

**Bucks Quarterly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends**  
**Quarterly Meeting Minutes**  
**May 21, 2017**  
**Held at the Makefield 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. Greetings passed on from Mable Banks at Friends Home in Newtown.

**Agenda** reviewed, Annual Report of Bucks Quarter inserted and Lehigh Valley Annual report postponed, and approved.

**Roll Call of Meeting:** Bristol: 1, Buckingham:0, Doylestown: 1, Fallsington: 1, Lehigh Valley: 2, Makefield:2, Middletown: 6, Newtown:0, Plumstead: 0, Quakertown: 1, Solebury: 1, Southampton: 1, Wrightstown: 1, Yardley: 2

**Minutes** for February approved as presented.

**Stories of Vitality and Growth**

- **Solebury** celebrated three of their oldest members, Sue Tinsman, Irene Fisher and Malcom Crooks.
- **Wrightstown's** First day school students participated on a project to benefit the children of Rwanda with the purchase of English books and some soccer equipment. This project led the children to think about what children in other cultures would need or want.
- **Quakertown** First day school had a benefit lunch for the Camp Onas Camper Fund which raised \$750.
- **Southampton** hosted the 100 mile EQAT walk which came through Southampton and the meeting helped host them at Bryn Gweled. New members of the meeting were involved and were excited about seeing firsthand Quakers in action.
- **Doylestown** had a successful day at Camp Onas with 19 adults and 10 children present. First day school has started a garden behind the meetinghouse. August 6<sup>th</sup> will be having remembering Hiroshima Day in the center of Doylestown following Worship.
- **Lehigh Valley** is "right now" finishing up their Harambee diner created by attenders who are Kenyan Quakers to help raise money to send young woman to school in Kenya.

**Coordinator's Report** given by Holly Olson (Middletown MM) (Complete written report available) Inreach reports on planning for the Spiritual Formation Program, Memorial Service for Ed Twining, Clerks Meeting, Sam Nicholson's account of the Friends Civilian Public Service Camp, Outreach workshop, Potluck and Sing at Solebury, BQM night at Trenton Thunder July 20<sup>th</sup>, possible BQM Book Club, Pasta Fundraiser at Quakertown, and Quaker Woman's Social Hour. Outreach reports on Quakerism in a Nutshell, Peace Fair to be held on September 23<sup>rd</sup>, and talks by David Bucura of the AGLI. Other accounts of the Continuing Sessions and attending Upper Dublin MM in regards to the issue of the release of Avis Wanda from membership. In response to a comment regarding the divergent views expressed at Annual Sessions, the Clerk to advise Friends to be mentally, emotionally and spiritually prepared if they are planning to attend Annual Sessions.

**Treasurer's Report** presented by Ed Snyder (Yardley MM). (Complete written report available) Profit and Loss up to end of March explained. Current financial situation was described being much as expected.

**BQM Budget for 2017-18** presented by Betsy Bayardi (Wrightstown MM) and Ed Snyder. Betsy explained that the budget of \$274,798 presented is showing a loss imbalance of \$4,428 is a conscious decision to use of some of the built up reserve, also described as accumulated excess to make up for the decrease in commitment expected from some Meetings. Ed explained the details,

such as the cost savings to be realized from Quakerphernalia going digital. **Budget for 2017-18 approved as presented** with correction noted of incorrect entry of PYM contribution.

**Bristol MM Annual Report** given by Paul Shaffer. (Full written report available) He expressed the appreciation of a small meeting when “backup” Friends from other meetings join them for worship. Meeting has been involved with assisting Syrian refugee family and responding to racism. Paul is cautiously optimistic that the new deep water docks being installed on the river will encourage Friends with large yachts to join them on First Day.

**Committee of Oversight for the Coordinator** report presented by David Rose (Lehigh Valley MM). (Full written report available). The report announced that the Meetings which will be visited this year as part of the annual Coordinator evaluation will be Plumstead, Quakertown, and Solebury Monthly Meetings.

**Annual Report of the Quarter** presented by Rick Dow (Lehigh Valley MM). (Full written report available) He introduced the report by discussing how he “found his voice” as the Clerk of the Quarter coming in as a relative outsider and unfamiliar with Bucks County. He also spoke of the impressions that he is getting about diversity of the work being done by the Quarter.

**Fallsington Annual Report** given by Jonathan Snipes. He noted that the meeting has returned to practice of reading Queries each Month. Other changes noted is that the practice of giving to local worthy organizations has been reinstated with the funds consolidated in the Friends Fiduciary Green Fund. The Meeting is doing something each month to invite people to come in and has overcome shyness in asking people to join. Energy efficiency was reviewed with the goal established to move toward a fossil free solution. First Day school has started up again with up to five children after having been laid down for a couple of years. The Meeting is considering the hiring of a property manager to allow some Friends to be released to do other work.

**Candler Hall Annul Report** presented by Betsy Bayardi, Board Member. (Full written report available). She highlighted the introduction of the Montessori Approach for Aging and Dementia through a grant from the Kendal Charitable Fund and the Bucks County Health Improvement Partnership Advance Care Planning Task Force to help adults start discussion about end-of-life health care choices. A suggestion was offered to connect with Friends Home and Village regarding Memory Care programing. The Chandler Hall Auxiliary is still active and could use a representative from each Meeting in the Quarter.

**The Quaker School at Horsham Annual Report** given by Alex Browowsky, Head of School. (Full written report available) Alex answered the question of what makes a Quaker School special? He related the experience at yesterday’s Open House with students being happy while standing in line, something almost all of the students had not experienced in a school setting prior to coming to Horsham. He attributed it to the Quaker approach of seeing the value in each person. School is at capacity with 72 students coming from an increasingly wide area, with some families relocating just to make it able for their child to attend. Friends Equity Collaborative consisting of ten Friends schools helps with providing tuition assistance.

**Friends Peace Fair Committee Description** presented by Holly Olson. This committee description will be included on the Bucks Quarter Handbook.

**PYM Granting Committee** presentation with handouts given by Ken Park. Friends were encouraged to consider asking to join one of the Granting Groups. The Granting Committee is a self-appointing group which does not go through Nomination Committee.

**Buckingham MM Annual Report** accepted as written since a representative from the meeting was not able to return to give it. (Full written report available)

Following announcements, **Meeting closed** with worship at 3:05 p.m.