



Philadelphia Yearly Meeting

of the Religious Society of Friends

11.20.21 Quaker Life Council Minutes

Eleventh Month 20, 2021 (using Zoom format)

JOINT SESSION OF THE PYM QUAKER LIFE, ADMINISTRATION, AND NOMINATING COUNCILS (10:00-11:00 A.M.)

We were welcomed and clerked by PYM co-clerks Frank and Jean-Marie Barch with 26 other participants. They offered two queries:

- How were the recent continuing session for you? What worked – or didn't?
- How can we get more folks involved in the yearly meeting and its work?
- What would make me want to attend YM sessions and invite others?

Responses included the following points:

- This fall, online registration was difficult, and one person gave up entirely.
- Anthony's outreach to specific meetings may have made a difference.
- Many in MMs feel distant from the YM and see no need to attend or participate.
- Even on this call, there are only 12 besides council leadership and staff.
- Some feel that the YM "isn't doing anything" and isn't moving forward (just stuck on the same old issues).
- Yet the YM's website can be such a source of new and inspiring information.
- Coming to YM used to be uplifting, but recent years have been painful.
- Zoom fatigue and cold meetinghouses are current barriers in this pandemic. Coming back together in person will be a great time of celebrating. Let's take advantage of it.
- The spiritual sessions at YM are wonderful. The business sessions can be rich, too.
- For some there are conflicts with work obligations and other time conflicts. This is especially true for families. The Quaker culture can be exhausting.
- Don't confuse genuine kindness with superficial niceness.
- PYM sessions used to have a family reunion feeling, a reinforcement of Quaker identity.

Visitors were introduced. Tacie Toll, Salem MM, is joining the Administrative Council. Alice Maxfield, Wrightstown MM, and John Christman, Lancaster MM, are joining Nominating Council. Many meetings are struggling to fill their committee and officer positions.

Christie then opened a discussion about our Councils' relationship to MMs, reflecting back on last year's SWOT discussions. How can MMs reach up to the Councils rather than being top-down? Various strategies can be summarized into: "Stop, start, continue, accelerate." What does success look like and what do we need to do to reach it? (Christie then took notes of suggestions.)



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QUAKER LIFE AND ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL, by Zoom, 11:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

CHALLENGES OF SMALL MEETINGS

(See Attachment A: PYM Meetings by Size)

The Administrative Council has been working on small meeting issues, such as property needs, burial grounds, and laying down closed meetings. What can we do to support these congregations and help revivify them before it's too late? Some needs are administrative (property, funding, etc.) and some programmatic (marketing, spiritual nurture, conflict resolution, etc.).

Discussion addressed historic meetinghouses (such as Mount Laurel that is supported by nearby Moorestown MM). Some MMs have several meetinghouses and cemeteries (where the property records and titles may be unclear). Sue mentioned Cropwell where only a few worshippers are still active – their big worry is the cemetery. The YM records of meeting size don't really reflect the actual smaller number of current members and attenders (we need more accurate numbers). The current list is already inaccurate. Huntington MM "is telling the real story."

Outreach could build on middle agers looking for a new welcoming religion or using old meetinghouses as hubs for social or environmental action. Nearby meetings can help rebuild small meetings. The list of meetings could be made by quarter to see where the problems are most severe. "When the MMs are hurting, the QMs are hurting, too." Princeton Meeting was actually laid down for 60 years and then was revived. In Trenton, where there were two meetinghouses, one became a social services center. Hancock's Bridge meetinghouse had only one member for 10 years before it was finally closed – the meetinghouse still exists. Buildings are lost when there is no financial incentive to keep them active. How can we make these "holy sites" centers of activity? Some suitable uses include rentals, weddings, non-profit office space, etc. Some people feel shame when a meeting shrinks – how can we support small meetings sensitively? The spiritual life of a meeting may not be proportional to the statistics.



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QUAKER LIFE COUNCIL (By Zoom 11:45 a.m. to 1:15 p.m.)

Follow-up actions and decisions **are shown in bold.**

PARTICIPANTS – Marge Dawson, Sue Dietz, Steve Elkinton (recording clerk), Robert Greene, Rose Ketterer Anthony Stover (clerk).

Ex Officio Members – Jean-Marie Barch (PYM Presiding Clerk), Christie Duncan-Tesmer (General Secretary), Zachary Dutton (Assoc. Sec. for Program & Religious Life).

Guests – Melissa Rycroft (PYM Rising Clerk).

Absent – Tom Hughes, Guinevere Janes, Susan Kight.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST FORM – **Anthony reminded us to fill out the form for this year** at <https://www.pym.org/administrative-council/conflict-of-interest-disclosure/>.

LETTER FROM THE PROGRAM COMMITTEE

(Attachment B: Program Committee Letter)

Sue walked us through this letter responding to a request from the EcoJustice Collaborative seeking \$12,000 from Program Committee funds. Could some of this come from other funds to support this PYM-wide witness? The YM's FY starts Oct. 1 and the collaboratives prepare annual budgets. Program Committee has oversight of \$30,500 for YM-related activities. This year, \$10,000 is already earmarked for YM representative travel and other related expenses. Program Committee has allocated about \$3,500 for the ECJ's request for now. (Discussion continued below)

YM-WIDE WITNESSES – Christie gave an overview (using Powerpoint graphics) of current YM-wide witnesses that are anti-racism and global climate change. These involve the work itself, being responsible and accountable, policy and procedure, staff support, and funding. The Statement on Climate Change includes five pathways of action, the role of the EcoJustice collaborative, resource friends, reporting on MM actions, capacity building, and programs and events.

For responsibility and accountability, “climate change stewards” will be identified by a new sprint. An effort in “deep listening” is underway to help heal past hurts. The governance handbook helps clarify responsibilities. YM policies currently being developed will address “the YM voice,” communications, and political advocacy. Increased visibility means greater care in carrying out our work. Staff support is key, especially the new Inclusion and Belonging Coordinator. Financial support and fund-raising for YM-wide ministries is being



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launched, especially for needed professional services. The QLC Envelope Funds (now under the care of the Program Committee) supports YM activities (such as collaboratives) and travel for those representing the YM. In addition, QLC has access to some \$7,000 in the Strategic Project Reserve Fund. (Perhaps QLC needs access to additional funds.) Yet in the past, the Envelope Funds have never been fully spent.

Then we continued discussion of the Program committee's letter. Program Committee is nervous funding such a large request. **Anthony asked Sue to share Christie's presentation with the Program Committee. He also requested that the EcoJustice Collaborative refine its request.** We don't have enough information to respond to it. Anthony will find out what all funds are available through QLC. Budgeting could be key to resolving these allocation requests. Could some or all of the Strategic Project money help the EJC, too? How can we be ready for mid-year and late-year requests?

Right now QLC can't make a decision without knowing exactly what funds we have access to. **We will try to resolve this at our December meeting.**

AT-LARGE QUAKER MEMBERSHIP -- Jean-Marie, representing the Ministry & Care Committee, reported that a clearness committee has been formed for the first applicant under the new process. The conversations have been grounded in spirit. There is now a YM website for prospective member applications (and Zachary has been invaluable setting it up). Several applicants are on the horizon. Melissa R. is playing a lead role in this effort. (This effort is the flip side of laying down obsolete meetings. "Notions of belonging" are very different from in past eras.)

REPORTING SCHEDULE FOR QLC COMMITTEES – Anthony displayed the proposed reporting calendar to assure that QLC is hearing regularly from the committees under its care. This schedule will be very helpful for the committees affected. Program Committee reports every month, especially when finances are involved.

MINUTE OF APPRECIATION FOR GEORGE SCHAEFER

(Attachment C: Minute of Appreciation for George Schaefer)

Zachary read the proposed minute. George has faithfully served PYM more than 10 years. **QLC approved the minute.** It will be published on the PYM website and presented at his retirement party. In retirement, George has been approved to serve as a counselor under the Friends Counseling Service.



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CLOSING – Ted Spaeth is unable to join us as a new QLC member. If our maximum number of members is 15, is there a minimum for carrying out business? None are stated in the Governance Handbook. **We need more active members!** Jean Marie announced that her health is doing better after a recent cancer diagnosis. We ended this session by sharing what we are grateful for this Thanksgiving season.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES -- **Steve read the minutes and they were approved with minor changes.**

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Monthly Meetings Ranked by Size (including members, attenders and associate members)

* = associated with a Friends School.

(Source – PYM membership data, October, 2021.)

SUMMARY

<u>Meeting size</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>People</u>	<u>%</u>
More than 200	20	5,426	49 %
200-50	44	4,707	42%
Less than 50	<u>36</u>	<u>1,010</u>	<u>9%</u>
	100 *	11,143	100%

* = In addition, there are 20 groups that were uncounted (preparative, seasonal, or informal worship groups).

<u>LARGE MEETINGS (OVER 200 MEMBERS)</u>	<u>Recorded number of Members and attenders</u>
* Germantown Monthly Meeting 47 W. Coulter Street, Philadelphia, PA 19144	415
* Moorestown Monthly Meeting 118 East Main Street, Moorestown, NJ 08057	373
* Abington Monthly Meeting 520 Meetinghouse Road, Jenkintown, PA 19046	354
* Newtown Friends Meeting PO Box 224, Newtown, PA 18940	341
* Gwynedd Monthly Meeting 110 DeKalb Pike, Gwynedd, PA 1945	314
London Grove Monthly Meeting 500 West Street Road, Kennett Square, PA 19348	299
Swarthmore Monthly Meeting 12 Whittier Place, Swarthmore, PA 19081	289
Downingtown Friends Meeting 800 E. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown, PA 19335	265
Providence Friends Meeting 105 North Providence Road, Media, PA 19063-3595	262



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* Haddonfield Monthly Meeting	255
45 Friends Avenue, Haddonfield, NJ 08033	
Radnor Monthly Meeting	246
PO Box 8196, Radnor, PA 19087	
Chestnut Hill Friends Meeting	237
20 Mermaid Lane, Philadelphia, PA 19118	
Lancaster Friends Meeting	236
110 Tulane Terrace, Lancaster, PA 17603	
Wrightstown Friends Meeting	234
535 Durham Road, Newtown, PA 18940	
Haverford Friends Meeting	225
855 Buck Lane, Haverford, PA 19041	
* Wilmington Monthly Meeting	222
401 N. West Street, Wilmington, DE 19801-2137	
* Central Philadelphia Monthly Meeting	221
1515 Cherry Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102	
* State College Meeting	218
611 E. Prospect Ave., State College, PA 16801	
* Princeton Friends Meeting	214
470 Quaker Road, Princeton, NJ 08540	
Third Haven Friends Meeting	206
405 S. Washington Street, Easton, MD 21601	
 <u>MEDIUM MEETINGS (50-200 MEMBERS)</u>	
Doylestown Friends Meeting	187
95 East Oakland Ave., Doylestown, PA 18901	
Lehigh Valley Friends Meeting	179
PO Box 20827, Lehigh Valley, PA 18002-0827	
Kennett Monthly Meeting	177
PO Box 122, Kennett Square, PA 19348	
Birmingham Monthly Meeting	174
1245 Birmingham Road, West Chester, PA 19382	
Willistown Monthly Meeting	168
PO Box 534, Edgemont, PA 19028	
Richland Monthly Meeting	162
PO Box 444, Quakertown, PA 18951	
Westfield Friends Meeting	161
2201 Riverton Rd., Cinnaminson, NJ 08077	



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* West Chester Monthly Meeting	157
425 N. High St., West Chester, PA 19380	
Yardley Friends Meeting	155
65 N. Main Street, Yardley, PA 19067	
Fallsington Friends Meeting	151
9300 New Falls Road, Fallsington, PA 19054	
* Westtown Monthly Meeting	146
975 Westtown Road, West Chester, PA 19382	
Monthly Meeting of Friends of Philadelphia	144
320 Arch Street, Philadelphia, PA 19016	
* Lansdowne Friends Meeting	138
120 N. Lansdowne Ave., Lansdowne, PA 19050-1914	
Millville Monthly Meeting	131
PO Box 536, Millville, PA 17486	
* Plymouth Monthly Meeting	130
2150 Butler Pike, Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462	
* Media Friends Meeting	128
125 W. 3 rd Street, Media, PA 19063-2498	
* Green Street Monthly Meeting	117
45 West School house Lane, Philadelphia, PA 19144	
* Solebury Friends Meeting	114
PO Box 263, Solebury, PA 18963	
Salem Monthly Meeting	113
PO Box 7, Salem, NJ 08079	
Middletown Monthly Meeting (Lima, PA)	112
c/o Ailes, 310 Park Ave., Swarthmore, PA 19081	
Harrisburg Monthly Meeting	106
1100 N. 6 th Street, Harrisburg, PA 17102	
Medford Monthly Meeting	100
14 Union Street, Medford, NJ 08055	
Woodstown Monthly Meeting	98
PO Box 13, Woodstown, NJ 08098	
Middletown Friends Meeting (Langhorne, PA)	89
453 West Maple Ave., Langhorne, PA 19047	
Merion Friends Meeting	80
615 Montgomery Ave., Merion Station, PA 19066	
Schuylkill Monthly Meeting	80
37 N. Whitehorse Road, Phoenixville, PA 19460-2522	



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Centre Monthly Meeting	79
31 Centre Meeting Road, Greenville, DE 19807	
Concord Monthly Meeting	78
PO Box 23, Concordville, PA 19331	
Crosswicks Friends Meeting	76
PO Box 456, Crosswicks, NJ 08515	
Goshen Monthly Meeting	76
814 North Chester Road, West Chester, PA 19380	
Old Haverford Friends Meeting	75
235 East Eagle Road, Haverford, PA 19083	
* Buckingham Friends Meeting	74
PO Box 76, Lahaska, PA 18931	
Horsham Monthly Meeting	74
PO Box 172, Horsham, PA 19044	
Mickleton Monthly Meeting	74
PO Box 231, Mickleton, NJ 08056-0231	
Hockessin Monthly Meeting	70
1501 Old Wilmington Road, Hockessin, DE 19707	
Camden Friends Meeting	69
122 E. Camden-Wyoming Avenue, Camden, DE 19934	
Chester Monthly Meeting	67
520 E. 24 th Street, Chester, PA 19103	
Seaville Monthly Meeting	66
3088 South Shore Rd., Seaville, NJ 08230	
Norristown Monthly Meeting	64
PO Box 823, Norristown, PA 19404	
* Frankford Friends Meeting	56
Valley Friends Meeting	56
1121 Old Eagle School Road, Wayne, PA 19087	
North Branch Meeting	54
1560 Wyoming Avenue, Forty-Fort, PA 18704	
Greenwich Monthly Meeting	51
PO Box 18, Greenwich, NJ 08323	
Reading Monthly Meeting	51
108 N. 6 th Street, Reading, PA 19601	



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SMALL MEETINGS (LESS THAN 50 MEMBERS)

(Does not include groups that only meet seasonally or occasionally.)

Mount Holly Friends Meeting	47
81 High Street, Mount Holly, NJ 08060	
New Garden Monthly Meeting	47
875 Newark Road, Toughkenamon, PA 19374	
Trenton Friends Meeting	46
142 East Hanover Street, Trenton, NJ 08608	
West Grove Monthly Meeting	46
PO Box 7, West Grove, PA 19390	
Pennsdale Meeting	42
PO Box 166, Muncy, PA 17756	
* Mullica Hill Friends Meeting	41
PO Box 67, Mullica Hill, NJ 08062	
Sadsbury Monthly Meeting	41
1089 Simmontown Rd., Gap, PA 17527	
Quakertown Friends Meeting	39
PO Box 520, Quakertown, NJ 08868	
Kendal Monthly Meeting	37
225 Kendal Drive, Kennett Square, PA 19348	
Newark Monthly Meeting	36
Exeter Friends Meeting	35
191 Meeting House Road, Douglassville, PA 19518	
Upper Dublin Friends Meeting	34
1506 Fort Washington Ave., Maple Glen, PA 19002	
* Atlantic City Friends Meeting	31
437-A S. Pitney Road, Galloway, NJ 08205	
Wellsboro Monthly Meeting	30
c/o 2179 Oldroyd Rd., Columbia Crossroads, PA 16914	
Woodbury Monthly Meeting	30
124 N. Broad St., Woodbury, NJ 08096	
Bradford Monthly Meeting	29
1366 West Strasburg Road, West Chester, PA 19382	
Chambersburg Monthly Meeting	29
630 Lindia Drive, Chambersburg, PA 17201	



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Chester River Friends Meeting	29
PO Box 136, Chestertown, MD 21620	
Newton Monthly Meeting	29
808 N. 8 th Street, Camden, NJ 08101	
Plumstead Friends Meeting	28
4914 A Point Pleasant Pike, Doylestown, PA 18902	
Byberry Monthly Meeting	27
3001 Byberry Road, Philadelphia, PA 19154	
Darby Monthly Meeting	27
c/o Child, 8221 Seminole St., Philadelphia, PA 19118	
Springfield Monthly Meeting	25
1001 Old Sproul Road, Springfield, PA 19064	
Unity Monthly Meeting	25
4371 Waln St. (at Unity Street), Philadelphia, PA 19124	
Fallowfield Monthly Meeting	23
800 Doe Run Road, East Fallowfield, PA 19320	
Makefield Friends Meeting	22
877 Dolington Road, Newtown, PA 18940	
Barnegat Friends Meeting	20
PO Box 32, Barnegat, NJ 08005	
Lewisburg Meeting	17
628 St. George Street, Lewisburg, PA 17837	
Little Egg Harbor Monthly Meeting	16
c/o Kinnevy, 103 Quail Lane, West Creek, NJ 08092	
* Rancocas Friends Meeting	16
c/o 24 Woodside Drive, Lumberton, NJ 08048	
Cropwell Monthly Meeting	15
802 S. Cropwell Road, Marlton, NJ 08052	
Wicomico River Friends Meeting	15
519 Dykes Road, Salisbury, MD 21804	
Mill Creek Monthly Meeting	13
1140 Doe Run Road, Newark, DE 19711	
Southampton Friends Meeting	12
710 Gravel Hill Road, Southampton, PA 18966	
Newtown Square Monthly Meeting	10
c/o Custer, 7 St. Albans Circle, Newtown Square, PA 19073	
Huntingdon Monthly Meeting	3
2206 Cassady Ave., Huntingdon, PA 16652	



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SEASONAL, PREPARATIVE, AND UNCOUNTED MEETINGS AND WORSHIP GROUPS

Appoquinimink Preparative Meeting

616 Main St., Odessa, DE 19730

Arney's Mount Friends Meeting (c/o Mt. Holly Friends Meeting)

Bristol Friends Meeting

235 Market Street, Bristol, PA 19007

Burlington Friends Worship Group

340 High Street, Burlington, NJ 08016

Crosslands Worship Group

25 Crosslands Drive, Kennett Square, PA 19348

Elklands Meeting

c/o Mueller, 279 Hill Rd., Forksville, PA

Foulkeways Worship Group

1120 Meetinghouse Road, Gwynedd, PA 19436

Hancock's Bridge Meeting, NJ

Lewes Worship Group

17024 Cadbury Circle, #236, Lewes, DE 19958

Maiden Creek Meeting, PA

Medford Leas Worship Group

1 Medford Leas Way, Medford, NJ 08055

Middletown Preparative Meeting

513 North Old Middletown Road, Media, PA 19063

Mount Laurel, NJ (c/o Moorestown MM)

Newark Monthly Meeting

c/o 3315 Steele Road, Newark, DE 19702

Parkersville Meetinghouse, PA

Pottstown Area Friends Worship Group

1660 Potter Drive, Pottstown, PA 19464

Southern State Worship Group,

Southern State Correctional Facility, 4295 North Delsea Dr., Delmont, NJ 08314

Towanda Friends Meeting

138 Wesauking Dr., Towanda, PA 18848

Unami Monthly Meeting

East 5th Street, Pennsburg, PA 18073

West Philadelphia Friends Meeting

4718 Windsor Ave., Phila., PA 19143



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ATTACHMENT B – Letter from Program Committee

(undated)

On October 18, the Program Committee reviewed the funding request from EJC for this fiscal year. After discussion, the committee decided to approve funding for line items that seemed straightforward but decided to season some of the larger requests for funding (see attached, green highlight shows items approved, yellow is for seasoning).

The Program Committee recommends that the QLC works in all due haste over the next month to bring staff, PYM Leadership, and EJC together to work on how to meet the requested capabilities and bring clarity to who and how they will be executed. In addition, resolution is needed on how to fund these line items as well as other capabilities required to support the corporate witness on climate change (i.e. do all efforts need to be funded from the \$30.5k allocated to QLC, or will other funds be made available, like the strategic funds that QLC holds)?

Understanding that our new corporate witness is a new road we are all building together, old policies procedures and ways of working may need to change to accommodate this. But this witness is real, it is urgent, and needs to have focus so that our spiritual energy can be set free to work in this world.

In Peace,

Steve Olshevski - Clerk, Program Committee



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ATTACHMENT C -- Minute of Appreciation for George Schaefer

George Schaefer, of Abington Monthly Meeting, has served as Care & Aging Coordinator on the staff of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting for more than ten years. He will retire at the end of 2021. The PYM community has benefited powerfully from George's gifts of eldership, relationship, and teaching ministry. His work has formed the foundation of our approach to addressing conflict, mental wellness, and spiritual deepening through the elaboration of Quaker tradition and Friends decision-making processes. George has ably stewarded the care and support of aging Friends, the Friends Counseling Service, and the burgeoning communities of practice in aging and ministry and care. Throughout his tenure and the PYM community, George has been regarded warmly as a source of wisdom. With deftness, he has lovingly guided many individuals and groups in times of struggle and crisis. The PYM office's mailboxes continually overflow with thank-you cards addressed to George. He has become the ostensible dean of PYM staff, often providing the imperative -- "glue," as it were -- of mutual accountability in the staff community.

We hope that his gifts will continue to benefit us in other ways after retirement. And we hold George's legacy with overflowing affections as he begins his next chapter.

In appreciation,
The Quaker Life Council of PYM