

PINE HILL FRIENDS MEETING
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August 13, 2014

To the Attention of North Carolina Yearly Meeting, Executive Committee, North Carolina Yearly Meeting Ministry and Counsel, Committees, Staff and Monthly Meetings:

Pine Hill Friends Meeting writes to you acknowledging the concerns identified by a letter recently received from Poplar Ridge Friends Meeting. We would like to thank Poplar Ridge for leading the effort to bring these concerns to light. After review of Poplar Ridge's letter, Pine Hill Friends supports the stance Poplar Ridge has taken and recognizes the same concerns as critical to the future of our Yearly Meeting. Pine Hill has a long standing relationship with supporting the Yearly Meeting both spiritually and financially. Through our relationship with the North Carolina Yearly Meeting, Pine Hill has been able to achieve more toward building the Kingdom of God and sharing the message of Jesus Christ. It is through this past success that we see unlimited potential of a united Yearly Meeting.

We would like to outline and share with you what we feel are the barriers that are limiting the ability for our Yearly Meeting to grow and realize God's full blessings. Those barriers are as follows, but not limited to;

1. A basic fundamental disagreement over the authority of the Holy Scripture and the person and work of Jesus Christ.

We believe that Jesus Christ was born of a virgin, lived a sinless life on earth while fully man and fully God. He was crucified and died on a cross for our sins. Jesus Christ was placed in a tomb following his death but arose on the third day from the tomb. He is presently at home in Heaven and at the right hand of God interceding for you and me each day. He is the truth, the life, and the only way to God. You must believe that Jesus is the son of God and that he died on a cross for you and arose from the dead in order to receive Salvation and eternal life in Heaven. Furthermore, we believe that the Bible is

God's holy word and final authority given to us and inspired by the Holy Spirit. Pine Hill Friends affirms and recognizes God's Holy Word as the final authority.

Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." John 14:6

2. A refusal by member meetings within North Carolina Yearly Meeting to recognize the NCYM Faith & Practice as our book of discipline and operating principle.

Understanding that no theological writing takes the place of God's holy word, we believe the NCYM Faith & Practice and Richmond Declaration of Faith provide basic understanding and direction on how we as Meetings and individuals should conduct ourselves. Pine Hill Friends affirms these writings and realize their importance in the ability for our Yearly Meeting to operate successfully. We feel confident that the practices NCYM has expressed in our book of discipline are clear in defining integrity. We feel that Meetings who do not align themselves with our book of discipline should seek other avenues of affiliation.

3. The refusal of member Meetings to pay Askings out of protest.

While we realize some Meetings cannot pay their Askings due to financial hardships, there are other Meetings that refuse to pay their Askings out of protest to NCYM positions on social issues and concerns. Pine Hill Friends has long believed we can do more for the building of God's Kingdom and have far greater outreach by working through a larger body of believers who are Christ centered. The refusal to pay Askings has placed hardship across NCYM for Meetings in good standing to absorb the shortfall in revenue. It is our hope that one day we will have a Yearly Meeting where all Meetings can and will meet their financial obligations.

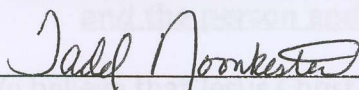
4. NCYM Leadership positions being held by Members of Meetings that do not pay Askings or recognize the NCYM Faith & Practice Book of Discipline.

Pine Hill Friends feels that anyone serving in a Yearly Meeting level leadership role should be a Member of a Meeting that is in good standing both spiritually and financially with the NCYM and its doctrine. The refusal for someone in a leadership role at Yearly Meeting level to affirm the NCYM Faith & Practice brings to light concerns

regarding integrity. We feel anyone who does not affirm the basic guidelines of our faith should not be afforded the opportunity to serve in any capacity at the Yearly Meeting.

Pine Hill Friends celebrates 115 years of loyal service to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, to the Pine Hill community and to the North Carolina Yearly Meeting. Pine Hill Friends has seen a lot of changes through those 115 years. We have grown from thirty-one dedicated charter members meeting in a brush arbor in 1899 to 154 members in 2014, meeting in the comfort of modern buildings. One thing that has not changed during that time is our dedication for seeking God's will through discernment and prayer. It is through that discernment and prayer that we have faith that God is in control and will guide us through these concerns. We value the North Carolina Yearly Meeting and the work of those before us. We know there are aspects of the Yearly Meeting that are working well and those include Quaker Lake, MOWA, Friends Disaster Service, Friends Campus Ministry, USFW, NC Quaker Men, as well as Kenya and Jamaica mission fields. As we go forward Pine Hill Friends will stay aware to the happenings within North Carolina Yearly Meeting and take any necessary steps to secure the spiritual and financial condition of our Meeting. Pine Hill Friends has no plans to leave the North Carolina Yearly Meeting or withhold our Askings. We do anticipate a resolution to our concerns that are both Biblical and that will rebuild integrity across our North Carolina Yearly Meeting. We look forward to working with you in creating a North Carolina Yearly Meeting that is in unison to bring others to know Christ.

Read and Approved by Pine Hill Friends Meeting on Ministry & Counsel
-August 13, 2014


Tadd Noonkester, Ministry & Counsel Clerk

Approved by Pine Hill Friends Monthly Meeting
-August 10, 2014


Bob Ring, Monthly Meeting Clerk