

**Minutes**  
**Bucks Quarterly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends**  
**August 19, 2018**  
**Held at Wrightstown Friends Meeting**

**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 and accepted.

**Roll Call of Meeting:**

Bristol: 0, Buckingham: 0, Doylestown:0, Fallsington: 0, Lehigh Valley: 2, Makefield: 6, Middletown:3, Newtown: 0, Plumstead: 0, Quakertown: 0, Solebury2, Southampton: 1, Wrightstown: 2, Yardley: 3

**Minutes for May** Quarterly Meeting approved with following correction:

1. Roll call did not list Yardley: 2 and Wrightstown: 3.
2. Makefield Peace Pole dedication is September 23<sup>rd</sup>, not Sep. 3<sup>rd</sup>.
3. Decision regarding the designation of the Kirkbride Estate monies has not been made as the money has not yet been received.

**Stories of Vitality and Growth**

- **Solebury Meeting** is considering inviting Congressional Candidates to come for an event that would be a community building activity, rather than a debate. David Smith asked for some ideas and suggestions on how to create such an event.
- **Southampton** has one new member and an attender interested in revitalizing and growth. Meeting is again having worship on every First Day.
- **Middletown:** On October 6th, at 1:00 pm the Meeting is hosting an event where memorial markers will be placed on free black and slave grave sites located on the Meeting grounds. The news is getting around with many groups interested in attending.
- **Makefield:** September 23<sup>rd</sup>, the International Day of Peace, the Meeting will have a Peace Pole Dedication ceremony.

**Coordinator's Report** (Full Report Available) presented by Quarter Coordinator Holly Olson (Middletown) which provided the following updates.

- **Inreach:** Trip to Trenton Thunder Baseball Game, Closing Retreat for the Spiritual Formation Group, Spiritual Care Breakfast at Chandler Hall
- **Outreach:** Will be taking a Facebook training for Friends in September, Peace Fair is coming up on September 22<sup>nd</sup>, Friendly Decision Making on Jan. 29<sup>th</sup>, Gospel of Thomas presentation on Oct. 28<sup>th</sup>, and meeting the new Head of Buckingham Friends School.
- **Misc:** Meetings' Annual Reports to Bucks Quarter received feedback from PYM. They will be passing this process on to other Quarters where the practice appears to have lapsed. During discussion the point was made that creating these reports is a good way of bringing people together and that one meeting included it with their annual contribution letter. Report and reflection given on attending Annual Sessions.

**Discussion and Sharing about the Listening Sessions at PYM Annual Session:** Rick Dow shared that initially he did not want to go to Annual Sessions anticipating that it would be filled with tension about racial issues. He only attended on Saturday and ended up regretting not having attended other days. He experienced that people were listening to each other and not needing to create a solution. David Smith spoke as a member of PYM Nominating Committee. He took from the reflections by the clerk of the Multicultural Audit Steering Committee that the Anti-Racism minute was poorly written and that it

could have been more inclusive. Maia Simon spoke of the Undoing Racism Minute that was created in 2014 at Annual Sessions. (12-15 Friends worked on the Minute then at around 10PM Saturday night most went to bed understanding that those who stayed were going to finalize the wording and format. Without consultation, the minute provided on Sunday morning bore little resemblance to the one that had been agreed on. The Minute had been changed from a plea to a demand).

Jerry Taylor experienced going into sessions this year felt tense. The tension was relieved and some of it was the result of careful listening by the Clerk. Chris Lucca spoke of his experience as clerking the meeting and that he was grateful that the corporate body agreed that the final report from the Multicultural Audit Committee could be given in "God's Time".

**Treasurer's Report:** (Full Report Available) Treasurer Ed Snyder (Yardley) reviewed Profit and Loss Budget vs. Actual for past fiscal year, July 2017 through June 2018. He noted that the approved budget factored in a loss of \$4,338.00 to bring down starting balance but due to contributions being greater than expected this past fiscal year, this was not achieved.

**Middletown Friends Annual Report** (Full Report Available) given by Jess Walcott, Clerk: A listing of past activities and events is given in the report with current membership at 93 members. Jess did not read the report but asked for responses from the group. Question was asked: What are you most excited about? Response: Upcoming Memorial Service for the enslaved Africans buries on the property. Question asked: What is your vision for the future? Response: More events like the ones that we are doing that bring people together in Community.

**Yardley Friends Annual Report** (Full Report Available) given by Ed Snyder for Clerk Linda Jacobs. He noted that the Compassion Pot Lucks, which started after the talk by Dan Gottlieb, are continuing, the Christmas celebration, usually held on Christmas Eve, has been changed to the another night close to Christmas due to low attendance, Gun Violence Committee meeting every other week.

**Yardley Ad Hoc Gun Violence Prevention Committee report** given by Peg Smedley (Yardley MM) Committee is meeting every other Wednesday. Working on getting organizational stands on issue of gun violence. Installation of memorial in front of Meetinghouse consisting of fifty-eight T-Shirts listing names of victims of gun homicides in Bucks County to be held Sep. 9<sup>th</sup>. "Heeding Gods Call" has been coordinating this installment in other counties around Philadelphia.

**United Friends School Annual Report:** (Full Report Available) Nancy Donnelly Head of School and member Unami Meeting, Abington Quarter gave the report. School focus this year on the Stewardship Testimony and the Diversity Topic of Immigration. She summarized the schools education guideline as two basic beliefs: *1. Each human being has a Divine spark of light through which a greater spiritual wisdom can be experientially accessed and 2. Truth seeking is a process of continuing revelation from multiple perspectives within a gathers community. These two beliefs lead to a constructivist approach to education, an inquiry-based pedagogy valuing multiple perspectives and a continues search for academic excellence within a values-centered environment.*

**Southampton Monthly Meeting Annual Report:** (Full written report available) Carolyn Peters-Eckel, Clerk gave the report. Meeting for Worship is again now held every Sunday at 10 am. Meeting will be installing a new sign as part of an effort to reach out into the surrounding communities. Much of the work of this small meeting of eight members involves the upkeep of the building and grounds. A highlight of the past year was a visit to the Ujima Friends Peace Center in Philadelphia.

**Bucks Food for Friends:** (Full written report available) No presentation given. Holly answered questions regarding current state of the program. There are now around 30 churches involved.

**Wrightstown Friends Annual Report** (Full written report available) given by Betsy Bayardi, Clerk. She noted that this report is similar to last year with many of the activities continuing. Current Adult membership is 187. Of special note is the Spiritual Exploration Group (SEG) which meets every third Sunday of the month and discusses a wide variety of topics led by different members of the group. Another community strengthening event is "Meet and Eat" potluck on first Sunday. Nursery School is almost fully enrolled for coming school year.

**Solebury Annual Report** (Full written report available) given by David Smith, Clerk. Meeting reports 104 Adult members. Meeting is considering to host a Candidates night to focus on the topic of Community Building. Asked for ideas on how to host candidates without it becoming a debate.

**Meeting closed** with a period of silent gathering at 2:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
David Rose, Recording Clerk