

**338th Annual Sessions
Philadelphia Yearly Meeting
July 25th- 29th, 2018
The College of New Jersey, Ewing, NJ
Thursday July 26th, 2018 - Morning Session**

Worship

We began our morning in worship, and then enjoyed All Together Time, wherein we learned how to greet one another in several languages, and spent time in multigenerational fellowship responding to queries inviting a deeper reflection than “How are you?”

Administrivia

Chris Lucca, serving as Alternate Clerk, welcomed the body to the Business Sessions, explaining that our business will be clerked by himself and the two other alternate clerks, Amy Kietzman and Tom Hoopes. The facing table introduced themselves, and elders were invited to stand and be recognized.

The clerk invited Friends visiting from other yearly meeting to introduce themselves. Windy Cooler is visiting from Baltimore Yearly Meeting. Deanna Meyer Boyd, member of Baltimore Yearly Meeting, introduced herself. She is visiting on behalf of Friends General Conference (FGC).

Missy Smith was introduced as our CARTT – communications access real-time translator. We are grateful for her presence and service to our community.

Friends were invited to review the Discernment and Expectations for Business Meeting. These guidelines help us all prepare ourselves spiritually and practically for the work we undertake as a community.

Friends were informed that there are three affinity spaces designated for Sessions. One is for White Friends working to dismantle racism; one is for Friends of color, indigenous Friends, and Friends of African Descent; and one is for Friends of mixed heritage.

Minute of Religious Service

Emily Blanck, on behalf of Salem Quarterly Meeting, read the minute of religious service regarding Sandra Boone Murphy, member of Mickleton Friends Meeting, and her ministry with indigenous people. This minute is attached.

Honoring Penny Colgan-Davis

The clerk invited us to settle into a brief but moving worship to honor the life and service of Penny Colgan Davis.

The clerk then shared his prayer that we can honor the pain, frustration, disappointment, and anger Friends have felt within the Yearly Meeting, and set it aside in order to move into a deeper loving and trust in our community.

Nominating Council

Melissa Rycroft, clerk of Nominating Council, invited the other members of the Nominating Council to be recognized by the body. She shared the struggle that Nominating Council has faced in their work and invited the community to join in carrying the burden. In seeking a Friend to serve as Presiding clerk, Nominating Council has encountered several challenges. Friends will often say that they cannot serve because they feel inexperienced. This is something that we need to consider as a body – how are we raising up and growing clerks in our midst? Are we willing to take risks, inviting new folks into leadership, and providing the support they need? Friends will also say that PYM leadership seems like a full-time job and can only be done by someone who is retired. The nominating council is working with Administrative and Quaker Life Councils to evaluate and perhaps restructure the role of clerk. Friends

also say that they are concerned about serving as presiding clerk because they do not feel able to clerk this body, fearing that they will encounter poor treatment from the community. Friends were asked to help the Nominating Council in their work, and also to help support whoever is nominated to serve as our next presiding clerk. While there is no current nomination for clerk, Nominating Council expressed hope that a nomination may be brought forward by November.

Nominating Council presented the current slate of nominations, in the report attached. Friends approved these nominations and accepted the report. In response, there were some questions from the body lifting up the lack of clarity about the role of presiding clerk going forward. Administrative Council, Quaker Life Council, and Nominating Council clerks are currently working on revisioning the role of presiding clerk going forward, while seeking Friends to serve. These Friends expect to report back to the body by the end of these sessions. Friends are asked to hold this work in prayer.

Treasurer's Report

Andrew Anderson, Treasurer, presented the attached report, with assistance from Linell McCurry. With a concern for greater transparency among the body and FASB, the report addresses both the restricted and unrestricted budgets, as well as the reserves. Both restricted and unrestricted budgets are balanced and there are six months in reserves. However, only the unrestricted budget comes before the body for approval. The annual fund giving is down, due to the deaths of some of our major donors. Meeting covenants are the single largest source of unrestricted income; meetings are encouraged to consider whether or not they can afford to increase their covenant amounts. Friends are invited to chat with Linell, Andrew, and the Administrative council with any questions or suggestions. Friends approved the unrestricted budget as presented and requested that we engage in a deeper reflection regarding how our budget reflects the strategic directions of the YM.

Arch Street Meeting House Preservation Trust

Christie Duncan-Tessmer introduced Lynne Calamia, who has stepped into the new role as Executive Director (formerly Director) of Arch Street Meeting House. This has been a productive year of growth for the Meeting House. Highlights include doubling the income received from individual donors and foundations, broadening their outreach to funders, developing a marketing and communications plan, and revisioning the use of space to make the building more accessible. The meetinghouse has welcomed over 11,000 visitors, including over 6,000 schoolchildren from local Philadelphia schools. Tourists enjoy the opportunity to interact with real live Quakers; if Friends are interested in volunteering, no special Quaker history knowledge is needed. There are also opportunities for committee service and research.

Epistle Committee

Melissa Rycroft shared with us the names of Friends who have agreed to serve on the Epistle Committee. These Friends are Louis Lefevre, Joan Broadfield, Gabreell James, and Melissa Rycroft. These names were approved.

These minutes were approved.

**338th Annual Sessions
Philadelphia Yearly Meeting
July 25th- 29th, 2018
The College of New Jersey, Ewing, NJ
Thursday July 26th, 2018 - Evening Session**

Tom Hoopes, acting in the role of presiding clerk, introduced himself and invited the Friends at the facing table to introduce themselves. He described a collection of items placed at the facing table: an empty water glass, which is to remind us to be open to receiving the living waters every day; a piece of rose quartz; and a juggling ball, which is representative of the way in which the clerking team works together and how we as a community juggle our many responsibilities and leadings.

Administrivia

The clerk invited Friends visiting from other Yearly meetings to introduce themselves. Christine Ashley, member of Whittier Friends Meeting (IA-conservative), staff from Friends Committee on National Legislation introduced herself.

The clerk invited Friends who are attending Yearly Meeting sessions for the first time to rise and introduce themselves to the body.

Epistles from Other Yearly Meetings

Melissa Rycroft, member of the Epistle Committee, read the epistle from Great Plains Yearly Meeting, attached.

Plenary – Dr. Amanda Kemp

We were then ministered to by Dr. Amanda Kemp, accompanied by her elder Michelle Brimage from Ithaca Monthly Meeting, who invited us into deeper reflection on how we can engage in the work of racial justice from a more grounded and reflective place. She offered us the tools of Holding Space for Transformation and Reflecting on Yourself. Holding Space for Transformation means that we are grounded in our bodies and in our relationship with God, standing on the ground of our values while opening our heart center for authentic connection with those with whom we disagree. We were encouraged to consider these individuals opponents rather than enemies, for the former offers the invitation for connection rather than demonization. Reflecting on Yourself is a process of reflecting on our fragility, our unconscious bias, our white supremacy, and the contributions of our ancestors. Those in attendance were powerfully moved by the evening's presentation, and we hope to carry these lessons into difficult conversations moving forward, recognizing the helpfulness of community in this work.

These minutes were approved.

**338th Annual Sessions
Philadelphia Yearly Meeting
July 25th- 29th, 2018
The College of New Jersey, Ewing, NJ
Friday July 27th, 2018 - Morning Session**

We opened the morning with worship, followed by All Together Time. First Oliver Brangan shared yesterday's Youth Programs News, highlighting the many wonderful activities the Children's, Middle School, and Young Friends programs engaged in yesterday. The All Together Time featured multigenerational fellowship offered us an opportunity to listen and be listened to, both with and without the intention to respond.

Administrivia

Amy Kietzman, acting as presiding clerk, welcomed Friends, and reminded us of our practice of using pronouns in an effort to make safe space for Friends who identify throughout the gender spectrum. The Clerk's table introduced themselves and their preferred pronouns.

Epistles from Other Yearly Meetings

Louis Lefever from the Epistle Committee shared an epistle from 2017 Lake Erie Yearly Meeting annual sessions.

Ujima Friends Peace Center

Then we had a presentation from Ujima Friends Peace Center, beginning with a slide show featuring members of the community sharing about the role of the Center in their lives. Friends spoke of the Center as a spiritual home, where they have the opportunity to worship with other Friends who look like them. Friends spoke of the power of a space where they can be unapologetically black and unapologetically Quaker. They also lifted up the important work of the Center in outreach and service to the community.

Ayesha Imani then shared highlights of the work of the Center since its founding in 2017. Starting out as a worship community, Ujima Friends were quickly led to survey members of the surrounding community seeking how to be of service to their neighbors. Responses have included developing a culturally responsive version of the Alternatives to Violence Project, the Mptapo curriculum, which is being shared with schools throughout Philadelphia; women's book clubs; renter's rights education; and operating a summer Freedom School. Through regular grocery giveaways, the Center has helped over 1100 families in the last eight months. The Center serves a critical role in our community as a Black Quaker presence. The miracle of the Ujima Friends Peace Center keeps unfolding, as members continue to gather in fellowship, listen to Spirit, witness to the community, and work toward the revitalization of Quakers. While White Friends are encouraged to contribute to the work of Ujima Friends through financial contributions, White Friends were also challenged to forge connections with those members of our community who may look like them, but feel that they have been forgotten.

QLC: Minutes from Quarters – What do we do with them in the new structure

Bryn Hammarstrom reported on behalf of QLC, and eight members of QLC took their place facing the body. Bryn reviewed the major points of the process of carrying a minute of concern to the PYM community. As a minute moves from MM to QM, to PYM, the presiding clerk will take the minute to the administrative leadership, inc. council clerks, General Secretary, and Treasurer. The minute will then be sent to the appropriate council, who will then report back to the QM clerk. Friends can then move forward with their action with the support of our community.

Bryn then presented and briefly discussed a few sample minutes. One was a minute from Abington Meeting concerning deceased member and anti-slavery activist, Benjamin Lay. The Meeting recognized

Benjamin Lay as a Friend of the Truth and as being in unity with the spirit of Abington MM; QLC endorsed the minute. Gratitude was expressed to QLC for this endorsement. Friends noted that it was suggested that the term slaveowner be replaced by enslaver in the minute and that an expression of remorse be included. The term slave is dehumanizing and reifies the claim that someone can be owned by someone else. A corrected minute could then be sent to the QLC. Members of Abington Quarter monthly meeting offered to do so.

Another minute that QLC considered was one from Greene Street, regarding staff policy changes and withholding of their covenant relationship with PYM. The Greene Street minute was reviewed by QLC, and the QLC clerk and PYM leadership met with Greene Street Friends. We learned that the past year's covenant was paid by Greene Street and an ongoing relationship is moving forward.

A Minute of Support to Planned Parenthood was also received and supported by the QLC.

Two minutes on nuclear disarmament came from Caln and Concord Quarters with different language. QLC minuted support for PYM to come under the weight of the concern and referred it to the Legislative Policy Collaborative. This collaborative asked for a group of committed Friends from the quarters to meet with them so they could move forward as a body with this work. The MMs are being asked to identify point people to meet with the Collaborative.

Some details about the Legislative Policy Collaborative were explained. It is led by PYM representatives to FCNL. The QLC has asked the LPC to be a resource to meetings and quarters who bring minutes of concern about national policy to Council. LPC's support for Friends with specific concerns of their own may come in a variety of forms, all to enable the Friends with the concern to carry it forward in their own way and on their own initiative.

A Young Adult Friend asked about how a minute could be brought forward from their group which does not have a QM. It was acknowledged that this is an appropriate issue and will need to be addressed. Bryn noted that QM clerks can send minutes to the acting clerks or the clerks of administrative councils. Concern for handling a time-sensitive issue was raised: the clerk of the Legislative Policy Collaborative gave an example and explained that a concern came from a BYM member regarding opposition to a contract with PARS/ICE. LPC leadership seasoned the request and found unity in encouraging PYM leadership to meet with Mayor Kenney.

Appreciation was expressed by a Friend for the Benjamin Lay minute with the hope that Avis Wanda McClinton will be similarly acknowledged in the future.

The Clerk of Phila. Quarter noted that a minute of concern about mass incarceration is coming forward.

Open Space Technology

Wade Wright invited us to attend tonight's Open Space Technology session. This experiment is a way for the Yearly Meeting to hear how the Yearly Meeting is building the beloved community, which was felt by the Sessions Planning Committee to be an excellent way for our Yearly Meeting to learn more about our individual passions and leadings, and to grow closer together.

**338th Annual Sessions
Philadelphia Yearly Meeting
July 25th- 29th, 2018
The College of New Jersey, Ewing, NJ
Saturday July 28th, 2018 - Morning Session**

We began the morning celebrating the life and service of Penny Colgan-Davis. This meeting was followed by Youth Program News, shared by several members of the Youth Programs. They have a rainbow unicorn sprinkler! Then we engaged in multigenerational All Together Time, reflecting on experience of the “Help Help”, “Thank you Thank you”, and “I love you I love you” prayers in our lives.

Administrivia

Tom Hoopes acting as presiding clerk invited introductions from elders, visitors from other yearly meetings, first-time attenders at Annual Sessions. Dana Holland was introduced as our Communications Access Real-Time Translator (CARTT) for today’s sessions.

QLC re: Minutes of Concern

The corrected minute regarding QLC’s process of addressing Minutes of Concern, with a few modifications, was approved.

Minute of Service

Deb Wood, from Concord quarter, read a minute of traveling service for Michael Wajda. This minute was endorsed by Goshen meeting, Concord quarter, and Friends present minuted their approval of endorsing this minute on behalf of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting.

General Secretary Report

Christie Duncan-Tessmer, serving as General Secretary, then gave her report. We were reminded of our seven strategic directions. We observed that we hadn’t heard them as a group since they were first approved. We need to grow our capacity to move into those strategic directions. In turn, moving in those directions helps us build our capacity. Her report focused on three areas: Staffing, data, community. There has been significant work in reorganizing staffing for greater capacity. We heard about the Community Engagement Coordinator and Youth Engagement Coordinator positions as examples of that. These positions expand PYM’s capacity to respond to the sprints and collaboratives, and the needs of meetings and their children, respectively. Other new positions include the Meeting Engagement Coordinator, Director of Human Resources and Inclusion, and the Associate Secretary for Advancement and Relationship. With regard to data, PYM is building their capacity to build their gifts and skills reservoir, which will support the work of Nominating Council and help us to better serve one another. Lastly, with regard to the community, PYM is building their capacity through developing the Resource Friends program. This program allows PYM to identify Friends with particular gifts that can be leveraged by other monthly and quarterly meetings. Christie shared her reflection that PYM might be struggling with our capacity to address racism. There are some Friends who have chosen not to attend Sessions because they feel like we’re not doing enough on this issue; there are others who choose not to attend because they feel we are focusing too much on this issue. This has implications for our fundraising as well. She shared her observations about patterns within the body when we are wrestling with issues of racism; she invited us to build our capacity by stepping into the complexity, finding our voice, and sharing in the ambiguity and discomfort that allows for growth. Friends received this report with appreciation.

Plenary – Walter Hjelt Sullivan: “What is PYM called to witness at this time in history? What does it mean for us to be faithfully in relationship to each other as we look outward at this time?”

Walter spoke to us about the Covenant Relationship, reflecting on the extent to which it requires both firmness and gentleness; Confidence and receptivity. A confidence without receptivity is not true confidence. A receptivity without confidence is not true receptivity. There is a complementarity. We were led in a Breema body exercise, as well as reflection on several scriptural passages. We joined in groups of three to worship share on our experience of that body exercise, as well as queries related to the covenant relationship and prophetic voice. We were left with the following queries:

What is the posture you would like to take? How would you like to show up? What kind of covenant relationship do you wish to nurture with PYM?

Friends expressed gratitude for Walter’s presentation.

Multicultural Institutional Audit

tonya thames taylor presented as clerk of the Steering Committee. She offered her reflective report, sharing her experience of convening the group, and the struggles the committee faced in coming to unity on a path forward. What appeared to be a straightforward task became a fraught process encountering resistance and suspicion from the body. She encouraged us to return to love and friendship, and restore our faith in the work of the spirit, even when it doesn’t conform to our deadlines or look like Quaker process. She encouraged us to slow down and listen to Spirit as we move forward. The Clerk echoed tonya’s concern that this committee was not provided sufficient support when it was tasked one year ago. It was proposed that perhaps this committee might be taken under the care of Quaker Life Council.

We opened the floor to listen for the Spirit’s guidance in how to move forward. We heard from members and former members of the Multicultural Institutional Audit Steering Committee, as well as others with reflections on the process and suggestions to move forward. Recognizing the time, Clerk Tom Hoopes proposed a listening tent to help to season this issue, and we will return to this issue again this evening.

These minutes were approved.

**338th Annual Sessions
Philadelphia Yearly Meeting
July 25th- 29th, 2018
The College of New Jersey, Ewing, NJ
Saturday July 28th, 2018 - Evening Session**

Over ice cream cake, following dinner, Friends joyfully celebrated the publication of our revised Faith and Practice.

We were greeted at the facing table by seven Young Friends, who led us into worship. Chris Lucca, acting as presiding clerk, shared his joy at this surprise, and recalled George Bailey's joie de vivre after the transformative events of "It's a Wonderful Life". He expressed his sense that a joyful transformation has happened among us this weekend.

Administrivia

The facing table introduced themselves, and the elders were asked to stand and be recognized. Additionally, those Friends who had attended the Spiritual Formation retreat prior to Sessions were asked to stand, as they have also indicated their willingness to serve this community as elders. We are held in loving prayer by many in our midst.

Dana Holland, our Communications Access Real-Time Translator was introduced.

Epistles from Other Yearly Meeting

Joan Broadfield, member of the epistle committee, read the epistle from the 12th Pacific Northwest Quaker Women's Theology Conference.

Minute of Service

Barry Scott, joined by Lola Georg, O, and Hollister Knowlton, read the minute of service for Viv Hawkins, generated by Central Philadelphia, and endorsed by Philadelphia Quarter. Friends received this minute.

Youth Programs Sprint

Kri Burkander, convener of the Youth Programs Sprint, reported on behalf of the sprint. This group was charged almost two years ago to articulate a Vision, Mission, and Governance Structure for the Yearly Meeting Youth Programs. The Vision and Mission Statement were shared with the body in March, and subsequently underwent further revisions. The revised version was brought to Quaker Life Council and approved. While it requires no further approval by this body, it was felt that because it is for the whole Yearly Meeting, it should come before the body. There was enthusiastic approval, and Friends were invited to come under the weight of this work. The governance structure is still being refined, and, as it is a policy document, will be approved by Quaker Life Council.

Epistle Committee

Melissa Rycroft, Joan Broadfield, and Louis Lefevre presented the draft epistle for feedback. Friends offered suggestions and edits. These will be incorporated and the epistle will be brought back tomorrow for approval.

Nominating Committee

Melissa Rycroft, clerk of the Nominating Council, reported back regarding the proposed plan for moving forward on the issue of presiding clerk following these Sessions. Between now and November, the role will be filled by the alternate clerk, with the support of the clerks of Administrative, Quaker Life, and Nominating Councils, and the Treasurer. Nominating Council will continue seeking someone to fill the role of presiding clerk between now and November sessions. The role of presiding clerk at November sessions will be filled by the alternate clerk. A Leadership Sprint (which will be composed of two

nominated members each by Administrative, Nominating, and Quaker Life Councils) will consider revisioning of the presiding clerk role. This proposal was shared for consideration and feedback and will be brought back for approval tomorrow.

Update from work on Multicultural Audit Steering Committee

Over 100 Friends (the majority of Friends in attendance today) came to the listening tent this afternoon to further season the work of the multicultural audit steering committee. This was a powerful time of listening, opening our hearts to new truth, and healing.

We returned to this issue in the evening session. While this committee has not met the deadline set out in the minutes from Annual Session 2017 when they were charged, we recognize that hard work takes time. We are wrestling with issues that are centuries old, and we believe that this is God's work. We heard from members of the Steering Committee who expressed their commitment and renewed dedication to the work and each other. The Committee asked the body to have faith in the group and trust their process. They also requested the support of PYM to hold a retreat, during which they can gather in fellowship and healing, reorganize and refine the work of the committee, and identify any additional needs that the Yearly Meeting might address. We minuted our support and love for the work of this committee, as well as committing funds to support a retreat.

This minute was approved.

**338th Annual Sessions
Philadelphia Yearly Meeting
July 25th- 29th, 2018
The College of New Jersey, Ewing, NJ
Sunday July 29th, 2018 - Morning Session**

We began in worship. Amy Kietzman, acting as presiding clerk, began our sessions by inviting us to continue in worship as we turn our focus to the business before us. We recalled the metaphor of building the car as we're driving it; perhaps it is not we who are building the car, but indeed the holy spirit is working upon and among us.

The clerk shared an excerpt from Britain Yearly Meeting's Advices and Queries which encouraged us to "Live adventurously. When choices arise, do you take the way that offers the fullest opportunity for the use of your gifts in the service of God and the community? Let your life speak."

Administrivia

The facing table introduced themselves, and we were introduced to Missy Smith, our Communications Access Real-Time Translator. We also welcomed those Friends attending Sessions for the first time.

Epistles from Other Yearly Meeting

Gabreell James, member of the Epistle Committee, read the minute of Alaska Friends Conference 2017 sessions.

Quaker Life Council

Jim Herr of Lancaster Meeting and a member of Quaker Life Council presented the annual report of QLC. Instead of reading the report, Jim asked us to read the report's summary of the considerable amount of work done during the last year. One of their main responsibilities is to foster, oversee and encourage Collaboratives. The application to be a collaborative is on the website; it requires people from several Monthly Meetings to be involved.

We presently have 10 Collaboratives; each one has a member of the QLC as a contact person.

Collaboratives include the Friends World Committee on Consultation; Decarceration; Spiritual Formation; First Contact Reconciliation, which works with Native Americans who once lived in the PYM area; Eco-Justice, Legislative Policy/FCNL; India Friends; Atlantic Coast Quaker Activists (now in process of becoming a Collaborative); Middle East; and Supporting Individual Calls to Ministry. A Friend clarified the work of India Friends. Another Friend explained that the work of the Supporting Individual Calls to Ministry was suspended because of the group's call to focus on racism.

The groups that formed during our Open Space Technology session Friday evening were invited to form collaboratives; some have already done so. Funding is available, as needed. Jim listed their tasks for the coming year: encourage and receive State of the Meeting reports, liaison with the Collaboratives to receive annual reports, receive minutes of concern from monthly, Quarterly Meetings and others, attend to Youth programs' growth and development, and explore our covenant relationship with Undoing Racism.

New tasks for the year include the following: Integrate PYM's 7 strategic directions; assist in building the Bridge Contact Structure, address minutes of concern from non-QM bodies, and organize past minutes of concern with an index.

A Friend asked about follow-up with the racism issues between Upper Dublin MM and Avis Wanda McClinton. QLC is sitting with the report given in March and is now in a time of catching up with other work. The resolution of that issue was a parting of the ways, working to find new and peaceful directions in separate ways.

A Friend invited Friends to attend the Spiritual Formation Retreat in October and grow the spiritual deepening in individual meetings. **The QLC report was accepted.**

Administrative Council

Bruce Haines, clerk of the council shared his report, joined by members of the Administrative Council on the stage. Richard Morse, Harry Bryan, and Linell McCurry introduced the topic of the Millington (MD) burial ground. The meeting was laid down in 1847, but some former members of the meeting are interred there. A local historian has done some work to investigate the occupants of the burial ground and it is believed that there are no remains of those known only to God at the site. The burial ground has been in some disrepair. The YM received this property from Southern Quarter and has been providing maintenance and rehabilitation to the property. There is now an opportunity to transfer ownership to the town. Members of this Council plan to report back to the body on this issue at a future Sessions.

The clerk acknowledged the work of the publications sprint in stewarding the publication of our revised Faith and Practice. Friends expressed their gratitude.

The clerk reminded us of the formation of the Clerking Sprint, which is charged with considering the roles of the presiding and alternate clerks. The Nominating, Administrative, and Quaker Life Councils will be identifying two individuals each to serve; if Friends have names to bring forward, they are encouraged do so.

The clerk shared his reflection that the new practice of the Councils meeting jointly at the beginning of their monthly meetings has been rich. He is excited to see what new growth comes out of that practice. The clerk observed that this Annual Sessions has been a deep and transformative experience. The Council expressed its intention to lean into the work before them as faithfully as they are able, trusting in the work of the Spirit.

A Friend noted that there are likely Friends who are not able to attend in person, and who would benefit from streaming these Sessions. This may align well with our Strategic Directions; Administrative Council will take this back for consideration.

Friends received this report with gratitude.

Nominating Council report Melissa Rycroft brought back the minute regarding their plan for how to move forward with the clerkship of this body with no current nomination for presiding clerk and having two of the three alternate clerks concluding their terms of service. **Friends approved this minute, attached.** There was additional sharing from two alternate clerks about the richness of the opportunity to work collectively; it was suggested that perhaps this team structure has allowed God to move more freely among us.

Epistle Committee

Melissa Rycroft, Joan Broadfield, Louis Lefevre, and Gabreell James, members of the Epistle Committee, presented the revised epistle from these Sessions. **This was approved.**

Children, Youth, and Young Adult Program Epistles

We heard the epistle from the Children's program, attached. This was followed by the epistles from the Middle School Friends, Young Friends, and Young Adult Friends communities, also attached. Our community, at all age levels, is committed to the work of ecological and social justice, and to deepening our relationship with God and each other. We were particularly moved by the observation in the Young Adult Friends' epistle that they have grown up during the war on terror. The body recognizes the role we have all played in contributing to the world our children have grown up in, and our responsibility to support their work to improve it. We received these epistles with gratitude.

The Young Adult Program epistle contained their intention to hold a worship outside Berks Detention Facility as a form of direct action. They requested spiritual, financial, and logistical support and participation from the Yearly Meeting to act on this leading. The Yearly Meeting was moved by the epistle, and minuted its commitment to support the Young Adult Friends in carrying out this work. We invite the Young Adult Friends program to be in further conversation with the Yearly Meeting about any spiritual, financial, or logistical support they may require. We recognize that there other Friends also under the weight of this concern and the Resource Friends program has offered help in connecting the Young Adult Friends to the other work underway. **This was approved.**
These minutes were approved with gratitude.

Respectfully submitted,
Kri Burkander, Recording Clerk
Jane Keller, Recording Clerk
Jim Herr, Recording Clerk

Attachments:

[Nominating Council's initial report with new members and released Friends](#)

[Treasurer Report](#)

[Nominating Council's proposal on moving forward with presiding clerk](#)

[Final Epistle for Sessions](#)

[Childrens'](#), [Middle School Friends](#), [Young Friends](#), and [Young Adult Friends](#) epistles

Nominating Council's Report:

Nominating Council
Report to Annual Sessions

Appointments

| Recording Clerk | | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|
| NAME | MONTHLY MEETING | QUARTERLY MEETING | TERM ENDS |
| Jane Keller | Lancaster | Caln | 2020 |
| Jim Herr | Lancaster | Caln | 2020 |

| Elder | | | |
|-----------------|------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|
| NAME | MONTHLY MEETING | QUARTERLY MEETING | TERM ENDS |
| Robert Dockhorn | Green Street | Philadelphia | 2021 (2) |

| Administrative Council Clerk | | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|
| NAME | MONTHLY MEETING | QUARTERLY MEETING | TERM ENDS |
| Bruce Haines | Providence | Chester | 2021 (2) |

| Administrative Council | | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|
| NAME | MONTHLY MEETING | QUARTERLY MEETING | TERM ENDS |
| Richard Morse | Harrisburg | Caln | 2020 (2) |

| Quaker Life Council | | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|
| NAME | MONTHLY MEETING | QUARTERLY MEETING | TERM ENDS |
| Julia Carrigan | Mickleton | Salem | 2021 |
| Marge Dawson | Merion | Haverford | 2021 |

| FCNL | | | |
|-----------------|------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|
| NAME | MONTHLY MEETING | QUARTERLY MEETING | TERM ENDS |
| Burt Dallas | Radnor | Haverford | 2020 |
| Deb Hejl | Gwynned | Abington | 2021 |
| Steve Olshevski | Radnor | Haverford | 2021 |
| Sylvia Bronner | Haverford | Haverford | 2021 |

| Friends General Conference | | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|
| NAME | MONTHLY MEETING | QUARTERLY MEETING | TERM ENDS |
| Dorothy Day | Gwynnedd | Abington | 2021 |
| Frank Barch | Schuylkill | Caln | 2021 |
| Jess Purvis | Central Philadelphia | Philadelphia | 2021 |
| Norval Thompson | Third Haven | Southern | 2021 |
| Sara Farneth | Middletown | Bucks | 2021 |

| Friends Pension Plan | | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|
| NAME | MONTHLY MEETING | QUARTERLY MEETING | TERM ENDS |
| Edward Snyder | Yardley | Bucks | 2021 |
| Marybeth Snyder | Newtown | Bucks | 2021 |

| Friends Fiduciary | | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|
| NAME | MONTHLY MEETING | QUARTERLY MEETING | TERM ENDS |
| Bruce Hunt | Swarthmore | Chester | 2021 (3) |
| Christie Duncan-Tessmer | Chestnut Hill | Philadelphia | 2021 (2) |
| Joan Countryman | Germantown | Philadelphia | 2021 (2) |
| Mark Myers | London Grove | Western | 2021 (2) |
| Terry Nance | Swarthmore | Chester | 2021 |
| William Schmidt | Central Philadelphia | Philadelphia | 2021 (3) |

| Westtown School | | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|
| NAME | MONTHLY MEETING | QUARTERLY MEETING | TERM ENDS |
| Martha B. Bryans | Uwchlan | Caln | 2021 |

Releases

| Clerk | | | |
|--------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|
| NAME | MONTHLY MEETING | QUARTERLY MEETING | EFFECTIVE |
| Penny Colgan-Davis | Germantown | Philadelphia | 2018 |

| Alternate Clerk | | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|
| NAME | MONTHLY MEETING | QUARTERLY MEETING | EFFECTIVE |
| Amy Keitzman | Central Philadelphia | Philadelphia | 2018 |
| Tom Hoopes | Valley | Haverford | 2018 |

| Elder | | | |
|--------------|------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|
| NAME | MONTHLY MEETING | QUARTERLY MEETING | EFFECTIVE |
| Alison Levie | Goshen | Concord | 2018 |

| Administrative Council | | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|
| NAME | MONTHLY MEETING | QUARTERLY MEETING | EFFECTIVE |
| Julian Brelsford | Central Philadelphia | Philadelphia | 2018 |
| Suzanne Day | Westfield | Haddonfield | 2018 |
| Ventina Hershey | Mount Holly | Burlington | 2018 |

| Quaker Life Council | | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|
| NAME | MONTHLY MEETING | QUARTERLY MEETING | EFFECTIVE |
| Jim Herr | Lancaster | Caln | 2018 |
| Karen Winner | Medford | Haddonfield | 2018 |
| Olivia Brangan | Wrightstown | Bucks | 2018 |
| Kri Burkander | Princeton | Burlington | 2018 |

| FCNL | | | |
|------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|
| NAME | MONTHLY MEETING | QUARTERLY MEETING | EFFECTIVE |
| Joan Broadfield | Chester | Chester | 2018 |
| Mary Lou Hatcher | Lehigh Valley | Bucks | 2018 |
| Paul Indorf | Swarthmore | Chester | 2018 |

If you have questions about this report, please contact:

Melissa Rycroft, Clerk of Nominating Council at nominatingclerk@pym.org.

Treasurer's Report:

WHAT'S NEW WITH THE 2019 BUDGET

Unrestricted Budget



Restricted Budget



THE BUDGET NOW SHOWS:

- The Unrestricted and the Restricted budgets
- The use of reserves (savings)
- A zero balance – because the granaries are full

Total funds available



Total budgeted for spending



Balance



| Unrestricted Budget (for approval) | Kisses | \$ |
|------------------------------------|--------|-----------|
| Total funds available | 296 | 2,960,200 |
| Total budgeted for spending | 296 | 2,960,200 |
| Balance | 0 | 0 |

UNRESTRICTED BUDGET

163 purple kisses

Income from contributions, grants and bequests

126 silver kisses

Income from investments, programs and fees

7 blue kisses

Use of reserves (savings)

296 Total kisses

Total Unrestricted funds available



1 kiss = \$10,000

UNRESTRICTED BUDGET

22 silver stripe kisses
Income from contributions, grants and bequests

113 gold kisses
Income from investments, programs and fees

17 orange kisses
Use of reserves (savings)

152 Total kisses
Total restricted funds available



1 kiss = \$10,000

RESTRICTED BUDGET

Total funds available



Total budgeted for spending



Balance



| Restricted Budget (for information) | Kisses | \$ |
|-------------------------------------|--------|-----------|
| Total funds available | 152 | 1,524,600 |
| Total budgeted for spending | 152 | 1,524,600 |
| Balance | 0 | 0 |

RESTRICTED BUDGET



**Please send
chocolate!**

Nominating Council's proposal on moving forward with presiding clerk:

BACKGROUND:

In response to the resignation of the clerk of PYM in April 2018, a temporary team was assembled to assume and share the responsibilities of the clerk in preparation for 2018 annual sessions. This 5-person team consisted of the 3 alternate clerks and the clerks of Quaker Life Council and Administrative Council. They were subsequently joined by the clerk of Nominating Council and the Treasurer. This Clerks team decided that the function of presiding clerk at plenary sessions would be shared amongst the 3 alternate clerks.

MINUTE:

With no name being brought forward for the role of Clerk, and with the release of 2 of the Alternate Clerks upon conclusion of their terms of service, Nominating Council asks the body of PYM in session to approve the following arrangement immediately following these sessions:

- 1) Between July sessions and November continuing sessions, the functions of the PYM Clerk will be fulfilled by the Alternate Clerk, with the full support and assistance of the Clerk of Quaker Life Council; Clerk of Administrative Council; Clerk of Nominating Council; and Treasurer.

- 2) Nominating Council remains under the weight of bringing forth a nomination for Clerk, with the goal of doing so at November's sessions.

- 3) The role of Presiding Clerk at November's continuing sessions will be filled by the Alternate Clerk.

Final Epistle:

When the song of the angels is stilled,
when the star in the sky is gone,
when the kings and princes are home,
when the shepherds are back with their flocks,
the work of Christmas begins:
to find the lost,
to heal the broken,
to feed the hungry,
to release the prisoner,
to rebuild the nations,
to bring peace among the people,
to make music in the heart.

Now the Work of Christmas Begins by Howard Thurman

July 29, 2018

To Friends everywhere:

Greetings from the 338th Annual Sessions of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, held at The College of New Jersey in Ewing, New Jersey, from July 25 to 29, 2018.

Christmas in July greeted Friends who arrived early to attend a 24 hour retreat led by the Spiritual Formation Collaborative. The retreat leaders, holding an open, listening space, offered exercises to deepen spiritual grounding and personal reflection. While four yearly meeting Elders were present, all the retreat participants felt led to step forward as elders for the duration of Annual Sessions, relying on Spirit, and the belief that God could transform us during our time together.

Our theme of “How our Lives Speak” resonated throughout sessions as we practiced breathing, deep listening, grounding, and holding our clerks and each other with care and compassion. We recognized that we will make mistakes, we will say the wrong thing, we may hurt each other and yet we will love and care for each other as members of the beloved community.

We mourned the loss of our beloved clerk, Penny Colgan-Davis, who served with grace, wisdom, and firmness through challenging and sometimes contentious times. In the absence of a clerk, our Alternate and Council clerks stepped up to form a collaborative, cooperative clerking team designing a sessions agenda that balanced reports and minutes with spirit-filled plenaries, grounding exercises, reflection, and body prayers.

Plenaries offered rich examples of the work of Christmas. Sharing her ministry of transformation, Dr. Amanda Kemp focused on the questions, “How do we prepare ourselves to let our lives speak? What kinds of spiritual practices do we engage in so that we stay grounded and maintain our own integrity as we do the hard work of loving the world?” She encouraged us to hold space for transformation by getting grounded, breathing, checking in with ourselves, and setting an intention to allow unconditional love and unconditional acceptance

to flow through us. Amanda also offered that the first song in her head each morning, provides her spiritual guidance for the whole day.

Members of Ujima Friends Peace Center offered a presentation on the work, witness, and worship of Friends of recent African descent. Ujima serves the North Philadelphia community by offering weekly worship, after-school programs, food giveaways, renters' rights workshops, and conflict transformation. Ayesha Imani, president of Ujima and member of Germantown Monthly Meeting, defined Ujima as recognizing that the problems of our brothers and sisters are all of our problems. Friends from Ujima celebrated that children in the neighborhood identify them as "the Quakers." She invited us to look at our own communities and see how we can bring the spirit of Ujima to the places we live.

In an experiment in open space technology, we connected with others who shared our passions. A later plenary led by Walter Hjelt Sullivan helped us examine our covenant relationships and explore the pain in our community when the covenantal relationship is broken. In a listening exercise, the workshop leader encouraged us to find the balance of firmness and gentleness in our connections with each other.

Each afternoon we participated in workshops on a wide range of subjects, led by Friends of all ages. Workshop covered a wide variety of topics including "Emergent Strategy: Creating Community, Unpacking the Knapsack, and Transforming Justice," "Art and Advocacy: Making Comics for Social Change," and "How our lives speak as we dialogue with Native and Indigenous Peoples." On Saturday evening, we celebrated the official printing of our new edition of Faith and Practice. Each day we gathered for multi-generational worship in All Together Time and heard reports on the activities of our young Friends. Our younger members ministered to us by providing soul-searching queries for all members to consider in a worship-sharing format.

We experienced the transforming Power during important business. The clerk of the Multicultural Institutional Audit Steering committee offered a personal reflection on the misunderstandings that have led to profound frustration and delays. The clerk's reflection offered a new way for the committee to move forward. The Friends present from the committee expressed a sense of disillusionment and disappointment about the overall experience, yet remained dedicated to completing this work. In an afternoon listening session, more than 100 Friends gathered to share perspective on the process, listen to each other, and through the grace of Spirit, transform into a place of trust, hope, and faithful listening. In an evening meeting for business, and with the winds of Spirit still present, Friends affirmed their support for the committee and their ongoing work.

An empty water goblet at the Clerks' table reminded us that we are ready to be filled with the Living Water, sometimes over and over. A juggling ball represented the transfer of leadership within our clerking team. A hazelnut reminded us of our prayer upon rising each morning and before retiring for the night. Beautiful, natural collections of flowers recalled fond thoughts of our former clerk. Quilts scattered on the floor signified our commitment to comfortable worship space for the littlest legs in our community.

We leave with a deep sense of God's work in us still present, and a renewed commitment to love, trust, support, encourage, and care for each other. We return to our communities, replenished with a sense of love for our neighbors and an intention to share Spirit with those who were not here with us.

Children's Session Epistle:

To All Friends Everywhere,

We, the Children of PYM, came together for Annual sessions at The College of New Jersey, July 25-29, 2018. We gathered to discuss Earthcare, one way we can let our lives speak. Resident artist Anna DeCaria hosted a sustainable weaving workshop. We used recycled fabric to make pom poms and bags. We had a meeting for business where we discerned and we're in unity to plant flowers at the next Children & Families gathering, to compost and recycle more, and to raise money for a nonprofit centering Earthcare by hosting a bake sale. We learned that taking care of the Earth is very important. We urge the community to follow our lead and love the Earth by planting seeds, helping people, and sharing the joy!

We urge adults to ask the children because we know how to take care of the Earth.

Middle School Friends Epistle:

Dear Friends Everywhere,

We are the 2018 Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Annual Sessions Middle School Friends (MSF) community. This week, MSF had fun, built a community, and attended various workshops.

We engaged in many enjoyable games and activities. On Friday we took a trip to the pool. Some of us relaxed in the shade, while others dove off diving boards and slid down slides. The following day, we continued our water fun using a Slip 'N Slide and a giant blow-up unicorn sprinkler. Later that day, many Friends participated in the talent show, the dance party, and then finished the day by leading vespers for the PYM community.

This year MSF at Annual Sessions had a new sleeping arrangement. We now sleep as a community in the College of New Jersey's dorm rooms. This helped to strengthen our community and caused us to form new friendships as well as further already existing ones. As a result of our strong friendships, it became easier to open up to each other. This made our Worship sharing groups more meaningful. Not only did we have a growing bond within the MSF community, but we also grew closer with the wider youth programs.

During the course of this week, MSF attended various thought provoking workshops and plenary sessions. We, along with the PYM community, were introduced to The Ujima Friends Peace Center. Ujima is a peace center dedicated to supporting people of African descent to find a black Quakerism that speaks to attendee's condition. Following the Ujima presentation, we had a workshop led by Anna DeCaria about quilting, collaging, and fabrics. Later that evening, the MSF community came together to share our ideas in a Meeting for Business where we discussed and planned MSF led Vespers.

Throughout this week, the PYM Middle School Friends have gained many friendships and learned many interesting and funny facts about each other. We have all been through the mixing up of schedules, our facilitator standing up for the MSFers, and rushing out from lunch. We had so much fun this week going on the slip 'N slide, playing with a giant unicorn sprinkler, swimming at the pool, diving, and sliding into fun. Even our long business meeting was a little fun. We played a lot of outside games and had many dance, snack, and group game breaks. All in all in this Annual Sessions, the MSFers learned how to work well as a group and ultimately as a community.

Young Friends Epistle:

Dear Friends Everywhere,

The Young Friends program of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting (PYM) gathered at The College of New Jersey in Ewing, New Jersey, for the days of July 25, 2018 through July 29, 2018. Our community welcomed friends, both old and new as well as the new incoming Young Friends Facilitator, Lori Sinitzky.

The gathering program began with light-hearted introductions, part of ensuring that there were a variety of different opportunities throughout the gathering for self-care and fun. We enjoyed spending time Thursday evening playing games with the rest of the youth programs. The Young Friends community continued its traditions, including the vigorous physical activity of Wink and the playing of board games while connecting during Late Night. A new addition was a fun personality test. We had the opportunity to cool off with Frank (the unicorn who spouts water out his horn) and a slip-and-slide. Young Friends were also led in a weaving workshop led by Anna Decaria. Numerous Young Friends were inspired to continue practicing this new skill throughout the gathering, and are grateful for Anna sharing with them.

The Young Friends are also a seriously introspective, spiritual group, and attended many various forms of meditative activities. Apart from regularly attending meeting for worship, we also had daily sessions of worship sharing and had many thoughtful discussions. We also were a part of the multigenerational All Together Time, a time where young and old alike explore spirituality as a single group. Those of us who identify as LGBTQ+ and Allies took part in a unifying time during dinner, to strengthen bonds between those Friends. Some of us finished our evening with a multigenerational vespers, which allowed us to settle in for the night with a state of calm.

Our Nurturing Committee enjoyed providing opportunities for deeper connections and spiritual growth by writing worship sharing questions both for Young Friends and for all of Annual Sessions. Young Friends decided during their business meeting to affirm our work of writing worship sharing questions for Annual Sessions in 2019.

A very controversial issue among the Yearly Meeting and the Young Friends alike was the PYM Staff Voice Policy, which limits the ways PYM staff can share information and opinions related to PYM policies and operations. Led by a call to unify Young Friends, some of us sat in on a discussion with the PYM Personnel committee, in order to give our individual opinions, which were received by the committee.

The “World of Loss” activity was a memorial to victims of gun violence from the Philadelphia area, as well as victims of the Parkland School instances of gun violence. Names, ages, and death dates were written for each victim onto a t-shirt. These were then placed on a stake to represent the victim in a handmade memorial. Those that participated were deeply moved.

Later, the Young Friends conducted their business meeting, where they attended to various pieces of business for the care of their community. They then heard a presentation from the Undoing Racism group about challenges in the broader PYM community regarding anti-racism work. The Friend from this committee shared that a report regarding a multicultural audit process was about to be shared with the adult business meeting. After reading and reflecting with this report, many Young Friends felt that Quaker process had not properly been followed. Some Young Friends felt strongly inclined to share their concern for this report and hustled over to adult Business Meeting. From that group, many Young Friends attended an extended portion of adult Business Sessions on the same topic. After sitting with this information and reflecting both individually and as a community, some Young Friends continued to show an interest in this work and attended the evening adult Business Session to hear the next steps for

the Multicultural Audit Committee. They then brought their impressions back to the community for further reflection during worship sharing.

Another important issue that was discussed in the broader PYM body in the presence of Young Friends was the Youth Program Vision and Mission Statement. The Young Friends community shares its gratitude for having our input heard in the Vision and Mission Statements. As Friends entered the plenary space at the outset of the evening business session, Young Friends spontaneously sat at the clerks' table and held the space during worship.

The Young Friends attended many different workshops. Young Friends had an opportunity to show leadership in the wider community of PYM by facilitating an intergenerational workshop, which was planned collaboratively in advance of the gathering by a group including Young Friends and adults covering a wide range of ages. The workshop topic was "Roots of Injustice, Seeds of Change". The workshop, which was created by Paula Palmer working with Indigenous North Americans, provided participants with an opportunity to learn about, and to experience, the taking of the land of the Indigenous Peoples by European settlers. Participants took on roles of Indigenous Peoples, and facilitators took on roles of both Native peoples and Europeans. The workshop included a script that summarized 500 years of North American history from the view of Indigenous Peoples, as well as opportunities for group discussion and reflection. Each Friend who attended received a corn seed to symbolize reconnecting with Native Peoples.

Another workshop was a guided discussion in a worshipful setting relating to Liberation Theology and the application of the nativity story to today's marginalized peoples. Young Friends opened with a discussion of our understanding of the nativity story. Many Young Friends created stories, artwork and poetry expressing their application of the nativity story to today's world.

We were led in a combination of a Panel and a Workshop, or a "Panel-Shop", in which three guests - Dana Robinson, Lane Taylor, and Sa'ed Atshan- told us a personal story about their work relating to Earth Quaker Action Team, Fat Acceptance, and education and Quaker involvement in other countries, respectively. The Panel-shop started by each Friend sharing a personal story that explained how they found their true calling. After these three Friends finished sharing individually, the community broke into small groups with our guests to share further about finding our true callings. The Panel-Shop helped us embrace the knowledge that we may find our true calling in life at any age.

After this long gathering, the Young Friends of PYM Young Friends have joined together to laugh, worship and make business. We were grateful to share this gathering with each other and the wider community, and we are looking forward to gathering as a Young Friends community again at Camp Onas in August, and to gathering as part of the entire PYM community again at Continuing Sessions this Fall.

Thank you, PYM.

Respectfully submitted,

- PYM Young Friends Epistle committee on behalf of the Young Friends body
 - Committee members: Joe Schiffer, Kaise Coyle, with support from Adult Co-Clerk Robert Rosenthal

Young Adult Friends Epistle:

To Friends Everywhere:

This is America: an environment riddled with fear for our entire lives as Young Adults, although we strive for and center justice and peace in this spiritual space. The search for justice and peace will always be ongoing, and never fully achieved. They are ideals we must constantly rediscover, redefine, and reinvigorate.

As one voice, Young Adult Friends speak to breathe life in our beloved community. Our entire lives, those our age have been politicized in the name of a War on Terror. We were all raised, to some extent, in a disconnected and violent world. The difference is that many of us were born with privileges that raised us with some shelter.

There is incontrovertible evidence of the ongoing traumatization of immigrant communities, the most glaringly obvious of which is occurring in family detention facilities, such as Berks Detention Center. To end cycles of violence, we must address them. At the individual level, detention of families enacts violence in the form of sexual assault, abuse, neglect, and intimidation. At the systemic level, the U.S. Federal government's insistence on separating families and on erasing domestic violence as grounds for asylum perpetuates that cycle. Shoving trauma into the shadows and out of the light has been our country's history since its inception.

As Friends, we believe in the light in others. We stand in solidarity with those actively abused and traumatized within the walls of Berks Detention Center, and recognize that what is happening there is happening nationwide.

Putting time, effort, and financial resources into enforcing restrictions that target migrant communities will only continue to perpetuate these abusive systems. This is a call to action to end family incarceration at Berks Detention Center, and put resources into alternative options within migrant communities. Most important, we must pursue solutions that are approved by intersectional practitioners in education, mental health, and community development.

As Quakers, we must shake the grounds of this building, and all others like it, until the faulted foundations of those housed atrocities have collapsed.

We have a leading to hold worship outside Berks Detention Center, as a form of direct action. We find this to be rooted in Quaker spiritual practice and history, and we are seeking spiritual, financial, and logistical support and participation from Philadelphia Yearly Meeting in order to act on this leading.

Finally, we affirm the efforts of the Multicultural Institutional Assessment Steering Committee, and highlight the work of the Young Adults on that committee. We see a direct connection between the need to address violent structures in our meetings, and to take action towards justice for migrant communities. In both cases, what we are seeking is affirmation of the Light in all people.

As was spoken in our multi-generational prayer activity during all-together time on Saturday, "Help us, Help us; We love you, We love you; Thank you, Thank you."