

NYQM Working Group with a Concern for Quaker Life (CQL)

Since November 2017 an ad hoc group of us have been prayerfully considering the needs of our NYQM community: How can we foster support among our members, greater communication and intergenerational bonds, and address some practical concerns that may keep members from staying within our meetings? At summer sessions 2017, we were taken under the care of NYQM.

We are aware that issues of aging affect all of us:

- Are we prepared to think through for ourselves and loved ones the many health and life questions that affect our quality of life particularly as we age into the last third of life?
- Are there better ways to effectively use our resources to provide affordable intergenerational housing for Friends?

We do not have answers yet but we have made progress in framing our work and defining our questions. Our frame is one of inclusivity and community building with an appreciation that we all have various needs and identities but our answers will be found in deeper communication, trust and letting our hearts lead.

Towards that end, we have received funding for a very preliminary proposal to explore housing and community space development in our Quarter. Our initial focus will be on the redevelopment of the building adjacent to the Brooklyn Meetinghouse, at 112 Schermerhorn St. Our intent is to share our proposal with NY Quarter committees for seasoning and to bring it to the Quarterly meeting in July for consideration. Please direct your feedback to any member of our working group.

We are also planning a workshop on June 9th at the Brooklyn Friends Meeting House which will explore aging and quality of life issues. We hope to make this as inviting to all as possible as we are all engaged in how to make meaning of our lives and to live as fully in the Spirit as we can. Please hold the date and look for more information to come.

Members: Elizabeth Gilmore, Callie Janoff, Stephen Monroe Smith, Benjamin Warnke, Andy Von Salis, Joan Malin, Patricia Glynn, Elena Callahan, Charlene Ray, Joe Gosler, Kerry Ojakian, John Maynard, Ingrid Schwarzkopf, among others.