

Present: Amy Taylor Brooks, Cathleen Marion, Ayesha Imani, Kate Bregman, Gray Goodman, George Rubin, Julia Carrigan.

Ex-Officio: Zachary Dutton, Andrew Anderson, Christie Duncan-Tessmer

Clerk Amy Taylor Brooks welcomed members and all began with a brief period of worship.

1. Minute of Appreciation FCNL: Quaker Life Council Members APPROVED a minute composed by Gwynedd Monthly Meeting and approved by Abington Quarterly Meeting recognizing the 75th Anniversary of the Friends Committee on National Legislation. Members approved adding a story that will go on the PYM website.

Members shared ways in which FCNL has touched their lives. The FCNL Annual Meeting is the first weekend in December in Washington, D.C.

2. Continuing Sessions Debrief : Members reflected on Continuing Sessions at Arch Street Meetinghouse, Saturday, 3 November 2018. Amy Taylor Brooks encouraged Friends to read the minutes from Continuing Sessions. Amy reported for QLC and several Collaboratives presented. A great deal of support was shown for Ujima Friends Peace Center.

3. Quaker Life Council Discernment Team: Melanie Douty-Snipes presented to members next steps that could be taken in addressing conflict in the yearly meeting. George Brooks shared with Friends the idea of having a Discernment/Reconciliation Committee under the care of QLC.

Members APPROVED a SPRINT made up of Cathleen Marion (Program), Gray Goodman (Governance), Melanie Douty-Snipes, Amy Taylor Brooks (Clerk, QLC), Zachary Dutton (staff) to compose a proposal for QLC to consider from the ideas of Melanie, the Discernment Team, and George Brooks. It is important for the SPRINT to examine unstated, established frameworks on conflict and race. The SPRINT needs to consider how to create SPACE for people to engage and listen to each other. Use Quakerism to critique unstated frameworks.

4. Resource Friends: Zachary reported on the growth and development of Social Justice Resource Friends. The number of Aging Concerns Resource Friends and Ministry + Care Resource Friends are also growing and have discussed forming Collaboratives.

5. Elders: Amy Brooks asked Friends to form a SPRINT to examine the act of ELDERING and ELDERS. Elders can be gentle, wise guides to remind Friends how to respond and listen to each other. A SPRINT would look at the role of elder and how it would best serve the Religious Society of Friends today in a world globalized by technology. Elders' presence in our midst should be identified and celebrated. A SPRINT can help define what welcome eldering looks like. "Eldering embraces the positive aspects of nurturing, supporting and helping...grow spiritually. ...appoint one or two members to perform what is known as eldering... go in love... to speak gently and truthfully to help that person understand the discord." -From NYYM Faith & Practice

Saturday, 17 November 2018 Arch Street Meeting House 10AM-1PM

Members appreciated the presentation on Eldering. When ready, a SPRINT will be formed. Chris Lucca offered to speak to Dana Houghton, Clerk of the PYM Elders.

QLC, in the future, may invite all Friends from the yearly meeting at a designated point and location to take up the concern of how we as Quakers show integrity on social media.

6. **Announcement:** The PYM Leadership Team will be meeting with co-clerks of Undoing Racism Group over lunch on Saturday 17 November 2018.

The committee ended business with a period of worship.

Respectfully submitted,

Gray Goodman, Recording Clerk.

The following documents are ancillary and not part of the minutes

**Gwynedd Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)
1101 DeKalb Pike**

Gwynedd, PA 19454

(215) 699-3055

**Minute of Appreciation to Recognize the 75th Anniversary of
The Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL)**

Gwynedd Monthly Meeting would like to express its heartfelt appreciation for the 75 years of prayerful attention the Friends Committee on National Legislation has given to furthering Friends testimonies in national policy concerns. Since the beginning, staff and supporters around the country have lobbied Congress to advance the causes of peace and justice.

The organization was formed to advocate for legislation to provide constructive alternatives to military conscription and aid for the victims of war. Over the years, FCNL has been instrumental in the movements to prevent genocide and atrocities against individuals, to stand against the threat and use of nuclear weapons and other forms of militarization, to offer a moral basis for federal budget decisions, and to build consensus on climate change.

We support the organization's future plans to widen the participation of young adults in its work and to offer space and time for people with differing viewpoints to discuss a way forward. As we all work to build "the world we seek," we will continue to look to our friends at FCNL to provide leadership, initiative and love for our neighbors, without exception.

Gwynedd Friends Meeting [Quaker] approved the above Minute on July 15, 2018.

Neil Trueblood, Clerk of the Meeting

Judy Inskeep, Clerk of Peace and Social Action Committee

office@gwyneddmeeting.org

Abington Quarterly Meeting approved this Minute on October 7th

Continuing Sessions/ QLC Discernment Team Follow Up Items:

A) Quaker Life Council invites the Admin Council to work jointly to understand the roles of Monthly Meetings, Quarterly Meetings, and the Yearly Meeting when individuals and meetings are in conflict, and with regard to matters such as membership, authority, and accountability. (SPRINT)

B) PYM needs a strong conflict resolution process and support infrastructure to address conflicts, particularly when a problem is just starting. (George Rubin + Carter Nash's ideas)

C) PYM staff and the QLC will continue to develop the Resource Friends program and connect Monthly Meetings and individual Friends to it. (Zachary's update)

D) PYM will continue to wrestle with addressing issues of racism and the ways it intersects with other forms of identity, manifests itself in our personal behaviors, and reveals itself in our organization and in the culture of our Monthly Meetings. The Yearly Meeting commits itself to confront how racism determines or impacts power arrangements and access to power within our structures and systems. One step moving forward with this is an Institutional Multicultural Audit with the PYM community. (SPRINT #1)

E) There may be a need to review and revise Faith and Practice as well as other documents that guide PYM in order to glean wisdom and address gaps that exist that will help us to deal with disputes such as this in the future. (SPRINT #1)

F) QLC will review and suggest policies and practices to assist PYM's renewed use of Eldering. "Power without love is reckless and abusive, and love without power is sentimental and anemic. Power at its best is love implementing the demands of justice, and justice at its best is power correcting everything that stands against love." We must use the power of journalism and social media responsibly and with love to send our messages of justice into the world. (SPRINT #2)

G) The Councils will work to ensure that our Monthly Meetings, Quarters, and Yearly Meeting create opportunities for Friends to share their spiritual journeys, encourage the study and practice of spiritual disciplines, and deepen spiritual friendships, thus deepening our anchors to the spirit in worship and in the world where so much healing is needed. A query to examine this issue could be used in the next cycle of receiving state of the meeting reports. The Spiritual Formation Collaborative as well as the Resource Friends Practice Area for Ministry and Care are available to meetings.

Notes of Melanie Douty-Snips, clerk of Discernment Team

Clearly needed in our community is an accessible guide to recognizing and addressing conflict as it arises along with a collection of resources helpful in the training of meeting members to do so. A sprint could be formed to gather these resources and partner organizations such as the Bucks County Peace Center could assist the sprint in assembling them sensibly. Included can be an outline of roles and responsibilities of MMs, QMs and the YM when conflict arises.

A sprint comprised of QLC and Admin members can examine F&P to better understand the concept of authority within Friends' decision making, how Friends are held accountable for their actions, the practice of eldering and role of elders. If gaps are identified in any areas in F&P, suggestions can be brought to the councils for review and to the YM body for consideration.

All monthly meetings could be asked to review the section in F&P on membership to freshen Friends' understanding of the process of preparation for clearness, proper facilitation of a clearness committee and support of new members as they find ways to serve the community.

Admin and QLC can consider co-crafting a policy on use of social media within our community.

QLC can be ready to support efforts to address whatever comes from the multi-cultural audit especially with regards to addressing racism but also other forms of discrimination or marginalization within our Yearly Meeting.

QLC can continue to support efforts through Resource Friends, PYM programming and collaboratives to nurture the spiritual lives and spiritual grounding of Friends of all ages. QLC can evaluate the collective accessibility and impact of these pieces to assess any wholistic or more formal needs in presentation of religious education.

Notes of George Rubin and Carter Nash

Quaker Life Council Preliminary Agenda

1. Minute of Appreciation from the Legislative Policy/FCNL Collaborative (attached)

2. Continuing Sessions Debrief

3. Quaker Life Council Discernment Team Follow Up Items:

*Follow up items listed at end of this agenda.

To address letters “A, D, and E”, we will receive a report from Melanie or other folks who participated in drafting the report from the Quaker Life Council Discernment Team.

We will decide which small group would like to take up points A, D, and E to season and move forward what is possible.

To address letter “B”, we have a proposal from George Rubin including thoughts from Friend Carter Nash.

To address letter “C”, we will receive a report from the Associate Secretary for Program and Religious Life on the state of the Social Justice Resource Friends Practice Area.

To address letter “F”, we have a proposal to create a sprint to look at the role of elder and how it would best serve the Religious Society of Friends today in a world globalized by technology. We’d like to find ways for elders’ presence in our midst to be identified and celebrated and to define what welcome eldering looks like. “Eldering embraces the positive aspects of nurturing, supporting and helping...grow spiritually. ...appoint one or two members to perform what is known as eldering... go in love... to speak gently and truthfully to help that person understand the discord.” -From NYYM Faith & Practice

We also have a proposal to organize a consultation to which we invite all Friends from the yearly meeting at a designated point and location to take up the concern of how we as Quakers expect to show up with integrity on social media.

To address letter “G”, we have a proposal to turn it into a query for use in the next cycle of receiving state of the meeting reports. The Spiritual Formation Collaborative as well as the Resource Friends Practice Area for Ministry and Care are available to meetings for this.

4. Annual Sessions Follow Up Items:

*Annual Sessions follow up items listed at the end of this agenda.

We will receive a report from Amy Taylor Brooks about Governance Leadership potentially meeting with the Undoing Racism Group to discern more about their relationship with PYM.

We will receive a report from the General Secretary and the Associate Secretary for Program and Religious Life about Bridge Contacts.

Will thresh what we do when a minute of concern that is not from a Quarterly Meeting is forwarded to the yearly meeting for consideration. This includes a question about membership that needs to be threshed as well.

Other Reports:

From Governance Committee about the Publications & Library Sprint

Quaker Life Council Follow Up Items:

A) Quaker Life Council invites the Admin Council to work jointly to understand the roles of Monthly Meetings, Quarterly Meetings, and the Yearly Meeting when individuals and meetings are in conflict, and with regard to matters such as membership, authority, and accountability.

B) PYM needs a strong conflict resolution process and support infrastructure to address conflicts, particularly when a problem is just starting.

C) PYM staff and the QLC will continue to develop the Resource Friends program and connect Monthly Meetings and individual Friends to it.

D) PYM will continue to wrestle with addressing issues of racism and the ways it intersects with other forms of identity, manifests itself in our personal behaviors, and reveals itself in our organization and in the culture of our Monthly Meetings. The Yearly Meeting commits itself to confront how racism determines or impacts power arrangements and access to power within our structures and systems. One step moving forward with this is an Institutional Multicultural Audit with the PYM community.

E) There may be a need to review and revise Faith and Practice as well as other documents that guide PYM in order to glean wisdom and address gaps that exist that will help us to deal with disputes such as this in the future.

F) QLC will review and suggest policies and practices to assist PYM's renewed use of Eldering. "Power without love is reckless and abusive, and love without power is sentimental and anemic. Power at its best is love implementing the demands of justice, and justice at its best is power correcting everything that stands against love." We must use the power of journalism and social media responsibly and with love to send our messages of justice into the world.

G) The Councils will work to ensure that our Monthly Meetings, Quarters, and Yearly Meeting create opportunities for Friends to share their spiritual journeys, encourage the study and practice of spiritual disciplines, and deepen spiritual friendships, thus deepening our anchors to the spirit in worship and in the world where so much healing is needed.

Annual Sessions Follow Up Items (Gray's Notes?)

In listening to business meeting sessions, minutes, and Friends, the Quaker Life Council understands that it will **continue** to develop the following programs in the coming year:

1. Monthly and Quarterly Meetings writing State of Meeting Reports.
2. Check in with Collaboratives and support them composing annual reports
3. Minutes of Concern from Monthly, Quarterly Meetings, & others.

a. Working with Greene Street Friends' concern on PYM staffing.

1. Youth Programs' growth and development
2. Explore with Undoing Racism Group it's relationship with PYM

The Quaker Life Council also sees a number of **new tasks** for it in the coming year: 1. Integrate the seven PYM strategic directions into QLC's responsibilities.

1. Integrate the seven PYM strategic directions into QLC's responsibilities.

1. Assist building Bridge Contact Structure.
2. Address minutes of concern from non-QM bodies.
3. Organize past minutes of concern with an index.