

Quaker Life Council Minutes p.1
16 February 2019

Present: Amy Brooks, Anthony Stover, Ayesha Imani, Cathleen Marion, Kate Bregman, Bryn Hammarstrom, Gray Goodman, Marge Dawson

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

Visitor: George Schaeffer

Members began with a period of worship which began in the manner of Ujima of pouring libations (water) on the plants in remembrance of our ancestors. Friends thanked the members of Ujima Friends Peace Center for hosting QLC.

QLC member, Ayesha Imani, welcomed everyone and presented a brief video of people speaking of what the Ujima Friends Peace Center means to them.

Friends Counseling Service: See attached report. **QLC received the FCS report.**

George Schaeffer explained that in an earlier time, Friends Counseling Service offered services to Pendle Hill and Friends schools. When those institutions ceased to provide financial support for the service, the service was not financially viable and FCS ceased to provide the service. Today, FCS can be used as a support of Friends Meeting Members + Care Committees and individual PYM Quakers. George is on the PYM staff and Kenneth Brick of Wilmington Friends Meeting is the FCS coordinator. The six counselors for FCS are in private practices throughout the Delaware Valley. Location of counselors, the need for counselors to be members of PYM and the specialties of counselors were discussed as potential limiting factors to use. The service is used, but PYM members and meetings do not use FCS as much as in the past. Non-Friends counseling services have expanded through recent federal laws.

The PYM website has pictures and biographies of the counselors as well as Ken Brick's contact information. Please refer interested counselors to George Schaeffer.

Members asked questions.

-What opportunities are there for support of children and youth in PYM?

-Is the FCS open to reaching out to Friends Schools for paid referrals?

-How can QLC members promote FCS services in the local and Quarterly meetings?

-How can QLC help recruit more counselors and train of Care Committee members of Friends meetings?

-How to address the needs to people of color with just one counselor of color?

Quaker Life Council Minutes p.2
16 February 2019

-How to address the needs of members of organizations affiliated with PYM but not a Friends Meeting such as Ujima Friends Peace Center?

Members approved having the Friends Counseling Services Advisory Panel examine these questions.

George invited QLC to send a representative to the Committee's spring meeting.

Threads Introduction: See attached report.

Associate Secretary Zachary Dutton explained the organizing principle of PYM THREADS. People can sign up on communication lists that are issue-specific. There are also PYM gatherings on a variety of topics that affect all PYM.

There is a THREAD Gathering on Pastoral Care on March 9th.

Zachary Dutton recommended that the THREADS be re-ordered to:

- Peace + Social Justice
- Ministry + Care (Worship + Ministry, Pastoral Care)
- Religious Education
- Outreach + Communications
- Governance + Stewardship (Finance + Fundraising)

Collaboratives and Committees have the potential to be major organizers of THREAD gatherings with basic support of the QLC Program Committee and PYM Staff.

Queries

How can QLC address race relations using the above structure including THREADS?

How does PYM/QLC engage groups that do not fit easily into the present structure?

What is the QLC's vision for the next 3-5 years?

Friends approved the revision of the THREADS structure with the above queries.

Members asked the General Secretary and Associate Secretary to examine how to open up our structures to including interested groups and individuals of faith.

Long Term Queries for PYM

How do we make further change to attract people who seek but do not know us?

What does Spirit require of us today in guiding PYM into its future?

Resource Friends: See attached report. **Members received the report and approved :**

Resource Friends Program coming under the care of the QLC Program Committee:

- **Peace and Social Justice**
- **Ministry and Care**
- **Religious Education and Youth Work (under development)**

- Resource Friend Program align with each of the THREADS

***** AFTERNOON*****

Abington Quarterly Meeting Minute of Concern: Family Detention at Our Southern Border: The minute of concern was read to the QLC. Members approved:

- The minute of concern
- Having the minute read at Continuing Sessions
- Sending the minute of concern to all Friends Meetings Newsletter editors.
- Sending it to Young Adult Friends and Legislative Policy Collaborative.

Spiritual State of QLC: Zachary passed out a spreadsheet that recorded the results of the QLC self-assessment survey for purposes of initiating discussion.

After Worship Sharing we each wrote a two minute response to the question posed to QLC of, "QLC, how is the spirit fairing with thee?"

Worship Sharing: Report Backs

- Ways QLC has helped in the spiritual growth of the Yearly Meeting
- Discernment Team work involved having difficult conversations in a spirit of worship. How can we build on that?
- Our work is only just beginning in helping PYM Friends become excited + fulfilled in honoring that of God in each other and in ourselves
- We strive to ground each other in the Light as we attend to Business. How can we spread it?
- How can we engage with Quarters and Monthly Meetings? Go forth and visit various places?

Quaker Life Council Minutes p.4
16 February 2019

-The QLC members take time to listen and share with each other to build relationships with each other as a team. It provides an open doorway for members to find the love and courage to listen with open hearts.

-Daily spiritual practices are a foundation for one's work with QLC and PYM.

SWOT Analysis: Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats: Learning to be aware of issues within QLC and issues we do not have control over outside QLC.

SWOT ANALYSIS

	Helpful to achieving objective	Harmful to achieving objective
Internal QLC	<p style="text-align: center;">Strengths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Diversity /QLC members -Commitment -> diversity -Safe Space: Spiritual Diversity -QLC has staff support +excess \$ support -Spiritual Leadership-The Clerk -Spiritual-Centered Members -Clerk <-> Members synergy -QLC supported by PYM structure -QLC's "privileged" position/PYM -Relationship w/ ea other +Spirit -Can disagree w/out anger-fear -Agree:No 1 person has all answers. -Spirit-led decision-making -Spiritual authority +pract. Wisdom -Members' historical knowledge -Building + physical space 	<p style="text-align: center;">Weaknesses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Diversity -Not spending \$ + not enough -Sometimes too focused on details -Not meet all the needs
External PYM	<p style="text-align: center;">Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Diversity of Phila. Region -Help others with fullness/history - Share w/ others our history -Others look to Quakers -Grow membership in diverse settings. -UJIMA model - New site for Phila. Hist. Museum -Judge pop. Pol. Issues with Q core beliefs. -Clearly defining core beliefs 	<p style="text-align: center;">Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Few Friends of Color in PYM + PYM Comm. -Many People guarded in speak/religion -Name, shame, blame in larger polity -Historical ignorance + exaggeration of our history -Rest/past accomplishments not present accom. -Closure of Philadelphia History Museum -If PYM does not address diversity, class -False popular pol. Solutions -False popular concerns not aligned w/Q values -Spirit of Despair + Loss in Faith + Hope -Anti-Quaker anger and attacks -Fear/addressing challenges/race/class/ethnic diversity

QLC Report to Continuing Sessions is due February 27th. Next meeting 17 March 2019

Follow Up Issues for Governance Committee to Consider

Quaker Life Council Minutes p.5
16 February 2019

1. FCS Support Panel to examine the QLC queries.
2. QLC empower Collaboratives + Committees to run THREAD gatherings.
3. QLC promote addressing race relations at all levels of PYM structure.
4. How to engage groups that are not part of the present PYM structure.
5. Follow up on the self-study results.
6. How to meet with Administrative Council?
7. Report on 4th and Arch Street Preservation Trust and its vision
8. State of the Meeting Reports
9. Anti-Harrassment Policy
10. Consider Minute from Central Philadelphia MM on Multicultural Committee if it has been finalized and is for QLC to consider.
11. Have a QLC zoom meeting before March 17th?

Respectfully submitted, Gray Goodman, Recording Clerk