

Society of Friends Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

April 5, 2026

In attendance:

Nate Bowles
Diana Masso
Rick Brice
Kathleen Harmon
Dee Bixler

Virtual attendance:

Marie Eastman
Steve Wellons
Susan Wellons
Avis Wanda McClintock

Called to order 11:20 AM by Nate with a moment of silence

Review and approval of minutes from March 1 meeting

- Minutes approved

Treasurer's report was circulated by email

- Treasurer's report approved

Steve yesterday circulated correspondence

- No questions or discussion

FCNL and AFSC

- No report for April

Ministry and nurture - Diana

- Report
 - Positions of responsibility are from July 1 to June 30
 - Encourage anyone who feels led in spirit to become a member, please let Diana know
 - Current members
 - Diana is clerking
 - Wood Bouldin
 - Susan Wellons
 - Kathleen Harmon
 - Recent discussion held on the meaning of "hold in the Light"
 - Wood is interested in discussions with Greenbrier Valley Friends
 - Proposed meeting May 3 with Greenbrier Valley Friends
 - Secondary plan is to have a potluck with Charleston and Greenbrier Valley period

- Discussion of having quarterly meetings with Greenbrier Valley Worship Group
- Piedmont Yearly Meeting and Fellowship June 5-7 “Gathered in spirit, nourished in nature, nurtured in community” Haw River State Park, Browns Summit, NC. 2026 Retreat and Annual Session

Outreach

- No report

OLD BUSINESS

Jamaica Hurricane relief - Nate

- So far, no action taken
- Contacted agencies, but no response
- Friend’s meeting in Kingston did not have any information
- This week tried to contact an office with Jamaican government – they have accomplished > 95% of everything they wanted to do (per website). Inquired if we make a donation, do we send to this address? No response received.
- Suggest that in the future if we want to help, consider a more immediate response.
- Does Friends General Conference have a contact for Jamaica? (consider for the future)
- The sense of the meeting is to “lay it down” and let it be a lesson for the future to be more prompt with responding to an incident.

Fall Gathering – Nate

- Suggestion – also involve Greenbrier Friends group
- Reflect in the minutes who has agreed here and follow up with Greenbrier Valley
- The venue is pinned down – Cedar Lakes in Ripley - one hour from Charleston with hotel type rooms, restaurant.
- The gathering is Friday – Sunday, September 25-27
- There are many sample formats from previous years. These are in the bookcase in the meeting room.
- Marie, Steve and Susan Wellons volunteer to work on this committee.
- Hoping to get Greenbrier Valley Friends interested as well.

Cabinet

- No report
- A Friend wondered if we need another cabinet.
- A Friend suggested to “lay it down” (purchase of cabinet) and if we identify a specific need to bring it up again and resolve at that time.
- Conclude to lay down this issue for now.

NEW BUSINESS

Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting and Fellowship – Nate

- Having a retreat and annual session in June 5-7 in Haw River State Park in Brown’s Summit, NC.
- We are considering affiliating with this meeting
- Charleston Friends can support attendance and offer same to Greenbrier Valley
- “Gathered in spirit, nourished in nature, nurtured in community”
- Begins Friday at 3 PM, completed Sunday after lunch.

- Marie, Avis Wanda McClinton are interested in attending

Wall hanging – Diana

- “Friends gather here”
- Our meeting room is pretty much 100% dedicated to Friends (rarely used for other purposes)
- Suggestions for display:
 - Hanging over the bookshelf or the literature table
 - Place over the door of the meeting room or put on the back wall so it is visible to the zoom meeting
 - Use a door hanger to hang the sign on the outer door.

Quarterly meeting with Greenbrier Valley – Nate

- This has been done periodically in the past
- Now proposed to be quarterly, alternating Charleston and Greenbrier Valley Worship Group
- Did not discuss who would clerk for worship
- GVWG usually gather, worship, and have fellowship
- Consider picking three months with good weather for a joint meeting
 - Before formalizing, we should make sure that they also wish this.
- Confer with Greenbrier Valley to come to agreement. Nate to reach out to Wood or Deni.

Social Justice Committee - Diana

- Avis Wanda and Rick and Diana are having a meeting to discuss 339 Manumissions and Beyond
- Wanted to develop a broader coalition
- Wanted to approach WV State University about having this on their campus
- Jeff Allen had been the contact with WV Council of Churches

Calendar - Nate

date	activity
April 12	Book discussion – 11 th step
April 19	Open
April 26	Outreach
May 3	Proposal that Charleston meeting go to Greenbrier Valley
May 10	Business meeting
May 17	Book discussion – 12 th step
May 24	Open
May 31	Worship sharing with potluck to follow
July 7-12	FGC in Burlington, VT
Sept 25-27	Fall Gathering

Meeting closed by Nate with a moment of silence at 12:04 PM

Submitted by acting recording clerk, Dee Bixler