

BUCKS QUARTER RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS
MEETING FOR BUSINESS
November 18, 2012
HELD AT YARDLEY MEETINGHOUSE

Clerk: Amy Ward Brimmer (Fallsington MM)

Recording Clerk: David Rose (Lehigh Valley MM)

Friends gathered around the appointed hour of 1:00 PM and settled into a period of worship
Agenda reviewed, modified and accepted

Roll Call of Meetings: Bristol:1, Buckingham:2, Doylestown:0, Fallsington: 7, LehighValley: 1, Makefield: 4, Middletown:2, Newtown: 4, Plumstead: 2, Quakertown NJ: 0, Solebury: 2, Southampton: 0, Wrightstown: 1, Yardley: 5. There were two visitors from East Africa Yearly Meeting in Kenya currently attending Lehigh Valley MM: Zibiah and Allen Amiani.

Minutes approved with clarification noted that Bucks Food for Friends started around five years ago as a leading with the first meal served October 2008.

Growth and Sharing

- Yardley MM participation in Yardley Day resulted in a couple of new visitors the following First Day.
- Sam Snipes noted that The Peace Center in Langhorne has very few Friends involved.
- Fallsington: Monthly Meeting Outreach Committee involved in Historic Fallsington Day which this year had double attendance for tours. Have also started a specific Welcome Day for members to invite others.
- Makefield has been laying a foundation by improving community. The community is now at the stage to host a Quarterly Meeting next year.

Coordinators Report presented by Holly Olson (Middletown MM). Complete Report is available. Among other forms of Outreach, she reported that the Spirituality and the Final Third of Life program was a success. She also reported on the Quarterly Pastoral Care Meeting, Clerk's Meeting and Religious Education Meeting. Outreach festival and fairs were well attended. Peace Fair was a great success and has made a profit this year.

Special Recognition was given to Donna Allen (Newtown MM). She has been donating \$790 in advertising space every year for BQM to advertise in local newspapers. Sam Snipes spoke of his memories of the Young Friends Dance at George School and the opportunity it provided for him to meet others raised in the same culture.

Interim Meeting Report: David Rose recapped the saga of the minute supporting Religious Diversity, originally created to in response to HR 535 "Year of the Bible" but then rewritten in support of HR 771 declaring a "Year of Religious Diversity". After both versions of the minute had gone through the process of coming from a Monthly Meeting then being reviewed and approved by Quarterly Meeting and forwarded to Yearly Meeting, PYM at last Interim Meeting approved the minute which opposes governmental preference in matters of religious conviction.

Newton MM Annual Report given by Wendy Kane. Complete report available. Wendy highlighted the current discussion regarding internal communication in the Meeting with the interesting concern of whether too much time was spent advancing communication being considered. Also highlighted was the clearness committee that met to discussion

the “Fivefold Path to Peace” proposed by Paul Kester. What has been the outcome of the five fold path of peace? In response to a question, a present Peace and Concerns Standing Committee members indicated that the committee has approved it and passed it on for Yearly Meeting consideration.

Plumstead MM Annual Report given by Beth Taylor. Complete report is available. She noted that since the meetinghouse is off the electrical grid, she can report that hurricane Sandy did not disrupt power. She highlighted that the meeting has a concern about the safety of drivers going around the turn in front the meetings as a number of them have missed the turn and driven off the road. Members are constructing a berm. The meetinghouse recently served as a movie location for “The North Star”, a film under production. She also advised us that the meeting will be starting a “cushion project” to replace the current old and mismatched cushions. .

Camp Onas Report given by Beth Taylor (Plumstead MM). Printed Annual Report provided which contained a breakdown of Camper Statistics, Quaker Meeting participation, and financial aid granted. She was happy to report that Camp Onas made it fine through the storm (Sandy). Sue Gould retired this year as Director and the transition has been made to Holly Hecht. Work has been completed on a digitized album of Camp Onas pictures and historical records called “The Onas Chronicle”. A “**Minute of Appreciation for Suzan Neiger Gould**”, listing all of the various ways that she has helped the camp survive and prosper was given to her at a farewell even. It was agreed that the entire “**Minute of Appreciation**” would be included in the record of this Quarterly Meeting. Further discussion indicated that Friends can contribute to Camp Onas both individually and through their Meeting. Each Meeting should have two representatives on the Camp Board and also share in the worship service. Friends were reminded that the most important thing you can do to help is to send your kids. Friends were also reminded that registration is coming out shortly and Camp is usually fully booked by March.

Break

Audit Committee Report given by Marian Hepurn (Solebury MM). The complete report is available. The transition to QuickBooks is still in process and the committee noted that a proper reconciliation of FY2011 and GFY 2012 is still necessary. The following recommendations were made: Continue to properly reconcile the income statements and balance sheets for FY 2011 and GFY 2012; Consider the utilization of electronic banking services; Reconcile meeting accounts that are out of balance; Make determinations on the authority of the Treasurer regarding the Friends Fiduciary Account and when proper to move money into it; Appoint an Assistant Treasurer, and appoint Auditor for new term. The Audit committee recognized the work that the Treasurer had done on the conversion to Quick Books.

Treasurer’s Report given by Tim Dwyer (Bristol MM). The complete report is available.

Contributions are in line with past year and there are no problems to report. The explanation provided for the large amount already spent from the Operating expense line item is the purchase of a computer for the Coordinator.

Budget and Nomination Report given by Betsy Bayardi (Wrightstown MM): Monthly Meeting Treasurers throughout the Quarter have regularized their giving pattern which is a great help in planning. PYM Nominating Committee is restructuring as it is working well with fewer members and therefore will not need additional representation from Bucks Quarter. There is a need for representation on the Chandler Hall Board, especially

for someone with construction experience. Quaker School at Horsham also has a need for representation on their Board. Betsy will be reaching out to Monthly Meetings for Assistant Treasurer recommendations.

Outreach update given by Kellie Schluskel-Edens (Yardley MM). Outreach brochure needs to be updated. The committee is asking for the following minute to be approved:

MINUTE 1: Minute of Support for the Buck Quarter Meeting Committee on Outreach Bucks Quarterly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends approves application to the Membership Development Fund of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting for the financial support of the “Updating the Bucks Quarter Brochure” project in the amount of \$500.00.

APPROVED

Announcements

Growth Dilemma Project is being taking up by PYM Peace and Social Concerns Standing Committee and was reported by Carole Wicker. For the Growth Dilemma project to get on the agenda at FCNL a number of Quaker groups will need to support it. If Quarterly Meeting is to consider it, the concern will need to arise from a Monthly Meeting. Buckingham MM already has considered the issue and may bring a minute to the next Quarterly Meeting supporting the Growth Dilemma project..

Earth Quaker Action Team is holding a Day of Action on December 1, There will be approximately 15 different nonviolent actions at PNC sites, protesting their financing of mountaintop removal coal mining. Find out more at EQAT.org

Meeting ended at 2:40 PM with a time of gathering silence.