

Minutes of the Quaker Life Council 12.14.19 Meeting

Present: Marge Dawson, Sue Dietz, Melanie Douty-Snipes, Zachary Dutton, Bryn Hammarstrom, Susan Kight, George Rubin, Amy Taylor-Brooks

Regrets: Andrew Anderson, Kate Bregman, Christie Duncan-Tessmer, Cathleen Marion, Anthony Stover, Julia Carrigan, Ayesha Imani

We reviewed and accepted the agenda.

Melanie agreed to take minutes.

We began with worship Sharing, which gave the QLC members a chance to share on the query, "What grounding do you bring/what do you expect from Quaker business practice?"

Prayed that she is led to speak and to really listen and speak from that place.

It works when we come with an open heart. It is exciting to see where the spirit leads us in discernment of even the most "simple" agenda items.

One meeting is planning an event to celebrate the Equal Rights Amendment and the movement to ratify it. Their research and planning is inspiring them to see how women solved problems back then, it is a lesson for today.

We need to allow time and space for each person to share while not feeling overly attached and keeping our egos from doing the speaking.

We have to be in relationship and be in trust and love with everyone with attention to business.

Unity first. Posture of openness and not massaging ego and also a need for folks to hold the container in various capacities to support the journey that the openness creates. The clerks and elders ministries are serving the community that needs its own development and giftist.

Quaker movement to spread the power of all voices. Clerk is helped by worship sharing -a clear process for sharing to allow space for everyone. To reinforce non-hierarchical. Form that allows for mutual understanding.

Bucks Quarterly Meeting Minute of Concern

There was a discussion about the Bucks Quarterly Meeting minute of concern brought forth Fall of 2019. Excerpted:

Bucks Quarterly Meeting recently conducted meeting for worship with attention to business at Fallsington Friends Meeting in Fallsington, Pennsylvania. During this meeting, which took place on August 18, 2019, Friends approved the following minute:

Bucks Quarterly Meeting supports a Friends-led national protest against the private sale and possession of assault-style rifles and large-capacity gun magazines in the United States. This is rightly ordered and in alignment with our peace testimony, or opposition to physical violence, and with our support of efforts to reduce and eliminate armaments and militarism in our society. The protest should take place in our nation's capital at the earliest possible date that a well-organized one can be launched.

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Friends of the Quarter also asked that the Quarter communicate its approval of this minute to Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, and that the Quarter request that Yearly Meeting assume responsibility for coordinating efforts with the appropriate local, national, and international organizations to achieve the Friends-led national protest proposed by Bucks Quarter in its minute.

Friends on the QLC are aware of numerous monthly meetings involved in this work and are in complete agreement with the need to foster forward movement. PYM staff will help to network and connect these Friends. The minute will be sent to the clerks of the other Quarters to begin to help Friends to find, share with and support each other.

Bucks Quarter and PYM could be supported by QLC in organizing an information session to bring concerned and interested Friends together with resources and representatives from organizations. This could provide a forum for the different facets and approaches to addressing gun violence, legislation and community building. This could help Friends gain a more comprehensive understanding of what is currently being done on many fronts and discern next steps for Bucks Quarter and all PYM friends. This could perhaps result in the formation of a collaborative that could be a tool to organize the concerns, resources and strategy.

Truth and Reconciliation Process

With regards to the Truth and Reconciliation process, QLC will by next council meeting research known case studies to explore what this process could mean in our Quaker context. The wider goal is to discern a path to conflict resolution that would be systematic and grounding for the PYM community. One suggestion is to reach out to FWCC for perspective and information.

A concern was raised that there is an urgent need for Friends to work together to address human trafficking and slavery that is real globally and domestically today.

State of the Meeting Reports

We appreciate the work of the Ministry and Care Committee of the QLC to take up the work to clarify the invitation, form and purpose of the State of the Meeting reports. This is a vital opportunity for monthly meetings to share their stories, ministries, education, events, struggles and longings to teach, inspire and encourage one another. The QLC will hold the committee in the Light as they do this work.

Committee Membership and Term Limits

We charged the Agenda Committee with considering for approval Quaker Life Council Committee membership and term limits.

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Items Tabled for Next Meeting

- Review of Quaker Life Council Expenses
- Administrative Council Governance Committee Charge