

Minutes of the Quaker Life Council 11.16.19 Meeting

Present: Kate Bregman, Julia Carrigan, Marge Dawson, Sue Dietz, Melanie Douty-Snipes, Zachary Dutton, Bryn Hammarstrom, Ayesha Imani, Susan Kight, George Rubin

Regrets: Andrew Anderson, Kate Bregman, Christie Duncan-Tessmer, Cate Marion, Anthony Stover

We reviewed and accepted the agenda.

Melanie agreed to take minutes.

We began with worship and a review of the meeting agenda. One Friend mentioned an invitation for all monthly meetings to help celebrate William Penn's 375th birthday. There has been controversy about PYM's participation. Perhaps we can revisit this topic in the future. There was also a request to put on a future agenda The Arch St. Trust for the council's understanding and education.

The council next spent time in worship sharing on the query: What reflections do we have about our experience as members of the Quaker Life Council, given the evolution of the Quaker Life Council in the process of building out PYM's new governance structure?

There was a wide sharing of Friends' experience through the complex years of change in the Yearly Meeting.

Reflections about Continuing Sessions: Young Friends met their new coordinator which was very exciting. Community Building exercises were fulfilling including a group Faith and Play about gifts that we bring to our Quaker lives. Small group sharing helped to bring Friends together.

A Friend felt very positive about the business session deeply appreciating the forward movement among Friends. The only concern was the light attendance. A highlight was the report presented by Marille Thomas, clerk of a newly formed Friends of 14/19, since Annual sessions committed to continuing the work of undoing racism.

With regards to the work of Friends of 14/19 QLC discussed next steps. There is not yet clarity about the way forward for QLC in this process noting that not all of the stakeholders were included in what has happened most recently. QLC remains under the weight of learning about and exploring the Truth and Reconciliation process. We are all under the continuing deep work of addressing racism in the Yearly Meeting and beyond.

The QLC approved the \$15,000 contribution to the Ujima Friends Peace Center from our Strategic Project Reserve Fund.

Respectfully Submitted,
Melanie Douty-Snipes