

Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Administrative Council
Saturday, September 17, 2016
Approved Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT: Andrew Anderson, Julian Brelsford, Harry Bryans, Penny Colgan-Davis (*ex-officio*, PYM clerk), Suzanne Day, Bruce Haines (clerk), Linda Lotz (by phone), Joyce Moore, Richard Morse, Tom Peterson, Susan Petrocelli, and Ron Ploeg (*ex-officio*, PYM treasurer), and Roy Zatcoff.

STAFF PRESENT: Christie Duncan-Tessmer (*ex-officio*) and Linell McCurry

REGRETS: Ventina Hershey

1. **Opening Worship** – The Meeting opened in worship and then brief introductions around the room.
2. **Review and Approval Agenda and Minutes** – The minutes of the July 16 meeting were **Approved** with no changes.
3. **Clerk’s comments-** Bruce called attention to the fact that “we are all white.” Several Council members are actively looking for qualified people of color but no takers yet. A worry is that the general demands on people of color for many roles in the Quaker community limits their availability for this particular role. We were reminded that it is Nominating Council that names AC members, but others expressed confidence that recommendations from the Council, or individual members, would be welcome. Concern was also expressed for present and future members needing to multitask among several different PYM obligations, as well as other Quaker organizations such as AFSC, FGC, FCNL, etc.
4. **Annual Sessions debrief** – The interactive part of AC’s report at Sessions conveyed a message of the active functioning of the Council. The Treasurer’s report was excellent, particularly in its graphic depiction of the various funds, both restricted and unrestricted.

The handling of the proposal from the Undoing Racism Group was discussed, starting with its first review by the Implementation Committee as it was preparing to be laid down. That racially diverse group declined to take on sponsorship of the proposal. There were objections regarding the proposal itself as well as the appropriateness of Implementation Committee even addressing it.

This led into discussion by the Council about our authority to address such a proposal. The general feeling was that we do have that authority but that something advocating structural change like this would need final approval by the whole PYM body at Sessions. This may need further discussion by AC’s Governance Committee and, possibly, some revision of the Handbook on this area. It was noted that the Handbook lacks any amendment mechanism. There was a question about whether the Governance Committee should be addressing only AC

governance issues or those of PYM as a whole. The latter interpretation was preferred but this needs further discussion by the Governance Committee.

5. **The diversity concern for AC and other groups** needs to be further addressed in PYM. That should include specific budgeting of funds to support diversity training for members of the three Councils of the sort that PYM staff recently experienced. That means funds for consultants and meetings dedicated to diversity training that could happen jointly with Quaker Life Council and Nominating Council. It was approved that AC is open to exploring ways to respond to the PYM minute of Jan. 15, 2015, about diversity within PYM.
6. **General Secretary's Report** – Christie gave a short update on the activities at PYM. The Annual Fund is behind its goal and will likely end the fiscal year below budget. The monthly meeting covenant funds will be reported in October. Christie noted that conflict can be useful, not just for resolution of an issue but for utilization of the conflict itself for enlightenment about our organization and its members, as well as developing and exercising conflict skills.
7. **AC meeting schedule for 2017** – A list of meeting dates was distributed. The dates are on the third Saturday of each month, except December, and leaving out August unless needed. There was no preference expressed about whether we should meet at Friends Center or Arch St. Meeting House. This list will be offered for approval at the October 15, 2016, AC meeting. The dates in 2017 are Jan. 21, Feb. 18, Mar. 18, Apr. 15, May 20, June 17, July 15, Aug. 19 (if needed, maybe conference call), Sept. 16, Oct. 21, Nov. 18, and Dec. 9.
8. **Governance Committee Recommendation** – “The Governance Committee recommends, and asks the AC to approve, the following policy requiring all committees created by the AC to take and share Action Minutes as follows:

Minutes for committees shall be “Action Minutes” which shall record:
 - a. *Decisions made*
 - b. *Actions to be taken*
 - c. *Items to be considered later**Action Minutes shall be distributed to committee members and the clerk of the Council. The Council may share or publish minutes or summaries of work and/or actions of committees in, or attached to, their own minutes in a timely fashion.” This was **Approved**.*
9. **Taking stock of progress as a Council** – discussion was postponed to the next meeting.
10. **Closing** –The meeting closed with worship at about 11:50 AM.

Respectfully Submitted
Richard Morse, substitute recording clerk