



Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Quaker Life Council

Approved Minutes

December 9, 2023

Attending: Jean-Marie Barch (clerk), Thomas Barkley, Meg Barney, Emily Blanck, Susan Claggett, Sue Dietz, Christie Duncan-Tessmer, Cecilia Filauro, Guinevere Janes, Rose Ketterer, Linell McCurry, Nikki Mosgrove, Michael Moulton, Debbie Murray-Sheppard, Salvador Orellana, Melissa Rycroft, George Schaefer, and Tom Zemaitis.

- I. Worship & Welcome
 - Opened the meeting with worship at 11:37am.
 - We welcomed our new Treasurer, Tom Barkley, and the Interim Clerk of Admin Council, Tom Zemaitis.
- II. Review of Joint Council session
 - The council discussed roles of Quaker Life Council and strategic directions, including how to make them clear and how to focus on the work of helping the people of our community.
- III. Review & approval of minutes
 - Minutes are approved.
- IV. Land Acknowledgment practice
 - We have not taken an intentional approach to land acknowledgements. We are exploring how to make a land acknowledgment that is appropriate and fulfills its purpose. It may be useful to talk to the First Nation peoples from our region about the acknowledgement. It is important to reflect the broad geographic range of PYM and that we connect with all the peoples, in our range. However, it's important to remember that they have diverse ideas, and they don't always agree. The land acknowledgement must do more than be a rote statement and might be written specifically for specific events. In sum, it needs to be authentic, relevant, and must be more than history connecting to our present occupation of the land. The statement could include the acknowledgment of who the speaker is, who they represent, as well as their relationship to local Indigenous people. When we write it, we must address: who are we acknowledging, what are we acknowledging, and "so what?" There are concerns about it being too liturgical, leading to a rote nature of the acknowledgement.
 - Quaker Life Council approves creating a sprint that would work to draft new acknowledgement(s) by Continuing Sessions in March, if possible.
- V. Committee Business (20 min)
 - A. Ministry & Care Appointments
 - Guinevere Janes volunteered for Ministry and Care. She's an at large member and questions emerged whether she could since the committee oversees the at large members.

- Quaker Life Council decided that at large members are welcome to the committee.
- Kathryn Pettus asked to be a member as well.
- The Council approves Guinevere Janes and Kathryn Pettus to join Ministry and Care.

B. Committee Report: Sessions Coordinating Committee

- There were minor corrections to the Sessions Committee report. Melissa Mycroft should be “Melissa Rycroft.” Rose Keterer should be “Rose Ketterer.”
- Sessions Coordinating committee is working hard. They’re working to improve their functioning, planning on how to have a meaningful set of Sessions with the different format this year. They could use more strong members.

VI. Implementation Plan

- Following up on our joint council meeting on how to move forward on our implementation plan, we are working now on the role of the councils in the plan.
- The Council focused on the “Connections” direction. Intervisitation is a valuable experience to see other practices, to understand that PYM includes other meetings and the people there. Christie invited us to consider the goal, what it would look like if we’ve achieved our goals. She asked us a query: What does it look like when PYM is connected?
- The group discussed that we should feel ready to meet new people, go to a PYM space and already know people and have an open heart. In this future, there is a relationship of mutual guidance and accountability between the monthly meetings and the Councils. The Councils know what the meetings need, and meetings connect among them and help each other with what they need. PYM is guided by the spirit and each other. Meetings and individuals invite each other to come into community. Members practice intervisitation. People are excited to Worship with others in PYM.

VII. Adjourn