

QLC Committee 10-17-15 Notes

Present: Lane Taylor (clerk), Penny Corgan-Davis, Bryn Hammerstrom, Tom Hughes, Kri Burkander (recording), Deborah Saunders, Zachary Dutton, Charlie Randall, Kate Bregman, Cate Marion, Jim Herr, Gray Goodman, Christie Duncan-Tessmer.

Introductions

We went around the table and shared our name and meeting affiliation, as well as updates and thoughts on our minds as we come to this work.

Future Meeting Dates

We would like to rotate off of Saturdays because we have a member of the Council who cannot attend meetings on Saturdays. We determined that we would need to incorporate a weeknight evening meeting into our schedule. At this point, our clerk expects us to meet biweekly. We considered employing a conference call rather than an in-person meeting, but most Friends present were opposed to using conference calls. We briefly considered the length of these meetings and the start time, given traffic and congestion concerns. We discussed having the weeknight meeting closer to our Friend who cannot attend our Saturday meetings. It was suggested that we explore meetings in the Richland and Lehigh Valley area. Charlie volunteered to coordinate carpooling. We do not want to take the conference call option off the table, given that *winter is coming* and we need to accommodate weather and other emergencies. Friends expressed interest in rotating the Saturday meeting to areas away from Philadelphia.

Next meetings are scheduled Thursday November 5th from 6-9 pm (right before Continuing Session) and Saturday November 21st. November 5th we plan to explore Germantown Meeting as a host (with Greene Street and Chestnut Hill meetings as backups). Phone conferencing will be available. Penny will explore hosting at Germantown. Bryn will explore Richland (Quakertown, PA) and Lehigh Valley meetings, in that order for the meeting on the 21st. That meeting will be scheduled from 11-2. Phone conferencing will also be available for that meeting.

Expectations

While we recognize that we have busy lives, Council members are expected to attend as many meetings as possible. When we are unable to attend in person, we will make attempts to participate through phone conferencing. If we are unable to participate, Council members trust the body to make decisions in our absence.

We are also expected to become familiar with the Handbook. "Live it, learn it, love it."

We are moving into new territory and we anticipate that our work will at times be received with joy and frustration. Lane expects to bear the brunt of most of this negative reaction from the yearly meeting, but as Council members, we may also receive some of it. What we discuss at this Council and in the Google Group needs to be kept confidential (that includes Facebook). We are dealing with hearts and minds and things that people hold dear, so tenderness and discretion are critical.

Current Needs

Publication Working Group: The Publication Working Group is still in the midst of publishing from the last William Penn lecture. All working groups were laid down September 30th, so there is currently no budget for them. They did not complete one of the reports so we don't know how much money or support they need in the interim. We will request a report from them so that we know more about their needs. This council needs 2-3 Friends to help in discernment in this area. Given a lack of clarity around this issue, Lane volunteered to check in with Marty Smith and report back to our group at the November 5th meeting.

Application for Support: This Council will need to create an application so that Friends interested in creating a Collaborative or a Sprint can apply through the Council. We will wait until after Continuing Sessions to see what new energy is bubbling up that we want to support. In the meantime, we need to create this application so that we are poised to respond following Continuing Sessions.

At this point, we heard more from Zachary about the plans for Continuing Session. Implementation Committee created a Continuing Sessions Planning Group because QLC wasn't ready to step into that work. The morning will be spent working on the Query ("What is God calling PYM Quakers to do next to end racism and white supremacy in the RSoF and beyond?"), facilitated by a group Penny convened and our consultant. The afternoon will be comprised of two hours of business and then two hours spent in 6 different Thread groups (Religious Education, Finance, Outreach, etc.) with open worship sharing on what work is there to do in undoing racism in those areas. The remainder of that time will be spent visioning for the Yearly Meeting and brainstorming ideas that might be work to do within that Thread. These ideas from each group will be collected and Friends will be invited to sign up to participate in that work.

Tom and Bryn volunteered to develop the Application, with Zachary's support. In further discussion around the Application process, we heard that we have \$30,000 to spend. We may choose to use this in support of Collaboratives and Sprint groups, but we are not required to. We heard that we want to support groups in coming together to do the work of the Yearly Meeting, but that there be no presumption that funding or staffing would be required to do this work. It is important to make it very clear that this is not a way to continue the Working Groups. The Working Groups were laid down and have been asked to submit reports; these reports will come to us after Continuing Sessions. This should be new work; this is not old Working Groups under a new name. In the application, we want to ask Friends to identify the need for this work, what the purpose is, and how Friends will know when the work is done. We might also want to emphasize the importance of working across Friends' communities, not just supporting work in their own monthly or quarterly meeting. Christie reminded us that there is a section in the Handbook on the Accountability Role that QLC has for Collaboratives; we might want to incorporate these ideas in the application. We want to have a draft of the application for review at our next meeting. We expect to have this as an online form exclusively, although some Friends expressed concerns about accessibility.

2016 White Privilege Conference. The 2016 WPC is being held in Philadelphia (April 14-17, 2016), and we've already agreed to cosponsor the conference at the \$2500 (not from the Council budget). We have appointed a representative, Maire ("Mari") Moriarty who has a lot of experience with the WPC. Our representative sends Lane and clerks of Undoing Racism the minutes and a brief summation of the planning committee proceedings. The Council was asked whether we would like to contribute further to the White Privilege Conference; perhaps to pledge \$5000. It seems consistent with our mission and the

current focus of the Yearly Meeting, as a way of walking our talk. We cannot do this just because it will make us feel good, and Friends cautioned us that this opens us up to criticism from other groups who may want similar treatment. We were reminded that money is not the only way to support an issue. Friends seemed to feel the limited resources of the Council, and expressed interest in developing a rubric to help in deciding on funding issues. Concern was expressed about supporting this issue without knowing what other requests will come to us in this Fiscal Year. We might be able to wait before committing these funds, so that we have time to develop a rubric. One Friend suggested that instead of sponsoring at a higher level, we might want to earmark that \$2500 to support Friends to attend. We also might charge those who receive scholarship funds to report to us or on our behalf to other meetings. This would help spread the word about the conference and encourage anti-racist work throughout our community. We might consider giving the additional \$2500 to WPC and earmark it to them as scholarship funds. We need to know when they need to know about additional funding, and we want to explore ways of subsidizing PYM participation, either through FGC or WPC. Lane will reach out to Vanessa Julye, Walter Hjelt-Sullivan, and Lucy Duncan to get more information about this process. *We minuted our intention to donate an additional \$2500 (from our \$30,000) to the White Privilege Conference. We wish to prioritize scholarships facilitating wide participation from PYM with the intention of continuing the work of undoing racism in our community and beyond.* We might consider including a statement like the following in our report to Continuing Sessions: "QLC is exploring ways of making the White Privilege Conference financially accessible to Friends and encourages people to plan to attend."

Next steps

Lane wants to outline the next few chunks of work so that we know what's before us. She will share that with us.

Lane also wants to have Friends reach out to Friends who haven't been able to join us. Lane will reach out to Connie. Kri will reach out to Shani. Gray will reach out to Pamela. Bryn will reach out to George. Deborah will reach out to Amy. Lane will send around the contact list.

We heard from Christie Duncan-Tessmer, PYM General Secretary, who gave a brief encouragement and affirmation about our authority. We may encounter resistance, but we are charged with being good stewards, which means saying "yes" and "no" when necessary. We *are* the Yearly Meeting.

We closed with worship at 1:10pm.