

**BUCKS QUARTERLY MEETING  
MINUTES  
FIRST DAY, SECOND MONTH 20, 2011  
HELD AT PENNSWOOD VILLAGE, NEWTOWN**

**Clerk:** Chris Lucca (Yardley MM)

**Alternate Clerk:** Amy Brimmer (Fallsington MM)

**Recording Clerk:** David Rose (Lehigh Valley MM)

Friends gathered at the appointed hour of 1:00 pm settled into worship after being led in singing by Jonathan Snipes, Melanie Douty Snipes and Carolyn Eckel of the BQ Singing Group "Thank You for this Day, Lord" and "I've Got a River of Life Flowing out of Me".

**Business Issues:** Those on the head table introduced themselves. Guests introduced themselves. They were Thomas Swain: Middletown MM (Concord Quarter) as PYM Clerk and Jennie Sheeks (Central Phila MM) of the PYM Staff as Director of Annual Fund.

**Unfinished Business:** Minute of Appreciation for Bethann Morgan. The following minute was proposed:

**Minute 1:** Bethann Morgan served a Clerk of Bucks Quarter from 2007-2008. She regularly attends Annual Sessions to represent Bucks Quarter and continues to serve on our Oversight Committee. Bethann often steps in where there is no one else to serve. We unite in our deep gratitude to her. **MINUTE APPROVED**

**Approval of Agenda** was done with minor adjustments.

**Roll Call of Meetings:** Bristol :1, Buckingham:1, Doylestown: 5,Fallsington, 7,Lehigh Valley:2, Makefield:3, Middletown:6, Newtown:2, Plumstead: 0,Quakertown: 2 ,Solebury: 2, Southampton: 5, Wrightstown: 2, Yardley: 4,

**Minutes of November 2010** were read and approved with clarification regarding the minute of appreciation which will be requested for Bob Atkinson

Appreciation was expressed to those groups involved in facilitating today's meeting. They were Pennswood Village, Newtown Friends School and Newtown Monthly Meeting

Time was provided for **Stories of Vitality and Growth**. Lehigh Valley MM will be having Quaker Quest in March and April; Wrightstown MM has completed renovation of upstairs classrooms to comply with insurance requirements; Fallsington MM is uniting with Yardley MM in having a Contra Dance. Jon Watts, a singer songwriter, is living at the Fallsington Meetinghouse and recording an album there; Southampton MM has been able to find a place for the caretaker to move to; Fallsington MM Finance Committee has been dealing with financial issues that raise questions regarding purpose and growth.

**Coordinator's Report** given by Holly Olson (Middletown Meeting). The complete report is available. She prefaced her report by sharing the excitement she experienced in providing Childcare for the Quaker Parenting Initiative where she has had the opportunity to observe the children living out the lessons learned in the way they played games with each other. Inreach portion of her report included report on the Quaker Parenting Initiative, Skating Party, the called meeting of the Quarter Worship and Ministry Committee and the Clerks Meeting. Outreach portion highlighted the opportunities presented by the various programs scheduled throughout the Quarter. Report received.

**Doylestown MM Annual Report** given by Betsy Eschallier (clerk Doylestown MM). Complete written report available. She highlighted the series on Social Justice which started from a discussion during a men's retreat in Ocean City, MD. Three have been given and there are two more which will be announced in Quakerphernalia. The meeting has been experiencing irregular attendance for First Day School and has adjusted by changing from a planned curriculum to providing activities.

**Minute from Doylestown MM to PYM through BQM regarding response to 9/11/2001 Ten Year Remembrance** read by Chris Lucca and Addendum read by Rick Howe of Doylestown MM. The Minute and Addendum are:

MINUTE (approved by Doylestown MM on 9 January 2011)

As the Tenth Anniversary of the September 11, 2010 terrorist attacks approaches, we are concerned that people are unable to see how a non-violent response to conflict can be effective in the face of terrorism of that magnitude.

We believe Quakers and the world need alternatives to the media coverage and military focus anticipated for the remembrance on September 11, 2011. If war is not the answer, what is it?

Therefore, Doylestown Friends Meeting calls on Philadelphia Yearly Meeting to provide leadership in efforts to develop and present programs for all PYM Quarterly and Monthly Meeting that addresses "The Non-Violent Response to Terrorism"

#### ADDENDUM

In keeping with the protocol for Yearly Meeting or Interim Meeting's consideration of a minute from other bodies (Interim Meeting 1/22/2004), the following specifics are offered:

1. Scope: The program envisioned in the previous minute will involve all 104 PYM Monthly Meetings.
2. Content: The one and a half to two hour program of forum envisioned for Sunday, 9/11/2011 will be generated from the three following sources:
  - a. "A Pacifist Primer" by Clark Hanjian
  - b. "Kingian Non-Violence as an Alternative to Terrorist and Ant-Terrorist Killing and War" by Charles L. Alphin Sr., Director International Non-Violence Conferences.
  - c. "Youth, Non-Violence and Gandhi" by Dr. Savita Singh.
  - d. Other sources will be consulted as needed.
3. Publicity: Where there are PYM Monthly Meetings, all media will be identified and contacted. A coordinated effort will be made to inform Delaware, New Jersey, Maryland, and Pennsylvania residents that there are viable, nonviolent responses to terrorism and that they can learn about them at their local Meeting House on 9/11/2011.
4. Rationale: The Society of Friends has much to offer the world and Friends need to make our discussions of war and peace free and open to the public. The nonviolent overthrow of repressive regimes in Tunisia and Egypt can be celebrated and used to promote our cause.
5. Conclusion: Doylestown MM will provide the leadership in the initial phase of this project. We will prepare the program and with the assistance of BQM and PYM contact all Monthly Meetings in PYM.

Responses to the Minute and Addendum: Expression of support from a member of Peace and Concern Standing Committee of PYM. Will there be time to include other Yearly Meetings in this initiative? A lesson from Egypt that we should learn is the importance of social media in spreading the word. There is a memorial garden for the victims of the attack in Makefield and any program should include commemoration of the victims. Another Friend spoke of the First Responders who lost their lives and the importance of recognizing all those affected by the attacks. In response to a question regarding Right Ordering, Thomas Swain, PYM Clerk, stated that this minute can serve as an example by bringing the calling and gift that are being offered from Doylestown to the rest of the Yearly Meeting. A Friend stated that change only happens with organization and we needed to be reminded of how to create our own revolutions. Listening should only be part of the process, we need to include doing.

**A draft minute of support of the proposal** was read by the Clerk. After suggested changes were made, the following minute was approved.

#### Minute 2

At Bucks Quarter Meeting held on February 20, 2011, members of Doylestown MM presented a minute on "The Non-Violent Response to Terrorism". After discussion and consideration, we united in endorsing the minute from Doylestown as a way to reaffirm our Peace Testimony. As a Quarterly Meeting we will help in supporting Doylestown MM with its call to show that there is a Non-Violent Response to Terrorism that can be strategic and effective. We request that Philadelphia Yearly Meeting help in this concern by:

1. Sharing a list of Peace Committee Clerks of all Monthly Meetings in PYM (or a list of all Monthly Meeting Clerks) for contacting them for inviting them in planning and informing its members,
2. Asking Philadelphia Yearly Meeting staff to help with the planned event on 9/11/11, the tenth anniversary of the terrorists attacks of 2001.

3. Asking for help from Philadelphia Yearly Meeting staff in communication with Monthly Meetings with plans for the event on 9/11/11.

**Announcements:** Robert Green (Princeton Meeting) introduced himself as a PYM representative to FCNL and offered himself as a presenter to Monthly Meetings to inform them of the work of the FCNL.

Jennie Sheeks introduced herself as the new Director of PYM Annual Giving and asked for people to get in touch with her to find out how they build a vibrant faith community together. There is a new procedure for the Annual Appeal with appeals not coming from PYM but coming from the Annual Fund representatives of monthly meetings.

**Solebury MM Annual Report:** The report was given by George Rhoads (clerk Solebury MM). The complete written report is available. He highlighted the number of activities that are being planned, including the annual Pancake Breakfast featuring maple syrup made from trees on the property, and the utilization of the facility by both Cub Scout and Boy Scout Troops.

The Annual report from Friends Home and Village was given by Tim Dwyer, board member. Complete report is available. Board members present were identified.

**The Treasurer's report** was given by Tim Dwyer (Bristol Meeting). Complete detailed report is available. Finances are on track regarding both income and expenses.

Betsy Bayardi (Wrightstown Meeting) gave the **report from Budget and Nominating**. Tentative Draft budget is not being presented due both a meeting which was canceled due to weather and incomplete information.

There will be a meeting in March which will prepare a draft budget that will be given to Monthly Meeting Clerks and Treasures for Meeting review and comments prior to next Quarterly Meeting. Some adjustments will require difficult choices. The Meeting was asked to improve the requested increase of 1% of our commitment to PYM to \$178,450. Meeting approved the increase of 1%.

**Makefield MM Annual Report** given by Boris Simkovich (clerk Makefield MM). Complete written report is available. Makefield MM is a small, settled meeting that is currently engaged in building the internal community as a basis for future outreach.

**Outreach Committee report** given by Kellie Schlusser-Edens (Yardley Meeting and clerk Outreach Comm). Complete written report is available. Report was not read, rather the time was used to deputize everyone present as an Outreach committee member and get them to offer ideas to promote Quakerism. She spoke of the difficulty in generating new ideas when there are a lot of Meetings that have failed to appoint a representative. Suggestions offered were recorded and will be considered at the next committee meeting.

**Quakertown MM Annual Report** given by Doug Meaker. Complete written report is available. Meeting is very visible in the community but they have found out that inquirers were having a problem "finding their way in".

**Friends settled into closing worship at 3:25 pm.**