

Care & Counsel Committee 2017 Annual Report Meeting for Business, April 2018

The members of Care & Counsel for most of 2017 were Mickey Abraham, Jude Brandt, Matt Day, Amey Hutchins, Phil Jones, Mary Day Kent, Kerry Krieger, Miyo Moriuchi, and Peter Warrington, with Phil Jones serving as clerk. Joe Byers and Nan Thompson joined the committee in March 2017. We were sorry to see Matt Day go off the committee in the fall.

One of the responsibilities of Care & Counsel is to assist Friends with membership matters and memorial meetings. In 2017, Narissa Bajjo, Geraldine Morgan, and Geraldine's daughter Lauren Morgan joined Chestnut Hill Meeting. Al Mack, Cristiana Corrado, and their children Miles and Angelina, formerly of Brooklyn Meeting; Craig SanPietro, formerly of Abington Meeting; and Nan Thompson, formerly of Central Philadelphia Meeting, transferred their memberships to Chestnut Hill Meeting. Long-time Chestnut Hill members Hollister Knowlton and John Gallery transferred their memberships to other meetings in Philadelphia Quarter, Hollister to Frankford Meeting and John to Monthly Meeting of Friends of Philadelphia (Arch Street).

2017 was a joyful year for weddings at Chestnut Hill Meeting. Care & Counsel members served with other Friends on the joint arrangements committee for the wedding of Laura Woolford and Mike Izzo, held under the care of Birmingham Meeting at Chestnut Hill in July; on an informal support committee for the wedding of Rachel Eschenbach and Andrew Freifeld in August; and on the arrangements committee for the wedding of Steve Elkinton and Miyo Moriuchi held under the care of Chestnut Hill Meeting in September.

Committee member Jude Brandt attended the Crossroads Training on Understanding and Analyzing Systemic Racism, held at Friends Center in May. In reporting to Care & Counsel about the training, Jude proposed that Care & Counsel devote part of each monthly committee meeting to making ourselves more aware of and addressing racism among us. Since then, Jude has led us in exercises, reflections, and readings, and we thank her for taking the lead in uniting Care & Counsel with the Meeting's corporate leading to address racism among us, minuted in November's meeting for business.

Care & Counsel continued under the weight of mental health and safety concerns, and sought ways to follow up on the Mental Health First Aid training at Chestnut Hill Meeting in October 2016. We decided to seek out additional support from Chris Kimmenez, one of the trainers from the training who is also a pastor, to help us determine next steps.

Care & Counsel also works to support members and attenders who are facing personal or family challenges, often related to health issues. This support can take

many forms, including staying in touch with Friends who are facing challenges and Friends who are unable to come to meeting and providing practical assistance such as rides to medical appointments and delivered meals. The members of Care & Counsel do not do this work alone, but share it with other Friends at Chestnut Hill who lovingly step in to meet the needs that arise in our community. One way that Care & Counsel tries to make the meeting community aware of these forms of support is through assigning all Friends in the directory to a Care Circle with a member of Care & Counsel as a contact person, with the contact people listed in the directory. Phil Jones produced two updates of the Chestnut Hill Meeting directory during 2017 on the meeting website, with the next hard copy update planned for 2018.

Two funds at Chestnut Hill Meeting are under the care of Care & Counsel. The Education Fund is a source of financial assistance to help Chestnut Hill Meeting members deepen their understanding of the Religious Society of Friends by attending workshops and Quaker gatherings. In 2017, Care & Counsel approved five grants totaling \$950 from the Education Fund to support Friends attending events such as Beyond Diversity 101 Trainer Training, Crossroads Training on Systemic Racism, Young Adult Friends Conference on Continuing Revolution at Pendle Hill, and the Mindfulness and White Privilege course at St. Martin-in-the-Fields. The Needy Friends Fund is available to assist members of Chestnut Hill Meeting in cases of temporary financial distress. No loans or grants were made from the Needy Friends Fund in 2017. Care & Counsel also assisted Friends who needed support from their monthly meeting in order to apply for resources from Philadelphia Yearly Meeting.

Care & Counsel Safety Considerations

- The clerk of Care & Counsel and a few other members of the committee have been part of a small group working on the balance between inclusion and safety at meeting, particularly when mental health issues are involved.
- The clerk of Care & Counsel is a member of the small group created to discern short-term responses to potential threats in the CHFMs Policy for Addressing Grave Immanent Threat Safety Concerns.
- In fulfilling their charge of pastoral care for CHFMs members and attenders, Care & Counsel may become aware of safety issues for individuals or families in the meeting community. In such situations, Care & Counsel must be aware both of its limitations, when a problem is beyond the abilities and care of the community, and of confidentiality issues.