

April 19, 2023

Unami Monthly Meeting  
100 East Fifth Street  
Pennsburg, PA 18073

## Unami Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends



### *Calendar*

#### **This Month**

April 23, Meeting for Worship, 11 a.m.

April 30, Meeting for Worship, 11 a.m.

#### **Future:**

May 7, Discussion on **Gender: Your Guide**, 9:30 a.m., Meeting for Worship, 11 a.m.

May 14, Meeting for Worship, 11 a.m.

May 21, Meeting for worship with a concern for business, 9 a.m, Meeting for Worship, 11 a.m.

### Chocolate and Coffee Reorder

Nadeen is restocking our Fair Trade Chocolate and Coffee larder.

Please let her know what items you would like to see restocked by sending her an email: [nadeenmcshane@yahoo.com](mailto:nadeenmcshane@yahoo.com)

### *Newsletter Deadline*

The deadline for the next newsletter is May 26 **at 4 PM.**

This is a Fridayday deadline.

Send your news to [danielhazelton@rcn.com](mailto:danielhazelton@rcn.com).



## **AQM Enabling Fund and AQM Fund Assistance**

The Abington Quarterly Meeting has determined that for Unami Friends who are members or who are active attenders who may be needing short term financial assistance during this difficult time, funds are available from the Abington Quarter Meeting Enabling Fund for all members and from the AQM Fund for all active attenders.

For more information contact:

Rebecca Cratin, the Administrator of the Home and Care Committee,

215-542-8738

[rhcratin@cratin.com](mailto:rhcratin@cratin.com)

or

Marietta Quinby, representative from Unami to the Home and Care Committee

215-257-4895

[rmquinby@verizon.net](mailto:rmquinby@verizon.net)

or

Lynn Biddle, Unami's Care of Members Committee clerk

267-377-6560

[lbiddle@hotmail.com](mailto:lbiddle@hotmail.com)

## **Query for the Month of April**

### **Nurturing Our Community: Religious Stewardship of Resources**

- How does our meeting accommodate ecological, economic and social justice in its uses of property and money?
- Does our meeting engage its members in supporting the meeting's work, its ministry and the upkeep of its property?
- Does our meeting encourage its members to support with their time, energy and finances the quarterly and yearly meetings and other Quaker organizations?
- To what extent does our meeting rely on current members and attenders for financial support and to what extent on other sources?
- *How do I demonstrate in my own decision making a concern for ecological, economic and social justice?*
- *How do I simplify my needs, making choices that balance self-sufficiency and fair sharing of resources?*
- *Do I balance my work-life and other activities with the time and energy needed for my spiritual growth and service?*
- *Do I contribute to the work of Friends in my meeting, in the quarterly and yearly meetings and in the wider world of Friends?*

## **Worship and Ministry Announcements**

**May 7, 9:30am Discussion** – Robyn will lead a book discussion on the book *Gender: Your Guide*. There is a copy of the book in the meetinghouse – please feel free to borrow, read and return for others.

**May 14, Mother's Day**

**May 21, 9:00am Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business**

**June 4, 9:30am Discussion** – Update on the Unami Carbon Forest Project.

## **Announcements from the Carbon Forest Committee**

Upcoming Events:

**Sunday, April 23, 12-4 p.m.** Earth Day at John James Audubon Center, Audubon, PA.  
<https://pa.audubon.org/events/earth-day-celebration-john-james-audubon-center>

**Wednesday, June 7, TBD** Presentation at “Greening Sacred Spaces,” a Quaker Zoom gathering of Quakers incorporating climate change into their actions.

For more info, email John Munro at [munroeco@verizon.net](mailto:munroeco@verizon.net)

Or Joyce Munro at [munroj@comcast.net](mailto:munroj@comcast.net)

## **Unami Monthly Meeting Spiritual State of the Meeting for the Year 2022**

As a gathered community Unami Friends considered our response to the question – What is the Spiritual State of our Meeting? In the past our meeting has mostly relied on the discernment of our Worship and Ministry Committee to compose our response to this important query. We have felt well served as we listened to these reports in our monthly meeting with a concern for business. If necessary, we agreed on modifications and proceeded to forward our approved report to PYM.

We chose a different path to our response this year. Prior to the Worship and Ministry Committee composing a draft response to the query, we scheduled a time for the meeting as a whole to discern our response during one of our frequent Sunday morning discussions. We gathered on the morning of February 19th to consider the queries presented in Faith and Practice. We were also aware and considered the queries put forward by the PYM Worship and Care Committee.

With faithful respect we submit our report below:

Unami Friends Meeting feels called to be an inclusive, accepting, simple, relaxed spiritual community. The Quaker commitment to communal waiting serves as our center and our challenge.

We know that this aspiration for our community depends on our individual decisions to show up and be present. We recognize and encourage each of us to exercise our freedom and permission to come and go as we discern. While acknowledging this individual choice we also know as a community that meeting for worship is enhanced when Friends are present. In this third year after the onset of the Covid pandemic we have grown more familiar with how technology provides a bridge between physical presence and virtual presence. We are appreciative when more Friends are able to join us by Zoom for meeting for worship, for Sunday morning discussions or for committee meetings. We also recognize the limitations of technology in maintaining the deep intimacy of our spiritual connections with one another and acknowledge that we must work to ensure a sustainable balance between intimacy and accessibility.

Unami Friends continue our practice of holding Sunday morning discussions once or twice a month on topics that serve our members' expressed interests and deepen our connections with one another. There is great enthusiasm for these discussions and our Worship and Ministry Committee works hard to include a broad spectrum of topics. Often, we are drawn together to discuss societal issues that beckon our action. In 2022 we learned about ideas surrounding reparations for victims of long-term oppression, discerned and replied to FCNL's request for recommendations for legislative priorities and heard of the struggles and challenges of trans youth.

We are also drawn to use our discussions to look inwards to our own longings and challenges. We asked ourselves to discern our own relationship to civic responsibility, to revisit our personal relationship to the Quaker peace testimony and to reflect on our ability to present a sincere apology to those to whom we have caused pain. We engaged in a writing workshop over the summer months as we explored the theme “Against Forgetting” through creative writing. We learned so much about each other.

In addition, we used a Sunday morning discussion to consider a pause in Unami’s long time practice of inviting a short period of “Twilight” thoughts at the rise of meeting for worship. With concern that this practice may be deterring Friends from sharing vocal ministry during worship we agreed to create a 4 month pause in this practice before resuming our discernment in the coming year.

On the Sunday before Thanksgiving we hosted a celebration of Unami’s 50th anniversary. We recognize that we are a young meeting and embraced the fact that one of the true pleasures of our circumstance is that we can actually be together with some of the founders of our meeting. We held a hybrid event which included Unami alumni from across the country and the world. It was a wonderful opportunity to recognize our uniqueness and to acknowledge the significance that Unami meeting has occupied in the spiritual lives of so many (of all ages) in such a short period of time. We were reminded of the importance of sharing food, going on retreats, laughing together and continuously finding ways to grow together. We have been challenged by the absence of many of these traditions during the pandemic and look forward to returning to these valued traditions. This gathering provided us with an opportunity to revel in the Unami spirit and to affirm our path forward into a future that is teeming with possibility.

After two years of holding our Seasonal Celebration on Zoom we joyfully gathered at the meetinghouse on the last Sunday evening prior to Christmas to share our spiritual gifts as we lit candles and worshiped together in greeting the light of the new year. As a spiritual community we are strong.