

**Quaker Life Council  
21 November 2015**

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**Present:** Zachary Dutton, Lane Taylor, Cate Marion, Gray Goodman, Tom Hughes, Jim Herr, Melissa \_\_\_\_\_, Penny Colgan-Davis, Bryn Hammerstrum, Kri Burkander, Connie Webster, Pamela Draper, Amy Brooks.

Regrets: Charles Randall, Connie Webster, George Rubin, Deborah Saunders, Kate Bergman

**Friends approved November 5<sup>th</sup> minutes with amendments**

**Schedule of Meeting times and places**

December 19<sup>th</sup>: Saturday : 11AM at 4<sup>th</sup> and Arch.

January 7<sup>th</sup> : Thursday 6-9PM at 4<sup>th</sup> and Arch

January 16<sup>th</sup> : Saturday: 11AM at Arch Street the QC will meet with the AC

February 4<sup>th</sup>: Thursday: 6-9PM Arch St

February 20<sup>th</sup>: Saturday : 11AM- 2PM \_\_\_\_\_

March 3<sup>rd</sup>: Thursday: 6-9PM 4<sup>th</sup> and Arch

March 12<sup>th</sup>: Saturday: 11AM-2PM 4<sup>th</sup> and Arch

March 19<sup>th</sup>: Saturday: CONTINUING SESSIONS

April 7<sup>th</sup>: Thursday: 6-9PM 4<sup>th</sup> and Arch

April 16<sup>th</sup>: Saturday: 11AM-2PM \_\_\_\_\_

May 5<sup>th</sup>: Thursday: 6-9PM : 4<sup>th</sup> and Arch

May 21<sup>st</sup>: Saturday: 11AM-2PM : 4<sup>th</sup> and Arch

June 2<sup>nd</sup>: Thursday: 6-9PM: 4<sup>th</sup> and Arch

June 18<sup>th</sup>: Saturday: 11AM-2PM \_\_\_\_\_

1st Thursday meetings will be at Arch Street.

Every other 3rd Saturday meeting will be somewhere else in PYM (Saturday) and then at Arch Street.

AC meets at 10 a.m. Quaker Council at 11a.m.

There has been a request to have the next meeting at the same time as Administrative Council. **Quaker Council is happy to meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday at 4<sup>th</sup> and Arch.**

**Continuing Sessions Feedback: Penny Colgan-Davis:**

Over 400 people from 75 meetings came. All Quarters were represented. The morning was filled with worship and presentation on how to consider race in our lives and communication. There was lunch, a 2-hr business meeting. Afterwards Friends met in THREADS and began which may form into COLLABORATIVES.

Zachary, Tricia Kotia, Emily Blank, and Penny Colgan-Davis met and formed a summary statement.

Westtown was a warm and gracious and appreciative host.

A list was formed of possible collaboratives.

Concerns included:

-Too tight a schedule. Racism, Busines, and Collaboratives.

-Westtown was not conducive for Friends to meet together, too spread out.

-Not enough bathrooms.

-The cost was at the top of the PYM budget.

**Recommendations.**

-Need to find another space for next Continuing Session.

-Have a more streamlined day.

-The minutes from Annual Sessions are still not posted and approved. They took too long. The Planning Committee needs to consider this carefully.

-It takes a long time to plan the project and QLC is responsible for the March Sessions.

**Friends shared other reflections about Continuing Sessions:**

-Some regretted missing the session at the same time as the FHA meeting. Gray will see if a shift can be made or at least coordinated.

-An alternative date might be a bit earlier, maybe the 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend in October. There was a conflict with College Board Testing at the November 7<sup>th</sup> date.

-One Friend spoke of the jarring, changed structure of Continuing Sessions. Perhaps it was connected to all the changes taking place in the wider Yearly Meeting. A number Friends agreed with this concern.

-The discomfort some Friends had with Continuing Sessions may be partly due to the issue of racism and white privilege being unconsciously mixed with unsettledness about PYM new structure. Too much change all at once.

-Another Friend had difficulty being at Westtown. There were obvious signs of immense wealth on the campus and inside the classrooms. It seemed incongruous in such a setting to consider the issues of white privilege, racism, and economic inequity. The decline of birthright Quakers in PYM compels PYM Friends to be open to new ideas. How can

Friends move Quakerism beyond being a comfortable, insular religious community? It is and will be a very long, sustained effort.

Books to consider regarding racism and African-American life include:

- Between the World and Me by Ta-Nehesi Coates.

Some of the negative comments at Continuing Sessions were due to racism and an unrecognized sense of white privilege.

The challenge is how to bring people along.

One Friend reflected that PYM is us. PYM is filled with privilege and lack of privilege. We are all in this together. Westtown is historically is part of Westtown. The afternoon Financial THREAD was helpful and meaningful. Many did not stay for the worship and that was disappointing.

**Friends minuted deep appreciation and thanks to Penny Colgan-Davis for her clerking at Continuing Sessions.**

### **Regarding Planning March Sessions**

Two years ago at Annual Sessions, the Racism Working Group was set up. This is very recent. At Continuing Sessions, it was clear that many Friends are not yet recognizing their own internal racism. There is a need to explain the terms and issues for Friends. There is a need to provide some background knowledge for Friends.

- Show how to be an ally.

-Reassure Friends that it is OK to be uncomfortable.

-Provide different workshops that address Friends differing levels of understanding and comfort with racism and white privilege.

**Query: How can Quaker Life Council help Quarterly and Monthly meetings move on the issue of racism and white privilege?**

**Proposal**

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-Please read the Annual Sessions report.

-Link the two Continuing Sessions and the Annual Sessions so they are viewed continuing events.

-Name AD HOC Summer –Autumn Sessions Autumn Sessions Planning Committee with Emily Blank as clerk. Summer Sessions is July 27-31<sup>st</sup> at Muhlenberg College/

-Name an AD HOC Spring 2016 (March 19<sup>th</sup>) Continuing Sessions Planning Committee. The committee should include those who planned for the November sessions plus some QLC members. It should have a QLC member as Clerk.

Kri Burkander volunteered to serve on the Spring Sessions Committee.

**Friends accepted Cate Marion as a co-clerk for the Ad-Hoc Spring 2016 Continuing Sessions Planning Committee. Pamela Draper will also serve on the Planning Committee. Taylor Lane will speak to Kate Bregman to see if she will also serve on the Planning Committee.**

**Friends Approved with gratitude.**

Taylor Lane will speak to missing members about serving on Summer - Autumn Sessions Planning Committee.

**Names of the Summer/Autumn Sessions Planning Committee**

Jonathan Snipes  
Maya Simon  
Margaret Wood  
Carter Nash  
Erica Juran  
Robin Harper  
Alison Lets

Melissa Rycroft  
Margeret Mansfied  
Kate Brigman  
Avis Wanda McClinton

**Friends suggested the following**

Vanessa Julye  
Victoria Green  
Barry Scott  
Tania \_\_\_\_\_  
Susan Chaff  
Lucy \_\_\_\_\_

Zachary will send a list of facilitators from the November session to Taylor for consideration to serve on the Summer-Autumn Sessions Planning Committee.

Appointing names instead of working through the "Sprint" system is recognizing that there is a need to appoint an AD HOC committees to do the work for organizing the sessions for this year (2015-6) only.

**Coordinating the March Sessions with the Summer-Autumn Sessions**

-Names for the March Sessions Planning Committee needs to be finished today.

-Name an interim Sessions Committee that will integrate the themes and logistics of the March and autumn Sessions.

(Taylor, names for the above committee were not mentioned at the meeting. Did this get done in advance by Penny, Christie, and staff members? -Gray)

**Rubric Sprint Report**

The committee is looking at how to measure requests for money in way that is helpful for Friends. Taylor asked the Sprint to consider how to

weigh each application in general. November 30<sup>th</sup> 7:30 p.m. the Sprint will have a conference call and other QLC members are welcome to join. Please contact Amy Brooks.

Taylor asked Friends for suggestions on the Agenda for the December 19<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Conflict of Interest**

Taylor brought up to Friends to a concern about each member separating their personal feelings about applications as the council reviews each application.

One suggestion is for Friends to process personal reactions to applications before making a decision on a particular application.

Friends should be careful to recuse themselves from decisions if they feel they are too involved in a particular application.

It is important for Friends take time during each week and before QLC meetings for prayerful reflection and spiritual preparation.

Friends should be generous in granting applications for collaboratives unless a collaborative is requests extensive financial support.

Respectfully submitted,

Gray Goodman