

Quaker Life Council Meeting Agenda
Meeting Date: Saturday, July 8th, 2017
11:00 am – 1:00 pm

Present: Gray Goodman, Bryn Hammarstrom, George Rubin.

Ex-Officio: Christie Duncan-Tessmer (General Secretary), Andrew Anderson (Treasurer).

Regrets: Kri Burkander, Melanie Douty-Snipes, Kate Bregman, Cate Marion, Olivia Brangan, Lane Taylor (clerk), Jim Herr, Penny Colgan-Davis (PYM clerk), Zachary Dutton (Associate Secretary for Program and Religious Life), Amy Taylor-Brooks, Ayesha Imani.

11:00 am: Worship

11:05 am: Introductions/Check-ins

11:20 am: Approval of the Agenda & June Minutes

11:35 am: Report from the Minutes of Concern Sprint (*Amy*)

12:00 pm: General Secretary Staffing Report (*Christie*)

12:20 pm: Break

12:30 pm: Threshing a Process to Receive Meeting Concerns

1:00 pm: Institutional Audit/Names of Friends Being Considered for Steering Committee (*Penny & Lane*)

1:20 pm: Program Committee Charge Change (*Program Committee*)

1:40 pm: Mural Arts Request (*Zachary*)

1:55 pm: Closing Worship

Due to the lack of members, Christie provided a modified General Secretary's report and then members ended the meeting.

People being considered to serve on a steering committee for leading an institutional audit of PYM

Name	Meeting	Person/group suggesting	Phone	Email
Kia Booker	Wilmington, DE	FFOAD		
Lynda Black	Chestnut Hill	FFOAD		
Phil Lord	Chestnut Hill	FFOAD		
Barry Scott	Central Phila.	FFOAD		
Jondhi Harrell	Germantown	FFOAD	215-791-0645	jondhi7@gmail.com
tonya thames taylor	Fallowfield	PC-D		
Jada Jackson	Trenton	PC-D		
Sarah Willie LeBreton	Providence	Bruce Haines		
Anthony Stover	Germantown	FFOAD	215-868-9954	astover@verizon.net
Francini Cheeks	Newtown	Rose Ketterer (NJ)		
Harry Forest	Medford	Rose Ketterer		
Michael Lane	Westfield	Rose Ketterer		
Charles Bruder	Westfield	Rose Ketterer		
John Sheffield	Haddonfield	Rose Ketterer		
Laura Boyce	Providence	Bruce Haines		
Laura Pickering-Ford	Harrisburg	PC-D & CD-T		
Carter Nash	Harrisburg	PCD & CD-T		
Nikki Mosgrove	Trenton	CD-T		
Ed Nakawatase	Germantown	PC-D	215-848-1715	Jeanmas302@comcast.net
Penny Colgan-Davis	Germantown	Position		
Christie Duncan-	Chetsnut Hill	Position		

Tessmer				
Lane Taylor	Quaker X	Position		
Bruce Haines	Providence	Position		
Melissa Rycroft	?	Position		
Andrew Anderson	Arch Street	Position		
Ton Hoopes	?	Position		

General Secretary's Report: July 8,2017

-Database: PYM has signed a contract for the company that is creating a database for PYM and the funding has been approved by Administrative Council. The company is Kell Partners, used by AFSC in the past.

-A concern was expressed about how many employees of Kell Partners were people of color? Christie had a conversation with Kell Partners. The company did not have any employees of color at the moment but expressed interest in diversifying its employee population. Christie sent them relevant information and Kell Partners responded with thanks.

Administrative Council approved having Christie setting up a protocol.

-Harrisburg Monthly Meeting minute of concern: Christie spoke to the clerk and apologized for the lack of communication over the reorganization of the youth program. The clerk appreciated the call.

-Greene Street Monthly Meeting minute of concern: Christie spoke with the clerk. It was an extended phone conversation. The meeting was concerned about the suddenness of the announcement of staffing changes and the nature of the changes. Greene Street's minute went forward without having a conversation with Christie ahead of time. Greene Street Monthly Meeting has been addressing the issue of racism far longer than many other monthly meetings within the Yearly Meeting.

Christie and members of the leadership team were planning to worship with members of Greene Street Monthly Meeting on July 16, 2017.

George Rubin shared a letter he read to his monthly meeting and also sent to Penny Colgan-Davis, clerk of yearly meeting, regarding on how to move forward after the March continuing sessions and the June called session.

On a different note, George shared that his meeting has begun an inter-generational midweek meeting for worship on Wednesdays from 6-7 pm. They begin with pizza and fellowship for 30-minutes and then worship together for 30 minutes.

Members ended with worship.

Respectfully submitted,

Gray Goodman, Recording Clerk.

Quaker Life Council Meeting Agenda
Saturday, July 22th, 2017 Friends Center 10:00 am – 1:00 pm

Present: Gray Goodman, Melanie Douty-Snipes, Kate Bregman, Cate Marion, George Rubin, Olivia Brangan, Jim Herr, Bryn Hammarstrom (electronic), Aisha Imani (electronic).

Ex-Officio: Christie Duncan-Tessmer (General Secretary), Penny Colgan-Davis (PYM clerk), Zachary Dutton (Assoc. Secretary for Program and Religious Life),

Regrets: Kri Burkander, Lane Taylor (clerk), Amy Taylor-Brooks, Ayesha Imani

10:00 am: Worship

10:05 am: Introductions/Check-ins

10:20 am: Approval of the Agenda & June Minutes

10:35 am: Report from the Minutes of Concern Sprint (*Amy*)

11:00 pm: General Secretary Staffing Report (*Christie*)

11:20 pm: Annual Sessions Review: Penny

What is on the agenda, what is not and how QLC can support a productive,

loving and satisfying gathering.

11:30 pm: Threshing a Process to Receive Meeting Concerns

This is regarding an issue

12:00 pm: Institutional Audit/Names of Friends Being Considered for Steering Committee (*Penny & Lane*)

12:20 pm: Program Committee Charge Change (*Program Committee*)

12:40 pm: Mural Arts Request (*Zachary*)

12:55 pm: Closing Worship

Members approved Kate Bregstrom and Melanie Douty-Snipes serving as co-clerks. Members held Lane in the light.

Members approved the minutes with revisions

Procedures for Minutes of Concerns:

Concerns of Administrative Council

- a. What to do if a Quarterly Meeting does not meet regularly?
- b. What is the difference between a concern and a leading?

QLC: Step 1 Reflection/Questions

- a. Document assumes concern goes through a Monthly Meeting. What if one is not a member of a meeting but has a leading from God? This is particularly true for many Young Adult Friends. It is also true for elderly Friends who are not near their home meeting any more. Similar for Quaker Collectives that are communities but not monthly meetings (ex: Gathering of Friends of African Descent). Bryn notes that “community” is mentioned.
- b. Add “Friends” to community in step 1.
- c. Make the process of discerning a leading move forward in a timely and not to let it get bogged down. Use the Clearness Committee often.

QLC: Step 2 Reflections/Questions

- a. Add “Friends Community”

- b. Clarify “leading” versus “concern”.
- c. Add case studies to give concrete examples of the procedure.

QLC: Step 3 Reflections/Questions

- a. Too much Quaker jargon: Add a glossary
- b. Define “unity”
- c. Add phrase to include a group alternative to monthly meeting
- d. Simplify the language
- e. Make references to **Faith and Practice**.

QLC: Step 4 Reflections/Questions

- a. If it moves to YM level, the seasoning requires too much work that is already done at the MM and QM level.
- b. Have the minute go to the presiding clerk who takes it to the PYM leadership team (Admin clerk, QLC clerk, treasurer) to determine the next step. Do NOT send it simultaneously to the Clerk, QLC, Admin, Gen Sec simultaneously.
- c. Make the process timely and not bogged down. Have case studies of examples of when the Councils made decisions that helped PYM.

QLC: Step 5: Reflections/Questions: Engage in Ministry

No concerns

General Secretary Report: Christie: Highlights:

-Signed contract for the new PYM database. The company is very responsive. See July 8th informal report for details.

-Staff member has returned from leave and has submitted her resignation effective August 1st.

-AFSC has agreed to aid PYM in posting job availabilities for PYM staffing positions. AFSC will also run a bias awareness training for PYM staff.

-Finances are on track compared to last year. Making connections with donors and others through dinners.

-Burlington Quarter will buy the Burlington Meetinghouse from PYM.

-Christie's reporting at Annual Sessions will include highlights of the past year along with a vision for the future year. Some of the controversies regarding staffing is connected to a transition PYM has been going through for several years. In the past, committees often hired and supervised staff. Under the new structure, the General Secretary manages the PYM in a more traditional administrative role as Chief Executive Officer. The change in the youth program and the internal staff was to make it easier for PYM to meet the needs of PYM members. Christie recognizes the need for more communication so that everyone understands the reasons for any future changes in PYM structure and/program.

Annual Sessions Review: Penny reviewed the schedule for the upcoming annual sessions. Staffing changes and the Upper Dublin issue are not on the business agenda. There will be a proposal for beginning an institutional audit of PYM. There is no completed procedure for minutes of concern yet.

Penny asked if QLC is willing to provide a procedure for creating a response to the Upper Dublin issue?

Members agreed to come under the weight of the conflict between Avis Wanda McClinton and Upper Dublin Monthly Meeting. The QLC will:

- a. **Form a committee to create a case study report based on facts from individuals who have been involved in the Upper Dublin issue.**
- b. **Make a recommendation for helping MM and QM deal with issues of conflict in the future.**
- c. **Populate the committee with QLC and non-QLC members.**
- d. **Coordinate with members of the Institutional Audit steering committee.**

Members: Bryn Hammarstrom, Aisha Imani,

Mission Statement of the Quaker Life Council: As a reminder for members:

With divine assistance, the Quaker Life Council maintains the health and integrity of the community, supports spiritual depth, and cultivates relationships within Philadelphia Yearly Meeting (PYM). The council watches over yearly meeting activities, nurtures meetings, supports corporate work for peace and justice, and brings together members across meetings to collaborate on projects of common interest.

Respectfully submitted,

Gray Goodman, Recording Clerk