

Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Administrative Council
Saturday, October 16, 2021 (via Zoom)
Approved Minutes

Present: Jim Waddington, Chuck Devers, Tom Zemaitis, tonya thames taylor, Andrew Anderson, Linell McCurry, Christie Duncan-Tessmer, Jeanne Elberfeld (recording clerk)

1. New Sprint Under the Clerks Group to Develop a Charge for Climate Witness Stewards
The Climate Change Sprint reported to Annual Sessions in July, recommending a follow-on sprint to create an accountability body called Climate Witness Stewards. Christie Duncan-Tessmer suggested implementation of the new sprint could best be conveyed to the Clerks Group, an appropriate body for yearly meeting wide concerns. The Clerks Group is willing to take that on. Since the Clerks Group has no independent authority, the recommendation requires the approval of Admin Council.

After consideration of Christie's report, and hearing several Friends' concerns, **Administrative Council approved the recommendation and authorized the Clerks Group to create a new sprint.** The Clerks Group will do that immediately. The sprint will a) draft the charge, responsibilities, authority, and accountability for the Climate Witness Stewards, b) recommend names or roles to serve as Stewards, c) recommend terms of service and method for choosing initial and future Stewards. The sprint should report before Spring Continuing Sessions.

2. Consideration of minute from Personnel Committee on DEI training for Council members
Personnel Committee sent a minute requesting DEI (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion) training for Council and Committee members. After discussion, we asked Tom Zemaitis, who also serves on Personnel, to ask the committee to collaborate with PYM staff to explore some options and report back to us at a future meeting. Admin hopes the choice of training will consider the target audience, the purpose and goals of the training so that they make sense for all invited, and that this cannot be a process of fear, re-traumatization, shame, and blame. It was noted that we are embarking on personal development that is, in essence, a corporate response with inherent individual responsibility to grow and develop.
3. Granting Group Term Limits
Granting Committee term limits are two 3-year terms, consistent with Councils and other Committees, while Granting Groups have term limits of three 3-year terms. The longer 3-term limits are a holdover of PYM's 2015 restructuring and a discrepancy that needs clarification. After discussion, Admin asked Jeanne Elberfeld and Jim Waddington to meet and/or communicate with Granting Committee clerk Ken Parks to discuss this issue further.
4. Finance Report
Linell McCurry reported that PYM has purchased specialty cyber insurance as of October 2021 covering cybercrime, security and data breaches, and other common threats. Costs were shared with Admin Council members. Members voiced gratitude and support for the policy acquisition.

5. At Large PYM Membership and its Responsibilities/Benefits
Administrative Council briefly considered this important topic but decided to postpone further discussion and decisions on until next month's meeting when more Administrative Council Members are present.

6. Quarterly Meeting Appointed Members to Nominating Council
As minuted by Admin last month, Jim Waddington reported that he sent Quarterly Meetings correspondence that asks them to appoint a new member for Nominating Council where a seat is vacant or extend their current member's term of service until August 30, 2022, at the outside.

7. Governance Committee At Large Seat
Admin Council needs to fill an open at-large seat on Governance Committee. Jim Waddington asked for recommendations for a seasoned Quaker, with governance experience specifically, to fill that role. He will reach out to suggested names.

8. Minutes of September 18, 2021
September minutes were reviewed and approved by those present.

Respectfully submitted by Jeanne Elberfeld, recorder pro tem