

Quaker Life Council
16 January 2016

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Present: Clerk Lane Taylor, Pamela Draper, Charlie Randall, Connie Webster, Gray Goodman, Amy Taylor Brooks, Jim Herr, Tom Hughes, Bryn Hammarstrom, Cate Marion.

Regrets: George Rubin, Kate Bregman, Deborah Saunders, Shani Taylor (can't do Saturdays), Kri Burkander.

Ex-Officio: Penny Colgan-Davis, Tricia Coscia, Zachary Dutton, Christie Duncan-Tessmer.

Bruce Haines, clerk of Administrative Council and members of the Administrative Council, informed Friends, that the Administrative Council approved \$50,000 for a fund named Strategic Projects Reserve Fund for the Quaker Life Council to use to help its work. It is to help specific Spirit-led projects and not ongoing expenses. \$25,000 is at the discretion of the General Secretary in consultation with the QLC.

Members minuted deep and endless gratitude to the General Secretary and the Administrative Council for their Spirit-led efforts and generosity in helping the work of the Quaker Life Council and Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. .

Members began to examine the various applications for Collaboratives or Sprints.

Penny Colgan-Davis noted that THREADS are under the care of the staff of PYM and cover issues that spread throughout all of the Yearly Meeting. She also suggested the possibility of having the Undoing Racism group be a committee under the care of QLC.

The website is being redesigned so that newsletters and information about various Threads will be easier to read.

QLC names the THREADS and the staff of PYM carry them out and supervise them. QLC can establish a SPRINT to help support a THREAD.

COLLABORATIVES: Procedures for Notification of Approval

- Lane Taylor will notify relevant people of Quaker Life Council's approval of a COLLABORATIVE.
- The contact person will be notified by a welcome letter from the clerk of QLC on behalf of the QLC with a reminder about obligations of being a COLLABORATIVE. The welcome letter is being composed by Tricia Coscia and Marille Thomas.
- A one-page version of the PYM Handbook will accompany the welcome letter as well as a link to the pdf of the entire handbook.
- Other Friends in PYM will be notified of the creation of a COLLABORATIVE through the PYM Website including:
 - MM Newsletter editors
 - PYM newsletter editors

- There will be a separate letter from senior administration.

Collaboratives who wish to affiliate with groups outside of PYM need speak in advance with QLC. (Not official policy of PYM yet)

All Collaboratives need to have deep connections with QLC. It is possible that pairs of QLC members will link with PYM Collaboratives in the future to maintain the close contact.

Examination of Collaborative Applications

It is important that QLC recognize that some of the applications may not be appropriate for COLLABORATIVES but as SPRINTS, THREADS, or as a Committee under the direct care of QLC.

PYM Publications: Requested to become the PYM Editorial Board. It raises the question of who is in charge of PYM Publications. QLC needs to consider deeply the part of the proposal that involves hiring an outside designer for an Outreach Brochure. It is too big a project for the PYM staff designer. The estimate cost of the brochure is \$7,000. The QLC PYM MAPPING SPRINT is NOT ready to make a proposal regarding this application.

Members approved having Clerk Lane Taylor thank the applicants and let them know that she will get back to them with a response when QLC is ready.

Inequality: Environmental, Ethnic, Socio-Economic: Patricia Finley: This proposed COLLABORATIVE seeks to address some of the work of the former PYM Working Group on climate change and inequity. The application clearly explains the projects the members have continued to work on now and the ways they will measure when they have accomplished some of their goals.

Members approved the application enthusiastically.

The approval allows the COLLABORATIVE to reserve rooms at Arch Street and Friends Center, get childcare support, conference call help, as well PYM logistical support. The Inequality Collaborative needs to make a specific and separate request for funding to the QLC.

If the Inequality Collaborative wishes to affiliate with groups outside of PYM, they need speak in advance with QLC.

A concern arose about the manner in which members of the former working group on climate change and inequity related to PYM Staff and the PYM in general. Many members of the former working group are part of the proposed Inequality COLLABORATIVE.

Quaker Life Council members were reminded that sometimes the Light can lead in painful ways. It is important that there be a relation of trust and friendship amongst all of us as we work to act of God's Leadings. Lane will remind the Collaborative to work in a supportive, patient, kind way with PYM staff and with PYM in general.

The clerk discerned that members of the Quaker Life Council affirm the work of the proposed Collaborative but wish for the Collaborative to be in loving community with all parts of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. Financial support of the proposed Collaborative is an issue that needs to be addressed separately. It may help to have a conversation with the relevant Friends over some concerns that have been raised by Quaker Life Council members.

There needs to be very clear expectations from the staff when they interact with collaboratives and sprints about how they are to be treated and what are the limits of what can do.

1.Members approved having clerk Lane Taylor meet the Friends who have applied to form the Inequality Collaborative. Bryn Hammarstrom, Kate Bregman, Gray Goodman, and Penny Colgan-Davis agreed.

2.Members approved having Lane Taylor contact Dana Houghton regarding having 1-2 elders within the Yearly Meeting be present at the meeting.

3.Other members of QLC who wish to be at the meeting should contact the clerk of the council, Lane.

General Secretary Christie Duncan-Tessmer suggested waiting. Climate change and social inequity are issues that affects the entire Yearly Meeting but the proposed Collaborative does not presently represent the entire Yearly Meeting.

PYM Clerk Penny Colgan-Davis suggested allowing the application of the proposed Collaborative to move forward but to continue working on presenting the issue of climate change and social inequity to the entire Yearly Meeting.

The issue and concern of climate change needs more “seasoning” with opportunities of threshing sessions at Yearly Meeting sessions.

One Friend reminded Friends of keeping one’s leading close to the Spirit.

White Privilege Conference: Members considered the best methods for having as many members as possible of the yearly meeting to attend this national conference in Philadelphia. The dates are April 13-17, 2016. If Friends register through Friends General Conference (FGC), the cost will be only \$200.00.

1.Members approved providing a preliminary \$5200 dollars (\$2700 of which comes from the Strategic Projects Initiative).

2.Members approved Associate Secretary Zachary Dutton’s proposal to have the PYM staff get a list of Friends who have registered through FGC. The list will allow the staff to provide financial aid to a collection of applicants who represent a geographic spread throughout the Yearly Meeting.

3.Member approved providing an additional \$2000 (if necessary) to support PYM Friends to attend the White Privilege Conference.

4.Friends who get FULL funding need to agree to speak about their experience throughout the Yearly Meeting.

Regarding getting the information about the conference to members of PYM,

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1.Members approved mass electronic advertising of the conference to all members of PYM with an attachment explaining the process for registering.

2.People who wish financial aid should contact Zachary Dutton, Associate Secretary.

The meeting ended with a period of worship.

Respectfully submitted,

Gray Goodman,
Co-Recording Clerk

Updated Schedule of Meetings Courtesy of Associate Secretary Zachary Dutton

January 16th : Saturday: 11AM at Arch Street the QC will meet with the AC

February 4th: Thursday: 6-9PM Arch St Friends Center, MLK Room

February 20th: Saturday : 11AM- 2PM Reading Monthly Meeting

March 3rd: Thursday: 6-9PM 4th and Arch Friends Center, PYM Conference Room

March 12th: Saturday: 11AM-2PM 4th and Arch

March 19th: Saturday: CONTINUING SESSIONS

April 7th: Thursday: 6-9PM 4th and Arch Friends Center, MLK Room

April 9: Saturday 11 AM to 2 PM, Location TBD

April 14 - 17 16th: Saturday: 11AM-2PM _____ White Privilege Conference

May 5th: Thursday: 6-9PM : 4th and Arch Friends Center, MLK Room

May 21st: Saturday: 11AM-2PM : 4th and Arch

June 2nd: Thursday: 6-9PM: 4th and Arch Friends Center, MLK Room

June 18th: Saturday: 11AM-2PM _____

1st Thursday meetings will be at Friends Center Arch Street.

Every other 3rd Saturday meeting will be somewhere else in PYM (Saturday) and then at Arch Street.

Administrative Council meets at 10 a.m. Quaker Council at 11a.m.

There has been a request to have the next meeting at the same time as Administrative Council. Quaker Council is happy to meet on the 3rd Saturday at 4th and Arch.