



Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Administrative Council
Saturday, February 17, 2024 (by Zoom)
Approved Minutes

Present: Andrew Anderson, Chuck Devers, Christie Duncan-Tessmer (General Secretary), Jeanne Elberfeld, Cecilia Filauro (Executive Administrator), Kruskal Hewitt, Neil Holzman, Linell McCurry (CFO), Nikki Mosgrove (Rising Clerk), Carter Nash, Salvadore Orellana (Deputy General Secretary), Melissa Rycroft (PYM Presiding Clerk), Cathy Toner, Tom Zemaitis (Clerk, Administrative Council)

Meeting began at 9 a.m. with a period of silent worship.

Cathy Toner agreed to serve as recording clerk for this meeting.

Agenda:

1. Minutes of January 10, 2024: January's Council meeting minutes were approved.
2. Minutes of Appreciation: Andrew Anderson & Jim Waddington. Both were approved with gratitude.

Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Minute of Appreciation for Andrew Anderson

Andrew Anderson, a Friend, and Member of the Monthly Meeting of Friends of Philadelphia (Arch Street) came on the PYM scene as a very active volunteer during the Financial Crisis in 2012 when he assumed the position of Clerk of the Financial Stewardship Committee. Upon completion of the restructuring of PYM's governance structures in 2015, Andrew accepted the position of member of the Admin Council. In 2016 he stepped into the Assistant Treasurer role followed the following year by accepting the position of Treasurer. In these roles he shepherded the finances of PYM for nine years of continued strengthening and growth resulting in the strong financial position of today. He did so with great insight, powers of persuasion and a sense of humor. He was able to explain complicated issues in a manner understandable to all. He touched all he interacted with and will be missed, and we are pleased to note that he remains active in PYM work such as a Climate Witness Steward.

Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Minute of Appreciation for Jim Waddington

Jim Waddington has generously shared his talents with the greater family of Friends in the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting through his service as clerk of the Administrative Council. During his years as clerk he also chose to participate in the council's committees which brought a cohesion to the work of the council - he even clerked Property Committee. Both the council and the committees benefited enormously from Jim's steady hand, his judgment and his experience. Jim ensured that the work of the Council was grounded in the Spirit, and, under his

leadership, all voices had the opportunity to be heard. Jim continuously held a concern of care for the meetings of PYM. He regularly visited four meetings in addition to his own and encouraged others to participate in the long tradition of intervisitation among Friends. He brought his experience of the differing cultures, practices and needs of meetings into the work of the council and committees. Friends like Jim, who give of themselves in service, expand the capacity of our yearly meeting and instill our community with light and life. The members of the Administrative Council minute their gratitude for Jim's unstinting and steadfast service. We look forward to Jim's continued service as a member of the council and we extend to Jim our best wishes in his continuing journey.

3. Committee Business: Appointments

Terry Cooke & Carter Nash are nominated to Granting Committee and Nikki Mosgrove is nominated to Finance Committee. All were approved.

Serita Spadoni has been appointed by Concord QM to serve on Nominating Council.

4. Development Committee Report

This month's scheduled report is from the Development Committee. No report was provided.

5. Advocacy Policy

The advocacy policy continues to require attention and discernment.

Melissa shared feedback that the policy hasn't been received the way we intended, even though she believes Admin had the best of intentions. There have been many emails and conversations with Friends who continue to share concerns. Melissa has been meeting with various Monthly Meetings who invited her to discuss the policy. Much of the concern is over the process used to develop the policy, and Friends not feeling included and heard. There is deep concern about the relationship between Admin Council and the Collaboratives, and some Monthly and Quarterly Meetings. Some Friends are concerned whether Admin Council is listening to our community and in relationship with Friends.

Admin Council Friends expressed gratitude for the feedback and are open to conversations where we can thresh the concerns and ideas and let people feel heard, without being time bound. We should be patient, prudent, loving, and careful about next steps and not react. We can work on transparency – sharing agendas, asking for comments, input, etc. to make sure people have a voice and can be heard and involved. Consult with Governance Advisory Committee for role clarity and advice. We've heard the concerns, are under the weight of them, and are committed to discernment.

Respectfully submitted,
Cathy J. Toner