

**Quaker Life Council Minutes**  
**21 November 2015**

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**Present:** Lane Taylor (clerk), Cate Marion, Gray Goodman, Tom Hughes, Jim Herr, Bryn Hammarstrom, Kri Burkander, Connie Webster, Pamela Draper, Amy Brooks.

**Ex Officio:** Zachary Dutton (Assoc. Sec. Program & Religious Life), Penny Colgan-Davis (**PYM Clerk**), Melissa Rycroft (PYM Nominating Council)

**Regrets:** Charles Randall, George Rubin, Deborah Saunders, Kate Bregman

Friends approved November 5th minutes with amendments

**Schedule of Meeting times and places**

December 19th: Saturday : 11AM 4

January 7th : Thursday 6-9PM 4

January 16th : Saturday: 11AM-2PM 4th and Arch Street. QC will meet with the AC

February 4th: Thursday: 6-9PM 4th and Arch St

February 20th: Saturday: 11AM- 2PM \_\_\_\_\_

March 3rd: Thursday: 6-9PM 4

March 12th: Saturday:11AM-2PM 4th and Arch

March 19th: Saturday: CONTINUING SESSIONS

April 7th: Thursday: 6-9PM 4

April 16th: Saturday:11AM-2PM \_\_\_\_\_

May 5th: Thursday: 6-9PM: 4

May 21st: Saturday:11AM-2PM:4th and Arch

June 2nd: Thursday: 6-9PM: 4

June 18th: Saturday: 11AM-2PM \_\_\_\_\_

1st Thursday meetings will be at Arch Street.

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

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

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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 3rd Saturday at 4th 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 Cosia, Emily Blanck, 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, Business, 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.

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

### **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.

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-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 get under the weight of racism and white privilege?**

**Proposal: upcoming sessions in 2016**

-Please read the Annual Sessions report.

-Suggest names for the March Sessions Planning Committee.

-Name AD HOC Summer –Autumn Sessions Autumn Sessions Planning Committee with Emily Blanck as clerk. Summer Sessions is July 27-31st at Muhlenberg College.

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

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

-Name an AD HOC Spring 2016 (March 19th) 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 and Pamela Draper as a co-clerks for the March 2016 Continuing Sessions Planning Committee. Taylor Lane will speak to Kate Bregman to see if she will also serve on the Planning Committee.**

Clerk: Emily Blanck

Members:

Kate Bregman  
Kri Burkander  
Allison Letts  
Avis Wanda McClinton  
Carter Nash  
Charles Randall  
George Rubin  
Melissa Rycroft  
Maia Simon  
Jonathan Snipes

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Margaret Wood

Continuing Sessions Committee

Pamela Draper –co-convener

Cate Marion-co-convener

Emily Blanck

Penny Colgan Davis

Tricia Coscia

Zachary Dutton

**Friends Approved with gratitude.**

Lane Taylor will speak to missing members about serving on these committees.

In addition to the previous names, 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.

**Corrections to these minutes that were read into the minutes of the 12.16.17 QLC Meeting**

- A Sessions Planning Group existed under the care of the General Services Standing Committee in the old structure, which lasted through Fiscal Year 2014.
- The Implementation Committee (set up in July 2015, FY 2015, and laid down in July 2016, FY 2016) foresaw the need for the planning of the 7 November 2015 Continuing Sessions to begin before the Quaker Life Council would be equipped to take over responsibility for it. Therefore, near the end of Fiscal Year 2015, the Implementation Committee appointed a Continuing Sessions Planning Sub-Group to plan the 7 November 2015 Continuing Sessions.

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- Just after the start of Fiscal Year 15, at its 11.21.15 meeting, Quaker Life Council appointed an Ad Hoc Committee for planning the 19 March 2016 Continuing Sessions.
- Also at its 11.21.15 meeting, the Quaker Life Council appointed an Interim Sessions Development Committee, which was charged with planning at least the July 27-31, 2016 Annual Sessions and the 5 November 2016 Continuing Sessions. The Interim Sessions Development Committee was also charged with bringing back a recommendation to the Quaker Life Council for a permanent sessions planning process and governance structure.
- Later, the Quaker Life Council approved at its 6.18.16 meeting a permanent job description for a new committee responsible for visioning and planning sessions, called, "Sessions Coordinating Committee."

**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 30th 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 19th 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,

Recording Co-Clerk