

Report from LifeCalls SAG to Philadelphia QM

The Spiritual Accountability Group (SAG) appointed by Central Philadelphia Monthly Meeting (CPMM) for LifeCalls: A Ministry to Foster Faithfulness includes Mona Cardell, Shan Cretin, Lola Georg, and Kevin Taylor. LifeCalls is carried by Viv Hawkins with the assistance of the Divine and many other people. The following is our report to Philadelphia Quarterly Meeting (PQM) for the ministry since November 2011.

Actions asked of PQM

1. Receive this LifeCalls ministry report to PQM meeting for business.
2. Consider endorsing the following minute of religious service and forwarding it to Philadelphia Yearly Meeting (PhYM) for their consideration for endorsement.
3. Consider a minute of support for ReleasingMinistry.org, a project of LifeCalls, and consider its referral to PQM monthly meetings consideration and possible future approval by PQM.
4. Pray for this and other ministries of PQM.

Minute of Religious Service

We ask the meeting to endorse this minute and send it on to the PhYM clerk for consideration of endorsement by PhYM. PhYM Faith and Practice recommends that Friends offering ministry beyond the bounds of their own yearly meeting have a minute endorsed by their yearly meeting. In PhYM, the practice is for minutes to come to PHYM from a quarterly meeting or a PHYM committee.

The following minute was approved by CPMM on September 14, 2014. A very similar minute was endorsed by PQM on February 20, 2012, and by PHYM's Interim Meeting on May 12, 2012. Since it's 2011-12 approvals, the phrase "(now including ReleasingMinistry.org)" has been added in the second sentence.

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 ReleasingMinistry.org), 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.

Minute of Support for ReleasingMinistry.org

The following minute is proposed for consideration by the monthly meeting's of PQM to consider a quarterly meeting minute of support at a future PQM meeting for business, perhaps in January 2015.

A report regarding ReleasingMinistry.org, a project to publicize and crowd-fund ministries, was received at Philadelphia Quarterly Meeting's (PQM) September 26, 2014 meeting for business. We agree, with Divine assistance, this project can help nurture Quakerism and the wider world.

We extend our gratitude to Central Philadelphia Monthly Meeting for the care it provides to this project, including an on-going spiritual accountability group to ensure faithfulness and fiscal stewardship.

We ask our member meetings to consider if we can unite in supporting this endeavor conceptually and encourage others to do so, also. We encourage PQM members and meetings to learn more about this project either: at www.releasingministry.org, via a Friends Journal article at <http://www.friendsjournal.org/releasing-friends/>, at a called session of PQM in January, or in direct communication with Viv Hawkins (friendviv@gmail.com).

We are aware the project requires prayer and start-up funding. We encourage our membership and others to support it, as led. (Tax-deductible contributions designated for LifeCalls Ministry can be sent to CPMM, 1515 Cherry St, Philadelphia, PA 19102.)

Activities of Ministry since Nov 2011 (Last Written Report to CPMM MfB)

Throughout Viv's religious service, her activities in the ministry all intend to foster fuller faithfulness. Much of LifeCall's focus in recent years has been on supporting Friends' ministry, including spiritual accountability and ReleasingMinistry.org. Viv has increasingly partnered with other people to foster ministry. We are deeply grateful to all who served with her, at home and in the field, to call forth and support Spirit-led service.

Friends Ministry

ReleasingMinistry.org

The project's mission is to support Spirit-led service by sharing resources – spiritual, financial, and material. It will publicize, fund, resource, and foster accountability of individual and communally-held ministries.

Goals and Objectives are:

1. Provide a high-traffic website and effective social media to publicize, fund, and resource ministries.
2. Cultivate a network of people to publicize and resource grounded ministry and advocate support of ministries in faith communities.
3. Offer trustworthy, transparent services and nimble, faithful governance.

Activities:

- ReleasingMinistry.org starter website launched and 35 contacts have signed up as of August 2014.
- Releasing Ministry facebook group of 173 members facilitated since June 2013 to share information about ReleasingMinistry.org and the competencies it hopes to advance.
- "Releasing Friends" article on ReleasingMinistry.org published in March 2014 Friends Journal. Youtube "authors' chat" recorded and published March 2014.
- ReleasingMinistry.org publicized through interest groups at FGC Gathering 2013 and PHYM Annual Sessions 2013; an FGC Gathering 2014 afternoon session drew 24 interested people.

- Lyman Fund grant received for Vonn New to pursue ReleasingMinistry.org (\$3,000 awarded 6/14, an additional \$2,000 is possible via a second application in a future grant cycle).

Friends Spiritual Accountability

Activities:

- Experiments with Spiritual Accountability FGC Gathering 2014 workshop co-facilitated with Lola Georg and offered 20 participants direct experience of mutual peer accountability with intentions for them to take it home to their meetings.
- “Finding a Quaker Charism at the Wild Goose Festival” was published in October 2013 Friends Journal. Article offers an overview of the benefits of peer mutual accountability, especially in our current times and roots the practice in the spiritual testimonies of Friends.
- Facilitated a Friends Spiritual Accountability facebook group of 139 members since June 2011 to link people and share information related to spiritual accountability.
- Eldered FGC Gathering 2013 workshop “Sounding the Divine,” a sensory worship experience led by Vonn New, and 2012 workshop “Awakening the Dreamer,” a custom-tailored Pachamama Alliance workshop offered by Hollister Knowlton, PQM clerk and Evergreen Worship Group.
- Called to Action, a series of six one-day workshops to build power for social change was supplemented with activity in a social action project outside the workshops. Viv, with Amy Kietzman, Michael Gagne’, and others, developed the curriculum and co-facilitated the workshops from Jan-Jun 2012.
- Spiritual Formation 2 helped people explore their gifts and call, via peer spiritual accountability groups which met during four 1-day workshops and between sessions over 9 months Oct 2011-Jun 2012. Viv initiated and developed this program under the care of PhYM’s Spiritual Formation Working Group.
- Young Adult Leadership Development 2012 gathered young adult Friends from throughout the U.S. and abroad at Pendle Hill. A one-day social action strategy program was offered by Viv and Michael Gagne.

Sabbath-jubilee

Sabbath celebrates time with Spirit and jubilee is responding to calls experienced then. Both together offer a “reset button” to free people who become captive (to debt or other injustices) and allow nature to rest. With today’s gross economic inequality, climate crisis, and wars to sustain them, Sabbath-jubilee can still serve us.

Activities:

- Meeting with Coast workshop co-facilitated at the FGC Gathering 2012, to deeply connect us with nature and Spirit, to join the experience of the Rhode Island coast with worship.
- Coordinated the contemplative housing cluster of FGC Gathering 2009-2012. Viv proposed this cluster, which began in 2009 and continues each year.

India Connections

India Friends Working Group continues to facilitate interaction between U.S. Friends, Indian Friends, and Gandhian activists. U.S. members include Mary Arnett*, Henry Beck (co-clerk), Ann and Al Briggs*, Philip Donnelly, Viv Hawkins*, Amanda Ivory, Scott Rhodewalt (clerk), Randy Quinby, Jack Walz. * indicates active founding members. We partner with Friends of various Indian yearly meetings, FWCC- AWPS, and Gandhians.

Activities:

- Unami Meeting (PhYM) is expanding their sister relationship with Bhimkothi village to fund a well;
- IFWG is funding scholarships for biosand water filter training offered by Indian Friends; and
- Eldering offered to the clerk of the only Indian unprogrammed Friends yearly meeting.

Financial Report

Fiscal Year	FY12	FY13	FY14	FY15 to date
Income of the ministry				
Carry-over from prior year	2,505	3,378	1,864	2,614
Individual contributions	2,275	1,570	750	
Reimbursed expenses of the ministry				
Travel	317	803		100
Education	624	480		
Conference fees	816	1,553		1,017
Printing	12	36		
Supplies	45	212		160
Total Reimbursed Expenses	1,815	3,084		1,277
Balance of LifeCalls funds held by CPMM	3,378	1,864	2,614	1,337

Note: Viv's vacation time was used for time in the ministry; the time used was not reimbursed.

Anticipated Activities in the Coming Year

The following is a summary of a full set of objectives Viv submitted to LifeCall's spiritual accountability group.

Friends Ministry

Viv is under the weight of fundraising, publicizing, and administering the varied tasks to launch the project. A business plan has been drafted and an implementation plan is underway with partner Vonn New and others.

Viv believes that experiences with peer mutual accountability foster vital ministry. For that reason, Viv plans to propose offering program similar to the FGC Gathering 2014 workshop, which was very well-received.

India Connections

India Friends Working Group of PHYM is considering a trip to India October/November 2015. Viv is discerning if she is led to coordinate planning. Viv and Lola plan to travel among Indian Friends.

Anticipated Budget FY 2015

The following budget combines a simplified ReleasingMinistry.org budget from the project business plan with expenses for other portions of the overall ministry for the fiscal year. CPMM's fiscal year ends June 30.

ReleasingMinistry.org Expenses

Start-up expenses: website and database development	10,000
Year 1 operating expenses: communications, e-commerce fees, fiscal sponsorship fees, etc.	4,000

Other Ministry Expenses

Conference fees	1,500
Education	720
Travel	500
Printing	200
Supplies	200

Total Ministry Expenses **17,120**

Submitted by Mona Cardell, Shan Cretin, Lola Georg, and Kevin Taylor,
Spiritual Accountability Group for LifeCalls Ministry and Viv Hawkins