

**BUCKS QUARTERLY MEETING
OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS**

Minutes of August 23, 2015

Held at Wrightstown Monthly Meeting

Clerk: Boris Simkovich (Makefield)

Recording Clerk: David Rose (Lehigh Valley)

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

Welcome and appreciation by the Clerk to those who attended on what is a beautiful late summer day.

Agenda reviewed and approved

Previous Minutes of May 17, 2015, approved with the clarification offered that a fuller description of the gap between planned income and expenses would read: The budget is balanced by listing the gap as income under “Additional Contributions” and it is hoped that meetings will use their surpluses to balance the Quarter Budget.

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

Stories of Vitality shared:

- Middletown MM started a movie night four months ago with financial assistance from PYM to purchase equipment. This has been a very successful form of inreach and outreach and will continue though the fall season.
- Southampton MM held a meeting for Racial Justice. Calls made to area churches and an African American pastor brought members of his congregation.
- Fallsington MM has an annual Welcome Day to encourage members to invite acquaintances. This year day will be held in October.
- Makefield MM established a games night during the summer. A number of elderly members who were loosening their association with the Meeting started coming to this evening activity.

United Friends School Annual Report given by Nancy Donnelly (Unami MM, Abington Qtr.), Head of School. (Complete report available) Report created for the Quarter is about the state of Quakerism at UFS. Each year there is a focus on one testimony. This past school year it was about finding the light in ourselves and others. “What will you hold?” was an assignment that was given by one of the teachers and the responses from the students was shared. There is an emphasis on teaching Quaker history by naming the classes after important past and current Quakers. The school was much honored to have William Nagel, Bayard Rustin’s partner, speak to the school and visit with the students from the “Bayard Rustin” class.

Budget and Nominating Report given by Betsy Bayardi (Wrightstown MM). The transition to the new treasurer, Jenna Schwoyer, has been very successful. The audit committee has met with the Treasurer and its report (Audit Report available), was read stating that all accounting has found to be in good order. The report clarified that backup files are kept in separate locations. Report accepted.

Treasurer’s Report given by Betsy Bayardi for Jenna Schwoyer. (Complete report available) Expenses vs. income for last year show a miniscule positive balance. In sum, we are in a

stable and favorable place to be. In response to a question, it was explained that most Quarterly Budgets will show a shortfall in income since the budget is made in the absence of a commitment from many of the meetings and the assumption made is that there will be no increase. This shortfall is usually reduced by commitments that come in after the Quarterly Budget is created.

Yardley Monthly Meeting Annual Report given by Betsy Cadwallader for Terry Christensen. (Complete report available) The report started by stating that Yardley MM is a “vibrant, productive and nourishing spiritual community” and then provided an exhaustive list of ongoing concerns, accomplishments, and activities that sustain the community. Highlights covered in the oral report were membership numbers of around 108 adult members, annual Flea Market, Fall Market, First Day school enrollment and the creation of a RE pamphlet for seekers, Men’s Discuss Group, hosting the Holiday Party at Pennswood Village, Adult Discussion Group, meetinghouse upkeep and improvements, Finances and cataloging the library holding.

A **short break** was provided at 2:00 pm.

Coordinator’s Report given by Holly Olson (Middletown MM)(Complete report available).

The Inreach portion included reports on the current status of the Pennsylvania Child Safety law, Clerks of the Quarter meeting, Bucks Food For Friends, Games Night at Buckingham and Makefield meetings, PYM Annual Sessions, and worship at Camp Onas. Outreach portion covered Wrightstown MM yard sale, Outreach Meeting at Wrightstown, Grange Fair, upcoming Peace Fair, and attendance at the PYM Development Visioning Session on May 23rd. A change at the Quaker Tent at the Grange Fair for next year is that the tile activity done at the Quaker Tent can no longer be completed using the currant fixative. While there was some discussion, no completely satisfactory solution was found. The report also contained an account of the phone calls received by Holly accusing Quakers of being against Israel. A full account of the actions taken was related by Holly and Boris Simkovich. Since there was some concern about possible disruption of the Peace Fair, it is intended to request that police provide a presence through doing the traffic control.

Solebury Monthly Meeting Annual Report given by John Kellogg. (Complete report available) Highlights included outreach to Young Adult Friends, completion of another year of First Day school with the assistance of paid coordinator Betsy Cotton, annual Pancake breakfast with funds raised going to Mercer Street Friends, and Educational Fund assistance given to children to attend Quaker schools. Current membership is around 150.

Ad Hoc Working Group on Smaller Meetings in the Quarter given by Jonathan Snipes (Fallsington MM). This group was set up in response to the issues raised after the Clerks Annual Report at last Quarterly Meeting. Group has meet once and decide that we would reach out to meetings in the Quarter that have requested support and set up meetings with them to see what their specific issues are. The group will report back with the resulted of their conversations with the meetings that request it. The group does not feel tasked to come up with general recommendations for the Quarter to act on, rather to make the needs of the smaller meetings known.

Southampton Monthly Meeting Annual Report given by Carolyn Peters Eckel. She highlighted the statistics that make Southampton one of the smaller meetings and the number of programs provided despite their small size. A highlight of the year was the

Prayer Meeting for Racial Justice held following the shootings in Charleston which brought in persons from the community. The report noted that the few members are struggling with the large responsibility of caring for the property and are exploring ways of divesting themselves of this property while continuing as a meeting.

Bucks Food For Friends Annual Report given by Holly Olson for Marion Snipes (Fallsington MM). (Complete report available) BFFF is its 8th year. There are now 24 houses of worship providing meals every month as a direct result of the first BFFF meal. The latest dinner fed over seventy people. Over the years, the process of preparing, serving and cleaning up afterward had been honed to perfection. Additional volunteers are always needed.

Middletown Monthly Meeting Annual Report given by Lance Mervine for Kristine Michael Sheffer. (Complete report available) Highlights of some of the work done this past year included the renting of the schoolhouse on the property by the Bucks Learning Co-Operative. First Day School continues to grow with seven families attending on most Sundays. The Outreach Committee's Speaker Series has been very successful and will continue into the coming year. A verbal report was provided of the Memorial Program held following the shootings in Charlestown with a march that went from the Quaker Meetinghouse to the Peace Center to the AME Church. In response to a question regarding what the increase in attendance at FDS could be attributed to, Coordinator commented that meetings which have experienced an increase in families attending, such as Doylestown and Middletown, have both been constant in doing various forms of outreach into the community.

Wrightstown Monthly Meeting Annual Report given by Betsy Bayardi. (Complete written report available) Betsy noted three themes noted from the report: Spiritual Vitality, Outreach and Physical Improvement and summarized her report along these themes. Spiritual Vitality is expressed by the quality of worship and by the Spiritual Exploration Group that meets once a month, Outreach is greatly helped by the First Day School program which has 20-30 children most weeks, and the physical improvement most notable is the repaving of the entire Meetinghouse and Nursery School Drive while decreasing impervious surface by 10%

After announcement, Business Meeting ended with a period of silent worship at 3:20 p.m.