

Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Administrative Council
Saturday, January 15, 2022 (via Zoom)
Approved Minutes

Attending: Frank Barch (Co-Clerk, PYM), Chuck Devers, Jeanne Elberfeld, John Marquette (serving as recording clerk), Linell McCurry (Associate Secretary for Business and Finance), Nikki Mosgrove, Melissa Rycroft, tonya thames taylor, Cathy Toner, Jim Waddington (Clerk), Tom Zemaitis. Andrew Anderson (Treasurer) and Christie Duncan-Tessmer (General Secretary) attended Quaker Life Council for the first portion of the meeting and rejoined Admin in time for the Advocacy Policy discussion.

1. Meeting began with silent worship at 11:15 am.
2. Jim Waddington, Clerk, prefaced the meeting by noting that the advocacy policy had generated a tremendous amount of interest and concern; a 45-minute block was set aside for discernment and listening in preparation for action on the policy at the February meeting.
3. **The Council approved the minutes for December 11, 2021.**
4. **John Marquette agreed to serve as recording clerk for the January meeting.**

5. Granting Committee Request for Name Changes

The Granting Committee has requested name changes for two granting groups. The Indian Committee will become the *Quaker Fund for Indigenous Communities Granting Group* and the Committee on Friends Education will become the *Quaker Education Granting Group*.

Admin Council is reviewing the proposed name changes to ensure that they are approved at the 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation level. Admin Council minutes are equivalent to corporate board minutes and kept in perpetuity. The minutes document that the newly named granting groups are the direct successors to the granting groups under the old names, which may be important for PYM's receipt of future bequests.

The Administrative Council approved the Granting Committee's request to change the name of the Indian Committee to Quaker Fund for Indigenous Communities Granting Group.

The Administrative Council approved the Granting Committee's request to change the name of the Committee on Friends Education to Quaker Education Granting Group.

One Friend stood stand aside on this matter because of their belief in the importance of the use of the word "Friends" rather than "Quaker" to describe our religious community.

6. Appointment to Property Committee

Jim reported on an interview with Little Egg Harbor Monthly Meeting member, Bianca Aniski for Property Committee. He noted her experience with smaller meetings and the questions regarding property facing them. **Administrative Council approved Bianca Aniski's appointment to the Property Committee.**

7. Sessions Coordinating Committee needs a member from Admin Council membership
Melissa Rycroft described the short-and long-term responsibilities of Sessions Coordinating, including project planning, thematic selection, and overall coordination. Jim indicated that it would be important for Admin to have a presence on Sessions Coordinating Committee and we will look to make an appointment at the next meeting.

8. Granting Committee nominations
We reviewed potential names for Granting Committee. Admin Council members will speak with the recommended Friends, who will come back to us for approval if willing to serve. The Clerk noted that Admin chose not to waive term limits (two 3-year terms) for Granting Committee in October, but we extended some member terms through July 2022 to create time for new appointments.

9. Deep Listeners Sprint report
Frank Barch and Jim discussed the sprint's report and shared a potential list of midwives/deep listeners developed through PYM Ministry and Care and other entities. We approved moving forward with the presented names with invitations to serve. Admin Council has the responsibility to frame the charge for the group and needs to approve subsequent changes, though it welcomes the assistance of the selected individuals. Two or three members would comprise the group.

10. Advocacy Policy
Admin Council members had been provided with a draft Policy on Advocacy and extensive supporting material, which Christie and Linell reviewed. To summarize:
 - The IRS restricts lobbying for 501(c)(3) organizations and further restricts it for churches.
 - PYM groups are PYM. When they lobby, PYM is lobbying.
 - The yearly meeting isn't partisan. PYM should be a place where all people on a path that aligns with our spiritual practices and testimonies feel welcome – regardless of political orientation.
 - Lobbying became an issue when the entire yearly meeting was asked to come under the weight of a ministry of climate change. Exhortations to lobby have been published in PYM communications channels under the banner of the yearly meeting-wide witness, which means that PYM is lobbying and the lobbying effort is elevated to a new level of visibility.
 - Christie gave examples of the policy in action, highlighting the differences between advocacy and lobbying, and shared her conversations with non-church 501(c)(3) organizations.
 - Non-church 501(c)(3) organizations file IRS Form 990 each year and may elect an objective test that permits lobbying within specific parameters based on expenditures. Churches do not file Form 990 and are explicitly prohibited from using the objective test. The IRS asserts broad power and discretion over any church lobbying efforts.
 - In response to a request from the council last month, Linell researched and reported on 501(c)(4) social welfare organizations.
 - 501(c)(4) organizations cannot receive tax-exempt contributions, but they are permitted to lobby. C4 orgs file IRS Form 990 each year.

- 501(c)(4) organizations sometimes establish 501(c)(3) charities as separate but affiliated entities. The c3 charity accepts tax-exempt donations and provides donors with a tax deduction. Examples of 501(c)(4) organizations with affiliated 501(c)(3) charities include AARP, ACLU, Common Cause, Friends Committee on National Legislation, Greenpeace, National Rifle Association, and the Sierra Club.
- It is uncommon for a 501(c)(3) charity to further its mission by establishing a 501(c)(4) lobbying arm. The c3 could make restricted gifts to the c4 for charitable programs, but the c4 would have to pay its own start-up costs, lobbying costs, and general operating costs with non-tax-exempt funding. The two organizations would have to maintain appropriate separation or risk the charity's tax-exempt status. The annual 990 filing would disclose any relationships (governance, financial or management) between them.

The Clerk suggested that we present the policy to PYM Collaboratives for comment and bring it back to Admin for approval in February. Christie already planned to speak with PYM Collaboratives. She welcomed a suggestion for an audiovisual tutorial. The Clerk reflected on the times we currently inhabit, which is a change from mutual dependence and trust to a time of polarization and lack of trust, even within our yearly meeting. We need to be faithful and true to our corporate witness and still recognize our responsibility as a religious organization. Jim believes the best way to move forward is to share as much information as we can in the next month.

Council agreed with the direction, especially a draft policy rollout in the next 30 days.

The sense of the Administrative Council was that there are no stops in the policy as presented on page 2 of the "PYM Policy on Advocacy (DRAFT)" document dated January 14, 2022. A Friend asked that the words "of Friends" be appended to the first sentence of the policy and this was approved. The Policy now reads:

PYM, including groups and meetings in PYM, may advocate for issues and concerns that are rooted in spiritual discernment and the testimonies of Friends.

PYM, including groups and meetings in PYM, may not engage in direct or grassroots lobbying or in political campaigning.

PYM communications channels, programs, or events may not be used by individuals or groups to "call for action" on specific legislation or on candidates for public office.

11. The meeting closed with a period of silent worship at 1:08 pm. The Clerk indicated his gratitude for the participation and dedication of members.

Respectfully submitted,
John Marquette, recording