

**Bucks Quarterly Meeting for Worship for The Purpose of Business
15th Day, Fifth Month 2022**

Held under the care of Doylestown Monthly Meeting via Zoom

Adult Education Program: Quakers and the Peace Testimony

Presented by

Gretchen Castle, Dean of Earlham School of Religion,

former General Secretary of Friends World Committee for Consultation

Clerk: Bill Daly (Middletown)

Bucks Quarter Coordinator: Wendy Kane (Newtown)

Recording Clerk: Terry M. Christensen (Newtown)

Friends gathered at 12:48 pm and settled into a period of worship.

Welcome – Bill Daly

Review and Approval of Agenda – Approved as modified (removed item for Outreach Grants as this was already in the budget report).

Roll Call of Meetings: Bristol – 1; Buckingham – 1; Doylestown – 3; Fallsington – 3;
Lehigh Valley – 1; Makefield – 1; Middletown – 3; Newtown – 4; Plumstead – 2;
Quakertown – 1; Solebury – 0; Southampton – 2; Wrightstown – 2; Yardley – 2.

Review and Approval of Minutes from 20 February 2022 – Approved.

Stories of Vitality & Strength – Yardley Friend reports lots of physical activity – they have built three raised gardens for medicinal herbs; they have made a good bit of progress on their labyrinth; they have begun an outdoor, family friendly movie night on the second Saturday of the month weather permitting.

Southampton Friend reports that they are continuing social justice vigils on Sunday afternoons; Southampton Friend will lead a group to explore Middletown burial ground to survey Middletown graveyard and investigate identity of persons interred within.

Wrightstown Friend reports painting parking lot and driveway – a great improvement for visibility for those arriving after sundown; they will reopen the social hall soon.

Lehigh Valley reports a new member – they also have a family of foxes who have homesteaded on playground equipment.

Buckingham Friend reports that Buckingham will be celebrating its 300th birthday in June.

Fallsington Friend reports that they have discerned that 2022 will be a year of Outreach for their meeting.

Plumstead Friend reports outreach event “Songs of Ukraine” in support of the victims of the Russian war against Ukraine.

Proposal to adopt an in-person/hybrid meeting policy

Assessment of Health Risks – Bethann Morgan – CDC data indicates that today (15 May 2022) Bucks County is a low-risk area; Hunterdon County, NJ is a medium risk area. CDC is recommending that if it has been six months since your last vaccination you should get a booster and it should be cross-vaccination (Moderna – Pfizer – J&J); if we meet in person, we would want people to be vaccinated (though we will not inquire or require

proof of vaccination); we would want social distancing; people who are at risk are encouraged to wear masks, and of course, anyone can wear mask if so led. The level of risk is a concern if we choose to share a meal. Singing also increases a risk of transmission; Buckingham has chosen to wear masks as they sing.

In summary, meetings should be clear about the risks that they are willing to assume and those risks they are choosing to avoid.

Bill Daly, Clerk summarizes: The question we must answer is whether we are ready to meet in person or go to a hybrid meeting. And, if the answer to either of those questions is yes, what measures do we need to take to minimize risk.

Quakertown Friend wonders what we gain by meeting in person vs what we risk.

Makefield Friend reports that they meet in person for worship but go to hybrid for community forum.

Wendy Kane, Coordinator, notes that there would be relatively little risk to friends if we follow CDC protocol.

Quakertown Friend, notes that although he is at risk, he does not “feel” at risk; he encourages in-person meeting if Friends feel safe. We should offer Friends the opportunity to meet in person.

Newtown Friend notes that we should offer at-risk friends the opportunity to attend virtually.

Quakertown Friend notes that we should consider where the Bucks Quarterly meeting is being held; there is a concern that some meetings are too small for social distancing of large groups.

Clerk notes that Middletown is large enough to social distance approximately 100 people.

Clerk reflects that Friends are leaning toward a hybrid format.

Yardley Friend wonders about various meetings ability to present hybrid program.

Middletown Friend notes that a host meeting will have to have Zoom equipment.

Southampton Friend reports that earlier, he was able to attend a Friends meeting in Mexico and is in favor of continuing hybrid meetings and proposes that the Quarter should furnish necessary equipment.

Wrightstown Friend wonders where the four meetings are that can hold meeting with proper social distance (Clerk lists Middletown, Buckingham, Wrightstown, Fallsington).

Wrightstown Friend notes that infection rates have been volatile, and we need to be flexible in our planning.

Quakertown Friend suggests that a small meeting (e.g., Quakertown) could be responsible for the program even though people are not physically present at that meetinghouse.

Coordinator lists the four meetings that were designate to host Quarterly Meeting (in sequence; Wrightstown (Feb), Buckingham (May), Fallsington (Aug), Middletown (Nov)). Fallsington scheduled for August.

Clerk asks Fallsington Friend if they are prepared to host hybrid meeting in August; Friend replies that the meeting is prepared.

Clerk suggests that we proceed on a case-by-case basis and move ahead with plans for Fallsington to host hybrid quarterly meeting. Some questions arise.

Coordinator wonders what will be needed in the way of equipment to have successful hybrid.

We transition to discussion of necessary equipment:

Technical Requirements of Hybrid Meetings – Bill Daly

1. Computer
2. Projector
3. Movie Screen
4. Camera (with USB port)
5. Microphone (with USB port)
6. Cables
7. Electrical outlet (where the technician sits.)

Middletown Friend suggests that cost of setting up hybrid capability at Middletown ran to \$1500 - \$2000.

Discussion ensues.

Fallsington Friend says he believes that they have equipment to host hybrid meeting. Friends voice approval of moving forward with Fallsington hosting hybrid Quarterly meeting.

Buckingham Friend suggests that there are two halves of meeting; program and meeting for worship in hybrid, meeting for business via Zoom; it is very difficult to clerk a hybrid business meeting.

Yardley Friend wonders who is responsible for the “technician” role.

Fallsington Friend states that they have technically minded members who can facilitate hybrid meeting for business.

Middletown Friend expresses reluctance to have someone come in who is not knowledgeable about their particular equipment and how it is arranged.

Southampton Friend notes that it takes several technicians to run hybrid meeting for business.

Lehigh Valley Friend wonders if we can know who is attending in-person (Response: we should be flexible enough).

Fallsington Friend wonders if Fallsington Meeting has projection capability.

Friend wonders if one Clerk can conduct hybrid meeting (Response: it takes a technician to keep track of virtual attendees).

Yardley Friend reports that host meetinghouse should provide technician to assist clerk in conduct of meeting.

Southampton Friend notes that you need at least two technicians to run meeting.

Coordinator notes that using lunch time to return home from in person program is problematic for more distant meetings. Middletown Friend confirms that this is an issue for him.

Fallsington Friend reports that converting to Zoom only for meeting for business is problematic

Clerk tests if sense of meeting is we will have hybrid format for meeting for worship and meeting for business.

Buckingham Friend notes that we should have an assistant clerk to help with technical

issues.

Coordinator suggests that the Quarter could do some practice meetings to discover technical difficulties and suggests that Middletown Friend could help (Middletown Friend agrees but notes that they might be hampered by unfamiliarity with local equipment).

Fallsington Friend again asks if the meeting has projection capability (Response: yes, the capability is there).

Bristol Friend offers his support and technical expertise.

Quakertown Friend wonders if it would be helpful to know in advance who is planning to attend Quarterly meeting.

Clerk tests sense of corporate body – *are we comfortable deciding on whether to meet in person on a case-by-case basis, subject to prevailing infection rates (in all three counties that make up BUCKS QUARTER) remaining low.*

Agreed.

Treasurers Report – Ed Snyder (full report attached). Budget vs Actual for three quarters; we should expect 75% of expenses and revenues. We agreed to give PYM extra money so that amount will be higher; we gave more to Friends Village, Chandler Hall, and Camp Onas, so those amounts are higher than budgeted. We have had recent contributions and so our numbers are much better than one might think.

Wrightstown Friend wonders if our monthly meeting contributions are problematic (Response: 53% is probably less than typical, but recent contributions improve that outlook).

Budget for 2022-2023 Fiscal Year – Leo Fitzpatrick (full report attached) Originally, Bucks Quarter had planned to request an increase in monthly meeting contributions; Budget & Nominating decided to ease pressure on monthly meetings and not request that increase, resulting in a deficit budget this year. Also, we have a 5% (COLA) increase in Coordinator salary; we have also committed to make a 5% increase in donations to PYM
Budget Approved.

Break

Annual Report – Bristol Preparative Meeting – Paul Shaffer (full report attached). They are happy to report that Bristol Meeting survived 2021. During the warm months they met outdoors under the Buttonwood tree. Outdoor worship has been very popular. In 2021 Bristol Meeting began helping the Bucks County Interfaith Coalition for Refugee Resettlement (BCICRR) sponsor an Afghan refugee family of six in Bucks County. This assistance has been threefold. 1) BCICRR used the meetinghouse to store donated furniture and household goods; 2) Bristol Meeting concluded that they have sufficient funds to provide no-interest loans to refugees; 3) the meeting helped BCICRR as a fiscal agent using their non-profit church status. The meeting is in discussion about sharing their worship space with two other faith groups. They meet once per month with numbers well below ten – though they have had occasional visitors. On Historic Bristol Day, the Coordinator assisted with outreach by setting up a tent on Radcliffe St. and handing out Peaceable Kingdom cards and directing people to the meetinghouse. The meeting has been involved in the work of monthly meeting burial ground clerks. They

are in the process of creating a map of gravesites and a census of who is buried in their graveyard. There have been inquiries from some who would like to inter their loved ones in our burial ground.

Fallsington Friend expressed appreciation and admiration for Bristol's commitment to helping refugees.

Annual Report – Fallsington Monthly Meeting – Amy Duckett Wagner (full report attached).

Fallsington's year can be summarized by the word "connections"; connections lost, connections found, and "everything in-between." FFM has had lots of positive things going on but also has challenges – especially regarding care and concern of older Friends. Fallsington has been holding hybrid meeting for some time now. Meeting activities continue to have broad support and involvement. Beginning in 2020 and continuing through 2021, Fallsington sponsored a series of classes to increase awareness of racism and social justice issues. In this collaborated with "Men for Hope," a Trenton based group. At the end of the calendar year, the meeting reached out to members to improve in-reach and member involvement. On December 2, 2021, the African American Museum of Bucks County honored deceased member Sam Snipes for his social justice work in the 1950s. On December 9, 2021, FFM members Tom Wells and Jonathan Snipes coordinated an education event to increase Climate Change Awareness. This hybrid event drew 53 people. COVID continues to offer challenges and opportunities. The Property Committee has worked to fine-tune the technology supporting First Day classes for adults and Children's Religious Education. They have established a dedicated Wi-Fi connection. Hybrid meeting for worship and meeting for business has allowed many Friends to attend from a distance. Friend Neil Vance's regular hosting of these meetings is well appreciated. The meeting has some new attenders and has enhanced its presence on social media (Facebook and Instagram). They intend to resume Friendly Eights. This past year, the Nominating and Clerk's Committees have re-envisioned their approach to clerking. Moving forward, the meeting will have a Clerk and a Rising Clerk who will share responsibilities and participate in the Clerk Training Program provided by PYM and FGC. After one year the Rising Clerk will move into the Clerk position and a new Rising Clerk will be nominated. The Outreach Committee has been re-envisioned to become the Membership Development Committee which will focus on enriching the experience of current members and attenders such that they take a more active role in attracting new members. The meeting continues to hold Meeting for Healing via Zoom (facilitated by Friend Lisa Collins). They also continue to hold special Easter and Christmas programs. Fallsington Friend thanks the Coordinator for her help with the retreat that gave rise to the discernment that spawned the Membership Development Committee.

Annual Report – Buckingham Monthly Meeting – Christine Godshall (full report attached).

Despite complications of continuing pandemic, 2021 was a year of spiritual fulfillment for Buckingham Meeting; they have found new ways to maintain and grow their community. Safety for members/attenders is foremost concern.

Buckingham has 66 adult members and 24 minor members (total of 90). They recorded the death of 2 members and one past member. The meeting focused on safety; they

continued virtual meeting for worship until the spring of 2022; when weather permitted, they held an in-person meeting for worship outside in the graveyard. Even then, they continued to offer a hybrid format which allowed members to attend from afar; including members who might not be able to attend even in normal times. They found it especially precious to meet regularly with Friends who live at a distance. Unfortunately, they have lost contact with some members who stopped attending during the worst of the pandemic. Buckingham Meeting was happy to host Quarterly Meeting this past February (2022). Over the past year the meeting has had a significant number of visitors, though it has sometimes proven difficult to maintain those connections. They have also struggled to maintain connections with families who stopped attending when meetings became virtual. The meeting is holding First Day School, though it has been difficult to maintain continuity as it has been challenging to find enough members to support the classes. Bucks Quarter did hold the Peace Fair on their campus in 2021. Although it was a smaller event this past year, it was still a huge success. They have held several monthly workdays and made repairs and improvements to their meetinghouse and grounds. The meeting will be holding a delayed celebration of their 300th anniversary in June of this year (2022). Other holiday events, though slightly tweaked (COVID concerns) have gone well. Overall, their sense is that meeting for worship- has been fulfilling, especially under the circumstances (i.e., COVID). They are committed to making their meeting as inclusive as possible so that members and attenders feel “comfortable enough to share their divine spark freely as they are led.” Yardley Friend asks about the age range of children attending First Day School (Response: 4 to 11, perhaps one 13-year-old).

Fallsington Friend asks about the meeting’s relationship to Buckingham Friends School (Response: Once per year (each October), the meeting hosts an “All-Community meeting for worship and they invite BFS students, families, BFS teachers, staff, board members, and alumni. The number and character of attendance has varied over the years. The continue to work at that relationship.

Annual Report of Lehigh Valley Monthly Meeting – Louise Young (full report attached). Lehigh Valley Monthly Meeting notes that their annual report is influenced by "the context of our times. The pandemic has altered who we are and how we function." This is true both for the meeting and across Bucks Quarter and the world community. In many ways the meeting feels as if they have become more connected with the broader community. Their report was guided by the query, “Where did you notice the Light within your committee’s work”? The meeting established a “Reopening Committee” which developed a plan utilizing the available technology to enable hybrid meeting for worship. All committees were quite active, and the meeting remains financially healthy. In February (2022) the meeting offered a Quakerism 101 class with George Schaefer of PYM which was attended by 30 people (members and attenders). They are not certain that they would have that level of attendance for an in-person class. When weather permitted, the meeting held an outdoor pizza party and a Friend commented that they saw the Light emanating from the gladness of those who attended. Their Outreach and Communication Committee is expanding and employing technology in service of the

meeting. There is more work to be done. For example, they have redesigned the meeting website, and it has become a valuable tool for outreach. Although members of their “tech team” cannot participate in meeting for worship in the traditional fashion, they report that they nonetheless feel fulfilled spiritually. They are continuing in-reach communication with their newsletter and a weekly “Light Board.” It is edited by a Friend who lives at distance. Social Action continues its work. While report was being prepared, Light was radiating as the meetinghouse re-opened for in-person meeting for worship at the end of March. They are taking time to pause and acknowledge the many expressions of Light at the meeting.

Quarter Coordinator Report – Wendy Kane (full report attached). It has been two years since Bucks Quarter has begun holding virtual meetings. Most of us were new to Zoom and at the first meeting it took a long time to sort out the mechanics of holding a meeting online. Today, as you saw, we required minimal technical review. Virtual meetings are now the norm. While we are tired of the pandemic, COVID-19 is not tired of us; new variants continue to emerge, and Friends are cautious about meeting in large groups. All BQ meetings are currently open for in-person meeting for worship; some require masks, some do not. Now that vaccines are available for some younger children, some families are beginning to return to meeting for worship. We are entering the 3rd year of the pandemic, and it appears that virtual meetings are here to stay at some level for most meetings. Discernment of how to incorporate this into our worship spaces continues. We seek a solution that is inclusive without being intrusive. The Coordinator attends meetings throughout the Quarter and has done so both in-person and virtually. The availability of a hybrid option has enabled the Coordinator to attend various meetings, even if she is away. Coordinator has also had the opportunity to assess the quality of hybrid technology at various meetings. For example, she has noted that many meetings have trouble with microphones – some are too sensitive, others are not sensitive enough. In any case, she offers feedback after the experience with the goal of continuing to improve the virtual experience of meeting for worship. Wendy has met with various committee clerks throughout the Quarter. For example, she met with Children’s Religious Education clerks from two meetings and had a very productive meeting with Property Clerks. This group will be establishing a Google Group that will be meeting quarterly with a narrowly targeted group of questions. The Coordinator has met with Burial Ground Clerks, and they will also establish a Google Group with a folder of shared documents from the meetings to examine issues of common concern. They will meet quarterly. The Budget and Nominating Committee met; they have a new Clerk (Leo Fitzpatrick of Wrightstown) and have established a succession plan. They have yet to identify a Quarter Alternate Clerk, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, and a representative to PYM Nominating Council. If interested, please contact Leo or Wendy. The BQ Audit Committee is researching how to update our audit. Quarter Clerk has become involved in this project. Wendy has attended several events. These include: A Called Meeting for Worship to hold Ukraine in the Light; a memorial service for a Newtown Friend; Organizing “The Quaker Experience During the American Revolution” presentation by Carol Ann Gray and available on Bucks Quakers YouTube channel; a PYM Governance and Stewardship Thread Gathering on Clerking; PYM Conversations on

staffing changes; PYM Continuing Sessions where she prepared a presentation on Bucks Quarter (which was bumped by Green Street Meeting and their presentation on reparations) – she will present her program on the history and work of Bucks Quarter at PYM Annual Sessions; she was part of the PYM Review of Advocacy, Review and Discussions (i.e. Lobbying – **NOTE:** as a religious organization we can lobby as individuals but not as a corporate entity); Wendy was at Middleton Meeting for Edward Hicks Day where she served as docent; she attended the Friends Village Rock & Roll-out celebration of their new name and marketing initiative. Bucks Quarter Outreach still has grants available to the end of June (one meeting has yet to contact BQ Outreach Committee – Wendy has been in contact). Wendy and Outreach have been working with Friend Jonathan Snipes on a Bucks County Quaker Meetinghouse driving tour. The Coordinator began exploring resuming worship service at Chandler Hall though there are questions about whether the facility has the requisite support staff; the thinking is that we would offer worship one Sunday per month – discussions continue. Wendy has met with new staff at PYM including new Aging Coordinator, Sheila Sorkin, and Paul Jepsen (interim Director of Communications); Paul has been very helpful and has ideas about how to improve our YouTube channel to seekers.

Clerk's Annual Report – Bill Daly (full report attached). Clerk reports on meeting for worship and programs offered at the Quarter; Clerk stresses outreach programs including Outreach fund to make grants to Monthly Meetings; we have held the Peace Fair this past year with an attendance of 1,100 to 1,500 visitors; meetings are following their leadings (e.g., Newtown and Southampton hold social justice vigils), the Quarter is still working on minute to support tax on carbon dioxide (approved in 2020); Newtown and Southampton Friends traveled to Harrisburg to support equitable funding for schools. The Clerk notes that we have combined our Handbook and Calendar and Appointments, into a single document. We have updated the various committee and job descriptions. The Clerk reports that financial outlook is good (\$65K in cash and \$53K at Friends Fiduciary at end of fiscal year); attendance at Quarterly meeting has remained strong. Southampton Friend thanks the clerk for assuming role of Clerk and the Coordinator for her good work.

Oversight Committee – Gerry Kirwan (full report attached) Reviews role and composition of Oversight. Reports that Oversight is very pleased with Coordinator's work. Great work in the face of all the difficulties and complications caused by COVID-19 pandemic. As a result of Coordinator's work in establishing virtual workspaces, many Quarter committees have found that they can be very productive working in virtual meetings. Special notice to work on and improvement of *Quakerphenalia*; the Coordinator has combined the Bucks Quarter calendar and Handbook into one document. Oversight specifically sought the input of Lehigh Valley, Makefield, and Middletown monthly meetings for this report. Friends at these meetings were unanimous in their support and approval for Coordinator. Changes in personnel of Oversight; position of Scribe to be filled on rotating basis; Thanks to Lisa Collins for her work as Clerk of Oversight. Thanks also to current members of Oversight (named in full report).

Annual Report – Chandler Hall – Betsy Bayardi (full report attached). This has been a very

difficult time for Chandler Hall. They have three new members of the leadership team. They believe that they are doing well on the quality front. Chandler Hall has been doing marketing in the virtual space. They are aware that the census and financial status needs to improve. They are aware that they need to improve the physical space. Chandler Hall is hopeful for the future. Betsy hopes that Friends will add Chandler Hall, Friends Village, and Camp Onas to their philanthropic causes.

Middletown Friend appreciates the mention of Friends Village.
Buckingham Friend appreciates the work of Chandler Hall.

Announcements – Fallsington Friend notes that the applications for Snipes Farm Camp scholarships are at an all-time high.

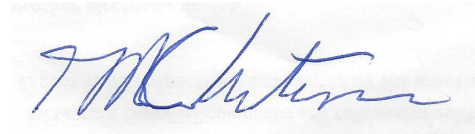
Buckingham Friend (Camp Onas Board member) thanks Betsy for mentioning Camp Onas.

Closing Worship – There being no further business, Friends settled into Silent Worship.

Adjournment – Clerk Bill Daly adjourned the meeting for Business at 3:45 pm.

Reminder: next Quarterly Meeting is 21st Day, 8th Month, 2022 at Fallsington Friends Meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Terry M. Christensen", is written over a light blue rectangular background.

Terry M. Christensen, Recording Clerk

Equipment for Hybrid Meetings

2022-05-11

1. Computer
2. Projector. This a computer monitor that projects its image.
3. Movie Screen
4. Camera with USB port
5. Microphone with USB port
6. Cables. Middletown had an electrician install USB female connectors in the dais and in the floor where the technician sits to better control the snakes.
7. Electrical outlet where the technician sits.

10:42 AM
04/18/22
Cash Basis

Bucks Quarterly Meeting of Friends
Balance Sheet
As of March 31, 2022

	<u>Mar 31, 22</u>
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
First National Checking	12,815.63
Total Checking/Savings	<u>12,815.63</u>
Total Current Assets	12,815.63
Other Assets	
Friends Fiduciary Corporation	53,646.21
Total Other Assets	<u>53,646.21</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>66,461.84</u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Equity	
Kirkbride Estate	17,696.43
Unrestricted Net Assets	143,023.68
Net Income	<u>-94,258.27</u>
Total Equity	<u>66,461.84</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u>66,461.84</u>

**Bucks Quarterly Meeting of Friends
Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual
July 2021 through March 2022**

	Jul '21 - M...	Budget	\$ Over Bu...	% of Budg...
Ordinary Income/Expense				
Income				
Interest and dividends				
FFC	927.92	1,810.00	-882.08	51.3%
Total Interest and dividends	927.92	1,810.00	-882.08	51.3%
Monthly Meeting contributions				
Additional	200.00			
Pledged	147,681.85	276,540.00	-128,858.15	53.4%
Total Monthly Meeting contributions	147,881.85	276,540.00	-128,658.15	53.5%
Other contributions	600.00			
Quakerphernalia advertising	820.00	1,500.00	-680.00	54.7%
Total Income	150,229.77	279,850.00	-129,620.23	53.7%
Gross Profit	150,229.77	279,850.00	-129,620.23	53.7%
Expense				
Administrative				
Budget and Nominating Committee	0.00	50.00	-50.00	0.0%
Clerks, treasurers, auditors	0.00	100.00	-100.00	0.0%
Total Administrative	0.00	150.00	-150.00	0.0%
Contributions				
Philadelphia Yearly Meeting	164,088.75	198,785.00	-34,696.25	82.5%
Total Contributions	164,088.75	198,785.00	-34,696.25	82.5%
Gifts/Donations				
Camp Onas	5,000.00	150.00	4,850.00	3,333.3%
Chandler Hall	5,000.00	150.00	4,850.00	3,333.3%
Friends Home and Village	5,000.00	150.00	4,850.00	3,333.3%
Total Gifts/Donations	15,000.00	450.00	14,550.00	3,333.3%
Programs, Activities, Outreach				
Operating	2,681.83	6,000.00	-3,318.17	44.7%
Other				
Advertising	1,500.00	2,200.00	-700.00	68.2%
Liability Insurance	1,000.00	940.00	60.00	106.4%
Outreach Committee Activities	1,296.00	2,000.00	-704.00	64.8%
Programs for Peace	200.00	1,700.00	-1,500.00	11.8%
Quakerism Classes	0.00	500.00	-500.00	0.0%
Young Friends and Other (net)	0.00	350.00	-350.00	0.0%
Total Other	3,996.00	7,690.00	-3,694.00	52.0%
Personnel	50,800.42	66,775.00	-15,974.58	76.1%
Total Programs, Activities, Outreach	57,478.25	80,465.00	-22,986.75	71.4%
Total Expense	236,567.00	279,850.00	-43,283.00	84.5%
Net Ordinary Income	-86,337.23	0.00	-86,337.23	100.0%
Other Income/Expense				
Other Income				
Unrealized gain/loss (FFC)	-3,421.04			
Total Other Income	-3,421.04			
Other Expense				
Kirkbride expenses	4,500.00	7,000.00	-2,500.00	64.3%
Total Other Expense	4,500.00	7,000.00	-2,500.00	64.3%
Net Other Income	-7,921.04	-7,000.00	-921.04	113.2%
Net Income	-94,258.27	-7,000.00	-87,258.27	1,346.5%

BUCKS QUARTERLY MEETING BUDGET FOR 2022-2023 F/Y

Last update 5/4/2022

	Budget FY 21-22	Projected FY 21-22	Budget FY 22-23	Change from FY 21-22 budget
1 REVENUE				
2 Monthly Meeting "Pledged" Contributions	276,540	276,540	278,195	1,655
3 Additional Contributions		1,105		0
4 FFC Int & Dividend Income	1,810	1,850	2,020	210
5 Interest Income, other	0	0	0	0
6 Quakerphernalia Ads	1,500	1,200	1,200	(300)
7 Grant Income	0	0	0	0
8 Other contributions	0	0	0	0
9 Total Revenue	279,850	280,695	281,415	1,565
11 EXPENSES				
12 Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Contribution	198,785	213,785	208,724	9,939
14 BQM Administrative				
15 Clerks, Treasurers, Auditors	100	0	0	(100)
16 Budget & Nominating Committee	50	0	0	(50)
17 BQM Worship & Ministry (Piano tuning)	0	0	0	0
18 Total, Administrative	150	0	0	(150)
20 Programs, Activities, Outreach				
21 Program Administration (Coord)				
22 Personnel	66,775	67,053	71,033	4,258
23 Operating (postage, printing, phone)	6,000	5,000	6,000	0
24 Total, Program Admin.	72,775	72,053	77,033	4,258
26 Other: Programs, Activities, Outreach				
27				
28 Programs for Peace - Peace Fair, Bethlehem walk	1,700	200	1,700	0
29 Outreach Committee Activities	2,000	2,000	2,000	0
30 Advertising	2,200	2,200	2,200	0
31 Liability Insurance	940	1,025	1,100	160
32 Quakerism Classes	500	0	500	0
33 Young Friends and Other Activities (net)	350	0	350	0
34 Total, Other Activities	7,690	5,425	7,850	160
36 Total, Programs, Activities, Outreach	80,465	77,478	84,883	4,418
38 Gifts/Donations				
39 Friends Home/Village	150	5,150	300	150
40 Camp Onas	150	5,150	300	150
41 Chandler Hall	150	5,150	300	150
42 Other Donations	0	0	0	0
43 Total, Gifts	450	15,450	900	450
45 Other Expenses				
46 Outreach Grants (funded by Kirkbride estate)	7,000	7,000	7,000	0
Total Other Expenses	7,000	7,000	7,000	0
48 Total Expenses	286,850	313,713	301,508	14,658
50 REVENUE LESS EXPENSES	(7,000)	(33,018)	(20,093)	(13,093)

Bristol Friends Meeting Annual Report Presented at Quarterly Meeting - May 15, 2022

I'm happy to report that Bristol Friends Meeting survived 2021. During the warm months we met outdoors under the Buttonwood tree. Outdoor worship has been very popular.

In 2021 Bristol Friends Meeting found three ways to help the Bucks County Interfaith Coalition for Refugee Resettlement (BCICRR) sponsor an Afghan refugee family of six in Bucks County.

First, as we did when BCICRR was preparing for two Syrian families five years ago, we used our meetinghouse to store donated furniture and household goods for the family until an apartment could be rented. The furniture dominated the meetinghouse for a few months, during which time members continued to gather in the midst of the donations and received the unspoken ministry of compassion and generosity on display.

Second, BCICRR was hesitant to assume financial responsibility for a new family because they were planning to raise money for an emergency loan fund for the Syrian families, who are now largely self-sufficient but lack a cushion for any substantial unexpected needs. Our treasurer, Jim Fine, realized that our perennial bank balance would allow us to provide no-interest loans to be repaid over one to two years should the need arise. This has allowed BCICRR to move ahead with confidence to support an Afghan family.

Finally, the synagogue that served as fiscal agent for BCICRR for five years (since BCICRR is not a tax-exempt organization) wished to be relieved of this responsibility. Bristol Friends has found it easy to assume this role by opening a dedicated bank account accessible to the treasurer of BCICRR and providing documentation of our non-profit church status when asked.

In addition, Bristol Friends is currently in discussion with two other faith groups, an Anabaptist congregation in Bristol Borough, and a Unitarian Universalist community in Lower Bucks County about the use of our meetinghouse. We hope these discussions will bear fruit and that we will soon see diverse worship taking place in the meetinghouse.

We still meet once per month, and our numbers are well below ten. Outreach work continues and clerk Paul Shaffer attends the Bucks Quarter outreach committee meetings. In the past year a few new people have visited once or twice. In February we had a few extra people "due to the war."

Historic Bristol Day was a welcome return to normalcy. We had some visitors to the meetinghouse, but no archaeology this year. Our Quarter coordinator Wendy set up a tent on Radcliffe Street, handed out the "Peaceable Kingdom" cards and directed visitors to the meetinghouse.

Our burial ground was discussed at the meeting of burial ground clerks. We are in the process of creating a map of gravesites and a complete list of who is buried in our burial ground. Several people have said they would like to inter their loved ones in our burial ground.

And finally, our 350-year-old (ca. 1672) Buttonwood tree got a check-up from an arborist. Like many old trees, she is mostly hollow. Despite the tornado of 9/2/21 twisting a ten-foot section off the top, she is reported to be in good shape. Everyone is invited to worship under her branches.

Respectfully submitted, Paul Shaffer, Clerk

FALLSINGTON FRIENDS MONTHLY MEETING 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

Amy Duckett Wagner, Clerk

To Bucks Quarterly Meeting

Hosted by Doylestown Friends

May 15, 2022

- Beginning in 2020 and continuing through 2021, Fallsington Monthly Meeting (FMM) sponsored a series of classes to increase awareness of members and attenders concerning anti-racism and social justice. The meeting worked with the Bucks County Peace Center, Newtown, PA to facilitate the sessions over Zoom on weekdays and during some Sunday adult class time frames. Three final sessions took place during the first half of 2021.
- Members of the FMM's Worship and Ministry Committee led several Adult classes in a discussion of Ibram X. Kendi's book, How to be an Anti-Racist, to continue the Meeting's Anti-Racism concerns.
- On March 21, 2021, Jondhi Harrell accepted Worship and Ministry's invitation to talk about his work in the area of Social Justice as Executive Director for The Center for Returning Citizens and through the Ujima Friends Peace Center in Philadelphia. The program was announced throughout Bucks Quarter and all were invited to join the program.
- FMM continued its commitment to contribute substantial financial support over a three year period (2020 – 2022) to Men for H.O.P.E. (Helping Other People Elevate) and the Father Center of NJ. Both organizations are based in Trenton, NJ and offer support to African American men in local communities.
- On December 2, 2021, the new African American Museum of Bucks County honored and recognized deceased FMM member Samuel Snipes for his Social Justice work in the 1950's. Several members of FMM attended the ceremony.
- On December 9, 2021, Tom and Jonathan organized support for climate change awareness through the FMM's Peace and Service Committee and coordinating an educational event using content from Katherine Kayhoe, atmospheric scientist, "Finding Hope in Combating Climate Change," Bill Mettler of Citizens' Climate Lobby, and introducing 2 short films "Ice" and "Solar" produced by Jonathan Sprout and Rodney White of Force for Good. The program, with 53 attendees, was a hybrid presentation that included an action activity where participants were encouraged to reach out to representatives via email in support of holding Global Warming at no more than 1.5°C.
- Members Jim and Debbie Fine presented a program for adult class on their involvement relating to activities of the Middle East Collaborative of PYM and the Bucks County Interfaith Coalition for Refugee Resettlement (BCICFRR) assisting immigrants and refugees. Their specific focus was on Bristol Meeting's commitment to help local refugee families relocating from Afghanistan

- The pandemic continued to provide both opportunities and challenges for FMM in sustaining its spiritual community. Members of the property committee worked to fine tune the technology to conduct First Day Classes for both adults and children and Meetings for Worship (and attending to Business). Initially the technology was uneven, however as time passed a dedicated WiFi connection was installed at the Meeting House and the continued attention Property Committee members Bill Schier, Jonathan Sprout and Mike Caro resulted in great improvements. Meetings for Worship and for Worship to Attend to Business were conducted on the Zoom platform and provided opportunities for Friends to attend from a distance. Friends expressed appreciation for Neil Vance's regular hosting on Zoom for both Adult Class and Meeting for Worship remote and hybrid sessions over the past year. When Covid rates were decreasing FMM shifted to a hybrid worship opportunity and the Meeting House reopened. Being able to conduct Meeting for Worship and Meeting for Worship to Attend to Business in a hybrid model (in person and Zoom) provided opportunities for more people to participate, opening the door for those not feeling comfortable with joining in person, while allowing for others to gather in the Meeting House. Clerk Amy Duckett Wagner obtained a \$1000 grant for hybrid worship technology costs.

- The Meeting has a few new attenders and strengthened its social media presence with the creation of an Instagram account and expansion of posted content on Facebook.

- The Religious Education Committee including Susan Snipes Wells, Melanie Douty Snipes and Mike Caro provided opportunities for the children's classes to meet on Zoom, however most classes were able to be held in person either on the Meetinghouse grounds or at Snipes Farm.

- Adult Classes continued to use the Meeting's Zoom connection to conduct on-going Faith and Practice studies, to host Anti-Racism workshops, book discussions, and to welcome guest speakers.

- Over the past year FMM's Nominating and Clerks' Committees re-envisioned the approach to clerking positions. Facing a lack of persons to accept nomination for the vacancy of the Meeting's Clerk position the members began to seek potential alternatives in the approach to the position. Members considered structures in other meetings of the quarter and finalized a proposal resulting in a new approach that met with consensus. The new approach includes positions of Clerk and Rising Clerk who will share responsibilities and participate in clerk's training provided by PYM and FGC. The Rising Clerk will move to the Clerk position after a year and a new Rising Clerk will be nominated. Many thanks to Amy Duckett Wagner and Susan Snipes Wells who have agreed to serve as Clerk and Rising Clerk respectively. This is expected to improve transitions as future clerks begin their roles.

- Friends concurred with the recommendation to re-envision the Outreach committee and become Membership Development to enrich current members and attenders and attract new potential members and attenders. The Committee is planning a workshop for meeting members and attenders on Saturday, January 29, 2022, to be facilitated by Bucks Quarter Coordinator, Wendy Kane, and consider the theme - 2022 – A Year to Grow Our Meeting. The program will include opportunities for small group discussions and gathered sharing and generate new ideas. *see page 5 for an overview of the retreat

- FMM's Care and Concern Committee worked especially hard to keep Meeting members in touch this year. The continuing pandemic and the non-Covid deaths of several members put strain on the committee and FMM's family. The committee and FMM lost a significant member with the death of Sue Jasiewicz who succumbed following a long battle with cancer. Her passing left a major void in terms of her spiritual and personal contributions to FMM and many other peace and service organizations,

Quaker and non, in the Bucks area. Care and Concern maintained a personal connection with members and attenders of FMM with birthday cards, letters, and phone calls throughout the year. Facilitator Sue Madeira keeps in touch also through the FMM's Google Group to keep everyone aware of special needs or requests within the FMM's family. Special thanks for Sue's continued diligence.

- The Meeting has a few members that are having serious health issues or life changes and their presence missed, whether in person or virtual.
- FMM's monthly newsletter provided a connection with information about Meeting for Worship, Meeting for Worship to Attend to Business, Called Meetings, Yearly Meeting and Quarterly Meeting sessions and programs, special activities and personal updates as to what is happening with each other. Newsletter editor, Liza DiMino, reaches out to members via email each month to request additions for the newsletter and helps to maintain those important personal connections among our members and attenders.
- Meetings for Healing continued to be held via Zoom and facilitated by Lisa Collins. Attendance remained strong and Friends welcomed to opportunity to seek and provide support for each other and those on whose behalf requests were shared.
- FMM held special Easter and Christmas programs that were well attended. The Easter program was held on Zoom. In 2021 and the program included music and singing, readings from the Bible, excerpts from Martin Luther King's "Letter from a Birmingham Jail", and Quaker writings on the meaning of Easter, and small and large group discussions of the Beatitudes and the query, "What are we being resurrected for?" Between rain showers, the Religious Education Committee was able to coordinate an Easter egg hunt and flower planting to spruce up the graveyard and grounds around the Meetinghouse. The Christmas program began with a delicious breakfast, provided by Sandy Otis and Jim Collins, and then a hybrid intergenerational program that incorporated the tradition of the Posada, Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem, with singing and readings of hardships endured by refugees today. FMM members continued to provide Christmas gifts that were wrapped by the children during their gathering during Meeting for Worship for the Mercer Street Friends organization in Trenton, NJ.
- FMM maintained a stable financial situation through management of meeting funds, contributions of members, and bequests. The Meeting's Finance Committee, Bill Schier and Jonathan Sprout, is to be recognized for its attention and oversight.
- FMM continues to maintain care of Bristol meeting, members participate in Bucks Quarterly Conference and PYM events, several committees worked together on a project to record those interred in the FMM's Orthodox graveyard. The acknowledgement and recording of names of past Friends acknowledge their existence, participation and contributions to FMM and realize that as we follow in their footsteps, we can expect that other Friends may follow in ours.
- Memorial services celebrated the lives of members and attenders who have died. The services are held in the manner of worship of Friends and all are invited to speak and share memories out of the joined silence that recognize and remember the lives of those who have passed.
- Hymn singing is an important part of preparing for worship and celebrating each other. FMM has conducted several intergenerational programs that incorporate songs and encourage musicians to

participate in sharing their gifts. Music leaders included Sallie Gordon, Bill Schier, Jonathan Sprout, Neil Vance, Susan Snipes Wells, Tom Wells, Jonathan Snipes, Melanie Douty Snipes and Amy Duckett Wagner.

- FMM maximized opportunities to meet in person. Considering activities that can be conducted outside will reduce the concerns of many of our members. Members did engage in more outdoor activities in light of covid restrictions including bonfires, attending Holly Night at Pennsbury Manor, a group walk in Fallsington to view the living Nativity at the Fallsington United Methodist Church, children's First Day classes held at Snipes Farm and on the Meeting House grounds, a farewell party and bonfire for Jerry and Evelyn Throne who moved to Vermont, an Easter Egg hunt between showers in the Meeting's graveyard and a meeting canoe afternoon. FMM also hosted community refreshments following a community Christmas tree lighting and carol sing in Historic Fallsington.
- The Meeting must think outside the box and create connections and keep in touch with people for whom Zoom does not work either because they do not have the infrastructure to participate or because it is not their inclination. FMM has revised its website, refreshed its Facebook presence and created a new Instagram account to reach current members and attenders as well as attract potential members and attenders who are used to using newer platforms to find opportunities for spiritual development and nurture. Many thanks to Zhenya Pevzner for revising and maintaining the FMM's website; and Lindsay Fisk for creating a new Instagram account.
- In conjunction with the preceding point it is important to rethink how FMM communicates with others. For younger people, consider that they may communicate differently, with stories, images or video; not necessarily face-to-face. Offer this in ways compatible with Friends' testimonies and beliefs. For example, storytelling can strengthen historical connections, provide insights to one another, and introduce foundations of the Quaker experience of worship, decision making, and testimonies.
- Amy Ward Brimmer (Way Opens Wellness) and Lisa Collins (River Rock Healing) continue to provide alternative avenues to increase awareness of Friends' worship and testimonies through opportunities to participate in wellness, mindfulness, meditation, spirituality and healing sessions/workshops/programs. At the end of 2021 Lisa opened a physical location for River Rock Healing Arts where she envisions offering events, classes, and services of a wide variety as the healing arts are broad and encompassing. Both Lisa and Amy look forward to welcoming members of FMM and the wider community at their events and strengthening the spiritual bond among participants.

FFM lost its Outreach Clerk when Amy Duckett Wagner became Clerk and no one volunteered to fill the role. FFM also lost active members to death and moving and has lost the presence of formerly active members and attenders due to health issues or patterns changing during the pandemic. This results in most work being done by a core group with little depth to tap new committee leadership. The Clerk called a series of meetings which resulted in the group renaming Outreach to the Membership Development Committee. The formed Membership Development Committee created a vision for a Meeting retreat as we emerge from the pandemic: 2022 -- A Year to Grow Our Community. After several months of planning, we realized that we would all benefit from the presence, skill and wisdom of a facilitator and were grateful that Wendy Kane, our Bucks Quarterly Coordinator, accepted the invitation. Twenty-seven Friends participated in the zoom retreat held from 1-3 p.m. In a little more than 2 hours we covered a lot of ground beginning with Friends writing in the chat how they found Fallsington Meeting and Quakerism. One Friend noticed that the sign said Welcome. Several Friends had William Penn Center connections. One Friend was walking with her baby in a stroller and took an interest in the

Meetinghouse. Several Friends were invited by Friends. Paired sharing about what nurtures our Quaker lives and what we are longing for gave Friends a chance to share about their spiritual journeys with just one other Friend. Friends mentioned worship and ministries, eco and social justice activism, fellowship lunch, adult classes, holiday programs, singing, Meeting for Healing and First Day School as nourishing. There were longings for deeper explorations and sharing about our experiences of the divine and spiritual life and pursuit of deeper relationships with one another, community partners and commitments to sustainability. The recent inventories of activities and contributions made in 2021 and the spiritual life of the meeting were the springboard for wondering what we wanted to continue, embark on or deepen in 2022. Then Friends chose a committee to further explore programs, projects and events that would be relevant to the needs of seekers and through which we can invite others into the life of the meeting. These were very exciting conversations with lots of energy and ideas shared! Property imagined historical tours. Worship and Ministry is thinking about Quakerism classes. Care and Concern, a return to Friendly 8's. First Day School wondered about a Sunday morning program for families. Peace and Service is planning for more climate change events and possibly building connections to local schools. Many more ideas were generated, and the complete list of ideas will be shared with Friends. Membership Development will be gathering up helpful resources and sharing regularly about what is available to us through the Quarter, Yearly Meeting and FGC. We will continue to build momentum and help committee initiatives to be successful. We look forward to Growing Our Meeting Community in 2022 and beyond! As a result of the retreat, Melanie Douty Snipes volunteered to be Clerk of Membership Development/Outreach.

The Meeting looks forward to hearing the plans when the MDO committee meets.

Our Worship & Ministry committee identified a few areas to work on.

- What spiritual practices can we explore and cultivate together to nurture our spiritual lives?
- How do we stay in touch with friends who have health issues and friends that have not felt comfortable to come in person since March 2020?
- Generational differences and technology – these have changed immeasurably over time. If we conclude that gathering remotely or through hybrid worship is here to stay, how do we build on it? How do we see this as an opportunity and embrace it?

As we move forward from this challenging year, we FFM hopes to find new ways to stay better connected.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Duckett Wagner, Clerk

Buckingham Monthly Meeting
Annual Report to Bucks Quarterly Meeting
Fifth Month 2021 to Fifth Month 2022

While our expectations of normality and a waning pandemic were not exactly met, 2021 was still a year of spiritual fulfillment as we found new ways to maintain and grow our community. We recorded 66 adult members and 24 minor members, for a total of 90. We recorded the deaths of two members, Pat Grupe and Joann MacLatchie, as well as longtime past member Beverly Morgan.

The safety of our members and attenders continued to be our utmost concern. All-virtual meetings for worship continued on Zoom until the spring, when weather permitted worship outside in the graveyard. Even so, we continued a hybrid format, with every meeting being available on Zoom as well as in person. This allowed members to attend from afar, many of whom we would not have been able to see even during normal times. This format was surprisingly fulfilling both spiritually and in being able to connect with others. It was especially precious to be able to meet regularly with Friends who lived at a distance from their homes, as including ones who later passed away.

The widespread availability of COVID vaccines did not exactly lead to a return to normal life as many thought it would. The issue of whether to be vaccinated divided the nation as well as our Meeting community. The weather was remarkably cooperative for outdoor worship throughout the summer and into the fall, when we felt it was prudent to again meet in the meetinghouse. As we would not normally ask such questions of attenders or members, we did not require proof of vaccination to meet in person. We maintained our masking requirement and physical distancing to protect everyone, including the unvaccinated, and especially our children. There were members who continued to not be engaged with the Meeting as they were before the pandemic, either in person or online, and we were saddened to not share their presence.

The need to change our practices continued to create new opportunities in the midst of hardship. The Meeting applied for and received an outreach grant from Bucks Quarter to provide wireless internet access to the meetinghouse. More of us than ever were also able to participate in Bucks Quarterly Meeting and Philadelphia Yearly Meeting programs and events by meeting virtually rather than in person. Committee work was in some ways strengthened by being able to meet more flexibly and being more inclusive using Zoom, although most were meeting in person by the end of the year. We did not have the energy to regularly continue a mid-week meeting “not just for worship,” but did have some hybrid Quaker Conversation meetings later in the year. We “hosted” the virtual Bucks Quarterly Meeting in February 2022, and our speaker, .O, was very well received.

We have had a significant number of “visitors” to our virtual meetings, and some in person, but have had difficulty maintaining connections with those who visited virtually. For the second year in a row we did not welcome any new members to the Meeting. Another struggle was

with engaging our children. As opposed to worship, children meeting virtually was not as comfortable or productive. BFS buildings were not available to us all year long to meet, and we did not have a critical mass of children whose families were able to attend regularly in person. The burden of teaching also fell on too few shoulders. The First Day School committee has started a rotation of different activities on different Sundays, as recommended by Bucks Quarter and PYM, including a day when children remain in meeting for worship.

The pandemic did not hinder the life of the Meeting outside worship as much as it had in 2020. The Peace Fair was, though smaller than usual, a resounding success, and the Property committee held monthly work days, making significant progress on the graveyard wall cap and other projects. Falling trees and limbs due to severe storms are an expensive liability, but we had significant donations from the community thanks to an article that ran in the Bucks County Herald, as well as from an extended Meeting family. We plan to hold a delayed celebration of the 300th anniversary of the incorporation of our Meeting in June 2022. Our annual Easter egg hunt was a successful outdoor event. For the Christmas holiday season we held a hybrid candlelight worship, but no carol singing, and a very well attended waffle brunch in its old location in the gym, perhaps the last major event held in that space before Buckingham Friends School begins their construction project. Our children also performed an enjoyable music program.

Overall, our sense of Meeting for Worship was that it was surprisingly fulfilling and spiritual given our state of affairs. As we continue to adapt to our changing circumstances, we want to make our Meeting as inclusive as possible, and ensure all members and attenders feel comfortable and encouraged to share their own divine spark freely as they are led.

Lehigh Valley Monthly Meeting Annual Report
April 2021 - April 2022
Bucks Quarter Meeting, May 15, 2022

This annual report has to be written within the context of our times. The pandemic has altered who we are and how we function as a Meeting of fFriends here at LVMM and across Bucks Quarter. Our story parallels other Meetings and the world community. We've been connected in an experience of fear, pain and brokenness, physically disconnected and yet connected in a shared reality. We "stayed away" hoping to protect ourselves from a virus that was actually connecting us. It is both a strange and disturbing way to learn how intimately we really are connected.

Reporting on the life of our Meetings to Buck's Quarter is a way to connect and share information which may be helpful to one another. Also the report sent to Friends Historical Library for archiving may be of interest and useful to future readers. With that in mind and during this time of pandemic, I used a query to guide my collection of material, *Where did you notice the Light within your committee's work?*

As we share this common ground we have learned from each other, vividly portrayed in our Meeting for Worship. Over this past year we worshipped using the Zoom platform. With assistance from meetings familiar with cameras and technology for a hybrid setup and with grants from BQ and PYM we moved in that direction. Our **Reopening Committee** effectively researched, tested and chose technology that allowed our hybrid Meetings for Worship. From July to December of 2021 we were able to meet in person and/or virtually. Spirit was active amongst us showing that we could accept the changes necessary to continue worshipping together. *During my first experience of hybrid worship, I felt the transformative presence and power of Light as 'way opened' for LVMM to become a more diverse, interesting, and outward-reaching community.*

Throughout the year, each committee presents an annual report; they are read at Meeting for Business, published in our monthly Newsletter and archived. In reading the reports from this past year, April 2021-April 2022, one can see that we are financially healthy, that most committees were fully functioning and how evidence of Light was clearly reflected.

The **Worship and Ministry Committee** attended to the quality of our worship. A member took the position of a weekly tech host and opened the Zoom meeting room early for friends to visit. That space and time for fFriends to see and engage with one another became a vital part of our Meeting for Worship. Light is shared and experienced not only in silent and vocal ministry but also in the faces and greetings of one another. Attendance during this time remained constant with between 40 and 50 people including visitors. Wednesday night worship continues and attendance increased during the months of quarantine, again suggesting the need for connection outwardly and inwardly.

The committee offers a monthly Query on Quaker values, our testimonies, and topics relating to spirituality. During the pandemic responses to the queries both in attendance and in deep sharing have been noteworthy. We value and long for community where we can share our love and our vulnerabilities.

During the month of February, Worship and Ministry offered a Quakerism 101 class with George Schafer as the teacher. Thirty people, both new attenders and long-standing members and attenders, participated in the weekly classes. Would we have had 30 participants on a Sunday afternoon in “ordinary time”?

The **Adult Religious Education Committee** continued their monthly offerings. Zoom gave opportunity for programs, some that otherwise would not be possible. For example our attender from Ireland introduced us to Craftivism as Activism and Spiritual Practice.

Because many families with children did not join us for worship on Zoom, the **Religious Education Committee** continued, in various ways, to engage the children virtually. The paid childcare workers sent monthly newsletters which included activities to young friends. While our families with children were missed, we are grateful that we could find ways to stay connected.

The **Hospitality Committee**'s functions were suspended except for two outdoor pot luck picnics. A local food pantry was the recipient of a donation from the committee in lieu of providing food for Meeting events.

The **Building Committee** continued to oversee the care and maintenance of the building. A new free standing Air Filtration Unit was installed in the nursery. The **Grounds Committee** held three meeting wide clean up days and used bequests from members to trim trees and add new plants to the property. These two committees contribute to the spiritual life of our Meeting by overseeing the care of our “house” and attending to our natural world on which it stands. During the pandemic there was less use of our property but not less care.

The **Connections Committee** explored new ways of social engagement from virtual bingo to a virtual Carol Sing. They held a spring fling with outdoor games and pizza. A friend said, *I see the Light glowing in the gladness of those who have gathered during these events.* The committee provides opportunity for us to socialize; they also attend to updating our Meeting Directory.

The **Outreach and Communications Committee** enlarged its membership, updated its job description and revised LVMM's tech guide. Under the technical skill and creative abilities of two meeting members our website was redesigned. It has been a significant tool for informing the public of our open/closed status and providing the Zoom link for virtual Meetings for Worship. The committee attends to our need for a tech assistant during in-person worship; they oversee camera, mic, computer and projector. For now our small and dedicated team feels called to this “service.” Further, in its outreach function, the committee had the message on our Meetinghouse sign, located on our property and along a busy highway, repainted. The wording was changed from “Visitors Welcome” to a more inclusive phrase, “A Welcoming Community.”

LVMM has two formats of internal communication, a monthly **Newsletter** and a weekly **Light Board**. The Newsletter keeps us in touch with the many dimensions of our community's life such as announcements, calls to action, book reports. Also it includes the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting for Worship for Business and annual reports which record the Light-filled

work of the meeting and its committees. The Light Board which began as temporary publication has continued with a new publisher who lives afar but is able to contribute to the life of the Meeting from a distance. Both of these publications keep us connected as fFriends and also keep us informed of pertinent news in the local community and in the Quaker world.

The **Social Concerns Committee** brought many opportunities for action to our attention. Their primary focus has been Mass Incarceration and they monitor our LV Jail Release Assistance Fund. They are a tireless group, informing fFriends of many areas of need alongside the leadings of our community and of individuals. Anti-racism, climate justice, food insecurity, housing, homelessness, refugees are a few areas that receive our Light and action. (A more inclusive report, in LVMM's "State of the Meeting Report" was submitted to PYM in March).

The **Care and Concern Committee** is charged with care for members and also for the overall organizational health of the Meeting; thus it seems to be the "go to" committee. A memorial was held virtually and on Zoom, and a new member was welcomed. The committee has been cognizant of the anxiety and isolation of members and kept close tabs on their flock list. Although the committee is charged with care of members this does not preclude care from others within the community. Light's energy of love has seemed more evident throughout the pandemic and further, fFriends deep generosity of spirit seems rooted in a love and compassion for the suffering.

Where have I noticed the Light over this past year? It is high lighted above but there are a few honorable mentions:

Our Fifth First Day Frugal Feast continued virtually, raising more money than in the past for donations to local food pantries.

A monthly meal prepared for Safe Harbor, a transition shelter, continued. The pandemic prohibited serving the meal but not delivering it.

Our 7th Annual Harambee meaning, "All pull together" raised funds in support of education for Kenyan girls. It was held virtually and it too exceeded past donations.

The 62nd Annual Nazareth to Bethlehem Christmas Peace Pilgrimage was held despite many necessary changes.

A Friend's Leading to organize a writing exchange with incarcerated women at Muncy State Correctional Institution is underway.

While I was writing this report, Light was radiant with attendance when our Meetinghouse reopened at the end of March with members, attenders, new faces, and families with children. Were we seeing a hunger for Light especially at a time of great darkness?

Light is more than we can see and know and fully understand. However, we are called to notice the Light in our midst and to its glimmers of revelation. Writing this report gives opportunity to pause and acknowledge the many expressions of Light here at Lehigh Valley Monthly Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Louise Young, Clerk

Lehigh Valley Monthly Meeting

Report of the Coordinator to Bucks Quarterly Meeting
May 15, 2022
Under the Care of Doylestown Monthly Meeting
Held Virtually via Zoom

It was two years ago this month that Bucks Quarter held its first virtual Quarterly Meeting. Most of us were new to Zoom and eager to connect with Friends after two months of pandemic shut down. At that first meeting, a lot of time was taken to explain how the technology worked, and there were glitches and hiccups along the way. Today, minimal tech review is required, and being virtual is the norm. While we are definitely tired of the pandemic, COVID-19 is not tired of us. New variants continue to emerge making Friends cautious to meet in large groups. Currently, all of our meetings are open for in person worship, some hybrid, some not. Some require masks, some leave it up to the individual. As younger children are able to receive vaccines, families are beginning to return; it is wonderful to hear children's voices during worship again. As we enter our third year of the pandemic, for most meetings, virtual technology is here to stay. We continue to discern how to incorporate it into our worship spaces so that it is inclusive but not intrusive.

Inreach

Care of Meetings

As the omicron surge subsided during the spring, our monthly meetings once again opened for in person worship. Availability of virtual worship at many meetings has given me the flexibility to attend worship even if I am out of town. It also gives me the ability to evaluate the quality of a meeting's hybrid technology, which varies greatly across the quarter. Bristol, Plumstead, Quakertown, Makefield and Solebury do not offer a virtual option, so I attended those meetings in person. I visited Wrightstown, Lehigh Valley and Yardley on Zoom. While Lehigh Valley's hybrid arrangement worked flawlessly, I had trouble hearing ministry from Friends in the meeting room at both Wrightstown and Yardley; finding the right technology is a continuing process. On Easter, I shared a meal for the first time since the beginning of the pandemic with Buckingham Friends.

Miscellaneous Inreach: Clerk's meetings

Children's Religious Education: while I was disappointed that there were only two Friends in attendance, we had a helpful discussion about the loss of families during the pandemic, resuming in person First Day School classes and the challenges posed by it, curriculum, yearly meeting support for monthly meetings, and how to better engage our youth at the Quarter level. No future meetings have been scheduled.

Property Contacts: Representatives were present from six meetings and a wealth of knowledge was shared and connections made. There is now an updated Google Group for property contacts. The group agreed to meet quarterly on Zoom, with an agenda of one or two specific topics to discuss, followed by a question-and-answer period.

Burial Ground Contacts: this was the first meeting of these contacts. There is now a Google Group and a shared folder where everyone can share their burial ground policies. We plan to meet again in three months.

Monthly meeting clerks: we had our regular quarterly meeting in April.

Miscellaneous Inreach: Committee meetings

Budget & Nominating Committee meeting - the committee met on April 30th where we welcomed the committee's new clerk, Leo Fitzpatrick, and alternate clerk, Lisa Parry Becker. The committee is currently charged with identifying an alternate clerk, treasurer, assistant treasurer and representative to the PYM Nominating Council.

Audit Committee: The last audit was conducted for the fiscal years ending 2018 and 2019; there was no audit conducted for 2020 or 2021. I am working to get these audits scheduled.

Event Attendance

Within the Quarter:

- **Called Meeting for Worship to Hold Ukraine in the Light:** when Russian forces invaded Ukraine, I felt moved by the Spirit to quickly organize a virtual meeting for worship. About 50 Friends gathered for 30 minutes to hold all those affected by this unprovoked invasion in the Light.
- **Memorial Service:** for Newtown Meeting member Elizabeth Hurst.
- **The Quaker Experience During the American Revolution:** sponsored by the Quarter, Carol Ann Gray, Plumstead Meeting, gave a presentation on Zoom, focusing on one section of her upcoming book *Finding Our Foundation*. Ninety-eight people registered and about half attended that evening; the program was recorded and became our first offering on the Bucks Quakers YouTube channel.

Through Philadelphia Yearly Meeting:

- **PYM Governance and Stewardship Thread Gathering on Clerking:** The morning session focused on clerking skills, while the afternoon session focused on how to be a better participant at meeting for business.
- **Conversations about Staffing Changes at PYM:** This was an opportunity for Friends from around the yearly meeting to hear how our General Secretary proposes to rethink and fill transitioning staff positions.
- **PYM Continuing Sessions:** I attended the virtual Saturday session, featuring a program presented by Francisco Burgos, Executive Director of Pendle Hill. The afternoon was filled with business and reports. Of note was a presentation by Green Street Monthly Meeting on their reparations program which will offer \$50,000 per year over 10 years to help members of the black community in their neighborhood.
- **PYM Bridge Contact meeting:** for the past few years PYM has been attempting to get their Bridge Contact program off the ground but has run into several obstacles. The small group discussed how we can better support each other throughout the year, rather than just at the few organized meetings.
- **PYM Policy on Advocacy Review and Discussion:** Christie Duncan-Tessmer outlined the newly approved Policy on Advocacy developed by the PYM Admin Council.

Greater Quaker Community:

- **Edward Hicks Day** - I was a member of the planning committee and acted as a docent at the Edward Hicks' painting exhibit during the event. Our quarter outreach cards were available to visitors and about 100 were taken.
- **Friends Village Rock 'n Roll Out:** an event to announce the new Friends Village name (no longer Friends Home and Village), logo and vision.

Outreach

Bucks Quarter Outreach Committee

Grants: have been applied for and approved from 11 of our 14 meetings; Bristol Meeting will not be applying, and Doylestown Meeting is finalizing the details of their application. Fallsington Meeting has not applied.

Outreach Postcard: more will be printed this spring; meetings will be offered personalized cards paid for by the Quarter.

YouTube: Bucks Quakers YouTube channel is live and has content! Our first offering is a recording of Carol Ann Gray's presentation Bucks Quakers During the American Revolution. The lecture was recorded, edited, and posted to YouTube; the Outreach Committee plans for more videos including Gretchen Castle's program from today's Quarterly Meeting. Many thanks to John Marquette, LVMM, who helped with editing, signing up for our YouTube channel and uploading content. John is a PYM Resource Friend whose assistance has been invaluable.

Bucks Quarter Quaker Meeting Driving Tour: I met with Jonathan Snipes, Fallsington Meeting, and Alexa Johnson, Visit Bucks County, to explore developing a driving tour of meetinghouses which will complement the other driving tours (underground railroad, covered bridges) Visit Bucks offers. Alexa offered to develop the driving map using information from our website; I will provide a short history and description of each property that will accompany the driving tour.

Miscellaneous Outreach

PYM Outreach Grant to Quarters: The quarter applied for and received a \$1000 Shoemaker outreach grant from PYM. The funds will be used to offset our monthly Zoom subscription costs.

Chandler Hall: is ready to welcome the Quarter back to conduct worship services; I have reached out to monthly meeting clerks to determine interest. The quarter will be responsible for one Sunday service per month; Buckingham and Solebury meetings have agreed to participate in June and July respectively.

Fall Events: registration is complete for Historic Fallsington, Historic Bristol and Olde Langhorne Harvest Day. The Peace Fair Committee has been meeting to plan this year's September 17th event.

PYM staff meetings - I met with Sheila Sorkin, the new aging coordinator, and Paul Jepsen, the interim director of communications.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Kane
Coordinator, Bucks Quarterly Meeting

Annual Report of the Clerk of Bucks Quarterly Meeting

Bill Daly

Fifth Month 9, 2022

Meetings for Worship

Our challenge over the past year was the pandemic, and worship has changed as in-person meetings increased our risks of infection. By Second Month 2021 all meetings, including quarterly meeting, were virtual via Zoom. Many monthly meetings tested in-person meetings and hybrid zoom-in-person meetings.

Programs at Quarterly Meetings

Zoom did not slow down the morning programs at our quarterly meetings.

At Fifth Month 2021 meeting the power of conversation was presented by Helen Higginbotham, Esq., MBA, attorney, and community activist.

At the Eighth Month 2021 meeting Kate Whitman Kamara asked, “How can we listen to understand instead of just listening to hear? How can we more empathically see a person on the other side as a whole human being with emotions, values and a story?” Ms. Kamara is a member of Wrightstown Friends Meeting and is the director of educational programming at the Peace Center.

At Eleventh Month 2021 meeting Pamela Boyce Simms talked about partnering with the African Diaspora Earthcare Coalition to work toward food sovereignty and access to water as climate change affects distressed communities of color. African Diaspora Earthcare Coalition is an organization that works to raise public awareness within the African diaspora.

At Second Month 2022 Meeting .O spoke of sharing the ministry of love and respect, as it can give us alternatives to violence. .O is a member of Central Philadelphia Monthly Meeting and a seasoned diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) trainer.

Outreach

The quarter has several outreach programs. Two of particular importance:

- The quarter set up an outreach fund, which makes grants up to \$500 per meeting for outreach. During fiscal year ended 6/30/2022 three grants were made.
- Peace Fair was reinstated this year and had attendance of 1,100 to 1,500.

Leadings

- Lehigh and Southampton meetings continue their weekly demonstrations that black lives matter.
- Two years ago, BQM adopted a minute to support a tax on generation of carbon dioxide. Such a tax should reduce emissions. Various members of Congress have brought forth proposals for this tax.
- Southampton and Newtown meeting members went to Harrisburg to lobby for equitable school funding.

Special Programs

At the end of First Month 2021, the quarter sponsored an eldership workshop by George Schaefer of PYM. A follow-up discussion took place at Second Month's quarterly meeting.

Newtown held Deepening Our Quaker Decision Making, a program presented by Arthur Larrabee.

Organization of the Quarter

We combined the quarter handbook, calendar, and directory into one document. As a result, we reconsidered what the officers of the quarter are as well as the term limits of those officers. This led to revision of the handbook and appointment of an assistant treasurer and a search for an alternate clerk.

The budget and nominating committee is currently seeking a new treasurer, assistant treasurer, and alternate clerk.

Finances

The quarter's cash balances have grown in recent years. Accordingly, BQM increased its contribution to PYM by \$20,000, to Chandler Hall by \$5,000, to Friends Village by \$5,000, and to Camp Onas by \$5,000.

Our projected balance sheet at 6/30/2022 follows:

Acct No	Title	Dr.	Cr.
1010	Checking	65,030	0
1910	Friends Fiduciary	53,646	0
3120	Kirkbride Estate Balance	0	17,696
3910	Unrestricted fund balance	0	48,766
4010	Revenue	0	129,360
6010	Expense	77,146	0
Total		195,822	195,822

Attendance

Meeting	05/21	08/21	11/21	02/22
Bristol	0	0	0	0
Buckingham	2	5	2	3
Doylestown	0	1	1	2
Fallsington	2	1	5	6
Lehigh Valley	2	2	1	2
Makefield	2	0	1	1
Middletown	2	5	1	2
Newtown	2	3	8	9
Plumstead	0	0	1	1
Quakertown	3	2	2	4
Solebury	2	2	0	1
Southampton	6	3	2	5
Wrightstown	6	6	4	2
Yardley	2	3	4	3
Total	31	33	32	41

Respectfully submitted

Bill Daly, clerk

COMMITTEE OF OVERSIGHT FOR THE COORDINATOR

ANNUAL REPORT TO BUCKS QUARTERLY MEETING

MAY 15, 2022

The Committee of Oversight for the Coordinator exists to provide guidance, support, review of the activities of the coordinator, a salaried employee of Bucks Quarter, and to complete an annual performance review of the coordinator. The Committee is comprised by a representative from each Monthly Meeting within the Quarter and the Clerk of the Quarter.

The Committee meets monthly, except July and December, to review the report of the coordinator's activities and monitor her schedule of reported activities. Each Committee member is expected to provide a brief update of their Monthly Meeting's activities which supplements the coordinator's report.

The covid virus continued to play havoc with the activities of the coordinator and the functioning of the Oversight Committee. The coordinator, henceforth known as Wendy, coped magnificently with the ensuing disruption, and established a ZOOM network which allowed the committee to continue their work, albeit in a solitary matter, and allowed the Quarter to continue to meet as scheduled. Wendy's efforts held the Quarter together, and helped most monthly meetings to meet in a virtual manner. Her guidance was so welcomed that many committees and meetings are debating continuing their activities, especially in the Winter months, in a totally virtual or hybrid fashion. She adapted so readily to the challenges posed by the pandemic that we did not take a step backwards, but continued our growth and managed to cope reasonably well with what continues to affect all our lives. (Personal note: I never thought I could adapt to virtual meetings for worship, but thanks to Wendy and Zoom I never missed a Sunday, and attended meetings that I had never been to.)

Other achievements of Wendy included the continued improvement and sophistication of our beloved Quakerphernalia. It is the glue that binds the Quarter, and I dare say the only one of its kind.

She also streamlined and updated what used to be known as Bucks Quarter Calendar and Appointments List and renamed it Bucks Quarterly Meeting 2022 Handbook.

Wendy's performance evaluation was accomplished by committee members visiting virtually three meetings—Makefield MM, Lehigh Valley MM and Middletown MM. Friends at these MM's were unanimous in their appreciation, approval and support of Wendy. The overriding feeling was appreciation for her efforts in these stressful and challenging times. Next year Newtown MM, Plumstead MM and Quakertown MM will be visited, hopefully in person, to review Wendy's performance.

The membership of the Oversight Committee changed slightly over the year. We will also adhere more strictly to term limits in the future. The important position of Scribe will be filled on a rotating basis. We changed clerks in time for me to write this report. Thank you to Lisa Collins for her stellar work as clerk for the past few years, and her exquisite timing in being replaced just when this report was due.

In conclusion, I want to congratulate the Committee for their brilliant job in guiding Wendy through perilous times and I look forward to working closely with her in the coming years.

Respectfully submitted,

Gerry Kirwan, QMM

Oversight Committee Clerk