

Quaker Life Council Meeting Agenda
Meeting Date: Saturday, 16 September 2017
11:00 am – 2:00 pm

p.1

Present: Gray Goodman, Bryn Hammarstrom, Kate Bregman , George Rubin, Olivia Brangan, Amy Taylor-Brooks, Jim Herr, Melanie Douty-Snipes, Cate Marion, Karen Winner, Ayesha Imani, Lane Taylor (clerk).

Ex-Officio: Andrew Anderson (Treasurer), Penny Colgan-Davis (PYM clerk), Zachary Dutton (Associate Secretary for Program and Religious Life),

Regrets: Christie Duncan-Tessmer (General Secretary), Kri Burkander.

11:00 am: Worship

11:05 am: Introductions/Check-ins

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

11:35 am: Upper Dublin Update (*Penny & Melanie*)

12:20 pm: Break

12:30 pm: Institutional Audit (*Penny*)

1:00 pm: Program/Funding Committee Update (*Jim & Bryn*)

1:30 pm: Sessions Coordinating Clerk Discernment (*Penny*)

1:50 pm: Minutes of Concern Update (*Amy & Gray*)

2:00 pm: Closing Worship

Members began with a period of worship and shared their responses to the question: “What currently fills you with hope?”

Members approved the agenda.

Members reviewed and approved the July minutes.

Upper Dublin Update: Melanie Douty-Snipes: Melanie read the following minute that was presented at Annual Sessions this past summer:

PYM has struggled with several concerns over recent years, in particular the tensions between Avis Wanda McClinton and Upper Dublin Monthly Meeting which culminated in heavy feelings and wounded hearts. Their relationship has suffered an unfortunate outcome. The experience has left a painful wound despite many efforts by representatives of PYM and others to help them reconcile their differences. The failure to find a peaceful resolution leaves us with many questions and challenges. We must accept the consequences as they stand presently. Therefore, out of deep concern for the health of our Yearly Meeting community, we will refrain from further consideration of this during PYM business sessions. Instead, we ask everyone to hold this painful concern in the Light.

The Quaker Life Council feels led to discern further movement of the Spirit in this matter, to hold all involved faithfully, and to do any remaining listening that is needed. Any wisdom or direction that comes from this labor will be presented at the Fall Continuing Sessions. We ask the body to hold in the Light the work of the Quaker Life Council, hold all who have been touched by this matter, and especially hold in love Avis Wanda McClinton and Upper Dublin Monthly Meeting.

Friends serving on the QLC recognize the strong emotions and deep concern that have surrounded this matter. We are reminded that our work towards right living is never done. We are here to be nourished and refreshed by the Spirit and to love one another. When we do this our faith is magnified and we are made whole.

Melanie updated members on what has transpired since the minute was presented at Annual Sessions. An outgoing epistle of PYM made reference to an article in Friends Journal that some felt was biased. She has been in contact with Upper Dublin Monthly Meeting and Avis Wanda McClinton. Melanie asked for the QLC to form a Discernment Team.

Members approved having Melanie Douty-Snipes, Kate Bregman, Jim Herr, Bryn Hammarstrom, Lane Taylor, Amy Taylor Brooks, Aisha Imani, and Zachary Dutton serve on the QLC Discernment Team.

Part of the mission of the team is to hold all members in the conflict (Avis Wanda McClinton, Upper Dublin Monthly Meeting, and PYM in general) in the Light and wrap them in love.

Members mentioned the following organizations who have experience in dealing with conflict resolution:

1. IIRP: International Institute for Restorative Practices.
2. The Ujima Friends Peace Center
3. Jondhi Harrell of PYM.
4. Arlene Kelly of PYM.
5. Dragonfly Partners.
6. The Bucks County Peace Center.

Melanie explained that the both sides need to be comfortable with the make-up of the Discernment Team. The Team will meet with Upper Dublin Monthly Meeting and Avis Wanda McClinton to set up jointly agreed upon goals and expectations including how often communication will be with each party.

It is important that the Team determine:

1. Previous individuals involved.
2. Relevant documents that were created in the past.
3. Method for jointly sharing the documents and information.
4. Who will be the main contacts for each party.
5. How often will the main contacts will communicate with each party.

It is a goal of the QLC to tell a more complete story for PYM than has been done in the past.

Members were reminded that more people might be brought in as Way opens. Melanie explained that one of the goals of the QLC Discernment Team is to rebuild trust. This incident is an opportunity for QLC to gather a collection of conflict resolution methods and facilitators for PYM.

The Team understands that:

1. Abington Monthly Meeting offered Avis Wanda McClinton to apply for membership.
2. Upper Dublin Monthly Meeting has the authority to release Avis Wanda.

QLC will need to set aside funds to pay for professional help.

Multi-cultural Institutional Audit: Penny Colgan-Davis: The Steering Committee is a SPRINT to interview and do reference checks on the group of consultants who have experience with multi-cultural institutional audits. The SPRINT will select the consultant and help the consultant to get started. The Financial Secretary (proper term?) will negotiate the consultant's fees. Penny contacted Fellowship of Friends of African Descent, Undoing Racism Group, Young Adult Friends and various Quarters. The three PYM Councils will suggest names from the following list.

The following names were presented to QLC for the Steering Committee SPRINT.

Allan Austin, Amy Ann Jarrett, Athonly Stover, Arla Patch, Ayesha Imani, Barry Scott, Carter Nash, Charles Bruder, Deb Will, Delia Pitts, Ed Nakawatase, Emily Blanck, Francine Cheeks, Harry Forrest, Howard Van Breeman, Jada Jackson, James Davis, Jeff Rosenthal, John McKinstry, John Sheffield, Jondhi Harrell, Juliana Forbes, Kia Booker, Kimberly Drago Shelton, Laura Boyce, Laura Jackson, Laura Pickering Ford, Lauren Buckalew, Louis LeFebre, Lynda Black, Marille Thomas, Mary Crauderueff, Matt Bradley, Melanie Douty-Snipes, Michael Inskeep, Michael Lane, Miel Medley, Nikki Mosgrove, Noah White, Oskar Castro Phil Lord, Sa'ed Atshan, Sam Lemon, Sandra Boone Murphy, Sarah Willie-LeBreton, Susan Chast, Tim Barnard, Tom Ceresini, Tonya Thames, Taylor, Wanda Wyffels, Gabrielle James.

Members recommended the following Friends to serve on the Steering SPRINT:

- 1. Sarah Willie-LeBreton**
- 2. Sam Lemon**
- 3. Mary Crauderueff**
- 4. Francine Cheeks**
- 5. Lynda Black**
- 6. Sa'ed Atshan**
- 7. Gabrielle James**
- 8. Ayesha Imani**
- 9. Tonya Thames Taylor**
- 10. Ed Nakawatase**
- 11. Carter Nash**
- 12. Laura Pickering Ford**
- 13. Jondhi Harrell**
- 14. Matthew Bradley**
- 15. Jeff Rosenthal**

Program+Funding Committee Update: Jim Herr & Bryn Hammarstrom: Jim Herr reviewed with members the budgeted funding for Collaboratives for the 2017-8. In general, \$19,725 have been budgeted and \$30,275 is still available.

	Beginning Funds	Eco Justice Coll. 1003	FC NL Coll. 1004	Spiritual Formation Coll. 1009	Mid dle East Coll. 1005	First Contact Coll. 1013	Amounts Approved	Remaining Balance
Amount Approved FY2017		6,000	7,300	2,100	0	0		
<u>Available/Budgeted FY2018</u>								
Reps to Meetings	10,000		4,950				4,950	5,050
General Fund	20,000		3,225				5,225	14,775
Ridgway Scheirer Peace & Concerns	20,000	6,050		2,000	2,400	1,100	9,550	10,450
TOTAL AVAILABLE	50,000	6,050	8,175	2,000	2,400	1,100	19,725	30,275
<u>Requested/Recommended FY2018</u>								
		R/S	Reps & GF	GF	R/S	R/S		
Travel & Registration		1,100	2,125	1,000	300	350	4,875	
Meals		100			100	100	300	
PYM Reps to Meetings			4,950				4,950	
Facilities Usage/Materials		2,000	1,100	1,000		250	4,350	
Contracted Services		2,850			2,000	400	5,250	
Total Funds Used		6,050	8,175	2,000	2,400	1,100	19,725	

Jim noted that it is important for the Collaboratives to have contact with QLC at least once a year as a way of measuring the progress of each Collaborative as well as what further support does a Collaborative need. Jim wants the QLC to consider whether the annual review is the responsibility of the Program+Funding Committee or the larger QLC.

Members accepted the report of the QLC Funding Committee and reaffirmed that should be considered a funding group.

Sessions Coordinating Clerk Discernment: Penny: A list of names of possible clerks was generated as well as a list of names of possible members of the Sessions Coordinating Committee.

Members approved of Wade Wright for Clerk of the Sessions Coordinating Committee.

Members approved of Cindy Herr as a member of the Sessions Coordinating Committee.

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Governance Committee Update: Lane Taylor: Lane stated that the Committee is beginning to put together a governance handbook for QLC. She noted that the rise in the number of issues coming before QLC has created a burden for members. The Governance Committee is considering how it can help relieve the QLC of some of the burden. One possibility is to have the Governance Committee address the details involved in a policy issue once the QLC has established a policy. It may be helpful to have some people on Governance Committee who are not members of QLC.

Minutes of Concern Update: Amy Taylor Brooks: Amy updated members on the progress of the Minutes of Concern SPRINT. They took the comments from the QLC and Administrative Council and winnowed them down to one page.

Bringing a Minute of Concern to the PYM Quaker Community¹

- A minute of concern comes to the yearly meeting community through a quarterly meeting.
- The quarterly meeting clerk brings the minute of concern to the yearly meeting community after the concern has followed the processes in Faith and Practice 2017
- The quarterly meeting clerk, brings the concern to the presiding clerk of the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting.
- The clerk will bring the minute to the PYM Administrative Leadership (Council clerks, PYM clerk, and Treasurer)
- The Administrative Leadership will direct the minute to Quaker Life Council, Administrative Council, or both.
- The Council(s) responsible for the minute will season the minute of concern and discern how the minute will be acted upon.
- Transparency and timely feedback about the discernment process is important. Therefore, following initial discernment, a report of Council decisions and actions shall be shared with/sent to the clerks of monthly and quarterly meetings including the content of the minute received and actions proposed at the yearly meeting level.
- Friends then carry forward ministry of the concern with the guidance, support, and accountability of the monthly meeting, quarterly meeting and Philadelphia Yearly Meeting together.
- A timeframe should be established for reporting about the work in ministry and continued discernment should happen regarding whether the calling for this work continues.

¹ This document describes the Quaker practice of raising a minute of concern to the larger PYM community. Refer to Faith and Practice 2017 for the process of discerning and bringing minutes of concern first to monthly and quarterly meetings.

Members ended the meeting with a period of prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Gray Goodman, Recording Clerk

Next Meeting: Saturday, 21 October 2017