

Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Quaker Life Council Approved Minutes

January 20, 2024

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

- I. Worship & Welcome
 - o Began with worship at 11:30 am
- II. Review of Joint Council session
 - o We discussed governance and one person noted that it could be difficult to access information on the collaboratives and activities of the Councils. Southern Quarter is feeling distant from PYM, unconnected, but a member from the Quarter is encouraged by the being a part of the Council. Community allows us to understand more because all of us hear and understand things differently.
- III. Review & approval of minutes
 - o No comments except that there was a request to have the recording clerk sign the minutes.
- IV. Committee and Collaborative Business
 - o Youth Advisory Committee did not respond to a request to attend and provide a report. Nonetheless, they are doing some important work.
 - o Sessions Coordinating Committee found in the handbook that QLC should advise on annual themes. We discussed how to consider and advise on the themes. We could use the Strategic Directions, themes from the Spiritual State of the Meeting Reports, spend time worshipping together and consider what happened in last sessions, etc... We discussed ways of making sure that the theme is threaded through everything we do, especially as a council. The theme should be grounded in the spirit. We noted that this kind of conversation is spiritually fulfilling. It was suggested that SCC survey the members of the Yearly Meeting to find out what they need out of Sessions.
- V. Land Acknowledgment Sprint

Jean-Marie Barch, Boone, and Sean Connolly (as an consulting member) will be on the sprint to develop a plan and possibly write the Land Acknowledgment. The Sprint will provide guidance on how to do the land acknowledgment, including whether there will be a single statement read, considering, in particular, how to make it very relevant. Robert Greene will join the sprint. We accept the charge and the members.
- VI. Two new Playbook Editions

The playbook has been a new endeavor of the Yearly meeting and it is exciting that this idea is expanding. The first playbook on Climate Change has been well received. Eric Mayer (Westtown Meeting), Head of School at Lansdowne Friends School, has requested that we adapt the playbook to make a School Edition of the Climate Change Playbook and that a sprint be appointed to do that. We approve the charge of the sprint and its members. Eric Mayer, as clerk, Sam Thacker, and two other people. We recommend that one member be a young person.

The Climate Change Playbook could also be the foundation of an Anti-Racism Playbook. The clerk of the Addressing Racism Collaborative supports the idea that this could be a great tool to share ideas with our meetings. Some were concerned were worried that the wide range of roads to becoming an actively anti-racist community may not work well with the playbook format. We reviewed what the playbook is. The playbook is an evolving resource for a community to get information and ideas and set a plan to do work. The playbook is a tangible way to demonstrate that we are actively working on addressing race and racism. Guinevere volunteered to be of assistance on the book. We approve that the General Secretary could begin the work on the playbook to create the skeleton. We would like to keep consulting on the process of how to build out the content next month.

VII. Categories of Meetings in PYM

- Next month, we will discuss the Frankford Monthly Meeting request to Philadelphia Quarter to become an “executive meeting.” Discussed the term itself, the ways to avoid laying oneself down, and the need to be flexible and focused on being a loving and responsible community.

VIII. Closed with Worship at 1:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Emily Blanck