friends, presented the worship using the scripture, Joshua  
36 23:8, "But you shall hold fast to the Lord your God, as you have done to this day". Mitch  
37 reminded us that in Joshau's farewell address to the children of Israel as they entered the  
38 Promised Land, he gave them these words that he had led God's people across Jordan as he  
39 sought to do God's will. Now, you have had training, go and work and hold fast to your God.  
40 He told them to imitate him in submitting to God's will in their lives by the word of God and  
41 power of the Holy Spirit. Hold fast to your God, his word is with us to the end of the age.  
42 May we continue doing this. Mitch closed with prayer and Monica Williams sang the  
43 beautiful song, "Hold On To Me."  
44

45 Roll Call: The roll call of meetings in attendance was conducted by Mary Anna McCullen,  
46 Recording Clerk. Thirteen meetings were represented and 13 attenders were present in

1 person at Forbush Friends Meeting. Seven meetings were represented virtually along with  
2 4 attenders on line. There was a total attendance of 37 Friends.

3  
4 Agenda: The body **approved** accepting changes to the published agenda.

5  
6 Minutes: The minutes from the October 24, 2020 Representative Body, having been made  
7 available for review on the FCNC website, were **approved**.

8  
9 Outreach Commission: Brent McKinney reported that the Outreach Committee met this  
10 morning and approved five applications for grants. 1. Expenses to help pay for expenses  
11 for speaker, Gary Chapman, for gathering of those under the care of the Recording  
12 Committee and current pastors and spouses. They are expecting about 40 people and they  
13 will pay \$5.00 per person. 2. Cane Creek requested \$5,600 for sound equipment and  
14 committee approved one half of that amount. 3. The Program Committee requested  
15 \$4,000-\$5,000 to cover expenses for Ron Byran, speaker for Annual Sessions. 4 Expenses  
16 for mileage for FCNC Traveling Minister. 5. Recommends an advisory committee to be  
17 established to work with Thomasville Friends to become active and growing. Committee  
18 should consist of someone from Outreach, Ministers Assoc. Revitalization Com. and  
19 Thomasville. Request for these funds would be presented to Representative Body for  
20 approval.

21 The balance of Outreach Commission Funds are as follows: Evangelism - \$5,966.33, Church  
22 Extension - \$147,560.31, Vocations, Gen. - \$6,472.07, Vocations, Barker - \$26,170.57. This  
23 report was **approved**.

24  
25 Financial Report: Jimmy Spaulding reported that 26% of the financial obligations had been  
26 paid at the end of the first quarter. He expressed appreciation for the generous giving. He  
27 reported on the sponsorship goal to pay salary of superintendent. The goal was \$40,000  
28 for 2020 and \$38,000 was raised. The goal for 2021 is \$20,000 and \$5,000 has been  
29 raised so far. Jimmy encouraged meetings to request speakers from FCNC Stewardship and  
30 Communications/Technology committees to share how they can help your Meeting.

31  
32 Communications/Technology: Jenny Gullion, Social Media Coordinator reported there  
33 were great plans made for 2020, but because of the COVID-19 pandemic they were not  
34 completed. Jenny presented a five-step Social Media Strategy that can be used for your  
35 Meeting as follows: 1. Know what you want to say. Keep focused on the message of your  
36 Meeting and the message in your posts. 2. Know who you are talking to. Speak to your  
37 people and post things of community interest and draw them to your Meeting. 3.  
38 Determine how much time you can devote. Social media doesn't have to consume your life.  
39 4. What platforms to use. Facebook has over 2 billion monthly users – post 2-4 times per  
40 week. Instagram is photo oriented. Post 1-2 times weekly. Other platforms can be used  
41 also. 5. Make a scheduled calendar of content to post and post consistently. The  
42 Communications/Technology is happy to come to your Meetings. All FCNC committees are  
43 encouraged to reach out to her to let her know of information that can be put on Facebook,  
44 such as events, fundraisers, praise reports, needs etc. Brenda McKinny reminded all  
45 Meetings to send Jenny the name of your Meetings social media contact person.

1 Administrative Oversight Committee: Roger Holt reported that the purchase of FCNC  
2 streaming equipment for use by Paul Routh for use at FCNC events was approved at the  
3 October 24, 2020 and has been purchased. The Communication/Technology Committee  
4 submitted three equipment proposals and the AOC approved the \$900-\$1000, the  
5 moderately priced option, to be paid for with money from undesignated funds.  
6 An AOC subcommittee of David Briles, Judy Ritter, Brenda McKinney, Mike Wall and Roger  
7 Holt met to consider recommendation for the Faith & Practice Committee. Etta Florence  
8 Winslow has suggested that the rules for membership of each committee be left out of Faith  
9 & Practice and transferred to the Administrative Handbook to allow more flexibility, easing  
10 changes based on needs. The duties of each committee would remain in Faith & Practice  
11 unchanged. At the AOC meeting in March, AOC approved this change and passed it on the  
12 Faith & Practice committee.

13 The Administrative Oversight Committee recommends moving Annual Sessions from the  
14 first weekend in August at Quaker Lake Camp to the second weekend since camp will still  
15 be in session. The AOC asked for approval to hold Annual Sessions at Quaker Lake Camp  
16 August 13-14, 2021. This was **approved**.

17 The AOC recommends that the offering for 2021 Annual Sessions will be Quaker Lake Camp  
18 and Jamaica Friends Mission. AOC also recommends that a love offering at Mid-Year  
19 Gathering for Allen and Juanita Bullard, former pastor in NCYM who have great financial  
20 needs.. The AOC approved an immediate gift of \$1,000 for the Bullards. This has been sent  
21 and a thank you note received. This was **approved**.

22 Roger reported that the FCNC Nominating Committee recommends that all 2020  
23 committee members stay in their positions to serve during 2021 as most of them did not  
24 meet or serve during 2020 because of the pandemic. This was **approved**.

25 The AOC has approved and recommends to this body that FCNC has only three members of  
26 the Trustee of the Trust Funds committee. This was **approved**.

27

28 Treasurer: David Briles FCNC reported to the group that he had signed a check this week  
29 for \$3,000 to be sent to Allen and Juanita Bullard which were contributions from love  
30 offerings from FCNC Meetings. The check was mailed on April 9<sup>th</sup>.

31

32 Directory: David Briles made an announcement concerning the FCNC Directory. He stated  
33 that the directory is approximately 95% complete. The final step is to put it on line so that  
34 Friends from monthly meetings can proofread it and suggest corrections. Because the  
35 directory has a great deal of personal information in it, he recommends to have this  
36 document password protected. Paul Routh has agreed to put the directory on a Google  
37 drive and send passwords to each monthly meeting for review. The hope is that each  
38 Meeting will, over the next two months, review the document and email changes to David  
39 Briles at [dbriles61@embarqmail.com](mailto:dbriles61@embarqmail.com). After sufficient time has passed, we will submit the  
40 document to the printer and hope to have copies at Annual Sessions in August.

41

42 Proposed Changes to Faith and Practice: David Briles reported that the AOC has received  
43 input from various members, as well as from the Nominating Committee, regarding our  
44 current committee structure. As we move forward, it is apparent that changes need to be  
45 made. The AOC appointed a four person committee (Roger Holt, Brenda McKinney, Judy  
46 Ritter and David Briles) to meet and suggest changes. This committee, along with

1 Superintendent Mike Wall met in November, 2020. The committee recommends the  
2 following changes, which have been approved by the AOC.

3  
4 The pages of Faith and Practice to be considered are pages 57-60.

5  
6 *Page 57, next to the last paragraph, omit “the chairperson of the yearly*  
7 *meeting trustees.” It was felt that this chairperson as well as the chair of the*  
8 *Trustees of Real Property would be welcome to come to the AOC meeting to*  
9 *make a report, but does not have to be a member of AOC.*

10  
11 *Page 58, the first paragraph under The Nominating Committee, omit “and six*  
12 *by the Representative Body of the yearly meeting.” To the third paragraph,*  
13 *add “Nominating Committee members may not nominate themselves to serve*  
14 *on the Administrative Oversight Committee. Omit the paragraph regarding*  
15 *Tenure.*

16  
17 *Page 59, under The Program Committee, first paragraph, omit everything.*

18  
19 *Page 60, omit the first paragraph, Membership, under the Trustees of Trust Funds.*

20  
21 *Page 60, omit the Membership paragraph under Finance Committee.*

22  
23 The goal is three fold,

- 24 • We want consistency between Faith and Practice and the Administrative Handbook.
- 25 • We want to change the committee structure to adapt to our current smaller size.
- 26 • We want Faith and Practice to describe the purpose of each committee in general
- 27 terms, and have the composition of the committee outlined in the Administrative
- 28 Handbook.

29 We ask that each representative take back the proposed changes to their respective  
30 monthly meeting and either seek approval or, suggest changes necessary for approval. We  
31 would like to have these changes approved by annual sessions, so that we can print copies  
32 and distribute to monthly meetings.

33  
34 Revitalization Committee: Mike Fulp reported that the Revitalization Committee has met  
35 monthly at Forbush Friends for several months. He presented a handout, “Light a Fire  
36 Ministry,” for each representative to take back to their Meetings. This will also be placed  
37 on the FCNC website. See a copy attached to the minutes. Mike stated that we have a high  
38 percentage of churches that are plateauing or declining. Are we just going to survive or  
39 thrive? The committee handout gives a plan with multiple steps to consider. The Meeting  
40 needs to walk through plan and consider such aspects as technology, outreach, vision on  
41 ministry which must be clear, challenging and hope filled as guide for local congregation.  
42 We need to ask what does God want to accomplish through your Meeting and are you  
43 willing to show the love of Christ outside of your building walls. Where is God leading your  
44 congregation and what will it look like in 3-5 years? Who will take leadership in this and  
45 what are we attempting to do for God and our people? The Revitalization Committee is  
46 ready to meet with local Meetings. Just call them. The Committee asks for Representative

1 Body's blessing to move forward with this work. This was **approved**. Jake Penley also  
2 reported that if anyone wants to know about the work of the Revitalization Committee, just  
3 ask a member or come to one of their meetings.  
4

5 Ministry and Counsel: Mike Fulp reported that the FCNC Recording Committee has three  
6 candidates who are on target for recording at Annual Sessions in August. There will be a  
7 Continuing Education for Recording session with invitation to others to be held at Marlboro  
8 Friends on April 15 at \$5.00 per person with speaker Gary Chapman. The theme will be  
9 Love Languages and Communication. The Pulpit Supply List welcomes entries from local  
10 Ministry and Counsels. Please contact him if you have some one with gifts of ministry who  
11 can be placed on this list. FCNC Ministry and Counsel needs a functioning Nominating  
12 Committee so they can report to Annual Sessions. Each quarter should be represented.  
13

14 Nominating Committee: Brenda McKinney reported for Greg Creed, who sent his regrets.  
15 The FCNC Nominating Committee is in great need to have two persons from each quarter  
16 who will serve on the committee. They need two additional people to serve on the  
17 Program Committee this year. He has had to work with himself and one other person this  
18 year.  
19

20 Missions Committee: Brenda McKinney read a report from Scott Carter, chairperson. With  
21 the global impact of COVID-19 travel of missionaries has been greatly restricted and many  
22 projects have been placed on hold. Quakers in Samburu and Turkana regions of Kenya  
23 experienced record flooding and drought along with historic swarms of locust. The good  
24 news is that many of the Quaker Meetings in Kenya are growing with meetinghouses  
25 overflowing. New Meetings are being planted in Tanzania and Uganda. Our Friends in  
26 Matamoras, Mexico have missed visits from FCNC and other US Yearly Meetings but have  
27 had help from Mexico Yearly Meeting. Belize Friends School has had to suspend meeting in  
28 person because of COVID, but money has been donated to provide students with materials  
29 to continue studies at home. Because of current travel restrictions there has been little  
30 update on Jamaica Yearly Meeting. While the amount of donations and fundraising  
31 opportunities have decreased, the needs are great. The Missions committee is planning a  
32 "Missions Sunday" for May 23, 2021 with bulletin inserts provided to each meeting and  
33 request for special offerings taken. They are planning for another silent auction this year at  
34 Annual Sessions with plans to use items accumulating from last year's auction that did not  
35 take place.  
36

37 Friends Campus Ministry: Carrie Ritter reported that there are currently three active  
38 groups, Greensboro with 16 participants and two interns, Beulah Gullion and Brewer  
39 Baker; Raleigh with two interns Kristen and Dylan Misenheimer who will be graduating;  
40 and Boone with Rhett Steelman from Yadkin Valley Quarter. All are meeting in person  
41 now that students feel comfortable. Three interns, one from each site, are working at QLC  
42 this summer. She will be looking for students to be involved in the fall semester. Please  
43 contact her with names of college students from your Meeting so they can be involved. The  
44 website is currently being updated.  
45

46 Young Adults: Carrie Ritter reported that there will be a spring retreat at Lake Norman  
47 State Park with registration online. A Fall Beach Retreat is being planned.

1  
2 Quaker Lake Camp: Heather Varner, Director of Quaker Lake Camp, began her report by  
3 expressing joy to be talking about plans that are going to happen instead of plans that are  
4 being cancelled as they were last year. She thanked everyone for all of their support during  
5 this last year. Some activities were held during the last year such as Trunk a Treat, the  
6 Christmas Candle Lighting Service, and a Family Flash Light Easter Egg Hunt with 550  
7 people in attendance. The 2021 summer camp will be held by reducing camper capacity  
8 each week and extending weekly sessions, using a big tent in front of old lodge, hopefully  
9 no outside masks for campers and there will be other layers of control to reduce dangers.  
10 There is a need to borrow picnic tables. They will still keep electronics off camp during  
11 camper sessions.

12 She reported that the annual QL Golf Tournament will be on May 15<sup>th</sup> with varied tee times  
13 to reduce dangers. All support is needed as financial reserves are mostly used up. Spring  
14 cleaning to prepare for summer camp will be kicked off beginning the week of May 8<sup>th</sup>.  
15 Volunteer of groups or individuals are greatly needed. Volunteers are needed to clean the  
16 pool and have it ready soon. Expenses have increased, such as pool chemicals that have  
17 tripled Contact Heather if you can help. Please pray for staff, campers and volunteers.  
18 Brenda McKinney reported that Baltimore Yearly Meeting is interested in sending youth to  
19 Quaker Lake Camp summer.

20  
21 Young Friends Activity Committee: Paul reported that they have not had any activity in the  
22 past year. The committee is meeting April 19 at Marlboro Friends to plan a fall retreat  
23 using Sterling Brown's plans from 2020-2021. This session will probably have limited  
24 capacity.

25  
26 Superintendent Report: Mike Wall, FCNC Superintendent, reported that since the last Rep.  
27 Body meeting he has visited five different churches on multiple occasions. He expressed  
28 appreciation for the help Rusty Parsons is providing with visitation since his retirement. He  
29 and Rusty both will be visiting Contentnea Quarter meetings and Quarterly Meeting on  
30 April 25<sup>th</sup>.

31 FCNC Churches searching for new pastors are: Bethel, Branon, Science Hill, Winthrop and a  
32 second one at Archdale. Archdale has a new pastor, Chad Riggs and Forbush has a new  
33 youth pastor, Kyle Widlicka. Pastor ID cards have been renewed and Pastor Appreciation  
34 cards were sent. He met with 13 different pastors. They had a wonderful Pastors Retreat  
35 at Fort Caswell in February and stressed that all churches should encourage your pastors to  
36 attend and should not be considered as vacation time. Mike reported that he worked with  
37 Greg Creed to assist the Bullard family. A new thing – beginning April 29, 2021 he will be  
38 conducting a monthly Zoom prayer time with pastors and hoping to have small group  
39 meetings with pastors on a regular basis. Mike also reported that the FCNC Revival held in  
40 December 2020 was a good time for FCNC and all who participated. Special thanks was  
41 given to Centre Friends, Tommy Sluder, Paul Ruth and all the pastors, musicians and  
42 pastors and testimonies. Mike continues to send weekly emails. He has talked with two  
43 churches that left NCYM with no results. He attended meetings, funerals, participated in  
44 Friends Multiplication Conference on line, is working with Misael at Odre Nuevo and trying  
45 to find pastors which is a difficult task. Mike has spent a great deal of time working with  
46 Thomasville Friends.

1 Mike presented a copy (actually the only copy) of Spanish translation of the first part of the  
2 FCNC Faith & Practice. Four videos have been made and you can look for them on our  
3 Facebook page. He is seeing three bright spots in FCNC, Liberty Friends, the Easter  
4 program by Marlboro, Archdale and Cedar Square and Marlboro Youth led by Terry  
5 Linthium.  
6 Mike shared research compiled by one pastor and graphed membership over 30 years.  
7 This information is probably not accurate, but the purpose is to help us get a realistic grip  
8 on where we are as individual churches and as FCNC. General information provided shares  
9 that only two churches showed growth over the last 20 years, future projection is that only  
10 six churches on this track will not last eight more years and only 16 of 29 will still be  
11 operating after 20 years if they continue on this track. The purpose is to help us see the  
12 trends. Let's turn it around and see ourselves grow. Copies were provided for each church  
13 to take back for discussion.

14  
15 FUM: Clerk Brenda Mckinney reported that the Friends United Meeting Triennial that was  
16 to be held in Kenya in 2020 was cancelled because of COCID-19. A business session will be  
17 held in June, 2021 by Zoom and FCNC is eligible to have five representatives present. If you  
18 are interested in being a representative from FCNC, please let her know.

19  
20 FWCC: David Hobson reported that the FWCC, Section of the Americas, met virtually March  
21 12-21 with 350 attendees. These were interesting, spiritual sessions in both English and  
22 Spanish with Cuba attending. FCNC has been accepted as an affiliated member during this  
23 session. Brenda reminded the gathering that we are eligible to have one more  
24 representative from FCNC. If anyone is interested in the position, please let her know.

25  
26 Brenda also shared that she has a Christmas card and letter that someone sent to an inmate  
27 at a correctional facility in NC and it was not able to be delivered. If you were the person  
28 who sent this letter and would like to have it to make contact and perhaps become a pen  
29 pal, please contact her.

30  
31 She also expressed appreciation to Rusty Parsons, who is assisting our Superintendent with  
32 visitation. Thank you, Rusty, for all you are doing.

33  
34 David Milliken announced that he and Rusty Parsons were in the process of updating the  
35 pamphlets written by Seth Hinshaw. He would like a hand from Friends to gather after the  
36 meeting for a picture to be taken of our hands in a circle to be used on the cover.

37  
38 She reminded us that FCNC Budget Day would be September 18, 2021 and the next  
39 Representative Body meeting would be on October 30, 2021.

40  
41 There was no other concerns and this session of FCNC Representative Body was closed  
42 with prayer by our Clerk.

43  
44 Respectfully Submitted: Presiding Clerk, Brenda McKinney

45  
46 Recording Clerk, Mary Anna McCullen

47