

**Quaker Life Council**  
**19 December 2015**

p.1

**Present:** Lane Taylor (Clerk), Cate Marion, Gray Goodman, Tom Hughes, Jim Herr, Bryn Hammarstrom, Kri Burkander, Connie Webster, Pamela Draper, Amy Brooks, Charles Randall, George Rubin, Shani Taylor, Kate Bergman,

**Regrets:** Deborah Saunders

**Ex-Officio:** Penny Colgan-Davis (PYM Clerk), Christie Duncan-Tessler (PYM General Secretary), Zachary Dutton (Assoc. Sec. Program and Religious Life)

**Agenda**

11:00 am: Worship

11:15 am: Introductions & Check-ins

11:25 am: Approval of the November 21st Minutes

11:40 am: QLC Mapping Activity (Christie & Zachary)

12:10 pm: Break

12:20 pm: Inclusivity & Providing Care & Support for One Another (Shani)

12:50 pm: QLC Committee Appointments (Christie, Penny, & Lane)

1:20 pm: QLC Rubric Update (Rubric Sub-Group)

1:55 pm: Closing Worship

Friends began with a period of worship followed by introductions and responses to the following Query:

**Why am I here?**

1. Friends approved of examining the minutes from November on-line and sending general suggestions for amendments to Gray Goodman. The amended minutes will be available for reading before the 7 January 2016 meeting.

**General Secretary's Report:** Christie stated that the Administrative Council has created a small subcommittee to help map out the various tasks of the Council. Christie and staff members took that idea and created a spreadsheet to map suggested responsibilities of the Quaker Life Council. She asked Friends to consider the interim tasks for 2015-6 and the longer term tasks for 2016-7. She suggested the creation of an "internal sprint" for the Quaker Life Council to set up short and longer term tasks of the Quaker Life Council.

**Members agreed to create an internal sprint to break down the details of the document that Christie handed out to Friends. Lane Taylor, Cate Marion, Shani Taylor, and Amy Brooks will serve on the Sprint. They will also look at the issue of language including but not limited to the phrase of "committee"**

Regarding the spreadsheet, Christie noted that QLC serves a "board supervisory" role of the paid staff-supported services for Pastoral Care, Aging, Youth, Friends Counseling Service. QLC has the remainder of 2015-6 to educate itself on the responsibilities of the staff and the nature of the services as well as to form a structure that will adequately support the staff and services.

**3.Philadelphia Yearly Meeting (PYM) Representation for FWCC World Plenary**

**Representatives:** FWCC has asked PYM to name representatives to the Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) World Plenary session. Friends considered a suggested list of representatives to the FWCC World Plenary. Some of the individuals are already representing PYM as part of the Section of the Americas. All of the individuals (whether serving as formal representatives or not) are already going to the World Plenary.

Members asked for information about the suggested individuals. Friends understood that there is not a formal guideline in place for QLC to give orientation to the individuals regarding their responsibilities as representatives for PYM.

**Christie agreed to have staff members ascertain which of the individuals are already formal representatives of PYM through the PYM Nominating Committee and have them serve as formal PYM representatives.**

**Members agreed having Vicki Hain Poorman and Vanessa Julye if they agree.**

**Members agreed to ask the individuals to represent the PYM and  
-support the seven strategic initiatives of the PYM established in 2015-6.  
-provide a written report to PYM of what they did at the plenary.**

**7 Strategic Directions of PYM Communal Witness  
(reminder for the QLC members)**

- 1.Connect Friends and meetings to one another so that we may experience vibrant, spirit-led community.
2. Connect Friends across the Yearly Meeting through effective communications and technologies.
- 3.Develop and widely communicate clear messages about Quakers and PYM.
- 4.Simplify and focus governance and administration.
- 5.Broaden community and deepen relationships in our yearly meeting.
- 6.Facilitate PYM-wide corporate witness and social action.
- 7.Ensure our communities are welcoming and safe for all people.

**4.Members considered whether or not to continue support of the PYM library. It is housed in Friends Center and presently staffed by volunteers.**

**Members agreed to consider this question in January and grant an extension to MARCH 2016.**

**5. Shani Taylor: Inclusivity:** Shani reminded Friends that the phrase “Social Justice” can mean many things. One way to break down the phrase is to build relationships in a group before Friends examine some of classicist/racist understandings of the phrase, “Social Justice”.

**6.5-Year Plan: Christie:** In January 2015, PYM moved forward on addressing racism. Climate Change is a witness that has had PYM support through the last 10 years. QLC is charged to making these witnesses actually happen in some way. It is okay to form **committees** appointed by the QLC to carry out the details of this witness.

Staff members and Clerk Lane Taylor have considered how to take on the above mentioned witnesses. They are PYM community-led priorities. QLC is committed in asking how PYM would like to see the work supported.

Friends considered the degree to which these two witnesses are important enough to form **committees** that may come from the present Racial Justice group and Eco-Justice groups.

Zachary Dutton reminded members that the QLC is to discern the direction of the Spirit’s leading of Friends.

The internal sprint (see #2: General Secretary Report) will consider the phrase “committee” and if an alternative term would be helpful.

Using phrases like “asking” helps remind Friends that QLC is NOT making top-down decisions. QLC as a committee and as individual members needs to be very intentional and thoughtful when speaking or responding to the questions or statements of others. It is helpful to remind the PYM community that the QLC is following the leading of PYM.

Lane will let applicants for Collaboratives know that QLC will consider the applications in February 2016.

Cate Marion reminded members to listen to others with compassion as we struggle with our own acknowledged and unacknowledged biases. It also means finding ways to extend that practice of compassion to our monthly meetings.

**7. Lane will let applicants for Collaboratives know that QLC will consider the applications in February 2016.**

**8. Members approved having Lane Taylor send documents as she receives them.**

**9. Friends approved having occasional 4-hr meetings when necessary**

Next meetings in January:

- a. January 7<sup>th</sup> : Thursday 6-9PM at 4<sup>th</sup> and Arch recording clerk: Kri Burkander
- b. January 16<sup>th</sup> : Saturday: 11AM at Arch Street the QLC will meet with the AC

Respectfully submitted,  
Gray Goodman,  
Recording Co-Clerk