

Bucks Quarterly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends
Quarterly Meeting Minutes
August 20, 2017
Held at United Friends School under the care of Plumstead Friends Meeting

Clerk: Rick Dow (Lehigh Valley)

Recording Clerk: Beth Taylor (Plumstead)

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

Welcome was given by Rick Dow. He offered thanks to United Friends School for the use of their space. David Rose had expressed his regret at being unavailable.

Agenda was reviewed and approved.

Roll Call of Meetings: Bristol: 0; Buckingham: 2; Doylestown: 0; Fallsington: 0; Lehigh Valley: 6; Makefield: 0; Middletown: 3; Newtown: 2; Plumstead: 2; Quakertown: 0; Solebury: 1; Southampton: 0; Wrightstown: 1; Yardley: 2.

Minutes of May 2017 were read and approved.

Stories of Vitality and Growth: Beth Taylor from Plumstead shared coins and objects found by Historic Recovery.

Coordinators Report was given by Holly Olson (Middletown MM). (Full Report available). Holly summarized her experience at PYM Annual Sessions. Highlights included the approval of the latest revision of Faith and Practice. (It should be noted that Annette Benert from Lehigh Valley MM served faithfully on this committee for many years, and reflected that, "It was a labor of love and joy; the committee was great to work with.") Also approved were the 2017-2018 budget and the formation of a group to conduct the Institutional Multicultural Audit. Holly also reported on Intervisitation Sundays, at Southampton on July 25, and coming up at Makefield on October 22. She spoke of The Trenton Thunder ballgame, the Bucks Quarter Book Club, Spiritual Formation, and the Peace Fair. She included in her report some of her thoughts about the quality of worship, and asked that we make discussions and conversations about this a part of what we do. It was noted that Sandy Langhart, our former Coordinator made the drapes at UFS and her husband Chris did the lighting. Chris still gets Sandy out; she especially enjoys music. Holly will let us know about a showing of the movie, Quaker Oaths, possibly held October 22 at the Newtown Theater.

Lehigh Valley: Christine Murray, Clerk reported. (Full report available) The Meeting has developed its own set of queries based on their own needs. 68 members and attenders participated in a weekend retreat at Spruce Lake. They have held three workshops on "Constructive Conversations in Difficult Situations." They have initiated an annual event of Hamarabe with Kenyan food. One of their members, John Marquette gave the invocation to open a session of the State Senate. They continue to offer tutoring to a Syrian refugee family. As they seek, the Light will show the way.

Budget and Nominating: Betsy Bayardi (WrightstownMM). Friends approved Ed Snyder, (Yardley MM) as Treasurer for another term, with thanks for his faithful stewardship of your funds. While pledged contributions have been lower, additional contributions have been higher. Also, operating expenses have been lower and we received a grant for Outreach. Budget and Nominating will be discussing moving our investments in Friends Fiduciary from the Income Fund to the Green Fund. In addition, nominations are being accepted for Clerk of PYM and Assistant/Rising Clerk of PYM.

Treasurer's Report: Presented by Ed Snyder (Yardley MM). (Full report available)

Treasurer's Annual report: Presented by Ed Snyder (Full report available)

Middletown: Jess Walcott, Clerk reported. (Full report available) Their Ministry and Nurture Committee has been very active, with a variety of ways to reach out. The proceeds from their Annual Auction helped the Syrian refugee family, Camp Onas, Friends Home and Village and others. Their First Day School has four families, and has been studying various aspects of the Bible. The Pickerings provide transport of food from the Meeting to the Penndel Food Pantry. Their Speakers Series and monthly Movie Nights are well-attended.

Solebury: presented by David Smith, Clerk. (Full report available) Their membership has declined a little. A group of Young Friends lobbied in Washington with FCNL. Their Pancake Breakfast was very successful, as was the party held for their nonagenarians: Malcolm Crooks, Irene Fisher and Sue Tinsman. They provide Matching Funds when anyone gives to another Quaker organization.

United Friends School: Nancy Donnelly, Head of School (Unami MM) (Full report available) reported that their focus last year was on social justice; this year, they will focus on immigration. They have an annual Ally week with activities and speakers. Arla Patch (Doylestown MM) spoke to the school about the taking of Native lands and subsequent relocations. There are 110 students attending preschool through 8th grade. There are a few available openings.

Southampton: with no members available, their report was accepted as submitted.

Bucks Food For Friends: Carol Richardson (Newtown MM) (Full report available). Once a month, at Fallsington, about 50-55 people join in this shared meal. Special thanks are given to Zooks's BBQ Barn in Newtown for supplying all of the poultry throughout the years. Advocated for the Homeless and Those in Need pick up and return the homeless guests for every meal. More volunteers are welcome.

Wrightstown: Betsy Bayardi, Clerk (Full report available) reported that they focus each year on themes. Last year, it was on 'Filling Voids,' and this coming year, it will be on 'food and security.' They have an active Spiritual Exploration group, and have monthly potlucks with speakers. Their Nursery School is 'exploding!' They heard a presentation from member Sam Nicholson, and his work as a CO during WW2. Their Peace and Concerns Committee contributes to many concerns, including 'Wine into Water', a group that distributes water filters in Third World countries.

Yardley: Linda Jacobs, Clerk (Full Report available) reported on making their meeting a place of compassion. Dan Gottlieb spoke to a large group about Cultivating Compassion. They have potlucks, game nights and other activities. Their membership continues to grow.

Other Business: The topic of membership was raised, and will be a focus of future Quarterly Meeting discussions. Also, Betsy Bayardi and David Smith, who are on PYM's Budget and Nominating Committee needs suggestions for PYM Clerk, Rising Clerk and assistant Clerk (three separate positions) as well as active recruitment for the AdHoc Institutional/Cultural Audit committee. Members are needed for the other PYM committees. Additionally, Rick Dow sat with other clerks at Annual Sessions: from this experience, he strongly endorses intervisitation and mid-week worship.

The Meeting was closed with a period of silence.