

Youth Programs Advisory Committee Report to Annual Sessions

Youth Programs Advisory Committee met together on Zoom in July 2020 and February 2021. Meeting agendas include a report by the Youth Religious Life Coordinator, updating the committee on Youth Programs gatherings and program staffing. The committee heard how programs had benefitted twice in 2021 from funding received from the D'Olier Foundation; the grants supported our ability to send program materials to youth through the mail for Sessions and other events, and add to the planning/curricula resources available to staff. It was reported that the safety guidelines we developed for PYM online programs have been used as a template by other Quaker organizations and yearly meetings for their youth programs. The months spent online also prompted a revision of the Young Friends Guidelines for volunteer adult Friendly Presences; this work was done over a period of time by Young Friends staff, Olivia Chalkley and Aeryn Luminkith, in consultation with Melinda Wenner Bradley and Zachary Dutton. We recognized the need to clarify practices for both online programs and social media communication. YPAC approved a minute recommending that the Yearly Meeting consider making stipends available to adult volunteers who attend and support staff and participants at youth retreats. These volunteers nurture the spirit and provide for the physical and practical needs of the group. By offering an optional stipend, we hope to alleviate any financial hardship and open the doors for those who may not be able to volunteer. The approved minute has gone on to staff for implementation. In upcoming work, YPAC plans to craft a minute in support of and appreciation for LGBTQ staff, members of the youth community, and all friendly presences that participate in events. There was also discussion about the nominating needs of the committee and an acknowledgement of diversity, equity, and inclusion being centered when considering nominations.

Rae Dole and Robert Rosenthal

YPAC Co-Clerks

July 2021