

**Bucks Quarterly Meeting  
Of the Religious Society of Friends  
February 18, 2018  
Held at Quakertown NJ 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: 1, Buckingham: 2, Doylestown: 2, Fallsington: 3, Lehigh Valley: 4, Makefield: 3, Middletown:4, Newtown: 5, Plumstead: 2, Quakertown: 3, Solebury 1, Southampton: 1, Wrightstown: 1, Yardley: 3

**Minutes** for November Quarterly Meeting approved with spelling corrected.

**Stories of Vitality and Growth**

- **Solebury** will be showing the movie “Friendly Persuasion”
- **Lehigh Valley** committees for 2018 were visited by the Clerk of the Meeting who shared what she had learned from the Clerking workshop with Arthur Larrabee.
- **Yardley** has formed a committee to address the issue of gun violence.
- **Middletown** announced that Friends Home and Village is collecting blankets in case residents need to be evacuated during colder months.
- **Fallsington** is showing a series of movies about Climate Change. Tom Wells announced that he is willing to show these films at other venues and has all the necessary equipment. The clothing drive for hurricane refugees from Puerto Rico was very successful.
- **Newtown** reported that extra clothing from the clothing drive was distributed at Bucks Food For Friends.
- **Southampton** announced that the Meetinghouse is again available to them every Sunday as the group that was using it for three Sundays a month has disbanded. Worship will now be held every Sunday at 10 AM
- **Lehigh Valley** children, at their own Meeting for Business, decided to raise money for Puerto Rican refugees and had two very successful Oatmeal Breakfasts that so far raised over \$500.

**Announcements**

- Tom Wells (Fallsington MM) spoke of Section **287(g)** of the U.S. Immigration and Nationality Act which authorizes the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to deputize selected state and local law enforcement officers to enforce federal immigration law. Meeting is part of an effort to stop Bensalem Township from joining this partnership. There is a petition available to ask the Township Mayor not to join.
- Susan Thompson (Newtown MM) of the Spiritual Formation Program announced a retreat planed Oct. 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup>. Flyers are available.
- David Smith, BQM representative to PYM Nominating Committee, listed the positions that PYM needs to fill: Rising Clerks, Recording Clerks, five vacancies on Administrative and Quaker Life Council, not to mention external organizations that need PYM representatives. He asked for help in identifying those within the Quarter who had the gifts needed.

**Coordinator’s Report** presented by Quarter Coordinator Holly Olson (Middletown MM).

- Inreach: Items noted were time spent in pastoral care, Spiritual Formation Program, Feast Fun & Song, Book Club on Post Traumatic Slave Syndrome, work on the date base,

Yardley Meeting work on Gun Violence, North Star film, Quaker Woman's Social Hour, Games Night at Makefield, and Bucks Quarter Overnight at Camp Onas.

- Outreach: Christmas Sing at Friends Village, Quakerism in a Nutshell on April 7<sup>th</sup>, Peace Fair on September 22<sup>nd</sup>, poetry reading by three Friends who are runners up for the 2017 Bucks County Poet Laureate and the chosen fourth.

**Treasurer's Report:** Ed Snyder (Yardley MM) reviewed Profit and Loss Budget vs. Actual. (Complete Statement available) He summarized the current financial situation as being as usual for this period of the fiscal year. In response to a question regarding whether adjustments to pledges from additional contributions would be needed, he pointed out that \$6,096 was added to Income in the Budget as "Addition MM contributions" to balance the budget and that a line item exists to record additional contributions.

**Budget and Nomination Report:** Preliminary Budget 2018-2019 FY presented by Ed Snyder, Treasurer. (Complete Report Available) No increase in PYM Contribution projected. Budget as presented has Revenue projected at \$268,980 and Expenses at \$276,140, a projected shortfall of \$7,160. Budget will be presented for approval at May Quarterly Meeting.

**Minute requesting Bristol Meeting becoming a Preparative Meeting:** Bristol Clerk Paul Shaffer and Fallsington Clerk Jonathan Snipes presented Minutes of Bristol and Fallsington in which agreement was reached between the respective meetings to have Bristol become a Preparative Meeting under the care of Fallsington MM. This decision was described as being an outgrowth of the concern that was previously taken up by the Quarter to support smaller meetings. After discussion in which the issue of separation of funds was addressed the following minute was created

#### MINUTE 1

*Bucks Quarterly Meeting of 18 Second Month 2018 approves the request of Bristol Monthly Meeting and Fallsington Monthly Meeting to have Bristol Monthly Meeting become a Preparative Meeting under the care of Fallsington Monthly Meeting in accordance with the Bristol Monthly Meeting Minutes of September 10, 2017 and November 12, 2017, and Fallsington Monthly Meeting Minute of December 10, 2017.*

**APPROVED**

**Doylestown MM Annual Report** given by Wendy Steginsky, Co-Clerk (Full report available). She highlighted the growth of regular attenders, vibrant worship and socially active community. Membership is currently at 155. Average First Day School attendance is 10 children.

**Makefield MM Annual Report** given by Boris Simkovich, Clerk, who described Meeting as being "somewhere between Newtown and Yardley" (Full report available) He highlighted the active involvement of this small meeting with the work of the larger Quaker community.

**Discussion of Newtown MM Minute on Korea:** Clerk Rick Dow asked for input regarding the minute that was endorsed at last Quarterly Meeting with the recommendation that it be sent to meetings within the Quarter for consideration and seasoning. He asked what the responsibility of the Quarter is once it endorses the minute. The input received from meetings that had considered the minute was shared. After discussion and unable to arrive at a sense of the meeting that the Quarter was ready to create its own minute, the following minute was offered

#### MINUTE 2

*BQM supports and commends Newtown MM in their effort to address the Korean crisis and looks forward to hearing their work with the Minute that they are currently considering. APPROVED*

**Quakertown MM Annual Report** presented by Pat Stover. (Full report available) She highlighted the activities of the small but active First Day School which provided the impetus for the program that was scheduled on prison reform but which was canceled due to the weather. Appreciation expressed to Quakertown for hosting Quarterly Meeting.

**Outreach Committee Annual Report** given by Jess Walcott, Committee Co-Clerk. (Full report available) Holly Olson and Jess displayed the SPICES Banner on Integrity. Committee is involved with many events around the Quarter. March 25<sup>th</sup> at Doylestown MM is the next Intervisitation meeting. All Friends are invited.

**Friends Home and Village Annual Report** given by Tyler Hoff (Yardley MM, CEO FH/V). (Full report available) He highlighted the completion of the elevator in Paxson Hall and the renovations to individual units at the Styer Campus. In response to a question, the percent of residents who are Friends is around 20%, which is above average for Friends retirement centers.

**Closing:** Following announcements, meeting ended with a period of silent worship at 3:20 PM.