

**Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Quaker Life Council  
Approved Minutes  
March 17, 2024**

**Attending:** Jean-Marie Barch (clerk), Meg Barney, Emily Blanck (recording clerk), Sue Dietz, Christie Duncan-Tessmer (General Secretary), Guinevere Janes, Linell McCurry (CFO), Kathryn Pettus, Melissa Rycroft, Debbie Murray-Sheppard, Nikki Mosgrove, Salvador Orellana (Deputy General Secretary), Susan Claggett, Rose Ketterer. Regrets: George Schaefer

**Worship & Welcome Opened at 2:30pm**

Appreciation was shared for Meg Barney's service as clerk last meeting.

**Review of Joint Council session and Continuing Sessions**

There was gratitude for completing the joint meeting early. In discussing both the council joint session and Continuing Sessions, there was concern that as we work on governance structure, there needs to be clarity about the role of the body in governance. Some felt concerned that the discussion over the advocacy policy felt uncomfortable about whether authority is coming from the body of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting or the Administrative Council. Another noted that authority comes from the spirit. Further discussion of authority and the advocacy policy will be resumed at a later meeting.

**Review & approval of minutes**

The minutes were approved with gratitude.

**Committee Reports**

Report from Program Support Committee was accepted with no questions. Jean Marie has begun a conversation with Pamela Yaller of the "Ending Gun Violence" Collaborative. Staff is trying to communicate with them to help them with sending their letter.

Sessions Coordinating Committee has not sent a report, but we did have a successful continuing sessions March 8-11. There was appreciating for Paulette Meyer opened worship with chanting. The play activities on Saturday afternoon gathering were successful and visiting with other Quakers from different meetings was 'like coming home.' The regional meetings may need more support with connecting on Zoom for the hybrid business meeting.

**Climate Witness Stewards Request to QLC**

Climate Stewards sent a request to the Council about how to live into the witness on the climate by utilizing the groups under the care of QLC. The letter had a number of suggestions on how to do that. One interpretation of the letter was that they asking to add to the charges of these groups. Others felt that this was an important focus for the different entities and that they were

seeking reasonable support. Could we gather the entities that we work with to talk about this witness and the other witnesses and priorities of QLC/PYM?

One person pointed out that the stewards' job is to keep PYM accountable to this witness, which may be what they are doing in this letter. The Council agreed that a conversation between Witness Stewards and collaboratives and committees would be something we could facilitate. However, there was not clarity on exactly what support they need. Sue Dietz will reach out to the stewards about what kind of support they want.

### **Sprint Updates: Land Acknowledgment & Playbooks**

The Land acknowledgment Sprint has met and began to look at the purpose of a land acknowledgment and is planning how to move forward.

Addressing racism playbook is moving to the next stage. People have been invited to send in suggestions/contributions. More information about submissions and the playbook will be publicized. The climate playbook for schools has formed and is making progress – their first meeting is next week.

### **Intervisitation**

We discussed how to enrich and encourage intervisitation. One person questioned the guidance document and why small and struggling meetings should be excluded. They argued that intervisitation could be one way to support them. Others shared that our voice is stronger as QLC members when we visit than in our own meetings. Intervisitation could be a part of our work as QLC members to be more connected. PYM and the councils have worked on supporting intervisitation. The process had stalled but will resume. The Council needs more time to discuss and will discuss at next month's meeting.

### **Types of Meetings**

Frankford's situation needs closure so that we could consider meeting with them and share our support for them. We will wait to see what comes out of the threshing session on April 11.

Closed in worship at 4:17 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Emily Blanck  
Recording Clerk