

Quaker Life Council Meeting Agenda
Meeting Date: Saturday, September 17
11:00 am – 2:00 pm

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Present: Ex Officio: Penny Colgan-Davis (PYM Clerk), Zachary Dutton (Associate Secretary of Program and Religious Life), Tricia Coscia (Community Engagement Coordinator), Richie Schulz (PYM Staff) Andrew Anderson (Assistant Treasurer, PYM), Ron Plough (Treasurer, PYM)

Members: Lane Taylor (QLC Clerk), Gray Goodman, George Rubin, Melanie Douty. Bryn Hammarstrom, Jim Herr, Melanie Douty, Meryl Klieger,

11:00 am: Worship
11:05 am: Introductions/Check-ins
11:20 am: Approval of the Agenda & August 20th Minutes
11:35 am: PYM and the Movement for Black Lives (Richie Schulz)
11:05 am: Multisite Training (Zachary)
12:20 pm: Break
12:25 pm: Report from Undoing Racism Retreat
12:45 pm: Update/Reports from Committees/Other Updates from the Clerk
1:00 pm: Community Engagement Update (Tricia Coscia & Richie Schulz)
1:30 pm: State of the Meeting Queries (Penny)
1:55 pm: Closing Worship

Richie Schultz presented information about the Movement for Black Lives. He shared a document that describes a visioning statement that was passed in August 2016. Some of the potentially controversial issues shared by Richie included abolishing the charter school system and ending a connection with the government of Israel.

Members were asked to consider endorsing the document within the next 90 days.

Members considered asking the organization Training For Change to read the document or hold a public event to explore the issues inside the Movement for Black Lives Movement. Training for Change helps organizations lead or participate in social justice campaigns and was founded by George Lakey.

Richie explained that decision-making process of Friends' can be used to create unity and move forward on an issue as well as to postpone or prevent movement.

The challenge is to discern when Spirit guides members to reach unity and move forward quickly and when more time is needed.

Thread gatherings could possibly connect PYM Friends concerned over racial justice with the Undoing Racism group and Training for Change.

Queries

How does PYM relate to concerns in the wider, non-Quaker world?

How is QLC responding to this document as well as working with Friends of African Descent?

What is needed for Friends to endorse the envisioning document?

Can this document be a doorway and opportunity for change leading to action?

What do Friends THINK, FEEL, DO?

Can Friends move forward within 90 days?

Can QLC support FAD (????) minute of action as a beginning?

After careful consideration, members:

MEMBERS APPROVED reading a packet of information entitled “The Movement for Black Lives” and meeting face-to-face or electronically within two weeks of 17 September 2016 to share reactions.

MEMBERS APPROVED sending the materials in advance of the meeting of Quarterly Meeting clerks on 8 October 2016 at Abington Monthly Meeting. It will also be sent to the Monthly Meeting Clerks in advance of their meeting on 22 October 2016 at Providence Monthly Meeting. Richie will provide an introduction of the materials at the Monthly Meeting clerks meeting.

Lane Taylor will compose a cover letter to go with the materials, which she will send to the QLC electronically for their approval.

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MEMBERS APPROVED having Lane and Penny speak to the clerks of the Philadelphia chapter of The Fellowship of Friends of African Descent before QLC's meeting on 15 October 2016. Lane and Penny will share with the clerks what QLC is considering and ask for their reactions and help.

MEMBERS APPROVED sending the materials to PYM members if QLC is united in how to move forward. It could be in the form of a PYM newsletter or some other format. 29 October 2016 is a possible date for sending out the material.

MEMBERS APPROVED placing these issue of racial justice on the agenda for the November Sessions.

There is a meeting of the Peace and Justice Thread at Swarthmore Monthly Meeting on December 10, 2016. Presenting the materials to the members of the Thread is a possibility but members did not decide.

Time and Place of Meetings: Lane suggested keeping the dates for QLC meetings at the third Saturday of each month but to do it at Friends Center. It would allow all three councils to meet simultaneously, with equal resources, including call-in capability. It would begin in January 2017. **MEMBERS APPROVED**

The Council Clerks, PYM Clerk, General Secretary, and Treasurer will be meeting monthly.

Undoing Racism Penny and Lane explained that the group met and examined how to be effective within and/or alongside PYM. Creative ideas were generated. Some Undoing Racism members questioned whether some traditional Friends practices were used sometimes to resist non-racist change. The present structure of PYM may not be releasing the true energy of Friends. Penny explained that White Fragility is a term to describe how members of a dominant culture wish to maintain the status quo and feel discomfort when the status quo in a society is questioned.

Update/Reports from Committees: No Reports.

Community Engagement Update: Tricia Coscia: See attached report. Tricia Coscia, Zachary, Richie Schultz, and Gage Beemish are the PYM staff members of the community engagement team. George Schaefer is also a member, but he

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focuses mainly on issues of Aging. The staff will be meeting shortly in retreat to examine its structure and work. Their goal is to provide support to the work of PYM and the Councils, QLC in particular. It is helpful for there to be lots of communication between QLC and the staff.

Collaboratives need to report to the QLC each year. The staff has created a form for them to fill out to help them with their annual report.

A “Fellow” is an entry-level learning position on the staff. Fellows have a specific focus in their work and have training and guidance from relevant staff individuals as mentors.

State of the Meeting Queries: Penny Colgan-Davis: Penny asked member the following queries:

What is the purpose of the reports State of the Meeting reports?

Who is going to read them?

Would QLC be comfortable providing guidance to the structuring of the Queries?

Penny asked members to read the queries and for members to respond in email. Penny will provide the section in Faith and Practice that explains the purpose of the State of the Meeting reports.

General Secretary Report: Christie provide the following general

- The review committee wants Christie to continue to be the public “face” of PYM and attend as many relevant events inside and outside of PYM as possible. Recently, she has:
 - o Joined the board of the National Council of Churches
 - Asked by the National Council to speak to the Muslim version of FGC. (better phrasing?)
 - o Attended a consultation on the Holy Land and the Occupation of Palestine. Spoke to members of the State Department.
 - o Will meet at a conference of the Annual Meeting of General Secretaries and Superintendents of Yearly Meetings.

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- Fiscal year ends 30 September 2016. QLC members should contribute. Annual Fund will not meet its goal.
- New database is being instituted.
- The stress that came up at Annual Sessions is pervasive amongst the staff and at other levels of PYM. Please hold them in the Light, be faithful, and courageous as SPIRT crashes about amongst us. Opportunities for transformation abound.

Next Meeting is Saturday 15 October 2016 at 4th and Arch Street Meetinghouse.

Respectfully submitted,

Melanie Douty
Gray Goodman