

PYM Quaker Life Council Minutes 15 June 2019 p.1

Present: George Rubin, Sue Dietz, Gray Goodman, Anthony Stover, Marge Dawson, Cathleen Marion

Ex-Officio: Zachary Dutton, Christie Duncan-Tessmer, Jonathan Rhoads

Regrets: Ayesha Imani, Amy Taylor Brooks, Kate Bregman, Bryn Hammarstrom, Julia Carrigan, Melanie Douty-Snipes

Agenda

Members began with worship. Alternate Clerk Anthony welcomed Friends and asked members to introduce themselves.

Threshing sessions plan (see attachment): Zachary Dutton explained the general rationale and structure of how 3 Threshing Sessions arranged through the year would provide members of local meetings + Quarterly Meetings to engage more fully in examining concerns that the Councils are examining. It could provide feedback that the Councils need. Monthly Meeting Bridge Contacts can help Monthly Meetings send people to participate in each Threshing Session. It is an example of how the new structure is designed to bring Friends together.

Members had questions that the recording clerk listed in the form of queries:

Queries

If the Councils are the ones who are forming the topics for the Sessions, do the Councils have close connections to Monthly and/or Quarterly meetings?

Should the sessions be called “Discernment” rather than “Threshing”?

Would it be better to solicit topics from Monthly/Quarterly meetings?

Suggestions

Bridge Contacts help connect Friends to PYM but most monthly meetings do not yet have a Bridge Contacts. PYM Council, Committee, and Collaborative members can share their work at monthly meetings for business.

Summaries of PYM information can be put into monthly meeting newsletters.

Members in general APPROVED the draft proposal of the PYM Threshing Sessions but had a concern that effort should be put into soliciting topics from the Monthly/Quarterly meetings. Members would like Monthly Meetings to give suggestions for topics to consider at the September 22nd session. A variety of methods need to be used to contact MM and QM given that most have already had their last MFB for the summer.

There was also a sense that more transparency is needed on the part of senior leaders in PYM.

Program Committee Report (see two attachments): The Committee reserved \$5,000 for grants and scholarships to assist individuals to attend 2019 Annual Sessions. If the funds are not

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entirely used, the excess can be used to publicize future Annual Sessions. Christie noted that more publicity can be done for encouraging people to attend 2020 sessions. Members APPROVED.

The Committee recommended that \$6,000 from the Strategic Project Reserve Funds be given to the Center for the Returning Citizens (TCRC) Healing Center. Members asked questions about how the money would be used. **Members postponed a decision on this request from the Program Committee.**

The Program Committee recommended that at least 15 minutes be reserved on the Agenda of 2019 Annual Sessions for the FWCC and Other World Relations Collaborative to highlight the work of FWCC. Members APPROVED

Minutes of concern: Members examined the minutes of concern from Caln and Haddonfield Quarters. Members understood that they were unable to respond to the minutes. The Clerk of Yearly Meeting and Clerks of the Councils have not yet looked at the minutes of concern to determine how the minutes should be addressed. Gray Goodman will contact Clerk of PYM Chris Lucca (clerk@pym.org) as well as the Clerks of the Councils.

Business for July Meeting:

1. TCRC request for funding support
2. Liaison between granting committee and QLC, verbal report
3. Announcement: childcare at QLC meetings, verbal report
4. Nominations: Youth Programs Advisory and Ministry & Care Committees;
 - a. Forward to Zachary names of people of color who would be strong members.
5. Discussion: QLC Annual Report
 - a. State of the meetings report progress, requires discussion.
 - b. Collaborative annual reports progress, requires discussion
6. Statement from former PYM Clerks on meeting for worship for business (see attached)

Respectfully submitted,

Gray Goodman, Recording Clerk