

Quaker Life Council Meeting Agenda  
Meeting Date: Saturday, August 20<sup>th</sup>  
11:00 am – 2:00 pm

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**Present: Ex Officio:** Penny Colgan-Davis (PYM Clerk), Zachary Dutton (Associate Secretary of Program and Religious Life), Andrew Anderson (Assistant Treasurer, PYM)

**Members:** Lane Taylor (QLC Clerk), Cate Marion, Kate Bregman, Gray Goodman, George Rubin, Melanie Douty, Bryn Hammarstrom

11:00 am: Worship  
11:05 am: Introductions, Check-ins, and Expectations  
11:30 am: Approval of the Agenda & June 18<sup>th</sup> Minutes  
11:45 am: Sessions De-Brief  
12:30 pm: Break  
12:30 pm: Update/Report from the Program Committee  
12:50 pm: Update/Report from the Funding Committee  
1:05 pm: Update/Report/Decision from the Governance Committee  
1:30 pm: Other Updates from the Clerk  
1:55 pm: Closing Worship

Members began with a period of worship and shared moments of joy in their life.

Clerk Lane Taylor welcomed Friends and reminded members about the timing of the meetings. Funding and Program need members. Currently, there are only 1 member for each of those committees.

**Funding:** Discerns the need for funding based on requests. A clerk is needed for this committee.

**Program:** Receives applications for Sprints and Collaboratives; stewards the Sprints and Collaboratives

**Governance:** Policy issues; names QLC members to committees; stewards members

**Sessions:** Visions and organizes Continuing and Annual Sessions

**Agenda:** Members **APPROVED** the agenda.

**Minutes:** Members **APPROVED** 18 June 2016 minutes with gratitude.

**Sessions De-Brief:** Sessions were uplifting, but at the same time, many aspects of sessions and Friends' responses were very disturbing. Regarding some of the

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negative reactions to the presentation of the Undoing Racism Group, all Undoing Racism Meetings are open, and the next one is on Tuesday 30 August 2016 at Central Philadelphia Monthly Meeting.

PYM Clerk Penny Colgan-Davis expressed deep gratitude for the leadership of the elders and alternate clerks and the daily support they gave her during Summer Sessions.

The 2015 January PYM minute addressed the issue of racism but not the format of how to address racism. All the standing councils will need to steward and move forward with anti-racism work.

True vocal ministry leads individuals to the Inward Teacher. God is not finished with our faith community. God's leadings began a long time ago and continues today.

It is help as a servant-leader to make sure that one has a structure of support in place for each of us when we need support.

A Meeting for Discernment to talk about one's personal spiritual life might be a helpful step in developing understanding and empathy for each other.

George Rubin shared a minute and statement from New York Yearly Meeting regarding racism that members might find helpful.  
(NYYM White Friends Working to End Racism)  
(NYYM Apology to Afro-Descendants)

The national organization, The Fellowship of Friends of African Descent, has established a local Philadelphia chapter. PYM leadership could work and Meet with them.

In considering Summer Sessions, the following queries were posed:

### **Queries**

How do Friends plan carefully about the seasoning of issues to bring forward to the Yearly Meeting business sessions?

Is it useful to use the phrase "racial equity" rather than "undoing racism"?

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How do we educate the PYM community about the basis for racism in the United States? The goal is to open hearts and not close them.

How do we maintain God's presence as we grapple with the issue of racism?

How do we learn to practice empathy with each other's sense of reality?

How do we learn to listen openly and non-judgmentally to others?

How do we find the courage to express our differences in love for each other.

**Update/Report from the Program Committee:** Kri Burkander agreed to serve as a convener for the Youth Program Committee. There is a need for a Young Adult Friend on this committee. On 1 October 2016, there is a visioning session for PYM youth programs at 4<sup>th</sup> and Arch Meetinghouse.

There is large funding request to send YAF's to FCNL conference.

**Update/Report from the Funding Committee:** N/A

**Update/Report/Decision from the Governance Committee:** The committee approved forming a Sprint for creating a Resource Friends program. A Stewardship group needs to provide a structure for providing feedback when "resource" Friends (expert or professional) provide services to PYM at a variety of levels. Is there a way to standardize some of the knowledge that these Resource Friends provide for some common services (such as Religious Education)? The Sprint needs to provide a structure for finding Resource Friends and helping PYM to benefit from their skills and experience. The Sprint will present a recommendation of structure to the QLC. After QLC approval, the Program Committee will be the long term steward for the Resource Friends structure. The Governance Committee is responsible for populating the group. Friends **APPROVED** the proposal.

The Governance Committee recommended to the QLC that an interim Advisory Panel, populated by people skilled in the field of counseling, provide stewardship and guidance of the Friends Counseling Service until a long term structure is

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created for in in the new PYM governance structure. Friends **APPROVED** the proposal.

Lane's sense is that there should be a LGTBQ safety policy and it can be the QLC who establishes a policy. She will work with concerned Friends to present a proposal to the QLC.

Members Minuted thanks to the Spiritual Formation Collaborative in addressing this issue under the old governance structure.

Melanie Douty has asked to serve on the Program Committee.

Next Meeting is Saturday 17 September 2016 at 4<sup>th</sup> and Arch Street Meetinghouse.

Respectfully submitted,

Gray Goodman