

**Bucks Quarterly Meeting  
Of the Religious Society of Friends  
November 19, 2017  
Held at Newtown Meetinghouse**

**Clerk:** Rick Dow (Lehigh Valley)

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

**Friends gathered** near the appointed hour of 1:00 p.m. and settled into a period of worship.

**Welcome** given by Clerk Rick Dow.

**Agenda** reviewed, revised and accepted.

**Roll Call of Meeting:** Bristol: 0, Buckingham: 3, Doylestown: 0, Fallsington: 4, Lehigh Valley: 3, Makefield:0, Middletown: 3, Newtown: 14, Plumstead: 2, Quakertown: 0, Solebury: 0, Southampton: 2, Wrightstown: 1, Yardley: 1

**Minutes** for August Quarterly Meeting read and accepted with the following changes: 1. Add to Treasurer's Report "Treasurer reported that Income and Expenses were as expected" 2. Add to Bucks Food for Friends report ". Special thanks are given to Zooks's BBQ Barn in Newtown for supplying all of the poultry throughout the years. Advocated for the Homeless and Those in Need pick up and return the homeless guests for every meal). 3. To ending of Other Business last sentence "Rick Dow sat with other Clerks at Annual session: from this experience he strongly endorses inter-visitation and mid-week worship... ADD: and he recognized the special concerns and characteristic of our smaller meetings.

**Stories of Vitality and Growth**

- A Friend who attended the showing of "Quaker Oaths" expressed that they felt that it was a great success.
- Buckingham Friends school has a new head of school, Paul Lindenmaier
- Newtown had great success in using the PYM Scavenger Hunt to strengthen their community.
- Lehigh Valley had a successful Saturday program on End of Life issues with around 30 persons in attendance.

**Coordinator's Report:** (Full Report Available) Holly Olson (Middletown Meeting) prefaced her report by reading a letter from the Director of Barclay Friends Retirement Center in Chester County which has suffered a devastating fire a few days ago which expressed thanks for the support and care the residents have received.

- In-reach: Update on Spiritual Formation Program that has fourteen participants, Clerks meeting held on October 7<sup>th</sup>, performance of the Meta Theater group at Buckingham Friends, and the ongoing work creating a data base of Bucks Quarter Friends. There was some discussion regarding the different criteria meetings use in determining who is an Associate Member.
- Out-reach: Peace Fair success which noted the involvement the Young Friends Gather, but also the absence of any Young Friends from within the Quarter. Holly, or Friends who were assisting her during her recovery, were a presence at a number of community events.
- Personal note: Holly expressed gratitude for the wonderful support that she had received during her recovery.

**Budget and Nominating Report** given by Betsy Bayardi (Wrightstown MM)

- No nominations to report

**Treasurer's Report** given by Betsy Bayardi for Ed Snyder (Yardley MM). (Complete report available) She noted that income for the first quarter is usually much less than expenses during the first quarter since some annual expenses are paid up front and meetings take a

few months before starting to send in their commitment, causing a reported loss this first quarter of \$25,725.05. Based on past year patterns, this loss is not a cause for concern.

**Auditor's Report** presented by Betsy Bayardi. The report found the records to be in good order and a sampling of two month's receipts and expenses found that all transactions were in order.

**Newtown MM Annual Report** given by Susan Hoskins, Clerk. The meeting has been a busy community during the year with a number of special events. Current membership stands at 328 with 10 new members joining during the year. Children's RE program has been restructured, Adult RE has scheduled many program which attract others, Meeting is involved with the Holiday House tour, ongoing work is being done by Building and Grounds, Bylaws updated to clarify charitable giving, Worship and Ministry was busy with pastoral care and commemorating stages of life. A new committee was created to combine all forms of communication called the "Communications Committee". Questions were raised following the report about the organization of Friendly Eights group, the relation of the meeting to Newtown Friends School, mention of the Marriage Book and the process for a Youth becoming an Adult Member.

**Newtown Monthly Minute on North Korea:** The following minute, approved by Newtown MM on 11/5/17, was presented to Quarterly Meeting for endorsement and submission to Yearly Meeting.

#### ***NEWTOWN MM MINUTE ON NORTH KOREA***

*Newtown Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quaker) urges the United States to reject any possibility of a military strike against North Korea.*

*The use of military force on the Korean peninsula would cause massive loss of civilian lives and other horrific consequences to both North and South Korea and other peoples-including over 100,000 Americans who currently reside in South Korea.*

*Like the Iraq war, and attack on North Korea would have many unintended adverse consequences. The likely escalation to the use of nuclear arms in any such conflict would permanently poison the environment for all people of the earth.*

*We call on Congress to constrain President Trump to pursue diplomacy aimed at lowering the threat of war. The United States should be assembling coalitions, not opening new divides for North Korea to exploit. Sanctions must be part of a strategy to bring North Korea to perceive its self-interest as aligned with peace.*

*We urge the United States to reject war and threats of war. WE urge maturity, patience, diplomacy and nonmilitary interactions that create incentives for peace and foster a better future for the Korean peninsula and all neighboring nations.*

Discussion followed on what endorsing this minute would result in. It was reported that Quaker Life had a recent discussion regarding the issue of minutes being forwarded to PYM and has determined that it will require "Seasoning of minute". After discussion, the Clerk presented the following minute for approval.

***Minute 1.*** *Bucks Quarterly Meeting of November 19, 2017, endorses the Newtown MM Minute on North Korea with the recommendation that other Monthly meetings in Bucks Quarter use this minute as a model to consider the issue and to contact their Senators and Representatives.*

The minute will be forwarded to each meeting in the Quarter. Meetings are asked to report to the Quarter Clerk any action that has been taken regarding the minute. Meeting responses will indicate whether minute has been seasoned enough to forward to PYM following the next Quarterly Meeting.

**Plumstead MM Annual Report** given by Beth Taylor, Clerk (written report available) Meeting had "a nice quiet year" which provides a weekly silent retreat for those who attend. A

small group has been gathering to discuss articles and personal stories related to spiritual journeys.

**Friends Camp Association (Camp Onas) Annual Report** was given by Ken Blackwell (Yardley MM). (Full report (with pictures, available) He highlighted some of the plans for upgrading of facility and the issues that the camp must deal with that are part of the changes that our children are dealing with as a result of new technology. Quarterly Meeting in May, 2018 will be at the camp and the camp is inviting participants to stay over on Saturday evening.

**Peace Fair Annul Report** given by Tim Cunningham (Buckingham MM), Peace Fair Committee Clerk. (Full report available). He highlighted the completion of a formal description of Peace Fair Committee for the Quarter Handbook and the importance of all meetings sending a representative to be on the committee. In response to a question, he restated the mission statement as to “promote harmony in the home, community, environment, and the world” and that the Fair accomplishes this by providing the opportunity to learn about important work that is being done for Peace and to help us support each other in the work.

**Meeting ended** with a period of worship at 2:50