

LifeCalls Report to CPMM

Prepared by Viv Hawkins, 16 September 2017, updated 2 December 2017

This report updates Central Philadelphia Monthly Meeting (CPMM) on LifeCalls: A ministry to foster faithfulness, carried by Viv Hawkins and others under the care of CPMM. The report was reviewed by both CPMM's Committee on Gifts and Leadings (CoG&L) and the mutual accountability group approved by CPMM in May 2017, including Lynda Black, Lola Georg, .O, and Viv Hawkins. We began meeting in April 2017, have met 9 times allowing two group members to report each time, and feel well served by this mutual accountability group.

Action Requested

As reported in November 2016, LifeCalls holds \$1,332, awarded by Quaker Women in Public Ministry for CPMM's fiscally-sponsorship. LifeCalls and CoG&L recommend that CPMM allocate that \$1,332 to CoG&L to augment financial support requested by member ministries, which exceeds the \$2,500 afforded by CPMM's FY18 budget.

LifeCalls Minute

At its November 2016 meeting for business, CPMM approved through October 2019 the LifeCalls minute of religious service, which follows, along with various privileges including LifeCalls solicitation of CPMM membership annually, CPMM continuing to receive funds on behalf of LifeCalls, CPMM confirming its support of grant applications on behalf of LifeCalls, and CPMM hosting LifeCalls program use of Friends Center space.

Central Philadelphia Monthly Meeting is blessed to accompany our member Viv Hawkins as she testifies that, with Divine assistance, we can manifest heaven on earth. Viv works and prays to inspire, encourage, and empower people, individually and corporately, to live into our greatest sacredness in harmony with creation. Crossing various boundaries, her Friends Ministry – now including Releasing Ministry Alliance, spiritual accountability, Sabbath-jubilee, and India Connections projects – invite us all to:

- kindle covenant community,
- faithfully follow our Guide, and
- liberate for the common good the spiritual and material gifts we steward

Central Philadelphia Monthly Meeting finds Viv clear to engage this ministry which we have supported, spiritually and materially, since 2005. We commend her to everyone she visits, sending our love for Viv and for you who receive her. We ask you to receive Viv with tenderness and to join with her in listening for and following the guidance of the Spirit.

Minister

I remain grateful for the spiritual support of the 2 peer mutual accountability groups in which I participate, for extended worship community, and for the several Friends' communities with whom I worship. In addition to working full-time at the Shalom Center and engaging the ministry described below, I've been active with Quaker X (a faith community which seeks to embody racial justice); through July 2017, with CPMM's Committee on Racial Healing and Wholeness which employed AFSC's Quaker Social Change Ministry model; with Undoing Racism Group comprised of PhYM Friends but still not an official group of PhYM; and, beginning in Sept 2017, with CPMM's Committee on Gifts and Leadings.

For about 8 months, I have taken a semi-sabbatical from the ministry as I've known it due to three significant instances. Regarded as racism by some and denied as such by others, these instances (PhYM's refusal to approve the Undoing Racism Group's structure proposal at 2016 summer sessions, PhYM's March 2017 "staffing changes," and March 2017 reading out Friend Avis Wanda McClinton by Upper Dublin Monthly Meeting) and follow-on responses, have deeply shaken me. I've questioned my desire to serve among Quakers and, in the darkest times, to remain a Friend. I have required time to reorient and to root my faith more directly in Spirit than in Quakerism.

Ministry

Supporting Ministry

The October 2016 Quaker women in public ministry (QWiPM) gathering, coordinated by Jennie Isbell, Eden Grace, and I, offered an “unconference” agenda format, to allow the 35 participants to develop and deliver the program most pertinent to them. The Nurturing Faithfulness program, operating in New England Yearly Meeting now, was born at that gathering. CPMM’s LifeCalls account holds \$5,000 surplus funds from that event. A few QWiPM participants are exploring a project, in accord with the gathering’s purpose; they have no firm plans.

I continue to participate in two peer mutual accountability groups supporting 5 people in our faithfulness, one of which began in April 2017 as an experiment in CPMM. I offer monthly spiritual direction to a Friend in India via phone. American Friends Service Committee’s (AFSC) Quaker Social Change Ministry (QSCM) pilot year (2016-17) allowed CPMM to network with 10 other Friends meetings, who engage spiritually-grounded corporate ministry that advances social justice. AFSC employee Gabriela Flora and I co-facilitated a workshop at FGC Gathering 2017 on migrant rights and the QSCM. I continue to participate in AFSC’s QSCM support calls.

Lola Georg, Hollister Knowlton, and I, with a widening circle of others, advanced support of individual calls to ministry in PhYM. Participants included more than 70 people from 33 monthly meetings, 11 PhYM quarterly meetings, and 4 yearly meetings (PhYM, Baltimore, East Africa, Vihiga) in three well-received programs: 1) interest group at March 2016 continuing sessions, 2) a workshop at PhYM summer 2016 sessions, and 3) an October 2016 program “pulling back the curtain” on spiritual gifts, leadings, and meeting support. We planned a peer group series to help others learn and practice the mutual accountability process and had 24 registrants. Due to our broken-heartedness with racism in PhYM, we postponed the PhYM series. We are offering the series to Quaker Voluntary Service’s Philadelphia cohort and exploring it with Eastern University. Another offering may focus on accountability toward anti-racism and multicultural community.

In the past three years, I devoted considerable time to addressing racism in the Religious Society of Friends through participation in the Undoing Racism Group, CPMM’s Committee on Racial Healing and Wholeness, Quaker X, and in various forms of mutual support with a few Friends of color. Because racism thwarts whole groups of people from exercising their fullest potential, this is critical to supporting ministry among Friends.

Several courses of study have added to my work with spiritual accountability.

- 1) In November 2016, I completed a two-year spiritual direction certificate program offered by Sisters of Mercy. Throughout the two-year traditional training in accompanying others on their spiritual journey, I became more and more clear about my penchant for group direction and accountability that helps create social justice.
- 2) I participate in an on-line course on clergy peer groups offered by Pastoral Excellence Network (Oct 2016).
- 3) I participated in two on-line courses on a human development model (StAGES) taught by Terri O’Fallon and Kim Barta of Pacific Integral, Sept 2016 - June 2017. That study has helped me better understand the varied paradigms through which people see themselves and the world, perspectives which will assist me in my daily life as well as in support of others’ ministries.
- 4) From Sept-Dec 2017, I completed an MIT on-line course on leading profound innovation in times of disruptive change taught by Otto Scharmer and others. Scharmer’s U-theory is a means of exploring the depths of meaning in any situation, opening to a new way of being, and making manifest that new way.

My writing on peer mutual accountability has been dormant for 12 months, other than through social media.

Releasing Ministry Alliance

To publicize and resource ministries of Friends and others, I continue to advance Releasing Ministry Alliance. An interest group at FGC Gathering 2017 allowed Vonn New and I to share the current project status. Since March 2015, I've distributed twenty three (23) e-blasts publicizing 40 ministries including all branches of the Religious Society of Friends. *Introducing Releasing Ministry Alliance* video has more than 550 views. The more fully functional website now has a possible January 2018 beta release. Planning is underway to contract with a Quaker minister for a social media campaign. While independent incorporation is sought, CPMM has been serving as fiscal sponsor. A fiscal sponsor agreement also exists with The Shalom Center but has not been used.

India

I continue to provide spiritual direction to an Indian Friend who serves as clerk of the one unprogrammed yearly meeting in India. In August 2017, I took furlough from the India Friends Collaborative, formerly a working group of PhYM which was founded by George Willoughby, me, and others around 2000.

FY17 Finances

Income & Expenses		LifeCalls	Releasing	Quaker	
(through CPMM)	Total - all	(undesig-	Ministry	Women in	
for July 2016 - June 2017	projects	nated)	Alliance	Public	Purpose
				Ministry	
Opening balance	\$24,112.65	\$2,515.65	\$9,717.00	\$11,880.00	
Income					
Releasing Ministry Alliance GoFundMe Income			\$260.30		
QWIPM Conference Fee income				\$10,000.00	
CPMM Member Contributions		\$1,210.00			
Other contributions		\$25.00			
Total Income	\$11,495.30	\$1,235.00	\$260.30	\$10,000.00	
Expenses					
9/1/2016				\$3,238.00	Rolling Ridge 2
9/15/2016				\$250.00	Ashley Wilcox Travel
9/15/2016				\$300.00	Sarah Walton Travel
10/20/2016		\$600.00			Course reimbursmt-Clergy groups & StAGES Esse
10/9/2016				\$8,734.48	Rolling Ridge 3
10/9/2016				\$500.00	Childcare-Helen Carpenter
10/9/2016				\$500.00	Childcare-Elizabeth Stilwell
10/9/2016				\$400.00	Jade Souza travel
12/1/2016				\$687.13	Eden Grace-IN-OH travel
12/1/2016				\$113.00	Eden Grace-Supplies
11/17/2016				\$400.00	Deborah Shaw -refund cancel
11/17/2016				\$125.00	Holly Baldwin -refund cancel (VOIDED)
11/17/2016				\$200.00	Anne Pomeroy -refund elder
11/17/2016				\$100.00	Christina Repoley -refund cancel
Total Expenses	\$16,147.61	\$600.00	\$0.00	\$15,547.61	
Ending balance	\$19,460.34	\$3,150.65	\$9,977.30	\$6,332.29	

Plans for the Coming Year

MINISTER	1. Attend more to “how” I offer ministry than “what” I offer: relax, enjoy, and play. Connect more with people and groups I love and enjoy. Continue to seek my main spiritual sustenance from the Source. Contribute to my faith communities, more as I’m led than from obligation.
SUPPORTING MINISTRY	1. Offer training in mutual accountability, with QVS, possibly with Eastern University, Cranaleith, and Wild Goose Festival.
	2. Serve with CPMM’s Committee on Gifts and Leadings.
	3. Cultivate a spiritual direction practice, especially with groups.
	4. Write on spiritual accountability.
RELEASING MINISTRY ALLIANCE	1. Continue to develop the human network, launch website phase 2, coordinate considerable outreach to ministers and other potential participants.
	2. Create a legal structure and board (for Releasing Ministry Alliance or for LifeCalls, either as 501c3 or B corporation).
INDIA	1. Consider travel with Lola to India at the end of 2018- beginning of 2019 to visit among Friends, Bhimkothi village residents, and Ekta Parishad staff as well as to co-facilitate Alternatives to Violence Project training.

Anticipated future expenses (through CPMM)	Date	LifeCalls (undesig- nated)	Releasing Ministry Alliance	Quaker Women in Public Ministry
OPENING BALANCE	\$ 19,460	\$ 3,151	\$ 9,977	\$ 6,332
QWiPM follow-on project	TBD			\$ 5,000
VOID - Holly Baldwin check not cashed	9/1/17			\$ +125
Mystic Soul Conference registration (1/2018)	9/10/17	\$ 150		
Wild Goose Festival fees	9/20/17	\$ 190		
Fiscal sponsorship administrative fees to CPMM	12/10/17			\$ 1,332
Releasing Ministry domain name registration	1/1/18		\$ 50	
Releasing Ministry web development	1/1/18		\$ 5,000	
Releasing Ministry website hosting	1/1/18		\$ 825	
Office supplies	1/1/18		\$ 100	
Wild Goose lodging reservation (for 7/2018)	1/1/18	\$ 400		
Mystic Soul travel	1/15/18	\$ 600		
Mystic Soul food & lodging	1/15/18	\$ 400		
Releasing Ministry social media campaign	1/15/18		\$ 500	
Releasing Ministry IRS non-profit application	1/30/18		\$ 400	
Quickbooks software	2/1/18		\$ 200	
Releasing Ministry printing & copying	2/1/18		\$ 200	
Releasing Ministry insurance: multi-peril	4/1/18		\$ 1,500	
Releasing Ministry gatherings (PhYM, NEYM)	7/1/18		\$ 1,200	
Wild Goose travel and food	7/12/18	\$ 1,000		
Releasing Ministry travel (1500 miles)	8/15/18		\$ 842	
India travel (visa, hotel, food, & medical)	12/15/18	\$ 2,200		
Total Anticipated Expenses	\$ 21,964	\$ 4,940	\$ 10,817	\$ 6,207
Balance remaining	\$ (2,504)	\$ (1,789)	\$ (840)	\$ 125