

Guide to Listening Sessions about the Relationship between SAYMA and Uplifting Racial Justice

Co-clerks: Kevin Moran and Melissa Preat

Recording clerks: Wood Bouldin and Barbara Esther

Zoom monitor: Rob Collins

The sessions will be hybrid.

Purpose:

Our purpose for gathering is to hear one another and be transformed.

The Ministry and Nurture Committee will use the listening sessions as a guide for developing recommendations to address the proposed minutes from Representative Meeting 149* on the relationship of SAYMA with the Uplifting Racial Justice Committee, and towards building right relationships with Friends of Color. The intent is for the Ministry and Nurture Committee to use what is heard and develop recommendations to present to the 2023 Fall Representative Meeting 151.

*Proposed minutes are listed below the queries for each day.

Session Guidelines:

- ❖ Speak from your own personal experience or perspective.
- ❖ Address remarks to the clerk; do not reply directly to or rebut others.
- ❖ Everyone with dissenting views has a responsibility to make them known.
- ❖ We all have a responsibility to listen.
- ❖ All ideas and thoughts on an issue are welcome for consideration.
- ❖ Everyone should have a chance to speak.
- ❖ No decisions will be made during the listening session.
- ❖ Passion is permitted!

Adapted from SAYMA Faith and Practice pgs. 19-20

Session One: Saturday 3:15- 4:45 pm

Guiding Queries:

1. How can SAYMA create or ensure right relationship among all Friends in the SAYMA community?
2. What harms do Friends need to address?
3. Are there harms white Friends in particular need to address?

Minute addressed:

149-13-04 Proposed Minute: This body charges Ministry and Nurture with guiding white Friends in acknowledging their part and the part of their predecessors in racial harms to Friends of Color so that we may take responsibility and enter into right relationship with Friends of Color.

Session Two: Monday afternoon 3:15- 4:45 pm

Guiding Queries:

1. How have our structures and “Quaker Processes” been used to contribute to continuing harm?
2. What aspects of structure and Quaker process can help create a stronger community?
3. What are we/ am I willing to do to address the harms by SAYMA to Friends of Color and build a stronger community?

Minutes addressed:

149-13-01 Proposed Minute: We acknowledge SAYMA-URJ’s right to exist as a self-selecting standing committee of SAYMA - which means the Nominating Committee will not choose its members or decide their term limits.

149-13-02 Proposed Minute: We acknowledge that the Paul Cuffee Worship Group has a right to exist as a program of SAYMA-URJ without being under the care of a SAYMA Monthly Meeting.

149-13-03 Proposed Minute: We acknowledge that SAYMA-URJ has never engaged in any kind of financial mismanagement and that every dollar of URJ's budget has been spent in accordance with URJ's mission and goals.