

1
2 Friends Church of North Carolina Annual Sessions
3 August 13 – 14, 2021
4 Quaker Lake Camp
5

6 **Friday, August 13, 2021**
7

8 The 4th Annual Sessions of Friends Church of North Carolina met on the beautiful campus of Quaker
9 Lake in Climax, NC August 13-14, 2021. Many Friends were able to join us for the first time since the
10 COVID-19 virus pandemic begin in the spring of 2020, and all expressed joy in being able to be together
11 again. The theme for our 2021 Annual Sessions was, “My Hope is in the Lord,” based on Colossians 1:5.
12

13 The opening session began at 3:00 pm on Friday afternoon, August 13, 2021. The opening minute was
14 read by Brenda McKinney, Presiding Clerk, reading the scripture from Colossians 1:5, “For the hope
15 which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel.”
16 After an opening prayer she extended a welcome to all present as well as Friends viewing online.
17

18 Regrets were received from Viola and Billy Britt and Jan Greene. Special guests for our sessions were
19 recognized as Ron Bryan, Clerk of Friends United Meeting, and his wife Joyce; Karla Jay, the new FUM
20 Global Ministries Coordinator; Katy Moran from Barclay College and Kaleo Academy; Kindra Bradley
21 from Quaker House; Don Farlow representing NCYM, Inc. and Carmen Farlow, a former member of
22 NCYM, was recognized with 50 years of attendance.
23

24 The Presiding Clerk announced that Guilford County will implement a mask mandate because of the
25 surge of the Delta Variant of the Corona virus for all indoor gatherings beginning at 5:00 pm today.
26 Although we are a religious organization, we are meeting at a camp, which requires this mandate. We
27 were asked to comply, be good citizens and consider the welfare of others.
28

29 **Minutes:** Brenda reported that the minutes of the Representative Body at Mid Year Gathering at
30 Forbush Friends on April 10, 2021, were posted on FCNC’s website since late April for all to review.
31 These minutes were **approved** as posted.
32

33 **Roll Call:** The clerk asked Mary Anna McCullen, Recording Clerk, to conduct the roll call of the 28
34 member meetings. There were 20 meetings represented over both days with an attendance of 57 on
35 Friday and 70 on Saturday. One person joined us online each day. A number of other family members
36 and friends came on Saturday afternoon for the Memorial Service and the Recording Service. On
37 Saturday evening 21 youth and chaperones joined us for vespers and led us in singing.
38

39 **Appointments:** The body **approved** the following positions for these sessions. New Business
40 Committee - Michael Fulp, Jr., and Janet Robbins; Editing Committee, Geraldine Brannon and Reading
41 Clerk, Roger Holt. The Recording Clerk requested that hard copies of committee reports not
42 previously submitted and online be given to her.
43

44 **Nominating Committee:** In the absence of Greg Creed, Committee Chairperson, Brenda submitted
45 report highlights from his report that has been posted on the FCNC website. She stated that since he
46 expressed a great need for members of the committee at the Mid Year Gathering, two new members
47 have been added, Cheryl Benson and Kevin Smitherman. He has updated the Excel spreadsheet of
48 committee members and term extensions with agreement from members. A copy of this spreadsheet is
49 in your packet. There is a great need to fill the open Program Committee positions to work with
50 Monica Williams, Jan Dough, David Millikan and others. Term limits and extensions need to be clarified

1 so that the Nominating Committee can communicate the proper expectation. There are many
2 vacancies; many of these from Quarterly Meetings. A copy of this report is attached to the minutes and
3 posted on the FCNC website.

4
5 Appreciation was expressed to Rita Mintmier for the beautiful flowers on the stage and tables.

6
7 **Ministry and Counsel:** Mike Fulp, Sr., reported that FCNC Ministry and Counsel met at 2:00 today and
8 approved the recommendation from the Recording Committee. Three candidates; Mitch See, Gloria
9 Simmons and Tommy Sluder have satisfactorily completed all the requirements for recording;
10 including submittal summary papers and exit interviews. Mitch See is serving as senior pastor of
11 Forbush Friends, Tommy Sluder is serving as senior pastor of Centre Friends and Gloria Simmons will
12 soon begin her first pastorate at Branon Friends. Having satisfactorily completed all the requirements
13 for recording the Ministry and Counsel recommends that Patrick Mitchel See, Gloria Rose Simmons,
14 and Charles Thomas Sluder each be recorded by the Friends Church of North Carolina Yearly Meeting
15 as a Minister of Gospel for Pastoral Ministry. This was **approved**.

16
17 Two other candidates, Brian Gullion and Eric Morrison, approved during the 2018 annual sessions, are
18 making progress towards becoming recorded and are recommended to remain under the care of the
19 Recording Committee. Sterling Brown, who was approved at last year's annual sessions, has submitted
20 the required data and college transcripts, completed his psychological evaluation and has submitted
21 several reports on selected readings. He is off to a great start and is recommended to remain under the
22 care of the Recording Committee. This was **approved**.

23
24 Jared Warden, approved as a candidate for recording during the 2019 annual sessions and is currently
25 serving as Youth Pastor at Deep Creek and Union Cross Friends, plus he has a full time job in a law
26 office. In addition to these responsibilities, he became a father in January. He has asked to drop out of
27 the recording process at this time, but intends to return to the recording process in the not-too-distant
28 future. Ministry and Counsel recommended approval of Jared's request. This was **approved**.

29
30 Mike also reminded us that the Revitalization Committee is ready to come to your meeting to work
31 with you to revitalize your meeting. The committee consists of Jake Penley, Clerk and five others. Mike
32 said he has materials, "Light the Fire Ministry," packets to share. Contact Jake Penley or Mike Fulp.
33 They really want to come to your meeting.

34
35 **Committee on Clerks:** David Millikan, presented the report for officers of FCNC for 2022 beginning at
36 the rise of this meeting. They are as follows:

37 Presiding Clerk, Brenda McKinney

38 Assist. Presiding Clerk, Roger Holt

39 Recording Clerk, Mary Anna McCullen

40 Assist. Recording Clerk, David Millikan

41 These officers were **approved**.

42
43 **Outreach Commission Report:** Brent McKinney, Clerk, gave a report using PowerPoint slides
44 (attached to the minutes) to explain the purpose of the Commission. The Commission is under the
45 oversight of the Representative Body with its purpose being to assist in the organization, spiritual life
46 and financial needs of new meetings, existing meetings and small meeting; giving support with loans or
47 gifts for a new building and salary for the pastor and program needs. The Commission can also offer
48 financial assistance to students studying in the area of Christian Vocations, promote evangelism efforts
49 in local meetings and be concerned with the growth of the meetings.

1 From July 31, 2020-July 31, 2021, Outreach Expenditures were as follows:
2 Evangelism: Friends Campus Ministry - \$3,000
3 Church Evangelism: Mileage reimbursement for R. Parsons - \$721.28; Program Committee - \$5,000;
4 Cane Creek Sound System - \$2,796.49; Centre Friends Sound System \$5,000
5 Vocations, Barker Fund: G. Chapman Seminar - \$3,500; Recording Committee - \$533.63; Minister's
6 Association - \$1,800; Vocations General Fund - 0
7 Revitalization Fund: 0
8

9 Balances as of July 31, 2021, were as follows:
10 Church Vocations: General Fund - \$8,334.20; Barker Fund - \$26,597.09
11 Church Extension: \$164,207.68
12 Evangelism: \$8,147.88
13 Revitalization: \$9,623.00 (No longer under Outreach Commission)
14

15 Brent reported that all Monthly Meetings, Quarterly Meetings and FCNC Committees are eligible for
16 grants from these funds. All requests for grants shall be made in writing, accompanied by a completed
17 FCNC "Application for Grant," and submitted to the Clerk of the Outreach Commission. Upon
18 consideration of the grant request, someone designated by the Outreach Commission will notify the
19 requestor of the commission's action.
20

21 If the grant is not for a new meeting, it will be limited as follows: a. Only one grant may be given per
22 project, b. Only one grant may be given to the requestor in a three-year period, c. Grants will be
23 limited to no more than one-half of the estimated cost of the project, d. Grants will be limited to no
24 more than \$5,000, e. No grant, even though approved, will be delivered until the project is underway,
25 f. Emergency circumstances will be considered on a case-by-case basis with approval, discretion vested
26 in the Outreach Commission and the Administrative Oversight Committee, g. Recipients of a grant,
27 other than a new meeting, must agree that should the meeting ever withdraw from the Friends Church
28 of North Carolina, the amount advanced by the Friends Church of North Carolina shall be repaid, less
29 any repayments that have been made by the meeting, or any amounts forgiven by Friends Church of
30 NC.
31

32 A revision of the grant limit to no more than \$5,000 within a three year period from Church Extension
33 Funds to and eliminate "a" and "b" from the guidelines was brought to the body from the floor. After
34 discussion it will be referred back to the Outreach Commission for consideration and brought back to
35 FCNC Representative Body on October 30, 2021. Grant Applications are available. The Outreach
36 Commission report was **approved**.
37

38 **Announcements:** Roger Holt, Reading Clerk, read two announcements from Don Farlow, Clerk of
39 NCYM, Inc. as follows:

- 40 1. The NCYM, Inc., 2021, Annual Meeting will be held Saturday, November 6, 2021, at Quaker Lake
41 Camp. This is the time that, annually, Friends Church of North Carolina, North Carolina
42 Fellowship of Friends, Quaker Lake Camp, North Carolina Friends Disaster Service, NCYM Funds,
43 LLC and NCYM, Inc. review their work and distribution and expenditure of trust fund income for
44 the prior calendar year. The review is focused on assuring that the expenditure of trust fund
45 income is consistent with donor covenants or wishes. The review also includes a sharing of any
46 issues or recommendations from our auditing firm relative to all of these entities for the prior
47 calendar year. Following the November 6th Annual Meeting, the PowerPoint presentations will
48 be posted on the FCNC and NCFE websites.
- 49 2. December 31, 2022, marks the end of the initial five-year terms of the Trustees of Trust Funds
50 following the reorganization of NCYM effective January 1, 2018. While the Trustees form a self-

1 perpetuating Board, with a requirement to have at least one trustee from NCFE and FCNC, they
2 are requesting your input regarding members of either Yearly Meeting that have the skill set to
3 contribute meaningfully to the work of the NCYM Funds Board. This would include individuals
4 who do their own investing, provide active oversight of their investment manager or are
5 engaged in the investing industry. Your suggestions of possible candidates are essential as the
6 Trustees of Trust Funds prepare for establishing the rotation of Trustees beginning January 1,
7 2023. Please share any names with Judith Cranford at the NCYM, Inc. office.
8

9 **FCNC Missions Committee:** In the absence of the Missions Committee Chairperson, Scott
10 Carter, Brenda McKinney presented a report that is posted online. This report on the support
11 FCNC provides through its mission budget with an income of \$59,888.23. The balance on hand
12 as of July 31, 2021, is \$49,338.23. Approximately \$10,000 has been donated thus far through
13 our “Missions Sunday” campaign. Some programs have not been funded this year due to the
14 pandemic limiting our access to foreign countries such as Mexico and Jamaica. MOWA Friends
15 Center is in transition and funds have not been allocated thus far for 2021.
16 A brief update was provided on some of the missions that the FCNC mission’s budget supports
17 are as follows:

18 - Belize - Nikki Holland is Director of Belize Friends School and Oscar Mmbali serves as
19 Pastor. Because of the resurgence of COVID, Oscar had to return from US earlier than
20 planned this summer. Some restrictions and curfews were reinstated which made it
21 difficult for all to attend school and worship.

22 - Africa – Areas of support are FTC, Lugulu Hospital, Turkana, Samburu in Kenya. Friends
23 continue to struggle with medical aid and COVID cases are back on the rise. Funding is
24 desperately needed at Lugulu Hospital and Friends Theological College. New meetings
25 continue to be established in Kenya and Tanzania.

26 Jamaica – (Update from Brent McKinney) The impact of COVID has been significant.
27 Businesses, schools and churches have been closed. The Jamaican government provided
28 no help; therefore, most families have had no household income to pay for essential
29 services such as electricity, water and food. As a result, crime has soared, robberies,
30 injuries and homicides have been frequent occurrences. Strict curfews have been
31 implemented in both urban and rural areas. Folks must be in their homes two hours
32 before dark. The US State Department implemented a “Level 4” warning for travel to
33 Jamaica but recently upgraded that to a “Level 3.” Schools remain closed and churches
34 are beginning to have worship services for a limited number of attenders.

35 Meg Williams and Greater Greensboro Youth for Christ – Meg’s mission field has been in
36 local schools, and they have been mostly closed the past year. She has to improvise and
37 invent new ways to interact with students, such as visiting students in their homes and
38 outdoor settings, reaching many on a personal level that has not been possible before.
39 This has been a blessing.

40 Bob and Hope Carter – Missionaries in Kijabe, Kenya who work with the Moffat Bible
41 College and were able to see the graduation of 26 students this past term. Bob is no
42 longer on the palliative care clinic team at Kijabe Hospital, but he has been teaching and
43 giving lectures to the staff. Like many third world countries, COVID vaccinations have
44 not been available except on a limited bases.
45

46 **Superintendent’s Report** - Mike Wall, Superintendent of FCNC presented a report to the Annual
47 Session. His written report may be found in the reports section on www.fcnc.org. Mike began by
48 saying, “A church that doesn’t fish, is not a church – it’s just a club!” Highlights from this report are:
49 Mike expressed that it has been a challenging pleasure to serve FCNC this past year. He has become

1 more familiar with our churches, and it has been great to talk with people, pastors and clerks. There is
2 both joy and distress as we evaluate where we are.

3
4 One of the main responsibilities of the Superintendent is to work with small churches. More of his time
5 this year has been spent with trying to provide encouragement and help for those churches. The cries
6 he hears mostly are about low attendance, limited, willing workers, and aging congregations. One very
7 bright spot is that very few, if any, congregations have financial problems. Debt is absent, contributions
8 are higher in many places and many churches have considerable bank accounts.

9
10 Another bright spot is our group of pastors. He has met with them in various ways but tried to meet
11 with all in one-on-one sessions. He believes most of our pastors are committed to the Lord and doing a
12 great job. Mike stated that our pastors have been stressed more than anyone else during the past year,
13 and he is available to them 24/7. He searches to recruit pastors and youth leaders and seeks new ways
14 to strengthen them, such as Zooming online to pray together and working to bring pastors wives
15 together.

16
17 Mike says it has been good to have Rusty Parsons, a retired pastor, to assist with church visitation.
18 Between us, we have been able to worship with more congregations this year. Each week, he has
19 emailed a short message with prayer concerns for FCNC to pastors and a representative from each
20 church and posted videos through the Communications/Technology committee on Facebook.

21
22 Mike wants to encourage us to support Los Amigos de Odre Nuevo, the Hispanic church in Yadkinville.
23 They are doing great work for the Kingdom. This might be considered as mission work in our midst,
24 since North Carolina is now 10% Hispanic. The doctrinal portion of Faith and Practice has been
25 translated into Spanish for them.

26
27 Mike says his great concern at this juncture is, that as a whole, we lack VISION and FAITH. Too much,
28 we center on preserving the past, rather than increasing the Kingdom of Christ. Growing the Kingdom
29 was one reason we did a virtual Revival last fall – to inspire us to focus on the Kingdom. When FCNC
30 was formed three years ago, we talked a lot about changing – to minister in a new way to a changed
31 society. Becoming more innovative for the Great Commission is vital! Planting some new churches in
32 high population areas would not be a bad idea, especially if we have youth moving to those areas. As
33 FCNC we have to WANT to do it! We have to accept newcomers where they are, rather than expecting
34 them to adhere to our traditions. We need to practice FAITH – that means that all answers and
35 resources are not up front – but we step out in obedience to the living Christ, trusting Him to bless and
36 provide.

37
38 Pray. Keep a positive attitude. Rather than complaining about something you don't like, roll up your
39 sleeves and help work on something you do like. Reach out to your community. Call him for
40 help/advice etc. when you need it. Remember, we are the Body of Christ ministering in 29
41 communities; we are in this together.

42
43 **Break at 4:25 pm:** The blessing for the evening meal was given by Mike Wall. The Clerk reminded
44 everyone that this was a time to visit the Book Room, view and bid on items for the Silent Auction for
45 Missions, view displays and fellowship with one another. At 5:30 pm a delicious buffet supper was
46 provided by Above and Beyond caterers.

47
48 **Announcements at 6:30 pm:** Brenda McKinney reminded us that on September 11, 2021 the NC
49 USFW annual Gathering will be held at Forbush Friends Meeting with Mac and Berny McDonald from
50 Mesquakie Friends Center in Tama, Iowa, as guest speakers. Registration is now open

1
2 Bob Spencer from Marlboro Friends provided beautiful special music, using the theme, and sang “My
3 Hope Is Built on Jesus Love and Righteousness” and other selections.

4
5 Clerk, Brenda McKinney introduced our guest speaker, Ron Bryan, who is serving in his second term as
6 Friends United Meeting Presiding Clerk. Ron introduced his wife, Joyce, who is here with him. They
7 have been married for 58 years, have five children, ten grandchildren, 16 great grandchildren and more
8 on the way. Ron thanked us for the invitation to come and stated that he traveled in Kenya with Brent
9 and Brenda McKinney in 2007 where he got to know them. He also attended North Carolina Yearly
10 Meeting sessions and spoke ten years ago at Black Mountain.

11
12 Ron said that he worked with Brenda to develop the theme, “My Hope is in the Lord,” noting ongoing
13 concerns, current issues, pandemic and the fact that every church is dealing with the same issues
14 across the nation; young people departed and the need for renewal and rejuvenation. He read the
15 scripture verse, Colossians 1:5 NIV, “The faith and love that spring from the hope stored up for you in
16 heaven and about which you have already heard in the true message of the gospel.” Ron also
17 announced that Nikki Holland, Director of the Friends School in Belize, has had a severe reaction to the
18 second COVID vaccination and is very ill at this time. He asked for special prayer for Nikki. Karla Jay
19 will give more information tomorrow. Ron led us in prayer.

20
21 Ron said that he was reared in the Friends Church, but pushed back in his teens. At age 32, he was sick
22 of running his own business and asked God into his life – joy came to his life, employees came to him
23 and asked what happened. In 2015 Ron retired as Superintendent of Iowa Yearly Meeting and taught
24 religion, a required class, for seven semesters at William Penn University. There he surveyed students
25 in his classes as to how many were raised in a church. Many had not been, or had a grandmother
26 involved. Many had not read the Bible or attended church, and he discovered that he was enough of a
27 grandpa in the classroom to share life experiences with them. By the end of the semester he was
28 getting shockingly honest papers from students opening up sharing real stuff. George Fox had an
29 experience in a cow pasture when trying to find God, “There is one Jesus Christ which can speak to they
30 condition – when heard, my heart did leap for joy.....give all the glory to God.” There have been
31 many changes, divisions in many yearly meetings in recent years and in primitive Christianity the same
32 spirit that convinced and changed the apostles is still available to us. They didn’t have the Bible, just
33 the Spirit to guide and teach them. The same spirit brings us hope today. He gave an example of a
34 living witness of one FUM employee in Kenya, Gentry Agiza, Director of the Peace Team, who was
35 willing to listen to God and be go about His service. Ron told us that Iowa Yearly Meeting no longer has
36 quarterly meetings and there is a lack of knowing each other. He feels this is a great loss and we must
37 have restorative conference and listen to each other, obey and respond. He closed with words from the
38 song, “My Hope is Built on Nothing Less, all ground is sinking sand.....”

39
40 This session closed at 7:33 pm.

41
42 **Saturday, August 14, 2021**

43
44 **Morning Worship** – 8:30 am - Morning Praise with Tommy Sluder, Pastor at Centre Friends Meeting.
45 Tommy used the illustration of real fruit verses artificial fruit; imperfect fruit. Artificial perfect fruit
46 looks perfect, but unreal and not usable. How are we in our Christian lives. Are we imperfect, but
47 usable? God uses us even if we are not perfect.

48
49 **Morning Business** – 9:00 am. Welcome was given by Monica Williams, Chairperson of the Program
50 Committee. She reminded us to sign in again today and that we would be having a boxed lunch with a

1 variety of sandwiches at noon. Brenda received regrets from Ray Luther who had a death in the family,
2 Wade Craven, Billy & Viola Britt, Jan Greene and Judy Ritter for today. Roll call and a reminder to
3 provide reports not previously sent was conducted by Mary Anna McCullen, Recording Clerk.
4

5 Roger Holt, Reading Clerk, reminded us that Statistical reports are needed by September 1st. NCYM,
6 Inc. & NCYM, Inc. Trustees of Trust Funds, need capable nominees for investment aptitude. Friends can
7 share names of prospects with Judith Cranford at FCNC, Inc. office. Offering bowls for donations to our
8 Annual Sessions offering for Quaker Lake Camp and Jamaica are on the registration table out front for
9 those who feel led to give.

10
11 **Administrative Oversight Committee:** Roger Holt, AOC Chairperson, stated that this has been a
12 challenging year for all. After progress with vaccination was made, new variants of the Corona virus
13 have emerged and engulfed us. Roger reported that representatives on the AOC have heard your
14 concern that better communication is needed between FCNC and member meetings, and between
15 meetings themselves. To that end we are asking that each member take the time to list their names,
16 phone numbers, and email address so that information from FCNC about activities taking place within
17 the Yearly Meeting can be sent out to all who can be contacted. This request has been sent to the clerk
18 of your meeting along with a form to collect the information.
19

20 AOC has worked with the Faith and Practice committee on some revisions to move committee
21 structures, makeup and rules to the Administrative Handbook. We feel that the changes will help us
22 restructure committees as needed to facilitate their work while leaving the purpose and duties of the
23 committees in Faith and Practice. The AOC has approved these changes and will be presented by David
24 Briles of the Faith and Practice committee for your approval.
25

26 The year, 2022, marks the 350th Anniversary of Quakers in North Carolina. Don Farlow has reminded
27 us of this significant anniversary and is suggesting that we “plan something special” to acknowledge the
28 beginning of Quakers in the religious life of the state of North Carolina. The AOC would like to form a
29 committee of interested persons to plan this observance. A sign up sheet to volunteer for this
30 committee will be circulated during these sessions. Other yearly meetings may join us for this 350th
31 Anniversary Celebrations.
32

33 A renewal of our highly successful intern program has been discussed and approved by AOC. If you
34 have input or candidates for this program, contact Roger Holt or Brenda McKinney. A draft of the FCNC
35 Directory has been completed and available for you to take back to your meeting for review and
36 correction. One copy is available on the table in the bookroom for someone from each meeting to
37 pickup. Appreciation was extended to David Briles who has compiled this draft and he will speak about
38 your role in correcting and revising incorrect information. David spoke and requested that all
39 information in the directory be reviewed and any changes or corrections be sent to him. The
40 Administrative Oversight Committee report was **approved**.
41

42 **Changes to Faith and Practice:** David Briles presented changes suggested by the Nominating
43 Committee, considered by an appointed committee made up of Roger Holt, Brenda McKinney, Judy
44 Ritter, and David Briles and approved by the AOC. These changes are:
45

46 *Page 57, next to the last paragraph, omit “the chairperson of the yearly*
47 *meeting trustees.” It was felt that this chairperson as well as the chair of the*
48 *Trustees of Real Property would be welcome to come to the AOC meeting to*
49 *make a report, but does not have to be a member of AOC.*
50

1 *Page 58, the first paragraph under The Nominating Committee, omit “ six*
2 *by the Representative Body of the yearly meeting.” To the third paragraph,*
3 *add “Nominating Committee members may not nominate themselves to serve*
4 *on the Administrative Oversight Committee. Omit the paragraph regarding*
5 *Tenure.*

6
7 *Page 59, under The Program Committee, first paragraph, omit everything.*

8
9 *Page 60, omit the first paragraph, Membership, under the Trustees of Trust Funds.*

10
11 *Page 60, omit the Membership paragraph under Finance Committee.*

12
13 The goal is three fold,

- 14 • We want consistency between Faith and Practice and the Administrative Handbook.
- 15 • We want to change the committee structure to adapt to our current smaller size.
- 16 • We want Faith and Practice to describe the purpose of each committee in general terms, and
- 17 have the composition of the committee outlined in the Administrative Handbook.

18 These changes were **approved**.

19
20 **Ministers’ Association:** Tommy Sluder, Chairperson, reported that the Ministers’ Association met at
21 Fort Caswell for a pastor’s retreat in February. We had great speakers and fellowship. The Ministers’
22 Association is trying to establish continuing education opportunities for pastors and hope to present
23 something to the Representative Body in October. Officers will be meeting soon and will be asking
24 meetings for assistance with space, meals, etc. We need to encourage our pastors to participate and he
25 encouraged meetings to pay expenses for their pastors to attend and be a part of this group.

26
27 **Christian Education Commission:** Paul Routh, Chairperson of the Young Friends Committee,
28 reported that they have not had an event during the past year, but they are planning one soon.
29 Information will be coming out online and he encouraged meetings to look for it and encourage youth
30 to attend.

31
32 **Finance Committee:** Jimmy Spaulding, Chairperson, called everyone’s attention to the Financial
33 Obligations report in your packet. Sixty nine percent of the total askings has been received as of July
34 31, 2021, with 18 meetings paid to date and 5 meetings paid in full. So far, expenses have been
35 approximately \$131,000. David Briles, FCNC Treasurer, reported that our financial situation is stable,
36 but not spectacular. Martha Jo Jones asked what “Forgiven for 2021” meant on the report. Jimmy
37 answered that it was forgiveness of askings for 2021 for Thomasville Meeting approved by
38 Representative Body on April 10, 2021, to assist them.

39
40 **Communications/Technology Committee:** Jimmy Spaulding, Chairperson, presented a report in
41 your packet prepared by Jenny Gullion, Social Media Coordinator. A monthly E-News Letter will be
42 presented in the next couple of months that will feature upcoming events, announcements, what we
43 believe, did you know – social media tips, what we support and recent activities and pictures/videos of
44 FCNC events. She encouraged all to send information and pictures to Jenny at:
45 jenny@friendschurchnc.org. Anyone can receive the newsletter by sending her your email address and
46 those attending our Annual Sessions can sign up on laptop on the table at the back or sign up on the
47 sign up sheet today. Paul Routh streamed online a virtual tour of the FCNC website, www.fcnc.org,
48 explaining how to navigate and find any information you need.

1 **Mexico Missions:** Beth Saunders, a member of the Missions Committee, reported on her recent visit to
2 Matamoros Meeting in Mexico. She stated that 150 years ago a New York Quaker married a NC girl who
3 was teaching at Back Creek and they were sent to Mexico by Indiana Yearly Meeting to establish a
4 mission. Matamoros Friends Meeting, part of Mexico Yearly Meeting, formerly supported by North
5 Carolina Yearly Meeting, is a small meeting that is working through Facebook Live and have small in
6 person services due to COVID. It is a small congregation, yet excited to help others. Hilda Martinez is
7 pastor along with her husband, Fernando Vasquez. Members go to a fishing village, called Fantasy
8 Island, every two months with their own mission emphasis. Along with other Friends from Coahuila
9 Friends Meeting, also a part of Mexico YM, they take a dentist, barber and volunteers to carry out
10 ministry activities. They need prayer for strength/stamina. They also need a mid-sized car to be
11 donated. Slides were shown of this work in Mexico. In honor of 150 years of Friends work in Mexico, a
12 letter will be prepared, with the help of Rausie Hobson who speaks Spanish, for approval at the October
13 Representative. Body, to be carried on a visit in December 2021.

14
15
16 **Jamaica Ministries:** Brent McKinney reported on his visit to Jamaica last week, which was the first
17 time he had been able to go since February, 2020. He showed a PowerPoint presentation with pictures
18 of the streets during curfew that begins on Monday a 7:00 pm through Friday, at 6:00 pm on Saturday
19 and 3:00 pm on Sunday. No one is on the road when curfew begins. Jamaica has been hit hard by
20 COVID, with mask still worn every day, even though the death rate has been low. Vaccinations have
21 been low. He spent the first night with the Grapine family in Cascade and visited various meetings
22 including Friendstown, Belfield, Highate and others. Some work is needed at Belfield including roof
23 replacement (approximately \$4000), floor joist repairs and several broken windows need to be
24 repaired. Benches are needed inside Belfield Meetinghouse. He reported that he has 16 Old Mt.
25 Pleasant pews stored in his barn that would cost about \$200 per pew to ship to them. This would be
26 cheaper than buying the wood and building them there. Highgate needs repainting along with roof and
27 other minor repairs. Walter Reynolds, Pastor, reported that \$50 from Branon Friends really helps a
28 great deal. It is hoped that Quaker Life Camp in Jamaica can happen in 2022 with the theme,
29 Forgiveness/Repentance. This is such a meaningful experience for young people there.

30
31 The funeral service for Myra Brady was streamed on line and many Friends in Jamaica watched. Mike
32 Fulp, Jr., made a recommendation from the floor that a minute of recognition and appreciation for the
33 work of Myra Brady as missionary in Jamaica be written and sent to her family and meeting. This was
34 **approved.**

35
36 **Friends Campus Ministry:** Eric Morrison reported that the FCM Board has remained active through
37 the pandemic and continues to operate. The group at NC State in Raleigh has been active throughout
38 this time and is continuing to rebuild with God's blessing. Current committee members are Eric
39 Morrison, David Robinette, Jr., Hugh Spaulding, Rita Mintmier, Paul Routh and Carrie Lineberry Ritter.
40 More committee members are needed. Greensboro has remained active with Beulah Gullion and
41 hoping to start FCM at ASU. Carrie Ritter has resigned as coordinator and Beulah Gullion has been
42 named to take her place as of August 1, 2021. Beulah reported that she hopes to keep going through
43 the pandemic with outdoor meetings, Zoom and online gatherings. Kristen Misenheimer, a junior at NC
44 State, is serving as campus pastor there, ASU hopes to begin in late August and Wilmington hopes to
45 start there soon. There is a beach trip planned in 2021, limited to 20 persons.

46
47 **New Business Committee:** Mike Fulp, Jr., made the following recommendation: In light of the report
48 on Jamaica and in memory of Myra Brady, who spent many years working in Jamaica, the New Business
49 Committee recommended that FCNC pay the approximate \$3,200 to ship the Mt. Pleasant pews Brent
50 McKinney has stored in his barn to Belfield Friends in Jamaica. How do we do this? We ask the Finance

1 committee to do this by seeking offerings from meetings and individuals, and supplement with
2 undesignated Trust Funds. The Finance Committee Chairperson and Treasurer are ok with this. This
3 was **approved**.

4 **Affiliated Organizations**

5 **Kaleo Academy/Barclay College:** Katy Palmer Moran is a recorded minister in Indiana YM and has
6 been with Barclay College since 2016. This is a new project she coordinates through Barclay College in
7 Haviland, Kansas. Kaleo is Biblical Greek word for “to call.” When was the first time you felt God’s call
8 on your life? She saw a need to speak to kids’ lives when such happened to explore such a call. She
9 made a presentation on each of these organizations using videos. Katy invited everyone to view her
10 display and pick up materials.
11

12
13 **Quaker Lake Camp:** Heather Varner, Director of Quaker Lake, made her presentation via live remote
14 online while she and her family were on a short vacation. She had applause for Paul Routh and all he
15 does for us. Paul is the glue that holds Quaker Lake together! She was excited to report that unless
16 something shows up in the next week, she can say they had camp without COVID. They had a
17 wonderful camp season this year. It was like Peter and James fishing in the boat, dropping nets as they
18 had to trust so much this summer; lower return staff, new folks to trust and learn. God’s grace and so
19 much happened. They had 467 campers and 40 volunteers to play, grow, worship, pray, be outside, be
20 together and to know what real connection meant again – a miracle! They had true connections to
21 Christ and each other. Heather was very appreciative of being able to have camp and all who helped.
22 She announced plans are being made for the Pumpkin Festival 2021, but may have to be modified
23 because of COVID dangers.
24

25 **Quaker House:** Kindra Bradley, Executive Director reported that Quaker House continued through
26 COVID, although most of the work is over the phone with people around the world with new challenges
27 for US Service members and consequences of COVID. They have two GI Rights Hotlines with 200-300
28 unique calls per month from service members throughout the world. There are many challenges to
29 claiming Conscientious Objection status, especially when inducted in a US service branch. She invited
30 all to view display and pick up materials.
31

32 **FUM Coordinator of Global Ministries:** Karla Jay told us how her family became Christians two
33 generations ago when Quaker missionaries came to Guatemala in 1902. Jesus came to her because of
34 her grandmother when she received visa to come to the US in Los Angeles to take care of the children
35 after her mother died and her father lost his job. They lived in the Christian Education building of a
36 Latino Friends Church. She feels humbled to work for Friends United Meeting in obedience to serve
37 God.
38

39 There are 37 yearly meetings and associations in ten countries. North America is now a mission field
40 as the majority of Quakers live in other places. We are committed to energize Friends as FUM stretches
41 far and wide across the globe. Karla reported that Nikki Holland, Director of Belize Friends School, is
42 very ill after a horrible reaction to the second AstraZeneca COVID shot. She went to Mexico for
43 treatment and is now back in Belize on complete bed rest. Prayers for her are requested. Karla said
44 she will be giving more details about the current work and situations of the FUM field staff in the
45 workshop on Saturday afternoon.
46

47 **Quaker Archives:** Gwen Erickson, Quaker Archivist & Special Collection Librarian at Guilford College,
48 was not present, but submitted a report which can be found in your packet and on the FCNC website.
49 Brenda McKinney, Presiding Clerk, highlighted items from her report. Guilford College gratefully
50 acknowledges our partnership with FCNC in the care for Quaker records in our region. Online services

1 continue to provide access during this pandemic. The Quaker Archives continues to receive recent
2 records from meetings. Churches are reminded that they can check online at
3 <https://library.guilford.edu/quakerrecords> to see which records are already in the archives and
4 answers to some frequently asked questions. Monthly meetings and individuals can contact
5 archives@guilford.edu with any questions. Due to the large number of groups we partner with and our
6 need to document longevity, paper record submissions are still required at this time. Financial support
7 has been received from FCNC, NCYM, Inc. and several other groups and individual meetings. All checks
8 are to be made payable to Guilford College with "Quaker Archives" noted in the memo line. Your
9 support is essential and gratefully appreciated.

10
11 **12:11 Lunch Break with boxed lunches.**

12
13 **Friends Homes Update:** Sarah Barker, Associate Director for Friends Homes fund raising expressed
14 thanks for all the support for Friends Homes through the years. Brent McKinney stated that Don
15 Farlow is currently Chairperson of the Friends Homes Board of Trustees. We have been involved since
16 its beginning in 1954, which was a vision of Seth Hinshaw for a retirement village near Guilford College.
17 Today there are 600 plus residents and 400 employees living and working on the two campuses. Much
18 new construction is taking place currently at both Friends Homes Guilford and Friends Homes West. A
19 connector bridge and greenway is also underway with a capital fund raising campaign with a goal of
20 \$1.2 million goal coming soon for the bridge and resident assistance. Brent shared slides with pictures
21 of the current construction projects.

22
23 **Memorial Service:** Contentena Quarter conducted the Memorial Service honoring those members of
24 FCNC who have passed away since last Annual Sessions. George Strickland gave a welcome and offered
25 an opening prayer. Gloria Simmons read scripture from Colossians 1:5, I Thessalonians 4: 13-18 and
26 John 11:35. She shared memorial thoughts entitled "A Christian's Hope." Mary Anna McCullen shared
27 the call to remembrance by reading the 69 names of Friends in FCNC who passed away this year. A
28 period of Open Worship was observed and several Friends shared remembrances and thoughts as led
29 by the Holy Spirit. Gloria Simmons, accompanied by her husband, L.L., sang the beautiful song,
30 "Amazing Grace." Before his closing prayer, George Strickland reminded us to rejoice in the death of
31 saints and find memory surrounded by so many examples of faith.

32
33 **Recording/Retiring of Pastors:** Mike Fulp, Ministry & Counsel Clerk presided. Mike recognized
34 Rusty Parsons and Ben Hurley who retired this year with over 90 years of service, which comprised of
35 over 200,000 hours of service serving God where they stood by bedsides, counseled and shared God's
36 word. Appreciation was expressed and certificates were presented to Rusty Parsons with 40 years of
37 service and Ben Hurley with 50 years of service.

38
39 Brent McKinney, Chairperson of the Recording Committee, began by saying that at the beginning of the
40 year three persons made it clear they planned to complete the recording process and it has been a good
41 journey all year long. These candidates have been approved by the FCNC Ministry & Counsel and
42 Representative Body upon recommendation of the Recording Committee that all three have their
43 Spiritual Gifts Recorded as Ministers of the Gospel. A prayer for these was offered by Brent. Hugh
44 Spaulding described the roles and responsibilities of a pastor from John, 21. A pastor delivers words
45 and he delivers care.

46
47 Jake Penley introduced these recording candidates: Tommy Sluder, pastor of Centre Friends and wife,
48 Whitney; Mitch See, pastor of Forbush Friends and wife, Michele and son Wade; and Gloria Simmons,
49 retired from education and beginning her ministry at Branon Friends in September and husband, L.L.
50 Family members and special friends and supporters from their supporting meetings stood with them

1 as they were introduced. Each candidate spoke of “thanks to God” for their call to ministry. Brenda
2 McKinney, FCNC Presiding Clerk, presented Certificates of Recording to each candidate.

3
4 Bent McKinney recalled that three years ago our yearly meeting gave the Recording Committee
5 authority to record spiritual gifts in ministry for music, hospital/nursing home visits etc. as well as
6 pastoral ministry. He called on members of FCNC to seek and encourage those with this calling.

7
8 A reception provided by Centre Friends followed honoring these retirees and newly recorded pastors.

9
10 **2:30pm - Free time, camp activities and optional workshops:**

11 3:00 – Workshop # 1 led by Ron Bryan, FUM Clerk. He presented an overview of where we are
12 now in FUM and what may be in our future.

13 4:00 - Workshop # 2 led by Karla Jay, Global Ministries Coordinator. She talked about the
14 current work of field staff, what they are doing now, and plans in the future. Karla also reported
15 that she had been in contact with Nikki Holland and she is slightly improved.

16
17 **5:30pm - Supper -** A cookout hosted by NC Quaker Men with grilled hamburgers and hotdogs with
18 the trimmings was served. A tub full of steaming roasted fresh corn was a special feature. Everyone
19 enjoyed delicious homemade ice cream for dessert.

20 Beth Saunders announced that the Missions Auction had closed and she had a list of those who won.
21 Please see her to pay for the items and pick them up.

22
23 **6:30 pm - Vespers -** Young Friends and chaperones joined us for Vesper. Four Young Friends led us
24 in singing camp songs.

25
26 Ron Byran, Clerk of FUM and featured speaker for the weekend, was again introduced by Brenda
27 McKinney as he shared a message from our theme of “Hope.” Ron began by welcoming the teenagers to
28 our session this evening and said that he had experience with teenagers as he had five of them at one
29 time, ten grandchildren and sixteen great grandchildren of all ages, currently.

30
31 He spoke again this evening on the theme that God has been guiding us to consider this weekend. He
32 read Colossians 1:5 again as well as Colossians 1:23, “If you continue in your faith, established and firm,
33 and do not move from the hope held out in the gospel. This is the gospel that you have heard and that
34 has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant.” He
35 said in Iowa it has been a long 15 months with all kinds of things thrown at us, and we are in a state of
36 disillusionment. Ron said he does not recall ever going through anything like this before. We need all
37 the hope we can get. Paul reminds in in verse 23 to continue in your faith, established and firm. Ron
38 recalled that he went to the alter and accepted Christ at the age of 12 and again at 17, but he fell away
39 from that. Fifteen years later when everything seemed to be falling apart in his life, he fell on his knees
40 and asked God to come into his life. It stuck this time. He became a pastor and was having a particular
41 struggle, when his pastor said to him, “You believe in Christ, you need to get up and have hope.”

42
43 Ron reminded us that it is not enough to just be a member of a church, or to hear about something. We
44 need to have hope and actually put that hope into motion. That is what Christian faith is all about; we
45 need to get out there and do something. What have we forgotten – who determines our values and
46 relationships? He thanked us for all we do for our yearly meeting. What part of being “a servant” are
47 we fulfilling? We have new frontiers to work for Christ, not ourselves. Be willing that self shall suffer
48 for truth, not truth for self. Ron said that he struggled a lot as a young person, but God did not quit on
49 me and he will not quit on you. Our hope is in the Lord. Can we say that with confidence and truth
50 without doubt? God is at work trust him. Ron closed with prayer.

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Yearly Meeting Message: Brenda McKinney called upon Rausie Hobson, representing Western Quarter, to read the Yearly Meeting Message that she had prepared. This report was **approved** with two suggestions. A completed copy will be posted on line with reports/documents and filed with these minutes.

Announcements:

- Budget Day for AOC and Finance Committee will be on September 18, 2021, at Archdale Friends.
-
- Representative Body will be on October 30, 2021, at Rocky River Friends.
-
- Yadkin Valley Quarter will be responsible for the Summary of Epistles.
-
- Mid-Year Conference will be on April 2, 2022, at Marlboro Friends.
-

The 2021 FCNC Annual Sessions ended on Saturday, August 14, 2021, at 8:00 pm.

A report from the FCNC Treasurer indicated that the total offerings were as follows: Jamaica - \$855.00, with additional \$365.00 designated for shipping pews. Quaker Lake Camp - \$695.00.

Respectfully submitted, Brenda McKinney, Presiding Clerk

Mary Anna McCullen, Recording Clerk