

**Bucks Quarterly Meeting for Worship for The Purpose of Business
20th Day, Eleventh Month 2022**

Held under the care of Lehigh Valley Monthly Meeting via Zoom

Clerk: Bill Daly (Middletown)

Bucks Quarter Coordinator: Wendy Kane (Newtown)

Recording Clerk: Terry M. Christensen (Newtown)

Friends gathered at 12:47 pm and settled into a period of worship.

Welcome – Bill Daly

Review and Approval of Agenda – Approved

Roll Call of Meetings: Bristol – 0; Buckingham – 5; Doylestown – 1; Fallsington – 5;
Lehigh Valley – 11; Makefield – 1; Middletown – 3; Newtown – 5; Plumstead – 2;
Quakertown – 2; Solebury – 1; Southampton – 3; Wrightstown – 3; Yardley – 3

Review and Approval of Minutes from August 21st, 2022 – Approved

Stories of Vitality & Strength – Buckingham Friend reports having great fall; Buckingham Friends School doing very well; recognize that some trees will need to come down – Buckingham Meeting held a “Tree Hugging” ceremony to honor the trees that will be cut. Southampton Friend reports that Southampton will be exploring Pendle Hill pamphlet on race; also having visioning sessions with regard to remodeling meetinghouse to make it more inviting and useful; wants to add to agenda – short report on anti-racism activity – the anti-racism committee is considering asking for contributions from Bucks Quarterly Meeting and PYM to Ujima Peace Center in North Philadelphia with goal of establishing Quaker community in North Philadelphia – requesting \$10K. Middletown Friend shares about World Quaker Day when Middletown Friends held Zoom meeting for Worship with Settle Meeting in England – this is an outgrowth of earlier contact between the two meetings. Middletown Friend reports that Middletown trees are lying in place to season as lumber; Wrightstown Friend reports that they are investigating having 3 clerks instead of one as the workload seems too onerous for any one person – based on model used by Wilmington Friends Meeting. Newtown Friend reports outdoor worship under very old Sycamore Trees in summer – age of trees enhances worship; Fallsington Friend reports rich music ministry will be active during the holiday season; Southampton Friend announces birth of granddaughter of Friend, Saturday, Nov 19. Plumstead Friends announces caroling celebration 7:30 PM, December 24th. Plumstead will be having 9:30 AM meeting for worship on Thanksgiving.

Quarter Coordinator Report – Wendy Kane (full report attached): Friends remain concerned about COVID virus which continues to impact even the fully vaccinated. We are worried about a growing sense of disconnectedness in meetings; older Friends continue to stay away from meetings; families with children have not returned. While Zoom has mitigated some issues, it is no substitute for in-person dialog or the joy of sharing a meal together. As temperatures drop, it has become necessary to close windows in meetinghouses at the same time that meetings are revisiting masking requirements. Wendy remains available to help meetings with these discernments.

Meeting attendance: Wendy continues to visit monthly meetings, in person whenever possible; she also attends hybrid meetings to assess quality of audio/video presentation. Some highlights: Bristol meetinghouse improved by Redemption Church (their tenant), First Day Class at Newtown Meeting with Lucretia Mott reenactor, spending World Quaker Day with Middletown Friends who worshiped jointly with Settle Friends Meeting in England.

Committee Work: Bucks Quarter Clerks Meeting: Three meetings announced new clerks beginning in 2023: Lehigh Valley – Martha Christine; Newtown Meeting – Katherine Borish; Doylestown – Liz Fritsch. Fallsington Meeting recently named Susan Snipes Wells as Clerk; Budget & Nominating welcomed Lisa Parry Becker as new Quarter Treasurer; Yet Budget & Nominating has yet to identify Alternate Clerk, Rising Recording Clerk, and nominee to PYM Nominating Council; Audit Committee has completed audit for FY 21-22, 20-21, 19-20; these to be presented at November 2022 quarterly meeting. Ad hoc committee to address Quakertown Meeting’s Minute in Support of Reproductive Rights has met and will report at this BQM; Wendy has been nominated and approved to become Clerk of PYM Program Committee; this will strengthen the Quarter’s ties with PYM.

Event Attendance – Wendy attended Yardley Flea Market and offered outreach cards and information about Quakerism; the “Pick the Quaker” activity drew interest. She attended Bucks Quarter Peace Fair and was joined by several Friends in staffing the Bucks Quarter Tent; Pick the Quaker activity was also popular there. One Book – One Bucks Quarter met and discussed *These Walls Between Us*, by Wendy Sanford; only seven of eleven registrants attended; discernment – book club not optimum inreach. Wendy attended Historic Fallsington Day – Pick the Quaker continued to be popular. She attended Historic Bristol Day; well attended (good weather); Bristol Meeting had archeological dig; Redemption Church offered pumpkin painting. Langhorne Harvest Day: less interest in Pick the Quaker activity – will need to update Pick the Quaker for next year; great support from Middleton Meeting Volunteers. Wendy attended PYM Quaker Leadership Meeting (3x per year); sparse attendance; she feels not focused on concerns of Quarterly Meetings.

Quaker Call to Action – formed by 19 Friends who share concerns about falsehoods and coordinated efforts to subvert democracy. Wendy attended this event (175 participants) which discussed ways to move these concerns forward; Active Bystander Intervention and De-Escalation at Polling places; Wendy felt this training was critical given the

polarized nature of political discourse. Strengthening Democracy This Election Year – Wendy attended this discussion of Quaker response to threats to democracy led by Gretchen Castle (Earlham School of Religion) and Margaret Lew (NYC Friend and member of Quaker Call to Action).

BQM Outreach – personalized Outreach cards have been printed and delivered to various meetings; at August 2022 meeting Bucks Quarter approved allocating \$7K from Kirkbride bequest to support outreach (\$500 per meeting); so far two meetings (Yardley and Middletown) have applied for and received grants. The Quarter continues to encourage subscriptions to our YouTube Channel (60 to date). Bucks Quarter Meeting Driving Tour available on the Visit Bucks website. Wendy continues to update the Quarter website; one of our stories of vitality (“A Seeker’s Story”) was reprinted by PYM and featured in South Jersey Friends Newsletter. The Quarter continues to work to coordinate worship services at Chandler Hall (once per month); Buckingham and Solebury have come forward; this remains a work in progress.

Doylestown Friend encourages Wendy to continue work on YouTube Channel. Wendy reports that PYM is looking to hire a Director of Communications.

Ad Hoc Committee in Support of Quakertown Minute – Bethann Morgan and Jonathan Snipes: Friend Snipes read the Quakertown minute of support; Bethann reports on work of committee and how Friends can support this minute (see attached minute and report); Many Friends continue to reach out in support of this minute. A Friend reports that she cannot stand by this resolution. Southampton Friend wonders if there is further action or approval. Plumstead Friend speaks in support of minute.

Treasurers Report (report attached) **Ed Snyder and Lisa Parry Becker** – Financial position is very strong at the point. Friends Fiduciary has lost value due to stock market fluctuations, but we only spend the dividends. Our budgeted contribution to PYM was not made as usual due to transitioning the Treasurer position from Ed to Lisa; operating expenses vary slightly from budget – nothing of concern; Lisa reports that as of October the Quarter made the first payment to PYM.

Wendy Kane thanks Ed for his service to the Quarter as Treasurer.

Bethann Morgan offers **Minute of Gratitude** for Ed’s service to the Quarter:

Minute of Appreciation – Thank you, Ed Snyder, for stepping into the Bucks Quarter Treasurer’s position and continuing to monitor, support, and lift up the role of our finances in our Quarter’s business. You have educated us and been a faithful steward to minimize losses and distribute funds in accordance to the will of our corporate membership. Those in attendance Minute their appreciation.

Minute Approved

BREAK

Auditors Report – Bill Dockhorn (full report attached): Audit Committee finds Bucks Quarter financial records and statements to be well-organized and included supporting data. No issues. Bill names members of auditing committee and thanks them for service.

Annual Report – Friends Village – Chiyo Moriuchi (full report attached): Chiyo gave a brief history and description of organization; 7 of 9 board members are Friends; Chiyo briefly describes Friends Village mission and which area of the market that Friends Village serves; who are the Friends Village clientele; importance of engagement in quality of life and an environment that is built on kindness, sense of community, and purposeful living; Chiyo updates progress strategic plan – a new model for senior living (Wellness, Great Place to Work, Stewardship of facilities and environment [e.g., energy efficiency]), establishing indigenous plant garden in Styer meadow, partnership with George School in memoir class, Senior Planet classes; Friends Village Goals and Mission; Chiyo lists challenges to Friends Village; Chiyo notes how Bucks Quarter Friends can support Friends Village.

Fallsington Friend asks about relationship between “Village” and “Home” – Chiyo response “We are two campuses but one community.”

Fallsington Friend asks about new model – Chiyo (and Terry Christensen) response – “Unlike nearly all senior living facilities, we strive to be outward facing rather than inward facing.”

Southampton Friend asks about vacancy rates. Chiyo responded: “We have had lower than usual occupancy of late – but there has been an uptick in the last two weeks.”

Wendy Kane inquired about minimum age – Chiyo reported there is no minimum age (62 for personal care).

Discernment – Format of Quarterly Meeting, Second Month, 2023 – Bill Daly – Middletown is due to host and would like to discern if the Quarter would like to hold the meeting as hybrid, as opposed to virtual only.

Wrightstown Friend asks if Middletown is open to Hybrid hosting of Quarterly Meeting; Middletown reported they are agreeable to hybrid hosting.

Buckingham Friend notes that we should accommodate those who have immune deficiencies and therefore supports hybrid quarterly meeting.

Quakertown Friend supports hybrid format for Quarterly meeting.

Friend Dockhorn supports hybrid and asking members to bring simple (brown bag lunch) Middleton supplies beverages.

Makefield Friend suggests that we could require pre-testing and masks as PYM did for a recent gathering.

Another Friend wonders about other disease issues (Flu, RSV, etc.).

Newtown Friend notes that hosting an event energizes the meeting and yet we should offer hybrid option – encourages Friends to get vaccinated.

Quakertown Friend observes that 1918 flu is still among us – we now refer to it a seasonal flu.

A Friend suggests that Middletown Meeting offer desert as well; Middletown will offer desserts as well.

Agreed – Bucks Quarter will meet with a Hybrid format in February 2023.

Annual Report – Peace Fair Committee – Tim Cunningham (full report attached): good weather and good crowds; good support from meetings in the quarter (individual meetings took responsibility for various booths and chores ([café, set-up, clean-up, etc.]); they had support from Buckingham Friends School and PYM Young Friends. 1300 visitors; financially the Peace Fair broke even (lower attendance than in pre-COVID years); Peace Fair strives to be welcoming to all; seeking volunteers from various meetings for next year in planning as well as various monthly meeting to take responsibility for certain aspects of service (e.g. recycling, social media/marketing); refuse and recycling management was an area of concern this past year; hoping that a meeting or group can step in to help manage this issue; no date for next year as they are waiting on Peddler’s Village schedule; Tim also noted that Rosh Hoshana is on the 3rd weekend in Sept(?) in 2023, when the Fair usually is held.

Yardley Friend reports that BQM has \$1500 in our budget, why not use it, ans. not necessary at this time.

Lehigh Valley Friend asks about music – who was responsible – was that “Eco-Man” (ans. a BFS student played music).

Wendy notes that person singing near the gate was a BFS student

Middletown Friend reports that this person helped with children’s games.

Buckingham Friend asks about partnering with group who would receive revenue but also help with conducting/promoting the Peace Fair; how would this work (ans. a good idea; needs to be investigated).

Newtown Friend supports this idea but suggests that it should be seasoned.

Annual Report – Newtown Monthly Meeting – Janet Braker (full report attached): Newtown Meeting has continued to adjust format and schedules to deal with COVID; meeting for worship and meeting for business are now in hybrid format; they continue to work toward improving audio/visual experience for virtual attendees; they have found that hybrid meeting increases attendance from remote Friends and Friends who cannot travel; they conducted a threshing session to address issues associate with hybrid format. This past year has seen considerable work on developing parking area near meetinghouse; developing a Master Plan for meetinghouse and grounds; Adult religious education is in hybrid format (Janet Braker lists a number of subjects covered); she

notes that member Norval Reece is active in publicizing their programs to the general public; lists Children's programs; notes that simple supper (program run by children) raised \$2515 – proceeds to AARK and Bucks County Interfaith Coalition for Refugee Resettlement. Spring Lasagna Dinner raised \$3K for Mercer Street Friends – these events help show young Friends the value/importance of corporate giving. Newtown Friends School off to great start – highest enrollment in years. Newtown Meeting membership numbers down slightly: total members down to 340 (from 343 in 2021) with 28 minors.

Report on Newtown Meeting outreach postcard project. Project partially funded by \$500 grant from the Quarter; sent out 450 from supply; chose to personalize cards by putting in envelope and hand-writing the addresses on the envelopes. Unfortunately, this option proved very expensive (2 stamps for postage instead of one), so they are revisiting the postcards – they hope to send out another 500 cards.

Budget and Nominating – Leo Fitzpatrick – Budget and Nominating recognizes the Treasurer's transition from Ed Snyder to Lisa Parry-Becker; also, the committee recognized the audit work of Bill Dockhorn and Audit Committee; acknowledging Janet Braker moving on from the committee with Bob LeFever taking her place.

Budget & Nominating requesting one-time donation of \$2,500 to African American Museum of Bucks County; Leo offers brief history of Boone Farm (corner of Core Creek Park); African-Americans moving from the South could find a fair wage and build a livelihood for themselves; The African-American experience is one of the great omissions of our history; Leo acknowledges Janet Braker as catalyst for this proposal; Bucks County Commissioners have given recognition to this project and has offered \$1 per year lease on this property through the year 2030; Museum now needs funds for improvement; Budget & Nominating feels that this is within the scope of the Kirkbride endowment.

Lehigh Valley Friend recalls presentation of Linda Salley introducing us to African American Museum; supports this contribution.

Middletown Friend reports there will be formal groundbreaking at the property on Wednesday, Nov 23rd, at 11 AM; there will also be a gala fundraiser Dec 2nd at Parx Casino; Middletown Friend Pat Mervine has written book on history of the Boone Farm Middletown Friend supports the contribution.

Yardley Friend speaks in favor of the Quarter supporting African American Museum.

Contribution Approved

Wendy Kane adds thanks to Fallsington Meeting for arranging for Linda Salley to speak to Friends at the August 2022 Quarterly Meeting.

Annual Report – Plumstead Meeting – Dafydd Jones (full report attached) – Outreach efforts focused on food; they provided 272 lbs. of food to Doylestown Food Pantry of Bucks

County Housing Group; Plumstead has worked with St. Ann's Ukrainian Catholic Church in Warrington putting together bag meals for children in Ukraine; children; last year and this year they are collecting hats and mittens for Mercer Street Friends; last summer a Plumstead Friend presented "Song for Ukraine"; Bucks Quarter outreach grant was split between Doylestown Food Pantry and Bucks County Coalition for Refugee Resettlement; Plumstead experiencing challenges regarding meetinghouse maintenance – would like to coordinate with other meetings finding skilled tradesmen.

Announcements – 2022 Peace Pilgrimage – Rick Dow – Peace Pilgrimage December 10th; Information on website (peacewalk.org). This is the 63rd year of this walk; last evening (Sat Nov 19) 3 members of Lehigh Valley Meeting slept outside in support of Lehigh Conference of Churches Week of Hunger and Homelessness.

Yardley Friend requests Lehigh Valley to send request to Bucks Quarter as documentation of support for Lehigh Council of Churches.

Right Sharing of World Resources presenting Dec 11th: 9:45 AM at Newtown Friends Adult Education and 3:30 PM at Pennswood Village.

FCNL Advocacy Teams: meeting December 1st at 4PM via Zoom.

African American Museum groundbreaking on Nov 23rd; reminds of fundraising gala at Parx Casino on Dec 2nd; Outreach grants available from PYM; Wendy will be working with Pat Mervine for possible Boone Farm book lecture.

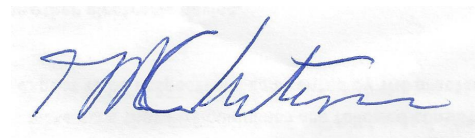
Outreach grants are also available from PYM – Membership Development Granting Group meets monthly.

Friends Village Carol Singing on Dec 13th at 6:30PM in Paxson Hall (50 South Congress St. Newtown Borough) and on Dec 15th at 6:30PM in Styer Hall (Styer Campus, 301 Lower Dolington Road, Newtown Township)

Christmas Tree Lighting and Singing: Fallsington Meeting will host on Sunday, Dec. 11th at 6PM; all are welcome

Closing Worship – After a period of silent worship the meeting was adjourned at 3:08 PM.

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

Report of the Coordinator to Bucks Quarterly Meeting
November 20, 2022
Under the Care of Lehigh Valley Monthly Meeting
Held Virtually via Zoom

As the coronavirus continues to infect even the fully vaccinated, Friends remain cautious about attending large in-person meetings for fear that they will turn into super-spreader events. It is why November's Quarterly Meeting is being held virtually once again. This attention to safety comes at a price: there is a sense of disconnection from not being able to gather as a community; families have not returned, and the loss of young Friends. And the loss of older Friends who continue to stay away because of fear of infection. Zoom has been essential for holding our communities together, but it is no substitute for sharing a meal or a smile at the rise of meeting. We long for that personal connection once again. There are other challenges as well. As fall moves into winter, meetings are re-evaluating their masking protocols, taking into account the dropping temperatures, the need for closing windows and doors, lower transmissions numbers, increasing vaccinations for all ages and the perception that masking does not make for a welcoming community. I try to be available to help any meeting with issues as they arise.

Inreach

Care of Meetings

I continue to visit meetings on a rotating basis, with mostly in-person visits. Meetings that offer hybrid worship allows me to assess sound quality and how welcoming they are to attendees on Zoom. Of note this quarter: the improvements at Bristol's meetinghouse being funded by their tenant, Redemption Church; a fun adult First Day class at Newtown with a Lucretia Mott reenactor; and sharing World Quaker Day with Middletown Friends, who held worship virtually with Settle Meeting Friends in Great Britain.

Committee meetings

Clerk's Meeting: At our quarterly clerk's meeting three meetings announced new clerks beginning January 2023: Lehigh Valley - Martha Christine, Newtown - Katherine Borish, Doylestown - Liz Fritsch. Fallsington's new clerk - Susan Snipes Wells - started in September 2022. Concerns were shared about hybrid meetings, focusing on clerking hybrid meeting for business, with the general sense that meetings became more difficult to clerk as the number of attendees increased.

Budget & Nominating Committee: The Budget & Nominating Committee met in November and welcomed Lisa Parry Becker as the new Quarter treasurer. The committee continues to work to identify nominees for Alternate Clerk, Rising Recording Clerk, and a nominee to PYM's Nominating Council.

Audit Committee: The audit was completed for FY 21-22, as well as 2019-2020 and 2020-21. The report will be presented at the November Quarterly Meeting.

Ad Hoc Committee to address Quakertown Meeting's Minute of Support on Reproductive Rights: This ad hoc committee was formed at the August Quarterly Meeting for Business to explore the next steps, if any, for addressing Quakertown Meeting's minute of concern. In attendance were Wendy Kane

(Newtown), Jonathan Snipes (Fallsington), Lisa Uchirin (Quakertown) and Bethann Morgan (Buckingham). A summary of their recommendations will be presented at the November Quarterly Meeting.

Yearly Meeting

PYM Program Committee: At the October meeting of Quaker Life Council my name was brought forward and approved to rise to clerk of the Program Committee. This is a wonderful opportunity for me to maintain and strengthen connections with the yearly meeting committees and staff and I look forward to working closely with both over the next year. Program committee meets ten times per year and has oversight of many PYM groups, including Collaboratives, Young Adult Friends, and Bridge Contacts.

Event Attendance

Within the Quarter:

- **Yardley Friends Flea Market** - We offered our outreach cards and literature about Quakers. It was the inaugural use of our Pick the Quaker activity bringing people to the tent in a non-confrontational manner and allowing us to engage them in conversation.
- **Bucks Quarter Peace Fair** - perfect weather for a Peace Fair. Volunteers from the Quarter joined me at the tent throughout the day, and again we successfully drew passersby in by asking them to Pick the Quaker. I spent time circulating around the Fair, taking pictures and videos which I plan to post onto our YouTube channel once I finish editing.
- **One Book One Bucks Quarter:** Of the eleven registrants, seven attended and we had a lively discussion about the book *These Walls Between Us*, by Wendy Sanford. Friends enjoyed the camaraderie and discussion, but given the low attendance, it appears that book discussions are not a good form of community inreach at this time.
- **Historic Fallsington Day:** Pick the Quaker continued to be a non-threatening way to get people to engage in conversation. At least 50 people played the game, with many marveling at what they did/did not know about Quakers. Thanks to Fallsington Friends for providing staffing during the day to accompany the Coordinator.
- **Historic Bristol Day:** Great crowds, great weather, lots of interest. Great help from Friends from around the Quarter. Bristol Friends held their archeological dig, and Redemption Church offered pumpkin painting to the many visitors.
- **Olde Langhorne Harvest Day:** Again, a perfect fall day. There seemed to be a bit less interest in our game, but the volunteers were nonetheless enthusiastic and helpful. Many thanks to Middletown Meeting for providing a great slate of volunteers.

Through Philadelphia Yearly Meeting:

- **PYM Quaker Leadership Meeting** - a meeting of PYM staff and Quarterly Leadership that meets three-time yearly. The meeting was sparsely attended, and I did not feel it focused on the concerns of Quarterly meetings and how we can better utilize Quarter contacts to improve communication between yearly and monthly meetings.

Greater Quaker Community:

- **Quaker Call to Action** - organized by a group of 19 concerned Friends who are gravely concerned about the deliberate falsehoods and coordinated efforts currently underway to subvert

our democracy. I attended this inaugural call along with about 175 Friends who discussed ways to move this concern forward.

- **Active Bystander Intervention and De-Escalation: Election Voter Center Situations** - facilitated by DC Peace Team. As I will be a poll worker at the upcoming election, I felt that this workshop would be essential given the divisiveness that our country is experiencing. Much of it was hands-on and role playing which I found to be effective and helpful.
- **Strengthening Democracy This Election Year** - a discussion about how Quakers are being led to respond to threats to our democracy led by Gretchen Castle, dean of the Earlham School of Religion and a member of the Quaker Call steering committee, and Margaret Lew, a Friend from New York actively involved in organizing efforts responding to the Quaker Call to action.

Outreach

Bucks Quarter Outreach

Outreach cards: 100 personalized outreach cards for monthly meetings have been printed and delivered to most meetings.

Grants: At the August Quarterly Meeting, the Quarter approved allocating \$7000 from the Kirkbride bequest for Outreach grants of up to \$500 per meeting. To date two meetings have applied for and received grants: Middletown Meeting plans to upgrade their hybrid meeting equipment, and Yardley Meeting will use the money to fund Movies Under the Stars next summer.

YouTube: we continue to encourage Friends to subscribe (60 subscribers to date). We added Linda Salley's presentation from August's Quarterly Meeting.

Bucks Quarter Quaker Meeting Driving Tour: the driving tour is live on the Visit Bucks website and the link has been published in *Quakerphernalia*. Members of the Outreach Committee are planning to take the tour in November, video tape it, and upload it onto YouTube.

Website: I continue to maintain the website with calendar updates, Stories of Vitality, and events from around the Quarter. Of the four Stories of Vitality posted this month, one story – A Seeker's Story – was reprinted by PYM in their newsfeed, and South Jersey Quakers in their newsletter. I continue to share stories with PYM to show how vibrant and active Bucks Quarter Quakers are!

Facebook: Continues to be a good form of outreach for the Quarter.

Times Publishing: This quarter ads focused on the Quarter's presence at fall events around Bucks County.

Miscellaneous Outreach

Chandler Hall: we are beginning to experiment with once-monthly worship services under the care of a monthly meeting. Buckingham took responsibility in October and November is scheduled for Solebury.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Kane
Coordinator, Bucks Quarterly Meeting

Quakertown Monthly Meeting
Minute of Concern in support of Reproductive Rights
Brought to Bucks Quarterly Meeting
of the Religious Society of Friends
10 August 2022

Quakertown Monthly Meeting is asking you to support our belief that women and those who can become pregnant have the absolute right to control their own bodies and to make reproductive decisions within the privacy of their own counsel, the counsel of their health care providers and the guidance of the Spirit. Although Quakertown Monthly Meeting is in the State of New Jersey, where, presently, our Governor and our legislators are working to protect a person's right to control their own body and their right to privacy, we are still concerned about our fellow Americans whose rights have been grossly compromised through the Supreme Court's recent reversal of its 1974 decision in Roe v. Wade. Access to safe, legal, reproductive care is a fundamental human right and a necessity to protect people from the dangers of forced pregnancies or illegal abortions.

Report from Ad Hoc Group considering Quakertown Meeting's
Minute of Concern Regarding the Supreme Court's Decision
Reversing Roe v. Wade
11.10.2022

At our August Quarterly Meeting, Friends in attendance stood in support of Quakertown's Minute and with minor revisions approved a Minute of those gathered, with one Friend being recorded for standing aside. It was requested that an Ad Hoc group meet and consider the next steps for Friends, prior to our November Quarterly Meeting.

Our Ad Hoc group met twice and came up with the following suggested ways that individuals can put beliefs and values into action:

- Write a Letter to the Editor expressing ones concerns about a woman's reproductive choices being her own, to your local or state publications (on-line or in print).
- Contact your local, state & federal legislative representatives to express you concerns. You can do this by making an appointment to meet with them in person, call and speak with one of their interns or write a post card, letter or email to voice your support of women's rights.
- Donate time, talent and/or money to NARAL or Center for Reproductive Rights to support legislative action.
- Partner with existing groups such as Planned Parenthood, local abortion providers and the Justice Fund to help low income folks receive the care they are asking for.
- Seek out and join in marches and forums that bear public witness in support of reproductive rights & freedom.
- Spread the word; talk to your friends, relatives and neighbors about where you stand on a woman's right to choose whether or not to continue a pregnancy.

While this Ad hoc group has completed their assigned task, many Friends continue to work hard to stand up for a person's right to control their own body and if you want to connect with others in this work please reach out to either one of us or to our Bucks Quarter Coordinator, Wendy Kane who can put you in touch with like minded Quakers.

Lisa Uchrin
Bethann Morgan

Bucks Quarterly Meeting of Friends Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual July through September 2022

	Jul - Sep 22	Budget	\$ Over Bu...	% of Budg...
Ordinary Income/Expense				
Income				
Interest and dividends				
FFC	0.00	2,020.00	-2,020.00	0.0%
Total Interest and dividends	0.00	2,020.00	-2,020.00	0.0%
Monthly Meeting contributions				
Additional	300.00			
Pledged	53,081.25	278,195.00	-225,113.75	19.1%
Total Monthly Meeting contributions	53,381.25	278,195.00	-224,813.75	19.2%
Other contributions	100.00			
Quakerphernalia advertising	0.00	1,200.00	-1,200.00	0.0%
Total Income	53,481.25	281,415.00	-227,933.75	19.0%
Gross Profit	53,481.25	281,415.00	-227,933.75	19.0%
Expense				
Contributions				
Philadelphia Yearly Meeting	0.00	208,724.00	-208,724.00	0.0%
Total Contributions	0.00	208,724.00	-208,724.00	0.0%
Gifts/Donations				
Camp Onas	0.00	300.00	-300.00	0.0%
Chandler Hall	0.00	300.00	-300.00	0.0%
Friends Home and Village	0.00	300.00	-300.00	0.0%
Total Gifts/Donations	0.00	900.00	-900.00	0.0%
Programs, Activities, Outreach				
Operating	2,164.02	6,000.00	-3,835.98	36.1%
Other				
Advertising	0.00	2,200.00	-2,200.00	0.0%
Liability Insurance	0.00	1,100.00	-1,100.00	0.0%
Outreach Committee Activities	200.00	2,000.00	-1,800.00	10.0%
Programs for Peace	0.00	1,700.00	-1,700.00	0.0%
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	200.00	7,850.00	-7,650.00	2.5%
Personnel	12,695.56	71,033.00	-58,337.44	17.9%
Total Programs, Activities, Outreach	15,059.58	84,883.00	-69,823.42	17.7%
Total Expense	15,059.58	294,507.00	-279,447.42	5.1%
Net Ordinary Income	38,421.67	-13,092.00	51,513.67	-293.5%
Other Income/Expense				
Other Income				
Unrealized gain/loss (FFC)	-3,298.34			
Total Other Income	-3,298.34			
Other Expense				
Kirkbride expenses	500.00	7,000.00	-6,500.00	7.1%
Total Other Expense	500.00	7,000.00	-6,500.00	7.1%
Net Other Income	-3,798.34	-7,000.00	3,201.66	54.3%
Net Income	34,623.33	-20,092.00	54,715.33	-172.3%

11:16 AM
10/22/22
Cash Basis

Bucks Quarterly Meeting of Friends
Balance Sheet
As of September 30, 2022

	<u>Sep 30, 22</u>
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
First National Checking	95,083.36
Total Checking/Savings	<u>95,083.36</u>
Total Current Assets	95,083.36
Other Assets	
Friends Fiduciary Corporation	44,101.64
Total Other Assets	<u>44,101.64</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>139,185.00</u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Equity	
Kirkbride Estate	17,696.43
Unrestricted Net Assets	86,865.24
Net Income	<u>34,623.33</u>
Total Equity	<u>139,185.00</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u>139,185.00</u>

Minute of Appreciation – Ed Snyder

Thank you, Ed Snyder, for stepping into the Bucks Quarter Treasurer's position and continuing to monitor, support, and lift up the role of our finances in our Quarter's business. You have educated us and been a faithful steward to minimize losses and distribute funds in accordance to the will of our corporate membership. Those in attendance Minute their appreciation.

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

Box 4477, Newtown, PA 18940

AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT

Date: October 29, 2022

Subject: `Audit of BQM financial statements and records for three fiscal years ending on June 30 of 2020, 2021 and 2022 (the “Audit Period”)

Audit Meetings Attendees:

Bill Dockhorn, BQM Budget & Nominating Committee
Ed Snyder – outgoing BQM Treasurer¹
Alan Gray, Clerk
Marian Hepburn, Auditor
Douglas Meaker, Auditor
Elisabeth Cape Hopper, Auditor (out-of- town and sent regrets)

1. The audit committee met to review the financial statements and records of BQM via Zoom meetings on October 19, October 25 and October 27, 2022. The minutes from those meetings are attached to this report. The audit was conducted in accordance with the “Audit Procedures for Bucks Quarterly Meeting” created by Bill Daly and dated January 9, 2013 (the “Audit Procedures”). A copy of the Audit Procedures is attached.
2. The audit committee’s review consisted principally of inquiries to the outgoing BQM Treasurer, examination of BQM’s income and expense statements², cash flow documentation, balance sheets and confirmation of the closing balances of the BQM’s accounts maintained at the First National Bank and Trust Company of Newtown and Friends Fiduciary.

¹ Ed Snyder was the BQM Treasurer during three Fiscal Years covered by this audit report

² Including comparison of income and expense to and from BQM for three selected Monthly Meeting’s during the Audit Period with BQM’s income and expense statements.

3. The audit committee found the BQM’s financial books and records to be well organized and supported by back-up documentation (except as noted in Section 5 below). The financial statements were also found to be free of material misstatements.
4. The audit committee prepared the “work papers” resulting from the audit required under Section 1 of the Audit Procedures and attach them to this report.
5. As a result of the conduct of this audit, the audit committee makes the following recommendations for future audits:
 - Some source documents, such as invoices, were not available for the audit committee’s review. Since it might be too much of a burden for the BQM treasurer to collect and provide these documents for future audits, it is suggested that source documents be scanned or photographed and placed in a central repository, such as on a Google Drive, to ensure their availability for future audits.
 - Normally, the audit committee meets once a year between the closing of the books for the fiscal year in August and the report at the November quarterly meeting. In light of the recent change in BQM Treasurer, it is suggested that a special (non-fiscal year) audit be conducted six months into the first fiscal year of the new BQM Treasurer’s term to review the financial books and records to ensure that they are being kept in a satisfactory manner.

The audit committee would like to thank Ed Snyder, for his dedication and diligence both as Treasurer of Bucks Quarterly Meeting and for his assistance during the conduct of this audit.

Respectfully submitted,

Alan Gray
Marian Hepburn
Douglas Meaker
Bill Dockhorn

Audit Committee

Attachments

ATTACHMENTS

[to be attached]

Minutes from Audit Committee meetings on October 19, October 25 and October 27, 2022

BQM Audit Procedures for Bucks Quarterly Meeting

Work Papers:

1. Balance Sheet
2. Statement of Activities (Profit and Loss)
3. Ledger reports for each cash account
4. Ledger report for the Fiduciary account(s)
5. Ledger report for the Kirkbride expenses
6. Ledger reports for Monthly Meeting Contributions
7. Work paper calculating unrealized gains or loss
8. Reconciliation of the total Debits and Credits on the cash ledger report to Total Revenues and Expenses from the Statement of Activities

Annual Report to Bucks Quarterly Meeting November 20, 2022– Lehigh Valley Friends Meeting (Via Zoom)

Who we are:

Since 1897 Friends Village (FV) has been a caring community for older adults of modest means. Founded by Bucks Quarterly Meeting, and legally still the “Friends Boarding Home of Bucks Quarterly Meeting”, we have a proud history of putting Quaker belief into practice. FV’s small size gives it a distinctive intimate and family-like character. We enjoy a dedicated staff with very low turnover, so each person is well known.

Quaker composition

Our CEO/Executive Director, and 70% of our Board are Quaker. Our residents include two members of Quaker meetings and four who were raised/educated Quaker and/or have Quaker family members. Sadly, our Quaker numbers diminished this year as Irene Fisher (Solebury) and Sam Nicholson (Wrightstown) passed away at the ages of 100 and 97, respectively. Two other Friends moved out of the area. Another moved for a higher level of care and to be closer to family.

Why choose Friends Village?

FV works to keep its residents independent. Living in community is a significant contributor to aging well. Human relationships are critical to health and typically, the number of a person’s relationships and social interactions decline with age. Moving to a residential community is a proactive step to maintain health and independence. Our goal at FV is for every resident to maintain their autonomy and remain engaged with the world. People are living longer with chronic conditions, but those conditions don’t mean they are “disabled” or unable to enjoy and participate in life. We provide support to manage the inconveniences of aging, so residents can maintain their independence.

FV is a rental model. In keeping with the testament of Simplicity, we provide simple, comfortable, functional, and attractive accommodations and common areas. You do not pay for extensive amenities or luxurious apartments. While everyone fears becoming cognitively or physically disabled, studies indicate that only about 25% need high levels of care for extended periods of time. FV helps its residents with the kinds of support that most people need as they age – help with transportation, meals, housekeeping and maintenance – and someone nearby in the event of emergency. Residents of FV’s personal care apartments also receive help with Activities of Daily Living (“ADL”s) and medication management.

Important Strategic Mission:

FV’s mission is more important today than ever. A recent study estimates that by 2029 there will be 14 million “middle-income” seniors – those having approx. \$25,000 - \$75,000 in annuitized resources – and 54% of them won’t be able to afford the support they need. Medicaid pays for care for those with no assets. The wealthy, of course, can access a variety of communities and care. Those in the middle, however, have few alternatives. This is the market that FV serves.

What happened in 2022?

The Board adopted new Strategic Plan. The plan builds on our strengths and current research on healthy aging. It focuses on wellness, community, being a Great Place to Work, stewardship of our resources, and effective communications to tell our story well.

During the year we made significant progress on several strategic initiatives.

- Wellness – We now have a full time Community Wellness and Engagement Coordinator. She has brought great energy to the community, developed new activities/programming and is working on personal wellness plans for each resident. We are now also able to offer residents access to a licensed psychologist.
- Community – We are working to intentionally build our sense of community – both on our campuses and with the surrounding neighborhood. We are offering free Senior Planet technology classes and our Growth & Change discussion series to our residents and the wider community. We hosted an evening of “Porchfest”- a Newtown Borough summer tradition and we partnered with the Council Rock School District and George School for intergenerational programming. Of particular note was a George School class on the genre of Memoir which paired 10 students with 10 residents once a week throughout the month of September.
- Great Place to Work – Staffing has been a challenge throughout the pandemic and is anticipated to be a long term strategic issue due to demographic trends. FV is committed to providing staff with the strongest compensation package possible. This year dental benefits were added.
- Stewardship – We undertook a number of capital projects, notably rebuilding the Paxson Hall porch and the northern exterior wall of the Styer Hall West Wing. We have been developing architectural and engineering plans to help us plan responsibly for the future and we hope to convert the meadow into a native plant preserve.
- Tell Our Story – We completed a branding study that resulted in a new name, logo, website and marketing materials. We are now “Friends Village” rather than “Friends Home & Village”- simplifying the name to develop our image as a small and caring community of older adults rather than the perception/memory of an “old folks home”. In April, we held a fun and very well-attended “Rock ‘n Roll-Out” event to introduce our new brand.

Focus for 2023:

We seek to be a vibrant, purposeful Community. Some areas we will be working on in the coming year are:

- Stronger financial underpinnings of our capital and operational structures
- Enhanced physical plant
- More and better training for staff
- Strategic partnerships to enhance activities and services
- Continued investigation of long term strategic initiatives

Your Support is Needed:

- 1) Volunteer
- 2) Come work for us
- 3) Consider FV for yourself, your family members and/or your friends
- 4) Recommend candidates to join our Board. We are particularly interested in those with legal, health (mental and medical) and financial/business expertise.
- 5) Provide Meeting Financial Support and Individual Donations.

FACT SHEET
Data as of 09/30/2022

UNITS

Business Line	# of units	# vacant	% occupied	Current # of residents
Personal Care	18	4	78%	13
Paxson Cottages	14	4	71%	11
Paxson campus total	32	8	75%	24
Styer – West Wing	11	0	100%	10
Styer – Cottages	27	4	85%	30
Styer campus total	38	4	93%	40
Friends Village total	70	12	84%	64

- No skilled nursing; No secure dementia unit
- Residents must be ambulatory and able to independently evacuate in case of emergency

RATES: 2022 monthly rates range from \$2,335 to \$4,175 with community fees at entry from \$7,000 to \$42,500

SERVICES:

Personal Care – 3 meals/day; Medication Management; Assistance with hygiene, laundry, housekeeping

Independent Living – 1 meal/day; Bi-weekly housekeeping and annual major cleaning. Maintenance of building & appliances; Groundskeeping; Security; Extra services available for additional fee.

RESIDENT PROFILE:

	Personal Care	Paxson-IL	Styer-WW	Styer-IL	FV Total
Male : Female	6:7	1:10	3:7	9:18	19:42
Average Age at Entry	88	83	86	83	83
Range of Ages	68-104	76-95	81-98	70-95	68-104
Avg Age of Residents	90	86	88	86	86
Avg Length of Stay	3.1	3.4	3.1	3.3	3.3
Longest Stay	7.6	8.2	6.5	26	0-26
# Quaker	0	0	0	2	2

ORGANIZATION:

Total Operating Expense (2022 Budget): \$2.9 million

Sources of Income (2022 Budget):
 8.2% - Application & Entrance Fees
 65.4% - Room & Board (100% private pay)
 6.7% - Grants/Donations/Misc
 20.6% - Endowment/Investment

Employees- Full Time / Part Time / FTEs: 15/20/25 (+Food Service: 12)

CEO/Executive Director: N. Chiyo Moriuchi (since August 2019)

Year Founded: 1897 Paxson Hall completed: 1899 Styer Campus completed: 1981

Board: 10 members; 70% Quaker; Terry Christensen (Chair)

Peace Fair Committee
Report to Bucks Quarterly Meeting of Friends
20th Day 11th Month 2022

With outstanding weather, enthusiastic attenders, and the hard work of many volunteers, the 22nd Bucks Quarter Peace Fair, held at Buckingham on Saturday, September 17, was again a great success. Our mission statement continues to be to “promote harmony in the home, community, environment, and the world.”

The committee was able to begin planning in March, with all of our committee meetings held via Zoom. This enabled Friends who would normally not be able to attend in-person meetings to participate, but the meetings did have a more “remote” and less participatory feel to them. The Peace Fair Committee has contacts or members from twelve Monthly Meetings, but not all were active participants in the Committee’s work. The Fair was promoted through newspaper advertising, online community bulletin boards, on Facebook and Instagram, with banners at Buckingham, Solebury, and Plumstead Meetings, and with road signs and color flyers placed around the community. Peter Ray continued as our paid coordinator.

Like last year, the Fair was again the beneficiary of outstanding volunteer support by the Friends of Bucks Quarter. Yardley Meeting passed on their flea market books to us, Quakertown Friends made the long trek to help us set up, and Southampton helped tidy up afterwards. Newtown ran the café; Solebury, under the leadership of John Mathieu, cooked our food; and Middletown made and sold our chili. Buckingham Friends School students again participated fully as “ambassadors” at Fair. Philadelphia Yearly Meeting provided a staff member and support for a gathering of Young Friends. They came for the day of the fair only (not overnight) and were few in number, but very helpful. Nevertheless, we still could have used even more volunteers. An attempt to make signing up to volunteer easier for Friends was not successful, and we continued to rely on SignUp Genius, which can be confusing.

The Fair was busy with visitors all day long, with probably about 1300 attendees recorded at the entrance. A donation of \$2 per person was suggested at the door. Participation in the Fair by exhibitors and vendors was closer in size to what it had been in previous years. Response from a survey sent to exhibitors who did attend was universally positive, and setup and cleanup went very smoothly. Our musical attractions were varied and entertaining, including Ecoman (Richard McLoughlin) bluegrass band Tookany Creek, and an outstanding performance by local Andean and Latin American folk music group Eco del Sur.

Two areas stand out as less than successful, however. First, when all expenses and revenues were tabulated the Fair just broke even financially this year. Higher costs due to inflation and some larger non-annual expenses contributed to this. Also, the vendor who previously purchased leftover books chose not to, and we had difficulty finding someone who would take them (which they did without paying for them). Nevertheless, the Fair is on a sound financial footing without continued support from the Quarter and Buckingham Meeting. Secondly, the lack of recycling of bottles and cans was a considerable failure of the Fair. Efforts were not made to separate recycling during the Fair, and we had fewer volunteers for cleanup than usual to sort refuse. Considering the mission of the Fair and the testimonies of our Society, this is something that must be addressed.

It would be ideal if a monthly meeting or an individual or group could step up to make proper recycling and greater sustainability a reality at next year's Fair. Another specific area where we need help is in using social media more effectively.

Looking forward, we cannot yet confirm the date for the 2023 Peace Fair, as we need to wait for Peddler's Village to set the date for their Scarecrow Festival (they allow us to use their parking area as a courtesy). Also, Rosh Hashanah falls on our usual date of the third Saturday, and there are many other local events in September scheduling for the same time. In the meantime, please visit us at www.peacefair.org, "Like" us at www.facebook.com/peacefair and follow "peacefair" on Instagram.

Respectfully submitted,
Tim Cunningham, committee clerk
(Buckingham Meeting)

Newtown Monthly Meeting Annual Report - November 2022

Throughout the past year Newtown Monthly Meeting continued to adjust to evolving concerns over COVID-19. In October of 2021 we opened the Meeting House to in-person worship while connected to remote participants via Zoom video conference. We call this configuration “hybrid meeting for worship”. Masks and vaccinations were required at that time. In March of this year we did away with both requirements. We have continued to make minor improvements to the audio/visual equipment required to join Zoom from the Meeting House. While we welcome the presence of those attending via Zoom, we acknowledge that Zoom and our current audio/visual equipment have limitations. Recently we conducted a threshing session to discuss the benefits and challenges of “hybrid” meeting. Those who attended the session generally agreed that we should continue to include remote participants in our meetings, but also agreed that some changes should be considered. In the coming months proposals will be developed that will improve sound quality, make coordination of “hybrid” meetings less burdensome, and reduce distractions caused by the technology used to facilitate the meetings.

Through the first few months of 2022 the Meeting continued discernment on how parking should be expanded on the Meeting House grounds. Throughout this discernment process we continued to exercise practices of Quaker worship, listening spiritually to one another, and waiting on the Spirit. In March the Meeting approved construction of additional parking on the north side of the Meeting House. Additional parking proposed on the west side of the Meeting House was not approved, but will be re-evaluated in the future after the Meeting has had experience with the north lot expansion. Moving forward with construction of only one of the two parking areas originally proposed meant that the engineering plans needed to be revised and resubmitted to Newtown Borough for approval. We are currently awaiting their review. The Building & Grounds committee has begun searching for an outside firm that can help us to develop a master plan for our grounds. These plans will incorporate views expressed by Meeting members during our “Place Making” discussions held in November 2020.

Our Adult Religious Education began totally on-line due to Covid restrictions and switched to hybrid programs in February, 2022. There was a wide variety of programs including: 3 spiritual journeys, 6 programs on inward-focused issues (parking & placemaking, children’s Christmas program, Camp Onas, FCNL discernment process and Edward Hicks’ birthday), 3 arts and culture programs (a documentary on indigenous culture, a focus on poetry, and a focus on murals), and 8 programs on environment and/or justice (POWER Bucks, Historic Fair Hill, George School DEI, Allyship in the Face of Isms, Welcoming the Stranger, Philadelphia Common Market, Mother Earth: Resilience & Possibility, Independent Russian insights on current events). Member Norval Reece continues to publicize our programs in the local media. Seventeen books were also purchased for the Library which serves as a resource available to deepen our knowledge, strengthen our faith and nurture our spirituality.

Children’s Religious Education included more content about the Old and New Testaments. We began the year with a Faith-and-Play-style presentation of the Parable of the Good Samaritan, and since then we have covered topics such as core imagery in the Bible (dove, olive branch), Noah’s Ark, the birth of Jesus, the expectant waiting process of Advent, the period of Lent, the resurrection of Jesus, the Sermon on the Mount, and the Lord’s Prayer.

Our Simple Supper dinner held last fall raised \$2,515 half of which was donated to the Tuesday’s Children charity and the other half donated to Bucks County Interfaith Coalition for Refugee Resettlement. Our spring Lasagna Dinner raised \$3,300 for Mercer Street Friends.

Worship & Ministry continues to create material and programming to deepen discernment in decision-making for business meetings. In February, the committee produced a document entitled: 'Faithfully Participating in Meeting Decision-Making'. The document asks us to contemplate what the Spirit requires of us in the search for answers in our decision-making. We are reminded that once we release a message in business meeting, it belongs to the care of the meeting. Once that happens, we don't have to defend our point of view," just to hold the meeting in the light, and trust the Spirit." The committee also presented a program called "Coming to Love, ". This program considered how we can share differences of opinion without having to be heavy or contentious and be in a space where we are led by the Spirit. Love is a key element, along with humor. We considered queries that ask how we can "give up our points of view" and turn our wills over to the Spirit. We considered how we can respond to God in everyone, including Friends who have different points of view.

Our Care & Counsel committee maintains contact with young adults and inactive members through letter writing and visitations. The committee sent 54 notes to young adults and 148 to inactive members. Care & Counsel also provided much needed support to members experiencing loss of loved ones, illness, and other challenges related to the pandemic. Prints of Edward Hicks' "Peacable Kingdom" painting were presented to 9 young adults who turned 21 this year. Healing quilts were delivered to 8 members in need.

Meeting operations continue to be financially sound. Contributions from members, attenders and F/friends met our budget target for the 2021/22 fiscal year. We are thankful to all who made contributions both financially as well as the time given in service to the Meeting. Donations covered the budgeted cost of Meeting operations, including contributions from the Meeting to BQM and PYM (\$45K), NFS (\$4K), local police, fire and ambulance (\$500 each), and six Quaker non-profit organizations (\$500 each). Our endowments are managed by Friends Fiduciary Corporation with socially responsible investments and performance that compares favorably with industry benchmarks. Capital expenses, including planning for expansion of parking, are being paid primarily out of endowment income which now exceeds \$40K per year.

We continue to assess the formats of communication that work best for engaging and disseminating information to our members and attenders. Our use of Facebook, Mailchimp, and newsletters continues. This year we began using the Signup Genius web app to recruit volunteers to support hybrid Meeting for Worship and Meeting for Business. This app has been so successful we are using it for other Sunday morning volunteer opportunities such as babysitters, greeters and hospitality.

Our membership numbers fell slightly this year. Two weddings were held under the care of the meeting, both on the same day. The first wedding was for Tucker Birmingham and Sameer Manchanda. The second wedding was for Brennan Kinnel and Sarah Chin. We also mourned the deaths of two members, Elizabeth Hurst and Almira Sharp. One member transferred to another meeting, and six minor members reached age 21.

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>
Total Members	343	340
Full Members	335	332
Adult	301	304
Minor	34	28

Associate

8

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Recognizing the unique gifts that each member can bring to the meeting and then offering members the chance to contribute to the work of our community is vital to the life of our Meeting. Charged with this responsibility the Nominating Committee brought forward several nominations for important committee positions this year. Among them Janet Braker was nominated and approved to become the new Assistant Clerk and Nancy Martin was approved to become the new Clerk of Children's Religious Education.

Newtown Friends School, which is under the care of the Meeting, is off to a great start this year. The school began the year at the highest enrollment they have experienced in many years, including two separate pre-kindergarten classrooms. As COVID wanes, they have been able to resume some wonderful traditions such as after-school sports and inter-grade buddy meetings. They have also completed several important renovations, including a facelift for the front entry.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Ratliff, Clerk of Newtown Monthly Meeting

November 2022 Plumstead Friends Meeting's Annual Report to Quarterly Meeting

Plumstead Friends Meeting has continued to meet outdoors in warm weather, partly because of Covid and partly because we prefer it. As we have eased into October we have also eased back into the building with heaters to keep the chill at bay. The stove will get cooking soon enough to keep us warm through the winter.

At our last Meeting for Business we decided to return to our annual Christmas Eve carol sing but with modifications. We will require vaccinations for both Covid and flu and we will also require the use of masks. Masks will make it easier for those who prefer not to sing out loudly to do so covertly but we hope it will keep us safe as we celebrate the season.

Our outreach this year has mostly centered on providing food for others. Plumstead donated 272 pounds of food to the Doylestown Food Pantry of the Bucks County Housing Group so far in 2022, a pretty good amount for a small meeting. The food is collected at the meetinghouse and then delivered by two of our members. We also spent a couple of hours on a Sunday at St. Anne's Ukrainian Catholic Church in Warrington assembling bagged meals to feed children in Ukraine. We assembled a team of about 12 people and had a great time, some of us singing and some of us dancing while we worked. Afterward, we felt we made a small contribution to helping people in a faraway land who are in desperate straits. If we can find another similar opportunity we will gladly do it again!

In the early summer Leslie May, our clerk of Outreach, presented "Song for Ukraine," a program that was mostly music to bring attention to the situation in Ukraine and to support the country. Other Meetings and the public were invited to attend and although the crowd was small it was a good program. Bucks Quarter offered us \$500.00 for outreach which we split between to local missions that we support, Bucks County Coalition for Refugee Resettlement and the Doylestown Food Pantry of the Bucks County Housing Group.

We have also been supporting the Bucks County Interfaith Coalition for Refugee Resettlement in their efforts to place an Afghan Family. We continue to be involved with them as they look towards their next project.

In last year's report I mentioned a couple of repairs and outdoor items that we needed to attend to, a harbinger of things to come. The window and floor repair noted have been fixed and one of the trees was successfully brought down. We continue to watch the additional trees.

This year the challenges to our building have been more substantial and but our clerk of Building and Grounds, Carol Ann Gray, has been more than up to the task. In addition to the usual upkeep inside and out we have started some major repairs on the

meetinghouse. In February we did a walk around to assess the condition of the building and found some areas wanting. Since then we had our slate roof repaired in September and our chimney was repointed and sealed at the top since we don't use it. There was substantial damage in the cornices at two corners of the roof and repairs are currently underway with an eye towards completing them before the onset of winter weather. We have a couple of more minor repairs to complete before the end of the year including replacing some broken window panes for which we have been fortunate enough to locate a source of period-correct glass.

That leaves two major capital improvements for next year. We will recoat the pebble dash surface on the outside of the meetinghouse and re-roof our porch. The old meetinghouses lasted hundreds of years because of the quality of the materials used while some of the newer construction materials are incompatible and less durable than the originals. Carol Ann Gray notes that networking with other meetings has been a wonderful help in locating tradesmen who are knowledgeable about the care of historic buildings and our sincere thanks go out to them. Grants have been applied for and I look forward to reporting next year that these major maintenance jobs are complete.

Respectfully submitted,

Dafydd Jones,
Clerk