

First Contact Reconciliation Collaborative Report, 2023

1. What do you want the PYM “body” to know about your collaborative?

- We are grateful for space to live as we are called by love within this institution
- We vet and listen to Lenape Native Nations’ leadership - legal sovereigns in relationship with State & Federal governments; we pray for those of false pretenses
- We acknowledge that truth telling is not easy, sometimes discomfoting, and beyond our times together trust that individuals will seek self-care as needed
- We recognize that reconciliation requires healing – both the oppressed and oppressors, individually and structurally, past: present: future
- We notice pushback of Indigenous historic truths from predominant culture, including The Religious Society of Friends PYM
- By accepting the Treaty of Amity Sacred Wampum Belt(s), we are Treaty People
- We are on Indigenous Land, Turtle Island

2. How does your group meet and how frequently?

- Correspond 1:1 with those who have expressed shared concerns & extend invitations to meet
- Open to consultations/ talks/ ongoing clearness with Monthly & Quarterly Meetings
- Set meetings with suggested agendas, i.e., Ap-Oct 2022
- Called meetings for matters of timely concern, toward clearness:
 - Department of Interior’s Preliminary report on Indian Boarding Schools
 - Quakers’ roles in IBS
 - Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women & Children
 - Native American Graves Protection & Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) - return of human remains and cultural patrimony items to Native Nations
 - Harmful mascotry, logos, chants
 - Supreme Court of the United States - Brackeen v. Haaland/ Indian Child Welfare Act
 - United Lenape Community leadership regarding Corporations Posing as Indigenous Nations (CPAIN)

3. How is the work of the collaborative being shared with the PYM community?

- PYM News articles – see June 17, 2022; Aug 10, 2022; Nov 3, 2022; Dec 1, 2022
- PYM Calendar – May 23, *Quaker Indian Boarding Schools: Facing Our History and Ourselves*

- Seekers receive relevant email updates - National Museum of American Indians, Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition, National Congress of American Indians, Friends Committee on National Legislation, Native American Rights Fund, and other YMs
- Electronic newsletter posts by the Yearly Meeting & Quarters

4. How does your collaborative remain spiritually grounded through its work?

- FCRC meetings begin and close with periods of worship, including sponsoring a Joint YM Group
- In the manner of Friends, we intentionally seek/ offer check-ins, listening circles, and prayer requests; we hold in the Light known and unknown causes of enlightenment
- Friends may intentionally seek self-growth and healing, connecting with Spirit mindfully using queries, readings, arts, journaling, and animal therapies
- We listen to reputable, valid Native Nations’ voices of true sovereign leadership and trusted Indigenous media

5. If possible, please provide a report showing the requested budget vs actual expenses.

Note: Fiscal Year 2022 - Updated electronic handbook/ forms for reimbursement, we believe, were not available; staff assisted in submitting requests prior to Sept 30, 2022, to the accountant; FCRC remains seeking confirmation of 2022 budgeted/ approved honorarium funds

FY 2022 Approved Item	Requested Expenses	Actual Expense Submitted Sept 30, 2022	Balance
2022 Honorarium	\$800	\$800	Awaiting PYM confirmation

First Contact Reconciliation Collaborative Budget – FY 2023

FY 2023 Approved Items	Requested Expenses	Actual Expenses to date	Remaining
2023 Honorariums	\$800	0	\$800
2023 Materials	\$555		~\$155
banner	\$90	\$106.53	
powwow booster	\$200	\$155.00	
books	\$140	\$137.55	
2023 Hospitality	\$100		~\$40
seeds	\$60	\$60.56	
Totals:	\$1455	\$459.64	~\$995

The PYM Annual Report reflects work between June – May, whereas the PYM Fiscal Year spans Oct. 1 – Sept. 30; reimbursements for outstanding payouts will follow the “new” 2023 PYM process of direct electronic payments requiring individuals’ banking information. Therefore, **honorariums** are anticipated in August and September 2023, given Native Nations’ engagements and recordings, likely to absorb the approved \$800 budget; the remaining ~\$155

designated for **materials** supporting the collaborative's initiatives is forthcoming; and the remaining ~\$40 **hospitality** budget for customary gifting during Inter-Nationhood gatherings is anticipated in the coming months, June – September 2023.

6. What are the major accomplishments for the year? Collaborations include the following:

- **Being called-in** for discernment by the Federally recognized Delaware Nation representative of their United Lenape Communities of the diaspora, expressing their stand and request for our support identifying *Corporations Posing as Indigenous Nations* (CPAIN)
- **Continuing relations** with Lenape “keepers of the land” – attending events and recognizing Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape newly elected Chief (Urie Ridgeway) and Council members
- **Gathering/ Showing up** with Native American Church/ St John UMC (Fordville) NJ – worship, fellowship, conferences, hosting talks, and guest speaking; Cohanzick Tribal Ground gathering
- **Learning** – Native American Church (Fordville) Committee on Native American Ministry and Native American International Caucus; and the National Museum of American Indians
- **Consulting-Guest Speaking:** Quarterly Program & Newsletter interview, recorded talk, follow up documents; relationship building with subsequent individual contacts
- **Co-Collaborating** - PYM event with Anti-Racism: *Quaker Indian Boarding Schools: Facing Our History and Ourselves*; Eco-Justice: water/ Indigenous concerns; Middle East: land concerns
- **Hosting** ~quarterly Joint Yearly Meeting Group listening sessions supporting Friends of shared witness: *Apology to Indigenous People of Alaska* by Alaska Friends Conference; research by Andrew Grant (NEYM) and *NEYM statement to Native Nations* whose land they occupy; Friends Peace Teams Toward Right Relations
- **Interviewing** for unique documentary by Stockton University Professor/ videographer, Jeremy Newman, who proposed a panel of Lenape and Friends now accepted for the coming 44th Friends Association for Higher Education Conference - *Quakers, Colonization and Decolonization*
- **Shaping** inclusive conversations, celebrating language revival, accompanying Indigenous-led acts of justice, void of (mis)appropriating Indigenous cultures, and correcting past erasures
- **Researching** – humble awareness of Carlisle Indian Boarding School Outings
- **Creating** a pow-wow booster ad, celebrating treaty relations with the Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape Tribal Nation, still here on their ancestral land
- **Uniting** with Coalition of Natives and Allies (CNA) on the topic of mascotry, engagement with the Teachers Association; educational District programs, grades 4-9; University talks; and film creation, *Native Women and Allies Speak: What You Weren't Taught in School*, also set for FAHE

7. What are the things that are stopping/hindering your mission, if any?

- Vast, vast possibilities toward Spirit-led acts toward social justice, righting diverse spaces of historic dehumanizing of Indigenous Peoples – knowing who may be doing/ what is being done
- Given discomfort of facing truths/ diverse perspectives, finding unity (enough) toward sustaining shared witness, avoiding a pattern of schisms
- Collectively working, beyond our benches & prayers, where Truth is our guide toward justice
- Waiting upon opportunity for yoking with Young Friends/ YAFs toward tending the fires of rightly ordered work, likely needed into coming decades
- Recognition that “oppressors” guilt and shame requires intentional acknowledgement for healing within and self-growth – mind, body, soul

8. Would you like additional support from PYM staff, the Quaker Life Council Clerk, your Program Committee liaison, or the Program Committee?

- Across the board, timely responses to inquiries, providing understanding, particularly if there is a foreseeable wait time or something more required; transparency
- Direct communication, occasionally, rather than email, for building trust/ sense of belonging
- Continue to extend relative introductions to staff and individuals with shared wondering(s)
- From all who faithfully serve in leadership, when transitions are forthcoming, share with those who are rising the story & currency unique to this collaborative; to the Program Committee liaison, Betsy Crofts, we are blessed with your loving, exemplary service
- Finally, we ask that you hold us in the Light, toward accountability with Spirit.

Submitted on behalf of the First Contact Reconciliation Collaborative,

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