

To all Friends everywhere,

Greetings from the 2021 gathering of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Young Adult Friends, coming together to be in community with one another and join in Spirit for the 341st PYM Annual Sessions. At this time we are all upon the native lands of the First Nations of Turtle Island as we meet online; acknowledging the colonial practices of cultural genocide and state-sanctioned violence that are ongoing today is one small act of naming the systems on which we have built our cities and our societies. This stolen land we stand on was taken by violence and then built upon using forced labor by stolen bodies.

Young Adult Friends joined together Wednesday through Saturday evenings to worship, bond, share our Quaker values, and be in community with each other. Throughout the week, Friends celebrated the movement of Spirit in our expansive expressions of our authentic selves, our passions, and our creativities. Friends welcomed the ministry of Pam/Tommy Greenler, our Artist in Residence, and our hearts welled with joy as the body reflected the celebration throughout their keynote and their ministry shared at our YAF session on Friday evening.

This is a time of change and discernment. During this time of shifts in coordinator leadership in PYM, Friends welcomed the spiritual grounding of the Young Adult Friends community from Kimani Keaton and Zachary Dutton. We lift up [the minute](#) shared during our Spring Retreat thanking the leadership and future work of Meg Rose.

Friends spoke of Quakerism being made up of communities of seekers. We are not only witnessing, but walking hand in hand with the greater PYM body as we strengthen our capacity to move forward together. This is a powerful continuing revelation.

We affirm the movement of Spirit through the body addressing the interconnections between climate change, inclusive membership practices, and centering racial justice, which includes reparations to those whose ancestors stewarded this land and built our cities and societies without being paid their due. We reaffirm the urgency of this work and lift up the ministries of our Young Adult Friends and our Annual Sessions keynote speakers.

When the fire within us shines, it is that of the Spirit within holding us with Light. We are each made up of star-stuff, and this body can be a constellation lighting up the sky for ourselves and for our communities, in which we create meaning and live our lives. Thus, it is our Quaker duty to hold up and celebrate the sacred in us and the sacred around us in the land we inhabit, and part of that sacrality is making reparations to those whom we have violated and brought violence to on this land.

Quakers and those aligned with Quaker values are led with Light to seek connection, understanding, and grace in each others' experiences globally. Our voices are one of our greatest tools. Speaking up against injustice with loving compassionate kindness does not constitute acting in violence . . . it is a step towards healing our divisions and forming a more peace and spirit filled globe.

Minute of Concern: To Friends everywhere, it is our Quaker duty to hold up the sacrality of the body of ourselves and of the land and thus, Quakers ought to pay reparations in their deep commitment to the work of racial justice and social equity.

With love and peace,
Young Adult Friends

Young Adult Friends Epistle
August 1, 2021

Young Adult Friends Minute of Appreciation

The Young Adult Friends of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting thank Meg Rose for her faithful service as YAF Coordinator for the past four years.

Meg is an extraordinary friend, and Friend, to this community. Coming in under a time of change within the YAF community, and PYM as a whole, she has led us under a calm and nurturing manner. Meg has also brought innovative programming to the group such as picnics in Clark Park and retreats that center time for radical rest and compassionate fellowship. Throughout social distancing orders, Meg has continued to bring the community together via fun, grounding, and creative virtual retreats.

Meg has spiritually nurtured and grounded the YAF community as a whole. She maintains an umbrella view of everyone who touches the community. With love and care, Meg has walked with Friends through times of conflict. Additionally, under Meg's leadership, YAFs have been able to make impactful motions to PYM as a whole exemplified by the Berks Detention Center Action in Spring 2019 continuing sessions, advocacy for young adult inclusion in the PYM Granting Groups, and the reform movement to allow any Friend to participate in greater PYM community regardless of their meeting membership status.

Based on "institutional knowledge," many Friends in the community have ideas of what the role of coordinator should be. Meg listened to those expectations and ultimately made the role her own and for that, we are deeply grateful. Meg has made everyone—from Friends who join a retreat once, to Friends who never miss a program- feel not only welcomed but that they belonged. Her attention to culturally specific needs of community members has nurtured a community framework that centers accessibility.

We will miss Meg dearly and we are excited to continue the programs Meg has so caringly built upon during her tenure. We remind Meg that she will always have a home within our community and look forward to continuing conversation and updates from our dear Friend. We wish Meg all the best with her career in social work, and in future spiritual fellowship. Cincinnati is lucky to be receiving such a caring and impactful leader in Meg. To experience her ministry has been a joy. To witness her path moving forward is an honor.