

**BUCKS QUARTERLY MEETING
RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS
February 16, 2014
Middletown Friends Meeting**

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.

Agenda Review: Agenda reviewed and finalized.

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

Minutes of November 17, 2013 were reviewed. Spelling corrections, clarifications, and correct phone number for treasurer as being 267-795-7195 were noted. Minutes approved as improved.

Stories of Vitality and Growth

- Middletown midweek worship service moved from Wed to Thursday
- Plumstead has a new curriculum for First Day school and has been able to attract new teachers and also attracted new attenders.
- Wrightstown's handbook on "Opportunities to Service" is being revised. Library committee is up and running again. Committee has provided a workshop for the meeting on how to access digital information.

Coordinator's Report: Report given by Holly Olson. Written report available. Inreach portion reported on Camp Onas informational gathering, skating party, various Christmas events, Quakerphernalia mailing reduction, completed Calendar and Appointment list, and Prayer Course updates. Outreach portion covered Outreach Committee's meeting results, Peace Fair, and upcoming "Quakerism A-Z" workshop.

Quakertown MM Annual Report read by Doug Meaker for Patricia Stover. Written report available. Report provided information on Adult education programs, community publicity and outreach, and member's involvement in the life of the meeting and beyond. With three new members, an application for membership just received, and new babies being born, Doug described Quakertown MM as being "on a roll".

Peace Fair update provided by Chris Lucca (Yardley MM). The Fair is moving forward. A number of meetings attended the called meeting on the Fair and some were able to give specific commitments. Some meetings have not been heard from. Upon being listed, representatives from those meetings reported that the issue of the Peace Fair had been raised in their meeting and that a response would be forthcoming. The next committee meeting will be March 11th

Quaker School at Horsham report Head of School Ruth Joray was not able to attend. Hard copies of the report were distributed.

Treasurer's Report given by Tim Dwyer (Bristol MM). Report for Revenue and Expenses as of 1/30/2014 is available. Income to date is as anticipated and there are no causes for concern at present. Question asked regarding how change in PYM fiscal year which will start in October beginning this year will affect BQM budgeting practice. After discussion on the issue it was decided that Budget and Nominating will address the issue to provide a response. Request was made to provide on a quarterly basis a meeting breakdown of contributions to date.

Break

Preliminary Budget for 2014-2015 presented by Betsy Bayardi (Wrightstown MM) and Tim Dwyer. Complete Draft Budget for 2014-2015 available. Previous practice of PYM sending

out a notice of a requested increase for PYM contribution has been discontinued. In the absence of this notice, Monthly Meetings have not responded with their commitments so some assumptions needed to be made to create a draft budget. In addition to many Covenant commitments being unknown, possible PYM personnel increases which affect compensation for the Coordinator are also unknown and the savings to be realized from transition of Quakerphernalia to electronic format is currently unknown. Betsy noted that we have been having a gap between income and expenses of around 3% over the past few years. Preliminary budget of \$268,427.00 was accepted.

Nominations report given by Betsy Bayardi. BQM now has a full slate of auditors. The committee has been actively working to find a replacement treasurer and they are currently working with one possibility but still need someone to come forward. Current treasurer's term ends June 30th so this is an urgent matter. There are still BQM positions on the PYM Nominating Committee that remain open.

Doylestown MM Annual Report given by Jill Steelman. Written report is available. Jill highlighted the reactivation of the Peace and Social Concerns Committee, the many opportunities for social gatherings, and the recent change from a concern that meeting vitality may be gone to celebrating the many new attenders that have been participating in the life of the meeting. The meeting has many members at a distance and Pastoral Care has made an effort to reach out and reconnect with them.

Outreach Annual Report given by Holly Olson for Kelly Schlusssel-Edens. Written report available. Activities during this past year included a recent quarter-wide outreach meeting on January 18th with another scheduled for May 4th, the theme of which will be "Create a Vision for Social Media in Bucks Quarter". Outreach at Middletown Grange Fair successful. Explanation provided of the concept of creating a "Bucks Quarter Outreach Idea Manual". Report concluded with notice given that Kellie Schlusssel-Edens will be moving shortly with her family to the Pacific Northwest and that the Quarter will need to find someone to clerk this committee. An example of an Outreach Idea was provided with the sharing of Yardley MM folder for newcomers containing a variety of brochures about Quakerism given to them after their fourth of fifth visit.

BQM Worship and Ministry Committee Concern presented by Holly Olson. Holly related the past practice of having a meeting for the clerks of Monthly Meeting Worship and Ministry Committees the Friday prior to Quarterly Meeting. This practice has been discontinued as there was almost no attendance. Responses she received from recent Monthly Meeting Worship Committee Clerks is that they do not currently have the time, energy or interest to continue to staff this committee or continue it's previous function. After discussion, it was the sense of the meeting that the possible laying down of the Quarter's Worship and Ministry Committee be a topic of discussion for the Clerks Meeting in March and that a recommendation be presented to our next Quarterly Meeting in May.

Makefield Monthly Meeting Annual Report given by Boris Simkovich. Written report available. Visually, the meeting may look the same but there has been much progress in creating a caring community and planning for the future. The support of the Quarter is very important for a smaller meeting and is a large reason for the energy this meeting has.

Census of Attendance for 2004-2013 for BQ Monthly Meetings listed on reverse of Makefield report. The clerk posed a query asking what other information could be used to help direct us in the future.

After announcements, Meeting settled into **closing worship at 3:15 pm.**

