

**Quaker Life Council Minutes p.1**  
**14/17 July 2018**

**Present:** Gray Goodman, Amy Taylor, Christie Duncan-Tessmer, Anthony Stover, Kri Burkander, Jim Herr, Bryn Hammarstrom, Ayesha Imani, Melanie Douty-Snipes, Andrew Anderson, Cate Marion, Olivia Brangan, Cathleen Bregman

**Regrets:** George Rubin, Zachary Dutton

**Agenda**

1. Worship
2. Welcome
3. Members amended and approved June 16, 2018 minutes

**Annual Sessions**

**QLC: Minutes of Concern: Friday Morning: Annual Sessions:** Clerk Amy Taylor Brooks will work with Bryn Hammarstrom and others in crafting the presentation. Members agreed the presentation should include the recent history on minutes and explain the present policy. QLC will present minutes that have come to QLC and get feedback from the community.

**Greene Street:** Members of Greene Street Monthly meeting have met with the clerks of QLC and Administrative Council. Greene Street Friends will fulfill their covenant commitment to PYM for the past year. Greene Street Friends will continue to work with QLC in addressing their concerns.

**Benjamin Lay:** After communicating further with Abington Monthly Meeting regarding their minute, QLC endorses Abington Monthly Meeting's minute on Benjamin Lay. QLC recognizes Benjamin Lay as a Friend of the Truth and being in unity with the spirit of our Philadelphia Yearly Meeting.

**Nuclear Weapons and Disarmament:** After review of the June minutes, [Friends wished for] QLC decided to send the minute [to be sent] to the Legislative Policy Collaborative asking them to provide further suggestions of how PYM can act on these minutes of concerns.

**Collaboratives: Sunday Morning: Annual Sessions:** QLC will present work of the Collaboratives as well as how leadings that arose at Annual Sessions will guide QLC in the coming year.

**Youth Programs: Kri Burkander:** Kri read a revised version of the Youth Programs Vision and Mission Statements. Members gave reactions. Friends enthusiastically approved the Vision and Mission Statements with minor revisions. Friends minuted deep appreciation to the Sprint for their long, ongoing efforts. The Statements will be presented at Annual Sessions for Friends to receive.

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**State of the Meeting Reports: Gray Goodman:** Members agreed to have copies of the State of the Meeting Reports put into several binders for individuals to read at Annual Sessions. The Sprint will collect thematic summaries from the reports to include in the QLC Annual Sessions report.

**Annual Sessions Queries:** Kri Burkander, Ellen Deacon, Joan Broadfield, Andrew Anderson, Zachary Dutton will work together in crafting queries from the Discernment Team as well queries that arose during Council worship on Saturday July 14, 2018.

**Budget:** Clerk Amy Taylor Brooks handed out to Friends the 2017-8 PYM budget and the 2017-8 QLC budget. Collaboratives need to request money at August 15, 2018 and finally at September 15, 2018.

## **PYM Youth Programs**

### **Vision Statement**

Philadelphia Yearly Meeting children, youth and their families will feel connected to and engaged with the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers), and seekers will be drawn to our community, via programs and practices that provide for connection, engagement, and the invitation into deeper relationship with Spirit (also called God, the Divine, or the Light Within)\*\*.

### **Mission Statement**

PYM demonstrates our commitment to community, accessibility, and the foundation of our Quaker faith by working together to provide youth of all ages with opportunities for meaningful participation in our Quaker community and support for their spiritual journeys.

This mission is anchored in four pillars: Community, Accessibility, Quaker Faith and Values, and Meaningful Participation.

The first pillar is Community. We aim to provide youth, children, families, and seekers in our yearly meeting with opportunities to gather and be known to one another through shared experiences. We note that these opportunities may take place at either monthly, quarterly, or yearly meeting levels, and we are committed to supporting integration between and across these offerings. Additionally, our youth programs have the intention to nurture a sense of belonging and build supportive relationships within and among our youth, children, families, volunteers, and staff. Lastly, we recognize and celebrate the different youth-centered communities at all levels within PYM and wish to nurture connections among them.

The second pillar is Accessibility. We aim to provide programs that are welcoming (with respect to race, physical ability, class, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, familiarity with Quaker processes, geographic location, or any other way in which the human family is sometimes divided) with adequate support and accommodations to encourage participation by all. Our commitment to accessibility means that we recognize that the diversity within our community, as well as the broader community, strengthens us.

The third pillar is Quaker Faith and Values. Our programs are intended to invite all children, youth, and their families into deeper relationship with Spirit and nurture an understanding of our

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Quaker faith, traditions, and practice. Our programs provide youth with opportunities to grow spiritually, cultivate their leadership ability, learn and claim Quaker processes, and care for each other in loving community. We aim to nurture the capacity of youth to build Quaker faith communities and equip our youth to bear Quaker witness in the world.

The fourth pillar is Meaningful Participation. We are driven to provide children, youth, and their families with experiences that speak to their needs for exploration, knowledge, spiritual growth, and leadership development. We believe that these experiences provide children and youth with important skills and foster a commitment to remain engaged with the Religious Society of Friends and this Yearly Meeting through the years.

\*\* We recognize that, while Quakerism is rooted in a Christian tradition, unprogrammed Friends have wide-ranging experiences and comfort with the word God, and that many are more comfortable using other words. Still others experience a Quakerism that does not recognize a higher power. We believe that our youth programs can create enough space to hold all of these experiences of Spirit in loving affirmation.

(As adopted by Quaker Life and Administrative Councils on November 18, 2017)

Introduction:

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This document describes the Quaker practice of raising a minute of concern to the larger Philadelphia Yearly Meeting (PYM) community. Please refer to PYM's Faith and Practice for the process of discerning and bringing minutes of religious service, introduction and concern first to monthly and quarterly meetings. Go to [www.pym.org/faith-and-practice](http://www.pym.org/faith-and-practice), and then click to the right on, "Faith Reflected in Our Organization," then on, "Communication, Intervisitation..." and then on, "[Intervisitation](#)." Also see, "Guidelines and Procedures," and then, beneath this, click on, "[Preparing Minutes](#)."

### **Carrying a Minute of Concern to the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Community (PYM)**

1. A minute of concern comes to the yearly meeting community through a quarterly meeting, after thorough seasoning.
2. The quarterly meeting clerk brings the minute of concern to the yearly meeting community after the concern has followed the processes set forth in Faith and Practice (2017).
3. The quarterly meeting clerk carries the concern to the presiding clerk of PYM.
4. The presiding clerk will promptly take the minute to the PYM administrative leadership—council clerks, General Secretary, and Treasurer.
5. The administrative leadership will direct the minute to Quaker Life Council, Administrative Council, or both and will report back to the referring quarterly meeting clerk.
6. The council(s) responsible for the minute will season the minute of concern and discern how the minute will be acted upon.
7. Transparency and timely feedback about the discernment process are important; therefore, following initial discernment, a report of council decisions and actions shall be shared with/sent to the clerks of monthly and quarterly meetings including the content of the minute received and actions proposed at the yearly meeting level.
8. Friends then carry forward ministry of the concern with the guidance, support, and accountability of the monthly meeting, quarterly meeting, and Philadelphia Yearly Meeting together.
9. A timeframe should be established for reporting about the work in ministry, and continued discernment should happen regarding whether the calling for this work continues.

## **Caln Quarter Minute on Nuclear Weapons**

Minute Supporting the U.N. General Assembly Nuclear Weapons Ban Treaty

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We, Quakers of Caln Quarterly Meeting (representing nine Monthly Meetings) minute our support for the United Nations General Assembly's Nuclear Weapons Ban Treaty. (A copy of that treaty is available at:

<http://undocs.org/A/CONF.229/2017/8>)

In accordance with the Quaker Peace Testimony, Quakers have worked for abolition of nuclear weapons following the time when United States airplanes dropped two of these secretly produced bombs in 1945. The bombs destroyed both Hiroshima and Nagasaki in Japan, and the world has not yet recovered from the long term effects of these atrocities.

There is much work yet to be done. Our own government is opposed to the treaty. Few people in our country are even aware of the United Nations treaty.

We request that Philadelphia Yearly Meeting join us in making this Treaty more widely known. Actions we of Caln Quarter are considering and ask that PYM do the same, include but should not be limited to:

Letters to the editor; contact Nikki Haley (U.S. Ambassador to the U.N.); school projects; adult and youth first day school lessons; and signs at peace vigils.

James Herr

CALN Quarterly Meeting Clerk

May 5, 2018

## **Concord Quarter Minute on Nuclear Weapons**

The Religious Society of Friends of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting

In its session on April 22, 2018 Concord Quarterly Meeting approved the following minute brought forth from Birmingham Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends.

Minute on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons

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In 2017, 122 United Nations member states wrote the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, designed as a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination. The Birmingham Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) strongly requests the United States to sign and ratify this Treaty. On August 6, 1945, the United States incinerated, annihilated, and irradiated with one atomic bomb 200,000 people and destroyed 62,000 buildings in Hiroshima. Three days later the U.S. caused similar devastation in Nagasaki. The effects—physical, mental, and genetic—linger 72 years later. The question of the morality of using such weapons has been debated ever since. In the ensuing decades, more countries have pursued development of nuclear weapons. Currently, nine nations possess nearly 15,000 such weapons. The risk of using this inventory of nuclear weapons and the threat of building additional ones for use must be eliminated. Total abolition of nuclear weapons is the moral choice and is essential to our survival.

Prior to approval by Concord Quarterly Meeting the majority of Monthly Meetings in the Quarter approved the minute.

Concord Quarterly Meeting brings this minute forward to Philadelphia Yearly Meeting for consideration before the body.

The minute was shared with Friends Council on National Legislation by Birmingham Monthly Meeting and prior to its consideration by Concord Quarterly Meeting. FCNL has posted the minute at <https://www.fcnl.org/updates/meeting-minutes-as-advocacy-tools-1218>.

Concord Quarter also approved sending this minute to the Quaker United Nations offices in New York and Geneva.

In Faith,

Deb Wood, Clerk Concord Quarterly Meeting

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**Minute regarding former Abington Meeting member,  
Benjamin Lay**

*Approved by Abington Monthly Meeting  
November 12, 2017*

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Abington Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends recognizes Benjamin Lay's dedication to equality, and his willingness to repeatedly speak his messages of Truth to a society that was in denial about the evils of slavery. We acknowledge that Benjamin Lay used radical activism in his attempts to teach his peers to recognize the equality before God of all people, regardless of race or gender. He lived his life with integrity according to his Quaker beliefs, and he called others, especially slave-owners, to accountability.

Benjamin Lay was written out of membership at Abington Monthly Meeting on the thirtieth day, eleventh month, 1737 (which by the Quaker calendar, while the Julian calendar was in use, would have been January 30, 1738), because his zealous actions were considered disruptive. It is now known that at least two of the Friends who led the discernment about writing Benjamin Lay out of membership in the Society of Friends were slave-owners and were likely targeted by Benjamin Lay's anti-slavery activism. Benjamin Lay was disowned decades before Quakers were disowned for being slave-owners.

We now recognize the truth behind Benjamin Lay's abolitionist efforts. Although we may not reinstate membership for someone who is deceased, we recognize Benjamin Lay as a Friend of the Truth and as being in unity with the spirit of our Abington Monthly Meeting.

**Abington Quarterly Meeting on Planned Parenthood**  
The Religious Society of Friends  
October 1 2017

Planned Parenthood, a worldwide organization, has from its inception in 1916 given women more control over their lives and health. Abington Quarterly Meeting affirms support for the Minutes of Support for Planned Parenthood from Gwynedd Monthly Meeting (April 23, 2017) and Intermountain Yearly Meeting (June 11, 2016). We support Planned Parenthood's health and education services, and its work serving the full range of gender identities in connection with sexually



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transmitted infections. We are concerned that federal and state financial support for Planned Parenthood's work be continued and encouraged. Planned Parenthood's family planning efforts also address our concern that our planet's population be maintained at levels that will sustain the ecosystem so the Earth has a favorable and natural future.

Approximately 40% of Planned Parenthood's budget is vulnerable, affecting lower income women most directly. Three quarters of that 40% comes from women's health services paid by Medicaid, which is a joint federal-state program, and the other quarter comes through a federal lower income family planning program. It should be noted that neither of these government programs allow funding for abortions except in cases of rape, incest, or when necessary to save a mother's life.

In addition to voicing support we ask ourselves as members and attenders to consider taking the actions suggested in the Gwynedd and Intermountain Minutes in support of reproductive health and specifically in support of Planned Parenthood, including but not limited to:

- writing Letters to the Editor, writing OpEds;
- writing and making phone calls to your legislators;
- volunteering to help in other needed ways at a Planned Parenthood clinic;
- donating financial support;
- being forthcoming about supporting Planned Parenthood in our personal contacts.