

**Philadelphia Yearly Meeting
Monthly Joint Council Meeting
Saturday, April 11, 2026 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM**

Attending: Carol Alpern, Jean-Marie Prestwidge Barch (Clerk, Quaker Life Council), Meg Barney (Recording Clerk), Emily Blanck (Recording Clerk), Kate Bregman, Susan Claggett, Terry Christensen, Carleton Crispin, Burt Dallas, Chuck Devers, Jeanne Elberfeld (Clerk, Administrative Council), Cecilia Filauro (Staff, Executive Administrator), Lisa Stewart Garrison, Robert Greene, Bryn Hammarstrom, Kruskal Hewitt, John Marquette, Chris Mohr (Staff, General Secretary), Nikki Mosgrove (Presiding Clerk), Michael Moulton, F. Salvador Orellana (Staff, Deputy General Secretary), David Park (Staff, Chief Financial Officer), Kathryn Pettus, George Schaefer (Clerk, Nominating Council), Selden Smith (Rising Clerk), Cathy Toner, Deb Wood, and Tom Zematis (Treasurer).

Regrets: Andrew Anderson, Terry Cooke, Jessy Eaby, Bethann Morgan, Debbie Murray-Sheppard, Serita Spadoni

I. Worship

George Schaefer shared a quote by Simone Weil, *“Attention is the rarest and purest form of generosity...”* Friends entered into silent worship.

II. Consent Agenda

Joint Council approved the Consent Agenda. It included minutes from the Property Advisory Committee, PYM Personnel Committee, Granting Committee, Finance and Audit Committee. George requested that committees be reminded to provide the name of the recording clerk or writer of the report in their document.

III. General Secretary Report

General Secretary Chris Mohr reported to the Councils on his activities. He updated the Councils on the DHS Lawsuit. Staff published signs that meetings can put on their property about being covered by the preliminary injunction in the DHS lawsuit. PYM will provide background checks only for volunteers, not paid staff, of Monthly or Quarterly Meetings. The Personnel committee will review the child safety policy since it has been several years since that has been done. The staff will create a template child safety policy for monthly meetings. The staff are working on the programming for One Pamphlet, One Yearly Meeting: *“Patterns of Racial Wounding and Racial Justice in*

Quaker Communities” by Lauren Brownlee and Zenaida Peterson. Annual Sessions keynote speaker Clinton Pettus will support this. Joe and Mandy Kirkenir had a son, Bodhi, and Joe is on leave. Chris shared a new way of meeting with PYM staff leadership to make the meetings more efficient. PYM is putting together a Lilly Endowment Proposal for a fellowship program for 18-27 year olds to do online and in-person gatherings to learn different worship practices, become more deeply connected with distinctive Quaker practices, and share their discernment, leading to a 350th-year anniversary event for PYM in 2031. The Communications team has created an *About Us* page. Friends accepted Chris’s report with gratitude.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

A. Sessions 2026 Ad Hoc Planning Group

Jeanne Elberfeld reported that they’ve been meeting every month since January to set up the schedule and plenaries. They seek people to lead Bible study and an artist in residence. They are in good shape. Friends accepted the report with appreciation.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. New Collaborative: Ending Mass Incarceration

Jean-Marie Prestwidge Barch shared an application for a new collaborative, Ending Mass Incarceration. She asked us whether we want to ask them to report or do anything else. It seems like there may be fruitful collaboration with Quaker Action Mid-Atlantic Region. One Friend was concerned that the group members have understanding of the needs of the incarcerated and their families along with holding lived experience with being incarcerated. It was recommended that they frequently report back to us early and maintain a close connection to make sure the work is sensitive. One friend recommended that they use the funds and other resources that they have access to. Jean-Marie asked us what we want to share with them. We recommend as well to find people who can advise them. **Friends approve creating the Collaborative.**

B. Proposed Sprint on Friends Counseling Service (& Pastoral Care)

Jean-Marie Prestwidge Barch proposed to start a new sprint on Friends Counseling Service. There is a sense of disconnect between the staff and the counseling service. Chris conversed with Janaki Spickard Keeler, the coordinator, and Jean-Marie, and they realized that they’ve not reviewed their work for over 15 years. The service has not been as effective as it could be, and it is important to review the services. The advisory committee for Friends Counseling Services is underpopulated. A friend expressed a story that reflected the need for this

service and another recommended a person for the sprint. **Friends agree to create the sprint. The Council clerks will look for members for the sprint.**

C. At-Large Nominating Seats

George Schaefer reminded the Council that the Administrative Council is responsible to appoint future at-large nominating seats. It is important to bring names forward soon before Annual Sessions.

VI. COMMITTEES

A. Finance & Granting: Inouye Fund Proposal

Jeanne Elberfeld introduced a proposal to redesignate the William Inouye Fund from needy Quakers in Quaker skilled nursing homes to the Strategic Reserve Fund. In a report in June 2023 a recommendation was made to redesignate the fund. There are no longer Quaker nursing homes that qualify. There is no donor restriction. This money comes from the income of the fund.

The two committees recommend de-designating the funds, to use the funds for any purpose. **Friends approve de-designating the funds.**

Then, they first propose to release a portion of the accumulated interest to resolve \$45,000 of overspent emergency grant funding and counseling services from fiscal years 2024 through 2025. John Martin Trust has historically been used to pick up the difference, but a few years ago, PYM did not submit an annual report or request the funds to meet needs. Staff have since requested funds but did not get the full amount. **Friends approve with gratitude paying \$45,000 to cover the overspending.**

The committees suggest redesignating the rest of the funds to the Strategic Reserve Fund designated for Yearly meeting-wide witnesses. Last year, it was highlighted from some Black Friends that we don't designate money for our witnesses. One Friend noted that there are funds for collaboratives, that align with the corporate witnesses, and they don't all get spent. These funds would be available to staff to build programming and work with committees and collaboratives for these funds. The intent is to spend only the income, but governance would have the authority to spend the corpus if approved according to the rules for use of the Strategic Reserve Fund. One Friend wondered about current Quaker institutions that serve older/"seasoned friends" who might need funds. PYM has a lot of grant funds available for elder care. A Friend noted their gratitude for our spirit- and business-minded Friends. **Friends approve**

redesignating the Inouye Fund to the Strategic Reserve Fund for the Yearly Meeting-wide witnesses of addressing racism and climate change.

B. Finance & Granting: Travel & Witness Granting Group (TWGG) Grant to Young Adult Friends

Jeanne Elberfeld shared a minute to support Young Adult Friends through an expansion of the current fund (known as a release from restriction) the Friends Institute Fund. In December 2025, TWGG approved grant funding for PYM Young Adult Friends (YAF), but discovered the grant couldn't be disbursed directly since YAF lacks its own bank account and tax ID, and granting money to PYM itself would be legally inappropriate. They worked with Tom, David and other business-minded Friends. They will release \$4000 that will be held by Finance. The YAFs would provide invoices to reach the funds and would report annually on the funds. A young adult member of Joint Council, Carleton Crispin, who is a YAF co-clerk, expressed how helpful the funds are for their work and shared stories that reflected the importance of funds to be more inviting for their events. The Community Engagement Coordinator will steward funds and ongoing needs. Many expressed their excitement about and support for YAFs, to be connected and “learn their names.” **Friends approve this solution through the Friends Institute Fund.**

C. Governance Advisory Update

George Schaefer shared a report from the Governance Advisory Committee regarding the Joint Council Experiment. This is a first reading. One Friend expressed their support but wants to remember that we set up the QLC and Admin Council to make sure we maintain a diverse set of skills on the Council, people that reflect both of those set of backgrounds. In the new structure, the charge of the nominating committee would need to reflect that and build that range of views. Anyone who has comments should share them with George. It is important to introduce this effectively at and even before Annual Sessions. The Joint Councils will discern on this restructure at the May Council meeting.

VII. **Break and Approve Minutes:** With minor corrections, Friends approved the minutes to this point.

VIII. **SPRINTS**

A. Monthly Meeting/Quarterly Meeting Governance Sprint

Was held for May.

IX. Recap Public Communication

Reannouncing the new collaborative Ending Mass Incarceration

X. News From Around the Yearly Meeting

Anna T. Jeannes celebration will happen today.

Arch Street Meeting House is opening their new exhibits.

The Joint Council completed their work to virtually attend Carter Nash's Memorial