



Minutes of the Quaker Life Council Called Meeting 9th Month 16, 2023

Present were: Jean-Marie Barch (clerk), Christie Duncan-Tessmer (staff – General Secretary), Salvador Orellana (staff – Deputy General Secretary), Sue Dietz, Nikki Mosgrove (Rising Presiding Clerk), Susan Claggett, Meg Barney, George Schaefer (Recording Clerk), Emily Blanck, Debbie Murray-Sheppard, Michael Moulton, and Linell McCurry (staff – CFO).

The clerk, Jean-Marie Barch, called a meeting of the Council to address five time sensitive issues which needed attention of the Council before the scheduled Tenth Month meeting.

Interim Appointment of Representatives to Quaker organizations:

Representatives to Friends General Conference:

Lynn Piersol, Swarthmore Meeting
Anthony Stover, Germantown Meeting
Keith Barch, Schuylkill Meeting

Representatives to Friends Committee on National Legislation:

Lynn Oberfield, Providence Meeting
Bill Cozzens, Germantown Meeting
Stefanie Morgan, Trenton Meeting
Joe Laird, Downingtown Meeting

Quaker Life Council approves the re-appointment of these Friends on an interim basis to represent Philadelphia Yearly Meeting on the governing bodies of Friends General Conference and Friends Committee on National Legislation. The interim appointment is effective immediately and holds through Continuing Sessions on November 11, 2023.

New Collaborative: Heeding God’s Call to End Gun Violence:

An application (attached) has been approved and brought forward by Program Committee for the consideration and approval of Quaker Life Council. After some discussion, members of the council were clear that we are not ready to come to unity on this application at this time and needed further information before full consideration could be given. The Clerk was requested to contact the Clerk of Program Committee to request further information about the collaborative and the General Secretary was also requested to secure information, particularly about ramifications of the proposed relationship with another not for profit organization (Heeding

God's Call) in advance of the October council meeting. This item will be reconsidered in the October meeting of the Council.

Laying Down Collaboratives:

Legislative Policy Collaborative:

The Legislative Policy Collaborative has requested to be laid down. With the understanding that these Friends intend to continue as PYM appointed representatives to the General Committee of FCNL, the Council approved their request to be laid down as a collaborative of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting.

Nuclear Disarmament Collaborative:

With the understanding that this collaborative is no longer active, Program Committee has recommended it to be laid down. The Council approved the request to lay down the Nuclear Disarmament Collaborative.

Minute of Appreciation for Steve Elkinton:

The following Minute of Appreciation for Steve Elkinton's service on Quaker Life Council, crafted by Guinevere Janes and edited by Jean-Marie Barch, was enthusiastically endorsed by the Council:

Minute of Appreciation for Steve Elkinton 9th Month 2023

During his tenure on Quaker Life Council, Steve has served the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting community on the Agenda Committee and each meeting as Quaker Life Council's faithful note taker. We will miss Steve's dry humor, his willingness to share his personal experience and inner wisdom. But, perhaps most of all, we will miss Steve's ability to capture in minute form "how the Spirit is moving amongst us". While we are sad for him to leave us, we wish him well and look forward to hearing about where his leadings take him next.

*Jean-Marie Prestwidge Barch, Clerk
On behalf of the Council*

Jean-Marie Prestwidge Barch, Clerk