

Bucks Quarterly Meeting for Worship for The Purpose of Business

21st Day, Fifth Month, 2023

Held under the care of Newtown Monthly Meeting in person and via Zoom

Clerk: Bill Daly (Middletown)

Bucks Quarter Coordinator: Wendy Kane (Newtown)

Recording Clerk: Terry M. Christensen (Newtown)

Friends gathered at 1:02 pm and settled into a period of worship.

Welcome – Bill Daly

Review and Approval of Agenda – APPROVED

Roll Call of Meetings: Bristol – 1; Buckingham – 3; Doylestown – 1; Fallsington – 4; Lehigh Valley – 1; Makefield – 1; Middletown – 5; Newtown – 12; Plumstead – 3; Quakertown – 0; Solebury – 1; Southampton – 4; Wrightstown – 1; Yardley – 3.

Announcements – Bill Daly

Middletown Friend reports that they will be hosting a Juneteenth celebration on June 24th.

Bucks Quarter Friends will be hosting a picnic in Tohickon Valley Park - June 17th.

Plumstead Friend reports that Plumstead Meeting will have a speaker after rise of meeting - July 23rd (Adam DePaul). He is the Chief of Education/Tribal Story Leader of Lenape Nation of PA).

Fallsington Friend reports that Fallsington Meeting will host concert (Annie Patterson), Friday, June 9th; cost \$15.00.

Southampton Friend reports that they will host film “Quaker Schools and Indigenous Peoples” (via Zoom) Tuesday, May 23rd.

Southampton Meeting has reserved a table at Southampton Days celebraton in Upper Southampton Township - July 5-6 in the evening; they welcome visitors and are seeking volunteers to staff their table.

Buckingham Friend reports that the Peace Fair is scheduled for September 30th at Buckingham.

Stories of Vitality & Growth –

Yardley Friend reports that they hosted a celebration of opening their labyrinth last Saturday evening, May 13th. They extend invitation to come enjoy the labyrinth and their grounds.

Southampton Friend reports that their meeting has air conditioning, and they are developing plans to expand its kitchen; June 11th Vigil for Social Justice continues.

Fallsington Friend reports that they recently offered “Quakerism in a Nutshell” course; after the course they added two new attenders; they intend to do follow-up to this course.

Solebury Friend – They recently hosted their annual pancake breakfast in support of Mercer Street Friends. This year their proceeds not only helped Mercer Street Friends, but also, they were able to contribute to the Camp Onas capital campaign.

Wrightstown – their spiritual exploration group has restarted (Sunday AM prior to Meeting for Worship). Although they lack a Ministry and Worship Committee, this spiritual exploration group seems to fill part of that need and may help kindle a new Worship & Ministry committee. The meeting is celebrating their 300th anniversary.

Germantown Meeting Minute on Women's Reproductive Health – Bill Daly (minute attached)

Friend Daly proposes that BQM adopt the same methodology any forward our similar Minute to PYM leadership team and to each Quarterly Meeting in PYM. **APPROVED.**

Clerks Annual Report / Spiritual Assessment of the Quarter – Bill Daly (report attached)

Bill Daly notes that an assessment of the spiritual health of the Quarter should not originate with the Clerk of the Quarter but rather should be discerned by an independent committee. He proposes BQM form a group of Friends to review and assess our spiritual state of Bucks Quarterly Meeting. This ad-hoc committee will spend four to five months evaluating the spiritual and further, that this task be performed annually.

This committee includes Kate Daly, Wendy Kane, and Bethann Morgan.

Friend proposes that this initiative become an addendum of the BQM Clerk's Annual Report that it be accepted as such. **APPROVED.**

Presentation of final 2023-2024 Budget – Lisa Parry Becker (report attached)

BQM will hold monthly meeting contributions at current level. Some monthly meetings have offered additional funding beyond the BQM request. BQM will hold PYM contributions to current level. If there is a surplus next year, we can make an adjustment to PYM contributions. Proposed BQM budget includes a 6% cost of living increase for the Coordinator. **APPROVED.**

Treasurer's Quarterly Report – Lisa Parry Becker (report attached)

Profit/Loss: BQM income and expenses are right on track. We are receiving disbursement from Friends Fiduciary as per scheduled. Monthly meeting contributions right on track; we have received 75% of what was requested from monthly meetings. BQM has received 90% of budgeted advertising income from Quakerphenalia. Expenses are at 75% of budget, right on track.

Balance Sheet: There are still funds available from Kirkbride Estate contribution that can be utilized by Monthly Meetings for Outreach.

Nominations to the Budget and Nominating Committee – Leo Fitzpatrick

Friend Fitzpatrick proposes two new members of the Audit Committee; Rich Richardson of Newtown MM will serve a three-year term and Jim Michener of Southampton will serve a two-year term. **APPROVED.**

Proposed Change to BQM Handbook: Limits of Service for Clerk and Recording Clerk – Leo Fitzpatrick

This proposal would change the Clerk's and the Recording Clerk's term of service from **one two-year term** to **up to three two-year terms**. Friend Fitzpatrick notes that this adjustment allows more time for Budget and Nominating to identify suitable candidates for these positions.

Appeal for Nominee to PYM Nominating Council – Wendy Kane

Wendy reviewed the PYM governance structure; notes that despite its relative size and vitality, BQM has no representative on PYM Nominating Council. Friend Christensen offers to *consider* accepting that role.

Annual Report – Bristol Monthly Meeting – Paul Shaffer (report attached)

Bristol has a total of four members and attenders who meet regularly. They have gained one attender. They meet once per month, in person, on the 4th Sunday. They do not have a hybrid format. Bristol Meeting again participated in "Historic Bristol Day." They continue to rent their meeting space to the congregation of Redemption Church. Bristol Meeting continues to collaborate with the Bucks County Interfaith Coalition for Refugee Resettlement (BCICRR). Bristol Meeting serves as the fiscal agent and PO box for BCICRR. Bristol remains under the care of Fallsington meeting. The Bristol Clerk notes that his report was generated using ChatGPT, an artificial intelligence appliance.

Annual Report – Buckingham Monthly Meeting – Bethann Morgan (report attached)

Buckingham meeting is returning to normal (i.e., pre-COVID) participation. They feel as though they are again being [spiritually] fed. Buckingham meeting has welcomed a significant number of new visitors and attenders. Last year, Buckingham celebrated their 300th birthday (2 years late). Last month Buckingham meeting was featured in *River Towns* magazine. In the past year, Buckingham has incorporated LED lighting and replaced the oil-burning furnace in the caretaker's cottage with a heat pump and thereby lessened their carbon footprint. As of July 1st, David Redenbaugh will serve as Clerk of Buckingham meeting.

BREAK

Quarter Coordinator Report – Wendy Kane (report attached).

Wendy expresses gratitude for the Light-holding by BQM members after her mother's passing.

As part of her Inreach activities, Wendy has visited each meeting this quarter; she continues to gather stories of vitality and strength; she gave the example of hearing a hymn) at Solebury Meeting which moved her deeply; the lyrics of this hymn have been posted on the BQM website.

BQM Monthly Meeting Clerks meet virtually every quarter. She also attended a series of presentations ("Lifecycle of Meetings" by Emily Provance). She reported that some meetings are up to date and others are behind in depositing meeting records at Friends Historical Library. She will work with those meetings who are having difficulty getting their records in order and deposited. She has met with Budget and Nominating. She has also met with Outreach, and they are considering revamping the "Quakerism in a Nutshell" program such that it is less labor intensive to produce and more adaptable to various platforms; she encourages attendance at

the BQM picnic. We have purposefully located it at Tohickon Valley Park) because it is close to meetings in the northern tier of the Quarter.

She continues to clerk the PYM Program Committee. She reports that Mercer Street Friend clothing drive has been a great success. To date they have received clothing donations from Plumsted, Middletown, Lehigh Valley, Fallsington, Doylestown, Newtown, and Southampton, and is expecting to pick up donations from Yardley, Quakertown, Buckingham, and Wrightstown. She notes that there is a pressing need for these donations. She is exploring other possibilities for collaboration with Mercer Street Friends (note: Wendy serves on Mercer Street Friends Board). She also notes that she is looking for stories of young people whom our donations have helped.

Wendy summarizes her attendance at various Friends functions/programs and summarizes her work on Outreach.

Annual Report – Committee of Oversight – Elyse Fox (report attached)

Review of Oversight Committee mission; summarizes work of Oversight in general and this past year. Friend Fox expressed the Oversight Committee’s appreciation of the work by the Coordinator.

Discussion – August Quarterly Meeting under the care of Plumstead Meeting – Elyse Fox

Friend Fox poses a rhetorical question; “are we ready for an ‘old-timey’ Quaker meeting” in a meetinghouse that lacks electricity and has latrines instead of bathrooms. There is general assent.

Friend Christensen rises to report that he is *not in unity* with this proposal. Among other concerns, Friend Christensen (who is visually impaired) notes that without electricity for his computer, he will not be able to serve as recording Clerk.

A discussion ensued; Plumstead Friend offered to run an extension cord from the tenant’s cottage to facilitate taking minutes; Friend Christensen was asked if that measure would address his concerns. Friend Christensen expressed a general concern that in contrast to other faith traditions (e.g., Jehovah’s Witnesses Kingdom Halls), the Friends Meetinghouses in Bucks Quarter were not independently accessible to the ‘less abled’ among us.

Further discernment continued; multiple approaches to facilitate remote participation were discussed; Quakertown Friend Lisa Uchrin, Clerk of Quakertown Meeting, pointed out that while Quakertown Meeting (slated to host BQM in November) has electricity and bathrooms, they do not have internet capability. Therefore, advancing the quarterly meeting will not solve the problem of Friends having the capability for remote participation.

Yardley Friend offers use of the Yardley meetinghouse to Plumstead to host quarterly meeting. This offer is not accepted.

A Friend wonders if we are setting a poor precedent that disadvantages meetings that want to cleave to the tradition of simplicity in their meeting arrangements.

BQM APPROVED having our Eighth Month quarterly meeting hosted by Plumstead Meeting.

Friend Christensen *stood aside*.

Annual Report – Lehigh Valley Monthly Meeting – Martha Christine (report attached)

Lehigh Valley Meeting has been focused on maintaining and where possible strengthening the vitality of their meeting. They continue to hold Meeting for Business and Adult Religious Education classes on Zoom only. They have installed an air filtration device in their nursery. The meeting has also undergone discernment of air quality concerns in their meetinghouse. In keeping with this discernment, they have hired an architect to propose building-wide systems that address air quality.

Friend Martha summarizes activities that they have undertaken outdoors including Christmas Carol singing outside the windows of Friends who are in retirement homes and their annual Harambe Meal outdoors; proceeds from this meal pay for the continuing education of four girls in Kenya.

The meeting hosted BQM via Zoom in November. They were one of the six regional centers to host PYM Continuing Sessions in March.

While membership is stable, they are having trouble filling their various committees. They hope to simplify their committee structure.

In 2022 LHV had 128 members including 6 Young Friends under the age of 21 and 6 Associate Members.

Financial support remains strong, though the number of contributors is slightly down, the total contributions are adequate to meet their budget.

Attendance for meeting for worship is evenly divided between in-person and Zoom participants. In the past year, in-person attendance (including First Day School) has slightly increased. They are not mask-optional in their meetinghouse.

Friend Morgan wonders if Lehigh Valley feels that Bucks Quarter is “close enough”; is the Quarter adequately accessible to their membership; is it “a slog” to join us?

Ans: It is a bit of a slog, but Friend Martha enjoyed the drive to Newtown; even though she is missing being in her own meeting.

Annual Report – Fallsington Monthly Meeting – Susan Snipes Wells (report attached)

Weekly attendance at Meeting for Worship is 25 -35 people. Attendance at the 10AM session that precedes Meeting for Worship varies, but averages 10 participants. Content of these sessions varies; there are sessions devoted to the study of PYM's *Faith and Practice*, there are presentations led by traveling Friends, Chanting, and Meeting for Healing. These programs vary each month. Worship and programs are typically hybrid. They are mask-optional in their Meetinghouse. In the past year Fallsington MM has welcomed three new attenders and early this year they recorded one birth.

Fallsington members encouraged to attend Bristol MM (which is under the care of Fallsington)/ Fallsington Meeting collaborates with Bucks County Mutual Aid which supports the unhoused and the economically disadvantaged. Currently Fallsington meeting provides storage space for

donated items. Currently, the meetinghouse is used once per month by Bucks County Mutual Aid to provide a meal and a shower to those they serve.

This year, an outreach grant from BQM will be used to support Fallsington Meeting series of concerts by singer-songwriters who support social justice. Examples include a February Song Circle led by Simon James and the upcoming Annie Blood Patterson concert (June 9th). In November, the meeting looks forward to hosting Chris Mathews. They have also received an outreach grant from PYM to help with this concert series.

In 2022 FMM gathered twice to consider their future as a meeting. In January 2022, FFM held a half-day retreat that focused on Outreach, member development, and committee structure. In December 2022, FMM met to discuss the upcoming [physical] re-gathering, including gatherings outside the shared worship time together. Discussions at this retreat resulted in the 2023 presentation of Quakerism in a Nutshell this past February.

Fallsington Meeting has begun discernment of a Leading by member Amy Duckett Wagner to present a Fallsington approved Minute to BQM and subsequently PYM. This Minute titled “Safety Affirmation by Friends Everywhere” would provide a broad foundation for action through worship by Friends and fellow seekers, in recognition that various groups and geographies will respond to this calling in various ways. Friends, in cooperation with Interfaith Coalitions are millions strong. The Minute seeks to unite all who abhor violence and are willing to work for Peace and Safety. Discernment on this minute is being taken up at specified meetings for worship sharing.

Discussion – Recorder of Membership Position for the Quarter – Bill Daly

Given the hour, the Clerk chooses to defer this Item to a subsequent meeting.

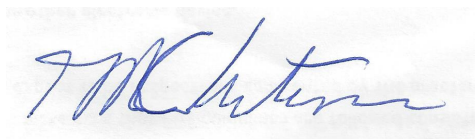
Review and Approval of Minutes from February Quarterly Meeting – Terry Christensen. APPROVED.

Annual Report – Chandler Hall

The Clerk notes that since BQM released Chandler Hall from our care several years ago, we acknowledge and anticipate that an annual report from Chandler Hall is no longer required in the conduct of our business. **APPROVED.**

Closing Worship – After a period of silent worship, the Clerk adjourned the meeting at 3:06 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,



Terry M. Christensen, Recording Clerk

For Consideration at
Bucks Quarterly Meeting
May 21, 2023

The following email was received by Bill Daly, clerk, Bucks Quarterly meeting.

Dear Friends,

On April 23, 2023, Philadelphia Quarterly Meeting received the attached minutes on the issue of women's reproductive health from Germantown Monthly Meeting. It was approved by them on April 9. We understand that some other meetings in our Quarter have also crafted similar minutes.

Those present at Quarterly Meeting on April 23 were in unity to share this minute with the monthly meetings in Philadelphia Quarter and the Quarterly Meetings in Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. The minute was written in response to an invitation by FCNL (Friends Committee on National Legislation) to deeply consider how we are led as Friends on this sensitive issue. Although FCNL had hoped to receive such statements by May 1, we urge all meetings to respond to FCNL on this issue as honestly as they are led and submit their statements to FCNL when appropriate.

Sincerely,

Steve Elkinton
Clerk, Philadelphia Quarterly Meeting

Germantown Monthly Meeting believes that reproductive health care is a human right and should be comprehensive and affordable. We believe women have a right to privacy regarding reproductive matters. We agree that education and access to birth control are essential for responsible family planning. The government should support families with measures like child tax credits, paid maternity/paternity leave, affordable child care and a strong public school system. We feel these measures would reduce the number of unwanted pregnancies. In order to ensure that women can receive the best possible care during pregnancy and to protect health care workers, we believe it is necessary for abortion to remain legal and are in favor of FCNL taking a position to support legal abortion.

Approved at Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business April 9, 2023,
Germantown MM, Philadelphia, PA

Annual Report of the Clerk of Bucks Quarterly Meeting

Bill Daly

Meetings for Worship

During the last year we held Fifth, Eighth and Eleventh Month Meetings for both worship and business in cyberspace via zoom. Second Month 2023 has a hybrid meeting at Middletown.

We must consider the meeting place of Eighth Month meeting under the care of Plumstead and Eleventh Month meeting under the care of Quakertown. Both meetings do not have access to cyberspace.

Programs at Quarterly Meetings

Fifth Month 2022

Peace Assertions in a Global Quaker Context: Presented by Gretchen Castle, Dean of Earlham School of Religion and former General Secretary of Friends World Committee World Office in London, she spoke about the Quaker context of peace building, beginning with some historical background and moving to a more contemporary look at where Quakers are doing peace work.

Eighth Month 2022

The African American Museum of Bucks County at Boone Farm*: The Museum's Director, Linda Salley, shared the story of how the bricks-and-mortar museum is coming to fruition through vision, research, fundraising, work in the community and the support of county commissioners. The African American Museum of Bucks County pays tribute to the lives, culture, accomplishments, and contributions of African Americans in Bucks County from their origins in Africa through the 21st century, featuring a timeline of events in African American history in Pennsylvania, including a memorial list of African Americans who were registered as slaves in Bucks County in the 18th and 19th centuries.

Eleventh Month 2022

Creating Spiritual Autobiographies in Partnership with Incarcerated Women*: A Lehigh Valley Monthly Meeting Project. In the spring and early summer of this year, several Lehigh Valley members and attenders participated in the writing of spiritual autobiographies, drawing on exercises in Dan Wakefield's book *The Story of Your Life: Writing a Spiritual Autobiography*. In addition, they shared poems, drawings, and portions of their autobiographies with incarcerated women at Pennsylvania's Muncy State Correctional Institution, communicating via U.S. Mail and/or the prison messaging system, and invited their partners to produce and share similar work. At this session, facilitated by Lehigh Valley member Joyce Hinnefeld, participants will discuss this project, including the

discoveries gleaned through writing their own spiritual autobiographies and through sharing stories and experiences with their incarcerated partners.

Second Month 2023

We welcomed students and faculty of the Bucks Learning Cooperative, a tenant of Middletown Meeting. The Bucks Learning Cooperative is a self-directed education center for area teenagers who want to leave traditional school and take charge of their education. They offer classes, workshops, field trips, mentoring, independent study and more! BLC provides a warm, welcoming, inclusive space and combines the most valuable parts of school with personalized attention. Most of all, BLC gives kids and their families the freedom to choose how they learn. The panel will include teens and parents currently enrolled at BLC who will share their experiences in self-directed learning and take questions from the audience. They are always looking for ways to engage with the larger community, as well as recruiting volunteers who are interested in sharing their wisdom and knowledge with young people.

Outreach

Grants

We extended our outreach grant program for one more year. We grant up to \$500 to each monthly meeting. For the year ended Sixth Month 2023 we have made six grants.

Peace Fair

Our annual peace fair was held at Buckingham Meeting and School Ninth Month 17.

Meeting House Driving Tour

Working with <https://www.visitbuckscounty.com/> we developed a driving tour of Bucks County Meeting Houses. The tour starts at Plumstead and winds its leisurely way to Bristol. Stopping at many of the Quarter's Monthly Meetings.

Quakerphernalia Face Lift

Starting First Month 2023 we published *Quakerphernalia* with a new look and standard (in the US at least) paper.

Leadings

Southampton Friends Meeting continues a vigil each First Day from four to five pm for Social Justice.

Newtown Meeting held a Black Lives Matter vigil in Newtown on a bi-weekly basis. The vigil ended in Eleventh Month 2022.

The quarter adopted in minute to support all women's access to safe, legal, reproductive care. It is a fundamental human right and a necessity to protect women from the dangers of forced pregnancies or illegal abortions.

Special Programs

The Quarter sponsored a virtual lecture by Plumstead Friend Carol Ann Grey entitled *The Quaker Experience During the American Revolution* on Fourth Month 21 2022.

The Quarter sponsored a virtual lecture by Middletown Friend Patricia Mervine entitled *Boone Farm: Its People and Place in Middletown History* on Second Month 16 2023.

Fallsington Meeting revived its annual hosting of Quakerism in Nutshell in Second Month 2023. The program was free and open to all.

Organization of the Quarter

Faith and Practice recommends four officers: Clerk, Recording Clerk, Treasurer, and Recorder (of members). Bucks Quarter has not named a Recorder and should consider if that is rightly ordered.

Finances

The 2022-2023 budget was adopted with a deficit. The deficit reflects our decision to spend down the Kirkbride Estate bequest through outreach grants to our member meetings.

The quarter's cash balances grew in recent years. In 2022 (2021?) the quarter returned excess funds to our member meetings. The budget for 2023-2024 will show deficit as we spend down some of the excess funds.

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

BUCKS QUARTERLY MEETING OF FRIENDS 2023 - 2024 Preliminary Budget

| | <u>22-23 Budget</u> | <u>23 - 24 Budget</u> |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Income | | |
| Interest and dividends FFC | \$ 2,020.00 | \$ 2,020.00 |
| Total Interest and dividends | \$ 2,020.00 | \$ 2,020.00 |
| Monthly Meeting contributions | | |
| Additional | | \$ 17,904.00 |
| Pledged | \$ 278,195.00 | \$ 278,195.00 |
| Total Monthly Meeting contributions | \$ 278,195.00 | \$ 296,099.00 |
| Other contributions | | |
| Quakerphernalia advertising | \$ 1,200.00 | \$ 1,200.00 |
| Total Income | \$ 281,415.00 | \$ 299,319.00 |
| Gross Profit | \$ 281,415.00 | \$ 299,319.00 |
| Expenses | | |
| Contributions | | |
| Philadelphia Yearly Meeting | \$ 208,724.00 | \$ 208,724.00 |
| Total Contributions | \$ 208,724.00 | \$ 208,724.00 |
| Gifts/Donations | | |
| Camp Onas | \$ 300.00 | \$ 300.00 |
| Chandler Hall | \$ 300.00 | \$ 300.00 |
| Friends Home and Village | \$ 300.00 | \$ 300.00 |
| Total Gifts/Donations | \$ 900.00 | \$ 900.00 |
| Programs, Activities, Outreach | | |
| Operating | \$ 6,000.00 | \$ 6,500.00 |
| Other | | |
| Advertising | \$ 2,200.00 | \$ 2,200.00 |
| Liability Insurance | \$ 1,100.00 | \$ 1,150.00 |
| Outreach Committee Activities | \$ 2,000.00 | \$ 2,000.00 |
| Programs for Peace | \$ 1,700.00 | \$ 1,700.00 |
| Quakerism Classes | \$ 500.00 | \$ 500.00 |
| Young Friends and Other (net) | \$ 350.00 | \$ 350.00 |
| Total Other | \$ 7,850.00 | \$ 7,900.00 |
| Personnel | \$ 71,033.00 | \$ 75,295.00 |
| Total Programs, Activities, Outreach | \$ 84,883.00 | \$ 89,695.00 |
| Total Expenses | \$ 294,507.00 | \$ 299,319.00 |
| Net Operating Income | \$ (13,092.00) | \$ - |
| Other Income | | |
| Unrealized gain/loss (FFC) | | |
| Total Other Income | | |
| Other Expenses | | |
| Kirkbride expenses | \$ 7,000.00 | \$ 7,000.00 |
| Total Other Expenses | \$ 7,000.00 | \$ 7,000.00 |
| Net Other Income | \$ (7,000.00) | \$ (7,000.00) |
| Net Income | \$ (20,092.00) | \$ (7,000.00) |

BUCKS QUARTERLY MEETING OF FRIENDS

2022 Profit and Loss: 3rd Quarter

| | JUL 2022 - MAR 2023 | Budget | \$ Over Budget | % of Budget |
|---|----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------------|
| Income | | | | |
| Interest and dividends FFC | \$ 1,012.28 | \$ 2,020.00 | \$ (1,007.72) | 50% |
| Total Interest and dividends | \$ 1,012.28 | \$ 2,020.00 | \$ (1,007.72) | 50% |
| Monthly Meeting contributions | | | | |
| Additional | \$ 300.00 | | | |
| Pledged | \$ 209,752.50 | \$ 278,195.00 | \$ (68,442.50) | 75% |
| Total Monthly Meeting contributions | \$ 210,052.50 | \$ 278,195.00 | \$ (68,142.50) | 76% |
| Other contributions | \$ 100.00 | | | |
| Quakerphernalia advertising | \$ 1,062.50 | \$ 1,200.00 | \$ (137.50) | 89% |
| Total Income | \$ 212,227.28 | \$ 281,415.00 | \$ (69,287.72) | 75% |
| Gross Profit | \$ 212,227.28 | \$ 281,415.00 | \$ (69,287.72) | 75% |
| Expenses | | | | |
| Contributions | | | | |
| Philadelphia Yearly Meeting | \$ 156,543.00 | \$ 208,724.00 | \$ (52,181.00) | 75% |
| Total Contributions | \$ 156,543.00 | \$ 208,724.00 | \$ (52,181.00) | 75% |
| Gifts/Donations | | | | |
| Camp Onas | \$ - | \$ 300.00 | \$ (300.00) | 0% |
| Chandler Hall | \$ - | \$ 300.00 | \$ (300.00) | 0% |
| Friends Home and Village | \$ - | \$ 300.00 | \$ (300.00) | 0% |
| Total Gifts/Donations | \$ - | \$ 900.00 | \$ (900.00) | 0% |
| Programs, Activities, Outreach | | | | |
| Operating | \$ 5,204.04 | \$ 6,000.00 | \$ (795.96) | 87% |
| Other | | | | |
| Advertising | | \$ 2,200.00 | \$ (2,200.00) | 0% |
| Liability Insurance | \$ 1,143.00 | \$ 1,100.00 | \$ 43.00 | 104% |
| Outreach Committee Activities | \$ 200.00 | \$ 2,000.00 | \$ (1,800.00) | 10% |
| Programs for Peace | \$ 200.00 | \$ 1,700.00 | \$ (1,500.00) | 12% |
| Quakerism Classes | | \$ 500.00 | \$ (500.00) | 0% |
| Young Friends and Other (net) | | \$ 350.00 | \$ (350.00) | 0% |
| Total Other | \$ 1,543.00 | \$ 7,850.00 | \$ (6,307.00) | 20% |
| Personnel | \$ 48,919.31 | \$ 71,033.00 | \$ (22,113.69) | 69% |
| Total Programs, Activities, Outreach | \$ 55,666.35 | \$ 84,883.00 | \$ (29,216.65) | 66% |
| Total Expenses | \$ 212,209.35 | \$ 294,507.00 | \$ (82,297.65) | 72% |
| Net Operating Income | \$ 17.93 | \$ (13,092.00) | \$ 13,109.93 | 0% |
| Other Income | | | | |
| Unrealized gain/loss (FFC) | \$ (328.99) | | | |
| Total Other Income | \$ (328.99) | | | |
| Other Expenses | | | | |
| Kirkbride expenses | \$ 4,500.00 | \$ 7,000.00 | \$ (2,500.00) | 64% |
| Total Other Expenses | \$ 4,500.00 | \$ 7,000.00 | \$ (2,500.00) | 64% |
| Net Other Income | \$ (4,828.99) | \$ (7,000.00) | \$ 2,171.01 | 69% |
| Net Income | \$ (4,811.06) | \$ (20,092.00) | \$ 15,280.94 | 24% |

BUCKS QUARTERLY MEETING OF FRIENDS

Balance Sheet

As of March 31, 2023

| | TOTAL |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|
| ASSETS | |
| Current Assets | |
| Bank Accounts | |
| First National Checking | 52,679.62 |
| Petty cash | 0.00 |
| Total Bank Accounts | \$52,679.62 |
| Total Current Assets | \$52,679.62 |
| Other Assets | |
| Friends Fiduciary Corporation | 47,070.99 |
| Total Other Assets | \$47,070.99 |
| TOTAL ASSETS | \$99,750.61 |
| LIABILITIES AND EQUITY | |
| Liabilities | |
| Total Liabilities | |
| Equity | |
| Kirkbride Estate | 11,696.43 |
| Opening Balance Equity | 0.00 |
| Unrestricted Net Assets | 92,865.24 |
| Net Income | -4,811.06 |
| Total Equity | \$99,750.61 |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY | \$99,750.61 |

Bristol Friends Meeting Annual Report
Presented at Quarterly Meeting - May 21, 2023

It is my pleasure to provide the annual report for Bristol Friends Meeting covering the period from June 2022 to May 2023. We are grateful for the opportunity to reflect on the blessings and challenges of the past year and to share with our wider Quaker community.

Membership Information:

Our Meeting has a total of 4 members and attenders in regular attendance. We have gained about one member this year, and we continue to welcome seekers who are drawn to our Meeting. We gather once a month at 11 AM on the fourth Sunday in person—no hybrid.

Spiritual Life:

The Spirit moves in our community in many ways. Our worship continues to be a centering experience for all who attend. We are grateful for the opportunities to share messages that have been given to us and to listen deeply to one another. In addition to our worship, we also support Quaker charities and local non-profit organizations such as Bristol Riverside Theatre.

Report on Use of BQ Outreach Grant Funds:

We did not apply for any BQ Outreach grants this year.

Activities:

Bristol Friends Meeting remains active in social witness, advocacy, and outreach. Paul continues to serve on the BQ Outreach committee, and we are proud to have had a successful Historic Bristol Day. This event was very well-attended, and we are grateful for the opportunity to engage with our wider community with the help of archaeologists from Delaware Valley University. We also continue to enjoy warm relations with our renter congregation, the Redemption Church. Bristol Friends Meeting's relationship with the Bucks County Interfaith Coalition for Refugee Resettlement (BCICRR) continues, as well. The Meeting serves as the fiscal agent and PO box for BCICRR.

Meeting-Specific Concerns:

We have no major concerns about our Meeting's physical property or other meeting-specific issues.

Lastly, it is important to note that Bristol Friends Meeting continues under the care of Fallsington Friends Meeting as a preparative Meeting. We appreciate their guidance and support as we continue to grow and deepen our spiritual practice.

In closing, we would like to express our gratitude to the Bucks Quarter community for your dedication and commitment to our spiritual journey together. We also extend our gratitude to Wendy, the Coordinator, and to the wider Quaker community for your ongoing support and encouragement.

With warm regards,

Paul Shaffer
Clerk of Bristol Friends Meeting

*Please note: the preceding report was generated with the help of ChatGPT, an artificial intelligence.
I welcome comments regarding my choice to produce the report this way.*

Buckingham Monthly Meeting
2022 Annual Report
Fifth Month 2022 to Fifth Month 2023

The past year was spiritually rewarding but also continued to be challenging as we approached what felt more like a normal world. As concerns about COVID lessened, regular weekly meetings for worship resumed in the meetinghouse, with masking optional for those who were vaccinated. 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. Although online participation decreased as attendance in person picked up, this format was surprisingly fulfilling both spiritually and in being able to connect with others. We met fewer times outside in the graveyard as most seemed pleased to be able to use our meetinghouse to its fullest once again. Overall, attendance at meeting for worship declined somewhat, as some Friends we had seen before the pandemic did not return, even as others resumed attending. However, we also had a significant number of new visitors and regular attenders to our in-person meetings, and welcomed two new members. We recorded 66 adult members and 24 minor members, for a total of 90. We also mourned the passing of two weighty Friends.

Meeting life outside of worship rebounded significantly during the year. We were able to celebrate the 300th anniversary of our incorporation with a picnic and community tour. Our annual Easter egg hunt was a successful outdoor event. At the end of the summer Friends were able to share a pot luck and our summer experiences. The Bucks Quarter Peace Fair held at Buckingham was highly successful and great fun, after a great deal of hard work. Our annual meeting for worship with families, staff, and alumni of Buckingham Friends School was again able to be held in person, bringing our community even closer together as the School embarks on a major construction project and capital campaign. The local magazine *River Towns* contacted us about a story to highlight diverse houses of worship in our area, and our worship space and members were featured in a beautiful photo spread. In December we were also able to hold our holiday events in person, beginning with a candlelight service and ending with a warmly received waffle brunch. In fact, over the course of the year we were so busy with committee work and other events that it was difficult to find time for adult enrichment programs, which we call “Quaker conversations,” an oversight we hope to rectify.

One struggle was with engaging our children. As opposed to worship, children meeting virtually was not as comfortable or productive. We did not always 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.

As usual when caring for a National Historic Landmark, our Property committee had a busy year. Near-monthly “Helping Hands” days were held for members to work on various projects, including replacing all of the lamps in our custom lighting system with energy efficient LED bulbs. The heating system of the meetinghouse gave us significant trouble with a leaking underground pipe, and we made steps toward lessening our carbon footprint by replacing the

oil fired heating system in our caretaker's cottage with an electric heat pump. Significant painting work needs to be done on the meetinghouse, and we drew on the experience of other meetings in identifying best practices and finding qualified contractors. A good deal of work was also done on our cottage on the Plumstead property to prepare for a new tenant.

We also need to express our deepest gratitude to Bethann Morgan for her (seemingly lifetime) service as our clerk. With our recent rise in new attenders and new activities, we look forward to another year of fulfilling worship and fellowship.

Report of the Coordinator to Bucks Quarterly Meeting
May 21, 2023
Under the Care of Newtown Monthly Meeting
Held at Newtown Monthly Meeting and via Zoom

On May 5, the World Health Organization declared the end of the Covid-19 global health emergency. When the emergency was declared on March 11, 2020, we were so sure that it would be over in a few weeks, the end of summer at the latest. Three years and two months later we know the virus is still with us, but thanks to vaccinations it is no longer life-threatening for most people who contract it. We kept wondering “when will life get back to normal?” The answer is it won’t. Too many things have changed for life to ever go back to the way it was pre-pandemic. Technology—microphones, cameras, projectors, screens, computers—are now commonplace in our 200-year-old meetinghouses. Friends have learned terms like “screen share,” “breakout rooms,” and “virtual backgrounds.” And how many times have you heard, “we can’t hear you; you’re muted.” But it turns out you can teach old dogs new tricks. Technology has been a blessing and a challenge for many meetings in our yearly meeting community. Let’s continue to address the challenges and embrace the blessings.

Inreach

Care of Meetings

I continue to visit monthly meetings on a rotating basis, with all in-person visits this quarter. I had the pleasure of sharing worship and fellowship with Plumstead, Wrightstown, Southampton, Quakertown, Lehigh Valley, Yardley, Newtown, Buckingham, and Bristol meetings.

Committee Meetings

Clerk’s Meeting: At the April Clerk’s meeting we welcomed the rising clerk of Buckingham, David Redenbaugh. We also welcomed Nancy Culleton and Irv Thompson, who are part of the newly formed clerk’s committee at Wrightstown Meeting. Subjects discussed were how to combine monthly meeting annual reports to the Quarter with the PYM Spiritual State of the Meeting reports, archiving records at Friends Historical Library, the Life Cycle of Meetings workshops being offered by Emily Provance, and a check in with Friends about the state of their meetings. Our next clerk’s meeting is scheduled for July.

Budget & Nominating Committee: At the May meeting, the committee discussed the proposed 2023-24 budget, approved the names of two Friends to bring to Quarterly Meeting to nominate to the Audit Committee, and the importance of nominating a Bucks Quarter representative to PYM’s Nominating Council.

Outreach Committee: At the March meeting we discussed outreach efforts at the monthly meetings, a change to how the Quarter presents Quakerism in a Nutshell workshops, the February Boone Farm presentation, meeting signage to accompany the Visit Bucks Quaker Meeting House Tour, scheduling the Quaker Table at fall events, and organizing a Bucks Quarter picnic for June.

Coordinator-Clerk Meetings

One of the coordinator's goals identified at the annual review was for her to meet with each monthly meeting clerk to get a sense of the state of their meeting and explore how the Quarter can offer support. This quarter I met informally with Jerry Taylor, clerk of Makefield Meeting.

Yearly Meeting & Other Quaker Organizations

PYM Program Committee: I continue to serve on this committee as clerk. Currently we are working on updating the name and description of the committee.

Mercer Street Friends: the Clothing Drive that was approved at the February Quarterly Meeting is well underway. Most of the meetings are participating, and the first clothing deliveries have been made. We will continue to accept donations through June when we will re-evaluate to see if the donation program should be continued or not. Bernadette Trapp, director of the MSF community school program has been most grateful for our efforts.

Event Attendance

Within the Quarter:

- Boone Farm: Its People and Place in Middletown History (sponsored by the Quarter)
- Quakerism in a Nutshell - Fallsington Meeting

Through Philadelphia Yearly Meeting:

- Mindful Mondays
- PYM Ministry & Care Thread Gathering
- PYM Continuing Sessions

Greater Quaker Community:

- FCNL Lobby Visit with Mike Fitzpatrick's office
- FCNL Supporting Friends' Discernment on Reproductive Health
- Emily Provance Consultations:
 - The Life Cycle of Meetings
 - The Role of Regions
 - The Role of Record Keepers
 - Restructuring Local Meetings
 - Simplifying Committee Structures
 - Combining/Merging Meetings
 - Sharing, Repurposing & Selling Buildings
 - Laying Down a Meeting
- Lasagna Dinner Fundraiser at Newtown Meeting

Outreach

Bucks Quarter Outreach

Grants: are still available to monthly meetings through June 2023.

Website: continues to be updated as needed.

Facebook: postings continue on a regular basis.

Times Publishing: stories were published highlighting Fallsington Meeting's Quakerism in a Nutshell workshop, the Visit Bucks Quaker Meetinghouse Tour (made the cover of the Langhorne Ledger), and Yardley Meeting's Labyrinth Dedication and Movie Night. Our regular monthly ads were also placed.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Kane

Coordinator, Bucks Quarterly Meeting

COMMITTEE OF OVERSIGHT FOR THE BUCKS QUARTER COORDINATOR ANNUAL REPORT TO BUCKS QUARTERLY MEETING

MAY 21, 2023

NEWTOWN MONTHLY MEETING (HYBRID)

The Committee of Oversight for the Coordinator, Wendy Kane, exists to provide guidance, support, and review of the activities of the coordinator, a salaried employee of Bucks Quarter Meeting of Friends, and to complete an annual performance review of Wendy. The Oversight Committee is also charged with advising on and conducting urgent business of BQ between quarterly meetings for business. The committee is comprised of a representative of each Monthly Meeting in the Quarter, and the Clerk of the Quarter and Treasurer are ex-officio members.

The committee meets monthly, except July and December, to review the report of Wendy's activities, vis-à-vis BQ, and monitor her schedule of reported activities. In addition, each committee member is expected to provide a brief update of their individual monthly meeting's activities which supplement Wendy's report.

This past year was devoid of spectacular developments in BQ, as the Covid Virus continued to play a role with the activities of Wendy and the functioning of the Oversight Committee. Wendy continued to cope with the disruption in the Quarter's meeting schedules, and continued to refine the ZOOM network which allowed the committee to continue their work and the Quarterly Meetings to meet as scheduled. Many meetings returned to in-person sessions, and some adopted a hybrid approach. The February 2023 Quarterly Meeting was a hybrid event at Middletown MM, and except for some unexpected technical difficulties was successful. The Oversight Committee will meet in person at a pot-luck affair in June 2023 at Wrightstown MM which is eagerly anticipated by the members and Wendy.

As stated most MMs returned to in-person meetings, and Wendy continued the practice of meeting regularly with the Clerks of the meetings, and she began the practice of meeting with individual clerks which is especially important to new clerks.

All individual MMs are represented on the Oversight Committee, and the practice of adherence to term-limits for Clerk of Oversight was established. Clerks will serve for two-year periods. The important position of Scribe of the Committee meeting is filled on a strict rotating basis with a new Scribe honored each month.

In summary, "we ain't back to normal yet" but with Wendy's outstanding coordinating efforts, and the sheer brilliance of the Coordinating Committee in supporting her and guiding her through difficult times we look forward to a successful coming year.

Respectfully submitted.

Gerry Kirwan, QMM, Oversight Committee Clerk

Lehigh Valley Monthly Meeting Annual Report
April 2022 - April 2023
Bucks Quarter Meeting, May 2023

Maintaining and strengthening our community has been a focus over the past year. We returned to hybrid Meeting for Worship in March of 2022, after a few months of Zoom only. We required masks and have just begun, a year later, considering making masks optional. We continue to hold both our Meeting for Business and our Adult Religious Education programs on Zoom only, as we find it's easier to manage discussions and it allows our Tech Team to participate without the added responsibility of managing the tech equipment.

In our on-going concern for the health and safety of our members we installed an air filtrator in the nursery. We began discussion of "air quality" in May and formed an ad hoc committee in July. After months of extensive research and lengthy discussions regarding the need for a feasibility study, the surprisingly high costs of improvements, and the various possible financing scenarios, we held a called Meeting for Business in January, believing way would open. We did find our way forward and approved a Minute in February to hire Connie Lezenby Architect and her recommended engineers to provide us with possible solutions to our air quality needs.

Meanwhile many activities were held outdoors—we were lucky the weather cooperated. The Connections Committee facilitated gatherings of outdoor poetry readings and a "Share Fair." They also organized Christmas carol singing outside the apartments of beloved Friends residing in retirement homes. The Worship & Ministry Committee led an outdoor "Attendees Breakfast." The Religious Education Committee invited families to a Canal Boat Ride accompanied by a lecture about Quaker Josiah White's involvement with the development of the Delaware-Lehigh Canal. The Social Concerns Committee held our annual Harambe Meal outdoors, raising money to pay for the continuing education of four girls in Kenya.

Other ways we've stayed connected: Our Library committee began "mobile library delivery" at the start of the pandemic and they've continued this service. Our Outreach and Communication Committee oversees our website and social media pages, as well as our monthly newsletter and weekly Light Board. These publications, distributed via email, are engaging and informative.

Connections to the wider community: We hosted Bucks Quarter Meeting in November with a presentation by our members who were engaged in partnering with incarcerated women to write spiritual autobiographies. We opened our Meeting House to be one of six regional gatherings for the PYM Continuing Sessions in March. We're holding two special sessions in April to provide feedback to FCNL on setting their Priorities regarding Reproductive Health. Our members are involved with area interfaith groups: Bethlehem Interfaith Group sponsored a "Faith Crawl" in June and our Meeting House was a stop on the tour. Somer members participated in the Lehigh Valley Conference of Churches Homelessness Awareness week by sleeping outdoors on our grounds in November. We joined with the GreenFaithCircles of the Lehigh Valley to collect and recycle plastic film.

Our Social Concerns Committee continues to keep us informed about key issues, encouraging us to contact our legislators once a month. They facilitate a monthly meal preparation & serving at Safe Harbor. The children participating in First Day School raise funds and collect donations for Safe Harbor, as well.

With 18 committees (including 2 ad hoc committees) and 27 “named positions” it is challenging for our Nominating Committee to fill all our committees. With this in mind, our Care and Concern committee facilitated a threshing session on what it means to be a member; one of the queries for this session was “Is it necessary to be a Member to serve on Care & Concern and Worship & Ministry committees?”

Our membership seems stable. We lost one member to resignation and one to death; we gained one new member. Our membership at the end of 2022 was 128 (including 6 children under the age of 21 and 6 associate members). Our giving is also fairly stable; the number of people contributing is slightly down, but the total contributions is adequate to meet our budget. Our Worship remains vibrant, with about equal numbers attending and providing vocal ministry, in-person and on Zoom. In recent months in-person attendance has been slowly growing. First Day School has also seen some increase in participation in the past year with reopening in-person in April of 2022.

We’re thankful for the spiritual strength, shared wisdom, and commitment to social action evidenced in our Monthly Meeting. We believe our community will grow stronger as we grapple with some very big decisions regarding our improvements to air quality systems. These improvements will facilitate the transition to completely re-opening our building, and provide opportunities to engage more fully with each other and in the wider community.

Respectfully submitted,
Martha Christine, clerk

FALLSINGTON FRIENDS MONTHLY MEETING
2022 ANNUAL REPORT
Susan Snipes Wells, Clerk
To Bucks Quarterly Meeting
Hosted by Newtown Monthly Meeting
May 21, 2023

We gather for unprogrammed worship on First Day. This is the heart of our Meeting. There is often a class or program preceding worship. First Day school for younger Friends is provided. We share a simple meal together after worship. First Day is also a time for committee meetings and planning. Worship and programs are typically hybrid so that Friends traveling or confined can be with us.

2. We observe the historic holidays, Christmas and Easter, in creative ways. We seek to weave Quaker messages into traditional celebrations.

3. Music is an important aspect. (We put the “sing” in “Fallsington”) We sing during or after weekly worship. Music figures in our holidays, social gatherings, and outreach to the community. Our group includes many gifted musicians.

4. We gathered twice, in January and December, with specific concern for nurturing and extending our group. (This is discussed at greater length in Topic 5, Leanings and Yearnings)

5. We gathered socially outside of worship — sing-alongs, game nights, picnics, bonfires.

6. We hold a regular Meeting for Healing, usually the second Sunday of the month, facilitated by Lisa Collins who the Meeting recognized and supports as a Minister for Healing.

7. We sense the distress and hold in the Light those beset by illness, bereavement, financial difficulty, loss of capacity, or despair. Our Care and Concern committee sees to this, but all see this as fundamental, as they have gifts to respond. There has been some decline in our numbers by death, relocation, or disconnection.

7. We celebrate together the progress of life — new opportunities at work, newborn children, graduations, anniversaries, birthdays. We recorded one birth in 2023: Gideon Chace Griffin-Snipes

8. Our Meeting is available for memorial services and burials. In some cases families who have moved away long ago return to honor or bury their departed with us. We have devoted some effort to the physical care of our burial grounds and our records of burials.

9. We note when someone has been absent from Meeting. We reach out, as seems appropriate, to see what we can do.

10. We gather at least once a year to work on our grounds — raking leaves and other minor landscaping.

11. Bristol Monthly Meeting is under our care. Meeting for worship is held there once a month. We are encouraging the Meeting to attend there. Several Friends are devoting attention to matters at Bristol. Its space is being made available for worship to another group.

Topic 2 Relationship to the World

1. We are in a small historic town and must live with our neighbors. This is a community with many views of the spirit and society. We also belong to a wider Quaker community and even a wider secular world.
2. We support an Annual Village tree lighting in early December, this year providing music at the lighting and a community gathering afterward. We host this gathering on a rotating basis, though not this year.
3. Members of the Meeting are active officers, board members, and volunteers at the local community library.
4. Members are active in the governance of Wm Penn Center, a child-care center renting a building on our property.
5. We support Friends Village, the nearby modest-income residential community, through Board membership and volunteer service (such as caroling)
6. We cooperate with Bucks County Mutual Aid, which supports the unhoused and economically disadvantaged. Currently, we provide storage space for donated items. And the Meeting House is used once a month to provide a meal and showers, etc.
7. Our social room is available for rental
8. We held a half-day retreat on Saturday, Jan. 29, with a specific focus on Outreach and Membership Development. (Discussed further in Learnings and Yearnings)
9. We participate in Bucks Quarter activities. We take a turn leading worship at Chandler Hall, though that has not been active in recent years.
10. At the annual town celebration “Fallsington Day” in early October, we open the Meeting House and provide literature and other information. We cooperate with Bucks Quarter, which also participates in this event.
11. In 2021 we used an Outreach grant from BQM to purchase books (“Faith and Practice” and “Letters to a Fellow Seeker”) to give to new attenders and seekers. Our 2023 Outreach grant from BQM will be used for our ongoing concert series of Singer/songwriters for Social Justice. We look forward to the Annie Blood Patterson concert on June 9 and a November concert by Chris Matthews.

Topic 3. Racism and other social concerns

1. Several years ago, we committed to better educating ourselves about racial justice and seeking concrete ways to respond to promote racial justice in our society. This includes identifying written resources and making them available.
2. We virtually hosted Bucks Quarter in August 2022. We invited a talk by the African American Museum of Bucks County. This museum which is under construction will record and teach Black history and experience in this area. We also financially support the museum. We celebrate that it has received significant funding from the county government to restore a historic building as a permanent home.

3. We contribute financially to two groups in neighboring Trenton, NJ: “Men for H.O.P.E (Helping Other People Evolve)” and “The Father Center”. The Father Center supports parenting by fathers who face challenges (including adolescents, people in the juvenile justice system, or people returning from incarceration). Men for HOPE works for economic development, including sponsorship of a paid apprenticeship program and food distribution programs.

4. We struggle to respond to the crisis in Ukraine. We had an adult class in January 2023. How to interpret the peace testimony in the context of aggression has always been difficult.

5. We are blessed with financial investments that offer us opportunities to give to others. Every two years, we review our Meeting's contributions to different helping organizations.

6. Work with FCNL (Friends Committee on National Legislation)

Some members are active in FCNL. We met in October to discern priorities to share with FCNL. Friends from Bucks Quarter supported Fallsington Friends in this discussion. We arrived at the following, which were communicated to FCNL.

- Increased Resources for effective diplomacy
- Reduce economic inequality
- Defend voting rights and correct campaign financing
- Improve the social fabric
- Reduce greenhouse gasses
- Cleanse and protect our planets water
- Access to healthy food

We see many of these concerns reflected in FCNL’s final decision for priorities.

Topic 4. Climate Change

1. Our Meeting has a strong focus on protecting the environment. We supported individual members lobbying for legislative change and working to limit fossil fuel extraction. A member’s artistic gifts create music and video offering ways to combat climate change.

2. How can we as a Meeting reduce our impact on the earth? The second meeting house on our land is a childcare center (William Penn Center). We work with them to increase energy efficiency of their building. We have longer-term plans for renewable electricity and creating a net zero campus.

3. We have not specifically worked within the action areas of the Climate Change Sprint Report, nor have we appointed a Climate Witness liaison. However, we are in alignment with the 5 dimensions of the Sprint report (Activism, Education, Sustainability/Conservation, Financial, and Spiritual).

4. An appreciation of nature is often expressed in our messages and sharings in worship.

Topic 5. Leanings and Yearnings

During 2022, we gathered twice with intent to consider ourselves as a Meeting, both among ourselves and in the world. At a half-day retreat in January 2022, we considered our Outreach/Membership Development opportunities. We shared what drew us to Quakerism initially. We divided into groups to

discuss what each of our functional committees could contribute. These ideas were memorialized. Examples: 1) Greater use of social media 2) Community events to draw in a wider group. In 2023, we plan to use outreach grant funding for singer/songwriter concerts expressing social justice in accordance with Quaker values.

In December 2022, we met to discuss our “regathering” after a long period when our physical gathering was stopped or limited. This reemphasized some of the ideas of the January 2022 retreat. For example, there will be social gatherings (such as game nights, bonfires, and sing-alongs) outside of worship. There was also interest in learning more about Quakerism — which was moved forward in early 2023.

Quakerism in a Nutshell — a Saturday morning class for the meeting and wider community, grew out of our wish to share the Friends experience and used the teaching talents of several of our members. We began planning in the last quarter of 2022 and were able to present this to about 40 folks in February 2023. Several new participants have attended meeting since then.

We have begun discernment of a leading by member Amy Duckett Wagner to present a Fallsington-approved minute to BQM and ultimately to PYM. The minute entitled Safety Affirmation by Friends Everywhere provides a broad foundation for action on the premise that Spirit may lead various groups or geographies to respond in various ways. Friends are millions strong if we consider Interfaith alliances who share a common goal of protecting Safety and Peace. The Clearness Committee to discern this minute has scheduled a few Meetings for Worship to take up this concern through worship sharing.

Topic 6: Yearly Meeting Support

We acknowledge the supporting role of PYM in the operation of Meetings like ours. Organization of semi-annual gatherings, preparation of educational materials, provision of leaders for workshops, and financial grants have all supported us. Even the request for a report such as the present one is a support because it leads us to self-evaluation in a caring way that we probably would not otherwise do, certainly not with such thoroughness.

All Together Worship is a welcome innovation. We enjoy seeing the many other Meetings in PYM.

Our Meeting would like to maintain closer contact with the Yearly Meeting. We intend to re-establish the role of a liaison to PYM, which we understand is encouraged. We invite PYM to come and speak to us, for example at one of our 10 AM pre-meeting programs, on any topic — as examples history of Quakers, mysticism, differing views on theism and Christ-centered theology, and social activism.