



Philadelphia Yearly Meeting

of the Religious Society of Friends

Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Quaker Life Council

Approved Minutes

October 21, 2023

Present were: Jean-Marie Barch (Clerk QLC), Meg Barney, Emily Blanck (Recording Clerk), Susan Clagget, Sue Dietz, Christie Duncan-Tessmer (PYM General Secretary), Guinevere Janes, Rose Keterer, Linell McCurry (PYM CFO), Michael Moulton, Nikki Mosgrove (Rising Clerk) Melissa Rycroft (Presiding Clerk), Debbie Murray-Sheppard, Salvador Orellana (PYM Deputy General Secretary), Kathryn Pettus, and George Schaefer.

1. Worship & welcome

Meeting opened in silent worship at 11:15 AM.

2. Review & approval of minutes

- The Council approved the minutes for September 2023 with no changes.
- The clerk adjusted the agenda to shift Program Committee report to November's meeting.

3. Collaborative on Ending Gun Violence

- Last month, the council reviewed the application from the "Heeding God's Call to End Gun Violence Collaborative" and forwarded some questions through the Program Committee. The Program Committee shared the comments to the collaborative. Christie Duncan-Tessmer clarified that legally a member from the 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, Heeding God's Call, could partner with the collaborative, as long as the group itself is not a named member, nor is the collaborative a branch the larger group, Heeding God's Call.
- *The new Collaborative was approved, upon the condition that the official members be connected directly to or "planted in" Philadelphia Yearly Meeting.*

4. Sessions Coordinating Committee

Sessions Coordinating Committee (SCC) shared a proposal for 2024 annual sessions:

- Friends General Conference is meeting this year at Haverford College, for the first time in 100 years. SCC had a proposal for just this year. SCC suggested that we attach Annual Sessions to one side of the FGC gathering and extend Continuing Sessions. If PYM had a short Annual Sessions in July, Continuing Sessions would extend to more than one day for a year. The total amount of time in sessions would remain the same. SCC proposed either using the fiscal year and extending the Fall 2024 and Spring 2025 Continuing Sessions or using the calendar year and extending the Spring 2024 and Fall 2024 Continuing Sessions.

- *The Council approved the SCC proposal for the one year. The Council encouraged SCC to plan a shortened July hybrid Annual Sessions after the FGC Gathering, on July 6 (and perhaps July 7) on the Haverford Campus. The clerk's team shall provide an appropriate agenda for the time and place. The Council decided to implement the 'calendar year' model that would extend Continuing Sessions for Spring 2024 and Fall 2024.*

5. The Council ran out of me and will address the other issues on the agenda next month.

6. Adjourned in silent worship at 12:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Blanck

Mickleton Monthly Meeting