



Philadelphia Yearly Meeting

of the Religious Society of Friends

Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Spring Continuing Sessions: Members One of Another Saturday, March 14, 2026 Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

9:00 a.m. Meeting for Worship was held remotely by Zoom on Saturday, March 14, 2026 with 57 persons participating. Friends entered into silent worship. Within worship, Selden Smith, PYM Rising Clerk, read the Land Acknowledgement.

9:30 a.m. **Welcome and Introductions**

Nikki Mosgrove, Presiding Clerk, made the introductions. She introduced Selden Smith, the Rising Clerk, Chris Mohr, General Secretary, and Recording Clerks Sally McQuail and Suzy Kennedy, and the Joint Council tri-clerks Jeanne Elberfeld, Jean-Marie Prestwidge Barch, George Schaefer.

Joint Council Update

The Joint Council, comprising Quaker Life, Nominating, and Administrative Councils, meets monthly to worship, discern, and conduct business together more effectively.

Jeanne Elberfeld invited us to center with our breath. She led us in a mindful exercise.

The Nominating Council Report was presented by George Schaefer.

There are 13 Quarters in our Yearly Meeting.

The name of John Hayden of Harrisburg Meeting was brought forward to join the Climate Witness Stewards. **Approved.**

The Nominating Council released Chloe Rosenthal.

Carter Nash was sadly released due to his passing. He will be missed.

The body approved the minutes.

Five Friends will be leaving the Administrative Council, in addition to the five vacancies already available. Please contact George or Jeanne-Marie Prestwidge Barch if you are interested. There is an inquiry form online.

Quarter representation is light. This is the conduit of information to PYM, and George asked that the Quarters invite Friends to come to us.

The Joint Council minutes for several months were shared. Monthly minutes can be found on the PYM website.

George Schaefer shared that the Sprint asked monthly meetings to define their relationship with the Yearly Meeting. A set of queries was developed to facilitate this discussion. A Friend would like support from Quaker Life Council and Administrative Council in convening the collaboratives so they can work together. A member-at-large noted that they were not asked for input yet. It is addressed in the report.

Friends approved these minutes with the corrections noted.

Addressing Racism Collaborative Presentation

The Addressing Racism Collaborative is composed of Friends across the Yearly Meeting committed to connect Friends to the resources for the work of antiracism.

Racism affects all of us; it is ingrained in our society. The collaborative sent queries to all of our Monthly meetings to request their participation in the racism discussion. What are Monthly Meetings doing to explore this work?

Friends can contact Wanda Wyffels. She asked Friends what they have done that was successful. Breakout groups were formed to discuss what is happening in individual meetings. Friends shared encouraging programs their Meetings are working on, including Quaker manumissions, setting up an underground railroad center in Kennett Square, and immigrant rights. The NJ Meetings are working together.

A Friend suggested a book called White Work and Reparative Genealogy. Books can open up dialogue. The work is systemic and broad. What lessons can we learn from these discussions? How do we talk about racism? How can we work together? How do we define restoration? Racism is more than individual bias, it is embedded in our institutions. Without active intervention, it continues to do harm. Friends received this discussion with gratitude.

General Secretary Report

Chris Mohr, General Secretary for Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, member of Green Street MM, provided his report.

God is the hidden strength within. May we find courage in your presence.

PYM exists to support thriving Quaker meetings. Chris's initial long term goals include: getting more Friends involved in PYM, working to increase engagement, developing the next generation of Quaker leaders; meeting with the Young Adult Friends, leaning into the Addressing Racism witness, and balancing the budget. Funds are shared with our monthly meetings.

Chris gave an update on the lawsuit PYM v DHS. PYM has a preliminary injunction which protects PYM meetings by restoring the previous Sensitive Sites Policy which had been in effect

for 30 years prior to January 2025. The case proceeds in district court. More information is available on the PYM website. Signs will be available for Monthly Meetings.

Addressing Climate Witness continues.

Addressing Racism With One Pamphlet, One Yearly Meeting by reading “Patterns of Racial Wounding and Racial Justice in Quaker Communities”.

To be continued...

The report was approved.

Annual Sessions will take place at Cheyney University July 23-26.

Friends approved these minutes with the corrections noted.

Submitted by Sally McQuail and Suzy Kennedy, Recording Clerks