

January 18, 2025

Unami Monthly Meeting
100 East Fifth Street
Pennsburg, PA 18073

Unami Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends



Calendar

This Month

Jan. 19, State of Unami Meeting Discussion, 9:30 a.m., Meeting for Worship, 11 a.m.

Jan. 26, Meeting for Worship, 11 a.m.

Future:

Feb. 2, Meeting for Worship, 11 a.m.

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

Feb. 16, Intergenerationa Worship Discussion, 9:30 a.m., Meeting for Worship, 11 a.m.

Zoom Link for Meeting
for Worship, Meeting for
Worship with a Concern
for Business and Sunday
morning Discussions.

Contact Unami at:

unamifriendsmeeting@gmail.com

if you would like to join us for Meeting for
Worship on Sundays at 11 a.m. on Zoom

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the next
newsletter is February 14 **at 4 PM.**

This is Friday deadline.

Send your news to danielhazelton@rcn.com.



State of Unami Meeting Discussion **January 19, 9:30 a.m.**

Each year, the Ministry and Care Committee of PYM asks each meeting to provide a snap-shot of the Spiritual State of their meeting; these reports are amalgamated into a report about the Spiritual State of our yearly meeting which is shared at annual sessions. We know that these reports represent careful reflection from the meeting. Each report is read by at least two members of the Ministry and Care Committee and the reports inform the committee's plans and recommendations to Councils.

Queries from PYM-

***How has your meeting been changing?
Where are you headed in the next few years?***

Please share any triumphs or troubles you have had regarding the climate witness.

Given where you are headed, might Ministry and Care help you find resources in any of these areas: Support for intervisitation, Spiritual formation, Interactive Quaker Study, Bible Study, Healing, Addressing Racism, Ending Gun Violence, Climate Change, other areas?

As requested by PYM Ministry and Care, we will meet to discuss the state of Unami Meeting and to consider the successes, changes, growth, challenges, etc. of our meeting during 2024. We will also consider the Spiritual State of our Meeting.

We hope you can join us in reflecting on this past year to help us as we move forward.

Nancy

State of Unami Meeting Discussion February 16, 9:30 a.m.

Hello, Friends!

We are hoping you will attend/participate in our discussion about Intergenerational Worship on February 16 at 9:30.. If you are planning to come in person or by Zoom that morning, we invite you to read the questions we've listed here. If you will be unable to come to the discussion but would like your chance to comment, email Jenn Reimels (hafvalla@yahoo.com) a brief answer to one or more of the questions.

Questions for Parents

What kind of Intergenerational subjects do you feel we should broach?
Are you willing to facilitate one yourself?
How often should Intergenerational Worship happen?
Are your kids ready/willing to have a bit of programmed worship on a recurring basis?
What do you think is going right for Intergenerational Worship and what could use improvement?
What kind of feedback do you get from your kids?
What do you want the kids to learn about Quakerism in IG?
Should we have more rules for IG? If so what should they be?

Questions for Kids

Do you like to come for IG? Why or why not?
What kind of topic would you like IG to be about?

Worship and Ministry Committee

Everything you wanted to know about membership but were afraid to ask

Hi!

Over the next few months, we're inviting people to write about what it means to be a member at Unami. Because I'm on Care & Membership Committee, I get to go first to give you the step-by- step process:

1. You think you might want to be a member, and wonder what that means exactly. Your reasons are personal, but you wonder how they might diverge from or line up with others' reasons. You think that being a member is a good thing. You wonder if there's a right time.

2. You put your intention in writing [email] to the clerk [[Nancy Donnelly](#) this year]. You can choose to say why you want to be a member in as few or as many words as you need.

3. The clerk reads your email or letter at the next business meeting (2nd Sunday, Sep-June, in Quakerese called *Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business*). **Everyone is happy!**

4. Someone from Care and Membership Committee contacts you: [Lynn Biddle, one of the two Joyces—Munro or Moore, or Mo Nolan]

--If they haven't done so already, they give you a *Faith and Practice* that outlines Friends' processes, queries [*Qs for thoughtful meditation*], and quotations across the ages.

One of those processes is called **clearness for membership**: [Quakerese historically for *Are you sure you want to do this?*]

--You and the committee pick a couple of people to be your **clearness committee** (about three people, people you want to hear you or you feel comfortable with).

At Unami, **clearness means we have a chat together**. It's an opportunity for you to ask Qs, to tell about yourself, and for us to get to know each other better.

5. Your committee and you meet for clearness. (Our 16-year-old son* and each of us had our own clearness committees. The people were wonderful, and each of us met two times with our committees—it was incredible!)

--You come to a mutual sense of belonging or (don't know that anything different has ever happened in clearness for membership other than "hooray!")

*Technically children of adult members of Unami are associate members until the age of 26, but our son decided to become a member.

6. We celebrate your membership with cake, a potluck . . . Everyone is happy!

Membership at Unami involves one or more of the following, hopefully more than one of these:

- You show up**
- You join a committee**
- You contribute financially as you are able**

Membership at Unami does not mean we have to share the same view of God, Spirit, or Friends' historic tradition of being radical Christians. You can be a seeker with roots in religious practices different from what you observe in Unami worship. The only requirement is that you practice the idea that there can be in anyone that spark (often called Light). You commit to dealing with silence, questions, ambiguities, resolves, and struggles in yourself and others.

Each of us comes to membership as to other love relationships—with scars and passions, with wonderings of ancient and recent origins.

Membership at Unami does not mean you have to have read *Faith and Practice*, but sections will be useful to you at different occasions in your life. For example, some of us have found clearness meaningful at various decision points (I once called a couple of Friends together to decide about a tantalizing volunteer opportunity—to hear me out—and that process ultimately helped me be at peace with a decision not to follow that opportunity.)

Membership at Unami does not mean you have to be engaged with the larger Friends' organization (Abington Quarter and Philadelphia Yearly Meeting even though technically every member of Unami is a member of these structures). You might be interested in some of their programs, or those opportunities for activism put forth by American Friends Service or Friends Committee on National Legislation (Friends' lobby group in D.C.).

For myself I can say that being a Quaker is a deeply joyful thing I'm doing, even though it is sometimes hard.

Joyce Munro
December 2024



Bruce Grimes and Geoffrey Kaiser, founders and former members of Unami, pose in their new home. They are now living in a continuing care facility, Varenna Luxury Senior Living, in Santa Rosa, CA and send greetings and wishes for good cheer in the new year.

AQM Enabling Fund

For friends who are members of Unami who may be needing short term financial assistance, funds are available from the Abington Quarter Meeting Enabling Fund.

For more information contact:

Rebecca Cratin, the Administrator of the Home and Care Committee,
215-542-8738

rhcratin@cratin.com

or

Mary Hanisch, representative from Unami to the Home and Care Committee

215-529-4317

mary.hanisch@gmail.com

or

Lynn Biddle, Unami's Care of Members Committee clerk

267-377-6560

lbiddle@hotmail.com

Query for the Month of December

Witnessing in the World: Education

- What does our meeting do to support and improve public education?
- What help do we provide for the children and adults in our meeting to pursue their educational goals?
- What is our meeting's role in support for Friends' education? If our meeting is connected to a Friends school or schools, does this relationship nurture spiritual life and the manifestation of Friends principles?
- Do we enable children in our meeting to attend a Friends school? Does our meeting work with the family to consider all available means of support?
- *How do I show my concern for the improvement of public education in my community?*
- *Do I demonstrate my encouragement and support for Friends education through awareness and service?*