

**DRAFT Minutes for Philadelphia Quarterly Meeting
Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, October 25, 2020
ZOOM MEETING - 1pm – 4pm**

Zoom Hosted by Chestnut Hill Friends Monthly Meeting

The Philadelphia Quarterly Meeting (PQM) held the fall Quarterly meeting over Zoom (an online meeting platform), hosted by Chestnut Hill Friends Meeting on October 25, 2020. The Quarter thanks Thomas Taylor and Meg Mitchell of CHFM for their help and zoom expertise that made the session a vibrant interactive experience for all participants.

At 1 PM, Friends were welcomed by Barry Sloane of Mickleton MM in New Jersey, former clerk of Salem Quarter, who graciously agreed to convene the meeting as interim Clerk in the absence of PQM officers. Attendees filtered in and settled into silent worship.

Over the course of the meeting, 35 friends joined with active participation from five of the eight monthly meetings of the Philadelphia Quarter.

The October 2020 Quarter session started with the host program and discussion at 1:10 PM.

Host Program

Donna Pucci, Chestnut Hill Friends' First Day School Coordinator, presented how Chestnut Hill Friends Meeting has successfully used Google Classroom for First Day School.

Donna described their FDS program and gave an example of children's online First Day School. The classes are delivered live, but the curriculum and lessons are stored in the Google cloud, so they can be re-used, re-purposed at any time. Primarily for children aged 4 - 9 or so. Children from anywhere and everywhere are welcome. Donna can be contacted for details, information, guidance.

On behalf of CHFM, Donna invites all friends and families from meetings in the Quarter to

- Join on Sundays.
- Partner / collaborate in creating content for the FDS curriculum to be shared by all.
- Share ideas and resources to support Quarter wide educational programming.

| Attendees and Affiliation | |
|---|--|
| Joseph Gorski*, Colin Forwood, Greg Barnes, Penn Garvin, Sara Palmer, .O, Mark Lichty | Central Philadelphia Monthly Meeting |
| Phil Anthony*, Craig DeLarge, Donna Pucci, Ellen Deacon, Meg Mitchell, Marlena Santoyo, Tricia* and Roger Walmsley*, Carla White* | Chestnut Hill Friends Meeting |
| - | Frankford Monthly Meeting |
| John Hickey*, Kelley White*, Carla Childs, Patricia Libbey, Karen Lightener, Jonathon Rhoades, Joanne Sharpless*, Anthony Stover, outgoing PQM Clerk*, Bobbie Horowitz, Pamela Williams | Germantown Monthly Meeting |
| Laura Lanza, PQM Coordinator*, JoAnn Seaver, Bill Van Stone, Jerry Williams* | Green Street Monthly Meeting |
| Katherine Oniskey*, C. Craig Smith | Monthly Meeting of Philadelphia (Arch St.) |
| - | Unity Monthly Meeting |
| - | West Philadelphia Friends Meeting |
| Nathalie Miller, PQM Treasurer* | Resting |
| Barry Sloane, guest Clerk | Mickleton Monthly Meeting |
| Theresa Cusimano | No Affiliation |
| * Denotes a service role with the Philadelphia Quarterly Meeting – typically a PQM representative from one of the monthly meetings (MM) in the quarter. | |

Discussion: Questions and comments followed on topics such as how to engage the young children, support stretched families, adapt technology to adult religious education and suggesting collaborative opportunities between monthly meetings and more – including mention of PYM’s Big Tent Children’s Meeting series. Donna Pucci shared her contact information so friends could request the invitation links for the FDS classes and follow up on offer to collaborate: fdscoord@chestnuthillquakers.org.

The Quarter appreciated the host’s program which spoke to many needs that meetings in the Philadelphia Quarter face at this time of prolonged, virtual gathering. Thanks were given to hosting meeting, Chestnut Hill Friends Meeting and CHFM member Donna Pucci, for her informative and engaging presentation.

1:45 PM Quarter Business

Following a period of silence, Barry Sloane, interim Clerk for this Quarterly Meeting of Oct. 25, 2020 opened the Meeting to attend to business on the agenda, starting with

Item 1. [Minute of Appreciation for Anthony Stover](#) our clerk for the past 1 1/2 years. Presented by Tricia Walmsley and read by Lanza, Coordinator.

Minute 1. Approved. See attached [Appreciation Minute](#).

Item 2. Nominating Committee report: Phil Anthony (CHFM) reported that the PQM Nominating Committee consists of the PQM reps. Three have agreed to head up a search for the required 4 slots: clerk, assistant clerk, recording clerk and treasurer. Phil Anthony, Tricia Walmsley (CH) and Tim Siftar (W. Phila) are asking reps to canvas their own meetings for possible candidates to bring names to the next reps’ meeting in early December for creation of a slate to present to the PQM January 2021 Business Meeting. Phil. Qtr. Nominations Committee Update on PQM going forward – Phil Anthony, CHMM PQM Rep.

- Nominations for Clerk, Rising Clerk, Treasurer, Recording Clerk (s)
- Nominations sought through December 2020.
- Nominee slate to be presented for approval at PQM January 24, 2021 to - be hosted by CPMM.
- January 24, 2021 is start of new term.

Report accepted, no need for approval.

Item 3. Finance Report: [Budget FY 2020-21](#) presented by Nathalie Miller, Retiring Treasurer.

Nathalie Miller presented the PQM Budget for FY 2020-21 through screen-sharing and explanation.

Note: PQM’s fiscal year ends July 1, 2021, and usually the new budget is approved at the April quarterly session. In 2020, budget discussion and approval were deferred at both April And July Quarterly Meetings, due to unprecedented pandemic and social justice issues that took precedence. A Friend noted that while the budget may not perfectly reflect the quarter’s status, it is important to approve it for the purposes of writing checks and that as it will be reviewed by the incoming clerks - it can be amended if warranted.

Nathalie identified ways to reduce the PQM budget by 1. reducing rent, currently at PYM offices in Friends Center; 2. reduced postage; 3. Investing in a better pdf program. Nathalie proposes purchasing a printer for the coordinator’s home for convenience and efficiency now that PQM is no longer based at Friends’ Ctr.

Minute 2. Approval for the Budget FY 2020-21 report and Treasurer’s proposals.

The Quarter is deeply grateful for the service of Friend, Nathalie Miller, who despite serious illness, has checked, adjusted, and made the financial situation for PQM easy for her successor, and is willing to help as she is able during the interim.

Item 4. Approval of Jan, April & July PQM Business Minutes (Please review in advance)

· [PQM Minutes July 19, 2020](#)

· [PQM Minutes April 26, 2020](#)

· [PQM Minutes Jan. 26, 2020](#)

Minute 3. All three Minutes were approved.

Item 5. Approval for Philadelphia Quarterly Meeting's [letter of support of CPMM's minute](#) to be sent to PYM - [Minute to Address the Climate Crisis as a Corporate Witness](#) presented by Joseph Gronski, CPMM PQM Rep. Discussion: Phil Anthony, who drafted the letter of support reported that each MM has considered it, with none opposed, three monthly meetings united with it and all in support that it should be sent to PYM. Question of "to whom should this letter go?". Answer: to co-clerks of PYM and to the General Secretary of PYM, asking for response from them about what they plan to do about it. Jonathan Rhoads (GMM) said we should see this issue addressed at PYM December Sessions.

Minute 4. [Letter of support for CPMM Minute approved](#), and Quarter urged it be sent on with [CPMM minute](#).

Item 6. [Request to Minute Receipt of July 18, 2020 Letter from MMFP in the Quarter](#) – Katherine Oniskey, MMFP PQM Rep. shared an update on the status of the concerns expressed in the letter, requesting that others know and support each other, providing mutual and moral support between monthly meetings in the Quarter and asked it be on the record as received by the Quarter in case further issues arise.

Minute 5. Quarter approves minuting receipt of [July 18, 2020 Letter from MMFP in the Quarter](#) and MMFP's request to be held in the Light and continue to keep the Quarter apprised of the situation as it unfolds.

Note: See MMFP July 18, 2020 letter with details. In summary- around 1960 the monthly meeting MMFP gave ownership of their meetinghouse and grounds to the Yearly Meeting, while retaining perpetual use of space. Little else was written down or specified in the arrangement - inevitably impacting communication and understanding between tenants and landlord over time and changes in leadership. In 2011 the property became a National Historic Landmark, and its care and management were turned over to the newly created Arch Street Meeting House Preservation Trust, a nonprofit with its own mission - marking a particularly stressful period for the Arch Street friends.

Katherine Oniskey, MMFP (Arch St) reported on the landlord/tenant problems that have been plaguing their Meeting for many years, now. The situation has been improving recently, especially due to the new director of the Preservation Trust. Lawyers are now assisting the MMFP, and presumptions between the meeting and the Trust and PYM should be clarified. It has been a great help to have PQM support and awareness. She will keep the Quarter informed.

Discussion: Friend said 'it would be good to have the PYM Administration Council aware of the situation. Maybe needs to change the mission statement of the Trust.'

A friend said 'it was very helpful to have MMFP share their challenge, as it could apply to situations in other MMs. Wisdom can be shared / handed down.'

Another Friend 'was troubled by the "corporatization" of PYM. Very worldly structure now. Arch St's problem a prime example, not reflective of Quakerly process and values. There is a great need to keep grounded in the Spirit'.

Barry Sloane (clerk) 'This can be an issue with Friends' schools, e.g., where there are not enough Quakers to serve on their boards.'

Item 7. Spirit - Led inquiry to using queries to consider how Spirit is moving in our monthly meetings and their relationships with the communities; and how the Quarter may support these efforts?

At 2:50 PM, having considered all other items of business, the presiding clerk, Barry Sloane introduced the interactive part of the Quarterly session and the facilitator, Craig DeLarge (CHFM).

First Barry S. and Phil Anthony described the four Queries concerned with the interaction and involvement of Monthly Meetings and community, noting they have already been considered by some of the MMs. Each meeting received these queries differently, according to the make-up of the Meeting, personality, and one's own refraction of the One Light.

Then Craig explained the steps in the process and gave instructions before a period of silent worship all together. Then friends were 'moved' into small break out rooms by the zoom host (Meg Mitchell). Using worship sharing – friends were asked to take turns responding to the queries, which were recorded by a scribe that had been selected by the group. The facilitator visited each of the groups, to get a sense of the sharing. There were approx. five groups of four friends, who had been distributed to allow a variety of monthly meetings in the groups. Scribes were asked to take notes on the google doc, or on paper (to be later posted on the google doc), which would be posted and shared on the PQM website.

The facilitator (Craig) re-convened the groups back together at little past 3:30 PM for sharing of what emerged in the breakout groups. He explained that responses from small group discussions to be posted on the PQM website - and This is an opportunity for MMs to interact and will offer for PQM to be started and guided by this discussion, possibly carried on by the new officers in January. Craig gave a summary of his impressions from Friends' feedback on these queries to close the day. He recognized that more time was needed then was possible at this session to process the information and learnings that came out of the groups. Phil Anthony, CHFM Rep suggested there would be [a wrap up meeting and a summary of findings](#) would be shared with all.

Barry Sloane thanked Craig for his work, and after a period of silence the meeting was opened.

Note: Please review the [Wrap Up -Findings from the Small Group Discussions at PQM 10.25.2020](#) written after the October 25, 2020 meeting, dated on 12.5.2020 is linked and also attached below in References. It summarizes the query discussion with notes from a 11.27.2020 wrap up meeting with Craig DeLarge, Barry Sloane, Phil Anthony & L. Lanza.

Item 8. Minutes of PQM October 25, 2020 Minutes - Lanza, Coordinator was acting as the recorder for this session. She asked to send a draft of the minutes as soon as possible out to all the attendees, to be considered for approval at the January 24, 2021 Quarterly Meeting hosted by Central Philadelphia MM. Request was accepted.

In closing, Phil Anthony gave thanks for the service rendered by all participants, especially Barry Sloane, Craig DeLarge, Meg Mitchell, Thomas Taylor, and the rest of the CHFM friends.

Barry Sloane, presiding clerk pro tem., led Friends into Closing Worship.

Minutes respectfully submitted,
Lanza with thanks to Tricia Walmsley for her excellent notes.

PQM Minutes 10.25.2020 / Attached References:

The Four Queries

These queries arose from reflection on the challenges many Philadelphian friends and communities are facing during this unprecedented time of pandemic, racial injustice, economic and climate crisis, and civic polarization:

1. Please describe the community surrounding your monthly meetinghouse. What are its hurts and what are its strengths?
2. To what extent does the community of the monthly meeting reflect the community that it “lives” in? How are they different?
3. In what ways does your monthly meeting take actions, partner with, and celebrate the community?
4. How can the Quarter support your monthly meetings and their ministries to work with and care for your community(s)?

Minute of Appreciation for Anthony Stover

Approved by the Philadelphia Quarterly Meeting on October 25, 2020

Philadelphia Quarterly Meeting, gathering in session via Zoom on the 25th day of Tenth Month, 2020, minutes its gratitude and appreciation for the guidance of Friend Anthony Stover over the past one and a half years of his tenure as Quarterly Meeting clerk.

After serving as a PQM Representative for Germantown Monthly Meeting, Anthony answered the call to share his gifts as Quarter Clerk, providing a steady and supportive presence in his efforts to bring the Quarter's constituent Monthly Meetings together as a community, ever all-inclusive and caring, working to provide a sacred space in which members could share the life of their Meetings with one another.

We miss Anthony's spirit-led "I can't, but We CAN" stewardship that inspired old and new friends to join in common cause. Those who worked with him experienced his humility and commitment to see the Light in others, even when they faltered, as evidence of his work on being faithful to Spirit.

Anthony's personal experiences as a Black man growing up in Philadelphia, as a devoted father, a veteran, and a professional dedicated to supporting children and families facing serious illness and oftentimes financial strain - these are just a few of the valuable lenses from which Anthony sees the world and brings to his cooperative leadership.

His love and deep knowledge are even more powerful in the context of the times we are all living through now in 2020. As our Quarter Clerk, Anthony consistently supported the Quarter to consider: What are We Led to do as Friends? And his example encourages us all to look at ourselves and ask:

What can I do – as a friend?

We honor his legacy as he steps down from his position as clerk and thank him for his faithful stewardship of our Quarter. We pray for the recovery of his health as he moves forward and know that he will bring to all future endeavors the same dedication and devotion that he has brought to the Philadelphia Quarterly Meeting.



WRAP UP – FINDINGS & NOTES

version 12.5.2020

From the Small Group Discussions of PQM October 25, 2020

work in progress

The October 25, 2020 session devoted more than a third of its time to interactive break out groups, composed of ~ 4 friends from different monthly meetings to learn from and with each other. These queries arose from reflection on the challenges many Philadelphian Friends and communities are facing during this unprecedented time of pandemic, racial injustice, economic and climate crisis, and civic polarization.

The groups considered a set of Queries (see below *) about how monthly meetings connected to community and how the Quarter might support these efforts? Friends took turns sharing in small group discussions on the Queries. The 5-6 small groups of participants (ranging from 20- 30 in all) returned to the main Zoom call after considering the queries. There was little time left to have a large group discussion. Our facilitator, Craig DeLarge of CHMM, provided a quick summary of the themes he heard from dropping in on the various group discussions. These were:

1. The concept of ‘community’ was discussed in a variety of ways, from geographic local neighborhoods neighborhood, to the city of Philadelphia, globally to social networks and action groups, and inward facing as well - as the community of the monthly meeting and other Quaker groups.
2. Many discussions focused often on relationships with institutions like schools, including public and Friends schools, and partnerships between meeting and community concerns and external organizations.
3. Some meetings were offered/shared/allocated the meeting facilities and/or fiscal resources for community use and benefit.
4. Logistics and liaison with organizational groups, businesses, etc.
5. Some discussions spoke to the idea that the Quarter might take role of facilitating the sharing and clearing house for communications collaboration and programming among monthly meetings.

Craig and presiding clerk for the October 25, 2020 session (Quarter clerk Anthony Stover had to step down for health reasons), Barry Sloane of Mickleton MM, observed that there was a wealth of information shared to unpack in a larger gathering of the Quarter, but that would require more time than we have in today’s session. Participants were urged to look at the responses that would be made available on the PhiladelphiaQuarter.org website so we can continue this process together. (It had been hoped that groups would record responses in the Google Docs but about half did not. It is likely that we can obtain those handwritten notes from a few of the groups.)

Phil Anthony noted that future Quarter meetings will support an ongoing process for this to occur as part of the defining of the role of the Philadelphia Quarter.

*** The Queries:**

1. Please **describe the community** surrounding your monthly meetinghouse. Its strengths and opportunities.
2. To what extent **does the community of the monthly meeting reflect the community** that it “lives” in? How are they different?
3. In what ways **does your monthly meeting take actions, partner with, and celebrate the community?**
4. **How can the Quarter support** your monthly meetings and their ministries to work with and care for your community(s)?

Notes from Zoom Wrap up discussion on 11/27/2020

Attending:

Phil Anthony, PQM Rep from CHFM

Barry Sloane, Presiding Clerk for the 10/25/2020 Quarter session

Lanza, PQM Coordinator

Friends met to wrap up findings and themes from the October 25, 2020 PQM session, primarily to consider next steps.

In addition to the themes that Craig had identified – folks contributed their point of view from discussion:

Phil A. envisions the themes as being 1) partnerships and networks, 2) practices, and 3) projects that the Quarter might connect or otherwise support or amplify. Noted that these can be done for multiple causes or purposes: homelessness, education, etc.

He suggested that we ought to follow up these discussions in future Quarter sessions.

We identified that we could -

- to brainstorm kinds of programs that can be shared betwixt monthly meetings
- inventory of programs and offerings - like a menu - to be shared
- ...To identify opportunities for collaboration, of complimentary or redundant work.

These can be done for multiple causes: homelessness, education, etc.

other causes: food security, incarceration, voter engagement, healthcare...

- ... environment/climate...
- ... other isms...
- ... immigration/refugees...
- ... nonviolent resistance/activism, de-escalation ...

(The PQM coordinator later identified a matrix - quite outdated that was in the PQM files and could be used to get started. It has been included in upcoming Reps Planning Meeting for the January 2021 Quarterly Meeting.)

Barry Sloane observed that in the discussions the Quarter focused a lot on In-reach while Outreach (attracting more people into Friends) seemed to be of great importance to the future of the meetings.

- Discussed past community outreach effort cut short by COVID.
- Discussion on ways to reach outside / beyond given COVID-19 / virtual offerings / invites.
- Publicize Friends activities via news, radio, and other communications!

Discussed the role of PQM to create a space to promote and cultivate trust and knowing of each other and their work, and to assist in training.