

**Bucks Quarterly Meeting
Of the Religious Society of Friends
February 17, 2019
Held at Buckingham Friends Meeting**

Clerk: Boris Simkovich (Makefield)

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 Boris Simkovich

Agenda reviewed and accepted.

Roll Call of Meeting:

Buckingham: 9, Doylestown: 2, Fallsington/Bristol: 4, Lehigh Valley: 4, Makefield: 3, Middletown: 4, Newtown: 5, Plumstead: 2, Quakertown: 3, Solebury 1, Southampton: 1, Wrightstown: 2, Yardley: 7

Agenda reviewed and accepted

Minutes of November Quarterly Meeting reviewed. Minutes approved.

Stories of Vitality and Growth

- **Lehigh Valley** had positive reports from the PYM Outreach Thread Gathering held on February 9th.
- **Newtown** had a retreat at Camp Onas that was a great opportunity for the meeting community to get closer to each other, which was facilitated by the cold weather.
- **Camp Onas** provides opportunity during summer for Friends to join in worship.
- **Fallsington** has recently consolidated all funds into Friends Fiduciary, which provided a clearer picture of their current financial situation and allowed them to expend \$150,000 in necessary improvements. It was noted that PYM provides grants for building improvements.
- **Lehigh Valley** has good experience with notifying First Day school parents of upcoming First Day program topic.
- **Southampton** has a new sign on Street Road that has brought in new attenders.
- **Yardley's** Gun Violence Prevention Committee is focusing on Suicide Prevention with some programs planned for this coming spring.
- **Fallsington** had a retreat in January with over thirty persons attending.

Clerks Comments: Boris Simkovich reported on the meeting of Property Clerks in the Quarter, he convened held at Wrightstown and that he is planning to expand to having meetings with Clerks of other Meeting committees.

Coordinator's Report (Full Report Available) presented by Coordinator Holly Olson (Middletown) which provided the following updates.

- **Inreach:** Workshop with Arthur Larrabee on Quaker Business process, January Feast Fun and Song at Fallsington, Christmas events attended, PYM Outreach Thread Gathering on Feb. 9th.
- **Outreach:** Christmas Sing at Friends Village. Yardley Meeting Blood Drive, upcoming Quakerism in a Nutshell, problems with bringing a spring poetry reading together, planning for Peace Fair.
- **Misc.:** Need a new web designer as the one helping Holly has terminated her services.

Annual Report: Friends Home and Village given by Tyler Hoff (Ex.Dir, Member Yardley MM). (Full written report available). Tyler highlighted the ways that the Home and Village is part of the fabric of Newtown and the quilting fundraiser for assorted projects, appropriately called "Patchwork Improvement Project". Tyler also gave notice that he

will be retiring from “the best job in the world” this coming summer and urged Friends to trust Quaker Process to find his replacement.

Discussion-Action re Climate Change: The Clerk introduced the information provided by Lehigh Valley Meeting that is in the packet on the “Cap and Trade” *Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI)* and the pending *HR 763 The Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act*. Tom Wells explained that support for this legislation will also come before the Quarter from Fallsington MM in May. Boris provided additional information sheets for persons to take back to their meetings for consideration. In discussion, some expressed support for the legislation at present based on the Quarter’s prior approval of similar legislation. A concern raised was that the legislation could emerge with differences from the current bill. The Clerk tested the meeting and proposed the following:

- **MINUTE 1:** Bucks Quarterly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends endorses HR 763 and asks Congressional and Senate representatives from this Quarter’s area to support this legislation. Minute approved as presented.

Annual Report: Quakertown given by Pat Stover. (Full written report available). She highlighted the meeting receiving the complete diaries of Willis W. Vale (1867-1951) and that the meeting is fortunate to have a professional archivist attendee who is in the process of archiving the diaries before they are made available to the public.

Treasurer’s Report given by Ed Snyder (Yardley MM): (Full Treasurer’s Report available) He reviewed the income and expenses through the end of December and advised the Quarter that there was nothing out of the ordinary to report.

Budget Proposed: Rough Draft of FY 19-20 Budget presented. Provided as information for Monthly Meeting to help plan their contribution.

Budget and Nomination report given by Bill Daly (Middletown MM): B&N proposes Leo Fitzpartick (Wrightstown MM) be appointed as Bucks Quarter Clerk effective November 2019 Quarterly Meeting. **Appointment Approved.**

Annual Report Doylestown Meeting given by Joseph Simek (full written report available). Highlights from the report included the meetinghouse was used to host the Central Bucks Chamber of Commerce who found it a noteworthy visit as the meetinghouse is the longest continuously occupied building of worship by the original faith group in the Doylestown Borough. A new website was launched and meeting is now distributing it’s newsletter through Mailchimp.com. Meeting has an active First Day school and a widely engaged Peace and Social Concerns Committee.

Annual Report Bucks Quarter Outreach Committee report given by Sarah Crofts, Co-Clerk (Yardley MM)(full written report available). Sarah highlighted the upcoming documentary, *I’m Not Racist...Am I?* to be shown on Sunday, March 31st at the Newtown Theatre.

Annual Report: Makefield Meeting report given by Boris Simkovich.(full report available) Boris highlighted that Meeting for Worship attendance has increased over the past year. On non-business Meeting First Days, a well-attended Adult First Day School is led by a Meeting member on a rotating basis. During March, the programs will be on “Spiritual Application of the Twelve Step Programs”.

Quarterly Meeting closed at 3:10 p.m. with a period of silence following announcements.