

**Bucks Quarterly Meeting
of the Religious Society of Friends.
November 15, 2015
Held at Yardley Meeting**

Clerk: Boris Simkovich (Makefield)

Recording Clerk: David Rose (Lehigh Valley)

Friends Gathered at the appointed hour of 1:00 pm and settled into a period of worship

Welcome given by Clerk who recalled that Yardley was the location of the first Quarterly Meeting that he attended.

Agenda reviewed and approved

Roll Call of Meetings: Bristol: 0, Buckingham: 1, Doylestown: 0, Fallsington: 2, Lehigh Valley: 2, Makefield: 2, Middletown: 5, Newtown: 7, Plumstead: 1, Quakertown NJ: 0, Solebury: 0, Southampton: 1, Wrightstown: 2, Yardley: 12

Pervious Minutes of August 23, 2015 approved with correction noted that the pastor who brought members to the program at Southampton MM was a “she”, not a “he”.

Stories of Vitality and Strength shared:

- **Lehigh Valley** had a Craft Fair with a quilt display in the worship room containing quilts from 1871.
- **Wrightstown** in process of redoing the exterior wall using traditional lime render. It was discovered that well over half of the exterior dates from before the 18th century.
- **Fallsington** has been experiencing growth as a result of their constant outreach programing. They recently hosted a program by Patrick Hall on the effort to end Mass Incarceration
- **Southampton** provided a short program on Quakerism for a local Swendenbourgian Church that uses the Meetinghouse. Program focused on three topics: That of God, Quaker Decision making and Meeting for Worship. The short meeting for worship following was very moving to one of the attenders.

Report from the Coordinator given by Holly Olson (Middletown MM) (Full Report available).

Before giving her report, she provided the background to the Minute of Appreciation for Paul Kester that was passed at the Oversight Committee meeting of October 8th.

Recording Clerk then read the minute. Inreach portion contained reports on BFS Lower School Grand Opening, the increasing popularity of “Games Nights” at Makefield and Buckingham. BFFF, connections to Friends at Pennswood, October Clerk’s Meeting, Quaker 800’s and the speaker series at Middletown. Holly is still working on making arrangements for the New Year’s Day skating party but has had difficulty in making contact with the rink. Outreach portion contained report on the Peace Fair, a status report on the Bucks Quarter Outreach Committee, sharing our message on Facebook, program on mass incarceration, Quakers being labeled in the press as being against Israel, Synergy Project to help homeless youth, and her experience at Continuing Sessions held at Westtown last weekend.

Treasurers Report prefaced by Betsy Bayardi (Wrightstown MM), introducing to Quarterly Meeting Jenna Schwoyer (Middletown MM) the new Treasurer for Bucks Quarter. Ed Snyder (Yardley MM), now the Assistant Treasurer, gave the report (Complete report available), highlighted section of uneven income and expenses and asked that we trust him telling us that there are no problems to report at this time. No question asked.

Newtown Monthly Meeting Annual Report given by Rich Richardson. Newtown Meeting celebrated its 200th anniversary this past year on May 15th and currently has 314

members. The report provided examples of the work many of the meeting committees are doing and the special care that the meeting has given Anisgual, a teenage girl from Afghanistan.

Outreach Committee member Carol Richardson gave a report (complete report available) on the current work that the Outreach Committee is doing and how the upcoming departure of the current committee clerk, Kellie Schluskel-Edens, will impact this work. At the present, there is no person to replace her as Clerk of this committee. Speaking as a member of the Oversight Committee, Carol expressed the concern that the current work of Outreach will devolve to the Coordinator, that outreach activities will need to be redefined and focused and that for the work to continue, there must be an increased involvement from throughout the Quarter. Quarter Clerk Boris Simkovich (Makefield MM) separated the issues that will need to be considered into: "What are we going to do with Outreach?" and "What are we going to do with the Grange Fair Quaker Tent?" The discussion following the report noted the difficulty in making a decision regarding where resources of time should be focused without metrics to show benefit. A decision on the Grange Fair will need to be made at the February Quarterly Meeting. Oversight will review responses and bring a suggested course of action to the February Quarterly Meeting. Friends were instructed to make any concerns or suggestions known to their meeting's Oversight representative.

Break

Peace Fair Committee report given by Tim Cunningham (Buckingham MM). Tim summarized the wonderful feeling of vitality at the Peace Fair, new and expanded exhibitors, and the need for more volunteers. He expressed the wish that there would be a contact at each of the meetings in the Quarter who would be the one responsible for mobilizing the meeting to help. A summary of the financial picture noted that the loss of the person who bought the unsold books has affected income and also create a burden of remaining books

Nominating Clerk Betsy Bayardi (Wrightstown MM) reported on the work that Nomination is doing in considering the best way to proceed with the selection of a new clerk starting with a Rising clerk and Alternate clerk. A name will be presented for February Session for Rising Clerk as Boris Simkovich has agreed to continue for another term.

Plumstead Monthly Meeting Annual Report given by Sarai Nieves, the new Clerk. (Complete report available) Meeting membership has remained stable. Following a Mexican tradition of honoring those who have passed, meeting celebrates a "Day of the Dead". Other traditions are a Thanksgiving brunch and a musical Christmas program. Although a small meeting, meeting and members are involved in a number of organizations addressing both local and international issues.

Camp Onas Clerk of Board Ken Blackwell (Yardley MM) gave the annual report. (Complete report available) Of note is that Camp Onas has almost 100% returning staff and many are also former campers. The report also noted that not all meetings in Bucks Quarter have a representative on the Board. A video about the camp has been posted on YouTube which gives a good representation of the camp. Camp registration will probably be filled up in February. In response to question asked, "How is Quakerism expressed in the camp?" he noted that Quaker values and practices are emphasized through a variety of ways, from posting SPICES to having the campers themselves create a policy on cell phone usage.

Minute regarding Climate Change presented by Jonathan Snipes for Tom Wells (Both of Fallsington mm). (Complete proposed minute available) The proposal that this minute is in support of was created by the "Citizen's Climate Lobby". Some questions were raised asking how this proposed tax would motivate necessary change and how will the cost of

administration be covered. After some discussion, it was reflected by the Clerk that there remained too many questions to get the minute approved in this meeting. Clerk asked that each meeting consider the minute and forward suggestions or concerns to Tom Wells at Fallsington Meeting. Holly will post the minute in Quakerphernalia and the Clerk will place it on the agenda for February's Quarterly Meeting.

After Announcements, and a quote from Dr. MLK, **meeting closed** with a period of worship at 3:15 p.m.