

15 October 2016

11:00 am – 2:00 pm

Present: Lane Taylor, George Rubin, Cate, Gray Goodman, Meryl Klieger, Amy Taylor-Brooks, Kate Bregman, Bryn Hammarstrom

Ex-Officio: Triscia Coscia (PYM Associate Secretary Community Engagement), Melissa, Penny Colgan-Davis (PYM clerk), Ron Plough (PYM treasurer),

Agenda

1. Worship

2. Introductions/Check-ins

3. Approval of the Agenda & the August and September Minutes

4. Movement for Black Lives Mailing Updates

5. "Consultations" to Engage the Body with the Councils between Sessions
Break

7. Follow-Up from Sessions Meeting about Minutes of Concern

8. Continuing Sessions Update (Penny & Sessions Committee Members)

9. Closing Worship

1&2. Members began with a period of worship and considered the query: What are thee looking forward to?

3. Members approved August and September minutes with amendments.

One member brought a concern about the lack of attendance at QLC meetings. 6-8 members (non-ex-officio) of the 15 members have been present (electronic or otherwise) for meetings in August, September, and October. Clerk Lane Taylor took the concern under advisement and is in consultation with the Nominating Committee. Most members have been careful to speak to Lane in advance.

Members approved the agenda.

4. Movement for Black Lives Mailing Updates: The packet of information was sent to Monthly Meeting Clerks. Much feedback was appreciative. It was also sent to Quarterly Meeting Clerks. Quarterly Meeting Clerks addressed the issue of undoing racism last Saturday, October 8, 2016. Part of the presentation was to give Quarters ideas on how to start to address

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the issue of racism. The issue of Mass Incarceration may be a concrete first steps for Friends to address.

Penny will meet with Monthly Meeting clerks October 22nd at Providence Monthly Meeting.

5.Attending Continuing Sessions: Members considered how to bring more Friends into attending Continuing Sessions. The next one is 5 November 2016. Continuing Sessions is to help Friends gather around issues that they are passionate about. It is also an opportunity for QLC to inform Friends about the structure of QLC and Administrative and Quaker Life Councils' work.

Perhaps it is time to re-examine the committee's mapping of the new PYM structure and see if adjustments need to be made.

Perhaps there should be a separate, additional gathering for people to learn about and sign up for the various Collaboratives, Sprints, Bridge Contacts, and Councils. Providing delightful food and pleasant conversation should be an important part of the gathering. Make it fun, like a party! It could have some live performance as part of the event.

A monthly meeting with a large amount of space might be able to sponsor the event.

Members agreed to look at the calendar and decide when during the present fiscal year the gathering can happen. The topic can be ENGAGEMENT. Perhaps the Individual Calls to Ministry Collaborative could be a leader on this topic in January 2017.

Triscia Coscia explain that topic has been spoken about amongst the staff.

Members approved having the Program Committee take on this issue and contact the clerk of the Calls to Ministry Collaborative to support their efforts and report to the Council in November. Staff person Triscia Coscia volunteered to make the initial contact.

Members took a break from 12:15-12:25

6. Continuing Sessions Update (Penny & Sessions Committee Members):

The Continuing Sessions Planning Committee came up with the theme of **Spiritual Journeys** and what is the process of following one's leading including how a monthly meeting guides and supports a leading.

There will be a panel of Friends speak about their spiritual journeys. The panel would be clerked by Marcelle Martin, an author of a recent book on spiritual journeys entitled, Our Life is Love: the Quaker Spiritual Journey

The panel members will be Ayesha Imani, Phil Lord, JoAnn Seaver, and a young adult yet to be named.

The session will begin the session with a centering, mindfulness activity.

The gathering will close with singing.

After the lunch break, there will be interest groups making presentations. Collaboratives are invited to sponsor an interest group.

There will be worship followed by a 45-minute business meeting in the Spirit of Friends.

Will there be available "listeners" at the November Continuing Sessions for those who feel the need during the afternoon interest group sessions? An affinity group? There will be available elders but they hold the entire body in the Light.

Penny Colgan-Davis will bring up the issue of support people serve as "listeners"/ with the Planning Committee. Some of these "listeners" could come from the Pastoral Care Collaborative.

Triscia Coscia will speak to George Schaeffer. She will also speak to the Elders about their role. There need to be some Friends of Color as listening resource people.

7. Follow-Up from Sessions Meeting about Minutes of Concern:

Lane Taylor, Jim Herr, and Gray Goodman gathered with 12 others to share insights. Tom Hoopes clerked the session.

Members shared insights but no specific minute of approval given to PYM.

QLC members approved having the Governance Committee compose a procedure for addressing a minute of concern. The Governance Committee will make a presentation at the November QLC meeting.

Ideas on a procedure for addressing minutes of concern:

- send it to an appropriate Collaborative if there is one
- if there is not a Collaborative, QLC needs to address the minute
- send it to monthly meetings for comment
- move to the Quarters for additional response and check to see if the monthly meetings in the Quarter share a similar concern. So the minute of concern needs to go to the monthly meetings in a Quarter to be “tested”.
- hold a regional gathering to address the minute of concern

What if a timely minute of concern needs a rapid response?

-The general secretary and the PYM clerk be allowed to speak for the Yearly Meeting.

-The GS and PYM Clerk would consult with the governing Councils before speaking?

8. Alternate Clerk of Quaker Life Council: Governance Committee recommended having Amy Taylor-Brooks serve as an Alternate Clerk of QLC to serve as Clerk when Lane cannot be at a meeting. **Members approved.**

9. Logistics of Anti-Racism training (via email). Members approved having the clerks of the 3 Councils plan the dates of the training. Lane

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will send an email and wish for members to respond promptly.

November Meeting:

- 1. Governance Committee report**
- 2. State of the Yearly Meeting report from Penny.**
- 3. Listening session with the Supporting Individual Calls to Ministry Collaborative.**
- 4. Respond to the Black Lives document**

Resource Friends: PYM staff are working on this issue.

Members ended with a period of worship.

Respectfully submitted,
Gray Goodman, Recording Clerk

General Secretary Report on Highlights to Councils October 2016

Associate Secretary for Program & Religious Life, Zachary Dutton, and Alternate Clerk, Tom Hoopes, hosted a visioning session on the PYM youth programs. Well over 30 adults engaged in a day-long process with the hoped-for outcomes being:

- Through fun, interactive work, to understand the needs of our children, families, youth, monthly and quarterly meetings through the lens of Quaker testimony.
- To identify crucial next steps for meeting these needs, which our Youth Programs Sprint can pick up as they help develop a new vision, mission and governance process for Youth Programs for consideration by our Quaker Life Council.

Next steps include a sprint and staff planning which will guide decisions on the programming for next year.

The Community Engagement staff held a visioning and working retreat for much of a week to map the points of entry and connection to PYM community, plan and scaffold how they support those connections. They met offsite for one day and then worked in the office for the rest of the

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week with these longer-range tasks, setting aside their daily work. The Community Engagement team includes the Associate Secretary for Program & Religious Life, the Community Engagement Coordinator, the Community Engagement Fellow, the Communications Fellow for Community Engagement and the Care & Aging Coordinator.

Presiding Clerk Penny Colgan-Davis, with support from my office, hosted a gathering for the Clerks and Coordinators of Quarterly Meetings at Abington Meeting. The agenda included sharing the work on addressing racism that is happening at the quarterly meeting level as well as in the meetings of the quarters, sharing other highlights of the quarters and small group conversations on topics named by the participants over lunch. The two topics were: "Is your QTR the right size and shape? What about very small meetings?" and "What gives a quarter meaning?" These meetings are now scheduled to be twice a year, the second week in October and April.

I've been invited to speak in several non-Quaker settings, one opportunity leading to another. The first was the inaugural round table discussion recorded at WHYY and SOMETHINGed by Elizabeth Perez-Luna on themes of "understanding of self and 'other'; experiences with interfaith work; relationship to Philadelphia and the historical roots of the city/ thoughts regarding freedom of religion." This is part of the creative component of The Interfaith Center's Dare to Understand initiative for which they are partnering with WHYY, Mural Arts of Philadelphia and artist, JJ Tiziou. That led to an invitation by the pastor of a Baptist church in West Philly who hosts "NewCORE", New Conversations On Race and Ethnicity to be the conversationalist at the next meeting. I spoke about my own experience with race and racism beginning with childhood, as Conversationalists are asked to do, as well as the path that PYM is on. That meeting ended, differently from the usual I understand, with the other participants gathering around, laying hands on me and praying for me and for PYM. Quite a different experience than the norm at Quaker events. That then led to an invitation to breakfast with Dr. Tyrone Pitts, the former General Secretary of the Progressive National Baptist Convention and former staff for the National Council of Churches on Racial Justice which is taking place next week.

Finally, I've begun conversations with the Presiding Clerk and the Clerks

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of the councils about asking the yearly meeting to release the Presiding Clerk and General Secretary to speak and release statements on behalf of the community as social justice issues relevant to the ministry of our community arise. This will come forward for first responses at Continuing Sessions.

October General Secretary Visits and Connections

- Fairhill Burial Ground Annual Party and Fundraiser
- Superintendants and General Secretaries Gathering in Portland Oregon
- Dare to Understand roundtable at WHY?
- Drumore Quakers' 200th Anniversary Celebration in Drumore PA
- TriQuarter Annual Gathering, for one day, in Medford NJ
- NewCORE Conversations at White Rock Baptist Church in Philly
- Quarterly Meeting Clerks Gathering