

## 1.18.2020 Quaker Life Council Minutes

Present: Andrew Anderson (PYM Treasurer), Sue Dietz, Amy Taylor-Brooks (Clerk), Anthony Stover (Assistant Clerk), Melinda Wenner Bradley (PYM Youth Religious Life Coordinator), Marge Dawson, George Rubin, Christie Duncan-Tessmer (PYM General Secretary), Zachary Dutton (PYM Associate Secretary for Program and Religious Life), Bryn Hammarstrom

Regrets: Ayesha Imani, Cathleen Marion, Melanie Douty-Snipes, Susan Kight, Kate Bregman, Julia Carrigan

We began with worship.

### Review of Young Friends Business Meeting Guidelines

Melinda Wenner Bradley provided context for the guidelines that Young Friends have developed to prepare and ground their meetings for worship with attention to business. These are attached at the end of the document. Melinda also answered some questions related to the guidelines and to Young Friends. Our clerk reminded us that we practice our business best when we are praying and waiting on the Spirit to lead us into our conversations together and allow the discipline of ourselves and the group in following Spirit's lead. We thanked our member Julia Carrigan for eldering us by raising up the Young Friends guidelines to help facilitate this reminder consistently.

George Rubin shared some resources worth reviewing.

[Process: the Good, the Poor, & Schisms](#) in Friends Journal by Mathilda Navias

[Quaker Process for Friends on the Benches](#) by Mathilda Navias

[Heart and Minds Prepared](#) by Members of Newcastle Preparative Meeting in Britain Yearly Meeting

George also encouraged all of us to consider taking a clerking workshop. You can reach out to Zachary and others on staff to help find one in your area.

### Youth Religious Life Coordinator Report

Melinda Wenner Bradley was invited as staff in support of the Youth Programs Advisory Committee (under the care of Quaker Life Council) to give a report on the work of Youth Religious Life. Melinda and Zachary work directly with the Youth Programs Advisory Committee. The presentation slides are attached to these minutes at the end of the document. Melinda added to her report information on her work with other members of staff to build relationships with Quaker Schools (K-12) through service on PYM's Committee on Friends Education. Melinda shared a handout that outlined the vision for Resource Friends in the Religious Education & Youth Work practice area. More information on this practice area can be found the PYM Website: <https://www.pym.org/resource-friends/religious-education/>

Melinda also shared with us an example of The Tote Bag, which is a newsletter that Melinda curates on topics related to PYM Religious Education and Family Resources. To sign up to receive The Tote Bag go to the main page of the PYM Website (pym.org) scroll all the way down to the bottom and click on "Subscribe".

Young Friends and Middle Schools Friends have stated a broad interest in activism and/or service. As part of this, Young Friends in February 2020 will participate in the Youth Service Opportunities Project (YSOP) in New York City. Friends discussed ways in which this type of opportunity could be replicated in future programming more local to Philadelphia Yearly Meeting with youth below high-school ages and with people from other faith traditions.

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We discussed Melinda's work with other branches of Quakerism and faiths; there is a thread that connects all of us. We are committed to welcoming and making room for the needs of families in all their forms.

We also discussed ways to be welcoming with families from worship, from the shape and set up of a meetinghouse, to relationship building.

We received Melinda's report with joy and enthusiasm.

### **Items Tabled for Our Next Meeting**

- Ways to deepen our study and practice of Friends spirituality and decision making per our discussion of resources on Friends Decision making process and attending a clerking workshop
- Program Committee report
- Presentation of Research on Truth & Reconciliation from Melanie

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### Attachments

#### Young Friends Business Meeting Guidelines

##### Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

##### What We Do

##### Divine Decision Making

##### Youth Agency

##### How We Do It

Ministry belongs to the body

Wait to be addressed by the clerks

Hand for general messages

One finger for clarifying remarks

Hold others' ministry with respect when sharing

#### Youth Religious Life Coordinator Report Presentation Slides

## Youth Religious Life Programs

### Report to the PYM Quaker Life Council

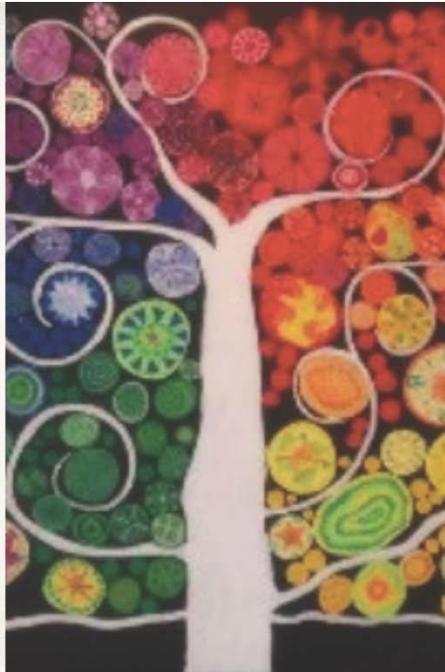


*January 18, 2020*

## Building a Community of Practice

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- ❖ Youth Programs Advisory Committee (YPAC)
- ❖ Religious Education and Youth Work Resource Friends
- ❖ **Youth Programs:**
  - ❖ Children and Families
  - ❖ Middle School Friends
  - ❖ Young Friends
- ❖ **Communication and Visits**



“It’s all about relationships.”

- Helen Garay Toppins, New York YM Assistant Secretary

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## Youth Programs Advisory Committee

- ❖ With Divine assistance, the Youth Programs Advisory Committee sets the overall direction of PYM youth programs under the guidance of the vision and mission.
- ❖ The committee works closely with pertinent PYM staff, monthly and quarterly meeting staff and community members who care for our youth.
- ❖ The committee helps to season issues, respond to concerns, and hold youth programs in loving care.
- ❖ A key operating principle of this committee is to empower youth voice and share power in the context of beloved community.



## Resource Friends: Religious Education and Youth Work



*Religious Education & Youth Work Resource Friends help our community thrive by providing support in the areas of religious education for families, children, and youth. Meetings sometimes ask for advice on how to structure First Day School, on starting a youth program for a specific age group, on ways of deepening relationship and spirit in multigenerational settings, etc.*

Through the **teaching ministry**, Resource Friends in Religious Education and Youth Work offer **informational tools** and **spirit-led experiential opportunities** to facilitate learning, deepening of practice, and preparing Quaker communities for the essential work of teaching the Quaker Way to new generations.

## Youth Programs Staff

### ❖ Children and Families

Kimani Keaton, Facilitator  
Crystal Hershey, Assistant

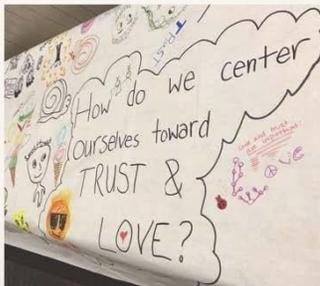
### ❖ Middle School Friends

Elizabeth Croce, Facilitator  
(we are currently hiring a new Assistant)

### ❖ Young Friends

Olivia Chalkley, Facilitator  
Aeryn Luminkith, Assistant

- ❖ Dedicated, creative, experienced youth workers
- ❖ Six program staff and Coordinator are collaborative team
- ❖ Plan and facilitate gatherings and events for youth and their families
- ❖ Part-time, hourly positions
- ❖ Meet monthly; annual retreat



## Youth Program Offerings:



- ❖ *Community for Youth:* MSF and Young Friends weekend gatherings
- ❖ *Community for Families:* Family Overnights (K-5), Quaker Family Meetups, Community Playdates
- ❖ *PYM Community Participation:*  
Continuing Sessions and Annual Sessions
- ❖ *Community in Local Meetings:* Youth Programs staff are available to facilitate programs & retreats

## Visiting and Correspondence: Support for Friends in Local Meetings

- \* Visits in 12 of 13 PYM Quarters: worship and programs
- \* Website resource curation; *“Writings on Religious Education: Practical and Prophetic”*
- \* E-newsletter *“The Tote Bag”* (8 issues)
- \* Organizational Membership in the Quaker Religious Education Collaborative (QREC)

**The Tote Bag**  
PYM Religious Education  
and Family Resources



## NOT THE FUTURE OF QUAKERISM, THE NOW.

PYM Youth Programs for young people and their families support young Friends to be in Quaker community, explore their identity as Friends, build spiritual community with their peers, and participate fully as themselves. We welcome all Friends and friends of Friends to come play, explore, worship, and have fun with us!

**Learn more about programs for the coming year at [PYM.org](http://PYM.org):**

Children & Families (K-Grade 5)

Middle School Friends (Grades 6-8)

Young Friends (high school)

