

Appendix F – Youth Programs Advisory Committee Report

Report of the Co-Clerks to the Quaker Life Council

June 28, 2020

The Youth Programs Advisory Committee (YPAC) is a new committee of the Quaker Life Council, having had its first meeting, via Zoom, in September 2019. YPAC's membership draws from youth, including both Young Friends and Middle School Friends, as well as adult Friends who carry a concern for youth. The PYM Youth Religious Life Coordinator serves ex officio on the committee and provides support and liaison to youth programs staff.

YPAC had two Zoom meetings in the Fall of 2019, in September and November. At the committee's initial meeting, Friends took time to get to know one another, to share the experiences in youth programs that had been the most meaningful to them, and to review YPAC's vision and mission. At the second meeting, Friends received reports from Youth Programs staff on recent and upcoming programs, as well as ongoing transitions in staffing of the Youth Programs. Friends had rich discussion of aspects of youth programming, including balancing worship sharing, workshops and unstructured time, and perceptions of distance to programming. Upcoming events and projects, including the Religious Education and Youth Work Thread Gathering (December 7, 2019), and ways in which committee members could help to publicize youth programming opportunities, were discussed. A decision as to naming of clerk(s) was deferred until the planned in-person meeting at Spring Continuing Sessions.

YPAC's March 2020 meeting at Spring Continuing Sessions was, of course, not in person. The pandemic has shifted programs across all three youth communities into online spaces. Some Friends on the committee participated that day in the online Young Friends and Middle School programming organized for Spring Continuing Sessions by our dedicated, creative and resourceful staff. Friends were pleased to hear reports of staff-organized ongoing and planned online events to maintain youth programming content and connection, as well as reports of Young Friends-initiated online gatherings. The committee nominated Rae Dole, who is currently active in the Young Friends community, and Robert Rosenthal, as co-clerks, and Teal Rickerman as recording clerk. The committee noted for future meetings requests from staff for further discernment, including a question as to stipends for volunteers at youth events.

The committee has an opening for an at-large member and one or two additional Middle School Friends representatives and invites Friends and attenders to consider joining. We note that YPAC is falling short in terms of diversity, as there are at present no persons of color on the committee, and thus we particularly ask persons of color with experience or interest in youthwork in our community to consider joining, as we actively seek to include all voices.

Rae Dole
Robert Rosenthal
Co-Clerks, Youth Programs Advisory Committee