



Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Quaker Life Council

Approved Minutes

February 17, 2024

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

Worship & Welcome

- Opened meeting at 11:30am
- Note that Jean-Marie is travelling, and Meg Barney clerked this meeting of the council.

Review of Joint Council session

- During Joint Council session, the group discussed Strategic Direction on Functioning and implementation destination 5, which focused on the role of councils and meetings. Appreciation of insights but it was quiet. It is important to approach trust, sharing, flexibility and listening.

Review & approval of minutes

- Minutes for January 2024 accepted with gratitude.

Committee Business

- The Program Committee provided a report. Quaker Life Council accepted the report with gratitude.
- The council reviewed the decision on the creation of the “Heeding God’s Call to End Gun Violence” Collaborative. There are some questions around membership in the new collaborative; it appears that they may be making decisions that don’t fit into the guidelines of collaboratives. We decided that Jean-Marie should speak to Sue Dietz, the liaison to the Program Committee, the clerk of the Committee, and key members of the Collaborative. In particular, they should remind them of the PYM handbook where the guidelines are stated. The primary concern is that the collaborative has a non-member acting as a clerk. It is important to make sure that the collaborative is not a chapter of the organization, nor should it have that appearance. There was a clear sense that the committee needs to reflect our handbook in that we clarify that members of the collaborative must be Friends.

- As the collaborative has not been maintained within the guidelines of the membership of the collaborative, it is important for Brian Miller's name be taken off the letter before it is sent. In addition, Jean-Marie Barch, Wendy Kane and Sue Dietz should meet with key members of the collaborative to discuss the guidelines in the handbook.
- The council shall return to this issue in March.

Councils Listening to the Body

- In the summer the council considered how it can position itself to listen more directly to Friends and meetings. Two ideas came forward: more intervisitation and sharing the work of the collaboratives with other people in our communities.

Categories of Meetings in PYM

- Quaker Life Council revisited the status of Frankford meeting. Frankford meeting has decided to categorize itself as an "executive meeting," a classification that New York Yearly Meeting recognizes. QLC agreed that Frankford is a Quaker meeting, as the Faith and Practice does not dictate how often a monthly meeting meets. The meeting has support from Quaker Life Council to meet as they find it necessary. It is admirable how they are intentionally acknowledging they're finding a way forward. Quaker Life Council is supportive of their journey. There were some concerns about the name, "executive meeting". There was interest in meeting with Frankford to communicate our support and talk with QLC. This situation has sparked us to consider how to make sure all meetings, at whatever stage they are, feel supported to take their journeys. The council should consider how we can connect with other small meetings with similar issues.
- Quaker Life Council supports Frankford Monthly meeting as it continues its journey, and we recognize them as a meeting in PYM. We will return to add this to the March agenda.

PYM representative to FWCC 2024 World Plenary

- George Schaefer and Nominating Council should nominate someone to attend the FWCC World Plenary. We agree with Nominating Council to have Amy Duckett Wagner appointed to the PYM representative to FWCC 2024 World Plenary in South Africa. Amy can apply for the travel grant, but QLC has money to help pay for her trip. We approve \$2,000 for travel.

Path for Anti-Racism Playbook

- Guinevere provided resources for the playbook from the Quaker College Archives. QLC approves that PYM can begin collecting ideas and reach out to ARC. This will be moved to a future agenda.

Adjourn

Closed meeting at 1:11 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Emily Blanck, recording clerk