

**BUCKS QUARTER
RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS
MEETING FOR BUSINESS
First Day, 15 Fifth Month 2011
HELD AT PLUMSTEAD MONTHLY MEETING**

Clerk: Chris Lucca

Assistant Clerk: Amy Ward Brimmer

Recording Clerk: David Rose

Friends gathered at the appointed hour of 1:00 p.m. and were prepared for settling into worship by first being led in song.

The Clerk expressed appreciation for the work of Newtown Meeting in preparation for the last Quarterly Meeting held at Pennswood Village.

Agenda was reviewed and approved.

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

Minutes: With the following corrections noted, the minutes of February 2, 2011 were approved.

- Clarification of Memorial Garden in Makefield as the Lower Makefield Township “Garden of Reflection”.
- Meeting “approved”, not “improved”, the budgeted commitment increase of 1%.

Stories of Vitality and Growth: The Clerk provided time for Meetings to share: Lehigh Valley MM had 23 persons respond to evaluations of Quaker Quest and will share the information. Makefield MM has started a midweek Meeting for worship. The meetinghouse has recently been repainted. Wrightstown MM Green Dinner held in Social Hall and musical talent within meeting was discovered. Ongoing renovations are almost complete and the Meeting is looking forward to an open house for the community. Fallsington MM: John Watts, former musician in residence, will be releasing an album with a concert held at the meetinghouse in conjunction with the release. Doylestown MM: Crafts created by children are being sold to raise money for “Peace Wings for Japan” to help those affected by tsunami.

Coordinator’s Report given by Holly Olson. Complete report available. Report accepted. Inreach portion enumerated the variety of programs around the Quarter that she has participated in. Outreach included attending and or planning outreach events such as Quaker Quest, Quakerism in a Nutshell, a Coffee House concert, and plans for the Grange Fair.

Committee of Oversight for the Coordinator Annual Report given by David Rose. Complete written report available. Report described the work of the committee in both oversight and support of the Coordinator.

Bristol MM Annual Report given with enthusiasm by Paul Shaffer. Complete written report available. The Meeting is involved in a number of local events to make people aware of the presence of Friends again in Bristol. Plans for growth and increased visibility are being pursued as the number of members remains rather low.

Annual Report of Bucks Quarterly Meeting given by Chris Lucca with his usual dramatic flair. Complete written report is available. Report of activities during the past year were grouped as Service to Others: Looking Outward, Service to Others: Looking Inward, Connecting with Others: Looking to Others, and Celebrating: Connecting with Each Other. Report accepted with appreciation expressed for the work done by the Clerk.

Budget and Nominating Committee Report presented by Betsy Bayardi. Budget is ready to be presented at this meeting. With “Additional Contributions” of \$1,109.00 which were added to income, budget presented will be balanced.

Treasurer's Report presented by Tim Dwyer. Current revenue and expenses indicate that we are in financially good shape. A Friend asked if we could send some of our PYM Commitment still outstanding on an accelerated schedule. After discussion, it was not the sense of the meeting to change our schedule for payment of Commitment to PYM, which is done in three payments, with the last one still outstanding.

Budget for 2011-2012 presented by Tim Dwyer. It was pointed out that Personnel Costs should specify that this figure includes Salary, Benefits and Taxes. It was proposed reducing anticipated interest income by \$100 to \$1,700 and adding the difference to Additional Income line. This change was accepted. With this change, budget was approved. Total approved budget is \$261,311.00

Chandler Hall Annual Report given by Clara Coan. Chandler Hall continues to show a high satisfaction response, but a decrease in average length of stay as many people are coming in much later in their life. This trend creates many issues that affect a strong program. Quaker guiding principles are being reinforced through the Employee Handbook and the monthly employee Newsletter. Chandler Hall Auxiliary is looking for participation from all meetings that can have a representative.

Buckingham MM Annual Report given by Katherine Kay. Complete report available. The Meeting has a First Day School program that engages children and an after meeting discussion group called "Quaker Conversations" to engage newcomers.

(At this time, Clerk Chris Lucca relinquished the Clerking of the Meeting to Amy Ward Brimmer, Assistant Clerk.)

Update on preparations for 9.11.11 forums on Nonviolent Responses to Terrorism given by Carole Wicker. Written report from Rick Howe is available. Several Friends indicated that there is still a lack of clarity around the Quarter and PYM regarding these forums.

Fallsington MM Annual Report given by Bill Bowers. Complete report available. Meeting constantly deals with the issues of maintaining stuff and questioning the keeping of stuff. Going green is an exciting current concern with the simple solution of planting flowers in an area reducing the need for mowing.

Discussion of the PYM Budget Shortfall: Member who attended Interim Meeting said that the discussion yesterday was informed by the information that although it is recognized that personnel cannot be maintained at the same level there has not yet been a decision made regarding a reduction of programs. One meeting is having an Adult Forum on the issue. It was noted that we need to raise awareness of volunteering. Karen Shaudys, a member of PYM Financial Stewardship, spoke of the effort of creating this budget and some of the proposals that accompanied the report to Interim Meeting and concluded with the observation that we may not know what the problem or solution is but we are looking at it together.

Lehigh Valley MM Annual Report given by David Rose. Complete Report available. The report spoke of the difficulty of building community in a membership which covers such a wide area, and the potential impact of advertising Quaker Quest.

Next Quarterly Meeting will be Sunday, August 28th at Quakertown NJ. Appreciation expressed to Plumstead for hosting the meeting.

Before **adjournment**, Friends settled into silence at 3:35 p.m.