

BUCKS QUARTER RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS
MEETING FOR BUSINESS
February 17, 2013
HELD AT BUCKINGHAM MEETINGHOUSE

Clerk: Boris Simkovich (Makefield),

Recording Clerk: David Rose (Lehigh Valley)

Friends gathered around the appointed hour of 1:00 PM and settled into a period of worship

Clerks Comments were given with appreciation expressed for Buckingham MM hosting Quarterly Meeting.

Agenda reviewed, modified and accepted.

Roll Call of Meetings: Bristol:1, Buckingham:7, Doylestown:1, Fallsington: 2, LehighValley: 2, Makefield: 4, Middletown:5, Newtown: 4, Plumstead: 0, Quakertown NJ: 2, Solebury: 3, Southampton: 2, Wrightstown: 2, Yardley: 2.

Minutes read and approved

Growth and Sharing stories shared

- Lehigh Valley has two reading groups, one on Thomas Kelly and the other on Quaker History.
- Yardley had a speaker from the Islamic Speakers Bureau of New Jersey. Many misconception of Muslims in the popular culture were discussed
- Middletown is hosting a Hindu Sacred Dance group and the Langhorne Council of the Arts, which provided a program on "Hidden in Plain Sight".
- Fallsington members meet with an inter-religions group. Sam Snipes noted that from his experience that Muslims are seeking ways to establish relationships with other religious groups.
- Solebury had been hosting a Boy Scout Troop, but the relationship has come to an end, with the Troop not asking Solebury to host the Troop again. There is evidence that the hosting by the Meeting has had an influence on members of the Troop.

Coordinator's Report given by Holly Olson, Middletown MM. Inreach portion included a listing of the many meeting holiday events that were attended and updates on the various Quarter affinity groups, such as Religious Education and Pastoral Care, in the Quarter. Outreach included plans for the upcoming "Quakerism in a Nutshell" and an update on the Bucks Food for Friends, which now has 20 participating churches

Outreach Report written by Kellie L. Schlusel-Edens, Yardley MM and presented by Holly Olson. Summary of work in 2012 included: Work on the Quarter Website, Quaker Tent at the Grange Fair, "Quaker Table in a Box", updating the Quarter Brochure, and plans for including videos on the website. Report concluded with appeal for increased meeting participation and new ideas for Outreach.

Budget and Nomination Committee Report given by Betsy Bayardi, clerk of B&N and member of Wrightstown MM.

- Nominating is currently not able to find a person for Assistant Treasurer. Friends were urged to inform their meeting. PYM Nominating Committee has an opening for another Bucks Quarter representative with the departure of long time member Doug Meaker. Quaker School at Horsham is also in need of a Quaker on the Board.
- Audit Report raised the issue of Friend's Fiduciary Fund withdrawal authorization. After discussion within the committee, the following policy is being presented as a Minute for consideration:
 - **Minute 1:** Withdrawals from Friends Fiduciary, and checks written for over \$10,000, require the signature of two of the three authorized signatories, Clerk, Treasurer, or Assistant Treasurer. After discussion, **MINUTE 1 APPROVED**

Friends Fiduciary has requested that we approved a new investment agreement. A change in limits of liability clause is being proposed. After clarification was provided by a number of Friends familiar with the issue, the new agreement was approved to be signed by the Treasurer.

Treasurer's Report provided by Tim Dwyer, Bristol MM8= with current financial situation reviewed. (Full Report Available) YTD Revenue did not print and was verbally provided as \$196,627.94. Monthly Meeting contributions are on track. Expense side, with the exception noted at last Quarterly Meeting, is in line with the budget. Assets were reviewed. Budget preparation for upcoming year is behind schedule as a number of Meetings have not responded with their contribution. Explanations were provided of adjustments made to balance the budget. Currently, with expected income, PYM requested contribution increase cannot be considered if a balanced budget is to be presented. It was noted that Quarterly Meeting can consider that increase to PYM Covenant be made from Friends Fiduciary account.

Break

Growth Dilemma minute was presented by Bethann Morgan. Buckingham MM has passed this meeting and is forwarding to Bucks Quarter for consideration with the intent of then having it forwarded it to Interim Meeting and FCNL.

- We, the Friends of BQM, minute our support to work on ways to limit and change our dependence on a growth based economy. We request that FCNL community and educate our legislators to work towards sustainability, rather than growth, in budget matters.

Concerns with the minute were raised by some Friends. A strong sense was expressed that the minute not present sustainability and growth as mutually exclusive. The Clerk reflected that the meeting is not ready to approve a minute in support of the Growth Dilemma Project.

Doylestown Annual Report given by Jill Steelman, clerk. (Full Report Available) The meeting is a vital community with many speaker presentations, retreats, and Quaker Conversations at the rise if meeting. The departure of Gretchen Castle to become FWCC General Secretary was an occasion for a departure celebration.

Quakertown Annual Report given by Doug Meaker. (Full Report Available) Highlights of the report were provided and included a new member who turned out to be a great asset with property issues, charitable contributions by the Meeting, and damage done by Storm Sandy.

Makefield Annual Report given by Boris Simkovich, clerk. (Full Report Available) Boris summarized the efforts of the meeting to halt the decline in membership, to strengthen the community and provide for the property.

Friends Home and Village Report presented by Carol Ashton-Hergenhan, Board President. (Full Report Available) She noted that current vacancies are not sustainable and that Friends Home and Village needs an 85% fill rate. Feedback from residents regarding the service provided is very favorable.

Quaker School at Horsham report not given. (Full Report Available)

Meeting ended at 3:00 p.m. with a period of closing worship.