

**Bucks Quarterly Meeting
Of the Religious Society of Friends
Minutes of Quarterly Meeting
February 21, 2016
Held at Buckingham Meeting**

Clerk: Boris Simkovich (Makefield)

Recording Clerk: David Rose (LehighValley)

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

Welcome given by Clerk. He noted that there will be a full agenda for this meeting.

Agenda reviewed and approved.

First Day School project display on ways to reduce water consumption was explained. The children's program was done in conjunction with this morning's program on "Friendly Water for the World" and was about ways of reducing water usage.

Roll Call of Meetings: Bristol: 0, Buckingham: 8, Doylestown: 1, Fallsington: 2, Lehigh Valley:3, Makefield: 2, Middletown: 4, Newtown: 5, Plumstead: 0, Quakertown NJ: 3, Solebury: 2, Southampton: 3, Wrightstown: 1, Yardley: 4

Previous Minutes of November 15, 2015 approved with the clarification that the church that uses the Southampton Meetinghouse is called New Church Creekside which is a branch of the Church of the New Jerusalem.

Stories of Vitality and Strength shared.

- Lehigh Valley a visitor who said that she came because of our web site
- Four members from Fallsington attended a Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) Gathering in Peru of seventy-four Yearly Meetings from forty-four countries.

Report of the Coordinator given by Holly Olson(Middletown MM) (full report available). Inreach portion reported on Christmas events attended, Paul Kester's Memorial Service, Holiday Sing ant Friends Village, New Year's Day Ice Skating Party with the notice that this event is not drawing enough Friends to justify rental of an entire rink, upcoming Caregiver Training, Movie Night at Middletown, Clerks Meeting, and Quaker 800's dinner. Outreach provided notice of "Quakerism in a Nutshell" and planning for the Peace Fair. While recuperating from a hip operation, Holly became deeply involved with organizing help for a family from Florida that became stranded in Bucks County due to a medical emergency.

Friends Home and Village Annual Report (full report available) given CEO Tyler Hoff (Yardley). He noted some of the changes that have occurred since he arrived less than two years ago, most significantly increasing the occupancy rate from 70-80% to over current rate of 95%. The capital campaign for a needed elevator and fire tower was reviewed with architectural drawings displayed. He noted that there has already been \$175,000 set aside for this project and that the campaign will kick off in April or May. While there are many ways that the local community will be asked to be involved in the capital campaign, he noted that there is also a place for Quakers to also participate in the process of raising the money.

Fallsington Meeting Minute on Climate Change as held over from last Quarterly Meeting was read by Clerk. Tom Wells (Fallsington) reported that he has since spoken about his concern for this carbon fee and dividend at a number of meetings. In response to the question regarding administrative costs, answers can be found on the Citizen's Climate

Lobby website (www.citizensclimatelobby.org) and that there has already been a process created by the IRS to handle such distributions. There has already been discussion on other ways of directing the money and once the proposal would be introduced in Congress, there will be many groups lobbying for a portion of the dividend. The first step is to get the concept of a carbon fee to be considered. Yardley Meeting has considered the carbon fee and dividend proposal and is supportive. After some further discussion the Fallsington minute was approved and adopted by Bucks Quarterly Meeting:

A MINUTE REGARDING CLIMATE CHANGE: Fallsington Friends Meeting, at Meeting for Business on November 1, 2015, asks the United States Congress to consider legislation which would impose a steadily rising fee on the carbon content of all fossil fuels, imposed on the producer at the moment the fuel is extracted from the earth or imported from abroad, and that the moneys collected in fees be distributed in equal shares to every household in our country. We urge Friends throughout our Yearly Meeting to examine this approach for transitioning to a low-carbon economy, and to communicate with members of the House and Senate about the importance of reducing carbon emissions in a way that assists lower-income households and others who are most affected by this transition.

This minute will be forwarded to PYM with rewording to be by the Recording Clerk in consultation with Tom Wells to include context of Quarterly Meeting approval and given final approval by the Oversight Committee.

Break

Quakertown Monthly Meeting Annual Report given ad hoc by Gerry Kerwin (full report by Patricia Stover available). With some examples provided, Gerry described Quakertown as small but active monthly meeting that would appreciate Newtown MM sending some of their over three hundred members to Quakertown.

Treasurer's Report given by Assistant Treasurer Ed Snyder (full report available). Some issues that could be causes for concern in meeting our budget this year is that expected contributions from one meeting have been reduced by about \$4,000

Proposed Budget for 2016-2017 given by Ed Snyder (Yardley MM) (full report available). PYM has asked for an increase 1.5% that is noted in the budget. He covered some of the assumptions that the balanced preliminary budget is based on including some increase by Monthly Meeting and a "plug" amount listed as Additional contributions.

Nomination Report: Ed Snyder reported for the Budget and Nominating Committee. They are putting Rick Dow forward (Lehigh Valley) as Rising Clerk. Nomination approved.

Doylestown Annual Report written by Rick Howe read by the current clerk, Wendy Steginsky. The report noted that there has been a steady growth of attenders and children with eight attenders becoming members in 2015. Activities reported on included donations of food from FDS garden, letter writing, Hiroshima Day rally, contacting Friends at a distance, capital improvements, and used of meetinghouse by other groups.

Outreach Committee Annual Report given by Outgoing Committee Clerk Kellie L. Schlussek-Edens (Yardley Meeting). The summary for 2015 included the Quaker Tent at the Middletown Grange Fair with the suggestion that this event be laid down, Facebook page, assistance to Monthly Meetings, need for Monthly Meeting appointments to Outreach, the Bucks Quarter Outreach Idea Manual, and official notice that she will be moving to Oregon this year and will need to be released from this committee position. At the conclusion of her report, the meeting considered the suggestion contained in the

report to lay down Bucks Quarter's presence at the Middletown Grange Fair. Question raised about forming a committee specifically to work on the Grange Fair. After discussion, it was decided that there was not enough energy evident to continue and that the recommendation to lay down the BQM presence at the Grange Fair is approved. Minute of Appreciation passed by the Outreach Committee for the work that Kellie has done was read by Holly Olson.

Makefield Monthly Meeting Annual Report given by Clerk Boris Simkovich (full report available). He described the strength of the community and the depth of the worship as the basis for what he believes to be a change that will be noted when Friends look back at the history of what will be a vibrant and growing community.

Announcements were made with the notice that donations this morning for Friendly Water for the World totaled \$152.

Meeting concluded at 3:20 p.m. with an expression of appreciation to Buckingham for hosting Quarterly Meeting and a period of gathering silence.