



Philadelphia Yearly Meeting

of the Religious Society of Friends

342nd Annual Sessions

Philadelphia Yearly Meeting

Held by Zoom video Conference

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Thursday, July 28th, 2022, morning

Earlier activities. On Wednesday evening, we listened to the keynote address by Eppchez Yes, Green Street MM. The topic was Repairing our Broken Foundations, and how we, as Quakers, need to be honest and face uncomfortable truths about how some of the past actions of Friends do not reflect our core beliefs. Eppchez asks us to recognize the patterns in these events and to approach this ancestral accountability in ‘nibbles’ so we can make a new script for our future.

Worship. At 9:45 this morning we gathered and settled into worship. An epistle was shared from Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting by Steve Elkinton, Chestnut Hill MM. The theme was: Embrace the Healing Power of Community. Friends felt deeply blessed to meet in person and expressed appreciation and love for the community and the activities they shared together. Although there has been a trend of waning membership and children, they experienced healing and growth, with many Friends becoming more involved with the Yearly Meeting.

Tech overview. Olivia Brangan provided an overview of the technology we will be using today and contacts for assistance if needed.

Introductions. Frank Barch opened the session and introduced himself and Jean-Marie Prestwidge Barch, clerks, the recording clerks, Sally McQuail and Jim Herr, elders Bethann Morgan, Jane Cadwallader, and George Rubin, pastoral care team, George Schaefer and Steve Thompson, council clerks Jim Waddington, Terri Whiteford and Jean-Marie Barch, treasurer Andrew Anderson, rising clerk Melissa Rycroft, and general secretary Christie Duncan-Tessmer.

Visitors. We welcomed Susan Taylor from South Eastern Yearly Meeting attending as a representative from FGC, Carl Malchut joining us from Illinois, Nicole Santos visiting from northern Virginia and FCNL.

Epistle committee nominees. The committee presents Joan Broadfield, Bianca Santini-Dumas and Steve Elkinton as appointments to this committee. Friends approved.

Nominating council report and nominees. Clerk Terri Whiteford noted that two years into a new strategy for mentorship and guidance for our presiding clerks, Frank and Jean-Marie Prestwidge Barch, the rising clerk, Melissa Rycroft will step into that role. A new rising clerk is put forth to take over that position. Terri then presented the report and the slate of nominees, with thanks for those who have completed their terms. Friends approved. Terri noted that Friends Fiduciary invites Friends from PYM to serve on its board. The Clerk expresses our deep thanks for those who rise to serve on our committees.

Treasurer's report. Andrew Anderson presented the report and the 2023 proposed balanced budget for approval. He presented a slide show featuring candy to represent different funds to make it easier to visualize. Linell McCurry noted that revenue has been very stable the last few years. A Friend asked if we are taking a potential recession into account. Yes, as the accounts for our investments use a three-year rolling average for that purpose. A Friend asked why the PYM fund is supporting Arch Street when there is a trust for that purpose. PYM owns the building and much of the spending must come out of our reserve. The general secretary noted that the PYM contribution to Arch Street has been able to be

reduced four of the last five years even as they have expanded their programs and have been able to self-fund more. If our Monthly Meetings are providing income for PYM, why should we also contribute to Arch Street? A Friend asks that we each consider increasing our contributions to the annual fund. Friends approved the budget, with deep appreciation to our treasurer and Linell McCurry, the assistant secretary for business and finance.

Announcements. Friends are invited to stay on this call for fellowship at the rise of meeting between 12:00 and 1:00. This evening's meeting for worship begins at 6:45 with attention to business beginning at 7:30.

Minutes were read, corrected and approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Sally McQuail, recording clerk

Thursday, July 28th, 2022, evening

Worship. At 6:45 this evening we gathered and settled into worship. An epistle was shared from Australia by B Santini-Dumas, coordinator for Concord Quarter. The theme was: right ordering of Friends, sharing and supporting each other, seeking a just world for all, including indigenous people.

Tech overview. Kimani Keaton provided an overview of the technology we will be using this evening and contacts for assistance if needed.

Introductions. Jean-Marie Prestwidge Barch opened the session and offered some simple directions for our gathering together on Zoom. She then introduced herself and Frank Barch, clerks, the recording clerks, Jim Herr and Sally McQuail, elders Bethann Morgan, Jane Cadwallader, and Yelena Forrester, pastoral care team, George Schaefer and Steve Thompson, Council Clerks Jim Waddington and Terri Whiteford, rising clerk Melissa Rycroft and general secretary Christie Duncan-Tessmer.

We had no new visitors this evening.

Administrative Council Report: After a brief introduction telling the function of this council, Jim Waddington, Council clerk, brought us a report. He told us the advocacy policy has been under development for 10 months. We saw a brief video in which Christie Duncan Tessmer gave us a nutshell of this policy concerned with lobbying. We heard we have a great deal of leeway, with the only limitation to avoid claiming to represent Philadelphia Yearly Meeting while telling legislators how to vote on particular legislation. A Friend asked if we should consider a non-tax-exempt body to do actual lobbying about Pennsylvania legislation. Another Friend asked if we should have this issue of lobbying decided by the body as a whole, because it is so vital to the security of our property.

Jim then touched on highlights of the report given in the advance document. He urged us to consider joining the Council. He told us a handful of members of the Council will be visiting Monthly Meetings over the next year. Administrative Council is seeking a clerk for Nominating Council. Jim touched on the wonderful work of the Granting Committee.

Quaker Life Council: Again, after the Clerk briefly explained the functions of Quaker Life Council. Robert Greene, a member of the Council volunteered to answer questions about the report in the advance documents. Robert told us that there are 15 organizations under the purview of the Council. There were no further questions.

Membership and Belonging: The Clerk reminded us that we have been examining the process of membership in the Religious Society of Friends for two years. Melissa Rycroft, rising Presiding Clerk and Clerk of the Membership and Belonging Sprint told us about the adventure and journey represented by the Sprint and published in the report. This is consideration of the “at-large” membership, in addition to the place-based membership associated with Monthly Meetings. Melissa told us that there are many reasons individuals would like to have at-large membership. We have learned a lot about this process as

we have put it into practice. She then referred us to an advance document, pointing out the changes from the previous version of the process. Applicants are told to discuss their connections to other religious bodies with their clearness committees. In response to a question, Melissa told us that there has been one person accepted and others are in the process. A Friend asked about having a travelling minute. Melissa admitted this has not been asked before and will be considered. A Friend questioned whether there will be ways to nourish ongoing relationship with Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. Melissa directed us to the report in which there is a process delineated for annual check-ins. A Friend asked about putting at-large members in touch with each other. Again, Melissa said this is a new idea worth pursuing.

We approved this new way of being a member of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting.

Spiritual State of the Meeting: We then considered the Spiritual State of the Yearly Meeting Report. Ginny Sutton, member of Ministry and Care Committee of Quaker Life Council answered questions. Ginny told us they have been extremely pleased with the increased number of Meetings sending in reports. She pointed out some of the wonderful things that have been happening despite, or perhaps because of COVID. Ginny told us of a gathering last week in response to the shooting death of a Friend's son. She urged us to seek ways to think about anti-gun-violence out of worship. We were urged to look at the Yearly Meeting website on which we can find the spiritual state of the meeting reports from Monthly Meetings.

Minutes were read, corrected and approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Herr, recording clerk

Friday, July 29th, 2022, morning

Worship. At 9:45 this morning we gathered and settled into worship. An epistle was shared from Uganda Friends Church by Joan Broadfield, Chester MM. The landmark conference had the theme of Drawing Nearer to God with Sincere Hearts Fully Trusting in Him. At 10:15, Frank Barch welcomed us and suggested we take a break until rejoining at 10:30. At that time we settled into a brief period of welcoming worship.

Tech overview. Olivia Brangan, Wrightstown MM, provided an overview of the technology we will be using this morning and contacts for assistance if needed.

Introductions. Frank Barch opened the session and offered some simple directions for our gathering together on Zoom. He then introduced himself and Jean-Marie Prestwidge Barch, clerks, the recording clerks, Jim Herr and Sally McQuail, elders Bethann Morgan, Jane Cadwallader, and George Rubin, pastoral care team, Carter Nash and Edy Nolan, council clerks Jim Waddington, Terri Whiteford and Jean-Marie Barch, treasurer Andrew Anderson, rising clerk Melissa Rycroft, and general secretary Christie Duncan-Tessmer.

Visitors: Sara Gada, New Jersey, representative from Friends Publishing Corporation.

Climate Stewards Report: Our first Panel of Climate Witness Stewards, which was started about a month ago, includes PYM Friends well known to many of you. Clerk: Jackie Bonomo, State College Monthly Meeting; Pat Finley, Old Haverford Monthly Meeting; Ruth Darlington, Medford Monthly Meeting; Andrew Anderson, Monthly Meeting of Friends of Philadelphia, and Robert Green, Princeton Monthly Meeting. Jackie provided a report from the group with a slide show. She pointed out the urgency of the situation. We need to work together to deal with the “impending climate catastrophe.” In less than 50 years regions suitable for habitation will move toward the poles. The Stewards will follow these climate action areas: activism, education, reducing carbon footprint, finances, and mourning loss and instilling hope—dispelling overwhelm and building strength to act. Many Monthly Meetings continue to do many things to serve these action areas. The Panel asks us to appoint a liaison from each Meeting to the Climate Witness Stewards. A Friend asked us to pray to get to the nub of reducing carbon footprint. In response to a question about recycling, Jackie and others replied that this is extremely complicated, probably requiring advocacy, but it all comes down to using less. A Friend asked the Climate Witness Stewards to make suggestions for all of us to do the right thing. Another Friend pointed out that it is particularly important to address climate issues through the lens of equity that speaks to the needs of the African American community. In response to a question if there are funds available for people to use alternative energy, Jackie said they are working on it, and Robert Greene told us there are public funds available. Andrew Anderson, as a member of the Stewards, pointed out that we are standing in the need of prayer that our imaginations can be freed. Ruth Darlington urged us to tell the Stewards what we need.

Deep Listeners Report: Clerk Jean-Marie read the following to give us background on this issue.

- Those of you who have attended business sessions during the past several years may remember that about 7 years ago that we united in our intention to turn our attention to issues of racism both within and outside the structure of our yearly meeting. Over these years there have been a variety

of efforts made to move this work forward including a comprehensive offering by Undoing Racism Group (URG) around which the body could not find unity. We know there was much pain and division following on those events.

- A more recent effort included sprints lifted up by Quaker Life Council's Ministry and Care Committee and by Administrative Council. The Ministry and Care Committee Sprint has been working on developing and disseminating the Trust, Truth and Transformation process you heard about in their report. The sprint lifted by Administrative Council, the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Sprint, suggested in their report to continuing sessions last year that a small group of Friends, Deep Listeners, should be brought forward to help address the needed internal healing work.
- We had expected to have a group of individuals to bring to you today who had agreed to serve the Yearly Meeting as Deep Listeners. We do not have these Friends. Over many months, we have sought Friends whose gifts would be useful in the role of deep listener. We have reached out to a number of different people and when they declined this service have asked them to suggest others. As of this time, only one Friend has accepted the invitation to service. We agreed with that Friend that this is not a ministry to be taken up by a single individual.
- The role prescribed for the Deep Listeners was to help the yearly meeting come more fully under the weight of our concerns regarding racism, and to address our need for healing. They were to help as we chart our way toward the blessed community we seek in which each of us is fully embraced as an aspect of the Divine. After considerable discernment in the body and Administrative Council and the work of two Sprints, we as a body agreed that a small group of Friends would help guide our process and work in anti-racism, helping to design the ways in which we would be accountable to one another.
- Your clerks have had many opportunities during these two years to recognize that there are many paths to a single goal. Through the work of many Friends as outlined above, we came to believe that we knew the path. We sought to bring forward a small group of Deep Listeners to help in our work on racism. We thought we knew the path, but Spirit knew differently.
- This work has given us the opportunity to remember that for many of us when we think of the yearly meeting we are thinking about our central structure and the staff at Cherry Street; it is easy for us to forget that the yearly meeting is each of us, each of our monthly and quarterly meetings. We are reminded that the yearly meeting is the communion of 10,000 Friends, over 100 meetings and all the ministries they hold. Sessions, staff, property and finances, and governance are all important aspects of supporting that communion so it can be interconnected and interdependent.
- When we recognize this, we can see more easily that we as a body are doing work to address racism, work to move us toward deeper understanding and right relationship. It appears that as everything has a season, this has not yet been the season to take up the systemic work of the yearly meeting to address racism in our midst in the way we anticipated; it has been the right time to increase the listening and hearing among us that underpins the transformative work we seek to undertake. It has been the right time for a number of individuals and monthly and Quarterly meetings and the yearly meeting governance to explore actions and learnings that are right for this time, not to insist on the actions we pre-judged to be right. With trust in Spirit and increasing trust in one another, following Divine guidance we will continue to move closer to the wholeness we seek. There is much work still to be done. We will need to work to discern way forward while we continue the work underway.
- I urge you to familiarize yourself with the work underway across the yearly meeting by looking at "In the Light", the newsletter of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. (<https://www.pym.org/in-the-light-the-yearly-meetings-print-newsletter/>).

A Friend asked about the training of Trust Circles by the Pettuses, and Jean-Marie urged us to contact the Ministry and Care Committee to be included. Joan Broadfield told us about the work of the Antiracism Collaborative, which will be happy to help Monthly Meetings in this effort. In response to a question, Jean-Marie said we will continue to search for deep listeners. A Friend expressed that our failure to approve the undoing racism report has caused a great rift with Friends of Color. A Friend noted that this is also true of Friends of European descent and asked us to take this into prayer and ask how we are to move forward.

Abington Meeting Reparations Work: Wanda Wyffels told us that this was a road they took, not necessarily what others will take. She then detailed this path, which included recognizing the graves of Benjamin Lay and his wife, and minuting his prophetic vision of truth. There was a reparations committee as a result of Rosemary Bothwell developing a \$35,000 fund for reparations. This committee needed to be laid down, but the effort continued. There was a minute of reconciliation which, after threshing sessions, was approved. This explained what needed to be considered. As a result, there was a new reparations committee. African Americans were encouraged to play a major role in deciding how these reparations were to be spent, based on advice from Greene Street Friends. This included placing grave markers on those of African descent known to be buried in the graveyard. Currently available financing is \$1200.

A Friend reminded us that the Quaker Fund for Indigenous Communities, formerly Indian Committee, has been giving money to Native Americans for over 300 years. Now the fund needs to grow with individual donations. Another Friend urged the Fund for Indigenous Communities to have the money dispersed by those who were hurt.

A Friend told us about efforts in Britain for reparations, and she urged us to consider the Haverford Manumissions Project as a place to start with our own Meetings.

Clerk urged us to follow our own roads, to explore the ways in which we can bring things around right, knowing that there are many, many ways to do that.

Minutes were read, corrected and approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Herr, recording clerk

Friday, July 29th, 2022, afternoon

Worship. At 2:15 this afternoon we regathered and settled into worship. An epistle was shared from Canada Yearly Meeting by Steve Elkinton, Chestnut Hill Monthly Meeting. The theme was love and justice, allowing our Quaker process to change ourselves that we may change the world. At about 2:50, Jean-Marie Prestwidge Barch reluctantly broke worship and suggested we take a break until rejoining at 3:00. At that time we settled into a brief period of welcoming worship.

Tech overview. Kimani Keaton, provided an overview of the technology we will be using this afternoon, and contacts for assistance if needed.

Introductions. Frank Barch opened the session and offered some simple directions for our gathering together on Zoom. He then introduced himself and Jean-Marie Prestwidge Barch, clerks, the recording clerks, Jim Herr and Sally McQuail, elders .O, Ed Solenberger, Bethann Morgan, and George Rubin, pastoral care team, Carter Nash and Edy Nolan, council clerks Jim Waddington, Terri Whiteford and Jean-Marie Barch, treasurer Andrew Anderson, rising clerk Melissa Rycroft, and general secretary Christie Duncan-Tessmer.

Visitors: there were no new visitors from outside of PYM or representing organizations

Westtown Bylaws Change Update: During last Continuing Sessions we did not reach unity on Westtown's request concerning a change in their bylaws, and we agreed to revisit the issue during Annual Sessions. Several weeks ago, Clerks received a request from the Clerk of Westtown School's Board that the bylaws change not be a topic of consideration at this Sessions, because they believe the changes require more seasoning before reconsideration. So, this issue may be considered at a future time determined by the Presiding Clerk if and when there is a request from Westtown's Board.

Small Group Worship Sharing: Jean-Marie Prestwidge Barch brought to our attention that one of the wonderful opportunities involved with gathering for Yearly Meeting Sessions is to meet many Quakers beyond our regular boundaries and get to know them more deeply. In person, there are many times for these interactions. In an effort to enable this here in our Zoom gathering, we broke into small groups. To encourage spirit-led conversations, we were provided seven queries for worship sharing for about 40 minutes. When we returned together, here are some of the understandings that came to us individually:

- Love and support. Acknowledging how hard the work is for equity; how can we support ourselves to be ready for the work.
- How does this (whatever decision is being made) effect those who aren't here?
- In small groups there is a feast of connections. Could YM sponsor opportunities for us to gather—maybe frequently?
- Membership can be a point of pride, but it may have been born out of trauma.
- What is it about the words race and antiracism that cause us to distance from what is amongst us?
- We had a brief break and held in prayer a Friend in the emergency room with her mother.

- Distress that so many Friends have been driven from our midst by the disunity and discord of the past several years. However, a Friend noted that this has been a place to find connections, and sharing of people being honest with each other. How do we encourage people to live into conflict?
- There's a difference between being nice to each other and being kind to each other, which can cause a lot less trauma.

Minutes were read, corrected and approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Herr, recording clerk

Friday, July 29th, 2022, evening

Worship. At 6:45 in the evening, we settled into worship. An epistle was read from Illinois Yearly Meeting by Bianca Santini-Dumas.

These Friends note we felt abundant energy in our covered sessions; our children were dancing. It was a resurrection from the anxiety of the past two years. We approved a standing committee on racial equity and our theme was Creating Unity Despite Separation. We appreciated coming together in person with a strong sense of belonging. The old meetinghouse ties us together as the Spirit ties us with a new sense of being present. The gathering was both in person and by Zoom: the theme was unity. At the end of sessions, the wind quieted and the heat broke and we felt a sense of closeness. We found that unity is joyful. In searching for God's order, we are inspired.

Tech overview. Olivia Brangan provided an overview of the technology we will be using today and contacts for assistance if needed.

Introductions. Jean-Marie Prestwidge Barch opened the session and introduced herself and Frank Barch, clerks, the recording clerk, Sally McQuail, elders Bethann Morgan, Jane Cadwallader, Paul Kirk, Yelena Forrester, Ed Solenberger, and Phil Anthony, pastoral care team, Carter Nash and Edy Nolan, council clerks Jim Waddington, Terri Whiteford and Jean-Marie Barch, treasurer Andrew Anderson, rising clerk Melissa Rycroft, and general secretary Christie Duncan-Tessmer.

Visitors. Bowen and Carol Alpern from New York Yearly Meeting, Robin Moore, from Green Street Meeting, serving as the Executive Secretary of Friends World Committee for Consultation in the Americas.

General Secretary Report- Staff Introductions. Christie Duncan-Tessmer introduced all of the staff of PYM and showed us a graphic of how the departments and individuals work together. Jean-Marie Barch shared gratitude for this group of people.

Coming Under the Weight of a Yearly Meeting Witness: Christie Duncan-Tessmer facilitated a thought exercise: What is something that is common across Friends? What are fifteen ways to prepare for Christmas? What are fifteen ways to pray? What if the only way we had to pray was singing? Off key but joyful and loud!

Are there any ways of praying that would contradict each other at the same time? Singing and silence. Is it a problem when two methods contradict each other? Imagine you are holding a prayer practice, a new one, and see yourself six months from now having held that practice, what helped you maintain it? Now imagine that there is a person who maintains a practice that means so much to them but does not speak to you. How do you support them? Now imagine that your meeting has a new practice. It is something that everyone loves: children, young friends, older people, all races, from all walks of life. Everyone loves doing this new practice together. How does this affect how you live your life? How does your involvement affect how you know your neighbors?

In our Yearly Meeting, we are doing something different: Facilitating shared yearly meeting witness. This is not the work of a committee; in our Yearly Meeting, we are asking everyone to come under the weight of this shared witness. There are three different ways in the last six years that this has come

forward: In 2014 we identified seven strategic directions to work on together, including facilitating Yearly Meeting wide corporate witness. We held a called meeting in 2015 around racism. We came to the conclusion that we are all under the weight of addressing racism. The third occasion was the minute on climate catastrophe. The clerks brought it forward as a question: Are we being called as a Yearly Meeting to do this? In 2021 at continuing sessions, we approved it. What helps you maintain your prayer practice six months later, what could help you maintain this commitment? Know that all 10,000 Friends in PYM are called to this. How do you support people whose method is contradictory to yours? How does holding these Yearly Meeting wide witnesses affect your interior? How does it affect your experience with the religious society of Friends? Are there a few new thoughts about how we hold this together? A friend shared that it is a huge leap of faith and act of love. Another shared that everyone is led by their own heart. People teach us when we open the door. Christie spoke about how we have evolved as a yearly meeting.

We are being asked to be a part of this: individually, as a meeting, as Friends.

General Secretary Report Part II. The Yearly Meeting is inner connectivity between all of us and our meetings. We set up several ways over the years to accomplish this, some worked, some didn't. We have tools to use: contributions, investments, staff who weave these resources together. We are committed to an inclusive and equitable work place.

In our governance, in the next year, everyone will be oriented to these plans. We hope to be in the same room in the next year. We can celebrate the ministry of lunch together.

When you feel disconnect, help us become connected and be part of this leading.

Our faith is walking together.

Announcements. From 9-9:30 this evening, a parent worship sharing group will take place. Look for the Mott memos which include what we will be sharing tomorrow.

Minutes were read, corrected and approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Sally McQuail, recording clerk

Saturday, July 30th, 2022, morning

Worship. At 9:45 this morning we gathered and settled into worship. The Epistle from Britain Yearly Meeting was read by Steve Elkinton. Chestnut Hill MM. The theme of this epistle was the interwoven strands of faith, community and action.

Tech overview. Kimani Keaton provided an overview of the technology we will be using today and contacts for assistance if needed.

Introductions. Frank Barch opened the session and introduced himself and Jean-Marie Prestwidge Barch, clerks, the recording clerks, Sally McQuail and Jim Herr, elders Bethann Morgan, Phil Anthony, Jane Cadwallader, .O, Ed Solenberger, and Yelena Forrester, pastoral care team, Carter Nash and Meg Barney, council clerks Jim Waddington, Terri Whiteford and Jean-Marie Barch, treasurer Andrew Anderson, rising clerk Melissa Rycroft, and general secretary Christie Duncan-Tessmer.

Visitors. No visitors or representatives from other organizations were present.

Meeting Reports

Abington Quarterly Meeting: The Abington quarter report was presented by Kelly Green. The spirit is widely felt in being called to address our ancestors, lifting up our reparations minute in each of our monthly meetings. We strive to face and heal our treatment of indigenous children in the past. We strive to be antiracist. We are blessed by the people who serve our meetings. Youth program committee has held a youth program for 40 years, inspired by those that came through the program and who now lead. A new standing committee, Abington Quarter communications committee, was created to help our monthly meetings set up and maintain their websites to improve our presence in the community and with each other. They are considering the hire of a staff person to serve as a coordinator for the whole Quarter. A friend thanked Yearly Meeting for having quarterly reports. A friend asked about Abington's success in staffing volunteer committee positions. They have 1033 adults in the Quarter and they feel blessed that people are willing to step up.

Calm Quarterly Meeting: The Calm Quarter report was presented by Jody Kinney.

We are a geographically large quarter. Calm meeting was established in the 1700's, and the quarter meets there in the fall. We held our spring meeting in person this year at Camp Swatara, having held virtual programs the previous two years. Our theme was resilience. The Calm Quarter care committee meets monthly. We received a Schumacher fund grant to improve our outreach. A new Quarter website is being created. We would love to have more children, it is currently sparse. A friend pointed out that Abington Quarter has twice as many adults as Calm Quarter. A friend thanked Calm Quarter for the Growing our Meetings program.

Chester Quarterly Meeting: The Chester Quarter report was presented by Joan Broadfield. Our quarters help us to find spirit in community. Seven meetings and a preparative meeting make up the Quarter. There is a focus on community fellowship, holding events with speakers from the community, making sure there is a youth program, and being open to new concerns that arise. Two entities report annually, Stratford Friends School, for children who have learning difficulties and the Delco Peace Center, which is

under the care of Springfield Friends Meeting. The first online and in person quarterly meeting was recently held. Next year plans are underway for events and programs for adults and youths. Fellowship Saturday is an ongoing experiment which will take place in the fall. Friends support residents concerned with trash burning programs to create goals on sustainable methods. We are experiencing more momentum for gun legislation, working together with interfaith groups. Our standing committee of the Quarter is the cohort, and the liaisons from each meeting brings information back to each monthly meeting.

Ujima Friends Meeting: The Ujima Friends Meeting report was presented by Nia Imani Walker. We are a free-standing Friends meeting for worship, service, community and activism. We gather remotely from all over. We honor our ancestors, expectantly waiting for guidance. Our peace center programs include food and clothing sharing, menstrual and mentoring project which includes sending supplies to locations around the world, and freedom schools which took place this past summer at Abington Meeting, taking local youths outside; to the beach, on hikes, berry picking, and spending time at George School. The participants also had a focus on social justice teaching and activism. Ujima is very grateful for support for these programs. A friend loved the programs and encouraged all monthly meetings to support this work. A friend said that the Quaker Life Council has made several donations to Ujima.

Query. Jean-Marie Prestwidge Barch presented a query. When I come under the weight of a concern, it begins with myself. Sometimes it is just for me, to tend and address it. Sometimes it is something to share with a small group. Sometimes it is the quarter, sometimes it is the yearly meeting. What is the difference? Can we nibble at the corners of this query? A friend finds that the spirit will speak to how wide the leading should go.

Announcements. Carter Nash from Harrisburg monthly meeting invites friends to join them for worship at 7:00pm every evening by zoom, which is followed at 7:30 by worship sharing and fellowship.

Minutes were read, corrected and approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Sally McQuail, recording clerk

Saturday, July 30th, 2022, afternoon

Memorial Meeting for Worship. At 2:00 this afternoon we regathered and Friend George Schaefer gave us a brief overview of the process for our time of worship for memorial. We settled into worship, out of which Friends shared tenderly remembrances of those who have passed. At 2:49, George closed our worship.

At 3:00, we settled into brief settling worship.

Tech overview. Melinda Wenner Bradley provided an overview of the technology we will be using this afternoon, and contacts for assistance if needed.

Introductions. Jean-Marie Prestwidge Barch opened the session and offered some simple directions for our gathering together on Zoom. She then introduced herself and Frank Barch, clerks, the recording clerks, Jim Herr and Sally McQuail, elders Ed Solenberger, Bethann Morgan, and Jane Cadwallader, pastoral care team, Carter Nash and Edy Nolan and general secretary Christie Duncan-Tessmer.

Visitors: there were no new visitors from outside of PYM or representing organizations

Young Adult Friends Epistle: We would normally hear the Epistle from Young Adult Friends tomorrow with the final reading of the Epistle from these sessions. Young Adult Friends have requested to share their epistle today as they plan to take the day away tomorrow. So, we heard the epistle as read by Naomi Madaras, Chambersburg MM, and elder Yelena Forrester.

We received this epistle with deep gratitude and appreciation for their bravery.

Outgoing Epistle First Reading: Joan Broadfield gave us the first reading of our epistle. We heard a few suggestions for changes and additions.

Minute of Concern – Indian Boarding School Policies: Clerk Jean-Marie told us the First Contact Reconciliation Collaborative brought us a minute of concern on *Establishing a Federal Commission to Examine the Truth and Provide Healing on Indian Boarding School Policies in the US*, originally composed and approved by Salem Quarter's Indian Affairs Committee. This minute supports the establishment of a Federal Commission to examine the truth, and provide healing on, Indian boarding school policies in the US. The minute was read by the recording clerk, Jim Herr, and is attached to these minutes.

Another minute, from the Quaker Fund for Indigenous Communities, in support of the minute from the First Contact Reconciliation Collaborative, was read by recording clerk Sally McQuail. This minute is also attached to these minutes.

Clerk recognized that there are challenges of wording here. It is not the role of the whole body of Yearly Meeting in Sessions to approve minutes of bodies within the Yearly Meeting. Instead, she asked us if we are called to unite with these two minutes.

Many said they are strongly in favor of these minutes and wish to approve them.

A Friend noted that these two minutes can be presented to our legislators in their upcoming time of recess. We want to exhort public statements on this matter.

A Friend asked us to unite with the minutes and act on them.

A Friend from the First Contact Reconciliation Collaborative urged us to move quickly on this matter.

A friend lifted up that to offer an approval from the Yearly Meeting in Sessions would be disrespectful to the Yearly Meeting groups that prepared and approved these minutes. We do not have the authority to approve or disapprove God's truth brought through another body. If we instead state that we unite with it, we elevate the truth which is far more powerful.

Friends at this session united with the imperative to establish a Federal Commission to examine the truth, and provide healing on, Indian boarding school policies in the US and endorsed the two minutes brought to the Yearly Meeting. We exhort friends in PYM and beyond to act on this concern in ways that are open to them. This is a small step toward acknowledging and taking responsibility for the complicit actions of PYM.

Minutes were read, corrected and approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Herr, recording clerk

Sunday, July 31st, 2022, morning

Earlier Activities: Last evening we heard keynote addresses by Kelsey Borrowman and Dr. Jonathan Lazar who talked about building a more inclusive community by considering physical accessibility and tech accessibility in our meetings. This morning, from 9:45 to 10:30, we had a wonderful gathering for worship together all across the yearly meeting by Zoom. There were 202 participants listed by Zoom, but this included many blocks with more than one person, and 21 meeting houses with uncounted participants therein.

Worship. At 10:45 we settled into a brief period of welcoming worship.

Tech overview. Olivia Brangan, Wrightstown MM, provided an overview of the technology we will be using this morning and contacts for assistance if needed.

Introductions. Frank Barch opened the session and offered some simple directions for our gathering together on Zoom. He then introduced himself and Jean-Marie Prestwidge Barch, clerks, the recording clerks, Jim Herr and Sally McQuail, elders Bethann Morgan, Yelena Forrester, and Ed Solenberger, pastoral care team, Carter Nash and Edy Nolan, council clerks Jim Waddington, Terri Whiteford and Jean-Marie Barch, treasurer Andrew Anderson, rising clerk Melissa Rycroft, and general secretary Christie Duncan-Tessmer.

Visitors: Steve Willet from Britain YM

Minutes correction from yesterday afternoon: There had been questions about the piece of yesterday's minutes that dealt with consideration of the minutes brought to us from the First Contact Reconciliation Collaborative and the Quaker Fund for Indigenous Communities. A corrected version of that section of the minutes was read and approved.

Quaker Organization Reports:

Friends General Conference: Susan Taylor told us that FGC would like to hear stories about how we have been touched by the organization. She provided us with a link to offer these stories. Susan told us FGC is considering ways to interrupt power structures to allow for growth. The Gathering in 2023 will be in Oregon, with hybrid portions. A Friend urged Susan to take back consideration of making the tech more accessible. She assured us she would take back the messages from both the keynote addresses. More information from Friends General Conference can be found in the advance reports.

Friends World Committee for Consultation Section of the Americas: Executive secretary, Robin Mohr, shared slides to explain FWCC and the Section of the Americas. She urged us to visit the FWCC website. In March, 2023, there will be opportunities for Friends from all over the Americas to meet in

Greensboro, NC, or by Zoom. Robin told us that there are openings for representatives from PYM and we were urged to talk to the Nominating Council.

Quaker Earthcare Witness had provided a report. In response to a question, Pat Finley told us that they interact a great deal with the Ecojustice Collaborative, as well as with 4 other yearly meetings. The organization provides funding to projects. A Friend noted that QEW has a wonderful curriculum for children on their website. Pat also told us the website also offers workshops.

Friends Committee on National Legislation: Lynn Oberfield told us she is one of the representatives from PYM. There is considerable consideration on the YM policy on lobbying. Lynn pointed out a couple of bills that are of interest. She urged us to join the annual meeting in November. Nicole Santos, a representative from FCNL, told us about issues related to Native Americans. A Friend asked if there are considerations of State-based lobbying. Lynn told us FCNL is national, but there is a lot of collaboration with PYM on the State level. A Friend asked about FCNL's actions around voting rights and police violence. Lynn told us FCNL does a great deal of work on education to help people work on these issues at a State-based level.

Epistle Reading: Steve Elkinton read the epistle. Friends raised questions about the reporting on the plenary speaker, Eppchez Yes. There were a couple of suggestions for changes. There was consideration of good intentions bringing harm, and this was added. Clerk Jean-Marie urged us to release what we are given by Spirit into the body. She pointed out that our covenant is to listen to the movement of the Spirit in the body. And she noted being troubled by a pattern of push back and accommodation. Understanding that the Epistle Committee will make some final corrections, the epistle was approved.

Appreciation: Clerk Frank urged us to show appreciation to our wonderful staff, to the Elders who have supported everyone, our Pastoral Care team, and the so-called Clerks group. Frank also wanted to thank all who have shown great love and support, particularly to the Clerks. Melissa Rycroft, Rising Clerk, pointed out some of the wonderful things our Clerks have originated and the exceptional grace and patience they have shown. She thanked them for the gifts they have given us all.

Minutes were read, corrected and approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Herr, recording clerk

Appended Documents

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PYM Discernment and Expectations

Preparing for Annual Sessions in the following ways will help us listen better as we seek unity wherever the spirit leads.

Read advance documents provided by the Yearly Meeting

An important part of the process of corporate discernment takes place earlier, in the committees of PYM, which are charged with seasoning an issue before it is brought to sessions for consideration. Advance material might include background information - or information regarding the process, resources, and methods used to season and develop recommendations. If available prior to the start of sessions, reports are provided electronically after online registration and posted on the PYM website. Reports are made available in hard copy on the resource table on the day of sessions.

Before Annual Sessions, Friends need to read and reflect on the information provided to form thoughtful questions or insights that help lead the PYM body to unity.

Listen attentively and be spiritually receptive during sessions

All those attending PYM sessions should seek to release whatever preferences or opinions they may have about an issue before it is considered. Friends should be open to the leading of the spirit, as they would in a meeting for worship. The goal of this decision-making process is to discern God's will for PYM regarding the topic under consideration. Unity, rather than unanimity, is the goal. We consider ourselves to be in unity when we share in the search for Truth, when we listen faithfully for God, when we submit our wills to the guidance of spirit, and when our love for one another is constant.

The Quaker business method is a discipline that requires all present to be focusing on worship and discernment of the matter at hand. All members share responsibility for maintaining a spirit-led meeting, for the wise use of the allocated time, and for a steadfast search for Truth.

When led to speak, be brief without repeating messages of other Friends

Friends who feel led to speak should ask to be recognized by raising their hands; in Zoom business meetings Friends should raise their electronic hand. Once recognized by the Clerk, either wait for an usher to bring a microphone to you when in person, or, when on Zoom, unmute yourself. When offering spoken ministry, try to sum up what you have to say in as few words as possible. Speak simply and audibly. Each contribution should be heard in silence. Audible indications of approval or disapproval of spoken ministry are not part of Quaker practice.

After each contribution, allow a pause for reflection. If you have tested your ministry and feel that the PYM body needs to hear it in order to reach unity, then follow your leading to raise your hand and wait to be called on to speak.

The clerk listens for the sense of the meeting in the insights Friends offer and determines when to propose it to the group. After the sense of the meeting is proposed, members may offer suggestions for its improvement. The clerk then tests the sense of the meeting by asking whether the group can unite with it. If so, the meeting records the sense of the meeting the decision in a minute that is immediately read back to and approved by the meeting.

In Zoom meetings, we will only use the chat to communicate with Tech Support as will be outlined in our tech introduction at the opening of each session. For example, if someone is unable to share a message verbally, the message should be typed in the chat directly to an appointed staff person who will share that message (with attribution) when recognized by the clerk. We avoid split attention and parallel processes by not using the chat as a way to communicate in discernment.

Session Minutes

In March 2108, PYM agreed to return to the practice of documenting, reading aloud, and approving minutes during sessions. The traditional practice creates a sense of spiritual unity within the PYM body and eliminate delays in communicating information and decisions.

PYM session attendees play an important role in ensuring that we have sufficient time for discussion and discernment during sessions. Faith and Practice reminds us, "the meeting community itself uses defined processes to reach clearness in decisions and to guide the actions of the meeting. Spirit-led decision making is central to the life and health of the meeting."

Exercise self-discipline when minutes are read for approval. Refrain from expecting to hear any specific comment included. Reflect on whether the minute is good enough and adequately captures the essence of the deliberation and sense of the meeting. Do not expect the minutes to be precisely as you would have drafted them. If you are clear that a change is necessary, raise your hand and wait to be called on by the clerk.

The PYM Sessions Minutes Sprint team was tasked by the Administrative Council in 2018 to develop and distribute training and orientation materials that can be used by monthly meetings, quarterly meetings, as well as at PYM Sessions. The Minutes Sprint plans to invites monthly meetings to participate in identifying the training and orientation materials needed and will solicit input on best practices in use today and ask for input on draft materials.



Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Epistle & Epistle Committee

The Epistle

An epistle is a letter sent to Quakers throughout the world that describes how the spirit moved among the body during Annual Sessions. The epistle is a religious document that seeks to summarize the spiritual experience of Annual Sessions. The audience includes other yearly meetings and Quaker organizations outside of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. Philadelphia Yearly Meeting's outgoing epistle is distributed through a variety of mechanisms, including Friends World Committee for Consultation.

- The epistle should be readable by Friends of all ages and around the world. The epistle writers are encouraged to “use shorter sentences and simpler vocabulary” as explained by Emily Provance: <https://quakeremily.wordpress.com/2017/08/04/writing-for-all-readers/>
- The epistle writers should use a Readability Calculator to analyze the epistle during the writing process: https://www.online-utility.org/english/readability_test_and_improve.jsp
- The epistle will not be perfect. We are imperfect people with imperfect processes. The epistle should be “good enough” to convey a sense of how the spirit was present in Annual Sessions.
- The epistle is not minutes. The recording clerks take minutes and Friends are encouraged to read those for documentation and decisions of the body in session.
- The epistle is not a travelog. The epistle should not contain a recitation of all the events and activities that took place during Annual Sessions.
- The epistle is not intended to replace attendance at Annual Sessions for members of PYM. All members of PYM are encouraged to attend Annual Sessions, connect with those who are attending, and review the minutes.
- The epistle will not include all the feedback or suggestions received by the committee. Committee members will use discretion when reviewing the content proposed by the body.

From FWCC:

“An Epistle articulates a collective sense of experience and how God has moved among Friends during a gathering, be it a yearly meeting session or an FWCC Section meeting, or a Young Friends gathering. It is approved by that group during a meeting for business. It is typically shared with yearly meetings so that they might read some of them out in meeting or publish some for people to read. It was historically, and continues to be, an important way for Friends and others to learn about each other in that which is eternal. They help us appreciate that we are part of a world family of Friends.”

Members of the body who wish to contribute to the epistle are encouraged to volunteer to serve on the committee. Those who have feedback on the draft epistle should share that feedback during the

identified opportunities. Members of the body are discouraged from “wordsmithing” the final draft, but instead focus on the substance of the epistle.

The Committee

The Epistle Committee is composed of 5-7 Friends who write the outgoing epistle during Annual Sessions. Friends may volunteer their willingness to serve during the registration process. The Presiding Clerk may also ask additional Friends to serve on the committee to address insufficient number of volunteers, lack of experience, or a lack of diversity. Friends who are not currently serving in PYM governance or in other roles at Annual Sessions are encouraged to volunteer for service on the Epistle Committee.

The names of all who volunteer to serve on the Epistle Committee will be forwarded to the Elders. The Elders, in consultation with the Presiding Clerk, will identify a clerk and members of the committee.

These names will be presented for approval at Annual Sessions during the first Meeting for Business. The commitment to serve ends when the approved epistle is delivered to the Recording Clerks and PYM staff at the conclusion of Annual Sessions.

Expectations for epistle committee members:

- Members will attend as many events and activities during Annual Sessions as possible.
- Members will collaborate, write, and revise the epistle. Members will seek and incorporate feedback during the first reading in Meeting for Business and in supplemental listening sessions.
- The Epistle Committee will present a draft of the epistle on Saturday evening or the second to last Meeting for Business. The committee will receive feedback during and after the first reading. The committee will incorporate feedback as it deems appropriate.
- The Epistle Committee will present a final version of the epistle to the body in session during the last Meeting for Business. During the final reading, the committee will accept significant and important corrections that substantially impact the content of the epistle.
- Members will select and read epistles from other Quaker organizations in the time slots available as scheduled.

Examples of epistles are available on the FWCC website: <http://fwcc.world/epistles-from-quaker-groups-from-around-the-world>



Nominating Council Report to July 2022 Annual Sessions

Nominating Council Members

Name	Monthly Meeting	Quarter	
Ron Inskeep	Gwynedd	Abington	Quarter Representative
		Bucks	Quarter Representative
Jack Walz	Mount Holly	Burlington	Quarter Representative
John Christman	Lancaster	Calm	Quarter Representative
Joan Broadfield	Chester	Chester	Quarter Representative
Deb Lyons	West Chester	Concord	Quarter Representative
Michael Lane	Westfield	Haddonfield	Quarter Representative
		Haverford	Quarter Representative
Jeff Rosenthal	Central Philadelphia	Philadelphia	Quarter Representative
Robert Horvay	Mickleton	Salem	Quarter Representative
		Southern	Quarter Representative
		Upper Susquehanna	Quarter Representative
		Western	Quarter Representative
Jondhi Harrell	Germantown	Philadelphia	At Large
Suzanne Day	Westfield	Haddonfield	At Large
Nancy Robbins	Third Haven	Southern	At Large
Alice Maxfield	Wrightstown	Bucks	At Large
Tacie Trull	Salem	Salem	At Large
Terri Whiteford	Downington	Calm	Interim Clerk

Appointments

Clerks

Presiding Clerk			
NAME	MONTHLY MEETING	QUARTERLY MEETING	TERM END
Melissa Rycroft	Pennsdale	Upper Susquehanna	2024

Rising Clerk			
NAME	MONTHLY MEETING	QUARTERLY MEETING	TERM END
Nikki Mosgrove	Trenton	Burlington	2024

Quaker Life Council Interim Clerk			
NAME	MONTHLY MEETING	QUARTERLY MEETING	TERM END
Jean-Marie Prestwidge Barch	Schuylkill	Calm	2023

Councils

Administrative Council			
NAME	MONTHLY MEETING	QUARTERLY MEETING	TERM END
Neil Holzman	Camden	Southern	2025 (first term)

Quaker Life Council			
NAME	MONTHLY MEETING	QUARTERLY MEETING	TERM END
Susan Claggett	Third Haven	Southern	2025 (first term)
Sue Dietz	Medford	Haddonfield	2025 (second term)
Wade Wright	Lancaster	Calm	2025 (first term)

Elders

Elder			
NAME	MONTHLY MEETING	QUARTERLY MEETING	TERM END
Bethann Morgan	Buckingham	Bucks	2025 (second term)

Completed Terms

Presiding Clerk			
NAME	MONTHLY MEETING	QUARTERLY MEETING	TERM END
Jean-Marie Prestwidge Barch and Frank Barch	Schuylkill	Calm	July, 2022

Nominating Council			
NAME	MONTHLY MEETING	QUARTERLY MEETING	TERM END
Jack Walz	Mount Holly	Burlington	July, 2022
Jondhi Harrell	Germantown	Philadelphia	July, 2022

Quaker Life Council			
NAME	MONTHLY MEETING	QUARTERLY MEETING	TERM END
Susan Kight	Camden	Southern	July, 2022

Administrative Council			
NAME	MONTHLY MEETING	QUARTERLY MEETING	TERM END
Nikki Mosgrove	Trenton	Burlington	July, 2022
tonya thames-taylor	Fallowfield	Western	July, 2022
Roy Zatcoff	Camden	Southern	July, 2022

PYM Representatives to Affiliated Organizations

PYM Representatives to Friends General Conference			
NAME	MONTHLY MEETING	QUARTERLY MEETING	TERM END
Lynne Piersol	Swarthmore	Chester	July, 2023 (1 year)
Frank Barch	Schuylkill	Caln	July, 2025 (2 nd term)
Carter Nash	Harrisburg	Caln	July, 2025 (2 nd term)
Jeff Rosenthal	Central Philadelphia	Philadelphia	July, 2025 (2 nd term)
Melissa Rycroft	Pennsdale	Upper Susquehanna	July, 2025 (2 nd term)
Carl Stanton	Chester	Chester	July, 2025 (2 nd term)
Laura Pickering Ford	Harrisburg	Caln	July, 2025 (2 nd term)

Informational

PYM Representation on Friends Fiduciary			
NAME	MONTHLY MEETING	QUARTERLY MEETING	TERM END
Robert G. Hayden, Jr.	Swarthmore	Chester	July, 2025 (3 rd term)

Nominating Council Update

Goals

- Improve effectiveness of Nominating Council activities and proactive communication
- Improve visibility of open Council and Clerk roles by using the PYM website more effectively

Accomplishments

- Draft Nominating Council handbook – Implement in October 2022
- Working with PYM staff, implemented links to role descriptions on PYM website

Challenges

- Information on active PYM members, e.g. monthly/quarterly meeting roles, attendance at PYM events.
- Helping Quarters come under the weight of providing Nominating Council representatives who are active in Quarter activities.
- Clear descriptions of tasks/roles/responsibilities of the Nominating Council.

Plans to Mitigate Risk

- Drafted Nominating Council Handbook for better orientation of new Nominating Council members.
- Communication with Admin Council on Quarters that are not represented and open At-Large seats.



A BALANCED BUDGET
FOR FY 2023

...IN GLITTERATI CANDY

Unrestricted Budget



Restricted Budget



PYM'S BUDGET SHOWS:

- ❖ The Unrestricted and the Restricted budgets
- ❖ The use of reserves (savings)
- ❖ A zero balance

1 CANDY = \$10,000 UNRESTRICTED BUDGET

130 Blackberry Candies

- ❖ Income from contributions, grants and bequests

149 Strawberry Candies

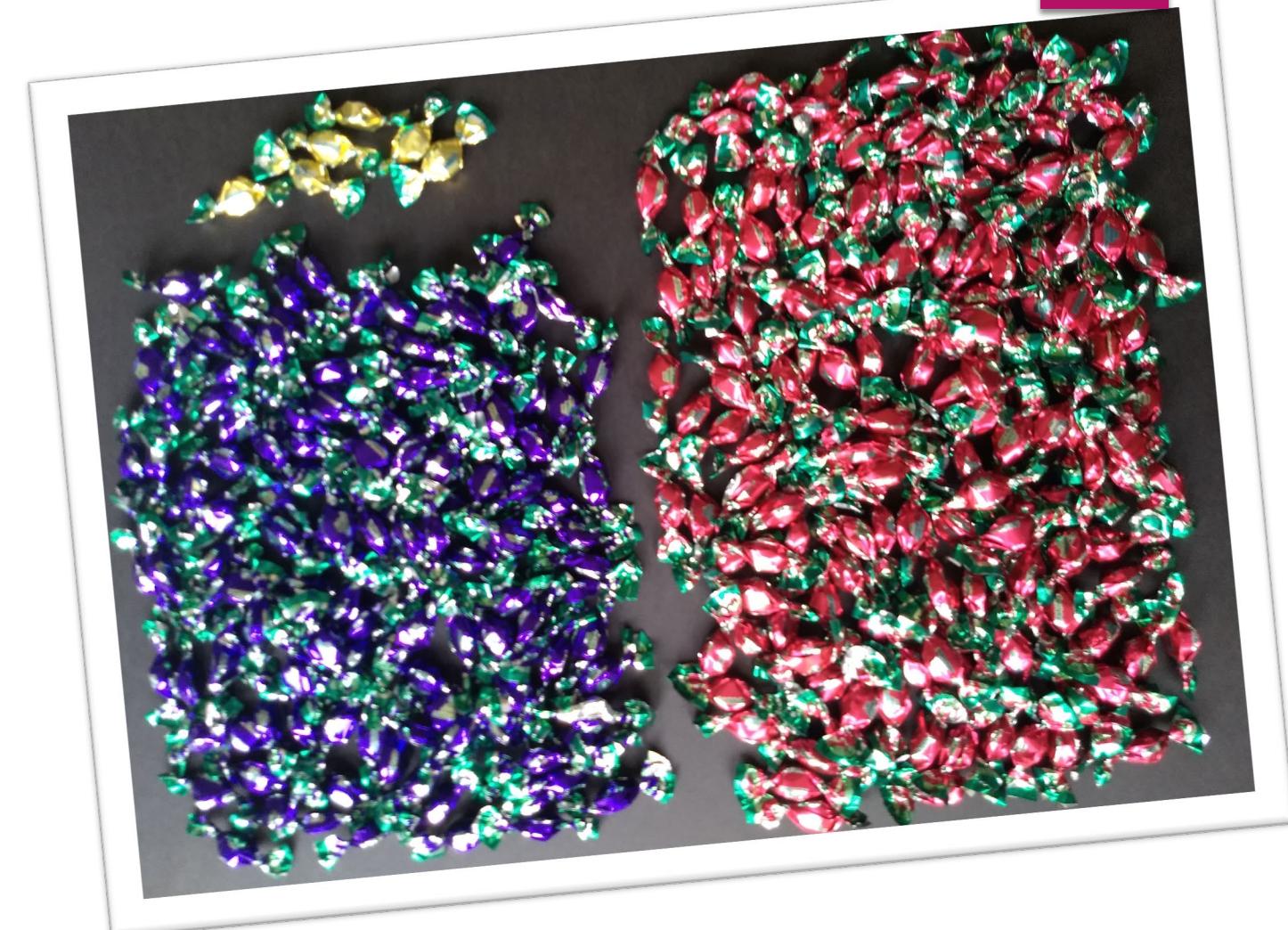
- ❖ Income from investments, programs and fees

6 Lemon Candies

- ❖ Use of reserves (savings)

285 Total Candies

- ❖ Unrestricted Funds available



Total funds
available



Total budgeted
for spending



Balance



Unrestricted Budget (for approval)	Candies	\$
Total funds available	285	2,849,000
Total budgeted for spending	285	2,849,000
Balance	0	0

UNRESTRICTED BUDGET

1 CANDY = \$10,000 RESTRICTED BUDGET

17 Pear Candies

- ❖ Income from contributions, grants and bequests

135 Orange Candies

- ❖ Income from investments, programs and fees

152 Total Candies

0 Use of Reserves

- ❖ Restricted Funds available



Total funds
available

Total budgeted
for spending

Balance



Restricted Budget (for information)	Candies	\$
Total funds available	152	1,520,000
Total budgeted for spending	152	1,520,000
Balance	0	0

RESTRICTED BUDGET



Please send candy!



FY 2023 PROPOSED BUDGET

Oct. 1, 2022, through Sept. 30, 2023

PROPOSED BUDGET FOR FUNDS WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTIONS AND FUNDS WITH DONOR RESTRICTIONS

FY 2023 Budget Notes by Line Item

Administrative Council has released this Proposed Budget to Annual Sessions. Please join the PYM Treasurer for a Budget Q&A on Zoom on Thursday, July 21, at 7 PM. Register at www.pym.org.

A word about Unrestricted and Restricted

These notes continue to use “unrestricted” and “restricted” as shorthand for the required basis for presentation for non-profit entities:

- net assets without donor restrictions, which are available for use in general operations,
- net assets with donor restrictions, which have donor or grantor-imposed restrictions that may be temporary in nature or perpetual in nature.

Looking ahead to changes in PYM staff positions

PYM has the gift of devoted staff. When there is turnover, as staff members move on, we have the opportunity to reflect on their meaningful contributions and to build on them. Grace Sharples Cooke, Associate Secretary for Advancement & Relationship, posted a farewell interview to the website in February. Zachary Dutton, Associate Secretary for Program & Religious Life, left at the end of June. Their contributions benefited us all greatly. Their departures provide us with an opportunity to retool our staff structure to support the community even more.

A staff plan was reviewed and threshed by councils, clerks, and Personnel Committee last winter. It consolidates some responsibilities of the two associate secretary positions into a single new position, Associate General Secretary. The AGS will manage internal systems and supervise and integrate the work of program, communications, and data. The AGS will also serve on a smaller executive team to work with PYM governance and translate mission and longer-range vision into the actual work we do.

Additionally, the Programs and Communications teams will each be supported by a director who will report to the Associate General Secretary. The Director of Programs position has already been filled by our own Melinda Wenner Bradley. Finally, the work of development and fundraising will shift back to being the only focus of a Director of Development position.

These changes reduce the number of executive positions and increase our capacity for direct work in supporting communications and program. They have little impact on the budget and on the total number of staff. They also meet another goal of making staff positions more flexible and sustainable in terms of a manageable portfolio of responsibilities. They should make it easier for staff to work collaboratively, to offer multiple gifts and approaches, and to engage yearly meeting Friends with responsive communications and program.

INCOME AND FUNDS AVAILABLE

Line 1, Support from Meetings

The Covenant is our single largest source of unrestricted income and PYM is deeply grateful for meeting support. We hope that some meetings may be able to increase their Covenant amounts.

Line 2, Arch Street donations /Arch Street Meeting House Preservation Trust fundraising

Budgeted ASMHPT annual appeal. Tour income and rentals are under Event & Program Fees. Arch Street welcomes visitors Wednesday through Sunday. Brand new outside exhibits are inviting visitors onto the meetinghouse grounds and encouraging them to come inside to learn more.

Line 3, Grants and Other Gifts

Largely budgeted for restricted grant funding for Arch Street. The FY 2022 projection reflects fundraising for programming, exhibits, and signage. A lower number is budgeted for FY 2023.

Line 4, Bequests

There are no known bequests in process for distribution in FY 2023. To date in FY 2022, PYM has received \$141,946 in bequests. These include a distribution from a pooled life income fund to be invested in PYM's unrestricted endowment per our bequest policy, and a gift made to the Legacy Fund, a restricted memorial fund. Legacy Fund income goes into the Annual Fund.

Line 5, Support from Individuals

The Annual Fund contributes a significant part of PYM's unrestricted budget. Despite the deaths of some of our major donors in recent years, many regular donors have increased their giving and new donors have been drawn to contribute. A gift of any size is appreciated. Thank you! Our whole yearly meeting community grows deeper and stronger in a culture of generosity.

Line 6, Total Contributions Income

Budgeted contributions of \$1.47 million represent 34% of Total Funds Available in FY 2023. Budgeted contributions without donor restrictions of \$1.3 million represent 47% of Line 11, total unrestricted funds available. Contributions with donor restrictions represent 12% of restricted funds available.

Line 7, Funds Held at Friends Fiduciary

Friends Fiduciary pays a 4% distribution based on a three-year average of Quaker Growth & Income Fund unit value. PYM's funds at Friends Fiduciary include an investment in the Impact Accelerator Fund, a bridge loan fund sponsored by the Reinvestment Fund, which pays a preferred dividend. Unrestricted income supports the general fund budget. Restricted income is largely granting income paid out in Line 15, Contributions to Others. It also includes some restricted program funding.

Line 8, Funds Held at Third-Party Banks

Third-party banks hold unrestricted funds for PYM as trusts (PNC) and as private foundations (BNY Mellon). Wells Fargo holds a restricted-purpose fund for PYM as a private foundation. Income is difficult to predict since some of these funds base their distributions on market values as of a certain date, such as December 31. Income for FY 2022 will be higher than originally budgeted.

Line 9, Event and Program Fees

The FY 2023 budget assumes in-person and hybrid events around Annual Sessions and increased activity at Arch Street. Restricted fees are associated with Friends Counseling Service.

Line 10, Administrative Fees

Budgeted lower. PYM charges its restricted-purpose funds an administrative fee based on principal value at Friends Fiduciary each June 30. The fee is unrestricted income to PYM, per accounting rules. Principal value depends on the stock and bond markets, which are lower than they were a year ago.

PYM's restricted-purpose funds are largely granting funds. PYM follows foundation best practices: we view administrative costs as shared in the aggregate. We also use a tiered fee schedule that charges a slightly lower fee to smaller funds. Administrative fees pay for PYM's grantmaking function and the administrative costs of managing restricted monies.

Line 11, Total Funds Available

Total funds without donor restrictions are budgeted at \$2.78 million, 47% from contributions and 53% from investment income, program, and fees. Total funds with donor restrictions are budgeted at \$1.52 million, 12% from contributions and 88% from investment income, program, and fees. Combined funds of \$4.3 million are flat with the 2022 projection.

EXPENSES

Line 12, Staff Salaries and Wages

PYM staff numbers, projected for Sept. 30, 2022, and next year, are 19.6 full-time equivalent employees (FTEs) in the unrestricted budget and 5 FTEs in the restricted budget for 24.6 total FTEs.

At \$1.6 million, the total budget for staff salaries and wages is 14% above the 2022 projection of \$1.4 million. We are looking to fill six positions by year end, five from planned staff departures and one new position, Youth Engagement Coordinator, following Melinda Wenner Bradley's promotion to Program Director.

Some restricted funding for staff comes from investment income, notably the Theodore H. Nitsche Fund. In FY 2023, Nitsche distributions will cover approximately \$118,000 of restricted salaries and benefits at Arch Street. The Arch Street Meeting House Preservation Trust provides restricted funding and grants to pay for Arch Street program staff.

Effective Oct. 1, 2022, PYM has budgeted a 3% cost of living adjustment (COLA), for all staff except the three most senior positions. Those senior staff will see a 2% COLA. Additionally, some \$32,000 in costs, formerly classified as a benefit, has moved to staff salaries in FY 2022 and FY 2023. The health insurance "cash-out" provides a \$200 monthly stipend to health-care eligible employees who do not take PYM's health insurance and to part-time employees not eligible for health insurance. The cash-out is taxable income and the new budget treatment aligns with PYM's payroll and IRS Form W2.

Line 13, Payroll Taxes, Benefits, and Employee Travel

This line includes payroll taxes, health insurance, workers comp insurance, staff training and travel, and PYM's employer contribution to staff retirement. Retirement benefits are now provided by a 403(b) Plan and employer contributions are 10% of the salary budget for benefits-eligible staff. Health insurance costs for calendar 2023 will not be known until open enrollment in the fall of 2022, but we expect to provide excellent coverage while controlling costs. The health-care cash out moved to salaries (see Line 12). Current year benefits also include a contribution to the old defined benefit pension plan. That plan was frozen on June 30, 2021, but still included six months of accrued benefits to be paid this year. Employee travel is minimal.

Line 14, Total Staff Expenses

Total staff expenses are budgeted at \$2.06 million, a 2% increase over the FY 2022 projection.

Line 15, Contributions to Others

PYM uses a portion of unrestricted Chace Fund income to contribute to other 501(c)(3) charities, in accordance with the Chace will. The recipients are mainly religious organizations such as FGC, AFSC, FCNL, FWCC and the National Council of Churches. Friends Fiduciary is trustee of the Chace Fund. Contributions also include Louisa & Corson Poley Fund income granted to Burlington Quarter, per the 2017 Burlington Meeting House Agreement. Outreach grants to monthly meetings come from the Membership Development Fund, an unrestricted reserve fund.

Restricted contributions reflect the more than 400 grants PYM makes each year to individuals, meetings, and nonprofit organizations. Restricted grants vary from year to year, often because of timing across fiscal years. Grants may be made from restricted reserves (accumulated, unspent income from prior years) as well as from current year restricted income.

Line 16, Event and Program Expense

The unrestricted budget covers a range of programs: Annual Sessions, Continuing Sessions, youth programs, other smaller programs, volunteer expenses, publications, and a Quaker Life Council “program envelope” to support collaboratives, programs, and events.

Restricted expense includes Friends Counseling Service, spending from grants at Arch Street, and various restricted program funds budgeted for Annual Sessions, youth, and other smaller programs.

Line 17, Professional and Service Fees

Unrestricted spending includes normal and typical fees for the PYM audit, payroll services, banking services, routine consulting, and legal work. Currently the work of the PYM controller is performed on a consulting basis. Restricted spending is budgeted for ASMHPT.

FY 2023 spending is budgeted lower than the FY 2022 projection. Some work currently being done by consultants in development and communications should move to the staff budget in Line 12 as open positions are filled.

Line 18, Development Expense

Expenses have run low from the absence of in-person events. Unrestricted costs are for PYM and include merchant account fees to support online giving. Restricted costs are for ASMHPT.

Line 19, Copying, Printing and Postage

Unrestricted costs are for PYM and restricted costs for ASMHPT.

Line 20, Rent (Friends Center Expenses and Other)

Rent expense includes Friends Center rent and small storage charges. PYM is one of three equity partners in Friends Center with the AFSC and Central Philadelphia Monthly Meeting.

Line 21, Utilities

Gas, electric and water at Arch Street Meeting House and telephone at PYM's offices and Arch Street.

Line 22, Office Supplies and Support

Expenses for office supplies and miscellaneous administrative expenses.

Line 23, Computer Support and Licenses

Expenses for PYM information technology (IT) support provided by the AFSC, annual computer licenses, annual database licenses, and routine software licensing and support.

Line 24, Insurance

Property, liability, cyber, and Directors & Officers insurance.

Line 25, Repairs and Maintenance

The cost of maintenance and repairs of the building, equipment, and grounds at Arch Street Meeting House. The current year projection includes significant non-routine repairs that will be largely funded by the Capital Reserve Fund (see Line 29).

Line 26, Fixed Asset Depreciation

Depreciation is an unrestricted expense, calculated from depreciation schedules for Arch Street Meeting House and depreciable equipment and furnishings at PYM's offices. Depreciation for FY 2022 is expected to be higher than FY 2021 as renovations and improvements at Arch Street were completed. The higher expense will continue in FY 2023.

Line 27, Total Expenses

Budgeted at \$4.36 million or 99% of the FY 2022 projection, given expected lower spending on renovations at Arch Street Meeting House (see Line 25).

Line 28, Net Income Available Prior to the Application of Reserves

The budgets show a deficit because total expense includes items that will be paid for using cash from reserves. See Lines 29 and 30.

Line 29, Capital Reserve Funds for Repairs at Arch Street

Unrestricted repairs and improvements expensed in Line 25 paid for by Capital Reserve funds.

Line 30, Miscellaneous Spending from Reserves, Grants and Accumulated Granting Income

Use of reserves includes unexpended grant funds from prior years and use of other reserve funds for programs and grants, including Membership Development grants (see Line 15).

Line 31, Net Balance

Budgeted at zero in FY 2023.

Line 32, Number of Full-time Equivalent Employees (FTEs)

Assuming open positions are filled by September 30, PYM expects to enter FY 2023 with 19.6 FTEs in the unrestricted budget and 5 FTEs in the restricted budget for a total count of 24.6.

Questions or comments?

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ANNUAL SESSIONS 2022	FY 2023 Without Donor Restrictions	FY 2023 With Donor Restrictions	FY 2023	FY 2022
PROPOSED BUDGET FY 2023			TOTAL	Projected Total
All Periods are 12 Months	Sept. 30, 2023 Budget	Sept. 30, 2023 Budget	Sept. 30, 2023 Budget Total	Sept. 30, 2022 Projected Total
INCOME AND FUNDS AVAILABLE				
1 Support from Meetings (Covenant)	965,000	0	965,000	965,000
2 Arch Street Donations/ASMHPT Fundraising	0	75,000	75,000	75,000
3 Grants and Other Gifts	0	100,000	100,000	130,000
4 Bequests	0	0	0	141,946
5 Support from Individuals (Annual Fund)	330,000	0	330,000	330,000
6 Contributions Income	1,295,000	175,000	1,470,000	1,641,946
7 Distributions on Funds Held at Friends Fiduciary	575,000	1,315,000	1,890,000	1,735,000
8 Distributions on Funds Held at Third-Party Banks	380,000	15,000	395,000	387,000
9 Event and Program Fees	125,000	15,000	140,000	95,000
10 Administrative Fee on Restricted Funds	409,000	0	409,000	461,400
11 TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE	2,784,000	1,520,000	4,304,000	4,320,346
EXPENSES				
12 Staff Salaries and Wages	1,393,000	226,000	1,619,000	1,410,000
13 Payroll Taxes, Benefits, Employee Travel	375,000	69,000	444,000	614,000
14 Total Staff Expenses	1,768,000	295,000	2,063,000	2,024,000
15 Contributions to Others	50,000	1,090,000	1,140,000	1,025,000
16 Event and Program Expense	80,000	80,000	160,000	125,000
17 Professional and Service Fees	195,000	35,000	230,000	275,000
18 Development Expense	20,000	10,000	30,000	30,000
19 Copying, Printing and Postage	30,000	5,000	35,000	32,000
20 Rent	273,000	0	273,000	270,600
21 Utilities	50,000	0	50,000	85,000
22 Office Supplies and Support	13,000	3,000	16,000	15,000
23 Computer Support and Licenses	75,000	2,000	77,000	77,000
24 Insurance	40,000	0	40,000	40,000
25 Repairs and Maintenance	75,000	0	75,000	225,000
26 Fixed Asset Depreciation	180,000	0	180,000	180,000
27 TOTAL EXPENSES	2,849,000	1,520,000	4,369,000	4,403,600
NET INCOME AVAILABLE PRIOR TO THE APPLICATION OF RESERVES				
28 RESERVES	-65,000	0	-65,000	-83,254
29 Repairs at ASMH (Capital Reserve)	50,000	0	50,000	100,000
30 Other Misc Reserves (Grants & Granting Groups)	15,000	0	15,000	15,000
31 NET BALANCE	0	0	0	31,746
32 No. Full-time Equivalent Employees (FTEs)	19.60	5.00	24.60	24.60



Administrative Council Report to PYM July 2022 Annual Sessions

Query: Is our meeting for business held in the spirit of a meeting for worship in which we seek divine guidance?

The Administrative Council considers prayerfully the concerns that are lifted up on any issue, acknowledging that the search for Truth is dependent upon what Spirit requires. When there has been lack of clarity or unity, agenda items have been remanded to a future meeting to allow further discernment.

The Administrative Council continues to meet jointly with Quaker Life and Nominating Council monthly on the third Saturday of almost every month. Due to the pandemic those meetings have been by Zoom rather than at the Arch Street Meeting House. Our joint council meetings begin with worship convened by our Yearly Meeting Clerks who have regularly presented timely queries for contemplation. Our shared time is focused on receiving the General Secretary's report and considering other matters of joint interest prior to breaking into separate sessions to continue with our council specific agendas. This past year, the councils received several thoughtful presentations, including one from Irene Oleksiw of Downingtown Monthly Meeting reflecting on the efforts of Caln Quarter to grow our meetings.

Members and Mission

A list of our members can be found on the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Website, www.pym.org. We are a diverse group with broad geographic representation. As a council we are called to work in alignment with the seven Strategic Directions of the Yearly Meeting, with a focus on the fiduciary and property responsibilities as outlined in the PYM Governance Handbook. Our members bring extensive governance experience in a variety of fields including education, legal, business, finance and non-profit management. Collectively they faithfully serve the Yearly Meeting, guided by Spirit.

New Members

The Governance Handbook provides that Admin Council will consist of up to 15 members serving not more than two terms of three years each. There were 2 additional members added at last year's Annual Sessions bringing our total up to 10 members. We will be losing 2 members at Annual Sessions this year (so we can definitely accommodate additional members!). We recognize that we continue to need a diverse group of additional new members to maintain the health and stability of the finances, property, personnel, and long-term vision of PYM. While a background in finance, business, law, education, and non-profit governance is helpful, interested candidates for membership on the Admin Council should care deeply about the health and wellbeing of PYM. If you have an interest in this important work, contact any member of the Nominating Council to learn more about serving the PYM community.

Communications

Admin Council posts minutes of meetings within a week or two of their approval at the subsequent meeting and reports to the body in writing and in person at continuing and annual sessions.

Advocacy Policy

Because the IRS restricts lobbying for 501(c)(3) organizations and further restricts it for churches, Admin Council worked to clarify our policy regarding advocacy and lobbying. The IRS asserts broad power and discretion over any church lobbying efforts. If any group in PYM is deemed to be lobbying, PYM and all Meetings that are part of PYM could potentially lose their 501(c)(3) status.

PYM should be a place where all people that align with our spiritual practices and testimonies feel welcome – regardless of political orientation. Admin Council invited various experts, non-church 501(c)(3) organizations, PYM groups and individuals to share their perspectives, expertise and guidance with us. We reviewed examples of the policy in action, highlighting the differences between advocacy and lobbying. We also met with leadership of the various PYM Collaboratives to review the advocacy policy and give examples of implementation.

After much discernment and deep listening, Admin Council approved the following PYM policy:

- PYM, including groups and meetings in PYM, may advocate for issues and concerns that are rooted in spiritual discernment and the testimonies of Friends.
- PYM, including groups and meetings in PYM, may not engage in direct or grassroots lobbying or in political campaigning.
- PYM communications channels, programs, or events may not be used by individuals or groups to “call for action” on specific legislation or on candidates for public office.

At-Large PYM Membership

Annual Sessions approved the recommendation of the Membership & Belonging Sprint for a trial allowing PYM to offer at-large membership in the yearly meeting. Quaker Life Council will hold this trial under its care. Those who are accepted into at-large membership will be full members of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. There will be no distinction between Friends who are at-large members and Friends who hold their membership in PYM monthly meetings. Administrative Council affirmed that full membership in PYM comes with all the responsibilities and benefits of membership. These include a) eligibility for service on councils, committees, on granting groups, and as PYM representatives to affiliated and external organizations, and b) grants from PYM funds where PYM sets the criteria for individual eligibility and defines PYM membership. Where PYM serves as a distribution committee for funds held by others, PYM must abide by the criteria set by those trustees, which may explicitly include membership in a monthly meeting.

Admin Council Member Visitation

Admin Council enthusiastically agreed to create a visitation program to be in greater communion with our monthly and quarterly meetings, especially since the pandemic has significantly restricted our physical presence. Volunteer council members will visit up to three meetings a year, but not their own meetings, to help forge deeper and long-lasting connections and help us understand what is important to individual meetings. The visitation planning and process will begin in late August.

Nominating Council

To ensure we have appropriate representation on Nominating Council (13 members; one appointed by each Quarterly Meeting and seven At-Large positions), Admin Council approved extending Quarterly Meeting terms, as well as reached out to the clerks of the Quarterly Meetings to identify new members, if needed. Admin Council, in collaboration with the Quarters, may need to appoint new members if seats remain vacant.

Deep Listeners

At last year's Annual Sessions, Admin Council was charged to ensure a truth and transformation process unfolded. In response to the charge, Admin Council worked with the co-clerks to identify deep listeners to focus on the following goals: a) To surface specific harms and the various harmful dynamics in our yearly meeting that perpetuate racism with the intention of embracing anti-racism and racial justice for our community. b) To culminate in the renewal of our commitment as a yearly meeting to the 2015 minute on addressing racism through the development of a vision and mission for racial justice. c) To facilitate deep listening and greater capacity to honor multiple experiences and narratives about the same things at the same time. The process does not seek for us to reach agreement on particular things as a yearly meeting.

Committees and Sprints

Committees and sprints are two structures used to research, season, and discern the way forward for the business of PYM, and important strategic initiatives. Current committees are Governance Advisory (formerly Governance), Finance, Property, Granting, Personnel, Development and Audit. Admin Council members are encouraged to serve on committees that they find of interest and new members are asked to serve on committees as part of their on-boarding process. Sprints active this past year included a Strategic Directions Sprint and a Climate Witness Stewards Sprint.

Strategic Directions Sprint

Admin Council dedicated a substantial amount of time this year to considering the important work of the Strategic Directions Sprint. The Sprint spent almost eight months exploring the progress Yearly Meeting has made in advancing the seven Strategic Directions identified in 2014. The Sprint prepared a comprehensive written report that was presented to Admin Council in September 2021.

At its June meeting, Admin Council explored the way forward to advance the Strategic Directions, led by a comprehensive presentation by the General Secretary. During the ensuing discussion, Ray Zatcoff, Clerk of the Sprint said the Sprint saw more that PYM could do with communications and intervisitation. He reported that the Sprint felt strongly that the Strategic Directions needed a specific affirmation for racial justice. Council members agreed and noted a similar interest in adding LGBTQIA-inclusive language to the Strategic Directions.

Climate Witness Stewards Sprint

At last year's Annual Sessions, the Climate Change Sprint recommended a follow-on sprint to create an accountability body called Climate Witness Stewards. Admin Council approved

the recommendation and authorized the Clerks Group to create a new sprint. The Climate Witness Stewards Duties & Charges Sprint provided a final version of Duties and Charges, and described the Sprint's work in contacting and finding Friends willing to be nominated to serve as Climate Stewards. After successfully concluding its work, the Sprint was laid down with deep gratitude. In June the names of five Friends to serve as Stewards were brought to a joint meeting of Admin/Quaker Life/Nominating Councils, which approved them.

Finance Committee

Linell McCurry, Associate Secretary for Business and Finance, and Andrew Anderson, Treasurer, presented the Finance Committee's midyear report to the Admin Council in May. The final results for fiscal year 2021 were positive. Assets grew by \$11 million, due primarily to investments. Revenue improved over prior years and expenses were lower than in fiscal year 2020. Results midway through fiscal year 2022 are in line with the budget.

The Committee presented its draft budget for fiscal year 2023, which begins on October 31, 2022, at the June Admin Council meeting. Total revenue is budgeted flat at \$4.3 million, with steady contribution income from gifts, meeting covenants, and Arch Street Meeting House Preservation Trust fundraising. Investment income is budgeted to be slightly higher because distributions are based on a three-year average of market value. Administrative fees on restricted funds are budgeted lower because of current lower market values. Total expenses are expected to be flat with the current fiscal year and the net balance is zero. Some open staff positions are still to be filled, which adds some uncertainty around staff salaries and wages. Fixed asset depreciation is higher as a result of capital improvements at Arch Street.

With no changes to the budget, Admin Council released a proposed budget to Annual Sessions at its July meeting.

Audit Committee

The Audit Committee met in April to receive the draft report of our outside auditors for fiscal year 2021. The draft and auxiliary documents were reviewed and accepted by the Committee. The final report was then shared with the Admin Council. The final report was "clean," without any qualifications, and the auditors concluded that our financial statements fairly present PYM's financial position.

Personnel Committee

In October 2021, the Personnel Committee presented a minute to the Admin Council recommending that training for equity and inclusion capacity building be provided to council and committee members. Admin Council supported the recommendation and asked the Committee to move forward toward implementing it. The Committee formed a sprint which met over the winter and spring to develop a proposal that envisions a program focused on assisting members, individually and collectively, to view their work for PYM through a lens of equity and inclusion. The proposal was approved by the Committee and sent to Admin Council, which approved it in July.

A major focus of the Personnel Committee's work this year was to provide feedback and advice to the General Secretary and leadership team as they undertook a major reorganization of the staff made possible by the departure of several members, including the Associate Secretary for Program and Religious Life and the Associate Secretary for Advancement and Relationship. The Committee also assisted the leadership team in assessing the recent departures to ensure that they were not the product

of systemic issues at PYM. The Committee continued its role of assisting the leadership team in the hiring process, in particular by reviewing and commenting on job descriptions for the new positions.

Granting Committee

The Granting Committee made its annual report to Admin Council in June. In fiscal year 2021, the nine Granting Groups made 143 grant awards for a total of \$1,268,720. Two of the Groups underwent name changes, approved by Admin Council. The Groups are: Greenleaf, Aging Assistance, Quaker Education (formerly, Committee on Friends Education), Quaker Fund for Indigenous Communities (formerly, Indian Committee), Willits Book Trust, Membership Development, Travel & Witness, Quaker Buildings and Programs, and Funds for Suffering.

The Committee's report raised a concern about the sustainability of appointments to the Granting Groups given the requirement that appointees be members of Yearly Meeting. The Committee also expressed frustration regarding its limited ability to fund grants to support racial justice initiatives

Last year, the Committee welcomed Granting Consultants by inviting eight Young Adult Friends to join one of PYM's nine granting groups as non-voting consultants for a period of one year with the purpose of increasing YAFs' awareness of PYM's available resources, supporting YAF involvement in the work of PYM, and providing YAFs with grantmaking skills and experience.

Governance Advisory Committee

The Governance Committee has continued to meet regularly throughout the year to provide support for and evaluation of the current organizational structure of PYM. In order to avoid any confusion about the role of the Committee, it asked that its name be changed to the Governance Advisory Committee, which request was approved by Admin Council in May. The Committee has undertaken an ongoing assessment of the challenges that face PYM under its governance structure and how those challenges can be addressed. The Committee recently circulated a survey to all council members intended to learn how members feel about their council's work, what issues require attention, and what suggestions do they have for improving council business.

Development Committee

The Development Committee maintained its role of sounding board and support for the Associate Secretary for Advancement and Relationship through February. In the latter half of the year the committee worked with the General Secretary providing reflection and advice on the revised staffing to support Development. The committee met with staff and the Admin Council Clerk to discuss ways that the committee role and seats could be expanded.

Arch Street Meeting House Preservation Trust

In May, Lisa Ogletree, Clerk of the Board of Trustees for the Trust, and Sean Connolly, Executive Director, presented key findings of a study to assess the feasibility of entering a capital campaign. The study suggested a \$3 million campaign. The contributions to the campaign would fund several important capital expenditures at Arch Street, including a fire suppression system, updated electric and HVAC systems, overhaul of several defunct lighting systems and enhanced exhibits.

The Trust successfully raised the funds for and installed a series of outdoor signs. The outdoor exhibit interprets the history of Arch Street Meeting House and describes the present Quaker presence in Old

City. The new signage at the gates had an immediate effect on increasing the number of visitors to the grounds.

Lisa and Sean also reported on recent developments of the Preservation Trust, including efforts to expand and diversify the Board, which may require bylaw changes. They also reported on the Memorandum of Understanding with PYM, which was approved by Admin Council, spelling out the roles and responsibilities of the Trust and PYM, respectively.

Westtown School

In March, PYM Presiding Co-Clerk Frank Barch received a request from the Westtown School Committee that PYM consider approval of a revision to Westtown's bylaws that would eliminate provisions requiring consent from PYM for certain actions by the School Committee. Ongoing discernment continues.

Friends Fiduciary

In July, Executive Director Jeff Perkins updated Admin Council on Friends Fiduciary's work. The all-Quaker board has a majority of PYM members. The board is diverse board with 26% persons of color and 32% women. Total assets exceed \$615 million. Recent returns reflect a total absence of fossil fuel and defense stocks, both market sectors that have performed well year-to-date. Longer-term returns are ahead of benchmarks and give up nothing in service to Friends Fiduciary's commitment to social responsibility.

The board's strategic plan looks to increase the number of Quaker organizations served and to expand investment management services beyond Quaker institutions. Admin Friends shared their appreciation for Friends Fiduciary's expertise in screening investment opportunities, for its national leadership in shareholder advocacy, and for direct investment with PYM in community development projects sponsored by the Reinvestment Fund.

Conclusion

The Administrative Council functions under the weight of its fiduciary responsibility and is grateful for the trust that PYM has placed in it, while it seeks to contribute both spiritually and practically to a strong, grounded, and vibrant yearly meeting.

In Peace, Jim Waddington. Clerk



Quaker Life Council

Annual Report For 2021-2022

The PYM Quaker Life Council currently nominates and oversees six committees and panels – Program Committee, Sessions Coordinating Committee, Youth Program Advisory Committee, Ministry & Care Committee, Friends Counseling Service, and provides representation to the Governance Committee. In turn, the Program Committee coordinates nine collaboratives and various sprints plus yearly meeting programs not otherwise assigned. This is a large span of responsibility. To better stay abreast of all these efforts, in January we inaugurated a schedule of reports from each of these groups. Thus far, we have had a few opportunities to hear from each committee; the council will be developing a rubric to assist committees in preparing their reports.

Over the past year, the Quaker Life Council has operated with small numbers and pressing issues. We have continued to meet by Zoom each month, and we have been short in number, averaging only 6 to 7 core council members for a group that should have 15! Even so, we have had good and deep discussions about many issues affecting the Yearly Meeting, even though we have made only a few decisions.

Each month we also met regularly with members of the Administrative and Nominating Councils on agenda items pertinent to all three councils. These have been valuable sessions of shared learning. We are truly blessed to have the devoted support of competent and caring staff. Our work is not possible without their coordination, institutional memory, and help. Specifically we welcome Melinda Wenner Bradley as the first staff in the new role of Director of Programs– and send our very best wishes and appreciation to Zachary Dutton, for his faithful service to us and to the Yearly Meeting as a whole.

Our Accomplishments

PYM Annual Sessions in 2021 were blessed with the approval by the body of major initiatives addressing global climate change, and membership and belonging. We had made a commitment as a yearly meeting to work on racism in 2016 and have come more fully under the weight of that commitment at this time. Over the past year, we have tried to keep abreast on how each of these action areas is unfolding.

For at-large membership, approved last summer, our Ministry & Care Committee took the lead and has already received several applications for this new type of membership. One Friend has been accepted into a Large Membership and we are pleased that two other individuals have applied. We also delight in hearing from Ministry & Care about the many meetings who have crafted the spiritual state of the meeting reports -- knowing that the process of writing and approving these statements can often enrich each of our monthly meetings. In addition, Ministry and Care has held under their care work on the Trust, Truth and Transformation process. Robust training is underway for Friends who will lead Trust Circles in their meetings or other groups. Ministry and Care will continue to nurture this work as it

provides for Friends to enter into deep conversation and connection. We have high hopes that the Trust, Truth & Transformation process will move forward throughout the Yearly Meeting to meet real community and individual needs and provide long-sought healing.

We have a special interest in and concern for our Yearly Meeting's small meetings (fewer than 25 members) and we have relished hearing a report about how monies from the Shoemaker Fund are being used to help these meeting communities.

We have also begun discussions about how the three Councils can reach out effectively and helpfully to the monthly meetings through inter-visitation and other means. We recognize that support and assistance must be provided in ways and places where they are needed and will be helpful; we are working to find the best ways to support and assist meetings.

Continuing Challenges

CAPACITY -- In March our Council clerk, Anthony Stover, resigned. As a result, our council's inadequate size and membership came into sharp focus. In April we met jointly with the Nominating Council to discuss this council's make-up, challenges, and needs. Joyfully we have welcomed Jean-Marie Prestwidge Barch as our interim clerk, and we are hopeful that by midsummer we will have a full roster of members and be able to communicate closely and effectively with all the committees and other bodies for which we have responsibility.

COMMUNICATIONS -- Communications remains a critical issue. Our Yearly Meeting's complex structure of councils, committees, collaboratives, sprints, and staff has often led to frequent misunderstandings and information gaps. In addition, unclear lines of authority and reporting have led to misunderstandings and distrust. Even simple things, like getting agendas out in plenty of time, are a continual challenge.

ACCOUNTABILITY -- There has been confusion about financial reporting and accountability by the committees, collaboratives, services, and sprints under our care.; the council will be working to create clearer guidelines to address this concern.

SMALL MEETINGS -- We continue (in partnership with the Administrative Council) to labor under a continuing concern about the state of and support for small meetings (fewer than 25 members).

PYM LIBRARY -- We also have concern for establishment of a PYM Library Working Group, which we hope to see finalized in the coming year.

Moving Forward

FULL CAPACITY – We trust that by the time this report is presented that the Nominating Council have found a full slate of candidates to serve on this council. Ideally new members will be fully oriented early in their tenure and provide close links to many of the committees and other bodies for which we have responsibility.

BETTER COMMUNICATIONS – We will strive to foster open and effective communications through such means as periodic reports by our committees and collaboratives, advance agendas, close consultation with PYM staff, and visitation to monthly meetings where appropriate.

INTERVISITATION - As noted above, we hope to engage in appropriate intervisitation to meetings particularly those with fewer than 25 members.

BROADER MORE PROACTIVE VISION – When we are fully operational, we dream of a time when we can come more fully under the weight of our witness as lifted up by the yearly meeting in session. Our Yearly Meeting's programs that lie under our purview have much to offer the world. We dream of a time when our efforts both serve the Yearly Meeting internally and the wider world around us.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean-Marie Prestwidge Barch, Schuylkill Meeting (interim clerk)

Marge Dawson, Merion MM

Sue Dietz, Medford MM

Steve Elkinton, Chestnut Hill MM

Robert Greene, Princeton MM

Tom Hughes, Reading MM

Guinevere Janes, Media MM

Rose Ketterer, Newton MM



Reports from PYM Collaboratives to the Quaker Life Council 2022

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Antiracism Collaborative Annual Report

What do you want the PYM body (all 10,000 of us in PYM membership) to know about your collaborative?

We take our vision, mission, and goals seriously and want to know what the body wants from us. In the meantime, we plan ways to engage the body but are always looking for ways we can serve you. "What does the body need from us to get on and/or continue on the antiracism path?" is our constant thought. We are here to serve you, just awaiting your email or call. Each of us on ARC has the role of communicating about racial justice issues with monthly meetings through their quarterly meeting and we look forward to hearing from you.

How does your group meet and how frequently?

We gather once a month on Zoom, usually the third Monday of the month from 12:30 to 2.

How is the work of the collaborative being shared with the PYM community?

- Website
- Thread Gathering
- News Articles
- We act as Quarterly Meeting Representatives from ARC to each QM
- Requesting Stories from Monthly Meetings of Antiracism work to post on site
- Reports to Yearly Meeting as requested
- Assisted with DEI Sprint
- Will assist with Trust, Truth, and Transformation process

How does your collaborative remain spiritually grounded through its work?

We open and close each meeting with worship. We share a calling to do this work and we encourage and hold each other accountable on our individual as well as collaborative paths.

What are the major accomplishments for the year?

- Thread Gathering ("Restorative Racial Justice: From the Personal to the Systemic") in which we reached out to other Collaboratives
- Assisted DEI Sprint to create recommendation
- Updated Website with Resource Lists
- Took part in the Collaborative Fair as part of the Runway to Annual Sessions
- Split up Quarterly Meetings and our representative of each QM reports at each QM letting them know what we are doing and providing a representative for them to contact us.
- Beginning to gather stories of monthly meetings' antiracism work
- Beginning to work with the Trust, Truth, and Transformation process

What are the things that are stopping/hindering your mission, if any?

We are waiting to visit meetings (one of our goals) until after COVID restrictions/worries to create relationships with those on the antiracist path and perhaps create excitement among those not on the path.

While we currently have a majority of white members on or collaborative, we hope this will not always be the case. It is not stopping us from continuing our work to help the Yearly Meeting, which is also majority white, become more antiracist, but we do long for the day when more People of Color will join us both in the Yearly Meeting and on the Collaborative.

Is there anything you need of PYM administration (from PYM staff, the Clerk(s) or the Program Committee?)

Not at this time, we feel well cared for.

EcoJustice Collaborative Annual Report

What do you want the PYM body (all 10,000 of us in PYM membership) to know about your collaborative?

Eco-Justice is comprised of Friends with extensive expertise in policy/legislation, money systems, science, energy, food, land, education, media, law, and activism. Eco-justice is a true collaborative of professionals who represent different concerns and experience, but who consider each other's work as crucial as their own and work to advance the work of the whole collaborative.

Current Projects: we are compiling a Quarterly and Monthly Meeting Project Book on the work of Friends doing climate and climate justice work. We are calling on Friends to add their meetings and quarters to this collection, which will be published and continuously updated on the PYM website.

Following the approval of the PYM Climate Witness, Pacific YM, Northern YM, New England YM, and Southeastern YM have requested presentations on the sprint report and are exploring ways to implement our work in their Yearly Meetings. We were told that the work of Philadelphia YM is an inspiration to other YMs, equivalent to the FWCC Kabarak call for peace and social justice.

As a result of new restrictions against any grassroots or direct lobbying, members of EJC are exploring the possibility of forming an independent 501(c)4 because we consider governmental policy crucial to any effective work on climate and justice. We have a concern that the establishment of a 501(c)4 might separate EJC from PYM. Unfortunately, government policy, regulation, and legislation are critical to progress toward climate mitigation. Our work at the individual and community level is important, but it is not enough to make a sufficient difference.

How does your group meet and how frequently?

The whole collaborative regularly meets each month. However, small ad hoc subcommittees meet more often to address a particular action or monitor a continuing project.

How is the work of the collaborative being shared with the PYM community?

EJC publishes a monthly newsletter, which is distributed by the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting staff. EJC produces regular webinars on important climate and climate justice topics. EJC also connects to the YM through presentations at Monthly Meetings and Quarters and at workshops at sessions.

How does your collaborative remain spiritually grounded through its work?

We begin every meeting with worship, acknowledging the spiritual foundations of our work. Worship is followed by check-ins where we allow time for members to share their grief and their hopes. Though grief and hope are individual emotional conditions, sharing them with the membership is a spiritual exercise in humility and trust.

What are the major accomplishments for the year?

Spurred on by an EJC minute on climate change, the YM at continuing sessions approved climate change as a YM corporate witness. Two members of EJC served on the climate change sprint. After the sprint report was submitted, many members of the climate change sprint joined the Eco-Justice Collaborative.

Following sessions last year, EJC held a workshop reviewing the climate change sprint report, especially the Monthly Meeting Playbook. We also reviewed the Monthly Meeting Projects compilation. The compilation was put together by EJC to encourage connections among meetings and quarters and to provide templates for action. We will follow up with a workshop at the 2022 sessions.

We produced a webinar, Electrify Your Life, that presented all the ways we can switch over to clean electric energy use. Participants from many monthly meetings expressed appreciation for all the practical information they received from the webinar.

We are working in cooperation with PYM leadership to identify how action areas can be implemented and shared. We hope to see the YM leadership lead our climate witness with a compelling voice and substantial resources.

Members of the EJC played an important role in ensuring that the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) was able to make it to the final stage of its process before implementation. RGGI is on track to be implemented in PA this summer. If that occurs, Pennsylvania will be the first fossil fuel state to participate in a carbon market in the US.

What are the things that are stopping/hindering your mission, if any?

During the past year, EJC and PYM leadership struggled with opaque and ambiguous communications about the climate change witness. We recognize the goodwill and integrity of our leadership but feel that our process has been unnecessarily complicated. For six months, we have struggled with the following issues:

(1) Whether EJC could do its part to implement the climate change sprint report without direction from PYM. Because of this concern, EJC has been reluctant to continue its work in PYM without clarity on EJC's role. Failure to appoint climate witness stewards promptly has contributed to the confusion about EJC's role; (2) There were evolving concerns about whether the PYM leadership could make public statements on controversial or partisan issues such as the implementation of RGGI in Pennsylvania. In truth, climate mitigation, including RGGI, has been inappropriately politicized by the financial interests of the exploiters of the planet and its creatures. These exploiters have enormous resources with which they can influence policy, and legislation. PYM and other faith communities need to represent the exploited. (3) The leadership and its councils have imposed a blanket interdiction on all grassroots or direct lobbying to protect its tax-exempt status. While EJC has the same desire to protect the financial interests of PYM, we believe the interdiction is unnecessarily restrictive and IRS regulations are ambiguous regarding prohibitions against all lobbying by churches. Given that climate change is a corporate priority, the Yearly Meeting needs to use its resources (both money and staff time) to identify how we may engage in lobbying without endangering our tax-exempt status.

Is there anything you need of PYM administration (from PYM staff, the Clerk(s) or the Program Committee?)

We need more support for organizing the EJC web pages. We would also like to see the climate and DEI sprint reports featured prominently on the PYM website. Several Yearly Meetings are interested in both reports but struggle to find them. When the reports are finally found, they would be more useful if people could read them online rather than having to download the document.

We believe that our corporate witness calls for the Yearly Meeting leadership to make a strong public statement about climate change both inside PYM and in the larger community. Our PYM community would feel inspired and

supported by the acknowledgment of our leadership that the existential crisis of climate change and climate injustice really is the moral issue of our time and therefore calls us to a profound spiritual commitment.

First Contact Reconciliation Collaborative Annual Report



What do you want the PYM body (all 10,000 of us in PYM membership) to know about your collaborative?

We, First Contact Reconciliation collaborators, seek to perpetuate our sacred obligations of perpetual peace and friendship with the Original People of this land (Lenapehoking), their relations beyond, and Land itself; way is open, glory be Creator. We encourage those of shared spirit, among all points of intersection, and seekers representing Monthly Meetings to be ever-lasting sources of peace and friendship with Indigenous leaders, our neighbors, by listening to their perspectives, then becoming more aware of their culture(s); with Indigenous leadership, let us see how love guides relations.

Walking with Spirit, we have been called to create space within Philadelphia Yearly Meeting that represents truest relationships with Indigenous Nations/ Citizens. South Jersey Friends lifted their contemporary relationships with sovereign Lenape Tribal Nations toward accompanying intentions of the Lenape sacred wampum belt gifted and received by our Yearly Meeting in 1995, reaffirming our Treaty of Amity with Lenape Nations. Given legacy bound history, actions of the First Contact Reconciliation Collaborative are redressing PYM relations by seeking and engaging in reparations with Indigenous Nations.

As a form of restitution, reconciling First Contact relations, this collaborative is envisioning a time when “Indian/ Indigenous” designated Yearly Meeting financial vestments may be gifted in full, completely, and directly to local sovereigns of the land we occupy, wholeheartedly trusting sovereign Tribal Nations’ leadership to independently manage such funds as they see fit. Concurrently, may Spirit guide mutually beneficial relationships that emerge between Indigenous Peoples and Religious Society of Friends communities.

We are humbled by rising relationships with Indigenous Peoples. This collaborative examines world-wide effects of colonization, ‘stories of Papal Bulls, United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, collective impacts and unity across US “Indian Country,” and the sovereignty of individual US Native Nations, particularly of the east coast region. We listen to and are informed by Indigenous leadership, offering the Yearly Meeting advice to navigate the complexities; land rights, land use, and land responsibilities intersect with concerns shared by our Yearly Meeting Eco-Justice Collaborative and independent Quaker Earthcare Witness. FCRC is instrumental in networking with Friends across vast geographic space which includes the Joint Yearly Meetings Group that gathers quarterly, and the Decolonizing Quakers group. The Department of Interior has released their initial report (vol 1) investigating the Federal Indian Boarding Schools; as a religious organization answering the call from National Native American Boarding Schools, we have been researching Friends roles in both Federal and mission schools. We urge Friends to labour with this concern in timely and transparent manners, toward humbly, and generously offering our history rather than having others “expose” a time we have forgotten, while Indigenous Brothers and Sisters engage in truth-telling toward healing, where wisdom and science identify intergenerational trauma.

The First Contact Reconciliation Collaborative offers consultations, workshops, and talks for PYM individuals, meetings, & quarters.

How does your group meet and how frequently?

First Contact Reconciliation Collaborative has ongoing virtual monthly meetings, set, and posted on the PYM

calendar - 2nd Tuesdays monthly, 7pm – 8pm; “Zoom” information is available upon request utilizing the contact information posted on the collaborative webpage – www.pym.org/first-contact-reconciliation-collaborative. On occasion, we find ourselves situated for debriefings amid unplanned, shared, in-person experiences, such as the Annual Nanticoke Leni-Lenape Powwow, Indigenous Peoples Day Philly, Penn Treaty Museum Open House, Historical Society of Pennsylvania panel discussion, National Museum of the American Indian film screenings. Additionally, we are present during unique events - PYM Thread Gathering, Annual & Continuing Sessions, relevant documentary screenings, workshops, retreats, and quarterly Joint Yearly Meetings Group gatherings. Friends serving the FCRC regularly attend public Native Nation events and accept invitation to non-public Nanticoke Leni-Lenape Tribal Nations gatherings.

How is the work of the collaborative being shared with the PYM community?

The work of the First Contact Reconciliation Collaborative is being shared with the PYM community through Friendly media - PYM News stories (i.e., <https://www.pym.org/spirit-of-first-contact-reconciliation-whats-going-on/>), PYM calendar, SouthJerseyQuakers (electronic) Newsletter, Salem Quarter News and SQ e-bulletin. Open, set virtual monthly meeting discussions focus on current campaigns – Honor the Promise; Change the Mascot; and Truth and Healing. Friendly requests for consultations thresh multi- dimensional clearness toward collaborating (potential) next steps, “local” relationship building, and vital grassroots initiatives. Grounding information is posted on our dedicated web space - www.pym.org/First-Contact-Reconciliation-Collaborative - with our direct contact information – SacredWovenWord@yahoo.com and/ or 609 732-0576.

How does your collaborative remain spiritually grounded through its work?

Individuals called to First Contact Reconciliation maintain non-traditional and traditional “spiritually grounding” mystic and Friendly lifestyle practices supporting well-being and humble, human empowerment - communing with nature, drumming, clearness committeees, walking with elders, and most relevant is being named by Indigenous leadership as allies - Glory of Creator, Divine intervention, Spirit willing.... We are listening to “authentic voices” of sovereign People; we are praying, we are changing; we are walking the walk; perpetual peace and friendship being the way toward Oneness.

We lovingly hold one another’s experiences and reflect on our work with accountability; work being measured by incremental just outcomes. By grounding our witnessing, wind is created, moving us forward; by listening, we are called beyond comfort toward just, true peace, imperfectly forgiving and imperfectly being forgiven.

What are the major accomplishments for the year?

Spirit led during the past year, First Contact Reconciliation Collaboratives major (a-m) accomplishments of 2021-2022 are recognized by the following actions:

- Continuing relationship building with Tribal Nations citizens despite the ongoing waves of COVID-19 precautions
- 4-hour interactive workshop proposal morphing into a (re)dedicated space/ time
- FCRC approved minute/ statement advocating *Support for a Federal Truth and Healing Commission on the Indian Boarding Schools in the US*, dually rooted in companion bills S. 2907 and H.R. 5444 (Co-clerks agenda item, Annual Sessions 2022, seeking approval from the YM body)
- ongoing research continues into Friends roles in Indian Boarding Schools and in partnership with St John United Methodist Church Committee on Native American Ministry
- in-reach continues quarterly with Joint Yearly Meetings Group (where Friends are currently drafting a minute supporting the Department of Interior Report (vol 1) on the Federal Indian Boarding Schools and recognizing Friends dutiful actions to research, transparently share/ report, and make appropriate financial and relational

- reparations with Indigenous Nations/ Peoples)
- co-hosting with Coalition of Natives and Allies the documentary *Fighting Indians*, a journey of harmful mascotry among Wabanaki Peoples and Skowhegan, ME community; CNA is advocating in PA
- multiple consultations with Friends Monthly Meetings resulting in speaking engagements and creation of an engaging talk titled *Beyond Land Acknowledgements*; each conversation being relevant and vital for growth
- indirectly, we sense spaces opening where Friends meetings including a land acknowledgement with rising next steps recognizing false narratives/ distractions
- designing, ordering, and delivering FCRC mementos – Honor the Promise yard signs, CHANGE THE MASCOT wristbands, and blank journals for novel Truth & Healing exercises with Equine Ministry
- Tri-Quarter (virtual) Gathering 2021 talk by Pastor Norwood (Lenape), [Continuing the Legacy of Shackamaxon - southjerseyQuakers.org](#)
- PYM Thread Gathering participation, *Restoring Racial Justice*, revealing ongoing FCRC campaigns and *Call To Action* resources
- PYM's First Collaborative Fair participation, joined by Ms. Cynthia Mosley (Lenape)
- (Runway to) Annual Sessions 2021 virtual workshop, *Humble Walk Bears Fruit*, co-facilitated by Pastor Norwood (Lenape)

What are the things that are stopping/hindering your mission, if any?

We wonder whether information provided Yearly Meeting is met with opening hearts, beckoning acknowledgement of Spiritual rights with faithful responsibilities. We wonder if Friends legacy and Friends institutions find comfort in merely educating, while the intention of collaborating seeks just changes of fullest equity and inclusion. Listening to the voice within & spirit led actions nurture “fruit-bearing” witness, and there is evidence of fruit. Our First Contact Reconciliation mission is hindered too by unauthentic/ non- Indigenous voices rising that divide Friends, causing distraction from true authentic voices of sovereign Indigenous Nations, where trusted relationship building comes into question. These realities potentially compromise propagation of rightly ordered acts of justice - on the part of individuals and/ or Friends religious institutions – toward aligning with Indigenous leadership and righting wrongs within predominant culture. And Friends remain unknowing, quieted by guilt/ shame, disconnected, and disabled from apology. To these Friends we say that active listening is often the first step toward healing; no one today created the policies of the past, yet together we can right past acts; we need not delay, for delaying denies justice for friends, extended Family...and perpetuates harms endured by Indigenous People. And we must admit, sometimes, Friends’ processes can be burdensome though we are to be mindful. Sometimes, the delay due to timing/ set meeting schedules may be the stop, the delay of justice, a missed moment in time. Might wisdom be found in labour and delivery.

Is there anything you need of PYM administration (from PYM staff, the Clerk(s) or the Program Committee?)

Reiterating in part, for our ‘ever evolving PYM administration, clerk(s), Program Committee, and other essential governing bodies, we beckon our leadership, calling-in clarity for any diffusion of light, pass this along during and especially before stepping away from serving the Yearly Meeting with those who are/ may be rising:

Walking with Spirit, your First Contact Reconciliation Collaborative has been called to create space within the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting that represents a more contemporary, authentic relationship with Indigenous Nations/ Citizens. South jersey Friends lifted their relationships with sovereign Lenape Tribal Nations. Given the 1995 acceptance of The Treaty of Amity, we are reaffirming intentions of the sacred wampum belt representing

perpetual peace and friendship. PYM's First Contact Reconciliation Collaborative is redressing and making reparations from historic legacy of roots bound in an era of "civilizing the savage Indians." We find sole philanthropic relations with Indigenous Peoples unjust Spiritually, and humanly counter-intuitive, and ill-suited to actual ongoing relations with Indigenous Nations/ Citizens.

PYM currently has two identities with Native Nations/ Indigenous Peoples which are vastly different from one another. (This has yet to be fully/ transparently recognized, perhaps for those serving too; may there be a time....) As a form of restoring and reconciling First-Contact relations, this collaborative is envisioning a time when Yearly Meeting financial vestments may be gifted in full, completely, and directly to local sovereigns of the land we occupy, atoning Friends financial benefits received from the centuries-long era of "civilizing and assimilating" Indigenous Peoples. We are seeking means of redressing privileges from historic efforts of the federal government/ predominant culture (yes, Friends were directly involved) to erase Indigenous Peoples cultural lifeways; we believe in rightly ordered re-storying of Indigenous relations, wholeheartedly trusting sovereign Tribal Nations' leadership to independently manage funds and other compensations as they see fit; concurrently, may Spirit guide mutually beneficial relationships that emerge between sovereign Indigenous Peoples and Friends, righting all that Creator gifts, all personhood, which includes "Mother Earth and Father Sky." Intentions of this collaborative may not have surfaced within those "at the table" who were instrumental in changing the name of the Indian Committee Granting Group to what is now known as The Quaker Fund for Indigenous Communities. May PYM Friends be humble, finding way of unyoking a legacy tied to 1795 PYM Indian Committee era. Friend has queried, "while we are still called to walk, would you have us walk in shoes that no longer fit; and if the case, we are to walk barefoot, and perhaps one day useful shoes will be fashioned, made right."

First Contact Reconciliation collaborators are thankful for your services – volunteer and paid alike.

Submitted on behalf of First Contact Reconciliation Collaborative
May 23, 2022, by Sandra Boone Murphy

India Friends Collaborative Annual Report

The India Friends Working Group (now Collaborative) was started in 2003. Even before this George and Lillian Willoughby and other Philadelphia Friends had been developing friendships and spiritual connections with India Friends.

British Quakers first settled in India in the 1860s. At the time the British had programmed Meetings and that is how most India Friends worship today. Worshipping with them is quite different but deeply spiritual. When visiting them they are so welcoming that you can experience a feeling of belonging to this community. The Collaborative also works to have India Friends come to the USA but customs laws have proved difficult to overcome. We have had some success and the ones who were able to visit years ago have told us that it was religious experience to be welcome and worship with Philadelphia Friends. Some were able to stay at Pendle Hill. One of them, Archana Gour, who is now in India has worshipped via Pendle Hill's zoom Meetings. The zoom link is a new way of connecting and we certainly encourage that.

The India Friends Collaborative has focused on the Sohagpur Friends School for Girls (1875) these last two years.

The school's infrastructure is old and most of the buildings need structural repair and in some cases replacement. Recently a new building with three classrooms and a modern bathroom were constructed. There are plans to add a second floor as funds become available. As I understand it the funds for these improvements were and are continuing to be raised by members of the All India Friends Gathering, Australia Yearly Meeting, Britain Yearly Meeting, New York Yearly Meeting, New Zealand Yearly Meeting, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, Sohagpur Friends Meeting and Mt Holly Monthly Meeting. While this is a lot of Meetings it is a struggle to have enough funds to carry out all the needed improvements. If you or your Meeting would like to be involved in this collaborative effort please contact me and I can give you more information.

I went to the All-India Friends Gathering in 2012 and 2015. At the Gathering India Monthly and Yearly Meetings come together to worship, conduct business, have workshops including Alternative to Violence workshops for children and adults. In another, I spoke to Friends about John Woolman. Most of the audience had never heard of him. There was a lot of interest and a lot of questions and while I had brought quite a bit of literature it ran out.

After the Gathering there was a Young Friends Study and Work Camp. Among other activities Young Friends built "Friendly Water for the World" water filters <https://friendlywater.org/>. One of the goals of India Friends and the Collaborative is to have Young Friends and Young Adult Friends from PYM visit and participate in the event and also have reciprocal visits to Philadelphia.

Other goals in the next two to three years is to continue to send funds and spiritual support to the Sohagpur Friends School for Girls by funding children whose parents do not have sufficient funds to pay tuition. The school has been running with a deficit. We want the school to survive, to give girls a good education and for the students to understand Quaker values and to appreciate and use them as they live their lives. Most of the students are Hindu. Parents appreciate the education and values being taught and are comfortable that no attempt is being made to convert them to Quakerism.

As far as traveling goes. I have thought in the last few years that the money that I would use for travel would be better spent on Friends schools and other Quaker organizations. Of course there has been no travel in either direction for the last two years. Recently India Friends have emphasized that our visits do matter a great deal to

them! They are a tiny minority of a small minority (Christian based religions) in India. Our presence and the friendships that are created strengthen their resolve and their beliefs in difficult circumstances. And it gives those who travel there spiritual strength and love and that makes us persevere under our far less difficult circumstances.

An important tenet of our mission is not to take a lead but to support their leading. It is a blessing to do so!

Photographs are below. I would be glad to give a presentation.

Peace Be with You

Jack Walz, Clerk New contact information for the Collaborative will soon be available via PYM



SOHAGPUR CONSTRUCTION OF NEW CLASSROOM BUILDING



DIFFERENT VIEW OF SAME CONSTRUCTION



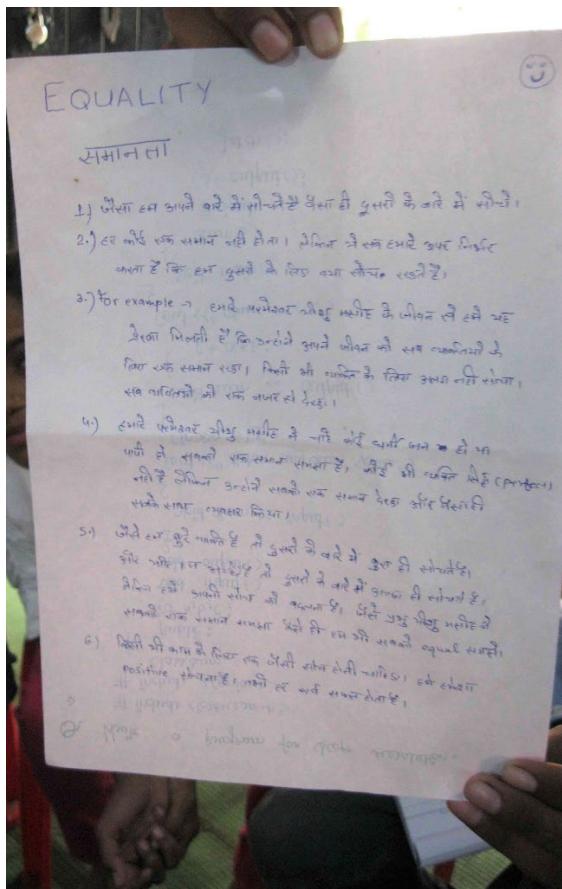
**SOHSGPUR FRIENDS SCHOOL RE-OPENING IN NOV 2021 AFTER BEING CLOSED DUE TO VIRUS
A NEW SURGE OF VIRUS STARTED AND THEY HAD TO CLOSE AGAIN
OPENED WITH 200 STUDENTS JULY 1, 2022**



AVP WORKSHOP AT ALL FRIENDS GATHERING



AVP BREAKOUT SESSION



EQUALITY GROUP NOTES WRITTEN IN HINDI



AT YOUNG FRIENDS STUDY AND WORK CAMP
MAKING CEMENT FOR FRIENDLY WATER FILTER



MOLDS FOR FRIENDLY WATER FILTER

Legislative Policy Collaborative Annual Report

PYM's Legislative Policy Collaborative includes ten Friends, nine of whom are appointed by PYM as representatives to serve on the General Committee of the Friends Committee on National Legislation, a Quaker lobby based in Washington. The LPC supports monthly meeting individuals who wish to be informed about federal legislative issues, engaging them in strategic policy initiatives and mentoring Young Adult Friends interested in policy witness. The LPC meets throughout the year and also attends PYM's Annual Sessions and FCNL's Annual Meeting.

For a second year, the Coronavirus Pandemic continued to rule out physical gatherings and the fellowship and energy that can come with meeting in-person. We have adapted to virtual meetings and virtual conversations as we continue our work to communicate, educate, worship, and discern. Where we were grateful for PYM staff's technical and material support for our workshop last year on gun violence, we could not avail ourselves of it this year. We planned to give a workshop in June, rather than our usual workshop time of late winter, early spring.

In November 2021, under the theme of *Choose Hope, Work for Justice*, hundreds of Quakers and like-minded advocates came together virtually to educate members of Congress about ending childhood poverty and to conduct business as part of FCNL's Quaker Public Policy Institute and 77th Annual Meeting. LPC members were among the fifty-five PYM F/friends from Pennsylvania and New Jersey who participated, many of whom came to this Quaker Public Policy Institute through LPC, its email list, and its former workshops.

FCNL's governing board (the General Committee) addressed numerous items of business, including hearing reports from standing committees, approving a new budget, approving a strong, spirit-led new General Secretary (Bridget Moix, Baltimore YM), and joyfully celebrating Diane Randall's decade of inspired leadership of FCNL. Members of LPC participated in all these sessions and took leadership in several.

Another highlight of the gathering was hearing a keynote address from the Co-author of *Fit for Freedom Not for Friendship*, Vanessa Julye, a member of Central Philadelphia Monthly Meeting. Through FCNL's DEI training, several members of PYM were trained to be process facilitators and micro-aggression interrupters. These skills are useful in a broad range of our work at PYM and in our monthly meetings.

It was a full, deep, and satisfying Annual Meeting. There were regrets that we were not in-person, but even in a virtual format we enjoyed having coffee in small groups, participating in a scavenger hunt, and were moved by our worship together.

Every two years, FCNL asks Quaker meetings and churches across the nation to discern legislative issues that should guide FCNL's work. During the winter of 2022, LPC wrote about this process for PYM members and were available to assist individual meetings asking for guidance in discerning priorities.

LPC members, having met with PYM leadership in April around PYM's new policy on lobbying/advocacy, now consider if that is a hindrance to our work. Friends across Collaboratives are discerning how the policy impacts upon them. The policy has far-reaching implications for the Legislative Policy Committee, including our work with monthly meetings, and we are also discerning the impact, reimagining our words, and pushing forward with our work.

In recent years, the LPC has developed and hosted a Spring workshop to educate PYM members about specific topics such as immigration and gun violence prevention, with a keynote speaker the highlight of each workshop.

This year we spent several meetings brainstorming various ideas. At our mid-February meeting, we found our inspiration: Exploring how militarism, racism, and environmental destruction intersect. We were excited about our topic because we could envision how we could bring together the work of FCNL, the Legislative Policy, Anti-racism and Eco-Justice Collaboratives. Diana Ohlbaum, FCNL's Senior Strategist and Legislative Director for Foreign Policy, would be our keynote speaker and we would use queries to guide each collaborative's contribution to the discussion.

As our workshop concept neatly corresponded with PYM's request for June 25th Annual Sessions workshops, we submitted our proposal and initiated the lengthy process of brainstorming how best to make our workshop relevant and helpful to Friends. We learned in mid-May, however, that our proposal was not selected, although the planning committee was excited by our proposal and hoped we would offer our workshop at another time. The LPC remains committed to developing a workshop and will meet to consider options, timing and next steps.

Although the pandemic may be transitioning to an endemic phase, the LPC will continue its work virtually, planning future educational workshops, mentoring individual YAF's interested in policy witness, and drawing strength from our spiritual well to engage as individuals on issues of peace and social justice.

Respectfully submitted,

Members of the Legislative Policy Collaborative

Lynn Oberfield, Co-Clerk (Providence)
Sylvia Bronner, Co-clerk (Haverford)
Emily Abels (Downington)
William Cozzens (Germantown)
Deb Hejl (Gwynedd)
Joe Laird (Downington)
Margaret Mansfield (Providence)
Stefanie Morgan (Trenton)
Steve Olshevski (Radnor)
Lou Pilla (Radnor)

Middle East Collaborative Annual Report

What do you want the PYM body (all 10,000 of us in PYM membership) to know about your collaborative?

PYM Middle East Collaborative is a group of Friends –mostly PYM Friends-- dedicated to learning about details behind current issues, developments, and opinions connected to the Middle East Region. Many in our group have spent time living in the Middle East. We historically have continued the connection begun at Yearly Meeting Sessions in 2002 with Ramallah Friends Meeting.

Together with Ramallah Friends School and Brummana High School outside of Beirut LEBANON, we have direct connections to both the history and current events at each of these Quaker schools.

Complexities of and search for a just peace in Israel/Palestine are a frequent focus of our conversations. We have also considered Lebanon, Syria, Turkey, Iraq, Iran, and to a lesser extent Egypt, UAE, and Jordan.

Beyond the Middle East Region itself, we examine ways that MEC members and PYM Friends might work here in the US in collaboration with local (e.g., American Friends Service Committee, Jewish Voice for Peace, Christian-Jewish Allies, Al Bustan Seeds of Culture) and national (e.g., Friends Committee on National Legislation, Friends of Sabeel North America, Quaker Palestine Israel Network) organizations.

How does your group meet and how frequently?

Middle East Collaborative meets every other month, First Sunday at 1:30pm: January, March, May, July, September, November. We have met virtually since mid 2020 and likely will continue via that mode. All are welcome.

How is the work of the collaborative being shared with the PYM community?

Our group has led PYM workshops. We have made our selves available to monthly and quarterly meetings for presentations. We have a website that is currently being improved and expanded.

How does your collaborative remain spiritually grounded through its work?

We begin and end with a time of silence. We enjoy ‘check-ins’ as a means of staying connected to each other and the spiritual bases in our individual actions.

What are the major accomplishments for the year?

- We led three virtual workshops completed in May, June, and July of 2021. May and June for run-up to Annual Sessions. In July we were guests presenting at the invitation of a combo of Concord and Western Quarters.
- A major focus for our whole meeting was on developments in Afghanistan in early September 2021 just as chaos was going on in Kabul and nearby areas of the country.
- Steady attention and support to social, governmental, and economic crises in Lebanon with particular focus on Brummana Friends Meeting and Brummana High School.
- We have developed a proposal for presentation in summer or Fall 2022. Focus is on explanations of some of the language that is manipulated by differing positions and political viewpoints in the Israel/Palestine complexities.

- We look forward to offering in collaboration with Philadelphia's Christian-Jewish Allies an online course Why Palestine Matters. The course will be offered virtually across six evenings. It includes consideration of the human rights connections between issues of Palestinian oppression and systemic racism here in the USA. PYM Friends are encouraged to stay tuned to learn more of this opportunity in Fall 2022.

What are the things that are stopping/hindering your mission, if any?

There are plenty of worthwhile issues to which PYM Friends may give their attention and direct action efforts.

Congress fears backlash from specific elements of their constituencies if they are to support legislation sympathetic to the Palestinian cause. Or Lebanon; or Iran; or Yemen;

The issues of justice with equity through non-violent resolutions to bring improvements –concrete movements toward peace-- in the Middle East region seem overwhelming and distant, if not impossible, to many. I suspect that learned helplessness restricts the participation of many.

Is there anything you need of PYM administration (from PYM staff, the Clerk(s) or the Program Committee?)

Thank you for that offer. As we work to plan for the presentation that has been postponed from June 25th, '22 and work to schedule the course Why Palestine Matters, we will look to PYM staff and Program Committee for specific support.

Submitted by Dr. Sandy Rea, clerk of MEC

Spiritual Formation Collaborative Annual Report

What do you want the PYM body (all 10,000 of us in PYM membership) to know about your collaborative?

We want them to know that we offer the opportunity for deepening the spiritual life of any group of Friends within a Monthly Meeting or within several at once. We will come to the Meeting to offer our program for a day, a weekend, or for the full nine months of our traditional program. Our evaluations are a testimony to the effectiveness of this program for strengthening the spiritual life of everyone in the Meeting. They are available for viewing on our website. We also offer a Summer Sessions and Fall Retreat experience open to everyone in PYM.

How does your group meet and how frequently?

We met 8 times during this period. We increased the number of our meetings in order to stay more connected during COVID. We meet virtually for 3-4 hours, the second Saturday of the month. We also hold a weekend annual retreat at Eagles Mere in August for spiritual refreshment, renewal and long-range planning.

How is the work of the collaborative being shared with the PYM community?

To individual meetings in PYM, we offer the 9 month Spiritual Formation Program, weekend programs, or day long programs as requested. To the entire body we offer a retreat at summer sessions and a yearly fall weekend retreat currently being held at Pendle Hill. We maintain a website sharing all our materials and designs as well as a calendar for our upcoming programs. I am attaching a brochure describing our activities. We rely on PYM staff to provide PR for our two annual retreats.

How does your collaborative remain spiritually grounded through its work?

The first hour of all of our meetings is used as a check-in spiritually. If a member requests it-- we hold that member in the light. Team meetings also begin and end with prayer. And before a program begins team members meet and pray for an hour and then pray throughout the program. It is also our custom to team each facilitator with an elder who holds both the facilitator and the group being facilitated In the Light.

When we hold retreats, if we are not facilitating, members will often participate in the activities either with other SF members or participants if appropriate. Spirit and the audience always teach us and guide us during retreats. We continually learn new things and have the spirit confirmed.

Once per year our collaborative holds a retreat for members when we renew, refresh and examine our work. We pray for one another and support one another in our lives and in our SFC work.

What are the major accomplishments for the year?

Virtual Spiritual Formation Program: The Spiritual Formation Collaborative (SFC) created a very successful 9 month virtual Spiritual Formation Program for Abington Monthly Meeting with the Opening Retreat starting September 25-26, 2020, Mid-Year Retreat January 23, 2021(9 am - 5 pm) and Closing retreat: May 14,-15, 2021. After the opening retreat, Abington Meeting Clerk Wanda Wyffels reported, "Abington Friends are speaking often of the SFP work with excitement. They are 'on fire.'" 25 Friends are participating. The retreat was so successful the Spiritual Formation Collaborative (SFC) gained a strong new member, Jenny Burkholder.

Annual Sessions Retreat SFC is thrilled that our sessions retreat before summer sessions has now become a traditional way of preparing members for summer session. This year's presentation, "Deep Listening as an Act/Responsibility of Justice, Mercy, Kindness, & Humbleness" was held Tuesday, July 27 from 10:00am to 4:00pm and Wednesday morning, July 28 from 9:00am to 10:00am. We secured ".O" to lead the retreat and the description is below.

"The Spiritual Formation Collaborative will hold their 4th Annual Sessions retreat to ground the spiritual multi-generational space for our week together as a yearly meeting community.

Pre session retreat is the tilling to prepare the soil of our Soul so that we are able to move forward with the work of Uprooting Injustice, Rooting Justice.

As we hold and behold the seed that we bring with us to Meeting, together we will experience the power of Breathing, Stillness and Deep Listening.

.O will invite us to a deep place where our sacredness can be empowered.

The registration for the Spiritual Formation retreat is a part of the Annual Sessions registration." Annual Sessions retreat. There were 43 participants. Of the 43, 7 were from the SF Collaborative and 5 were PYM staff including Olivia.

Annual Weekend Retreat at Pendle Hill: Reaching for the Divine and Finding Sanctuary for the Soul held Oct 15, at 4 pm and ending on Sunday, October 17, 2021, at 1 pm. 35 people attended. The retreat goals were:

- Retreating and creating sanctuary for our souls
- Deepening,
- Nurturing, and learning
- Networking and connecting
- Sharing our stories and be wholly/holy listened to
- Sharing a commitment to move forward together with joy

Updated brochure: We also updated our brochure

Reviewing and updating our reading list: We are in the arduous process of reviewing and updating all our readings.

New Members: we are fortunate enough to have 2 new members Dona Sorce from Third Haven Meeting and Jenny Burkholder from Abington Meeting. Jonathan Slocum from Third Haven Meeting is considering joining us and is now helping us plan our Sessions retreat, featuring Clinton Pettus. We have the privilege of having Wendy Kane from the Quaker life Council/program committee.

What are the things that are stopping/hindering your mission, if any?

It is challenging to get the word out about our work. Many Friends don't realize our availability for Meeting programs. Covid has also slowed us down for in-person retreats and we miss physically being together

Is there anything you need of PYM administration (from PYM staff, the Clerk(s) or the Program Committee?)

The PYM staff and program committee have been very supportive of us and help make our work possible. I would like to give our heartfelt thanks to Olivia Brangan, Zachary T. Dutton and Wendy Kane.
We would appreciate more PR help and the accounting.



Spiritual State of the Yearly Meeting Report 6th Month 2022

Prepared by Ministry and Care Committee of QLC

Shared with Quaker Life Council 6th Month 18, 2022

Presented to the Yearly Meeting in Session July 2022

The spiritual state of our yearly meeting as reflected in the reports of 63 Monthly Meetings is vibrant and vigorous. (footnote one¹) Ministry and Care Committee was pleased to receive reports from small, medium and large meetings across the geographic range of the yearly meeting, provided through the work of the Clerk of the meeting, Ministry and Care Committee, amalgamated reports from several meeting committees and also from gatherings of meeting members in which the Spiritual State of the Meeting was considered. In the aggregate, the pandemic has exacerbated the challenges to maintain community and to act in accordance with our testimonies and draw on our creativity to meet those challenges. Meetings have, in general, risen to the challenges. They have learned a lot about what is important to their community and gotten to know each other more deeply. Meetings have also found places where they need and want to improve and change; for many, that work is underway while some others have implied a desire for support and assistance in that process.

Our yearly meeting wide witness of climate change has engaged meetings across the span of the meeting—large and small, urban and rural --in many different ways. For some, this is a witness long held, while others are just beginning to learn about what they can do and to realize how much there is to learn. Several meetings have made extensive changes to their meeting house in order to improve their energy efficiency and decrease their carbon footprint; fewer in-person meetings also coincidentally decrease carbon footprint. One meeting has become aware through increased education that their individual actions are unlikely to have an important impact and have moved their focus away from emphasis on individual acts of conservation. Several meetings are supporting their members in performing a personal energy audit to learn about their individual carbon footprint.

Many meetings are also engaging with an increased focus on the realities of systemic racism in our midst and witnessing the need for change. Meetings have engaged this concern in a wide variety of ways including reading, lectures, demonstrations, banners, discussion groups, worship sharing, financial

¹ Footnote:

This represents about 61% of the monthly meetings in Philadelphia Yearly Meeting at this time. Reports came from 16 small (fewer than 50 members), 34 medium (fewer than 200 members) and 14 large meetings.; we recognize that membership numbers may not accurately reflect the composition of the meeting. Only reports received by June 1, 2022 have been included in this reporting—Reports received after that date will be included in next year's spiritual state of the yearly meeting report. A list of those meetings whose reports were used as the basis for this Spiritual State of the Yearly Meeting Report is available on request. The entire group of reports can be found on-line.

donations, focus on reparations, and partnering with neighboring congregations and schools with predominantly African-American membership. One meeting has engaged dialogue with the police chief of their town to address racism. Several meetings have engaged in activities focused on in-reach as a foundation for greater, better informed action in the world. While some meetings are building on an already well developed foundation, others are still learning. By understanding systemic racism more fully, meeting members are better positioned to make choices about action.

Worship has been taking place via zoom exclusively or in a hybrid configuration for almost all meetings reporting. One meeting has continued to meet in person. Some note the advantages of including folks from a distance or those who have travel challenges and/or concerns about the pandemic, though some specifically note Zoom is not for them! Some meetings have met the challenge of zoom worship by upgrading their WIFI service and purchasing the technology (new computers, the owl, speaker systems, etc) that allows hybrid meetings for worship and business to work smoothly. Some note the benefits of blended worship and several are clear that they “will never go back” to meeting for worship only in person. The advantage of hybrid or all zoom meetings for committees is also real, allowing participation of those who find evening travel unpalatable. The use of zoom for meetings also speaks to climate concerns and allows Friends to hold meetings without significant expenditure of fossil fuels. Closed captioning and the ability to see everyone’s face allows more meaningful participation for those with hearing challenges.

The availability of out-door spaces presented both blessings and challenges. While several meetings noted using the outdoors for fellowship, worship and First Day School offerings for children, many others noted the additional responsibility (some might say burden) properties present. Storms have felled old trees which then needed to be cleared, but the comradeship heretofore offered by work-days has not been as easily achieved. One meeting was pleased that they have gotten rid of their meeting house and are renting space from a local church. Others are using their space, both outdoor and indoor, to provide a base for outreach to the surrounding community. Some share their meeting house with other worship communities, some use their kitchens to provide meals for neighborhood organizations or allow those facilities to be used for such purposes. Meeting properties also provide a location for signs and for informational and protest vigils and demonstrations- primarily on racism or climate issues. Although the signs and banners have occasionally been the targets of vandalism, they have generally been a useful focus for education and for stating the position of the meeting in a public way.

Although Zoom has been a very helpful vehicle for adult Religious Education, fellowship, committee meetings and worship of all kinds, it has in general not been as successful for families with younger children and for children's First Day School. Many meetings have worked hard to find ways to bring children to the meeting together; many have found that zoom is a poor vehicle as many children were spending their entire school week on zoom and were “zoomed-out” by First Day morning. Several meetings report heroic efforts by their first day school teachers who provided “delivered to your door” lessons for use by families at home. While this allowed for some of the material that would be taught in FDS to be shared, it did not allow for the rich and deep connections our children form when they spend time with one another. Those meetings with access to outdoor spaces used them to bring the children together in person.

Outreach to meeting members who are unable to attend worship either in person or through zoom has been an intention successfully carried through by many meetings. Ministry and Care committees (under a variety of names) have sent cards, letters, and flowers, made phone calls, and also sent emails with readings, queries and stories to share. In some meetings opportunities to then gather via zoom and reflect (in worship sharing or informal conversation times) on those stories as well as on spiritual journeys and other personal sharings have helped to bring the meetings' members closer together.

The pandemic has brought increased isolation for individual meeting members and for the meeting-as-a-whole, as well. While some meetings have been able to continue traditions of service and outreach that connect them to their local community, others have experienced attrition and a sense of disconnection. Several meetings specifically note a desire for increased connection with the community and are exploring ways to accomplish that. Others are actively seeking to reconnect with meeting members, attract new attenders and deepen and grow the meeting community overall.

Meetings in Phila Yearly Meeting have met the pandemic with hard work, and notable spiritual resiliency, holding on to some treasured traditions and developing new ways to accomplish community goals. Meeting members express pleasure that zoom and hybrid meetings for worship are surprisingly spiritual and fulfilling. Business continues to be conducted, primarily on-line. Meetings have been creative in devising opportunities for in-person fellowship, as well as on-line interaction. For some meetings, participation in quarterly and yearly meeting activities has increased, which Friends see as a positive outcome. Indoor and outdoor worship have also increased for some meetings. Friends have found many different ways to attend to the quality of worship to explore what is essential for gathered worship and to uncover different ways to enhance the experience. This year has brought sadness, loss and challenges which are encouraging creative problem solving and deeper connection.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jean-Marie Prestwidge Barch, Clerk Ministry and Care Committee of Quaker Life Council—on behalf of the committee

2022 At-Large Membership in Philadelphia Yearly Meeting

Friends who are active and engaged participants in Philadelphia Yearly Meeting may choose to apply for at-large membership. Applicants for at-large membership are not restricted to the geographical boundaries of PYM, but should view PYM and its constituent parts as their primary spiritual home.

Application Process

Individuals who wish to apply for at-large membership in Philadelphia Yearly Meeting are encouraged to submit a letter of application to the clerk of the Ministry & Care Committee.

The letter should include the following:

- A statement of the applicant's understanding of the Religious Society of Friends, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, and an understanding of how at-large membership meets their spiritual needs.
- A description of how the applicant has been active and involved in the Quaker activities in yearly, quarterly, and/or monthly meetings.
- A plan for worship in the manner of Friends over the next year.
 - Worship may include monthly meetings, quarterly meetings, yearly meetings, Pendle Hill, or another body with regular or irregular worship.
- A plan for religious education over the next year.
 - Religious education may include workshops, retreats, or religious education classes from any one of the many organizations that offer these opportunities, including but not limited to, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, Pendle Hill, Friends General Conference, a quarterly meeting event, or a monthly meeting event.
- The names of three or more friends who are willing to act individually or collectively to support the applicant in their spiritual journey. If the applicant does not have three friends who are willing to act in this capacity, then the letter should include a request for assistance in creating a support committee.
- A commitment to remain in communication with PYM, including updated contact information and requests for support or assistance as needed.
- An annual update to the appropriate committee with an evaluation of what's working, what's not working, and recommendations for any necessary changes in the at-large membership process.

Friends have the option of asking a group to write a letter of support for their application. That group could be a committee, a quarter, a worship group, Young Adult Friends, or another Quaker organization the applicant is in community with.

When the clerk receives the letter of application, the clerk will ask Ministry & Care to arrange a clearness committee for the applicant.

- The clearness committee will spend time in worship, visitation, and discernment with the applicant as outlined in [Faith & Practice](#).
- The clearness committee will prayerfully and faithfully consider the application for at large membership.
- If the applicant wants to maintain membership in another religious body, the clearness committee and the applicant should discuss that desire relevant to the guidance included in [Faith and Practice](#):
“Should an applicant for membership in a monthly meeting wish to maintain membership in or affiliation with another religious body, the clearness committee established to review the application for membership will explore with sensitivity the reasons that underlie this desire.”
- If the committee is clear that the applicant should be welcomed into at-large membership, the committee will recommend to Ministry and Care (or the clerk, if necessary) that the Yearly Meeting welcome the applicant into membership.
- Quaker Life Council will share the names of new at-large with Philadelphia Yearly Meeting.

Individuals who complete the clearness process are welcomed into membership. At-large members are eligible to serve on PYM councils and committees, as PYM officers, as representatives to external organizations, or to receive grants.

At Large Membership Responsibilities

Friends who are welcomed into At Large Membership are members of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting as outlined in [Faith & Practice](#). Friends are encouraged to read the referenced text, in particular with regard to the obligations and opportunities for the member and the meeting, each to the other. Members have the responsibilities and opportunities available to other members of the Religious Society of Friends, just as the Yearly Meeting has responsibilities to the individual member.

Monthly, Quarterly, and Yearly Meeting Membership

Individuals are encouraged to discern if their needs are best met by membership in a monthly meeting, at-large in a quarterly meeting, or at-large in the yearly meeting. Conversely, Quakers are encouraged to consider if they have the capacity and interest to support at-large membership. Some Friends have expressed that their spiritual home and community lies with their Quarter and subsequently, they prefer to be members of their Quarter. Membership is one way to be a Quaker, but not the only way.

Resources

Membership:

<https://www.pym.org/faith-and-practice/faith-reflected-organization/friends-meetings/membership/>

Procedures for Membership:

<https://www.pym.org/faith-and-practice/guidelines-and-procedures/procedures-for-membership/>

Clearness Committee: A clearness committee helps someone resolve a specific question, such as membership, marriage, or another identifiable issue. A clearness committee has a short term relationship with the individual, meeting only a few times.

Support Committee: A support, care, or anchor committee provides long term assistance to an individual who has a ministry or concern. A support committee has an ongoing relationship with an individual that may endure for years.

Learn more about [clearness committees and support committees](#) from PYM Faith & Practice.



Climate Witness Stewards Charge

Preface

"Friends have a long tradition of respecting science as a means of understanding the world we live in. For over a century, with increasing urgency, scientists have been reporting on the effects of climate change and environmental degradation. We are concerned today with "abrupt climate change" -- a tipping point after which it becomes difficult to predict or adapt to environmental changes." (Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, Moving Together in the Face of Climate Change (July, 2021). Appendix 1: Spiritual and Moral Basis for Action, The Urgency of This Moment, p. 4)

Friends' testimonies of stewardship and equality require us to address climate change. The present crisis and its ramifications include loss of biodiversity, agricultural viability, racial and economic injustice, and unrest caused or exacerbated by environmental factors.

Although relatively few in number, Friends have a reputation for advocacy based on ethical and moral principles. Our historical support for peace and justice adds a Spirit-led, Quaker perspective to public forums. We must not hesitate to exercise our voices. (Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, 2021).

Climate Witness Stewards

In order to hold Philadelphia Yearly Meeting (PYM) accountable to its commitment to a yearly meeting-wide witness on climate change and climate justice, Climate Witness Stewards will be appointed from its membership.

They will serve the Yearly Meeting and its constituent parts by listening to, reflecting and reporting on how well, to what extent, and/or in what ways Monthly, Quarterly, and Yearly Meetings are living into their commitments.

The Climate Witness Stewards shall foster an environment that enables and promotes the witness in a Spirit-led, trustworthy, and transparent manner.

Authority

The Climate Witness Stewards will act under the authority of, and be responsible to, the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting body as a whole, guided by PYM's Faith and Practice, under the care of the Administrative Council, and directly reporting to PYM in session. The Stewards will conduct their business in line with PYM policies and procedures.

Charge

With Divine assistance, the Climate Witness Stewards, as a group, are charged with:

- staying current with all aspects of PYM's climate change and climate justice related actions, statements, and programs from the Monthly, Quarterly, and Yearly Meetings, and their relevant parts.
- drawing from their own expertise and synthesizing that which they learn from PYM's constituent parts, so they may provide advice, expertise, and recommendations to the Yearly Meeting, and its entities, as needed.

Responsibilities

Climate Witness Stewards will:

- provide PYM Councils and other governance groups with advice, expertise, and recommendations about matters pertaining to climate change and its intersectionality with race and justice for consideration.
- consult with PYM staff and governance in the consideration of establishing and maintaining partnerships with other organizations conducting climate change and climate justice work in the wider community.
- report directly to the Yearly Meeting providing verbal and written reports on a regular basis, at least once per year, and as needed.
 - These reports will include assessments of PYM's climate change and climate justice ministry.
 - They may provide guidance about priorities, gaps, strengths, challenges, and opportunities in PYM's collective work towards climate justice. Reports will be based on a summary of information elicited from the Monthly, Quarterly, Yearly Meetings, and relevant components.
 - The Climate Witness Stewards have the authority to provide their reports on our commitment to addressing climate change directly to PYM Friends in business sessions without mediation by any other body. This ensures that their voice and message are unedited.
- recommend annual benchmarks and activities on PYM's climate witness, to be adopted by the body.
- provide guidance and advice to members of PYM's governance bodies when requested or when there is a perceived need.
- provide guidance regarding recommended resources, statements, trainings, trainers, etc., suggested or drafted by others, for use by Monthly, Quarterly, Yearly Meetings, and relevant parts.
- give quarterly progress reports to Joint Councils (Administrative, Quaker Life and Nominating Councils).

The Climate Witness Stewards may connect to, and work with, other PYM bodies and collaboratives.

The commitments of the Climate Witness Stewards include:

- gathering on at least a quarterly basis, and more frequently as needed, to manage their responsibilities.
- staying current on climate change and climate justice issues in the wider world.
- staying current with the climate relevant activity of the Monthly, Quarterly, and Yearly Meetings through periodic check-ins and/or thread gatherings within PYM.
- attending Yearly Meeting Sessions and as appropriate other Yearly Meeting-wide gatherings.
- being available in case of time-imperative needs, such as consulting on suggested resources or PYM's public statements.
- gathering on at least a quarterly basis, and more frequently as needed, to manage their responsibilities.
- staying current on climate change and climate justice issues in the wider world.

- staying current with the climate relevant activity of the Monthly, Quarterly, and Yearly Meetings through periodic check-ins and/or thread gatherings within PYM.
- attending Yearly Meeting Sessions and as appropriate other Yearly Meeting-wide gatherings.
- being available in case of time-imperative needs, such as consulting on suggested resources or PYM's public statements.

Membership

The Climate Witness Stewards, as a group, shall be comprised of members of PYM:

- who can articulate their lived experience of the impacts of climate change and its intersectionality with social and economic injustices of all kinds.
- who are grounded in Spirit.
- who can connect the work of climate justice and climate change to religious and Friends' roots and Testimonies, both verbally and experientially.
- who approach work in a systematic way, considering possibilities and impacts from a variety of perspectives with attention to effectiveness.
- who have demonstrated the ability to work in a collaborative, transparent manner that engenders trust.
- who are familiar with the governance structure of PYM.

Appointing the initial panel of Climate Witness Stewards:

The initial panel of 5 to 7 Climate Witness Stewards will be raised by the Climate Stewards' Sprint after consulting relevant groups with expertise in Climate Justice issues. These recommendations will be brought to Administrative and Quaker Life Councils for approval with input from the Nominating Council. A convener will be appointed by the Administrative Council to serve as temporary clerk until the group can discern who should serve in that capacity. The initial panel will have staggered terms. PYM Council Clerks and Presiding Clerks may participate as led with the Climate Witness Stewards' deliberations and activities.

Groups to be consulted for these initial nominations may include:

- Eco-Justice Collaborative
- Earth Quaker Action Team (EQAT)
- Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEWF)
- Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL)
- Friends Environmental Education Network (FEEN) and/or Friend's Council on Education
- PYM staff member(s)
- Youth Religious Life Coordinator of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting
- Inclusion and Belonging coordinator of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting
- Anti-Racism Collaborative, Ujima Peace Center, Legislative Policy Collaborative, Friends Counseling Service

Appointing subsequent panels of Climate Witness Stewards:

- Nominating Council is encouraged to solicit names for potential Climate Witness Stewards from groups holding particular expertise in climate change/justice matters. Those nominated will be presented for approval at Sessions for terms of two years with a maximum of 3 terms.

- PYM Council Clerks and Presiding Clerks may participate as led with the Climate Witness Stewards' deliberations and activities.
- Climate Witness Stewards will be members of PYM and may include members with diverse experience and deep knowledge of:
 - The intersection of climate, economic, racial, and social justice issues
 - Eco-Justice
 - Non-violent, direct action
 - Climate Advocacy
 - Climate Science
 - Climate concerns of Young Friends and Young Adult Friends
 - Climate/environmental education
 - Friend(s) impacted by racial injustice

Accountability

The Climate Witness Stewards are accountable to the PYM body with support from and under the care of the Administrative Council.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Statement (will be created by the Climate Witness Stewards)



Philadelphia Yearly Meeting

of the Religious Society of Friends

Climate Witness Stewards Report to Annual Sessions

Last year the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting (PYM) committed to a yearly meeting-wide witness on climate change. This historic decision came at a crucial time, as the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and other scientific experts around the world were calling for a significant reduction in greenhouse gasses within the decade to avoid the worst impacts of climate change. We are at a moment when the urgent need to act is matched by growing support from people around the world for taking action. This crisis, no question, can lead to human extinction unless we act now and with intelligence, wisdom, and heart. As the pace of the multiple events of climate change has accelerated, more and more of us are being impacted and have begun to respond with actions to mitigate our own personal contributions as well as demands that corporate and government policymakers take significant steps to avert the worst. The sooner we act to curb CO₂ and methane emissions, the more human lives and those of other species (all of whom have significant co-evolved roles in keeping planetary life balanced and functioning) will be spared.

Last month the Joint Councils of PYM appointed five climate witness stewards to move the Yearly Meeting's climate change work forward. We are charged with fostering "an environment that enables and promotes the climate change witness in a Spirit-led, trustworthy and transparent manner." We are honored to hold this position of trust and are committed to the work of this witness, recognizing that climate change is an urgent existential and moral crisis that calls on the energy, talent, and spirit of every one of us.

Given the urgency of the climate crisis, we call on the Yearly Meeting to use all tools at its disposal, including reducing our own carbon footprint while advocating for local and national policies that move us toward net zero, educating ourselves and the wider community about the issues and solutions, making sure our finances support the work that needs to be done, and providing a spiritual community of support. In the tradition of Friends witnessing to the truth of our times, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting should take every opportunity to make strong public statements, both on our own and in concert with other faith communities, about the need to act.

As your climate witness stewards, we will support this witness in a number of ways, including:

- Establishing regular communications with MMs and QMs. We have already sent an email to all monthly meetings, reminding them of the climate change sprint report and asking them to identify climate change liaisons.
- Setting annual benchmarks and making regular progress reports to the Yearly Meeting
- Reporting to the PYM governing councils.
- Committing to climate change programs at every annual sessions and continuing sessions.
- Ensuring that all yearly meeting decisions take the climate change witness into account.

- Consulting with PYM leadership to prepare public statements addressing the urgency of the climate crisis and recognizing the spiritual imperative to act and the need for strategic policy changes to prevent the worst effects of climate change.
- Making recommendations about allocation of yearly meeting resources commensurate with a corporate witness on climate change.
- Ensuring that our witness on racial justice remains a focus of our climate change work.
- Encouraging and facilitating cooperation with other faith and community groups

Identified goals for the coming year:

- That the yearly meeting leadership make a public statement as soon after annual sessions as feasible reaffirming our yearly meeting-wide witness and calling for strong action on climate change At least two other statements should follow during the year in response to the latest developments.
- That the yearly meeting recruit/appoint at least two additional stewards with the goal of providing greater diversity and broader geographic representation.
- That the PYM website feature the climate change witness prominently, making resources and reports readily accessible and user friendly.
- That the Yearly Meeting immediately stand up a committee which would plan how to make PYM operations carbon neutral by 2025. Planning and evaluations should be completed within one year.
- That the Yearly Meeting also develop concrete resources to facilitate Monthly Meetings becoming carbon neutral.
- That climate change programs and workshops be part of the remaining 2022-2023 continuing and annual sessions.

Acknowledging that monthly meetings are at various stages of action on climate change, we intend to promote the development of a variety of resources that will support the work of monthly meetings. Many monthly meetings have already taken important steps to respond to the climate crisis. We applaud them and want to facilitate making their work a resource for other meetings.

As the Climate Change Sprint Report says, “the Climate Crisis and our response to it is deeply linked to our testimonies of simplicity, peace, integrity, community, equality and stewardship.” We look forward to working with all of you, as thoughtful and engaged **stewards of Creation**, to limit further suffering and to build a just and loving world.

ABINGTON QUARTER NEWSLETTER

Summer 2022



www.abingtonquarterlymeeting.org

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Kelly Green, Clerk of the Quarter: abingtonquarterclerk@gmail.com
Rebecca Cratin, Home & Care Administrator: rhcратin@cratin.com

Quick note from the Editor

The deadline for the next newsletter is Thursday, September 22, 2022 ... Chris

From the AQM Clerk

Hello Friends,

The Abington Quarterly Meeting and Picnic will be held at Plymouth Monthly Meeting on **August 7**. We will be meeting in the Annie H Wilson room, off their Kitchen area. The business meeting will start at **9 am**, so arrive there (or via zoom) a little early! We will join Plymouth for worship using the same room at 11 o'clock . We are asking attendees to bring a bag lunch. Plymouth will provide beverages and deserts and will have tents erected for the event so we may eat and have fellowship outside!

The documents for our business meeting will be available on the quarter's website. Click on the calendar. Document links will be there, along with the zoom link!

The *Meeting for Worship for the Business of the Quarter* will include:

- A minute from *Gwynedd Monthly Meeting* regarding its acknowledgment that the land the meetinghouse is on was part of the Leni Lenape nation's lands. They will be posting this minute on their website to move the conversation forward to reconcile the part we played in colonization of the Leni Lenape lands. This is another proactive statement by one of our monthly meetings to recognize our history and define a path forward.

- PYM's Anti Racist Committee will be making a report and indicating their willingness to help
- Monthly meetings in our quarter look at how we can be Anti Racist as individuals and corporately and be mindful of our inactions and actions that speak of our being Anti-Racist.
- The AQM Communication Committee will have a report.
- We will be having a guest from *Friends Village*, in Newtown. Chiyo Moriuchi will tell us what's going on at that retirement community.
- New Business

Report on Abington Quarter at PYM's Continuing Sessions

I have been asked to share what's going on in Abington Quarter at PYM's continuing sessions. This is what I'll be sharing:

Abington Quarter is vibrant and receptive of how God is leading us. We have 9 monthly meetings that have been affected by the pandemic, floods and tornadoes. We have met each crisis with love and support. Our monthly meetings continue to bring their journey of Faith & Practice to the quarter and we lift up their concerns. Our standing committees keep the Quarter's work manageable. We are blessed to have people who are led to serve at another level of Quaker practice. We all wear different hats that support our Monthly Meetings, our Quarter and Yearly Meeting.

I want to highlight our committees:

- The *Youth Programs Support Committee*'s focus typically supports our Young Friends gatherings held in June.
- Our *Home and Care Committee* and our *AQM Fund Committee* have been working together to address aspects of the pandemic, floods and tornado damage in our area. The Home and Care committee typically helps members in our quarter who need assistance with their health and well being. The Abington Quarter Fund committee is charged with helping fund Monthly Meetings and the Quarterly Meeting with financial help to address meetings' needs.
- The *AQM Communication Committee* meets regularly to help our Monthly Meetings setup and maintain their websites. They also have set up our quarter's website.
- Our *AQM Worship & Ministry Committee* meets monthly to have worship and share the Monthly Meetings' concerns and leadings.
- The *AQM Nominating Committee* meets as needed to support the health of our committees and administration volunteers.
- The *AQM Representatives* are from each monthly meeting and carry the Monthly Meetings' concerns and share the quarter's work with the monthly meetings.
- Our *AQM Trustees* manage our investments. These funds are mostly allocated to helping the aging members with life care of our quarter community.

With the cause and effect of the pandemic, the meetings in our area are careful with maintaining health concerns. Many meetings, in efforts to keep their faith community healthy, share their worship & committee work using zoom. Many have invested in computers, projectors and screens to help facilitate shared hybrid meetings. This is where some people are remote and can participate with those who are gathered in person. We are blessed to have the support of many people to help us keep connected.

We have a new Newsletter Editor, Chris Mrozinski, and a new AQM Website Administrator, Robert Reiff. I can't begin to tell you what both of these people mean to Abington Quarter. I'm proud to be associated

with them. And I don't want to slight any of our other faithful AQM Quakers who consistently gather in committee to be of service. Committees' communication is vital to the health of our organization. I want to thank all the people who make this quarter vital and visionary!

Kelly Green , AQM Clerk

Registering on the Website

Susan Vorwek, AQM Communications Committee

The Communications Committee encourages all members and attenders of Abington Quarter to register on the website to see documents (like committee reports), the directory, and past issues of this newsletter, and more. Please see the graph below for more.

MEMBERS ONLY Section

This section is for MEMBERS ONLY.
Accessing the documents (such as Meeting Minutes, agenda, Zoom link) requires being registered on the site.

Access is not automatically given. There is a process whereby the Communications Committee confirms that the applicant is a Member of a Monthly Meeting in the Quarter. This step is to safeguard personal information, proprietary information (budgets, etc) and to manage the Zoom access.

Before you register for Members Only access, we advise you visit the [Web Support](#) page.

For Byberry, Gwynedd Norristown, Plymouth Upper Dublin	For Abington, Horsham and Unami	For Richland
Your Monthly Meeting is already utilizing Hubb/Church Insight, we need you to:	Your Meeting is transitioning to Hubb/Church Insight, and likely will require you to:	Your Meeting's website is independent of the Hubb/ChurchInsight, you will need to:
MIGRATE FROM A MONTHLY MEETING SITE into the Quarter's site, to ensure you only have one log-in to remember.	REGISTER AS A NEW USER.	REGISTER AS A NEW USER.

Before you register for Members Only access, we advise you visit the [Web Support](#) page.

THEN return to the homepage, select "Register" and follow the instructions for either a New Registration or a Migration.

AQM Business Meetings
Committee Files (Minutes and Documents)
AQM Newsletter

 Community

 Quaker Videos

 Calendar

AQM Communication Committee Report

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the AQCC by Robert C. Reiff, AQM Website Administrator

The Abington Quarter Communications Committee (AQCC) was created by AQM in 2019. The committee's overriding goals are to increase the visibility and outreach of AQM and member meetings, attracting new members and retaining the existing ones. The committee consists of two groups of members – Cohort #1 and Cohort#2. Both groups currently meet weekly.

AQCC Cohort #1 is the original committee that did the leg work of researching website options, did grant research, wrote grants, pursued inreach/outreach ideas, drove the banner program, negotiated the HUBB agreement, nurtured the meetings as the original group websites came up live. Thousands of hours of work was done by this original group that currently has 6 to 8 active members representing the 6 live websites – Byberry, Gwynedd, Norristown, Plymouth, Upper Dublin and AQM.

AQCC Cohort #2 is a secondary committee made up of members from Abington, Horsham and Unami who are customizing their HUBB websites in development. The AQCC also welcomed Haverford Meeting, which is also testing a HUBB website. Two members of Cohort #1 act as mentors and host the committee meetings with other members of Cohort #1 collaborating on presenting different sections of the HUBB website. In addition to these 4 new meeting websites, Upper Dublin and Gwynedd have members on Cohort #2 who have recently joined their own meeting's efforts, and are now learning the system, to become familiar with the technical end of their respective live websites.

Cohort #1 continues to work on the AQM website and the other live monthly meeting websites as questions, issues and requests arise. Depending on the question, issue or request, it can take tens of hours of research, building and testing before the question, issue or request has been successfully resolved. Needless to say, this work cannot be accomplished in a single 2- hour weekly meeting. (Just like other committees -- A LOT of volunteer work gets done behind the scenes by individual members).

As you can see, the AQCC currently is website development focused on the monthly meeting websites as well as the Quarter's website. The committee has been encouraging all members of the Quarter to register and use the AQM website to help the committee reach its goals. In addition, AQCC has been introducing the website's office tools to distribute and securely store media such as documents, videos, photos and audio files for Quarterly Meeting, its Committees and programs. AQCC is sorely aware that there is other outreach work that is not getting done as working on these multiple websites in different stages of development takes up ALL the time of the committee.

It has been expressed by members of the committee that what the Quarter needs is a Coordinator who could pick up both the website and non-website outreach, not only for AQM but for ALL the meetings in the Quarter. A Quarter Coordinator could pick up logistical tasks that accompany the Quarter's use of online meetings for committees and Quarterly Meetings. They could oversee social media and make sure that there is a steady flow keeping the Quarter and the meetings on people's phones and devices. They could coordinate the online calendars and concerns pages that can support social media feeds and videos. A Quarter Coordinator could do this and more. This is especially important considering our declining membership numbers and our need for dynamic outreach that reaches people through their social media preference.

A Friend said to me recently, if we are happy with watching our membership numbers drop and are ok with losing PYM in 20 years and the rest of the meetings in 40 years, then keep the status quo.

As the members of the AQCC see the danger in keeping the status quo, the committee would like to suggest that members of the Quarter consider the question of creating and staffing the position of Abington Quarter Coordinator.

News from the Meetings of the Quarter

Abington Monthly Meeting

Grave Marker has been placed

Loretta Fox

At *Abington Monthly Meeting*, a grave marker listing the names and burial years of some people of African descent who were buried in our Abington Meeting Graveyard was installed (see attached photo.) These names were read out loud and honored during a memorial meeting for worship on October 15, 2016, when the Meeting dedicated the plaque at the entrance of the graveyard. At that time, several Meeting members had researched and discovered some lists that included names of people of color (designated by "Col." next to their names in Quaker records) who were buried in our graveyard. The names were compiled into one list in the program for that Plaque Dedication event, and the memorial meeting for worship took place on that day.



With the guidance of our Reparations Subcommittee, our Abington Monthly Meeting made the commitment to place this grave marker so that these names will be remembered and honored, especially because so many people of African descent have lost their family history through the enslavement of their ancestors.

The grave marker has been placed toward the front of our graveyard, under a flowering tree, not far from the marker for Sarah & Benjamin Lay. As you enter the graveyard near our meetinghouse, the marker is in the section to the left. Friends are welcome to visit the marker and pay respects.

Gwynedd Monthly Meeting

Opening for Paid Child Care Provider: September 2022 to early June 2023

JB Baker-McAllister, Gwynedd Youth Program Coordinator

Religious Education is looking to fill a paid Child Care Provider position for September 2022 - early June 2023. This person will be responsible for the care of children on Sundays 9:15 AM to 12:15 PM beginning September 2022 through early-June 2023.

During our *Youth Quaker Education* program (9:15 - 10:45), child care is provided for children 4 years of age and younger and during *Adult Quaker Education programs* (10:45 - 12:15) child care is for children infant to age 10. Parents are required to remain in the building while their children are in child care. Remuneration is \$15 per hour, paid semi-monthly.

Applicants must be 18 years or older and have experience working with children. This position can be filled by one qualified individual or two qualified individuals who wish to share the job (so they can participate in Meeting for Worship and Adult Quaker Education some Sundays). *Employment will be contingent on the satisfactory results of the Pennsylvania State Child Abuse History Clearance, the Pennsylvania State Police Criminal History Clearance and the FBI Fingerprint-based Criminal History clearance.* Applicants who have current clearances will be able to submit copies of their documentation. Necessary fees for obtaining a new FBI clearance will be reimbursed by Gwynedd Meeting.

Please send an email expressing your interest, including whether you'd like to share the position with another Friend, to JB Baker-McAllister at jbakermc@gmail.com by June 30th. Also, feel free to contact me if you have any questions about the position or know someone outside the Meeting who might be interested.

Sustainable Land Use

Paige Menton for Gwynedd MM Ad Hoc Site/Sustainability Committees

Gwynedd Meeting continues to add native plants to their property as part of their sustainable land use plan. The rain garden planted in the fall has started filling out with mountain mint, sedges, sensitive fern, and bee balm.

Another rain garden was planted in the field. It contains sedges, rushes, cardinal flower, and swamp milkweed. This rain garden is planted beside a hedgerow where volunteers have worked to remove invasive vines and shrubs. Those plants have been replaced with native shrubs and flowers, including American hazelnut, buttonbush, spicebush, and fragrant sumac.

It has been delightful to see how much the plants in the pollinator garden have filled in the space this year.



Peace Talk

Laura Taylor and Deb Hejl

Peace Talk!

In July, the United States celebrates Independence Day, when the American colonies separated from British rule and became free.

"You cannot separate peace and freedom. Because no one can be at peace *unless they have their freedom.*"-- Malcom X

"We must be free not because we claim freedom, but because we practice it."—William Faulkner

To advance peace, we can discover what peace builders do. **Brainstorm a list of actions** used by peace builders. Examples might include using a kind tone of voice, collaborating on a project, actively listening to each voice, limiting use of resources, working for equal rights and more. Once you have a list of actions, title this list 'My Commitment to Peace' or 'Our Commitment to Peace'. Hang your list in a prominent place as a reminder to use these actions each day. You will be demonstrating actions that advance peace on earth, one step at a time.

May Peace Prevail on Earth

Resource: www.peacedayphilly.org

Room for Rent...Affordable Private Room Available in Large House with Shared Responsibilities

Janet Henderson for the Hilltop Oversight Subcommittee of Gwynedd Meeting's Property Committee

Gwynedd Friends Meeting is offering to an individual, a large, private, third floor room at "Avalon House," an attractive Victorian home in Gwynedd, PA, adjacent to Gwynedd Friends Meeting. Surround by lovely grounds, Avalon House is near Route 202, with the Septa #96 bus stop nearby.

The first floor of Avalon House has a spacious living room, dining room, very large kitchen, and powder room. On the second floor there are three bedrooms, a full bath, and a shared laundry room. The third floor has three bedrooms and a full bath. Presently, one large bedroom on the third floor is available. Residents take care of their own rooms and the shared areas. Gwynedd Friends Meeting provides grounds care, Internet and utilities.

If you, or someone you know, is interested in renting a large, third floor bedroom at the Avalon House for \$550 per month, please contact Neil Trueblood at 267-228-6355 or Janet Henderson at 215-859-8572. Thank you.

Plymouth Monthly Meeting

“Coming Home to Land Restoration”

Friends Journal Article by Paige Menton - June 1, 2022

“How are we called to steward our land? How might we be led to restore it, to be patterns in our neighborhoods and communities? How can our land and the water that runs over it be resources: opportunities for outreach, intergenerational activity, joy, and hope?”

Last September, Paige Menton of Plymouth Meeting headed south on a trip to her hometown of Hoover, Alabama, a suburb of Birmingham, to ask people to share memories of the natural world. Along the way, she visited with Friends at six Quaker Meetings, sharing meals and conversations about how they steward their properties. The June/July *Friends Journal* has an article with her reflections on that journey and the ongoing unfolding of it as she thinks about the questions above.

Take some time to think about the concepts of preservation, restoration, and community as she explored them in this article. Paige is always ready to enter into a conversation about our relationship to the environment around us.

Following her leading, she has started a nonprofit called *Journeywork* to help families, schools, and congregations restore their land. Please email her at journeywork22@gmail.com if you are interested. For the article go to <https://www.friendsjournal.org/coming-home-to-land-restoration/> or your June/July issue of *Friends Journal*.

Build a House for a Family Who Lost Theirs to a Flood - Perhaps an All-Quarter Opportunity for Next Year?

David Miller

In April two members of Plymouth participated in a 2-day framing of a house to be sent to Kentucky for a family that was flooded out two years ago. The house building was sponsored by *Bethel Hill Methodist Church*. Under the guidance of an organization called *Help Build Hope*, a 2-bedroom house, with kitchen, bath and living room, was framed in about 8 hours of hands-on time, for a total cost of \$14,000, which includes the shipping of the house to the site in Kentucky.

A few people with knowledge of how to read cut-sheets and wall-framing diagrams, plus many hands willing to help them, follow a cut-and-build-by-numbers (just like paint-by-numbers) and voila! The walls are framed and raised.

There may be a few splinters, but no sweat (forgot my gloves). About 50 to 75 people participated in the build, including those who provided breakfast and lunch. A good time was had by all. The day was about fellowship among strangers who became friends in the process of helping a family far away.

Are there Friends out there who would be interested in such a project? If only a few could help when Bethel Hill builds their next house, or maybe many, we could consider an Abington Quarter House Build. Something to think about. Video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j3Qjogyi6ql>

Summer Reading and Talk

Plymouth Meeting's book of the Summer is - *The Lives of Weeds: Opportunism, Resistance, Folly* by Plymouth attender, John Cardina. We will have an opportunity to speak with John about his book on **September 25th** after Meeting for Worship, just before our Friendly Fourth shared lunch.

John's book can be purchased online at Amazon or other book sellers. The opportunity with John will be blended with those onsite and those at a distance online via Zoom. If you need login information, go to Plymouth's website and click on *News and Events*, then click on *Lives of Weeds*. This will take you to a place to click *Request Login Information*.

From the publisher

Lives of Weeds explores the tangled history of weeds and their relationship to humans. Through eight interwoven stories, John Cardina offers a fresh perspective on how these tenacious plants came about, why they are both inevitable and essential, and how their ecological success is ensured by determined efforts to eradicate them...

Lives of Weeds reveals how the technologies directed against weeds underlie ethical questions about agriculture and the environment, and leaves readers with a deeper understanding of how the weeds around us are entangled in our daily choices.

Review by Jennifer a Hillmer, Cleveland Metroparks

"A treasure. Filled with John Cardina's wry humor and intellectual curiosity, Lives of Weeds is an accessible, enjoyable book for any reader."

Quaker Land Steward Network

Paige Menton (Plymouth) is interested in gathering a group of people, at least one person from each meeting in the Quarter, who are restoring or considering restoring their meeting land. She envisions a group that could share resources, assemble volunteers to help with planting or invasive plant removal at each other's meetings, and support each other.

If you are interested in learning more or joining this group, please email Paige at paigementon@gmail.com.

News from Yearly Meeting

First Contact Reconciliation Gathering August 9



First Contact Reconciliation Collaborative (FCRC) is born of and bound by loving relationships with sovereign Leni-Lenape Tribal Nations who have faithfully remained on their ancestral land, *Lenapehoking*. Both communities hold the *Treaty of Amity* (1995) promise of perpetual peace and friendship.

Our Gatherings begin and close with relevant heart-sharing worship; the agenda is organic and semi-grounded around the following queries:

- Why might the term “First Contact” be ascribed?
- How might FCRC’s *Call To Action* campaigns represent reconciliation? (Details on Call To Action web page – <https://www.pym.org/first-contact-reconciliation-collaborative/call-to-action/>)
- Where might we notice social constructs that conform Friends to the world; how might we hold to friends accountable?

For more on the August 9 gathering, please visit:

<https://www.pym.org/event/first-contact-reconciliation-gatherings/2022-08-09/>

AQ Monthly Meeting Events

Plymouth	Author Talk with John Cardina: Ohio State Crop Science Professor September 25 after Meeting for Worship (about 12:45pm) See above in this newsletter for more.
Gwynedd	AFSC Flea Market September 24 from 9-1 All proceeds go to support American Friends Service Committee Email will be closer to the date with a flier to share with your meeting.

Thee & Thine

Please send births and passings to be shared with the Quarter to: christophermrozinski@gmail.com.

Quarterly Meetings & Locations

2022 Quarterly Meetings & Locations		
Hope to see you all on August 7 at Plymouth or via Zoom		
August 7, 2022	Plymouth	Quarterly Meeting & Picnic
August 28, 2022	Richland	Representative Meeting
October 2, 2022	Norristown	Quarterly Meeting
November 6, 2022	Foulkeways	Representative Meeting



Philadelphia Yearly Meeting

of the Religious Society of Friends

Report from Caln Quarterly Meeting to Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Annual Sessions, Seventh Month 30, 2022

Caln Quarterly Meeting is long and narrow, reaching from Phoenixville in the east to Chambersburg in the west. It takes more than 2 hours to drive from one end to the other. Caln Quarter was established in the early 1700s, but has undergone revisions since then. Our present configuration of 9 meetings was created in 1955 as part of the reconciliation between Hicksite and Orthodox Friends.

We do meet quarterly; winter and summer at one of our constituent meetings, fall at the Old Caln Meetinghouse and spring at our annual retreat at Camp Swatara. We were meeting entirely by zoom for the pandemic, but are attempting hybrid meetings recently.

A Caln Quarter Care Committee comprised of representatives of each meeting meets monthly by zoom to support each other, share joys and concerns, plan our business meetings, support the clerk of Caln Quarter and support the community in whatever way we can.

During the two pandemic years as an extension of our Swatara retreat (because we could not meet in person), a series of workshops exploring Growing Our Meetings was held virtually by zoom. They were attended by Caln Quarter Friends and by Friends from beyond Caln Quarter, even from Pacific Yearly Meeting, and were full of helpful and actionable information.

This year we were able to meet at Camp Swatara again. Our theme was Resilience. We explored ways to recover and grow after the years of separation because of the pandemic and the other upheavals we have experienced. It was delightful to be together in this place that we love. Our plenary, several workshops and our meeting for business met in a hybrid fashion. But we were able once again to go hiking up the mountain, go fishing in the pond, have an early morning bird walk and have worship outdoors.

We applied for and were given a Shoemaker Fund Grant to help us improve our outreach and technology. An ad hoc committee was formed with Friends from most of our meetings to decide how to use the funds. A new website will be created that is intended to increase both outreach and inreach. It will contain information about the Religious Society of Friends and about each monthly meeting as well as about Caln Quarter.

We have not undertaken work together as a quarter on either antiracism or climate change. We encourage and applaud those meetings in the quarter that are doing that work and we share the

information at our meetings and through our Care Committee. We would like to have more children and youth programs, but our youth population is sparse.

Those of us who participate in the life of Caln Quarter find strength, fellowship and encouragement in our quest for the creation of a community centered in love of God and each other.



Chester Quarterly Meeting Report to PYM Annual Sessions

When I joined Chester Friends Meeting in the 70s, I learned that as a member I was also part of a Quarterly Meeting and the Yearly Meeting. As our Meeting was small, I saw an advantage to be active in all of it. It was great to have more places to get to know people and children were included. In those days we had a shared staff with Western Quarter, a Peace Field Secretary. A cohort of Friends in our Quarter supported the staff and were actively present on peace issues in the community. However, the cost of sustaining staff became an issue in the 90s. We did not choose to continue staffing at that time.

Our practice of meeting has been Quarterly Meeting sessions hosted by local meetings that may plan a program for the day we meet. We have two entities under our care that report annually - Stratford Friends School and Delco Peace Center at Springfield Meeting. We have 3 small meetings and 4 larger meetings and a preparative meeting with an active worship group - now on zoom as the meeting house deals with deferred maintenance and building repair. Each meeting has regularly hosted a Quarterly Meeting, even during the pandemic on zoom. As clerk, my role is to assure connection and with the cohort of meeting liaisons provide the space for our gatherings. The value of our time together has been the personal fellowship we each have and the community fellowship learning what our meetings have been doing.

Our first in person/blended Quarterly Meeting was 2 weeks ago. At that meeting we agreed to have a Saturday community day in October focused on community and fellowship, with circles of interest to cover concerns and interests like Quarterly Meeting covenants, pastoral care, property and green burials, green energy, antiracism, outreach - and even games! The other meetings in January, April and July will include our reports and programs, being planned by the cohort of meeting liaisons and others in the host meetings.

We have learned the following aspects increase the interests of Friends to attend:

- focus on community fellowship
- have events with speakers from the local or Friends community with information to share in an area of concern or interest;
- make sure there is a program for youth that relates to the concerns of Friends;
- be open to concerns that arise.

Chester Quarterly Meeting includes Chester, Darby, Lansdowne, Media, Providence, Springfield and Swarthmore, and Middletown Preparative - under care of Providence. Besides the Friends school under the care of the Quarterly Meeting, two Friends schools are connected to three meetings: Media-Providence Friends School and Lansdowne Friends; and each meeting connects to the community around it; Darby has a historic connection to the local library, and others makes their meeting houses available to community groups.

During this time of pandemic, each of our meetings has been dealing with:

- worship and blending in person worship with zoom - each with their own questions and practices, and concerns;
- challenges of property and energy issues;
- pastoral care in this time of distance with pandemic - with care, loss and illness;
- ecojustice, antiracism - from book readings to involvement.

Perhaps the biggest surprise is the coming together of many Friends across the Quarterly Meeting to support Chester residents involved in the effort to reduce the use of the Covanta incinerator in Chester by the local municipalities. This protest has been an ongoing struggle for decades, and now - like other issues of injustice - it has benefited from this time of pandemic for people to learn more and listen to those asking for support. We see that issues of gun legislation and funding public education are gathering more momentum as leadership in Meetings join with leaders of others in faith communities to effect change in these areas.

In all this work we depend on our building of relationships among our Meetings to be the change we know we are called to be.

Joan Gunn Broadfield, in service as Clerk of Chester Quarter

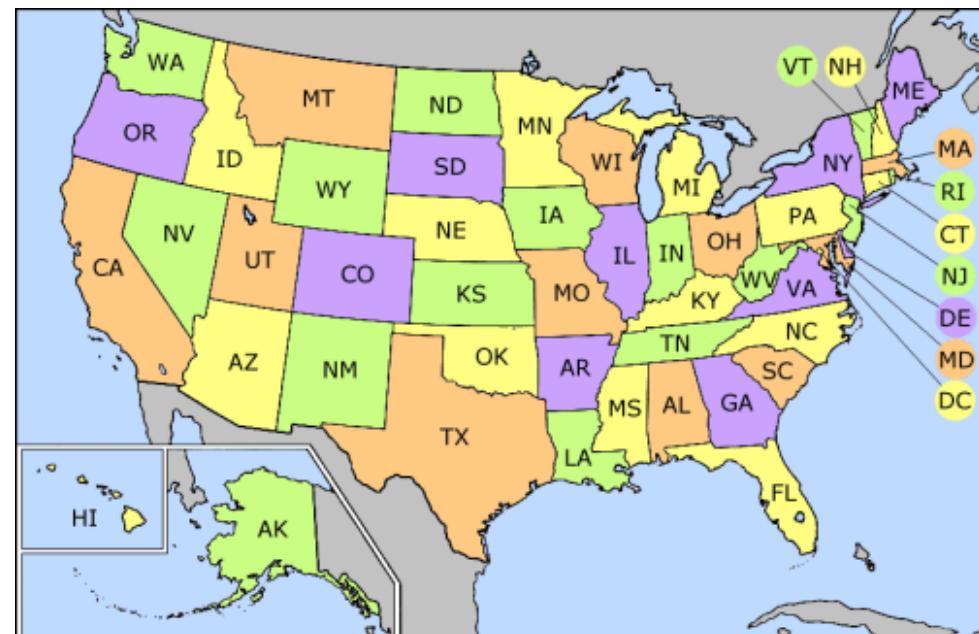
In an act of declaration and commitment, a people of African descent, our families and friends, acknowledged the movement of the Spirit among us to form Ujima Friends Meeting within the Religious Society of Friends. Ujima Friends Meeting is a community of faith without borders, dedicated to bearing witness to peace, justice and love.



Appeal for a new name

We gather from.....

- Pennsylvania Massachusetts
- New Jersey Arizona
- North Carolina & more
- New York
- Atlanta, Georgia
- California
- Colorado
- Seattle, Washington
- Hawaii
- Mexico



We gather in silence.....

- Honor Our Ancestors through Libations
- Expectantly Wait on Spirit
- Sing, pray, praise
- Share joys and concerns
- Love, care, and support one another





We also support the work of the
Ujima Friends Peace Center
1701 W. Lehigh Ave

“A place of worship, service, community, and activism”
Appended Documents - Page 88

Ujima Friends Peace Center Programs

- Food and Clothing Sharing
- Menstrual Pad and Mentoring Project
- Freedom Schools



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Food Give-Away – Feed 200 families every 2nd and last Saturday



Reusable Menstrual Pad Project

Funded by Friends Foundation on Aging





Teaching and reaching women and girls every Wednesday

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Thousands of reusable pads, bags, and underwear distributed throughout Africa and the Diaspora

- Gambia
- Ghana
- Nigeria
- Southern Sudan
- Ethiopia
- Cuba
- Tanzania
- South Africa
- Ivory Coast
- Liberia
- Kenya

Ujima Friends Freedom School
Summer 2022
“Friendly Spaces Project”





Ujima Freedom Summer 2022 Sites

Fairhill Burial Grounds – Abington Friends Meeting

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Hiking Ringing Rock County Park

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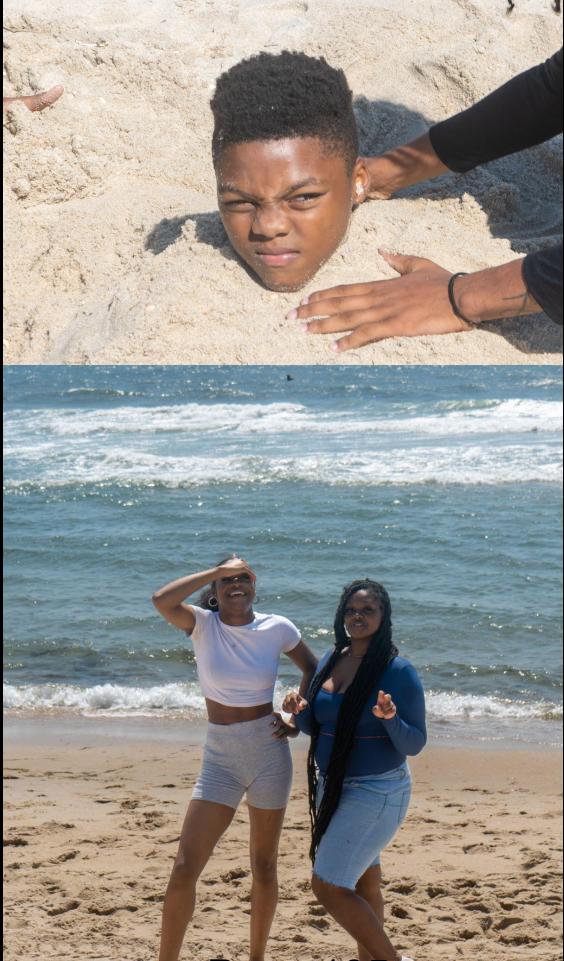
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A day at the beach...
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Meeting new friends at Solebury

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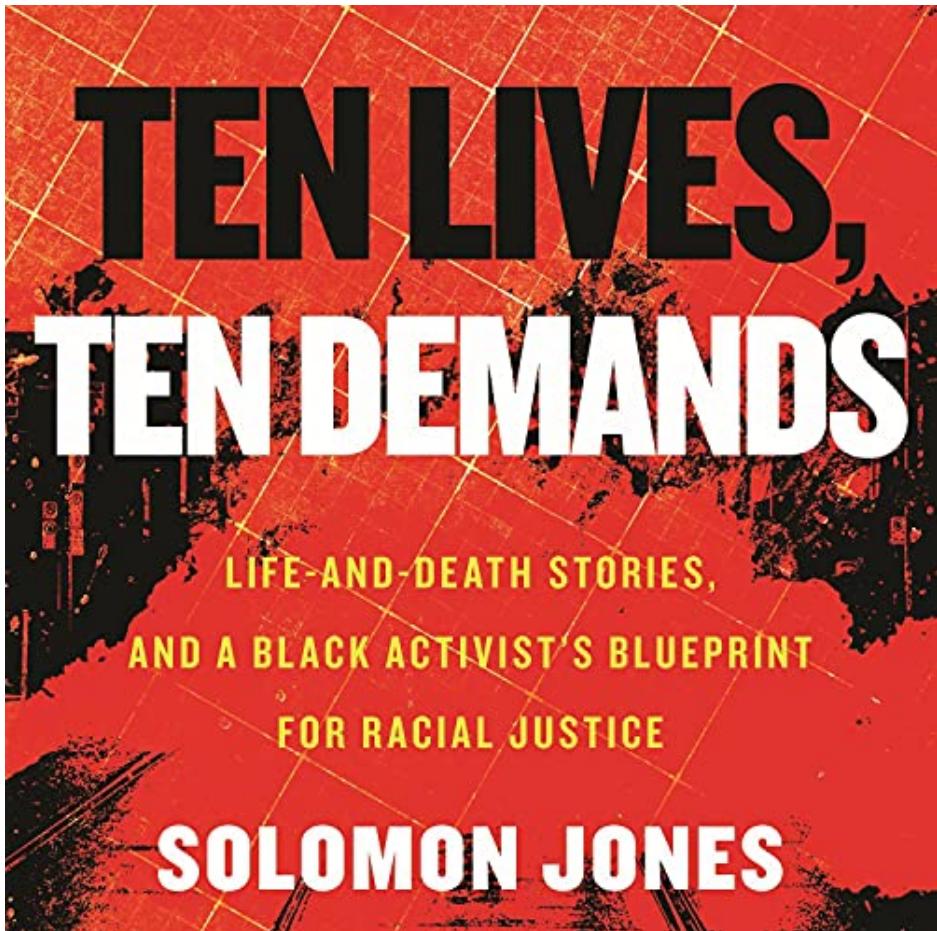
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Summer Reading 2022



Social Action Project 2022- Enough Is Enough
Youth Against Gun Violence and Just Policing

Thank You Friends for sharing your spaces!

- The George School
- The Historic Fairhill Burial Group
- Abington Monthly Meeting
- Taylor Wildlife Preserve
- Solebury Meeting
- Salem Meeting
- Chestnut Hill Meeting – invitation



Send donations to
Ujima Friends
Peace Center

PO Box 50647
Philadelphia, PA
19132

admin@ujimafriends.org



Philadelphia Yearly Meeting

of the Religious Society of Friends

Minute of Support for the Establishment of a Federal Commission to Examine the Truth and Provide Healing on Indian Boarding School Policies in the US

Quakers were among the strongest supporters of the Indian boarding school policies and operated approximately 30 Indian (mission) schools from 1869 to the 1960's.

During this era of assimilation, Indigenous children were taught to adopt Western European-American culture by rejecting their cultural and personal identities - unique Native languages, manner of dress, lifeways, knowledge, wisdom, ceremonies, and spiritual practices. Quakers also gave money to (Federal) Indian Boarding Schools.

The history of these Indian schools is complex. In allyship with the NJ state designated Native American Church, St. John (Fordville) United Methodist Church (UMC) and their Committee on Native American Ministry (CoNAM), South Jersey Friends (Quakers) are researching our churches' historic roles in the Indian Boarding schools and listening to authentic truths, formative toward reparation considerations.

The purpose of establishing a federal *Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies in the US* is to research and document the histories experienced by Native American children who were removed from their homes and placed in Indian Boarding schools and the ongoing intergenerational impacts on Tribal Nations' Indigenous Peoples and their cultures.

Given rightly ordered Spiritual discernment of timely and relevant action(s), your Philadelphia Yearly Meeting First Contact Reconciliation Collaborative urges Friends and PYM to insist that our country establish a commission to reveal truth and establish a healing response for the impact of Indian boarding school policies in the US. The Collaborative is trusting Friendly processes – following one's guide, taking action as led, living peace as the way. **Philadelphia Yearly Meeting First Contact Reconciliation Collaborative is seeking approval of this minute from the PYM body at large.**

History and Resources

- Indigenous voices rising, ex. Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition
- 117th Congress First Session, Companion bills S. 2907; and H.R. 5444 introduced September 30, 2021
- Friends Committee on National Legislation, Addressing the Legacy of Indian Boarding Schools
- Originating and approved by Salem Quarter Indian Affairs Committee 12/2021
- Tested & sensing unity among First Contact Reconciliation Collaborators 1/2022
- Further seasoned for alignment with drafted PYM Lobbying Policy 1/2022
- Submitted to PYM Co-clerks for PYM 'Sessions Agenda 2/2022
- Approved by Salem Quarterly Meeting 3/13/2022

The Quaker Fund for Indigenous Communities, a PYM granting group, approved the following minute in support of the minute prepared by the First Contact Reconciliation Collaborative regarding the establishment of a Federal Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding Schools in the U.S.

The Quaker Fund for Indigenous Communities (formerly called Indian Committee) minutes its support for the minute prepared for Philadelphia Yearly Meeting by the PYM First Contact Reconciliation Collaborative in support of a Federal Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies in the U.S. We are well aware of the role Quakers have played in supporting and operating boarding schools along with other efforts to separate Indigenous children from their cultural heritage, including work by our own committee in the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries, and feel strongly that PYM should approve the minute drafted by the First Contact Reconciliation Collaborative.

Approved, July 9, 2022

Some recent events and new programs this year at FGC as of July 2022

FGC offered several new or re imagined programs this year (2021-22) which we would like to highlight:

1. The small YAY Gathering for youth, families and young adults was held in person at Radford University July 6-10. About 125 people including volunteers signed up for this experiment in building intergenerational community. Planning began in March when it was determined a traditional in-person gathering could not happen. It was beautiful to see the community that grew over the course of 4 days. A highlight was community worship each day in a large circle with opportunities for anyone of any age to sit in the middle and be creative or thoughtful with the materials offered. There was lots of "hang out" time under the tent and in various lounges and wonderful intergenerational activities in the late afternoon. The children had age-appropriate programs and the high school program and Adult Young Friend Program had their activities as well. The High School program engaged in an anti-racism training requested a couple of years ago and presented by Creative Praxis. Participants were encouraged to look at what they as individuals can do and given some initial tools to bring to anti-racism work with their peers, in their schools, with their neighbors, politically and socially. Strict covid protocols were in practice.
This was a shorter Gathering than in the past, and centered youth and young adults. It also meant that it was less expensive and folks could take off fewer work days to attend.
2. FGC also piloted a Spiritual Mentorship Program for youth and young adults interested in developing their spiritual gifts of clerking, discernment, and community leadership. The purpose of the program was to nourish & nurture intergenerational relationships that foster transformation and growth and to provide spiritual accompaniment in our lives. 33 participants met over the course of 6 months through March 2022.
3. Anti-racism work included the Quakers Uprooting Racism Cohort of 36 Friends which is now sharing anti-racism resources with local and yearly meetings. This was a joint project with the American Friends Service Committee, Friends Council on Education and Pendle Hill.
4. Serving as a PhYM representative to FGC Central Committee is not new, but it is a wonderful opportunity to use our gifts to serve our Yearly Meeting, while learning so much about the programs and services that FGC offers, and meeting other Quakers from unprogrammed and programmed meetings across North America. It has allowed many of us to learn from others how to engage the Spirit in decision making and to exercise tools for good discernment.

If you are interested, contact your local PYM Nominating Council representative, or the Clerk:
Terri Whiteford <twhiteford@pym.org>

For more information about the impact of the programs described in 2 and 3, and much more, go here:
<https://www.fgcquaker.org/2022/04/30/fgc-impact-report-2021/>



OUR 2022 PROGRAMS

The Gathering

Friends and newcomers of all ages come together from across North America (and sometimes further) for a week of Quaker worship, workshops, and community.

The Gathering deepens connections with each other and the Spirit. The 2022 virtual Gathering, "and follow me..." will run from July 3-9. We're also excited about our first "YAY" event for children, parents, youth, and young adults July 6 through July 10 in Radford, Virginia.

"The breadth of my spiritual understanding was expanded."

~ South Central Yearly Meeting Friend
on the 2021 virtual Gathering

Adult Young Friends and Youth Programs

FGC creates year-round community-building with in-person and virtual events for young children and their families, retreats for middle schoolers, and annual Clerks Training for Adult Young Friends and high school students.

The newly launched Spiritual Mentorship Pilot Project pairs Friends, diverse in age, geography, and Quaker experience, as seekers and mentors in nurturing spiritual Friendships with monthly fellowship and support from our seasoned advisory group.

Ministry on Racism

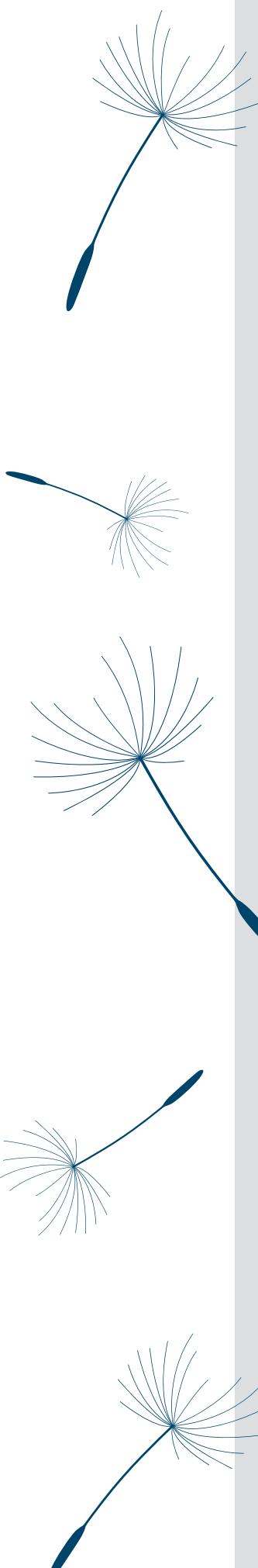
Friends and meetings come together to confront and heal the wounds of white culture and co-create communities that are more accessible and equitable through year-round Ministry on Racism events.

The Quakers Uprooting Racism Cohort, a collaboration among FGC, American Friends Service Committee, Friends Council on Education, and Pendle Hill, helps participants build capacity in anti-racism and share resources with local communities and yearly meetings.

Spiritual Deepening Library and eRetreats

With an extensive collection of experiential activities and exercises the Spiritual Deepening Library remains free for users through donor support. Friends, meetings, teachers, small groups, and newcomers of all ages explore Quaker roots, grow as a spiritual community, and listen deeply to the Spirit through the library's resources.

The Spiritual Deepening Program also offers 4-week book discussions, worship sharing groups, and eRetreats (online learning opportunities) on topics such as "Silence and Light for Quaker Newcomers", "Living into Wholeness", and "Weaving a Wider Welcome".



OTHER WAYS YOU HELP FRIENDS CONNECT

QuakerBooks and Quaker Press

FGC's online bookstore offers resources for individuals and local and yearly meetings, and provides book consignments to yearly meeting sessions. FGC also publishes new books and pamphlets through Quaker Press.

Christian and Interfaith Relations Committee (CIRC)

Bringing Quaker perspectives on peace, justice, and earth care to ecumenical and interfaith communities from around the world, CIRC represents Friends at events such as the World Council of Churches (WCC).

Online Worship Opportunities

Friends, Quaker newcomers, and spiritual seekers find supportive community with online worship groups for People of Color, Friends of European Descent Confronting Racism, and other community-building fellowship opportunities.

Quaker Cloud

FGC's user-friendly website platform and administrative support helps monthly and yearly meetings create and maintain an engaging online presence.

QuakerFinder

With a searchable listing of approximately 70,000 Quaker meetings and churches, Friends and newcomers find help in locating spiritual community.

Friends Meeting House Fund (FMHE)

Quaker meetings and churches secure loans or grants to buy or renovate or increase their meeting houses' energy efficiency through FGC's partnership with Everence financial services.



FGC
FRIENDS
GENERAL CONFERENCE

Friends General Conference Yearly Meeting Visitor Report
Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Annual Sessions
July 26- 31, 2022

Greetings, Friends,

Friends General Conference provides services and resources for individual Friends, meetings, and seekers interested in the Quaker way. FGC is an association of regional Quaker communities in the U.S., Canada, and Mexico working together to nurture a vital Quaker faith. *Together we nurture the spiritual vitality of Friends.*

I am grateful to be virtually attending your annual sessions as a Yearly Meeting Visitor from the FGC Yearly Meeting Visitor Program, under the care of the Committee for Nurturing Ministries. I look forward to meeting with you and sharing in the spiritual depth of your annual sessions.

The Yearly Meeting Visitor Program is an expression of one of the five priorities of FGC:
Connecting and Communicating- to connect our yearly meetings, monthly meetings, and individual seekers with each other in ways that expand Friends' experiences of the Quaker way and strengthens our faith community and communities.

In my connector role, it is with joy that I will be looking for what is happening within Philadelphia Yearly Meeting and your monthly meetings that could be supportive to other yearly and monthly meetings and individual seekers. I am also eager to listen for ways you think FGC could be supportive to Philadelphia Yearly Meeting and to answer questions you might have about FGC, including ideas you might have for FGC. I will report back to the FGC Yearly Meeting Visitor Program.

The other priorities discerned by the governing body of FGC, FGC Central Committee, are:

2. **The FGC Gathering**- nurturing Friends' spiritual vitality, in part, by working to make attendance more affordable- most recently at the virtual event held in July. <https://www.fgcquaker.org/connect/gathering>
3. **The Ministry on Racism**- moving FGC toward greater wholeness as a spiritual community as we transform into an actively anti-racist faith community. <https://www.fgcquaker.org/services/help-your-meeting-challenge-racism>
4. **Young Adult and Youth Ministries** - strengthening opportunities for Quaker youth and young adults to participate in and contribute to Quaker community- such as the **YAY** in-person event that was recently held in July at Radford University, VA. This event was shorter than the virtual Gathering, partly to be less costly and also to make it possible for Friends to take off fewer days from work. <https://www.fgcquaker.org/fgcprograms/youth-young-adults/>
5. **Religious Education and Spiritual Deepening**- improving and increasing resources to help yearly and monthly meetings feed the spiritual hunger of Friends. 20% - 25% of the participants in the online eRetreats are new to Friends. The Spiritual Deepening Program also serves Friends and seekers distanced from a monthly or yearly meeting, in addition to those who are not. <https://www.fgcquaker.org/deepen/enrichment/spiritualdeepening>

Much of the summary of the five priorities is from the *Gathering Together* Campaign, which you will hear more about in the Fall- a campaign "to ensure transformational ministries reach more Friends and meetings."

FGC is seeking Divine guidance on changes that we could make to ensure that we continue to serve Friends in ways that more fully nurture the spiritual vitality of Friends. We are grateful to all Friends in Philadelphia Yearly Meeting who have come forward to faithfully represent your yearly meeting at FGC Central Committee as part of that ongoing process. We look forward to welcoming more of you. Two of those representatives have enriched this report with their additions to follow.

With gratitude, in the Light,

Susan

Susan Taylor (she, her, hers)
Susantaylor410@gmail.com

FGC Yearly Meeting Visitor
Southeastern Yearly Meeting
Tallahassee Monthly Meeting, Florida



Friends World Committee
for Consultation

SECTION OF THE AMERICAS

Comité Mundial de Consulta
de los Amigos

SECCIÓN DE LAS AMÉRICAS

Connecting Friends. Crossing Cultures. Changing Lives.



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Answering God's call to universal love, the Friends World Committee for Consultation brings Friends of varying traditions and cultural experiences together in worship, communications and consultation, to express our common heritage and our Quaker message to the world.

Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC)

The purpose of FWCC is to encourage fellowship and understanding among all the branches of the Religious Society of Friends. FWCC has four sections: Africa, the Americas, Asia/West Pacific, and the Europe/Middle East. Each Sections is affiliated with the FWCC World Office of Friends in London. There are approximately 400,000 Friends worldwide.

In the Americas, the Quaker community extends from the Arctic to the Andes, spanning a rich diversity of regional cultures, beliefs and styles of worship.

FWCC is the only worldwide representative organization of the Religious Society of Friends with convening authority, recognized by the Quaker United Nations Office, to represent Friends' concerns for global peace and justice to the international community. FWCC does not take sides.

A Year of Resilience & Hope

- FWCC hosted the first-ever Latin American and African Women's Conference in October. Approximately 50 women participated in this joyful event that they themed, "Bendecidas para Bendecir," which translates to, "we are blessed to bless others."
- On World Quaker Day 2021, the FWCC Traveling Ministry Corps hosted an online, bilingual, semi-programmed worship celebration for Friends in the Americas.
- We co-hosted a series of online Bible studies with Beacon Hill Friends House, featuring leaders from Bolivia and El Salvador, from January - March 2022.



A Year of Resilience & Hope

- FWCC held its now annual Section Meeting to the theme of Resilience & Hope. 10 years ago Latin attendance at our Section Meetings was minimal, ~5% of attendees. We've now exceeded 30% participation from Latin American Friends!
- In December 2021, we began a series of Friendly Consultations. The first two were about hybrid worship and Spirit-led climate action. The next two will be concerning the Quaker Peace Testimony, in English, and Missions, in Spanish.



A Year of Resilience & Hope

- FWCC held online training for Spanish-English interpreters in February. Friends from seven countries participated. It was open to Friends who are involved with other Quaker organizations who want to build language inclusion. Future sessions will be held in the coming year.
- The Section participated in the every-10-year census of religious congregations in the United States. The staff collected current membership data on Friends in the United States and delivered its findings to the American Association of Religious Statisticians. More on this will be announced in the coming months.

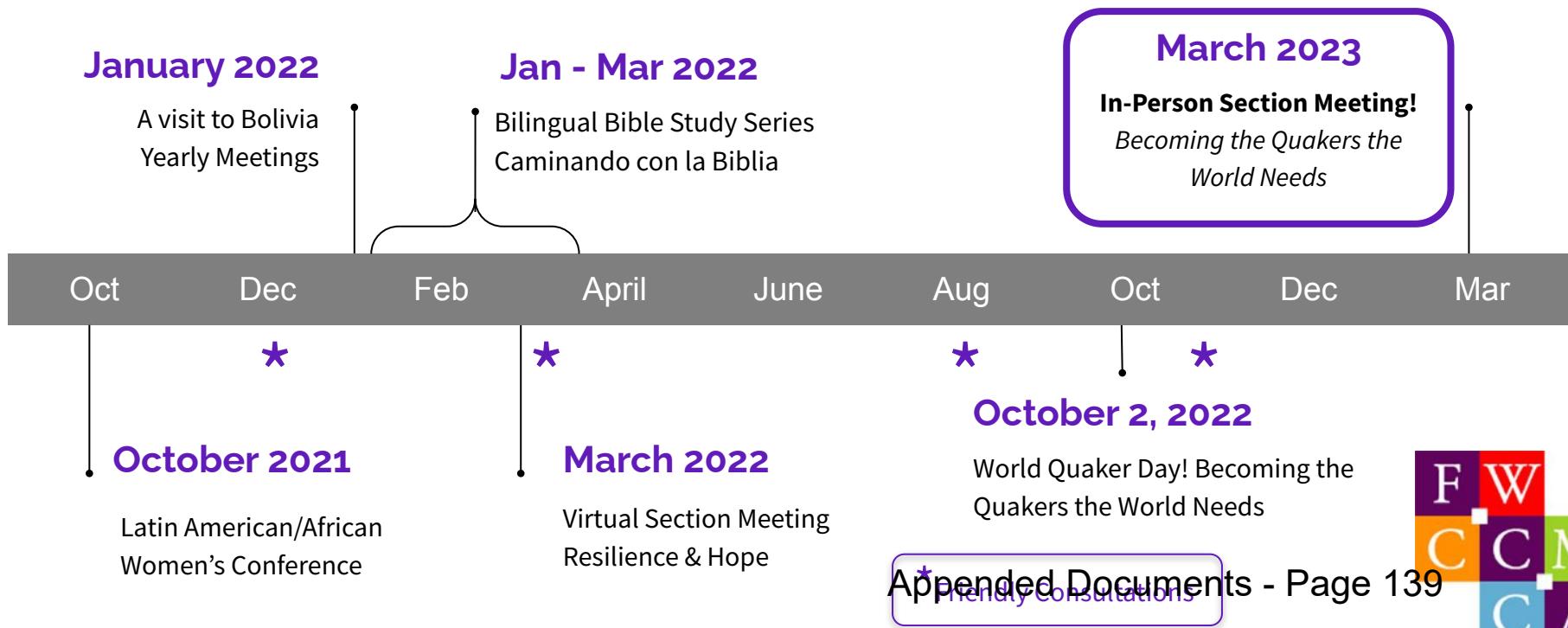


A Year of Resilience & Hope

- We are the global association of Friends - consider joining FWCC as a Representative if you'd like to expand your horizons, develop your cross-cultural communication skills, and connect with the global Quaker community. Or start by signing up for our [newsletter](#) at the bottom of our homepage @ fwccamericas.org.
- In January of this year, Executive Committee member Raul Perez Chacon and two staff members, Executive Secretary Robin Mohr and COAL Coordinator Karen Gregorio de Calderon, spent a week visiting Yearly Meetings in Bolivia. They brought greetings and good will, which were gratefully reciprocated.



FWCC Americas events snapshot

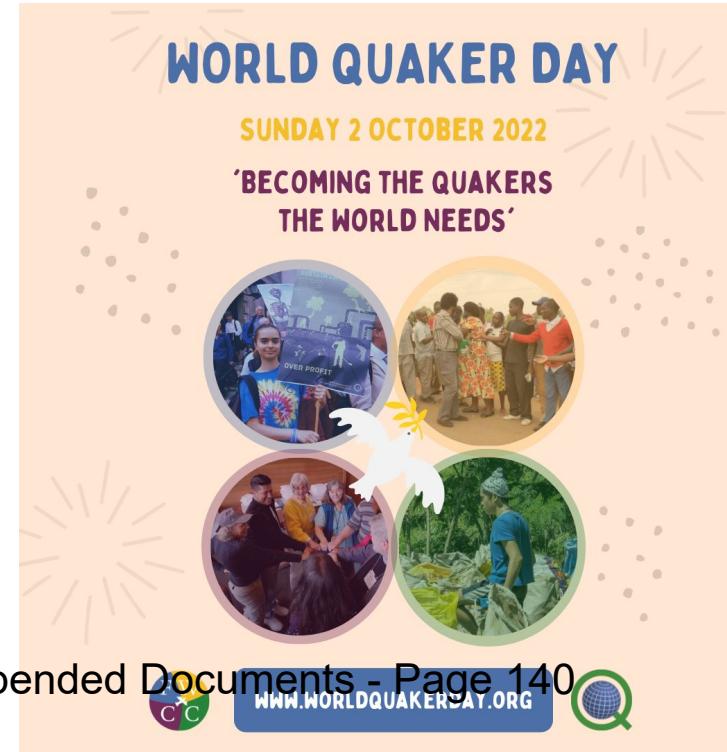


World Quaker Day - October 2, 2022

Becoming the Quakers the World Needs

This year, Friends are invited to take a personal step toward connecting Friends and crossing cultures on World Quaker Day.

Visit another Quaker meeting or church on the first Sunday in October. Take advantage of the growing number of hybrid options by either visiting in person or online. Across town or on the other side of the world.



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WWW.WORLDQUAKERDAY.ORG



WORLD QUAKER DAY

SUNDAY 2 OCTOBER 2022

'BECOMING THE QUAKERS
THE WORLD NEEDS'

Print this poster and hang it in your Meeting/Church. Find it in many different languages at worldquakerday.org



WWW.WORLDQUAKERDAY

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WORLD QUAKER DAY

세계 퀼러의 날

WELT-QUÄKER-TAG

**JOURNÉE MONDIALE
DES QUAKER**

**DIA MUNDIAL DE LOS
CUÁQUEROS**

**ŚWIATOWY DZIEŃ
KWAKRÓW**

**МЕЖДУНАРОДНЫЙ
КВАКЕРСКИЙ ДЕНЬ**

Friends World Committee for Consultation Section of the Americas



2023 SECTION MEETING

Becoming the Quakers The World Needs

Haw River State Park

March 23-26 | Greensboro, NC

www.fwccamericas.org/events Appended Documents - Page 143

Quaker Earthcare Witness Reps Report to Annual Sessions 2022

In the ten years since a world gathering of Quakers in Kenya issued the Kabarak Call, the raging wildfires, droughts and famine, floods, and increased numbers of climate refugees they cited have only increased. The impacts of climate change are now being felt around the world. Reports from climate experts have been dire, but they have also described a clear path forward. The IPCC told us that global warming can be limited to 1.5 degrees Celsius if we get close to 100% renewables by 2040-50, and that the technology exists to get us there. We just need the will to change how we live on the planet. In the words of Shelley Tanenbaum, General Secretary of Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEWS), “... we have no other choice, if we are to survive with a healthy ecosystem that equitably supports all beings.”

Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEWS) is a Quaker-led organization that brings together Friends who strive to live in ecological integrity with the living world and in right relationship with each other. It works through mutual support for the actions each of its members takes in their own lives; through educational and outreach programs; through direct action that QEWS encourages and supports; through resources, such as its publications and website; and as a public Quaker voice on earth care and environmental justice.

Patricia Finley and Ruth Darlington are privileged to serve as your yearly meeting representatives to QEWS. As members of the steering committee, we serve in a number of roles within the organization. Patricia is QEWS Treasurer and serves on the Finance Committee. Ruth serves on the Publications Committee and is Clerk of the FCNL Working Group. We share updates on QEWS activities through the Eco Justice Collaborative newsletter and with reports to annual sessions.

How Quaker Earthcare Witness Works: Steering Committee & Staff

QEWS is a volunteer-led organization guided by a 50-person Steering Committee that uses Quaker process and decision-making to guide its work. The Steering Committee is composed of 20 at-large members and 30 nominated representatives from Quaker yearly meetings in North America. In addition to meeting twice a year to do the business of QEWS, Steering Committee members serve on QEWS committees, visit their own monthly and yearly meetings on behalf of QEWS, distribute resources, and/or provide workshops and interest groups. They also meet with their committees and working groups between Steering Committee meetings. Officers and committee clerks serve on the Clerks' Committee, which takes care of business between Steering Committee meetings.

QEWS's day-to-day work is done by staff. QEWS added a Technical Admin/Program Assistant this year, Emily Carroll, to enhance its outreach and programming. Other staff are General Secretary, Shelley Tanenbaum, and QEWS Co-Director, Hayley Hathaway, (plus a part-time bookkeeper consultant, Holly Wilder).

Finance & Development

QEWS has a small annual budget—\$125,000—with a big mission. During the fiscal year (November 1, 2020, to October 31, 2021) QEWS responsibly increased its budget to better pay its staff and to hire a part-time assistant. In addition to staff time, most of QEWS's expenditures go to publication costs (printing, postage, editing), outreach (visits to monthly and yearly meetings, and events), and maintaining the network (Steering Committee meetings, conference calls, database maintenance). QEWS spends about 10% of its budget on fundraising (15 percent of staff salaries plus the cost of the annual appeal). Nearly all of its income comes from monthly/yearly meeting donations and individual donations.

What QEWS is Doing

In 2022, QEWS has been working to:

- Serve as a hub for Friends working on environmental concerns
- Offer more support and resources to monthly and yearly meetings, including connecting speakers on a variety of earth care topics with monthly and quarterly meetings through the “QEWS Presents” program.
- Host monthly online workshops, worship-sharing, and other forums that encourage Friends’ faithful action,
- Produce a quarterly publication, *BeFriending Creation* and maintaining the website, with resources and stories of Friends’ engagement and environmental justice,
- Support the Build Back Fossil Free Coalition,
- Speak out publicly to support Friends actions on earth care,
- Offer mini-grants for hands-on local earth care projects.

Some highlights from Quaker Earthcare Witness' work this past year.

Quaker Activism & Education

- Hosted online events on Eco-spirituality, Activism and Indigenous rights, Environmental Justice, International Climate Policy, and more.
- Encouraged Friends to resist the Line 3 pipeline in Minnesota by offering workshops about the proposed pipeline and Indigenous rights, connecting Friends with practical information on how to travel to the resistance camps, and sharing action alerts to a wider audience. Several Steering Committee members and QEWS’s General Secretary visited the Line 3 camps.
- Joined the Build Back Fossil Free coalition to end the era of fossil fuel production and declare a climate emergency.
- Sent three observers to COP26 in Glasgow and published articles about successes and failures of the climate conference.
- Our Direct Action Working Group hosted a discussion about non-violent direct action training and strategy after taking a course together on the subject.

- A 2021 priority was to consider racial and environmental justice in all of QEW's work. Its publications showcased environmental justice concerns, and included both authors and activists who are Black, Indigenous and people of color (BIPOC). Several sessions of online worship-sharing included queries that address racial and environmental justice. This work is ongoing.

Publications & Communications

- Produced four print and electronic issues of *Befriending Creation*.
- Launched a new website with up-to-date information on Friends action and contemplation for Quakers and the wider community.

Local Earthcare Projects

Each year, QEW offers mini-grants of \$500 to Quaker meetings, churches, and other Quaker organizations to support hands-on projects that foster earth care. In this fiscal year, QEW supported:

- Project Abundance at Ithaca Monthly Meeting (New York): Building raised beds for community food sharing.
- State College Monthly Meeting (Pennsylvania): Expanding the Keller St. Community Garden.
- West Chester Friends School (Pennsylvania): Acquiring the "Exploring Organisms with Literacy" set for 1st graders.
- New London Friends Meeting (Connecticut): Partially funding Chu Memorial & Meditation Garden using native landscaping.

Learn more at QuakerEarthcare.org.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Darlington
Patricia Finley

2022 Report to Yearly Meetings

Dear Friends,

Our Quaker faith and practice call us towards the world we seek. Since 1943, the Friends Committee on National Legislation has carried on this witness of the Spirit through national advocacy. Here are just some of the highlights of this year's work, made possible by your dedicated engagement and financial support.

Advocating for the World We Seek

This continues to be a challenging time to advocate for peace, justice, and environmental sustainability with Congress. Many people know FCNL for its "War Is Not the Answer" message, which has proven more relevant than ever with the Russian invasion of Ukraine. We continue to urge Congress to condemn the invasion, press for diplomacy, invest in peacebuilding, and recognize that lasting peace can only be achieved through peaceful means. Yet amid this and other challenges, FCNL's persistent work is changing policy.

In early March 2022, **Congress reauthorized the Violence Against Women Act**, which had lapsed in 2018. This long overdue reauthorization will be especially impactful for Native communities, long under-resourced and under-supported in their pursuit of justice. The bill expands tribal jurisdiction significantly, strengthening tribes' ability to protect their citizens. FCNL has worked in solidarity with tribal nations and tribal organizations for many years for this increase in congressional support for Native communities.

This year we moved closer than ever to **repealing an Authorization for the Use of Military Force (AUMF)**. Legislation to repeal the 2002 legislation authorizing the Iraq war has passed the House and is poised for Senate passage. The bill's sponsor, Rep. Barbara Lee (CA-13), acknowledged FCNL's work in remarks on MSNBC, saying "FCNL is one of the most well-organized and strategic advocacy teams in Washington. Their advocates always speak with detailed knowledge and moral clarity."

FCNL's 126 **Advocacy Teams** have been key to our persistent efforts to end wars. Working across 44 states, these more than 1,500 Quakers and friends are using their power as constituents to make change in Washington. Their success comes from a commitment to building relationships with Congress grounded in mutual respect and listening. In 2021, Teams were instrumental in building support for AUMF repeal. In 2022 they are focusing on ending U.S. support for the Saudi-led war in Yemen. If you aren't already part of this movement, visit fcnl.org/advocacyteams to start or join a team.

We successfully lobbied for the passage of the American Rescue Plan (P.L. 117-2). Passed in March 2021, this bill **helped ease the economic impact of the pandemic**. In November, as part of FCNL's Annual Meeting, hundreds of Friends and supporters lobbied virtually to expand the Child Tax Credit. We continue to work for this expansion, which since its expiration in December has thrust 3.7 million children back into poverty in the United States.

In Washington, our **domestic policy advocacy** prioritizes racial equity and disparity in justice reform, environmental policy, and migration advocacy. In March 2022, we held our first hybrid **Spring Lobby Weekend**, with more than 300 young adults joining in Washington, D.C. and 100 more online, to urge Congress to support a pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants. With the help of 18 young adult **Advocacy Corps** organizers, FCNL began securing co-sponsorships for the Environmental Justice for All Act (S.872/ H.R. 2021) to return power

to the predominantly Black, brown, Indigenous, and lower income communities that environmental degradation most affects.

Racial justice was also a focus of the project, co-led by FCNL, on ***"Dismantling Racism and Militarism in U.S. Foreign Policy."*** The report, developed in consultation with a diverse group of foreign policy thought leaders, analyzes the racism and militarism at the core of U.S. foreign policy, and offers a roadmap for progress toward a more sustainable, just, and peaceful world.

Our Beloved Community

FCNL's efforts on Capitol Hill and around the country could not happen without the strong community of Quakers and friends. You make our advocacy faithful and effective. We are grateful for the nearly 200 Friends representing 32 Quaker bodies who govern FCNL as General Committee members.

These Friends gather yearly to conduct organizational business, which at the 2021 Annual Meeting included joyful approval of **Bridget Moix as FCNL's fifth General Secretary**. She began work in January 2022 and brings years of peacebuilding experience as well as a long history of work with FCNL as a program assistant, lobbyist, and clerk of the General Committee. She takes on this role ready to focus on Friends' role in healing the divides in our country, strengthening democracy, and engaging with communities as leaders of change.

Bridget is also focusing on continuing FCNL's work around issues of anti-racism, justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion. This focus is happening both through the specifics of legislation and in our work within our own community. We continue to work to integrate our faith grounding; commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion; and public policy change—while leading FCNL toward becoming both more anti-racist and more deeply grounded in Quakerism.

FCNL's travel among Friends is one way we stay grounded, as we listen and connect to Friends' concerns. Staff visited more than 75 Quaker communities last year and this year are joined by a growing number of volunteer **Visiting Friends** who share their messages of hope and faith-in-action while connecting Friends with FCNL advocacy resources. Learn more: fcnl.org/quakers.

Friends Place on Capitol Hill is open! The former William Penn House began welcoming guests in January 2022 after significant repairs were completed. Friends Place is a Quaker learning center and guesthouse that provides civic education opportunities for young people. As of this writing, more than 50 groups are planning to stay at the House in 2022, with more contacting us every week. Learn more: friendsplacedc.org.

FCNL's work in the year ahead will be full of challenges and opportunities, both politically and organizationally. We are grateful to have a strong foundation on which to build. Thank you for your prayers, participation, financial support—and, above all, for your faithfulness.

In peace,

Mary Lou Hatcher

Clerk, FCNL General Committee
Lehigh Valley Monthly Meeting
Philadelphia Yearly Meeting



Mary Lou Hatcher and Bridget Moix take a moment from Annual Meeting proceedings to stroll to the Capitol.

FCNL photo by Cheriss May.



Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Epistle

Approved, July 31, 2022

Greetings to Friends Everywhere from Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, seated on lands stewarded over the millenia by Lenni Lenape and other indigenous people who are still among us:

In late July 2022, we held our 342nd annual session over several days. In the face of a new wave of coronavirus Covid-19, for the third year we met virtually by Zoom. Again, we missed meeting face-to-face, hearing our children's voices and laughter, visiting each other over meals, and welcoming visitors in person with hugs and handshakes. However, most of us have become accustomed enough to computer-based conference platforms to appreciate that they bring in folks from far away, allow us to spell our names correctly, foster deep spiritual connections, practice fellowship in small groups, and even experience powerful and moving vocal ministry.

Our annual sessions officially began a month ago with events offering additional ways for gathering, learning, and celebrating the gifts of Friends and the love shared in our community. They also highlighted some of the challenging issues that shape our lives today. Both a pre-sessions retreat imagining a new future of racial equity (and moving forward towards that) and an opening plenary invited us to look at our current behaviors and set the stage for the future we wish to see.

This year's theme, "**We seek to repair broken foundations across the generations unified in our beloved Quaker community,**" was deeply and powerfully addressed by young adult Friend and performance artist Eppchez Yes in their keynote talk. Building on critical examinations of Penn's Treaty with the Lenni Lenape in 1682, the Germantown Declaration Against Slavery in 1688, and the 1969 call for reparations by the National Black Economic Development Conference, Eppchez discerned Quaker patterns of oppression, delay, and avoidance. We are challenged to examine, acknowledge, and repair these "harmingly-designed" foundational patterns and to face this critical work: "We are standing in the need of prayer, for the stakes are high."

We began each day with bible stories presented in Godly Play format, evoking wonder in many of us. Deep worship laid a foundation for informative and fruitful business sessions. In our work together it became clear that we cherish each other, trying our best to be supportive and helpful with one another even as we navigate profound disappointments and woundings.

Yearly Meeting financial stewardship appears in good hands on a sustainable basis, thanks to the work of a dedicated staff and Friends. We heard that our one historic property, the landmark 1804 Arch Street Meeting House, is becoming less of a burden as it develops its own funding support. We

heard reports on work being carried out in the areas of Yearly Meeting-wide actions approved last year: membership and belonging, addressing racism, and addressing global climate change.

Our General Secretary led us in an exercise to examine the meaning of shared corporate witness. The responsibility for addressing climate catastrophe and undoing racism doesn't lie with just two committees; instead it is the responsibility of each individual at every area of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting – taking acts of love and leaps of faith. We were reminded that the Yearly Meeting is all 10,000 of us scattered across the region in 100+ meeting communities, not just the staff or the Friends whose collaborative work has stewarded the concerns thus far.

An innovation this year was a chance for our quarterly meetings to report. We savored the variety of practice, vitality, and commitment to this historically important concept. Some of our quarterly and monthly meetings leverage their efforts by participating in local and regional interfaith networks. We also heard a informative report from Ujima Friends Meeting (founded in 2020) and the Ujima Friends Peace Center (2017), both established as active and vibrant outgrowths of the Fellowship of Friends of African Descent dedicated to “bearing witness to peace, justice, and love” in urban North Philadelphia.

We carefully considered and united with a minute of concern recommending a truth and healing commission at a federal level addressing the genocidal practice of boarding schools for indigenous youth in the 19th and 20th Centuries. Friends were actively involved with these schools, so we wish the full story to be known and documented and that appropriate apologies and reconciliation actions take place.

Our closing speakers broadened our awareness of exclusion and oppression by telling us about fostering accessibility and inclusion for those with physical and mental impairments. One speaker shared insights from the field of public philosophy, and the other explored ways to make electronic information sources as accessible as possible. Opening up access helps us all. The discussion afterwards illustrated how Quaker values of inclusiveness and fairness can be applied to contemporary technologies. Improved accessibility is a key part of the ongoing journey to fuller human rights.

There is a paradox in the decreasing number of active Friends -- and yet increasing enthusiasm among our monthly meetings for crafting and submitting Spiritual State of the Meeting Reports. We heard an inspiring and informative report from the recently named Climate Stewards. Meanwhile, antiracism work is occurring on many fronts even though, as a body here, we feel painfully blocked. In reflecting on a recent memorial service for a young and beloved Black Quaker shot in the street, our Ministry and Care Committee beseeched us: “As we are called out of worship, may we be called to actions in our communities, our meetings, our Nation, and the world.”

As our time together came to an end, we held an “All Together Worship” linking 300 Friends and 22 meetinghouses for deep and nourishing worship. Then we heard heartening reports for Friends General Conference (FGC), Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) Section of the Americas, Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEWC), and the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) on how they are effectively supporting Quakerism and addressing many of the pressing issues discussed here this week.

In closing, we cite Abington Meeting's minute about their leading for reparations. We learned from them that the pathway forward will be full of potholes, but the challenge is to keep going:

We wish to engage in racial reconciliation and healing through acknowledging, apologizing, and atoning for wrongs our Meeting has committed in the past that influence the present. . . . We wish to atone for these past oppressions and injustices in the hope of bringing healing through retrospective justice to African Americans and Indigenous Peoples.

-- Approved by Abington Monthly Meeting, Fifth Month 10, 2021

On behalf of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting

Frank and Jean-Marie Prestwidge Barch
Presiding Co-clerks



Young Adult Friends Epistle 2022

To all Friends everywhere:

Greetings from a gathering of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Young Adult Friends, together from many different homes for Annual Sessions, July 26-31, 2022. Many of us gathered from the lands around Philadelphia, on the traditional homelands of the Lenni Lenape. We humbly acknowledge that many of us are settlers here, and live on stolen lands.

At Annual Sessions this year, as in the past two years, we engaged in Zoom video conferencing for many of our evening fellowship events. For other events, we were able to gather as safely as possible in-person. We welcome the chance to meet virtually with those who could not have come in person, and mourn the fellowship we used to share more freely than we currently can.

On Wednesday, the opening night of PYM's 342nd Annual Sessions, Young Adult Friends gathered in person at the historic Arch Street Meetinghouse for fellowship. We played games and ate pizza, then gathered to listen to Eppchez Yes deliver their visionary keynote on how we can build a better beloved community in PYM by repairing the foundation of our institution. On Thursday we gathered virtually to cultivate a space for fellowship with attention to grief and resilience in our community. Friends shared words of comfort and suffering from their homes and joined in a restful worship to honor the challenges of our current moment. Friday evening we reunited after the day's programming and participated in a Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business nestled in between the larger body's evening event. After business, Friends shared hopes and concerns for the future and offered support and solidarity to fellow YAFs. This gave way to a time for laughter and play - a welcome relief at the end of the long day. While we write this epistle on Saturday, we look forward to our trip tomorrow to the shores of Brigantine Beach in New Jersey and hope the day will be filled with joy and bonding.

As we reflect on the events of the week, we lift up the messages of inclusion, solidarity, justice, and reparations from our keynote sessions this week, particularly from Eppchez Yes. Eppchez encouraged our PYM body to notice patterns of domination in our Quaker history, emphasizing that we do not get to have a better past. As Young Adult Friends, we affirm the need to participate in reparation work as a community, to create spaces of ancestral accountability, and to reconnect to our bodies through movement and touch as a way to resist white supremacy.

What would happen if we were to let go of the desire for control and the need to "be good," two cravings rooted in white supremacist thinking? What could we be instead of "good"? What could we do with all that energy we put into goodness, afraid to lose control? Perhaps we could follow Eppchez's invitation to live with reciprocity, becoming activated to repair the world, and allow Death to burn away what is no longer necessary. In doing so, how might we build a more loving house of faith? Young Adult Friends sit (and dance

with!) with these ideas (or nibblings!) moving forward from Sessions.

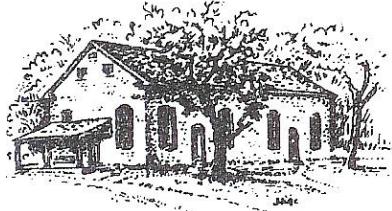
As a young adult community, we notice moments of transition in this stage of life. Many of us are nearing the upper end of the traditional 18- to 35-year-old age range of Young Adult Friends. We are feeling the weight of time as we age. Throughout this process, we welcome the next stage of living in which we are no longer young adults, but adults in our own right. We would like to see programming directed toward adults 36+ to shepherd this transition and provide fellowship for us in our next phase of life.

Over the past year, YAFs have seen our community ebb and flow, changing with new Friends joining and other Friends leaving. We gathered for a fall retreat and a winter potluck in 2021, a spring retreat in 2022, and nominated new co-clerks Jeff Rosenthal, Naomi Madaras, and pastoral care clerk Tucker Birmingham to leadership positions. For the first time, BIPOC YAFs (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) gathered in the fall of 2021 to be in community in a safe space with each other. There were feelings of recognition and fellowship and the need for these kinds of spaces to exist within PYM to make it a more inclusive institution and welcome friends of all kinds. BIPOC YAFs who gathered expressed that they would like to have more spaces and events like this in the future.

We as a community value the work that Aeryn Luminkith (ze/zir/she/her), Young Friends Co-Facilitator, has put into youth programming here at PYM. Aeryn is leaving zir position after four years. Ze has been a wonderful resource for so many of our young people, particularly our queer youth. The YAFs would like to thank Aeryn for zir thoughtful and capable service.

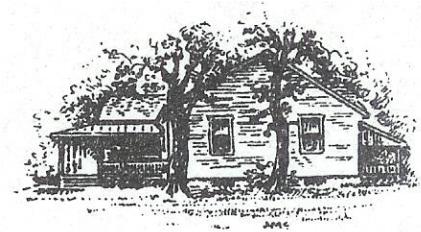
Throughout this year, YAFs have witnessed the consistent efforts from PYM staff members Kimani Keaton and Afroza Hossain to nurture and support this community. We share our deep gratitude for their work, and lift up a concern regarding the high turnover and increasingly heavy workload for PYM staff. The Young Adult Friends community would like to see better support, compensation, and a more balanced workload for PYM staff, particularly for staff members working with young adults and children.

As members of PYM, Young Adult Friends lift up the need for repair in our Quaker relationships and in our wider communities. We have witnessed the “unwelcome vibrations” Eppchez named in their sharing from the twin cravings of control and needing to “be good.” May our fears of death and change be composted and recycled in the fertile ground of justice, abolition, and hope. In community we can accomplish much more than we can alone.



Miami Friends Meeting House
Waynesville, Ohio
1811

Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS



Fall Creek Meeting House
Pendleton, Indiana
1857

Epistle, Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Annual Sessions 2022 (Approved 2022-06-12)

Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting of Friends gathered for its 202nd annual sessions on Sixth Month 8-12, 2022 on the campus of Mt. Saint Joseph University in Cincinnati, OH. Our sessions had the theme, "Embrace the Healing Power of Community." Having met entirely online over the preceding two years due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Friends present felt deeply blessed to meet with one another in person. We maintained a hybrid format to enable participation online, and valued the involvement of Friends not able to meet with us in person. Our opening meeting for business and first plenary presentation both began with acknowledgments: of the indigenous Shawnee and Miami peoples forcibly removed from this, their ancestral land by European colonizers; the enslaved Africans and their descendants, whose forced and stolen labor created prosperity for the colonizers; and the institutionalized racism that has continued to transfer wealth and power from people of color to those considered white, including most of us.

The tumult and sufferings of the world touched each of us and made our theme timely. Throughout our gathering, the need for healing – of our ecosphere, our society, our Religious Society, our meetings, and ourselves – came into focus. We received reports on our Yearly Meeting revealing smaller membership, fewer volunteers, and dramatically lower participation by children and young Friends. Sadly, committees serving Friends under the age of 25 continue to have inadequate staffing. We noted that the pandemic accelerated, but did not cause, these trends.

The healing hand of the Divine reached out to us in many forms. Worship-sharing elicited our personal experiences of the healing power of community. The Living Witness of Paul Buckley and Peggy Spohr inspired Friends with many examples of this power. In her plenary presentation, Gloria Stearns-Bruner introduced us to ways in which music and the sharing of our own stories can help to heal trauma. We reflected on how we might get to "know one another in

that which is eternal" (George Fox). Plenary speaker and workshop leader Angela Hopkins, founder of Friends Center for Racial Justice in Ithaca, NY, led us in considering how Friends meetings can become anti-racist faith communities. A Healing Center gave us opportunities to receive gifts of physical and emotional healing from one another. Our presiding clerk guided our business with a spacious pace, clearly rooted in worship. Love and concern pervaded the meetings for business, with deep appreciation for steadfast and Spirit-led service by many Friends.

Hope rose to the top of our awareness as our annual sessions drew to a close. First-time attenders participated fully in the week's activities and expressed gratitude at the welcome they received. Our annual variety show was filled with mirth and energy. Friends finishing terms of service to the Yearly Meeting continued into new roles and several Friends accepted committee posts for the first time. We faced our challenges. We experienced our love for one another and our devotion to our Religious Society. Following George Fox, we glimpsed the infinite ocean of Light that overcomes the ocean of darkness and death.



Epistle of the Yearly Meeting 2022 of The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Australia

Greetings to Friends everywhere.

Australian Friends gather during the southern winter chill for our third virtual Yearly Meeting, 2-10 July 2022. Ljudan Michaelis-Thorpe acknowledged the various Aboriginal lands on which we gather, reminding us that Indigenous knowledge is needed more than ever to heal both the planet and its people, especially as we face climate crises. She invited Friends to join with Indigenous peoples through an intertwined space of shared knowledge, adaptability and collective energy, bringing all of creation into balance.

In delivering the State of Society address Aletia Dundas asked challenging questions: what is holding us back from our radical roots; where is the evidence of the Truth moving amongst us; is our endless busyness keeping us from knowing one another in the Spirit? We were invited to use the Friendly notions of 'broken and tender' to reimagine our Society's structures to enable us to be more open to the moving of the Spirit in pursuit of peace, embracing of gender diversity and responses to climate emergencies. Within these challenges lies the hope to hold our faith community in love and tenderness, hold the oceans of Darkness and Light in balance, so nourishing seeds can grow and we can thrive.

Friends explored the theme for Friendly School, 'Caring for Humanity in Interesting Times', through many forms including labyrinths, creative writing, games, poetry, artistic expression, song, and exploring Indigenous language concepts. The opportunity for the latter to broaden our understanding will help to decolonise our thinking and attitudes. Our Society will be all the richer for it.

The array of Share & Tells and dedicated sessions this year expanded the theme already laid down. They demonstrated the depth and breadth of our concerns and Quaker testimonies in action and our collaborative links with others. We revisited the spiritual underpinnings of early Friends that guide everything we do. Revisions to the Handbook of Quaker Practice and Procedure in Australia, the future of a Yearly Meeting office and the effective use of IT focused our attention on matters of the world. We're asked to reflect on the right ordering of Friends as an institution and Friends as a community of seekers.

The Summary of Epistles from Yearly Meetings around the world reflected our shared faith and Quaker practices throughout the world. We heard similar yearnings for world peace and harmony, we felt a collective agonising over the destructive changes to our climate and species extinction: a simultaneous sense of suffering and solidarity from which we must not step away.

Our Formal Business Sessions at times traversed difficult terrain. Conducting them in a virtual environment brought an added layer of complexity and challenge. Our Quaker processes held us in good stead all the same. We were encouraged to have longer periods of silence, waiting, and listening ever more deeply 'for that of God to speak', especially when unity evaded us. This is the touchstone of our faith which brings us together to surrender to the still, small voice within our community.

We were heartened to hear from the Friends World Committee for Consultation about Quaker efforts around the world. It is timely to be reminded that we are part of a much bigger movement and network of Friends, sharing and supporting one another in Spirit-led work.

'Let me tell you some stories, listen deeply to hear your Truth'. Yarrow Goodley's Backhouse Lecture, 'Creating hope: working for justice in catastrophic times' did not mince words describing the current climate crisis and its disproportionate impact on people who are not privileged by the lightness of their skin. They shared experiences of deep despair for our planet. Hearing the journey of others has enabled Yarrow to discover seeds of hope which break the barriers of pain, enabling a vision for a compassionate and just future to grow. We heard imagined stories of people living in such future societies and are challenged to live radically, be collectively bold and see with the eyes of others.

To bridge the gap between virtual and residential participation, daily home groups on line and pods in situ were successfully introduced alongside our usual coffee chats and social gatherings in the evenings after Epilogue. We ask how to bring families, young people and children into the heart of Australia Yearly Meeting, and not just at our annual gathering. We miss the regular sound of children's laughter, discussions with teens and sharing with families. Even though there were fewer numbers, it was a valuable time for making new friends, building relationships and sharing experiences.

Two Yearly Meetings statements, one on peace and the other on climate emergency, as well as enthusiastic support for an integrity in public office project, were outcomes of the gathering and will publicly confirm Friends' commitment to this work. Looking forward, we shared ideas about a possible Quaker Life Network and how it might nurture our communities.

This Yearly Meeting in particular created an opportunity to broaden our notions of mutuality, identity and relationships, and question our entrenched binary thinking and attitudes. All these rich offerings provided avenues to wrestle with the challenges of how to live integrally and adventurously in a world in deep crisis. We are urged to 'consider the world as an en-Spirited whole, to accept no boundary to repairing and sustaining the Earth for the future, and to appreciate more deeply the creative energy in all living things and life processes' - all the while being truthful, hopeful and faithful Friends.

Australia Yearly Meeting

The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Australia Inc.
Incorporated in the ACT
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EPISTLE FROM THE UGANDA FRIENDS CHURCH (QUAKERS)

NOVEMBER 3 TO NOVEMBER 7, 2021

To Friends Everywhere

Dear Friends,

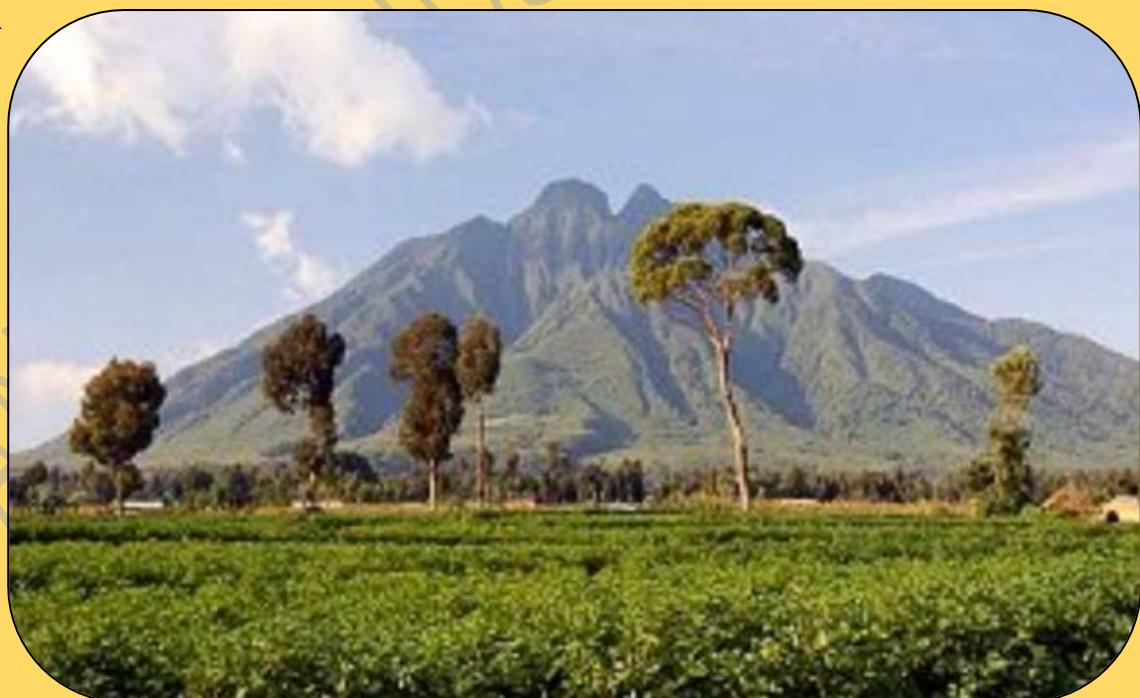
We, more than 200 delegates from Uganda, Kenya, Burundi, Rwanda & the USA gathered at the Mbale Friends Church for the 34th Annual Conference from November 3 to 7, 2021.

Our theme is based on Hebrews: 10:22a, “Let us draw near to God with sincere hearts fully trusting in him.”

We had representatives from the FUM, FWCC, USFW, YFP, YQCA, & Quakermen International.

Our Presiding Clerk Paul Kuloba opened the conference sessions under a mixture of sunshine & heavy storms in the lush foothills of Mt Elgon. Mt Elgon, known

here as Mt. Masaba, is 4,321 meters high, making it the fourth highest peak in East Africa after Mountains Kilimanjaro,



Kenya & Ruwenzori respectively. The Masaba has 5 major peaks namely Wagagai, Sudek, Koitobos, Mubiyi & Masaba. Of the five peaks, only Koitobos is found fully in Kenya. Sudek is on the Uganda-Kenya border while the rest are on the Uganda side.



Mt. Masaba has the largest volcanic base in the world. Located on the Uganda – Kenya border, it is also the oldest & largest solitary, volcanic mountain in East Africa. Its vast form, 80km in diameter, rises 4,321m above the surrounding plains. The mountain's cool

heights offer relief from the hot plains below, with the higher altitudes providing a rare refuge for flora, fauna & water for the plains below. It is one of the UNESCO's 727 biosphere reserves in 131 countries, including 22 transboundary sites [Mt Elgon is one of them], that belong to the Network of Biosphere Reserves. Africa has 79 biosphere reserves of this unique kind in 28 countries.

We are very proud to have our Uganda Friends Church located in this very delicate eco-system, 8 kilometers south of Mbale City along the very busy Mbale to Tororo highway.

We held very fruitful & unifying discussions on various topics in the conference described as “*... a landmark conference in the history of the Uganda Yearly Meeting. In the past we had conferences full of children. Today, this conference is full of adults...we shall walk together to build the Friends church in Uganda*”, by the Director of the Friends United Meeting [FUM] Africa Ministries Office [AMO], Dr. John Muhanji, one of our guests, a committed supporter of the Uganda Friends Church [Quakers].



Part of our congregation...



LANDS





Our General Superintendent Pastor Samuel Wefafa explored the theme [Hebrews: 10:22a] with a very powerful expository presentation in which he stressed the need for Friends to draw near to God. Many Friends in the gathering were touched & came forward to be prayed for.

Our Mama Marian Baker shares the famous story of the unnamed Samaritan woman in conversation with Jesus Christ at the well in John 4:7-16. Marian named her as the first missionary to spread the gospel in Jesus' lifetime.





Pastor Rose Wamboka on the Christian Family. Jesus restored the position of women. The Christian Family should be Christ-like. The nucleus Family determines the quality of the Church. Christianity is an individual commitment. The key issues to consider in a Christian Family include: LOVE, SACRIFICE, SELF DENIAL, SERVICE, & UNITY



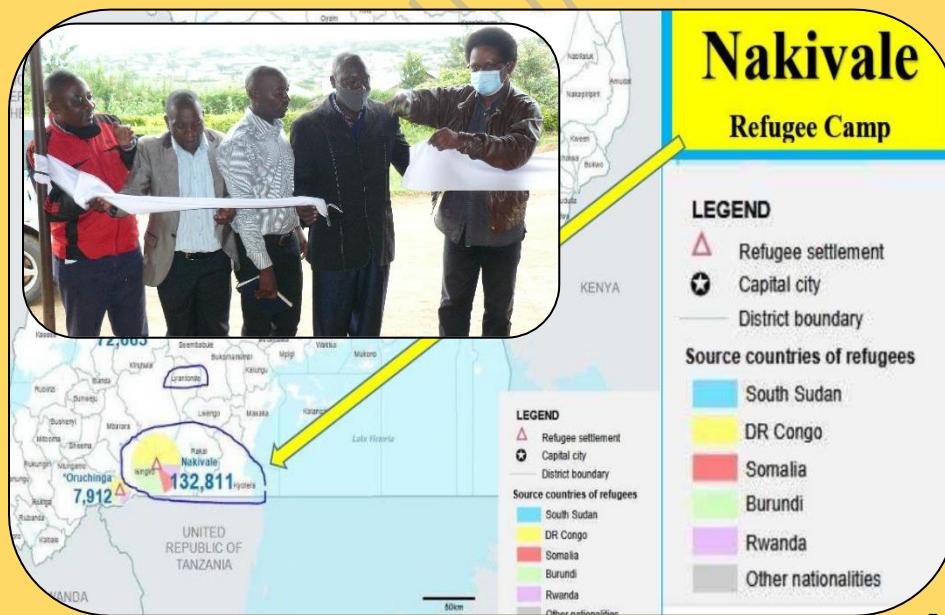
Clerk Emeritus
Apollo Wopicho
on
“Environmental
Conservation”

Other topics included: “*Generation Gap*” [Julius Nambafu], “*Christian Family*” [Rose Wamboka], “*HIV/AIDS, Covid-19*” [Irene Gidudu], “*Stewardship & Finance*” [Silver Khasufa], among others.

In attendance with us were our Friends from Burundi but resident in the Nakivale Refugee Settlement Camp. They are Pastors Erias Kabura, Emiliene Ndikumana



[female], Claude Sinzikayo, Elyse Niyubushobozzi, & Jean Bahati [with Clerk Paul Kuloba – (left) & General Secretary Alfred Wasike with Emiliene’s baby at their departure for Nakivale Camp]. They are part of our outreach program that was described as “...a milestone for the Uganda Friends Church...” The Barundi & some Ugandans are fellowshipping in the Evangelical Friends Church in the outskirts of Kampala City.



In December 2020, the Uganda Friends Church sent Pastors Paul Kuloba [Clerk], Alfred Wasike [General Secretary] & Emmanuel Bazimenyera to the Nakivale Refugees Settlement Camp in Uganda to plant the Nakivale Friends Church.



With support from our Friend Pastor Abel Sibonio [a Quaker from Burundi] based in Australia, we appreciate his support to

transport our Friends from Nakivale & support for the 34th Annual Conference. We are also grateful to Abel for helping the Friends in the Nakivale Camp acquire land to build a Church whose construction starts in December 2021.

We were very happy to host some of our committed supporters to the Uganda Friends Church, Mama Marian Baker [New England Yearly Meeting – USA], Mama Agnetta Injairu [Malava Yearly Meeting – Kenya], Esther Nyabuto [Highland Yearly Meeting – Kenya].

We had a General Board for the Uganda Friends Church [Quakers] sit to set the agenda for the future.



Bainito Wamalwa [FWCC Africa Section Clerk] encouraged our Uganda Friends Church Board





Mama Marian is helping us champion for development in the Busoga Region of the Uganda Friends Church. We thank her for securing funding to train a nurse [Stella Awino being introduced to the Board] with a view of setting up a health facility at our Friends School Kimidi. We aim to equip the community with knowledge about public health diseases in Busoga Region.



The Conference was very well entertained by Choirs from the Mbale Friends Church, Mutoto Friends Church, Burundi & other Churches.









EDIEA



We are very grateful to the Clerk [Emeritus] Apollo Wopicho plus his wife Sylvia [USFW Uganda Clerk] & other families for hosting our delegates.

We request Friends everywhere to continue praying with us.

[The blue markings on the map shows where the Uganda Friends Church [Quakers] has Churches, Schools & Fellowships



**MAY GOD CONTINUE BLESSING YOU FOR STANDING WITH
THE UGANDA FRIENDS CHURCH [QUAKERS]**



**ENJOY THIS BEAUTIFUL SUNSET OVER THE
SIPI FALLS ON MOUNT MASABA**

PRESIDING CLERK

PASTOR PAUL KULOBA

GENEREAL SECRETARY

PASTOR ALFRED WASIKE

NOVEMBER 2021

Epistle from Canadian Yearly Meeting, held online, 8 to 14 August 2021

"Not by strength of arguments or by a particular disquisition of each doctrine, and convincement of my understanding thereby, came [I] to receive and bear witness of the Truth, but by being secretly reached by [the] Life. For, when I came into the silent assemblies of God's people, I felt a secret power among them, which touched my heart; and as I gave way unto it, I found the evil weakening in me and the good raised up; and so I became thus knit and united unto them ... to whom afterwards the knowledge and understanding of principles will not be wanting, but will grow up so much as is needful as the natural fruit of this good root, and such a knowledge will not be barren nor unfruitful."

Robert Barclay (no. 19.21 in *Quaker Faith and Practice*, 5th ed.,
Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends [Quakers] in Britain)

Loving greetings to Friends everywhere.

Friends gathered online from across Canada and beyond to worship, share stories, and to honour and renew the sense of Spirit at work among us.

We met in the context of a national grief and anger as our settler nation comes to understand how many Indigenous children perished in the residential school system, and we further awaken to the ongoing reality of colonialism and genocide. Changes in the climate of the planet that sustains us also now affect every one of us. Concern for future generations colours all of our discernment. Under the guidance of the hardworking working group called Change and Sustainable Transformation (CAST), we seek to simplify our organizational structure while retaining an ability to respond faithfully to continuing revelation.

A pre-gathering retreat, facilitated by poets from our Yearly Meeting, offered a rich choice of workshops. This experience opened a delightful imaginative space for participants, a portal out of our daily pressures and into receptivity.

The Sunderland P. Gardner (SPG) Lecture spoke into that space. The theme chosen was "Love and Justice, Hope and Imagination." More than 150 of us attended online. Monica Walters-Field brought us images and music, aided by her granddaughters and her son. She then settled into the informative and touching story of her own life. Arising from this, she issued a call to Friends to talk less and to do more. Quaker process must not be used to exclude, she stated. She challenged us to understand that Friends from the beginning have been activists, and that it is not right that so much time has passed in regard to our major Concerns, with so little actual change. These words and this challenge emerged often through our week together. On the last day we set aside a time to reflect upon the message of the SPG Lecture.

Janet Ross, John Samson Fellows, Kate Friesen, Jane Orion Smith and Keith Barber of Winnipeg Monthly Meeting, led five sessions of Quaker Studies, taking as our starting point Query 18: to "*know one another in the things that are eternal.*" Janet introduced a multileveled definition of acknowledgement that wove through the rest of her talk. She then moved into the territorial acknowledgement. A reading from Barclay including the phrase, "*As I gave way to the truth*" connected with further queries to discover what we are teaching as Quakers that we may not be conscious of. This includes things like patriarchy, colonialism and other hierarchies. We need

to become aware of the impact and violence of these systemic hierarchies; otherwise, we will participate in and continue them. If our Quaker practice is not changing us, we cannot change the world. We must know and understand our own story and understand the part played by these hierarchies in our own lives. What calls you to Quakers? Why do you stay? What is eternal for you? There was rich sharing on these queries in small breakout groups.

Four days this week began with an online half-hour program for children, with follow-up activities at home throughout the day. Ten children registered for the children's program, and two Young Friends age 12+ registered and participated in youth-friendly CYM activities. All concerned brought awesome contributions of insight and energy.

At Meeting for Worship for Business, all nominations were approved. However, many roles remain unfilled. As a Yearly Meeting, we continue a conversation about how to simplify our "doing" as Friends and to release our "being."

At the request of Hamilton Monthly Meeting, Canadian Yearly Meeting will write to appropriate representatives in the government of Canada expressing our concern about the children who died at Residential Schools and whose graves are only now being uncovered. We ask the government to fully support further investigations and ensure the implementation of the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, 2015. The letter will be copied to Monthly Meetings for their information and use.

We spent one evening hearing about the work of the Canadian Friends Service Committee in areas of criminal justice, Indigenous Peoples' human rights, and peace. This year is the 90th anniversary of CFSC's social justice work. Friends across our Yearly Meeting feel better informed about this work because of the monthly series called "Get to Know Thee, Friend."

Online educational work of Canadian Friends Historical Association has also enhanced our sense of heritage and community at a time when we have been isolated and separated.

This has been a week of precious connection with one another and of sober reflection on who we are and how we may now be led. We are very grateful to all those who made this online gathering possible. Much joy was expressed at how close to in-person the meeting felt.



ILYM Meetinghouse, McNabb, Illinois

Illinois Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

Consisting of 22 Quaker Meetings and Worship Groups
in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Missouri, and Wisconsin

2022 Illinois Yearly Meeting Epistle

Dear Friends Everywhere,

We send you love from amidst the cornfields and soybean of Illinois. Rejoicing in our in-person reunion for yearly meeting this year, we welcomed Friends to our 148-year-old meeting house and even met some babies who had not been born the last time we were together.

Great wind and great heat greeted us and we felt the abundant energy infused into our pores. That energy continued covering our sessions, evident in gathered meetings for worship, the children's happy shouts, and smiles while dancing on the lawn. We felt something of a resurrection from the anxiety of the past two years and recharged to face the future.

Today we celebrate Juneteenth, the anniversary of the order, at the end of the Civil War, freeing the last enslaved people in Texas, two years after the Emancipation Proclamation. In our meeting for business, we approved moving an ad hoc committee on anti-racism to a standing committee, the Racial Equity and Education Committee, reflecting a new commitment to continue to work on these issues for as long as the leading is given.

Our theme for the annual sessions was Creating Unity Despite Separation. We had kept our yearly meeting alive and active for two years by meeting on Zoom because of threats from COVID. This year we appreciated coming together in-person all the more. Here we have a strong sense of belonging. The richness of the soil surrounding us seems to ground and center us. The trees provide a cover for our activities and a shelter from the heat. The old meeting house itself with its history, its architecture, and the care that it needs, seem to tie us together as the Spirit ties us in our worship.

We found a new sense of being present was also possible. Using technology, several Friends unable to come to the meetinghouse, joined us for worship, business, and speakers. Those on Zoom were glad that they were able to see the meetinghouse as those on campus were glad see the faces on Zoom. We will continue to work on finding ways in which the technology can serve us.

Unity, we learned, does not need to be static. Building relationships to find a new unity was a theme expanded by our speakers, Gretchen Castle, Bobby Trice, and Karen Tibbals. Offering spiritual hospitality can break down prophetic resistance. Using storytelling to tell our own truths help others to understand us. Living out Jesus words, "Love your enemies, pray for those who persecute you" [Matthew 5:44] softens and opens our hearts.

Unity can be solemn. At the end of sessions, the heat wave broke and the wind quieted, just in time for our memorial meeting. We gave thanks for the lives of many pillars of our community this year. We continue to feel very close to them as we look around the campus.

Unity can be beautiful. The Environmental Concerns Committee planted a native pollinator garden on our property. It is a place of contemplation, hope, and renewed stewardship of the earth.

Unity can be active. Being in-person revitalized our children and teen programs. The high school bunk house, with air conditioning, became a refuge during the heat. Mixed ages made crafts together and created colorful peace wheels.

Mostly we found that unity is joyful. Over and over at our sessions this year, we felt a sense of joy. We understand many issues in the world seem insurmountable and yet we feel joy in searching for God's order. Perhaps the rustling that we hear in the corn fields and the trees is like "a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind" [Acts 2:2] and has inspired us like it inspired the early Apostles of Christ.

Illinois Yearly Meeting, Sixth Month, 19, 2022

Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Britain

Epistle from Britain Yearly Meeting

held in person and online from 27–30 May 2022

We send loving greetings to Friends everywhere.

Friends gathered for Yearly Meeting at Friends House in London, Hemel Hempstead and online. Faith in action meetings took place online in the previous week.

Amid the challenges of the climate emergency, wars in Europe and elsewhere in the world, a global pandemic, and a cost of living crisis, it has been important to address the interwoven strands of faith, community and action. All three are necessary – we are challenged to explore how our faith connects us with one other and how we act in the world.

Ministry is rooted in our worship and faith. We have tried to listen in a generous and a hopeful way, open to new learning and trusting in the Spirit amongst us.

The sheer size of this Yearly Meeting was an indication of the possibilities of blended worship. The ‘All Together Worship’ on Sunday brought the face-to-face presence of over 200 Friends into one community with 78 meetings and 290 individuals online, and other Friends joining in spirit. We heard gratitude from those who were only able to be with us because of the online facility. Children 11 and under had programmes in Friends House whilst young people 11 and over met in Hemel Hempstead. Junior Yearly Meeting met earlier in the year.

We are all on a faith journey, sometimes lit up by transformational experiences, but we depend on quiet waiting on God for the nudges and shoves that lead us in new and urgent directions. We heard passionate calls to ‘let go’ and trust the Spirit to make clear where we will be led. We need to be ready to listen deeply and to live in the discomfort of not knowing but moving forward in faith.

In a healthy community there is always someone to help us up with a tender hand. Young adult Friends called for cross-generational conversations and accompaniment. We heard heart-warming accounts of community togetherness, including support for those with difficulties due to neurodivergence or mental health problems. However, although we pride ourselves on being good at building peace for others, we sometimes find it hard to do this within our own communities.

Some have welcomed returning to meeting face to face. Others embrace online communication as enabling and inclusive; we are discovering new ways to build Quaker communities. We recognise that the life of our Meetings depends on reaching out into the world and searching for new insights. Are our Quaker communities models for what we want to see – places of openness, active listening, deep communication and connection? We cannot offer this vision to others without healing ourselves.

Many of us were saddened and ashamed to hear personal experiences of racism: descriptions of an event where none of the bystanders on the street supported the Friend, and another within the context of service on a Quaker central committee. A necessary first step against oppression is to believe one another's accounts and experiences.

We were given powerful evidence of Quaker engagement in the transatlantic slave trade. It is important to understand and tell the truth about the past – it is even more important to recognise its enduring consequences: the trauma and impact on lives in the present.

We must start making changes now and for the future: “planting flowers as well as pulling up weeds.” Britain Yearly Meeting resolves to build on our decision last year to be an anti-racist church, working with partners, including churches and faith groups, to look at ways to make meaningful reparations for our failings. We need to take urgent action as individuals, in our local, area and yearly meetings.

“What do love and justice require of us?”

Signed in and on behalf of Britain Yearly Meeting

Siobhán Haire, Clerk

Philadelphia Yearly Meeting

Changes in Membership, 1990-2021

SUMMARY BY YEAR	Prior Year		Births	Applications	Transfers Out		Releases	Net Change	Total Members	# of Adults	# of Minors	# of Assoc		
	Total Members	Adjustments			Transfers In	Deaths								
12/31/1990	12,837	(35)	45	131	349	181	159	100	120	(35)	12,767	10,425	2,143	199
12/31/1991	12,767	(53)	35	144	373	183	170	142	144	(87)	12,627	10,312	2,055	260
12/31/1992	12,627	21	45	150	335	180	145	181	71	(47)	12,601	10,248	2,188	165
12/31/1993	12,601	(24)	45	96	336	184	152	149	100	(108)	12,469	10,108	2,194	167
12/31/1994	12,469	(4)	28	88	258	187	138	167	166	(284)	12,181	9,853	2,166	162
12/31/1995	12,181	14	38	107	221	168	116	128	87	(133)	12,062	9,745	2,135	182
12/31/1996	12,062	(24)	18	99	251	161	142	100	140	(175)	11,863	9,559	2,149	155
12/31/1997	11,863	(16)	23	114	285	173	99	113	74	(37)	11,810	9,518	2,132	161
12/31/1998	11,810	(8)	20	109	271	164	111	77	79	(31)	11,771	9,493	2,095	183
12/31/1999	11,771	(12)	12	113	298	153	119	59	59	33	11,792	9,503	2,094	195
12/31/2000	11,792	21	14	86	292	155	94	62	75	6	11,819	9,491	2,070	258
12/31/2001	11,819	2	21	89	303	179	101	59	50	24	11,845	9,491	2,055	299
12/31/2002	11,845	(7)	30	150	295	149	130	50	49	97	11,935	9,550	2,073	312
12/31/2003	11,935	4	13	84	257	160	88	71	100	(65)	11,874	9,523	2,058	293
12/31/2004	11,874	13	15	91	244	173	97	69	83	(72)	11,815	9,528	1,954	333
12/31/2005	11,815	(16)	16	63	235	154	75	59	79	(53)	11,746	9,488	1,840	418
12/31/2006	11,746	(16)	17	60	240	160	78	73	55	(49)	11,681	9,479	1,788	414
12/31/2007	11,681	12	3	74	212	131	92	64	78	(76)	11,617	9,498	1,722	397
12/31/2008	11,617	16	9	53	205	155	66	83	85	(122)	11,511	9,515	1,626	370
12/31/2009	11,511	(13)	7	57	159	119	79	84	120	(179)	11,319	9,470	1,431	418
12/31/2010	11,319	(1)	12	51	147	127	54	48	41	(60)	11,272	9,516	1,355	393
12/31/2011	11,272	(43)	3	36	123	99	46	33	88	(104)	11,125	9,483	1,317	325
12/31/2012	11,125	(145)	7	54	178	117	42	39	32	9	10,989	9,486	1,183	329
12/31/2013	10,989	(18)	7	29	116	111	38	53	49	(99)	10,872	9,383	1,146	343
12/31/2014	10,872	(123)	4	37	132	109	42	32	104	(114)	10,635	9,307	993	335
12/31/2015	10,635	(48)	91	35	106	134	38	36	65	(41)	10,546	9,265	916	365
12/31/2016	10,546	(228)	9	33	135	134	43	27	50	(77)	10,241	9,020	956	265
12/31/2017	10,241	(12)	4	32	117	101	47	38	34	(67)	10,162	8,995	836	330
12/31/2018	10,161	84	1	28	114	100	32	62	56	(107)	10,138	9,091	802	273
12/31/2019	10,166	31	2	19	48	73	21	12	31	(68)	10,129	9,042	773	264
12/31/2020	10,079	(2)	4	21	68	96	17	33	22	(75)	10,053	8,946	787	320
12/31/2021	10,052	(26)	6	18	48	80	28	12	12	(60)	9,905	8,883	724	298

Membership Statistics 2020

SUMMARY BY QUARTER	2020		Births	Applications	Transfers Out		Releases	Net Change	2020 year-end census					
	Total Members	Adjustments			Transfers In	Deaths			Total Members	# of Adults	# of Minors	# of Assoc		
Abington	1,150	3	0	1	12	8	5	0	2	(2)	1,139	1,033	56	50
Bucks	1,570	(3)	0	0	9	12	4	3	1	(11)	1,556	1,379	144	33
Burlington	411	(1)	0	5	1	4	0	1	0	1	404	377	24	3
Calm	621	(1)	0	0	1	3	4	1	2	(9)	611	562	25	24
Chester	685	4	1	0	2	7	6	2	0	(12)	679	581	46	52
Concord	1,078	(1)	2	1	2	8	2	0	0	(5)	1,072	956	86	30
Haddonfield	824	0	0	1	0	5	2	0	0	(6)	818	742	50	26
Haverford	656	1	1	0	2	2	0	0	0	1	658	596	62	0
Philadelphia	1,214	0	0	6	12	6	5	2	5	0	1,170	1,040	110	20
Salem	420	2	1	0	2	6	0	1	1	(5)	419	377	42	0
Southern	320	(16)	1	0	0	4	0	0	0	(3)	300	232	17	51
Upper Susquehanna	344	(7)	0	0	4	1	0	2	1	0	337	319	17	1
Western	759	(7)	0	4	1	14	0	0	0	(9)	742	689	45	8
Total PYM	10,052	(26)	6	18	48	80	28	12	12	(60)	9,905	8,883	724	298

Resignations are initiated by the member. Releases are initiated by the Monthly Meeting.

Statistics completed based on information received as of July 22, 2021.

Members under the age of 21 are counted as "Minors." Associate membership is a special category described in Faith and Practice for under age 21 only.

For 2011, # of Adults, Minors, and Associates were estimated based on percentages of each reported by meetings -- total actual reported #'s were 6764, 939, and 232, respectively.