

## **Annual Report to Quaker Life Council Addressing Racism Collaborative May 2025**

The Addressing Racism Collaborative is comprised of members from several quarterly meetings. We find that being a networking vessel is a helpful description of our work as we seek to find what would help Friends in their work. When we started the work, the energy was high and there were things we were learning – noticing patterns of behavior that keep racism in place. We offered a website with a range of tools to help people address racism in different levels of awareness.

This year we have faithfully met monthly. We review what we have noticed, where Friends are actively working to address racism, and consider what might be offered. In the past year, in addition to beginning to update the website, we have learned about the following:

- Reparations work and the annual Benjamin Lay event in Abington Meeting; and the reparations work at Green Street Meeting.
- In Philadelphia: neighborhood issues - gentrification; and with the city council's reparations work.
- In Bucks Quarter, network and support for the African American museum - resulting in a new home for this effort: <https://www.aamuseumbucks.org/news-and-media>.
- Work by Medford Meeting in a New Jersey community around a sign issue, to consider discomfort and truth.
- Work in progress on manumissions connected to Haddonfield Meeting and Lawnside, the first incorporated African American town north of the Mason Dixon line - and connected to the amazing work Avis Wanda McClinton has faithfully inspired.
- Work on Pennsylvania equity on education (with POWER Interfaith) - in Philadelphia and Bucks County.
- In Western Quarter, antiracism work has expanded to include community resistance to attacks on our largest POC community, Latinos, who live under constant threat of personal disaster and economic disruption via deportation raids.
- And we are learning more of Western Quarter's involvement in the August 13 commemoration of the 1911 murder of a company policeman Edgar Rice and the subsequent lynching of Zachariah Walker. The event is co-sponsored by Coatesville's NAACP and the Area Ministerium, which groups hope to bring together descendants of both men, "shining a light" on their tragically shared history.

We have wondered together: If we are doing the work a collaborative is expected to do, should we do more than this networking? The fact that we meet and learn together offers a chance for us to consider what might be helpful. Our number has reduced, but the need for work has

grown. We learn more and are a resource with a website we continue to review and renew. We welcome your input.

What would help Friends in their quest to address racism - or become more antiracist? Friends throughout the U.S. are focusing more intensive efforts. Locally, Pendle Hill has been offering opportunities:

- An antiracist worship sharing: <https://pendlehill.org/events/quaker-coalition-for-uprooting-racism-antiracism-worship-sharing/>
- A faith based reparative justice event, <https://pendlehill.org/events/faith-based-reparative-justice-a-tool-for-racial-healing/>

On-line experiences as well; two of us have been attending the Antiracist Community Network - out of New York Yearly Meeting: <https://cswac.org/>.

The group faithfully meeting and discerning is about half to three quarters of those who began with us before the pandemic. Each of us has worked hard where we are and networked in our Quarterly meeting areas - and sometimes have been able to visit. As we consider next year's focus, we would be helped to hear from Friends what would excite them about joining our work. This work is essential for all of us. In the current national moment, the importance of our being truly antiracist - of learning and seeing where we adhere to racist patterns, how we are limited by the racism embedded in our system - is essential for our real liberation.

We welcome your questions and look forward to learning how we can help your work on addressing racism.

Joan Broadfield, facilitator, [broadfieldje@gmail.com](mailto:broadfieldje@gmail.com)