

**BUCKS QUARTERLY MEETING
RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS
MINUTES**

May 19, 2013

Hosted by Doylestown Meeting and 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 Boris Simkovich explained that Amy Ward Brimmer was feeling ill and not able to Clerk.

Agenda reviewed, modified and accepted.

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

Minutes read and approved with corrections noted

Vitality and Growth : "Beyond the Growth Dilemma." Southampton holds discussions on the first Tuesday of the month, starting with thirty minutes of Meeting for Worship, then about an hour of discussion, over health snacks.

Coordinator's Report given by Holly Olson. Complete Report available. "Inreach" portion reported on Clerks Meeting, Aging Workshop at Yardley, Fund Raisers at Lehigh Valley MM, Prayer Course, Meeting Photos, and New Hope Pride Parade. "Outreach" portion covered the "North Star" movie, Quakerism in a Nutshell, Grange Fair Quaker Tent, Parenting Initiative, and Final Third of Life for 2013. Holly also reported on her involvement in helping David Bucura, the Clerk of FWCC Africa Section, present around the area over a period of time about the work being done in Africa. She also shared her experience with the PYM Long Range Planning Visioning Session on April 13th. Holly closed her report by showing an example of the new BQ advertising campaign that was designed by a 12 year old Friend from Plumstead Meeting.

Annual Report for Buckingham Meeting given by Tim Cunningham. Full report available. This has been a year of Growth with new applications for membership. The meeting has started an inter-generational Games Night, Quaker Conversations after meeting, and a Social Justice Movie Night. It was a successful Peace Fair last year and the meeting is looking forward to having another on this year on September 21st. Capital upkeep is a constant issue with the good news being that money has been granted by the Jeanes fund for the heating system and money contributed by the outside community for upkeep of the cemetery wall. Personal contact has been made with British meeting closest to Buckingham in England.

Annual Report for Fallsington Meeting given by Rick Dow from Lehigh Valley. After a considerable period of trying to accommodate a variety of first day time needs, the meeting has had success with the current schedule. On an unexpected note, the Meetinghouse currently houses, in the basement, the "Levittown Museum of Modern Suburbia" until its move to Bolton Mansion. Members of the meeting are involved in a variety of interfaith efforts including Bucks Food For Friends.

Proposed Minute of Appreciation for Carole Wicker and Karen Shaudys read by Bethann Morgan (Buckingham MM).

- To Friends Everywhere:

We have been blessed by sharing community and God's work with Carole Wicker and her beloved wife, Karen Shaudys for many years and now wish to corporately recognize their dedication with the following minute of appreciation.

Carol's service has included: Clerk of BQM Oversight Committee, Clerk of BQM Worship and Ministry Committee, facilitator for Chandler Hall Quaker worship services, PYM Peace and Concerns Standing Committee, PYM Meeting on Worship and Ministry, PYM Meeting House Trusts Granting Group and board member of the Friends Boarding Home and Friends Village of BQM. Friend Wicker was also the inspiration of the BQM Quaker Outreach Tent at the Annual Wrightstown Grange Fair.

Karen Shaudys has been an integral part of our Quaker community her whole life having been raised in Makefield Meeting. While she did journey outside the area, she returned after her marriage, to her home meeting and has invested her energies and spiritual strengths to our local Friends groups. Karen's Service includes: Clerk of BQM, Treasurer for BQM, Board member of Friends Home and Village, and PYM Financial Stewardship group.

This is only a partial accounting for the many ways these two Friends have participated and supported their Quaker community during their time with us but it speaks loudly about their vision, willingness to serve and dedication to the Society of Friends.

We appreciate the work, time and talent Karen and Carole have given to their Monthly, Quarterly and our Yearly meeting. We will miss their laughter and labor, but we have their lasting footprints they left in our community.

APPROVED

Annual Report for Chandler Hall read by Holly Olson. Complete report available.

Annual Report for United Friends School given by Louis Herbst of Richland MM. He spoke of the numerous ways that the lessons of the testimony on Integrity are taught to all the children in the school. The school has a large incoming diverse student population with Muslims, conservative Christian and students with gay parents all represented. He closed the presentation with the request that if you have a Quaker school nearby, that you become involved with it because most Quaker schools are seeking the involvement of Friends.

Break at 2:10 pm

Treasurer's Report given by Tim Dwyer (Bristol). Complete report available. There were no issues of concern with our current financial situation regarding revenue. Expense over budget line item for Operating expense was explained as being caused by the purchase of a computer for the coordinator.

Budget and Nominating: Proposed Budget presented by Janet Braker (Newtown). Complete report available. Assumptions made in budget projections were explained and reasons for changes to expenses were described. A member of the committee explained that budget was balanced with a line item for "Additional Contributions". Budget approved as presented with a balance budget of \$263,210.00

Annual Report for Lehigh Valley Meeting given by Rick Dow. Clerk LVMM. Complete report is available. Social Action is strong with a major concern for education on Fracking. Young Friends are raising money for public transportation to shelters for those homeless. Both Adult education and First Day school are vibrant with a number of adult discussion groups and an expansion of First Day classes to pre-kindergarten.

Annual Report for Bristol Meeting given by Bob Atkinson for Paul Shaffer. Complete report is available. This meeting is evolving and growing. New members have enabled the meeting to organize three new committees, Worship and Ministry, Membership and Religious Education. The meeting house is also used by a Hispanic congregation which has led to some joint celebrations with the Quaker bringing the turkey and the Hispanic group a roast pig.

Annual Report Oversight Committee read by David Rose (Clerk of Comm). Complete report available. Report focused on the work of inter-visitation done by the Coordinator and members of the committee.

Clerk of the Quarter Annual Report read by Doug Meaker on behalf of Amy Ward Brimmer. It listed a number of examples of the work accomplished over the past year.

Announcements: #1. Do not contribute to Friends School in Ramallah as the funds have been taken over by the Palestinian Authority. #2: Thanks given to Doylestown for hosting and Buckingham for providing the wonderful space. #3: Sat June 1, Newtown Friends will be showing "Do the Math". #4 Thanks expressed to Boris for stepping up as Clerk in the absence Amy Ward Brimmer #5: Letter shared written by Friends Council on Education to the President requesting action to create safe communities by not authorizing gun possession in places where children are being taught.

Meeting settled into **Closing Worship** at 2:50 pm.