

02.15.2020 Quaker Life Council Minutes

Present: Anthony Stover (Assistant Clerk), George Rubin, Kate Bregman, Cathleen Marion (recording), Marge Dawson, Bryn Hammarstrom (recording), Zachary Dutton (staff) and George Schaefer(staff).

Regrets: Ayesha Imani, Melanie Douty-Snipes, Amy Taylor Brooks, Julia Carrigan, Sue Dietz, Susan Kight

Anthony clerked the meeting in Amy's absence.

We convened late due to a joint meeting with the Administrative Council (for which minutes were taken by Administrative Council) and those gathered agreed to extend this meeting thru 1:15, with two persons needing to leave earlier.

Our first agenda item was to hear a verbal report from PYM Care & Aging Coordinator George Schaefer, who wears many hats and serves many functions for our yearly meeting. He is our point person for pastoral care, aging concerns, as well as the Friends Counseling Service. George is a member of the PYM Staff Community Engagement Team. Recent issues which he mentioned in this update/ report to QLC included pastoral care for a monthly meeting with interpersonal conflict and an elderly monthly meeting member's request for a clearness committee as they cared for a disabled son, clarifying financial needs of PYM assistance for elderly Friends from yearly meeting granting funds, and working to develop a community of practice around eldership. In a brief Question and Answer session with Quaker Life Council members, George spoke also of his work on conflicts within monthly meetings, roles of Quaker elders, and difficult personalities within meetings.

Anthony updated the Quaker Life Council on the progress of the group of people who volunteered at the 2019 Annual Sessions to address racism. They have met a few times (including this past Tuesday) and did submit a report to PYM's most recent Continuing Sessions. The way forward for this group was discussed at an earlier joint session of the three councils in which the need to use these Friends who volunteered to work on our yearly meeting's behalf in the area of racism/ inclusion/ community was affirmed.

Anthony also reported that Quaker Life Council member Melanie Douty-Snipes has done some preliminary work on "reconciliation" and will discuss her findings at our March meeting.



Zachary reported on the Threshing Session held at Haddonfield Meeting, in which some 90 Friends participated. Minutes of exercise were taken by PYM Recording Clerk Jim Herr and will be posted on the PYM website.

Quaker Life Council approved the following minutes of appreciation to Haddonfield Meeting and the two Co-Facilitators Walter Sullivan and Tenaja Henson:

Haddonfield Friends Meeting

On behalf of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, the Quaker Life Council minutes its deep appreciation to Haddonfield Friends Meeting for hosting the recent Threshing Session on Membership, Sunday, January 26, 2020. We benefited greatly from your generous attention, hospitality, and spiritual grounding throughout the day, which began with joining your meeting for worship. You joyfully integrated Friends from many other places into the life of your community, which supported intervisitation and connection.

Tenaja Henson and Walter Sullivan

On behalf of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, the Quaker Life Council minutes its deep appreciation to Tenaja Henson and Walter Sullivan for their service to our community. They facilitated the recent Threshing Session on Membership held at Haddonfield Friends Meeting on Sunday, January 26, 2020 with deftness, poise, and expert care. We benefited greatly from the relationships we built throughout the day in the spirit of worship and play. This was a beneficial element of our yearly meeting's continued discernment on the role of membership, commitment and belonging.

The Quaker Life Council approved the following minute endorsing the Poor People's Campaign:

Given the historic connection that Quakers have had to the Poor People's Campaign and the continued need for a moral call toward economic, racial and environmental justice in the United States, Quaker Life Council endorses the 2020 Poor People's Campaign on behalf of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting and encourages PYM monthly meetings to do the same.

Cathleen clarified the Quaker Life Council Program Committee expense report additionally includes a \$300.00 reimbursement approval to India Friends Collaborative from the 2019 budget.

George Rubin shared a handout from Youth Service Opportunities Project (YSOP) titled, "Learning through Service." New York Yearly Meeting has used this organization with their



young people to assist the poor, homeless and food deprived. Our Young Friends Program is on a trip with YSOP this weekend.

George also suggested investigating the curriculum Hearts and Minds Prepared out of Woodbrook in Birmingham, UK to enhance/incorporate with Quakerism 101.

We noted our hope there will be a greater response ahead of the coming 2020 Annual Sessions for the state of the meeting reports.

Further efforts will occur to have greater agenda input.

Quaker Life Council meeting ended with a moment of worshipful gratitude.