

# 2014 Annual Sessions

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**334th Annual Sessions  
Philadelphia Yearly Meeting  
Held at Muhlenberg College, Allentown, PA  
Wednesday, July 23, 2014 - Evening Session**

Philadelphia Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends gathered in Annual Sessions at the appointed hour. Clerk, Jada S. Jackson (Trenton MM, Burlington Meeting House Worship Group), welcomed all present, and asked us to share with each other the joy of being here. Session was then given over to the program staff.

Christie Duncan-Tessmer (Chestnut Hill MM) introduced Youth Program staff and described the evening's program as one which will set the groundwork for us all being together. Staff then led us in a group wave, a devotional song "We're Standing on Holy Ground", and an exchange of queries. We were then directed to settle into worship and after ten minutes those who wanted a more programmed worship experience would leave and return at the end of the forty minutes. After both programmed and non-programmed worship groups reunited, the Clerk broke meeting and wished us all a good night's sleep, an early rise tomorrow and the hope that we would return with the same joy and excitement experienced this evening, and with the intention to get to work on the business of the Yearly Meeting.

Submitted by,  
Recording Clerk, David Rose (Lehigh Valley MM)  
Presiding Clerk, Jada S. Jackson

**334th Annual Sessions  
Philadelphia Yearly Meeting  
Held at Muhlenberg College, Allentown, PA  
Thursday, July 24, 2014 - Morning Session**

The 2014 Annual Sessions of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends convened Thursday Morning at 9:30 a.m. in the Seegers Union Building of Muhlenberg College, Allentown, PA. The announced theme of our 2014 Sessions is “Worship is a Door to Love.”

1. At the appointed hour, we settled into worship. Then at about 10:00 a.m., Clerk, Jada S. Jackson (Trenton MM, Burlington Meeting House Worship Group) greeted us. Others at the table introduced themselves: Alternate Clerks, Steve Olshevski (Radnor MM) and Becca Bubb (Abington MM), General Secretary, Arthur Larrabee (Central Philadelphia MM), Recording Clerk, John Lavin (Birmingham MM), Assistant Recording Clerk, Jim Herr (Lancaster MM). David Rose (Lehigh Valley MM) acted as the Recording Clerk for Wednesday’s evening session.

Elders stood and were recognized: Dorothy Reichardt (Media MM), Dana Houghton (Woodstown MM), and Alison Anderson (Central Philadelphia MM).

Five Standing Committee clerks stood and were recognized.

Voice to Text captioning was provided by Becky Tallarico.

Friends from outside the Yearly Meeting introduced themselves. Jay Marshall of Newcastle MM is here representing Earlham School of Religion. A Minute of Travel was read for Marian Beane (Charlotte Friends Meeting/Piedmont Friends Fellowship). She is attending Annual Sessions as the Yearly Meeting Visitor from Friends General Conference (FGC). The letter described the deepness of service to her home meeting and to FGC. She is currently serving on their Executive Committee. **Friends approved endorsing the Minute of Travel.** The Minute is attached.

2. **Friends received the Faith and Practice Revision Group Report** from Martha B. Bryans (Uwchlan MM), Clerk of the group. She shared the group's gratitude for the helpful feedback received from 20 monthly meetings on the three sections distributed earlier this year. The revision group proposed adding a new section to Faith and Practice for Resources for Monthly Meetings and Tools for Discernment. Friends were asked to consider if this section would be appropriate, and if so, what their meetings might like to have available in this section. The body's responses were recorded and sent to the revision group for their future work. If Friends have additional questions, they may contact the Revision Group with their comments. The full report is attached below.

- 3. Friends received the report on PYM's work with the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)** from Howard Cell (Germantown MM), a PYM representative to AFSC. He noted a number of Friends within PYM who are deeply engaged with AFSC and the good work it provides. A capital campaign is being planned called: "Centennial Campaign." The full report is attached below.
- 4. Friends received the report on PYM's work with the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL)** from Mary Lou Hatcher (Lehigh Valley MM), PYM representative to FCNL. The history of FCNL, including the issues of that time were given, many of which are still current issues. The Yearly Meeting has eight representatives who call themselves the "Network." They attend FCNL meetings and working sessions. Although the current news of the world is troubling, Mary Lou shared that she feels rejuvenated and energized from her work in a way very much like worship. It is an important part of the Network's job to keep the bridge between FCNL and PYM wide and in good repair. The full report is attached below.
- 5. Friends received the report on PYM's work with Friends General Conference (FGC)** from Zan Lombardo (Uwchlan MM), Co-Clerk of 2014 Gathering Committee. While she described the vibrant 2014 Gathering at California University in Pennsylvania, a photo slide show played behind her with pictures of those present at the gathering. "Let love be the first motion" was the theme this year and it was evident from her report how touched those present were with how the theme unfolded throughout the week. The next Gathering: "Seeking Wholeness" will be held at Western Carolina University from July 5 – 11, 2015. The full report is attached below.
- 6. Friends received the report of PYM's work with Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC)** from Robin Mohr (Green Street MM), Executive Secretary of FWCC for the Americas. FWCC is an association of Quaker yearly meetings and organizations of all branches across the world. She reported on the connections built since the 6th World Conference of Friends in Nakuru, Kenya and invited Friends to discern what Philadelphia Yearly Meeting needs from FWCC and what Philadelphia Yearly Meeting can offer to the wider family of Friends. The full report is attached below.
- 7. Friends received the Peace and Concerns Standing Committee Report** from its Clerk, Steve Gulick (Central Philadelphia MM). The Peace and Concerns and Support and Outreach Standing Committees regularly meet together and found it a deep source of strength and power. Steve presented a slide report on the multitude of efforts occurring under their care. In particular, their charge for granting groups includes the Fund for Sufferings. This fund is available but underutilized. He encouraged Friends to take advantage of this fund. Corrections to the report were made on the floor. The corrected report is attached below.

8. **Friends received the Support and Outreach Standing Committee Report** from its Clerk, Carter Nash (Harrisburg MM). Although the committee is under the weight of having more things to do than Friends able to do them, the committee has also been blessed with Friends standing up and reaching out to the committee to perform works as they are led. He invited anyone interested in the work Support and Outreach undertakes to join them at their meetings. The full report is attached below.

9. The Clerk announced the assembly of the Epistle Committee will be facilitated by Alternate Clerk, Becca Bubb, and we need two or three additional Friends to serve. Friends interested should contact Becca Bubb.

Minutes from the Gathering Celebration on Wednesday evening were read by Recording Clerk, David Rose (Lehigh Valley MM). **With corrections and suggestions noted, Minutes were approved.**

The meeting settled into worship to welcome the youth. The youth rejoined the body and reported on their work and play of the morning.

The Fishers Group, after introductions and play, created a paper chain about love. Each link in the chain has a note of love written on it. They asked all Friends join in, adding their own pieces of what love is for them. They also learned the chorus of a new song which they led everyone in singing. Each day, a new part will be learned and shared.

The Fells Group worked on a labyrinth of intent. They also chose people that they look up to and Friends are welcome to ask what those people means to them.

Middle School Friends reported that after games and introductions, they planned Vespers for each evening and encouraged all to attend.

Young Friends had their business meeting on their committee structure and made plans for the remainder of their time at Sessions.

We adjourned, intending to meet at 2:30 p.m. this afternoon.

Respectfully Submitted,

John Lavin (Birmingham MM), Recording Clerk

Jim Herr (Lancaster MM), Assistant Recording Clerk

Jada S. Jackson, Presiding Clerk



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04/05/2014

Loving greetings to Friends at Philadelphia Yearly Meeting from Friends General Conference! We commend to your loving care Friend Marian Beane, who is attending your annual sessions as the Yearly Meeting Visitor for FGC.

Marian is a member of Charlotte Friends Meeting, Piedmont Friends Fellowship (PFF). She has served many years as clerk of several FGC committees including Ministry & Nurture, Long Range Conference Planning and the Discernment in Long Term Planning. Marian has previously served as the clerk of FGC's Central Committee, and is currently serving as a member of FGC's Executive Committee and the FGC Committee for Discernment, Planning and Priorities (CDPP).

Marian serves as member-at-large on PFF's representative body and as clerk of the Yearly Meeting Formation Committee. Marian is very committed to her home meeting and values the opportunity to nurture and support Friends on their spiritual journeys.

As a visitor to your annual sessions, Marian will be attending your business meetings and other yearly meeting community events and will be looking for opportunities to worship, listen and share with you. She will share her experiences at yearly meeting with FGC in the form of a written report. Reports from all yearly meeting visitors will be reviewed and summarized by the YMVP Committee and distributed at Central Committee at its fall annual meeting.

We hold you and Marian Beane in the Light of God's love and trust that your time together will be richly blessed.

On behalf of the Yearly Meeting Visitors Program Committee of FGC,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric Evans", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Eric Evans, FGC Committee for Nurturing Ministries Associate

Yearly Meeting Visitors Program Committee:  
Janice Domanik, ILYM (Clerk); John Meyer, BYM  
Eric Evans, Committee for Nurturing Ministries Associate

## Faith and Practice Revision Group Report to Annual Sessions 2014

The Faith and Practice Revision Group, appointed by the Yearly Meeting in 2009, has been meeting regularly. We record with sadness the death on June 11, 2014, of our member, Ann Yasuhara, Princeton Monthly Meeting, who was an integral part of the working group since its formation. We minute our deep appreciation for her insightful suggestions, deep understanding of and commitment to the Religious Society of Friends, and her abundant gifts of friendship, humility, intellect, appreciation of beauty, and joy.

We wish to express our gratitude to the many Friends and monthly meetings who have provided incredibly, helpful feedback as we focus our attention on three main sections of the revised book of *Faith and Practice*. These three sections, I. Experience and Faith, II. Faith Reflected in Our Practice and Daily Lives, and III. Faith Reflected in Our Organization, and the organization of the book, have been revised and posted on the PYM website on the Faith and Practice Working Group page:

[www.pym.org/faith-and-practice-revision-group](http://www.pym.org/faith-and-practice-revision-group)

Limited numbers of reading copies of this material are available during Annual Sessions at the *Faith and Practice* table in the hallway and in the Library. We are not asking for time this morning to review those sections.

We would like to update you on our progress and outline future steps:

July 2014	Post the three main sections of the revised text online.	✓
March 2015	Post the remaining sections of the book online (Foreword, Preface, Historical Background, Wider Religious Fellowship, Advices and Quotations, Resources for Monthly Meetings and Tools for Discernment).  Solicit feedback and suggestions for remaining sections.	
Spring 2015	Called session of PYM to review remaining sections of the book.	
Annual Sessions 2015	Preliminary reading of entire book.	
Annual Sessions 2016	Second reading of entire book for acceptance. If accepted, lay down the <i>Faith and Practice</i> Working Group. Assign Publications Committee (or other group) the task of preparing and publishing the approved manuscript.	

To accomplish this timetable, we have asked PYM Nominating Committee to augment our group which now consists of four Friends:

Annette Benert (Lehigh Valley MM, Bucks QM)  
Joan Broadfield (Chester MM, Chester QM)  
Martha Bryans (Uwchlan MM, Caln QM), Clerk  
Howard Cell (Germantown MM, Philadelphia QM)

Thomas Swain, Clerk of PYM Nominating Committee, welcomes the suggestion of individuals to be considered for appointment. We anticipate that the next six months will involve focused work on the quotations section, the resources for monthly meetings and tools for discernment section, and general assistance in reviewing and editing drafts. The task ahead is focused, of definite duration, and of real importance to the Yearly Meeting.

We have prepared a handout for discussion today that describes the evolution of the Yearly Meeting's books of *Faith and Practice* and highlights the major changes in the draft under revision. We welcome your comments and questions. [Working Group members respond].

We propose including a new section in the revised edition that we are tentatively naming "Procedures, Resources, and Tools for Discernment." We think there is merit in putting in one place the General Queries, the Meeting Checklist, marriage and membership procedures, and various guidelines. The handout, Organization of Faith and Practice – July 2014, includes some of the potential components of this section. We welcome your suggestions of other things that would be useful to your meeting. [Working Group members record suggestions].

We feel the flow of moving, living water within our faith community. This rush of fresh, living water is stirring up the silt at the bottom, taking apart log jams, and moving us toward our destination. We hope that our work reflects this energy and that the revision of *Faith and Practice* expresses that renewal and reinvigoration of our beloved Yearly Meeting.

In gratitude and looking forward,

Martha B. Bryans, Clerk  
Email Contact: [mbryans26@verizon.net](mailto:mbryans26@verizon.net)

Attachments:

- A Brief History of the Editions of *Faith and Practice* Since 1955
- Organization of Faith and Practice – July 2014

## A Brief History of the Editions of *Faith and Practice* Since 1955

The edition of *Faith and Practice* (PYM) which appeared in 1955 was prepared by a committee made up of representatives from the Hicksite and Orthodox branches of the Religious Society of Friends. As such, it was a reasonable and effective compromise that was approved by both Yearly Meetings and by the General Meeting (initiated in 1946 as an opportunity for members of both branches to meet for worship, fellowship and business) as one aspect of the reunification process.

Since 1955 there have been two major revisions, plus two minor adjustments.

- 1963 – This edition made two changes to the Supplementary Queries included in the 1955 edition: namely, to delete the questions regarding the identification of members as elders or ministers respectively.
- 1972 – This edition was a major reworking of many of the sections of *Faith and Practice*, though perhaps surprisingly the ‘historical introduction’ concluded with the reunification of 1955.
- 1997 – Again, this was a major reworking of the text, including a shift to neutral language in the section on the marriage procedure (though the traditional language was used for the sample marriage certificate), and the addition of quotations from more contemporary Friends.
- 2002 – This edition made two changes to the section on the Yearly Meeting involving its structure and a shift from the quota to the covenant system for financing the activities and services of our Yearly Meeting.

A small group of Friends has been working for the past several years on a proposed new edition of our *Faith and Practice* that again involves major changes to previous editions. Not least, we have made a concerted effort to be faithful to the Minutes adopted by Yearly Meeting regarding our concern for the integrity of the earth; we have paid particular attention to the ways in which our experience of Spirit and the expression of this experience in our witness to the world are articulated; and we have undertaken a fundamental reorganization of the text in order, we hope, to make it more accessible and useful to members and attenders of our meetings.

We have brought drafts of different sections to the past two Annual Sessions for consideration: “The Light Within” and the “Monthly Meeting Checklist.” The former seeks to articulate what is most fundamental in our religious experience, while the latter provides monthly meetings with an opportunity to engage in a self-assessment of a range of practical matters – the functioning of meeting committees, management of meeting finances, record keeping, property and the like.

Copies of editions of our *Faith and Practice* both before and since 1955 are available during Annual Sessions on our display table.

## Organization of *Faith and Practice* – July 2014

Foreword

Preface

### I. Experience and Faith

- A. The Light Within
- B. Worship and the Meeting for Worship
  - 1. Preparing for Worship
  - 2. Vocal Ministry
- C. Prayer
- D. Friends and Scripture
- E. Friends and Sacraments

### II. Faith Reflected in Practice and Daily Life

- A. Community Life
  - 1. Concerns, Leadings, and Testimonies
  - 2. Discernment, Clearness, and Decision Making
    - a. When Friends Participate
    - b. When Friends Disagree
  - 3. Friends and Education
    - a. Friends and Public Education
    - b. Friends Schools and Colleges
  - 4. Friends Witness in the World
    - a. Friends and Peace
    - b. Responsibilities of Citizenship
    - c. Stewardship of the Earth and Resources
    - d. Friends and Equality
    - e. Friends and Criminal Justice
- B. Personal Life
  - 1. Life Passages
    - a. Marriage
    - b. Family Formation
    - c. Death and Bereavement
      - 1) Responsibilities of the Meeting
      - 2) Memorial Meetings for Worship
  - 2. Personal Relationships

- a. Family Life and the Home
- b. Sexuality
- c. Addictive Behaviors

### III. Faith Reflected in Our Organization

#### A. Monthly Meetings

- 1. The Individual and the Meeting
- 2. Nurture of the Meeting Community
- 3. Committees of the Monthly Meeting
  - a. Care for the Quality of Worship and Ministry
  - b. Care of the Meeting Community and its Members
  - c. Religious Education
  - d. Outreach
  - e. Witness in the World
  - f. Care of Real Property
  - g. Care of Burial Grounds
  - h. Stewardship of Financial Resources
    - 1) Meetings and Economic Resources
    - 2) Financing Monthly Meeting Activities
  - i. Care of Records
  - j. Nominations to Service as a Meeting Officer or Committee Member
- 4. Guidance of Meeting Affairs
- 5. Membership
  - a. The Meaning of Membership
  - b. Attenders
  - c. Children
  - d. Sojourning Members
  - e. Joining other Religious Bodies

#### B. Quarterly (Regional) Meetings

- 1. Function and Organization
- 2. Guidance and Assistance

#### C. Philadelphia Yearly Meeting

[To be completed after Annual Sessions 2014]

#### D. Communication, Intervisitation, and Changes in Formal Relationships

- 1. Communication
- 2. Intervisitation
- 3. Changes in Formal Relationships

#### IV. Historical Background

- A. Beginnings: 1625 – 1689
- B. Consolidation and Withdrawal: 1689 – Circa 1800
- C. Schism and Reform: Circa 1800 – 1900
- D. Reconciliation: Circa 1900 – 1955
- E. Unity with Diversity: 1955 – 1995
- F. The Present

#### V. Wider Religious Fellowship and Action

- A. Friends and Related Groups
- B. Interfaith Groups

#### VI. Extracts: Quotations, Advices

#### VII. Resources for Monthly Meetings and Tools for Discernment

- A. General Queries
- B. Monthly Meeting Checklist
- C. Membership Process
- D. Marriage Procedure
- E. Record Keeping
- F. Guidelines for Clearness Committees
- G. [Other resources as suggested by Friends]

#### Glossary

#### Sources of Extracts from the Writings of Friends

#### Index

#### Websites: Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, Quarterly and Monthly Meetings

## **American Friends Service Committee Report to Philadelphia Yearly Meeting at Annual Sessions 2014**

The American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) engages in program work throughout the United States and across the world. As its mission statement indicates: “AFSC is a Quaker organization that promotes lasting peace with justice as a practical expression of faith in action.”

Two years ago, AFSC changed its organizational structure so that there are now four US regions and four International regions. Most of the PYM territory is part of the Northeast Region; Keith Harvey is the regional director, based in Cambridge, MA. (Delaware and Maryland are in the South Region.) There are seven offices scattered across the Northeast Region, with two in Massachusetts and one each in Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, New York, New Jersey (Newark) and Pennsylvania (Pittsburgh). A couple of the offices have quite a few staff, specializing in particular areas of program work – for instance, the Newark, NJ office has some 10 staff assigned to a major Immigrant Rights program. Other offices have just one or two ‘generalist’ staff: in New Hampshire there are two staff who network with grassroots organizations, do advocacy work at the state legislature on economic justice and other issues, and provide youth leadership training.

The Pennsylvania Program, based in Pittsburgh, has been ably directed by Scilla Wahrhaftig for over a decade. She has been a frequent workshop leader at previous PYM Annual Sessions, and has made occasional presentations to monthly meetings and other groups within the PYM area, especially in conjunction with the Eyes Wide Open exhibit. Scilla will be retiring at the end of September and the new director for the Pennsylvania Program is Amanda Gross, who has a strong background in the intersection of the arts and peacebuilding, including a degree in Conflict Transformation from Eastern Mennonite University.

A little over a year ago, the Northeast Region began exploring the possibility of establishing program work in the Philadelphia area. The first step in this process was to engage in listening sessions with Quaker activists, representatives from local social justice organizations, PYM Friends at last summer’s Annual Sessions, and present and former AFSC staff in the area. Some of these sessions were held with the support of Philadelphia Quarterly Meeting. The next step is to form a local program committee, which – among other things – will assist in identifying the focus for program work in the Philadelphia area. But the listening

sessions indicate strong interest in programs relating to youth leadership development and healing justice work.

Submitted by PYM representatives to the AFSC Corporation.

Howard Cell – Germantown Monthly Meeting [hpcell@verizon.net](mailto:hpcell@verizon.net)

Peter Lane – Westtown Monthly Meeting

Sharon Mullally – Green Street Monthly Meeting

Margery Rubin – Medford Monthly Meeting

Richard Morse – Harrisburg Monthly Meeting

## **Friends Committee on National Legislation Report to Peace and Concerns Standing Committee**

The Philadelphia Yearly Meeting- Friends Committee on National Legislation (PYM-FCNL) Network consists of those Friends named by PYM to be their representatives on FCNL's General Committee and other Friends led to nurture FCNL's witness on the hill. We meet by conference call on a regular basis and in one "in face" meeting at FCNL's annual meeting in November. Our main function is to facilitate PYM witness on national legislation directly related to FCNL's Legislative Priorities and to communicate with FCNL staff about the concerns, leadings and witness of PYM Friends. We are grateful for the many PYM Friends who participate in FCNL witness without our knowledge and invite them to join us.

Our witness also seeks to educate members of PYM about the fundamental unity of all of our Testimonies, seeing each as an integral part of the other. In offering FCNL as a model for public action grounded in the Spirit, we hope to heal divisions between contemplative Friends who find public witness uncomfortable or too political and those who see public witness as an essential part of their spiritual life.

### **OBSERVATIONS AND CHALLENGES**

As a group, we are renewed and inspired by the work of FCNL and devote significant time to it. This work brings us joy and gives us the strength to persevere in the face of an increasingly polarized Congress. We value FCNL's commitment to be non-partisan, its grounding in Friends Testimonies and its practice of Quaker governance. We find that the experience of the small group worship sharing sessions at FCNL's Annual Meeting guides the Spirit moving among us in plenary sessions and in informal gatherings. The final meeting for worship, led in the manner of pastoral Friends United Meeting (FUM) Friends, is especially powerful.

Our actions in the past two years reflect a growing sense that we are called to work within a more limited area than throughout the four states which comprise PYM. Although grateful for invitations to visit distant meetings, we find that our time and energy are best spent on local and state levels. That strategy also fits well with FCNL's lobbying efforts.

We continue to seek ways to be more present to PYM at Annual Sessions and help meetings participate more actively in FCNL witness. We also work with PYM's Nominating Committee to seek candidates who are called to active service on our Network and with FCNL. We currently have a brief "job description" of the role and work with PYM's Nominating Committee to identify Friends called to this service.

It remains a constant challenge to engage Young Adult Friends (YAFs) in our work and we are grateful for those who have participated in Spring Lobby Day or attended FCNL's annual meeting in November. We are delighted that three recent FCNL program assistants are or have been members of PYM.

Although it is difficult to find time for conference calls where all can attend, we find that these calls are fruitful and keep us informed. It is our goal to hold five conference calls throughout the year, although we have not met that goal this year.

We are grateful to the Peace and Concerns Standing Committee for its generous support of our witness and for the work of your liaison, Anne Creter, who has joined us recently and has already been of great help and support.

With gratitude, the named members of the PYM-FCNL Network:

Joan Broadfield – Chester Monthly Meeting  
Lance Billingsley – Camden Monthly Meeting  
Burt Dallas – Radnor Monthly Meeting  
Deb Faulkner – Gwynned Monthly Meeting  
Mary Lou Hatcher – Lehigh Valley Monthly Meeting  
Margaret Mansfield – Mt. Holly Monthly Meeting  
Lee Reinert – Downingtown Monthly Meeting

At the time of this report, we have requested that Nominating Committee consider appointment of the following members, to begin service as PYM representatives to FCNL in August, 2014:

Paul Indorf – Swarthmore Monthly Meeting  
Joey Hartmann-Dow – YAF and member of Lehigh Valley Monthly Meeting  
Margaret Mansfield – Mt. Holly Monthly Meeting

(Note: One more position remains to be filled to have our full representation on FCNL's General Committee.)

**Summary of our work during the 2013 Fiscal Year (July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2013)**  
**Total estimated volunteer hours: 1232**

Presence at Annual Sessions (Held in Philadelphia)

- Workshop entitled "There is a Spirit... FCNL's Call for Constructive Dialogue
- Exhibit space with FCNL materials at Friends Center

Full Attendance at FCNL's Annual Meeting November 16-18, 2012 by PYM's representatives. In addition, nine other members of PYM attended. Twelve participants in the Quaker Public Policy Institute (lobby training) held November 15 and ten lobby visits to Congressional staff in DC.

Seven in-district, interfaith, lobby visits regarding FCNL's call to conscience campaign to address climate disruption.

- preparation of two handouts for PA and NJ; (see attached)
- participation in monthly FCNL conference calls
- coordination of interfaith delegations and logistics where Friends from nine monthly meetings participated in meetings, letters to Congress and letters to the editor

Five in-district, interfaith, lobby visits regarding the need to reduce the military budget.

- handouts prepared by FCNL staff. The nation's checkbook campaign
- coordination of interfaith delegations and logistics where Friends from five monthly meetings participated in meetings, letters to Congress and letters to the editor.

Formation of a Friends Committee for Delaware Legislation to coordinate FCNL's witness and begin efforts to create a state level lobbying group modeled on FCNL's principles. The Committee first undertook a state-wide discernment of the FCNL legislative priority process, which resulted in a unanimous discernment of four priorities.

Four Network members participated in FCNL's Spring Lobby Weekend, March 17-18, 2013, relating to climate disruption joined by four other PYM Friends. They made seven lobby visits with congressional staff in Delaware, New Jersey and Pennsylvania with the message that addressing climate disruption is an urgent religious and moral imperative. The Network sponsored two YAFs to attend, one from Central Philadelphia and one from Lehigh Valley.

Members visited four monthly meetings to listen to Friends' concerns and describe FCNL's current work.

### **Summary of our work during the 2014 Fiscal Year**

**Total estimated volunteer hours: 1062**

Presence at Annual Sessions (Muhlenberg College) July 24-28, 2013.

- Workshop on spiritual tools for public witness facilitated by Mary Lou Hatcher
- Joint workshop facilitated by AFSC and FCNL staff (Lucy Duncan and Michael Shank)
- exhibit space with FCNL materials with a special exhibit devoted to climate disruption
- conversation tent to hear from FCNL monthly meeting contacts
- luncheon gatherings to meet FCNL staff member, Michael Shank, and to discuss Quaker issues presently before Congress.

Eight PYM representatives attended FCNL's Annual Meeting, held November 15-17, 2013, joined by eight other PYM Friends. Five participants in Lobby training day, held November 14, with ten lobby visits to Congressional staff.

Network members took part in four in district interfaith lobby visits to follow up on FCNL's call to conscience campaign to address climate disruption.

- coordination of interfaith delegations and logistics where Friends from six monthly meetings participated

- three letters to the editor submitted with one published in the Courier Post.

Network members planned two interfaith in-district lobby visits to seek repeal of the Authorization of the Use of Military Force with the message that federal spending that meets human needs creates more jobs and more effective security than military spending.

Friends in New Jersey's District Four participated in a two week letter writing campaign to Congressman Smith regarding the potential for violence in the Central African Republic. One letter to the editor was published in the Trenton Times.

The Network sponsored one YAF to attend FCNL's Spring Lobby Weekend who made three lobby visits to her Pennsylvania Senators and Representative. Three other PYM Friends also participated in lobby training and meetings with congressional staff. The visits focused on ending the Authorization to Use Military Force, the law which has provided authority for the president to act without congressional approval.

Visits were made to each of the monthly meetings and to the worship group in Delaware to promote a bill which would abolish the death penalty in the State. Friends Committee for Delaware Legislation became part of a coalition of thirty organizations which lobbied for passage of the legislation, and participated in a Lobby Day at the House of Representatives.

To our knowledge, fifteen PYM meetings participated in FCNL's Priorities Process. This year, the PYM FCNL network did not provide support to monthly meetings for this opportunity to guide FCNL's work in a new Congress. Meetings that have participated have said that the process both inspires them and helps ground them in Friends Testimonies.

In addition to our work within PYM, two members are currently serving on FCNL committees.

Margaret Mansfield  
[mmansfield14@gmail.com](mailto:mmansfield14@gmail.com)

## **Friends General Conference Report to 2014 Annual Sessions of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting**

Friends General Conference (FGC) is an association of regional Quaker communities in the U.S. and Canada which, with Divine guidance, nurtures the spiritual vitality of the Religious Society of Friends by providing programs and services for Friends, meetings, and seekers. It was founded in 1900 and currently has about 35,000 members in 641 congregations located throughout the United States and Canada. Its programs include a traveling ministries, religious outreach, interfaith relations, book publishing and sales, and an annual conference.

### Major Goals

- Nurture meetings and worship groups.
- Provide resources and opportunities for meetings, Friends, and seekers to experience the Light, the living presence of God.
- Help meetings guide Friends to discern the leadings of the Inward Teacher and to grow into ministry.
- Transform our awareness so that our corporate and individual attitudes and actions fully value and encompass the blessed diversity of our human family.
- Work to grow and sustain a vital, diverse, and loving community of Friends based on a shared search for unity in the Spirit.
- Articulate, communicate, and exemplify Friends' practices, core experiences, and the call to live and witness to our faith.
- Promote dialogue with others, sharing with them our corporate experience of Divine Truth and listening to and learning from their experience of the same.

The FGC is overseen by a committee of 149 Friends, 81 of whom are appointed by affiliated yearly and monthly meetings. The work of the FGC is carried out by the staff and volunteer members of its program committees. [All above text taken from the FGC website.]

Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, as an affiliated yearly meeting, appoints up to 24 representatives to serve on the Central Committee which governs FGC. These representatives and their committee assignments are listed below:

Esther Gilbert, Evergreen Worship Group/ Chestnut Hill MM – Christian and Interfaith Relations

Victoria Greene, Green Street MM – undecided

Julian Dockhorn, Green Street MM – Friends Meetinghouse Fund

Lola George (1), Media MM – Finance

Gabbreell James, Green Street MM – Growing Committee for Nurturing Ministries

Paula Cell, Germantown MM – Long Range Conference Planning and Personnel  
Howard Cell, Germantown MM – Publications  
Miyo Moriuchi, Chestnut Hill MM – Long Range Conference Planning  
Sallie Jones, Birmingham MM – Growing Committee for Nurturing Ministries  
Robert Dockhorn, Green Street MM – Nominating Committee  
Joe Rogers, Chester River MM – Finance  
Craig San Pietro, Abington MM – Advisory and Finance  
Jada Jackson, Trenton MM – Ex-Officio and serving on Personnel

Respectfully submitted by Paula Cell for the representatives currently serving on FGC  
Central Committee.

[hpcell2@gmail.com](mailto:hpcell2@gmail.com)

## Friends World Committee for Consultation Section of the Americas Report to Annual Sessions 2014

### *Let the Living Water Flow!*

The Friends World Committee is the association of Quaker yearly meetings across all the branches of Friends, around the world. Philadelphia Yearly Meeting is affiliated through the Section of the Americas, which stretches from Alaska to Bolivia. PYM names Representatives to the Section, and the Section offices are located at Friends Center in Philadelphia.

#### **Living Water Consultations**

“Let the Living Water Flow!” was the theme for our recent series of regional conferences offering training for Representatives and other interested Friends in skills needed for thriving Quaker meetings in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Philadelphia YM Friends attended three out of the four conferences, in California, Bolivia, North Carolina, and El Salvador. Over 400 Friends from over 40 yearly meetings participated. One participant commented on the “unanticipated ways people can find their way to unity with each other across seemingly irreconcilable differences in theology and 'conviction'". In some ways we accomplished this in spite of ourselves. This is wonderfully encouraging." The new Living Water Study Book in English and Spanish is available online as a free download. More details are at [fwccamericas.org/events/2014-Consultations.shtml](http://fwccamericas.org/events/2014-Consultations.shtml).

All four conferences offered workshops for Friends to develop our intercultural communication skills for intra-Quaker dialogue and our everyday lives, and for supporting Quaker leadership in the 21st century. The two North American workshops on *Quaker Leadership for the 21st Century* were led by students in the Quaker leadership programs at Guilford College and George Fox University.

The workshops on *Conflict Transformation* were led by members of the New York Yearly Meeting Committee on Conflict Transformation. Given that many monthly meetings are troubled by tensions among members, these workshops explored commonly-arising incidents and shared insights into how they can be acknowledged, how they can be addressed, and how the Meeting can use conflict as an opportunity for advancement and transformation.

The workshops on *Intercultural Communications* explored the challenge of communicating when each party brings a different background to the conversation. They considered the significance of the Incarnation, conflict mediation tools, and the art of listening across social, ethnic or linguistic boundaries. They built practical skills for communication grounded in self-awareness – a manner of listening and speaking that nourishes that of God in all of us.

Service, locally and globally, was another workshop topic. The 2012 Kabarak Call for Peace and Eco-Justice from the 6<sup>th</sup> World Conference of Friends reminds us that "we must become careful stewards of all life...a light in the darkness of greed and destruction...we are called to see what Love can do – for the earth and all peoples." In North Carolina, Friends reviewed the Kabarak Call and then learned about the efforts of the Friends Emergency Material Assistance Program (FEMAP) and how it helps in emergencies and issues relating to long term deprivation. They assembled hygiene, infant care and school supply kits while exploring how to join with North Carolina Friends Disaster Service or how to replicate FEMAP at home. In California, participants learned about Sacramento Friends Church's ministry of foot washing with the homeless – why and how it is done, and how it is received – and practiced foot washing with one another. They reflected on attitudes about giving and receiving such a personal service, a reminder of Jesus washing the feet of his disciples. Tyla Healton (Co-pastor, Sacramento Friends Community Church) and Kylin Navarro (Co-clerk, Pacific YM Young Adult Friends and former FWCC Quaker Youth Pilgrim), with support from Alyssa Nelson (Pacific YM Youth Program Coordinator), led this exploration of the do's and don'ts of service, the servant-leadership approach, and local-global connections through the Kabarak Call.

### **Quaker Youth Pilgrimage**

As PYM meets for Annual Sessions, a Young Friend from Philadelphia is one of the 26 teens from the US, Mexico, Guatemala, Peru, Bolivia, the United Kingdom, Ireland, Germany, and Hungary, who are traveling through Peru and Bolivia in the traditional month-long spiritual and historical exploration. Five years ago, Young Adult Friends in Bolivia and Peru took the initiative and invited the Quaker Youth Pilgrimage (QYP) to come to South America for the first time. More than ever before, the QYP planning committee includes older and younger Friends, Friends United Meeting, Friends General Conference, and Evangelical Friends from North and South America. At the same time, this has required an enormous investment of time and money. The committee has been meeting by Skype almost every other week for the last year, working bilingually in Spanish and English. Taking such a diverse group of Pilgrims and Leaders to the Andes, well beyond the traditional boundaries of the Pilgrimage, is a vivid example of how the Friends World Committee brings together the whole world of Friends, especially young people.

### **Wider Quaker Fellowship/Voices of Friends**

The website and pamphlet series are both a service to seekers and a resource for individual reading and group discussions for Friends meetings. [www.voicesoffriends.org](http://www.voicesoffriends.org) also offers a comprehensive directory of Quaker meetings and churches in North America for seekers and traveling Friends.

### **Staff Changes**

Perhaps the most visible change in the Section of the Americas was the resignation of Louise Salinas, Associate Secretary, after 12 years of dedicated service. We miss her and wish her well in her new job and her continued service to Fallsington Meeting and Philadelphia YM. As a volunteer, she is still Assistant Clerk of the International Planning Committee for the 2016 FWCC International Representatives Meeting in Arequipa, Peru.

### **Future Planning**

As part of a strategic planning process, the Section of the Americas staff and volunteers are asking, "What does the Religious Society of Friends need from a world committee?" The PYM committee has begun asking themselves this important question and more input is welcome. New program directions will be presented this fall for approval by the Section-wide meeting of Representatives in March 2015 near Mexico City. All Friends are welcome to attend.

More information on all these programs is available at [www.fwccamericas.org](http://www.fwccamericas.org).

Questions about this report should be directed to:

Robin Mohr

[robinm@fwccamericas.org](mailto:robinm@fwccamericas.org)

## **Peace and Concerns Standing Committee Report to Annual Sessions 2014 (Corrected July 24, 2014)**

Peace and Concerns Standing Committee (PCSC) has continued meeting jointly with Support and Outreach Standing Committee (SOSC). This allows us to have more Friends in attendance, thus having more Friends to consider concerns, to hear reports from the working groups and granting groups under our respective care, to hear reports from representatives to other organizations, to thresh issues as they arise and prepare minutes as appropriate, and to consider requests for funding or endorsements.

Our meetings have often been attended by 7 to 9 members of the two standing committees, plus members of working and granting groups – so when we close with a holding of hands around the table in Room 4 at Arch Street, we can complete the circle. This may seem trivial, but it is a morale booster to be able to literally feel the circle of love.

The standing committees appointed Anne Creter as liaison to the PYM Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) Network under PCSC care. She participated in the FCNL Annual Meeting and Lobby Day in Washington, DC, and is involved with the working group's on-going activities.

In the fall, at the request of Interim Meeting, the standing committees drafted a Minute based on various Minutes from monthly and quarterly meetings, mostly related to the Newtown, CT, mass shooting. Worship and Care Standing Committee intended to participate in the process but were easy with the draft we prepared, which we then forwarded to Interim Meeting, which was not prepared to receive it as written.

We worked hard to re-establish PYM's Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) representation with the United Nations Department of Public Information after a hiatus of about three years. An annual review was submitted to re-activate PYM's official status and interested committee representatives were selected: Loretta Maldonado, Yolanda Covarrubias, and Walton Burwell. Formal acceptance from the United Nations- Department of Information (UN-DPI) is still pending. The standing committees determined this was an important peacebuilding association for PYM to maintain. We also have a liaison with "Peace Day Philly" (UN-designated International Day of Peace) and encourage Friends' involvement on the 21st of September each year.

Efforts concerning climate change and global warming continue apace under the able leadership of the Eco-Justice Working Group. We continue to support the campaign to end PNC Bank's investment in companies involved in mountain-top removal mining in West Virginia; this endeavor is being led by Earth Quaker Action Team. This spring we approved a

"line of credit" of up to \$1,500 to enable the working group to hire interns for the summer. We also approved the use of money from the Fund for Sufferings – and sent our approval to Interim Meeting – not only for members of PYM but also for non-Friends involved in nonviolent direct action at the Federal Building in Philadelphia (in response to the Keystone XL pipeline), which resulted in thirty arrests. Also there are plans forming – encouraged by Friends from Bucks Quarter – to participate in a march to the UN on September 20, 2014, at the time of the UN gathering on climate change as part of preparation for a major summit in 2015.

The International Outreach Granting Group (IOGG) provides small grants to assist American Friends and other individuals who travel abroad as well as international visitors who come to the United States on Friends concerns. Their visits and projects seek to further international understanding, peace and other Friends' concerns. Grants are generally \$300-500. During the 2012-13 Program/Fiscal Year, the IOGG approved grants totaling \$8,830 to assist 19 individuals to travel internationally. This included 11 females and 7 males; one additional person was unable to make the trip as planned. Most recipients were over 18 years of age.

The Indian Committee reported that they supported just one project of eight at the amount requested (roughly \$33,000 requested and only \$8,600 donated), and had to tell another four worthy requesters that they could not support them at all. Among those to whom they had to deny funding: the Winnemem Wintu Tribe of California for their Mt. Shasta women's coming-of-age ceremony, so necessary for a sound sense of identity to a Native woman; the White Earth Land Recovery Project for a children's garden encouraging the cultivation of native plants and food sustainability for Ojibwe families in Minnesota; and Someday Productions of Philadelphia for an art camp to introduce urban Philadelphia youth and Navaho in Thoreau, NM, youth to each other's cultures. They hope that in future years they will have the funding to be somewhat more generous.

End Modern Slavery Working Group reports that the current efforts grew out of local concerns about forced labor and have grown to have worldwide visibility relating to products made by adults and children and to human trafficking especially in relation to the sex trade and domestic servitude. Friends have made significant contributions to the movement to address modern slavery. There is a National Human Trafficking Posting Hotline and significant efforts to publicize it, but laws are on a state-by-state level. Pennsylvania, for example, has no legal definition of modern slavery. Therefore, SB 75 has been introduced in the Pennsylvania Legislature to begin to address this. We are encouraged to push for its passage. Many products we may buy are "slave products": sugar, coffee, chocolate, oriental rugs. In southeastern PA, a shelter called Dawn's Place assists those rescued from slavery – with a year-long program to help young women move from abuse and captivity into a much healthier life. We are encouraged to explore the website [slaveryfootprint.org](http://slaveryfootprint.org) to see how slavery

impinges on our daily lives.

We co-sponsored the Christmas Peace Pilgrimage 2013, with active support from Friends at Newtown Meeting. Facilitated by a member of the standing committee, we agreed to cosponsor a Peace Conference at Pennswood Village in Newtown, Bucks County, on Friday, September 19, 2014, entitled "Older People Promoting Peace." The purpose is to inspire and catalyze efforts by older adults to initiate and lead peace initiatives. It is being held essentially on the International Day of Peace.

We welcome other Friends to join with us on the Standing Committees and on any of the various working and granting groups under our care. We can also involve Friends in short-term projects.

Steve Gulick  
Clerk  
[gunorlickton@mac.com](mailto:gunorlickton@mac.com)

## **Support and Outreach Standing Committee Report to Annual Sessions 2014**

Those currently serving Philadelphia Yearly Meeting on its Support and Outreach Standing Committee are:

James Collins	Fallsington Monthly Meeting
Walton Burwell	Germantown Monthly Meeting
Carter Nash	Harrisburg Monthly Meeting
Boris Simkovich	Makefield Monthly Meeting
Andrew Anderson	Monthly Meeting of Friends of Philadelphia
Amanda Ivory	Monthly Meeting of Friends of Philadelphia
Robin Meaker	Quakertown Monthly Meeting

For the last year and a half, the Support and Outreach Standing Committee (SOSC) has been meeting jointly with Peace and Concerns Standing Committee (PCSC).

While representatives to the New Jersey and Pennsylvania Councils of Churches are made by Yearly Meeting, they are under the care of SOSC. We currently need someone to serve PYM as our representative to the NJ Council of Churches.

PYM is actively engaged with Pennsylvania Council of Churches (PCC) with representation on both the Public Advocacy and Common Ministry Commissions. The Public Advocacy Commission is the face of PCC that is most often seen in the press and by members of the state legislature. The Common Ministries Commission is the get-their-hands-dirty part of PCC, working with, but limited to farm workers, visitors to state parks, and truckers. PCC is facing some of the same problems that PYM recently dealt with: spending in excess of income. PCC has hired a consultant to review the current conditions and develop recommendations for the future. The PYM representative is closely involved in this process.

The SOSC has under its care and oversight these working and granting groups:

### **1. PYM Library Services Working Group (Tim Siftar, Clerk)**

The PYM Library is staffed completely by volunteers. The working group guides the work of those who volunteer at the PYM Library by providing training, tasks and technical leadership on library operations. This group includes both hands-on super-users and visionaries to keep the PYM Library on track with supporting the various needs Friends have for books and related information.

The PYM Library is open:

Tuesdays and Thursdays 12:00 pm – 6:00 pm

1st Sundays 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

3rd Thursdays 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

**2. Friends World Committee for Consultation Working Group (George Rubin, Clerk)**

The FWCC Working Group members travel to various FWCC gatherings not only nationally but internationally.

**3. Outreach Working Group**

**4. Membership Development Fund Granting Group (Tom Peterson, Clerk)**

The Membership Development Fund doesn't simply approve or deny grant requests; they try to help meetings find creative and innovative ways to grow their memberships at times without any expenditure.

**5. Willits Granting Group (Charles Woodson III, Clerk)**

The members of the Willits Granting Group faithfully adhere to the charge entrusted to them, to the point of traveling to both Liberia and the southern states of the US to ensure that which should be happening, is happening.

ESTABLISHED: By will of Charles L. Willits in 1885 “for the distribution of religious tracts and writings of Friends... one half of which shall be distributed among the colored people of the Southern States of the United States, and the remainder in the colony of Liberia; so that religion and morality may be promoted.”

MISSION: Today, the Willits Book Trust presents books and media that embody Quaker values and core beliefs to emerging and established libraries and organizations that serve African American communities in the American South or people in Liberia.

**6. Publication Services Working/Granting Group (Mark Parker Miller, Clerk)**

Oversees publishing by PYM.

Upcoming projects include:

- Revise and publish “Quakerism: A Religion Meaningful in Today’s World”
- Reprint “Companions Along the Way”
- Publish the “Faith and Practice” revision
- Create a pamphlet which describes the work of Publications Services Group

## 7. Friends Institute Granting Group

The Friends Institute Granting Group offers grants to individual PYM young adult Friends to encourage and support them in ministry, service, witness, and Quaker study. It also provides assistance to programs, events or activities of organizations which support and build the community of PYM young adult Friends.

Over the past few years some working groups have laid themselves down due to, what appears to be on the surface, a lack of interest. Some of their work has been picked up by staff (the web working group). A lack of time and availability has caused many not to be able to engage with PYM on the level they would like. At times people would be more apt to be involved if they were able attend by phone or electronically, or if meetings/events were held more regularly in their area.

Carter Nash  
Clerk  
[carternash@gmail.com](mailto:carternash@gmail.com)

**334th Annual Sessions  
Philadelphia Yearly Meeting  
Held at Muhlenberg College, Allentown, PA  
Thursday, July 24, 2014 - Afternoon Session**

Community Gathering and Announcement

Friends gathered for Annual Session at the appointed hour of 2:30 p.m. to the singing of “This is Holy Ground” which had been taught by the Youth Program Friends at the end of the morning session. The quote of N. Jean Toomer, from which the theme of the session “Worship is the Door to Love” is taken, was read. Youth Program staff led Friends in an exercise to illustrate that once we enter that door, our every act can be a prayer. We were then asked to enter into worship sharing and consider how the exercise and sharing with each other affected us. Worship closed with the singing of “This is Holy Ground”.

Worship and Introductions

After a period of centering worship time, those on the Clerks table introduced themselves: Clerk, Jada S. Jackson (Trenton MM, Burlington Meeting House Worship Group); Alternate Clerk, Steve Olshevski (Radnor MM); Alternate Clerk, Becca Bubb (Abington MM); General Secretary, Arthur M. Larrabee (Central Philadelphia MM); Recording Clerk, David Rose (Lehigh Valley MM); Assisting Recording Clerk, Jim Herr (Lancaster MM); Assistant Recording Clerk, John Lavin (Birmingham MM); and Becky Tallarico is the speech-to-text provider.

Friends who are at Annual Sessions for the first time were asked to identify themselves and were recognized.

Epistle reading

Becca Bubb presented the slate for the PYM Annual Session Epistle Committee. They are: Eric Peterson (Norristown MM), Sara Palmer (Central Philadelphia MM), Teresa Jacob Engeman (Kendal MM), Carolyn Schodt (Chestnut Hill). **Meeting approved slate as presented.**

Excerpts of Epistles received from Lake Erie Yearly Meeting, Iowa Yearly Meeting, North Pacific Yearly Meeting, and North Carolina Yearly Meeting were read by Eric Peterson.

### Living our Faith: Giving Life to our Minutes

Patricia Finley presented a report “Living our Faith: Giving Life to our Minutes” (written report attached) which arose out of a concern about minutes which are adopted by Yearly Meeting but not acted upon afterwards. The urge to respond to a crisis situation often does not go beyond creating a minute. A proposal created by Arthur Larrabee to create a clear process for adopting what he termed “Foundational Minutes” with some questions to consider were contained in the report. Friends present were asked to focus on question #5 and discuss within a small group: “Do we need to always make a statement or take action as a unified body or do we sometimes want to leave it to the passionate few who are lead [sic] to act?” This question was expanded to include the question: “What are minutes for?” Friends were asked to submit comments after reflection and discussion to Patricia Finley via e-mail, text, or by notecards provided. A time was provided for the sharing of comments. Comments will be reported back to Interim Meeting by Patricia Finley.

### Report on Quarterly Meeting Revitalization

Hollister Knowlton presented the Report on Quarterly Meeting Revitalization with those involved in the creation of the report coming to the front row. This report arose from a Gathering held on June 7<sup>th</sup> at Reading MM with thirty-three participants from nine different quarters. Summary of the report was read by Holly Olson. (Written report and summary attached.) The complete report will be available on the PYM website. Friends were encouraged by the clerk to respond to the report to the address provided.

**Report to Annual Sessions of Quarterly Meeting Revitalization received.**

### Reading of Minutes

John Lavin read the Minutes of Record from Thursday morning session. With additions, clarifications and corrections received and recorded. **Minutes of Record for Thursday morning approved as amended.**

David Rose read the Minutes of Decision. **Minutes of Action approved as read.**

### Closing

Afternoon session closed with a period of worship at 5:05 p.m. We departed with the intention to gather again at 9:30 a.m., Friday, July 25<sup>th</sup>.

Submitted by,  
David Rose, Recording Clerk (Lehigh Valley MM)  
Jada S. Jackson, Presiding Clerk

## **Living our Faith: Giving Life to our Minutes**

### **The General Secretary has conceptualized a Foundational Minute and an adoption process:**

Our General Secretary has described a clear process for adopting a “foundational minute.” Which he defines as: “...a broad and comprehensive statement of concern, on a significant matter, reflecting something that the Yearly Meeting cared about. It would be widely seasoned within the Yearly Meeting. All members would have an opportunity for input. The minute, when adopted, could then be the basis for subsequent action by the Yearly Meeting, Interim Meeting, standing committees and staff.”

1. A quarterly meeting, or a PYM committee, brings a significant concern to Interim Meeting and asks Interim Meeting to authorize the preparation of a Foundational Minute.
2. If approved, a task group is formed to prepare such a minute. The task group would include those who brought the concern as well as others who might be added by reason of their experience, expertise or interest.
3. The Foundational Minute would include the following:
  - a. A comprehensive statement of the concern
  - b. A history of the concern and what has been done to date within the Yearly Meeting
  - c. The spiritual foundation for the concern, rooted in Quaker faith and practice, answering why Friends should be involved
  - d. Options for addressing the concern
  - e. Specific proposals
  - f. A request for Yearly Meeting action and support
4. The Foundational minute comes back to Interim Meeting to be further seasoned and the question answered: “Is this minute ready to go to Yearly Meeting?”
5. If Interim Meeting judges that the minute is ready to go to Yearly Meeting in annual sessions, it is placed on the agenda of our next annual meeting.
6. If Yearly Meeting discerns that the Foundational Minute is satisfactory, it would approve sending the minute out to all monthly and quarterly meetings for discernment and seasoning. Comments and concerns would be directed to the task group which would consider them for possible incorporation in the “final minute.”
7. Following seasoning and discernment, the Foundational Minute would come back to the Yearly Meeting at its next annual meeting for final action.

To Arthur Larrabee’s list I would add the creation of a searchable database of PYM minutes, available to monthly meetings and that there be documentation available describing the scope of the seasoning.

**Some questions:**

1. What are the substantive issues of our time? A couple substantive issues from the past were slavery and nuclear disarmament. What would be a **critical** substantive issue to consider for the next six months or year?
2. Would we have a hierarchy of minutes, the substantive and a lesser more immediate form? If yes how would lesser minutes be handled?
3. Should we have a seasoning body, responsible for making certain the minute is clear and for distributing it to all monthly meetings for discernment and comment? Ought we have a deadline such a sometime before sessions? Would this body also determine which minutes were significant?
4. What about urgent world issues such as the current continuing violence in Gaza? Can we make timely interpretations of our testimonies, in order to make public statements about war, as we did after 9/11?
5. Do we need to always make a statement or take action as a unified body or do we sometimes want to leave it to the passionate few who are lead to act?

For questions about this report, please contact:

Patricia Finley [finleyp@temple.edu](mailto:finleyp@temple.edu)

## **Quarterly Meeting Revitalization Report to Annual Sessions 2014**

### **Report to 2014 Annual Session from June 7, 2014 Gathering of Quarters**

In May 2013, at their annual weekend retreat at Camp Swatara, Caln Quarter heard of a potential change in the PYM youth program. The PYM youth program had intersected with Caln Quarter's annual retreat for the last third of a century. With some potential changes in the PYM youth program, Caln Quarter faced a question of its purpose and possible change. A small group of Caln Quarter Friends contacted other quarters and asked about their activities. Each quarter has a different level of engagement and vitality. Out of these short explorations, a leading arose to invite Friends from across the Yearly Meeting with a passion about the life of our quarters to a gathering.

Friends involved in quarters (clerks, coordinators, ex-coordinators, and others) were invited to an organizing conference call in January. Within a few weeks, an ad hoc group had formed and we had determined a location, developed an agenda, distributed a flyer, and started to consider logistics.

Planners mentioned a number of ideas, felt needs as the planning progressed:

1. fostering inter-visitation and cross-communication
2. creating community among our quarters
3. identifying what we have in common as quarters that is different from monthly meetings or yearly meetings
4. hearing about the life of our quarters
5. providing small group opportunities of clerks, coordinators, clerks of committees
6. addressing the challenges of getting participation in our quarters
7. identifying and requesting resources of Yearly Meeting to support our quarters
8. discussing youth issues
9. utilizing meeting enrichment services
10. exploring how we might all support one another and create a new vision of what our quarters can do and be
11. determining whether quarters can generate a critical mass and quarterly meeting identity for our youth (elementary through Young Adult Friend) by organizing regional gatherings and transporting our youth to PYM youth programs
12. asking whether the historical purpose of the quarter is still valid today, and in what ways the purpose of a quarterly meeting has changed over time
13. exploring ways quarterly meetings might join together in some specific efforts by region (like the Tri-Quarterly gathering in NJ)
14. discerning whether quarterly meetings could have a stronger role in identifying leadership in the yearly meeting (perhaps revitalizing this role in some quarters is more to the point)

Reading Monthly Meeting was chosen as the gathering location because of its geographic centrality in the yearly meeting: about equidistant from Wellsboro Monthly Meeting (Upper Susquehanna Quarter) and Wicomico River Friends Meeting (Southern Quarter).

The Gathering took place on June 7, 2014 at Reading Meeting with 33 participants from nine quarters (Abington, Bucks, Caln, Chester, Concord, Haverford, Philadelphia, Upper Susquehanna, Western). The agenda included limited time for worship during the six hours of time together. In the morning, a threshing session yielded six topics. Over lunch, sub-groups formed around these six topics for further discernment. The sub-groups reported out and a summary minute was read. The six sub-groups were:

1. Roles and Responsibilities of monthly meetings, quarterly meetings, and yearly meeting
2. Declining Membership
3. Supporting Our Youth
4. Fostering Leadership
5. Working Across Communities
6. Spiritual Enrichment/Formation

Handouts of the notes from the six sub-groups are available.

A Summary Minute of the June 7 Gathering was developed. [attached]

We felt the June 7 Gathering was meaningful for the following reasons:

1. We had a start to sharing ideas across quarters.
2. We shared a desire to continue to meet over time and develop the ideas gathered at this meeting.
3. The scale of quarter work is meaningful because quarters are more local to monthly meetings, therefore more connected in practical and cultural ways than Yearly Meeting and its cross-pollination of practices. Social activism and spiritual support at the quarter level can be informal and fluid.
4. We are interested in exploring ways that the work from the June 7 gathering can plug into the larger work of the yearly meeting.
5. We want to get clearer at all levels as to how all of our work plugs into the larger work between monthly, quarterly, and yearly meetings.
6. We believe that: "It is time that we further explore concrete ways to integrate the structure, energy, and community between monthly meetings, quarterly meetings, and the yearly meeting."

A future Gathering of Quarters will continue enlivening and expanding the themes based on the work started on June 7.

Questions about this report should be directed to:

John Hayden

[jbhayden1@gmail.com](mailto:jbhayden1@gmail.com)

## **Summary Minute of the June 7 Gathering on Revitalizing our Quarterly Meetings**

Members from nine quarterly meetings gathered at Reading Monthly Meeting on June 7, 2014 to affirm the role and importance of our quarters. There was a sense of community and belonging to each other.

We converged upon the truth that regional gatherings can be a place where Yearly Meeting becomes relevant. The quarterly meeting experience is an inspirational intermediary between monthly meetings and our wider yearly meeting community. When we come together, we collectively fuel our excitement about being Quakers.

We also considered the life in our quarterly meetings as it relates to leadership, youth support, membership, roles and responsibilities, working across our communities, and spiritual formation. As we adjourned, we affirmed the value of fellowship, worship, and sharing in love towards the development of new ideas and the seasoning of others. It is time that we further explore concrete ways to integrate the structure, energy, and community between monthly meetings, quarterly meetings, and the Yearly Meeting.

**334th Annual Sessions  
Philadelphia Yearly Meeting  
Held at Muhlenberg College, Allentown, PA  
Friday, July 25, 2014 – Afternoon Session**

Community Gathering and Announcements

Friends gathered at the appointed hour time of 2:30 pm with the children present and the singing of “This is Holy Ground”. We were led in an exercise by the Youth Program Staff to help us appreciate the gifts that each one of us brings to the session, whatever our age may be.

After announcements, Friends settled into a period of worship.

Introductions and Agenda review

Those on the Clerks table identified themselves: Clerk, Jada S. Jackson (Trenton MM, Burlington Meetinghouse Worship Group); Alternate Clerk, Steve Olshevski (Radnor MM); Alternate Clerk, Becca Bubb (Abington MM); General Secretary, Arthur M. Larrabee (Central Philadelphia MM); Recording Clerk, David Rose (Lehigh Valley MM); Assistant Recording Clerk, John Lavin (Birmingham MM), Becky Tallarico is the speech-to-text provider.

Elders introduced themselves: Dorothy Reichardt (Kendal MM), Dana Houghton (Woodstown MM), and Alison Anderson (Central Philadelphia MM)

Agenda was revised to give the General Services Report from this morning’s agenda in place of the Interim Meeting Report by Elders.

Epistle reading

The following epistles received were read by members of the Epistle Committee:

Epistle from Bhopal Yearly Meeting in India: The theme of the session is “If ye love me, keep my commandments.” The Meeting is thankful for the completion of the new meetinghouse.

South Central Yearly Meeting held in Texas: “Am I my sisters and brothers keeper?” was the theme created in response to the mass incarceration which is a crisis among some of the states in the Yearly Meeting. State of Monthly Meeting reports were visual representations.

Illinois Yearly Meeting 10-14 age group gave an account of the variety of exercises and insights gained at Yearly Meeting.

### General Services Standing Committee Report

General Services Standing Committee Report given by Clerk, Joe Elliott (Providence MM). Complete report attached. He described the working of the committee and the relationship with the working groups under its care. **Report from General Service is received.**

### Education Standing Committee Report

Peter Lane (Westtown MM) gave the Education Standing Committee Report. Complete written report attached. He highlighted the work of the Quaker Parenting Initiative, the Faith and Play Working Group, Young Friends Program and Children's Session Working Group. With the assistance of slides, he described how the work of the committee is done and reviewed the past years' experience. The report spoke with humility about the committee's actions to intentionally and openly listen and engage concerning last year's proposed, and not adopted, Young Friends Policy concerning transsexual Friends and closed with the observation that the committee is still waiting to see how it will fit into the new structure proposed.

The Young Adult Friends Working Group Report was given Co-Clerk Elizabeth Martin. She described the work of the group in created space for Young Adult Friends to meet. Work done this past year has been the creation of a policy regarding the use of alcohol as sponsored events and their participation in the Intergenerational Spiritual Formation program. The working group has had an increase in participation but still needs another Co-Clerk. A Friend spoke on behalf of the Children's Session Planning Group and the opportunity for Friends to help with that work. Comments expressed appreciation for the work being done and asked for direction in helping to continue the work.

The Clerk expressed her appreciation for the faithfulness in which the members of the Standing Committee around the proposed Youth Programs Transgender Policy.

**The Education Standing Committee Report and the Young Adult Friends Working Group report is received.**

### Worship and Care Standing Committee Report

Lane Taylor (Plumstead MM) presented the report. Complete written report attached. Members of the committee who were present were asked to stand and be recognized for their work. She listed the working and granting groups under their care and highlighted some of the work being done. **Worship and Care Standing Committee Report is received.**

### Minutes

**Minutes of Action from this session were read and approved.**

Minutes of Record from Thursday afternoon read and with clarifications and corrections incorporated. **Minutes of Thursday afternoon were approved.**

Minutes of Record from Friday morning session read by Jim Herr. With corrections and clarifications incorporated. **Minutes of Friday morning session were approved.**

General Secretary Arthur - Remarks and meeting for worship for saying farewell.

Arthur M. Larrabee gave his final General Secretary report. Full report attached. His report was divided into two sections, looking back and looking forward.

The “Look Back”, or the saga of Arthur’s seven and a half years as General Secretary, was divided into three sections, corresponding to the dramatic structure of rising action that builds suspense, climax with solution discovered, and falling action leading to resolution and exit from stage. Rising Action period covered the renovation of Friends Center completed June 2009, starting stories of vitality and growth as a practice, archiving Yearly Meeting records on the web, hosting “Heading God’s Call”, and planning for downsizing of staff. Climax and discovery of solution was the financial crisis and the creation of a balanced budget while laying-off staff. The resolution portion started in 2012 with the end of uncertainty and the feeling that we could sustain ourselves leading to the present transition to new leadership. The motif common in medieval chivalric romances, including that other Arthurian legend, of faithful romantic love supporting the hero through adversity, was transubstantiated in this story to the support of divine love Arthur consistently experienced as expressed by the late renaissance Quaker mystic, George Fox, as “The power of love is over all”.

In “Looking Forward” Arthur spoke of the challenges that we are confronted with, such as the decline in stated membership and attendance at Sunday Worship. Membership level since 1955 unification has been in decline but the decline has substantially flattened out in recent years. Covenant income is down, as is annual giving. We are okay for now but there is reason for long term alarm. If our income does not rise with the expected inflationary rise in expenses, we are not sustainable. We need to do the best we can do and then leave the rest to Spirit. Arthur provided a number of possible scenarios from the gradual demise of the Religious Society, to the arising of a reenergized people. The vision of the Five-Year Plan for PYM which we will be considering can lead to a reenergized and rekindled Quaker community. He closed with the assurance, “And the power of love is over all”.

The chivalric theme was continued with the presentation of a vase with eight yellow roses and one white rose, commemorating the yellow roses that he gave to his staff when he started. These roses were also symbolic, the yellow roses symbolizing joy, friendship and love, one for each year of service, plus some overtime. The pure white rose symbolic of the pure love for PYM with which he did his work and overcame adversity, or as he put, dealt with tribulations and potholes. Clerk, Jada Jackson, read the following minute of appreciation to the meeting after which we settled into a period of sharing out of the silence.

**Minute of Appreciation for Arthur M. Larrabee**

Often there is a call from our Yearly Meeting for assistance and leadership. Few times has our call been answered so soundly. Arthur has acted as the Executive Director of our non-profit organization of PYM, taking the leadership role and authority in hiring, releasing and directing staff. He has been our representative to other agencies and denominational organizations such as the National Council of Churches, Friends Fiduciary, Friends General Conference Executive Board, and others. He has taken an ex-officio role at our Standing Committee meetings, directing appropriate staff as necessary.

He has offered his professional skills to address unique Yearly Meeting concerns, namely the transitioning of operations of the Burlington Meetinghouse and Conference Center, the Comly Fund in relation to Friends of Central Philadelphia MM, and the Greenleaf Fund. This represents some of the work he has done, but not the grounded spirit with which he has accomplished these tasks. He has taken on his duties with a depth of love and grace that mirrors his love of our community. He has worked, not as just an employee, but as a faithful servant. He has been available to offer advice, expertise as needed and to be a prayerful presence.

It is with mixed emotions that we look to celebrate his transition from this formal role: We rejoice in knowing that his love and communion will continue as he will remain an active member of our community. He is just moving to the other side of the facing bench. He will be missed.

To our faithful Friend, Arthur, we wish you love, peace, rest and excitement as you enter this new chapter.

Friends shared their experience of Arthur's love of the Yearly Meeting, the channel of love that he served as, the constant presence and support that he provided, and his modeling of a servant/leader. An ode to Arthur was sung by a Friendly troubadour.

The sharing portion of the celebration ended at 5:20 pm with the **approval of the Minute of Appreciation for Arthur M. Larrabee** and an unabashedly, unusual standing ovation.

We departed for the celebration picnic with the intention to gather again at 9:30 am Saturday morning.

Submitted by,

David Rose, Recording Clerk  
Jada S. Jackson, Presiding Clerk

## General Services Standing Committee Report to Annual Sessions 2014

Within Philadelphia Yearly Meeting there are a number of functions that might be called “paperwork or strictly office work.” General Services Standing Committee (GSSC) provides oversight for some of these working groups.

The method of oversight is by the appointment of a General Services Standing Committee liaison to each of the working groups and granting groups under its care. These liaisons attend the meetings and otherwise keep in contact with their assigned working groups and attend the meetings of the GSSC that are held approximately eight times throughout the year. During the standing committee meeting, the liaisons bring forth information relative to the status of their working group(s) activity. At each meeting two of the working groups are highlighted for a more complete report of their activities. In this way, the whole General Services Standing Committee is kept informed of all activities of all of working groups and granting groups under its care.

The information that follows in this report are the composition and general charges, personnel and meeting schedules of the General Services Standing Committee and its working groups.

<b>Members</b>	<b>Monthly Meeting</b>	<b>Position/Liaison to</b>	<b>Term Ends</b>
Joe Elliott	Providence	Clerk	2014
Ruth Seeley	Germantown	Financial Oversight WG	2016
Doug Meaker	Quakertown	Recording Clerk- GSSC Financial Stewardship Committee Sessions Planning WG	2016
Penrose Hallowell	Horsham	Development WG	2017
Elizabeth Martin	Central Philadelphia	Personnel Services WG	2016
George (Skip) Corson	Gwynedd	Pemberton Fund Pusey Trust Fund	2016
Storm Evans	Chestnut Hill	Meeting House Trust Fund	2015
Harry Williams	Crosswicks		2016
John Hunt	Friends of Philadelphia		2014

**Function:**

- Oversight of the various working groups designated under its care.

**Meetings:**

4:30 pm – 6:30 pm, on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesdays starting in October and through June, with exceptions for several Philadelphia Yearly Meeting holidays. Meetings are held in the Arch Street Meeting House and by members joining by conference calls. Occasionally a whole meeting is held by conference call. Members report the status, progress and needs of the groups they serve as liaisons. By prior arrangement, either some working groups ask the clerk or the clerk asks them to be on the agenda for work on a particular topic under their care.

**Sessions Planning Group**

Philadelphia Yearly Meeting is charged with having at least one annual session where all members of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting (members of their monthly meetings) may attend. In recent years Friends have held annual sessions that extend beyond one day and have made provisions for those attending to use overnight accommodations and meals. Business required to operate the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting is presented and approved in the manner of Friends. There are also speakers on a variety of topics, workshops with topics of interest and importance to Friends, gathering for enjoyment, and child care appropriate to the ages of the children involved.

<b>Members</b>	<b>Monthly Meeting</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Term Ends</b>
Ken Park	Providence	Clerk	2015
Doug Meaker	Quakertown	GSSC Liaison	2016
Lane Taylor	Plumstead	Assistant Clerk	2016
Jocelyn Park	Providence	Member*	2014
Carla White	Chestnut Hill	Member*	2014
Chris Schanno	Springfield	Member	2015
Tom Peterson	Richland	Member	2016
Pat Coiner	Providence	Member	2015

\* Agreed to reappointment

The terms of service of the above list expire for this group end on October 1, rather the date for members of other committees. This allows for the closing of the just ended session and time to begin plans for the next year’s session.

**Other Members:**

Jada Jackson – Clerk of PYM

Becca Bubb – Alternate Clerk of PYM  
 Steve Olshevski – Alternate Clerk of PYM  
 Tricia Coscia – Annual Sessions and Volunteer Coordinator  
 Christie Duncan-Tessmer – staff to this working group; incoming General Secretary to PYM  
 Arthur Larrabee – General Secretary to PYM

**Function:**

- Plan and carry out the annual session of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting.
- Set policy for the annual session.
- Permanent group membership listed above and it is augmented by ad hoc volunteers for specific aspects of each session.

**Meetings:**

5:30 pm to 8:00 pm, 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month at Friends Center, 1515 Cherry Street, Philadelphia; or conference call or Google group.

**Financial Oversight Working Group (FOWG)**

<b>Members</b>	<b>Monthly Meeting</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Term Ends</b>
Joyce Moore	Unami	Clerk	2015
Ruth Seeley	Germantown	GSSC Liaison	2016
Ron Ploeg	Willistown	PYM Treasurer	2015
Scudder G. Stevens	Kennett	Member*	2014
Pat Williams	Haddonfield	Member	2015
David Morrison	Lancaster	Member	2015
Fred Melroy	Medford	Member	2014
Linell McCurry	Lansdowne	PYM Staff	N/A
Vacant	–	–	2016
Vacant	–	–	2016
Vacant	–	–	2016

\* Served three terms

**Function:**

- Review funds for appropriate investment and application, i.e. within Friends principles.
- Prepare reports as needed.
- Report annually to Interim Meeting on fund status.
- Arrange for, receive, review external audit.
- Oversee accounting, reporting and banking practices of PYM.

**Naming issues for further recognition:**

Needs more members especially with the following skills: business, investment, legal knowledge, and good general skills.

**Meetings:**

5:30 pm – 7:30 pm, 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month except July and August, in the Arch Street Meeting House.

**A change in responsibilities:**

During its meeting on February 2, 2011, General Services Standing Committee (GSSC) approved the revised responsibilities listed below for the Financial Oversight Working Group (FOWG). GSSC brings these changes to Interim Meeting because the original was approved by Interim Meeting. GSSC proposes that any future changes to FOWG responsibilities be approved by GSSC.

**Financial Oversight Working Group Responsibilities:**

Approved by Interim Meeting September 27, 2007

FOWG approved 1-19-2011

GSSC approved 2-2-2011

1. Review the financial statements of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting on a regular and ongoing basis for accounting functionality and investment performance in conjunction with the Treasurer and the Financial Stewardship Committee.
2. Oversee banking and investments.
  - a. Recommend opening and closing of bank and investment accounts.
  - b. Meet with investment advisors concerning investment performance.
  - c. Act as liaison with third party trustees.
    - i. Monitor investment activity and spending rate distributions of third party trustees.
    - ii. Meet with trustees to discuss Philadelphia Yearly Meeting concerns.
3. Oversee Yearly Meeting designated and restricted funds.
  - a. Review documents to determine whether funds are donor restricted as to original contribution and/or income and gains on a rotating basis. One-fifth of the funds will be reviewed every year.
  - b. Monitor and receive concerns about the current use of funds respecting restrictions and designations and consistency with purposes. Intervene to prevent uses of funds that are contrary to donor-imposed restrictions or instructions from Yearly or Interim Meeting.
4. Oversee the accounting functions and Finance Office operations.
  - a. As a part of this process, a Finance Office staff representative will attend Financial Oversight Working Group meetings.
  - b. Ensure compliance throughout the financial structure with internal controls, management processes and adherence to procedures.
5. Advise the Financial Stewardship Committee in the preparation of the investment income side of the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting budget.

- a. Anticipated investment returns are provided by Friends Fiduciary Corporation for funds held by it.
- b. Income from third party trusts is estimated by the Finance Office based on the announced spending rate and investment balances.
6. Prepare the annual budget for the Financial Oversight Working Group.
7. Work with the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Treasurer to appoint the independent auditor. Meet with the auditor about the audited financial statements and management letter, if any. Recommend acceptance of the audit to Interim Meeting. Work with the Treasurer and others to present the audit to Interim Meeting in a format that is clear and understandable.
8. Members provide support to Monthly and Quarterly Meeting Treasurers, Trustees and Finance Committees.
  - a. Treasurers meetings
  - b. Treasurers handbook
9. Report to Interim Meeting annually on designated and restricted funds.

**Development Working Group**

<b>Members</b>	<b>Monthly Meeting</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Term Ends</b>
Ralph Henninger	Plymouth	Clerk	2016
Penrose Hollowell	Horsham	Appointment GSSC Liaison	2017
Patricia Stover	Quakertown	Reappointment	2017
Richard Morse	Harrisburg	Member	2015
Holly Olson	Middletown at Langhorne	Member	2016
Patricia Stover	Quakertown	Reappointment to 1 <sup>st</sup> term	2014
Maia Simon	Trenton	Member	2015
Jennie Sheeks	Central Philadelphia	PYM Staff	N/A

**Function:**

- Review funds for appropriate investment and application and report. Report annually to Interim Meeting on funds status.
- Arrange for, receive and review external audit.
- Oversee accounting, report and banking practices of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting.

**Meeting schedule:**

5:30 pm – 7:30 pm, 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month except July, August and other conflicting holidays, in the Arch Street Meeting House.

**Naming issues for further recognition:**

Needs additional members. Particularly skills needed in business, investment, general skills, legal knowledge.

**Personnel Services Working Group**

<b>Members</b>	<b>Monthly Meeting</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Term Ends</b>
David G. Jones	Birmingham	Clerk	2015
Elizabeth Martin	Central Philadelphia	GSSC Liaison	2016
George Pickering	Middletown at Langhorne	Member	2015
Robert LeFever	Newtown	Member	2014
Paula Cell	Germantown	Member	2017
Tricia Coscia	Yardley	PYM Staff	N/A
Vacant	–	–	2016
Vacant	–	–	2016

**Function:**

- Philadelphia Yearly Meeting has a number of employees and this committee keeps track of the legal aspects and appropriateness of personnel policies and makes recommendation concerning them.
- Review and develop personnel policies including:
  - Salary ranges
  - Hiring procedures
  - Fringe Benefits
  - Evaluation procedures
  - Review job descriptions

**Meeting Schedule:**

One meeting face-to-face; about five other meetings through the year by conference call.

**Pemberton Fund Granting Group**

<b>Members</b>	<b>Monthly Meeting</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Term Ends</b>
Alison Cadbury Senter	Moorestown	Clerk	2016
George (Skip) Corson	Gwynedd	GSSC Liaison	2016
Connie Brookes	Haddonfield	Member (resigned)	2016
Nancy Werner	Lansdowne	Member	2014
Bob Horvay	Mickleton	Member	2014
Maceo Davis	Kennett	Member	2015
Margaret Wood	Towanda	To be appointed	2016
Nicholas Gutowski	–	PYM Staff	N/A

**Function:**

- Review grant applications
- Make appropriate grants
- Follow up reports and conduct follow up investigations
- Follow up reports from and for the Pemberton Fund

**Meeting Schedule:**

Four times a year, as per Skip Corson.

**Meeting House Trust Funds Granting Group**

<b>Members</b>	<b>Monthly Meeting</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Term Ends</b>
Charles Cole-Quigley	Birmingham	Clerk	2016
Storm Evans	Chestnut Hill	GSSC Liaison	2015
Mary Day Kent	Chestnut Hill	Member	2016
Amy Jarrett	Horsham	Member	2014
Doug Humes	Newtown Square	Member	2014
Walter Evans	Doylestown	Member	2014
Helen File	Byberry	Member	2015
Tom Wells	Fallsington	Member	2015
John B. Winterbottom	Solebury	Member	2016
Bill Bolger	Mt. Holly	Member	2015
Nicholas Gutowski	–	PYM Staff	N/A

**Function:**

- Review applications and make grants from the Meetinghouse Trust Funds. The funds are for the construction related to meetinghouses and other Quaker institutions both within and outside of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting.
- Perform follow up visits to verify grant work has been done properly.

**Meetings:**

Two times a year, usually the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of March and September during the day, at 2:30 pm and usually at the Arch Street Meeting House. Much of the work is however done between meetings by individual members or small informal meetings of the working group. Such groups visit sites before and after the work is done.

**Pusey Trust Granting Group**

<b>Members</b>	<b>Monthly Meeting</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Term Ends</b>
Pamela Costanzi	Willistown	Clerk	2014
George (Skip) Corson	Gwynedd	GSSC Liaison	2016
J. Harry Hammond	Centre	Member	2015
Carter Nash	Harrisburg	Member	2015
Robert Hernblad	Friends of Philadelphia	Member	2015
Carol Walz	Mt. Holly	PYM Staff	N/A

**Function:**

- Makes grants from the income of the Mary Pusey Trust. There are about \$36,000/year of restricted funds to be distributed.
- Review grant applications, make grants and conduct follow up visits for use of the grants from the fund.

**Meetings:**

Approximately once per year, in the spring, at Arch Street Meeting House. Also conducts site visits; estimated to be about 30 hours per year. This group selects the year and the donation recipient for the year from the list in the will.

Joseph Elliott  
 Clerk, GSSC  
[josephwelliott@hotmail.com](mailto:josephwelliott@hotmail.com)

## **Education Standing Committee Report to Annual Sessions 2014**

Our committee is:

Connie Beetle, Pamela Carter, Lisa Collins, George Crispin, and Peter Lane (acting clerk)

Working Groups in our care are:

- Children's Session Planning Group (Nicely under way)
- Children's Spiritual Life Committee (Not currently active but area folks are ready to respond to meetings' needs when asked; see [First Day School Consultants](http://pym.org) on [pym.org](http://pym.org))
- Committee on Friends Education (Very active; Report available online with Sessions advanced documents)
- Faith and Play Working Group (Very active; Report available online with Sessions advanced documents)
- Middle School Friends (Carrying on nicely)
- Nonviolence and Children (Active; see safe classrooms workshops listed on [pym.org/calendar](http://pym.org/calendar))
- Post Secondary Education Concerns Working Group (Nicely active)
- Public Education Concerns Working Group (Not active)
- Quaker Parenting Initiative
- Quaker Pilgrimage to England (Very active; 2014 Pilgrimage returns July 20)
- Young Adult Friends Working Group (Very active; Report available online with Sessions advanced documents )
- Young Friends Program (Carrying on nicely)

The above working groups appear as drop-down tabs on PYM's website so you can check them out yourselves to see more about what they do. Ordinarily, we would have liaisons who would have one of these groups as their responsibility and would keep us informed. Alas, we are so few now that we can't sustain this effort. We are doing it by asking each working group what they need from us. We do have funding that can support the work of some of them and we give spiritual support otherwise. We are responsible for a budget that is part of the larger PYM financial picture. I think there are no longer any Yearly Meeting staff members who directly support us in these works.

We have met, face-to-face, only a few times this past year and our energy has been spent dealing with the pain coming from the request for and the attempt to write a "policy" on how transgendered Young Friends would be cared for in the programming done for them by PYM. As you remember, a lot of time and energy went into this issue a year ago. Some of this is receding now but we are still in the process of the

reconciliation that was asked for last year. Part of the fallout from this flap is that some of the members of our committee have left. One thing we learned at the 2013 Sessions was the wish by Young Friends, “No decisions about us without us.” Yes, we get it and we hope to be joined by Young Friends in the committee soon. An update on the reconciliation process is posted in the [News](#) section of [pym.org](http://pym.org).

When we’ve been asked to decide about other matters like financial support requested by our working groups, or position changes within PYM staff, we have “sensed the meeting” via email.

We wait respectfully to see what role we will play in the new plan.

Peter Lane  
Acting Clerk  
[julipetlane@mac.com](mailto:julipetlane@mac.com)

## **Worship and Care Standing Committee Report to Annual Sessions 2014**

Dear Friends,

With great joy and gratitude, the Worship and Care Standing Committee serves the Yearly Meeting by providing oversight and guidance to six working groups and four granting groups, all of which provide the support of spiritually and emotionally-enriching programs to the Yearly Meeting, its Meetings, and its members. For the first time in a number of years, we feel that we are currently at a capacity that allows us to optimally serve our groups by providing steady and consistent liaison relationships, although our members and our liaisons are not as numerous as they have been in past years. As a result, we do remain open for new, enthusiastic membership. We treasure the working relationships that we have with our working and granting groups, and the essential and valuable roles that they play in our decision-making process.

The working groups under our care are the Friends Counseling Service, Meeting Enrichment Services, the Meeting on Worship and Ministry, the Ministry for Racial Justice and Equality, Spiritual Formation, and The School of the Spirit.

The granting groups under our care are the Aging Granting Group, the Family Planning Granting Group (funded by the Natalie Clifford Barney Trust), the Greenleaf Granting Group, and the Jeanes Granting Group.

When we reported to Interim Meeting earlier this year, we shared that the Spiritual Formation Working Group had been exploring a Leading to offer inter-generational sessions. Currently, this leading has blossomed to include both programming and the lively participation of Young Adult Friends. The opening date for this program is September 27, 2014.

The Temperance Fund has been transferred from the Peace and Social Concerns Standing Committee to the Friends Counseling Service, which is now able to use the fund to help financially support Friends who are in the process of, or are seeking, recovery.

The Ministry for Racial Justice and Equality (MRJE) is currently exploring with us (and in conjunction with Friends General Conference), the possibility of PYM (through the MRJE and our Standing Committee) serving as a co-host of the 2016 White Privilege Conference, which will be taking place in Philadelphia. If there are Friends who are lead to volunteer in this endeavor, please speak with me (Lane Taylor).

Lola Georg and the Meeting for Worship and Ministry are currently working to facilitate quarterly gatherings on Extended, On-going Worship throughout the Yearly Meeting, in rotating locations throughout our geographically-diverse region. This work is in response to the many PYM Friends who have called out to us and to others, as well, for more and deeper Worship. We are delighted to report that this great work has continued to thrive.

The Aging Granting Group is currently looking for a Friend who is willing to step into the role of Clerk of their group. Friends who may be willing to serve in this capacity should speak with me (Lane Taylor).

We look forward to sharing more news and updates from our working and granting groups as we continue to hear from and work with them; it is one of the most joyful aspects of our service.

In closing, we would like to share that on behalf of the Yearly Meeting, we had the honor of supporting Meeting for Worship at the Trans-Health Conference that took place in Philadelphia this past June with the following Minute of Support:

"The Worship and Care Standing Committee of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting endorses and supports that the time and space set aside at the Trans-Health Conference (June 12th-14th) at the Philadelphia Convention Center be under the care of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, with the help of PYM staff and volunteers to hold the space."

In Loving Service,

The Worship and Care Standing Committee

Lane Taylor, Clerk, Plumstead Friends Meeting, [lane.liz.taylor@gmail.com](mailto:lane.liz.taylor@gmail.com)

Jerry Belew, Middletown Friends Meeting

Kate Bregman, Central Philadelphia Monthly Meeting

Chuck Devers, Salem Monthly Meeting

Evan Draper, London Grove Monthly Meeting

John Ellsworth, Gwynedd Monthly Meeting

Rose Ketterer, Newton Monthly Meeting

Jim Morrissey, Reading Monthly Meeting

Tom Rie, Gwynedd Monthly Meeting

Margery Rubin, Medford Monthly Meeting

## **Report of the General Secretary July 25, 2014**

Dear Friends,

It's great to be here with you this afternoon. I'm in high Quaker energy; I'm feeling the love and the power in this community, and I'm saying "Yes!"

I love our yearly meeting. I love the welcome and the warmth of our spiritual community. I love the meetings for worship and the meetings for business, the teaching and the learning, the hugs and the affection, and I love the feeling that in some deep way we belong to each other, that we matter to each other, and that life is deeper and richer and more meaningful because we are together, not only this week but all year around.

And the power of love is over all.

Friends, my time as General Secretary is coming to an end. August 31 will be my last day in office and for me it is a time of mixed emotions. I am sad to be leaving a job that I have loved, and one that has afforded me so much fulfillment. But on the other hand, it also feels just right to be stepping down at this time. We are in a good place as a Yearly Meeting, although there are challenges ahead which I will speak later in my talk, and now it is time for new leadership.

I could not be more pleased with the selection of my successor, Christie Duncan-Tessmer. She will be a terrific new leader in our yearly meeting, bringing fresh insights and new perspectives to the work. I am pleased that she will be able to assume leadership in a time of financial stability, with a strong staff and a more rightly sized organization. She has my blessing.

Thank you for the opportunity I have had to serve our Yearly Meeting. It has been a blessing to me.

This afternoon, I'd like to focus on two themes. First, I'd like to look back, in a spirit of celebration, at a few of the highlights of the last seven and a half years. And then, second, I'd like to talk about what I see as the challenges which lie ahead of us. I expect to speak for not more than 30 minutes.

## **Looking Back in a Spirit of Celebration**

As we look back, I'd to invoke George Fox who would sometimes exclaim, "And the power of the Lord was overall."

Perhaps these are not the words that some or many of us would use today. Although these words work well for me, for this talk I want to change the phrase. I want to say, "The power of love was overall."

It is a paradox, as I look back over the last seven and a half years, I can talk about the tempests and the potholes, but I am also bold to say that the power of love was over all. I have begun to think of the last seven years and a half years as falling roughly into three periods, each having dominant concern: an early period, a middle period, and a later period.

The early period was dominated by our renovation of Friends Center. This was a project we undertook in collaboration with our partners, the AFSC and CPMM. It took us two years and then some. When I took office Interim Meeting had not yet approved PYM's participation. It did so later that year when it approved Plan H. We began with projected budget of \$12.5 million and twice increased the budget to a total of \$15 million. We raised \$8 million and borrowed \$7 million. It was a sweet moment when we moved into our newly renovate space in June of 2009.

During this same period, other good things were happening.

At Interim Meeting we began the practice of inviting people to share stories of vitality and growth within our Yearly Meeting. In one sense, this may seem too small to mention here, but for me it is a big thing because it makes the statement that there are good things happening within our community that deserve attention and to be celebrated even if our membership numbers don't keep abreast of our enthusiasms and good works.

We began the practice of getting all Interim Meeting and Yearly Meeting materials up on the website, with the result that we now have a complete electronic archive of Yearly Meeting materials going back to the early 2000s, easily accessible to everyone.

The Greenleaf Fund was established.

We hosted, at the Arch Street Meeting House, a major conference: "Heeding God's Call: A Gathering on Peace." This was a most successful, week-long gathering sponsored by PYM, the Church of the Brethren and the Mennonite Church, USA. It had a major impact on many of us and I am still in the energy of it.

We launched PYM Today, our new Yearly Meeting magazine to take the place of PYM News.

And we began to deal with a challenging financial situation as we prepared the FY 2010 budget, planning for the downsizing of staff.

The middle period came to be dominated by our financial crisis.

At summer sessions in 2010 and 2011 our treasurer reported substantial General Fund deficits and in the fall of 2011 Financial Stewardship began to grapple with the fact that we that we had a crisis on our hands. By June of 2012, after an extraordinary amount of hard work on the part of many people, plans were in place to resolve the financial crisis and a month later, a balanced and sustainable three year budget was presented to the Yearly Meeting and approved. Unhappily, over a period of two years, it was necessary to reduce our staff to its present level of 20 FTE's.

During this same period, other things were happening:

- The William Penn Lecture was revived.
- The administration of the Friends Education Fund was moved to Friends Council on Education.
- The establishment of the Arch Street Meeting House Preservation Trust was approved.
- We launched the first edition of PYM Today Online.
- I had the opportunity to attend the 6<sup>th</sup> World Conference of Friends in Kenya with my partner and wife, Nancy van Arkel, also an appointed PYM delegate.
- The first Thread Letter and first Thread Gathering were launched.

The later period of our recent history began to emerge after annual sessions in 2012, two years ago, and continues to this day. For me it is characterized by a process of finding a “new normal” and gestating a long range plan.

In the summer of 2012, we were just emerging from a financial crisis, but in my report to the Yearly Meeting a year later, I was able to list seventeen positive events that had occurred during the course of the year and I observed, quoting now, “a persistent feeling of unsettledness and stress which had been a hovering cloud for several years had dissipated.”

At the end of my 2013 report last year, I suggested that we were in the process of finding our way to a new normal, finding a new equilibrium with a smaller staff and with fewer resources, but with a strong sense that we are now more rightly sized and that we could sustain ourselves at our present levels.

Other things are worthy of mention:

- Our new website was launched and has been very favorably received.
- A break-through occurred in resolving a log jam with respect to operations at the Burlington Meeting House and Conference Center.
- I was able to attend Britain Yearly Meeting sessions in May of 2013.
- We have a brand new PYM Directory, some six months in the making.
- And Christie Duncan-Tessmer was chosen to be PYM's new General Secretary.

In summary, we've done a lot over this period of time.

Our staff is stronger than it has ever been. Our programs are in good shape. I am grateful that the Arch Street Meeting House Preservation Trust is up and running and that the Friends who are managing the Burlington Meeting House and Conference Center are operating successfully. We seem now to have turned our financial situation around. For the last two fiscal years we have generated a modest surplus and we anticipate a modest surplus again this year. A surplus is healthy. It will allow us to restore some of our reserves and give us some cushion against future exigencies.

And the power of love was over all.

## **Challenges**

I now want to move into the second part of my talk. We have much to celebrate, but we also face challenges and my report would not be complete or balanced without including them as well.

These are the sobering facts which underlie the challenges ahead of us:

- Both our stated membership and our attendance at meetings for worship has declined.
- Our financial support from monthly meeting covenant contributions is down as is the annual fund.

I'd like to take a minute to deal with each of these data points.

## **Membership**

When talking about membership, I will be using adult membership numbers and the most current numbers are for the year ending December 31, 2013.

Since 1955, the year when the Hicksite and Orthodox yearly meetings reunited there has been a substantial decline in our membership, but that decline, although it still persists, has now substantially leveled off.

In 1955 we had 13,100 adult members. Today, we now have 9400, a decline of 3,700 or 28%.

Over the last 15 years, however, since 1998, when we last reorganized, we have lost only 100 adult members or 1.1%. The bad news is that there has been a decline. The good news is that in the most recent 15 years, that rate of decline has substantially flattened out.

## **Attendance at Meeting for Worship**

Over the last nine years our Meeting Enrichment Services Working Group has done a once-every-three-years survey of those attending a meetinghouse on a Sunday in April, whether for worship, for business, religious education or otherwise. The last survey was done in 2013. The idea is that these numbers may give us a better idea of our health than our membership numbers.

In the nine year period, 2004 to 2013, there was 10% decline in adult attendance. The decline was a total of 300, from 3,000 in 2004 down to 2,700 in 2013. There was an even greater decline in the number of young people attending over the same period of time, 21%.

Another piece of information uncovered by the Meeting Enrichment Services surveys is that over the same 9 year period, ending 2013, 35 meetings had an increase in attendance, while 63 meetings had a decrease. For 7 meetings attendance remained constant.

Further, the surveys show that our smaller meetings are getting smaller. Thirty percent of our meetings now have 10 or fewer attenders; nine years ago it was just 18%.

## **The Covenant and the Annual Fund**

Our monthly meeting covenant income is down. For the last three years it has been budgeted at \$1.25 million. Last year we came in under budget by \$17,000 and this year we expect to be under budget by \$40,000. This year our Annual Fund income is also down. We have taken in \$30,000 less than we did last year.

We're okay for now, Friends. The stock market is up, we've been able to save on our expenses and we've taken in small amounts of unexpected income. We have had modest surpluses for the last two years and we expect a modest surplus this year. We have been able to begin restoring our reserves. I am not sounding a short term alarm. But it is a longer term alarm. The mathematics is very simple. Normal inflationary pressures will cause our expenses to rise between 2% to 3%, and if our revenues do not rise by a commensurate amount, or if they decline as they have been doing, in the end, we will not be able sustain our current level of operations.

Sometimes I can feel gloomy about the numbers. But then I remind myself, "the power of love is over all," and I let go. It is not our calling to indulge gloominess. Our job is to be faithful to the best that is in us and then to let go.

When I teach Friends decision-making, I talk about what makes for good participation on the part of individuals in the meeting. In a meeting for business, or in any Quaker context, our job is to speak and then to release; speak and let go. In Quaker practice, unlike in other decision-making models, the releasing is as important as the speaking. It is when we release that we open the space for Spirit to move among us, either in the silence or in the contributions of others. Quaker decision-making will not work if there is no releasing.

It is the same with our life together as Quakers. Our job is to be faithful to the best that we can do, even when things seem gloomy, and then to release the outcomes to God and Spirit. We have no idea what God has in store for his people called Quakers. It may be that our time as Quakers in our present form will run out. It may be that our membership and our financial capabilities will continue to slowly erode, dwindling over time, and eventually come to an end. It may be, however, that there will arise among us someone, or many, whose light shines so brightly, whose groundedness in spirit is so deep, and whose charisma is so compelling that we will experience a reawakening and by God's grace find new ways to think about our faith and practice, discovering new ways to serve God and humankind. It may be that there will be a less dramatic turnaround and we will find ourselves in new circumstances almost without knowing how it happened.

We don't know what will come. Our job is to be faithful to what we know and to the best that we can do; our job is to release all of our labors to God and to Spirit and to Love, and then our job is to welcome life on its own terms, whatever it brings us. It is in this place that we will know peace.

And the power of love is over all.

Dear Friends, I have come to the end of my talk.

I have wanted not only to celebrate some of the seven and a half years we've traveled together, but also to call attention to some things that I think should cause us concern.

Again, I say thank you for the opportunity I have had to participate in this work. This is work that many have accomplished but about which I have the privilege to speak.

I have been grateful for the leadership and support of the two clerks under whom I have served: Thomas Swain and Jada Jackson, each of them has given huge amounts of time in service to our Yearly Meeting and to each of whom we owe a debt of thanks.

I am grateful for the PYM staff with whom I've had the opportunity to work and for the many ways they support the work and vitality of our yearly meeting.

The title of the Long Range Plan which we will consider tomorrow is "Re-kindling Our Fire. I'd like to close with the vision which is a part of that Plan:

"We envision a vital and growing Philadelphia Yearly Meeting- a faith community committed to deepening spiritually, welcoming newcomers, building supportive and inclusive community, and providing loving service and faithful witness to the world."

I unite with this vision and it is my hope is that we will all be able to unite with it.

I want to be part of re-kindling our fire.

I'm saying "Yes, let's go there together."

And the power of love is over all.

Arthur M. Larrabee  
General Secretary