

Joint Council Report

Spring Continuing Sessions 2025

The Joint Council is happy to report that we are working well towards our goals of supporting both the practical and pastoral needs of the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. As you know, Joint Council is the year-long experiment of a combined council, comprised of all the members from Quaker Life Council, Nominating Council, and Administrative Council. It was formed in September 2024 at the suggestion of the Governance Advisory Committee to enrich the councils' outcomes through consideration of issues by an increased number of Friends with a diverse compliment of skills and gifts.

The council has experienced real growth in the past few months and now feels and functions differently than it did a few months ago. As we have worked together over the past few months, our ability to share perspectives and profit from one another's different points of view has increased the councils' ability to serve the body more fully. There is a sense of connection that allows members to speak from their own perspective. Shared trust supports our conversations and decision making. In the first few months of this 'experiment' individual Friends mostly spoke from their perspective and usually only if the topic fell under their umbrella (Admin Council, Quaker Life Council, or Nominating Council). With time, shared agendas, and greater understanding of PYM's issues, Friends are sharing more broadly and with confidence on a variety of topics. We are *able to live more fully into* our calling, employing practical and pastoral gifts, in Spirit led communal discernment.

The minutes of all Joint Council meetings are published on the website as well as one story in the newsletter that highlights our work each month. This is an intentional action to increase transparency, keep Friends abreast of the work of PYM's Joint Council, and allow for feedback from an informed body. The newsletters can be found at <https://www.pym.org/news/> included in the newsfeed in chronological order. Please take this opportunity to review what Joint Council has been working on since Continuing Sessions in November 2024. Friends are invited to communicate with Joint Council Clerks if they have questions or comments about our work.

In the Light

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