

Bucks Quarterly Meeting for Worship for The Purpose Of Business
 15th Day, Eighth Month, 2021
 Hosted by Wrightstown Friends Meeting

#	Agenda Item	Person	Suggested	
			Start	Time
1	Opening Worship		12:45 PM	5
2	Welcome	Leo Fitzpatrick	12:50 PM	5
3	Review and Approval of Agenda	Leo Fitzpatrick	12:55 PM	5
4	Role Call of Meetings	Terry Christensen	1:00 PM	5
5	Review and Approval - Minutes of Previous Meeting	Terry Christensen	1:05 PM	5
6	Stories of Vitality & Strength		1:10 PM	10
7	Report - Quarter Coordinator	Wendy Kane	1:20 PM	10
8	Annual Report - Middletown Meeting	Lance Mervine	1:30 PM	5
9	Peace Fair Update	Tim Cunningham	1:35 PM	10
10	Annual Report - Yardley Meeting	Linda Jacobs Snyder	1:45 PM	5
11	Treasurer's Report	Ed Snyder	1:50 PM	5
12	BQ Outreach Grant Update	Doug Meaker	1:55 PM	5
13	Budget & Nominating - call for nominees	Betsy Bayardi	2:00 PM	5
14	Break		2:05 PM	5
115	Annual Report - Southampton Meeting	Carolyn Peters Michener	2:10 PM	5
16	Annual Report - Solebury Meeting	Marian Hepburn	2:15 PM	5
17	Annual Report - Wrightstown Meeting	Olivia Brangan	2:20 PM	5
18	Annual Report - Bucks Food for Friends	Wendy Kane	2:25 PM	5
19	PYM Annual Sessions Summary: Climate Change & Addressing Racism	Wendy Kane	2:30 PM	10
20	Discussion: At Large Quarter Membership		2:40 PM	15
21	Announcements	Wendy Kane	2:55 PM	5
22	Closing Worship		3:00 PM	5

Reminder: next Quarterly Meeting is 21st Day, Eleventh Month, 2021 at Yardley Meeting

*The suggested times for agenda items are offered to guide us in our work
 These suggestions should never hinder, however, the expression of the Spirit among us*

Bucks Quarterly Meeting for Worship for The Purpose Of Business
16th Day, Fifth Month, 2021
Hosted by Southampton Friends Meeting via Zoom

Friends Gathered at 12:53 PM and settled into a period of silent worship.

Welcome – Clerk Leo Fitzpatrick welcomed Friends at 12:55 PM

Agenda – The agenda was reviewed and approved

Roll Call of Meetings – Wendy Kane asked Friends to identify themselves when their meeting was called. The Roll is as follows: Bristol – 0; Buckingham – 2; Doylestown – 0; Fallsington – 2; Lehigh Valley – 2; Makefield – 2; Middletown – 2; Newtown – 2; Plumstead – 0; Quakertown – 3; Solebury – 2; Southampton – 6; Wrightstown – 6; Yardley – 2.

Correction and clarification of previous minutes – WK announced that we had discovered discrepancies and errors in the minutes of the BQM meetings in both May and August of 2020. WK read the corrections.

The corrected minutes for May 2020 and August 2020 were approved.

Minutes of Previous Meeting – Terry Christensen read the minutes from the February 2021 BQM.

Minutes Approved

Stories of Vitality and Strength –

A Newtown Friend announces that their upcoming First Day Program will feature Arthur Larrabee. His talk is titled “Deepening Our Quaker Decision Making.” All are welcome.

A Quakertown Friend reports that meeting attendance is improving and they have an attender who is applying for membership.

A Makefield Friend reports that they are fully open, meeting in person and sharing meals together. They will be having a dedication ceremony to celebrate the planting of the Penn Treaty Peace Tree at 1 PM on Saturday June 12 and invited the Quarter to attend.

WK reports that Bristol Meeting is inviting Friends to outdoor worship this coming Sunday (May 23rd).

A Southampton Friend reports that today’s program speaker will be happy to include Friends in future conversations; those who wish to participate will need to provide an email address.

Quarter Coordinator Report – BQM Coordinator Wendy Kane provided her report (see attached). Highlights include:

Last May Bucks Quarter held its first ever virtual meeting. While there have been hardships and tragic losses, there have also been positive developments. Through virtual meetings we have been able to reestablish contact with distant Friends and those who are unable to travel. Then too, virtual meetings have drastically reduced our carbon footprint. Vaccinations are enabling us to emerge from the fog of this pandemic. In so doing, we will be creating a “new normal” that we hope will capture the best of both modalities and reaffirm the values we hold dear.

Care of Meetings – Falling infection rates and increasing vaccinations are prompting many meeting to consider reopening for in person meetings. Warmer weather has prompted some to begin outdoor meetings for worship. Some meetings are moving forward with a hybrid model that incorporates both virtual and in-person attendance while other meetings have discerned that they will only meet for worship in person. The Quarter’s Ad Hoc Technology Group has developed a set of Queries for Opening that has proven useful as various meetings make their individual discernments.

Quakerphernalia has an updated design and WK has developed a new invoicing system for advertisements.

Starting next year the Bucks Quarter Handbook and the Bucks Quarter Calendar and Appointments Book will be merged into one document.

Monthly Meeting Clerks are meeting regularly (one month prior to BQM); last meeting topic was joys and challenges of reopening.

Recorders of Membership met recently and discussed topics related to tracking meeting membership; PYM has requested current membership statistics.

WK highlights attendance at various events within BQ, with PYM, and the greater Quaker community.

WK reports that Outreach has a new Clerk (Doug Meaker – Quakertown) and they are proactive in increasing membership and events as COVID subsides.

WK details activities on posting material to website and BQM Facebook page.

WK reports that the Peace Fair Committee has met and the Peace Fair will be held Saturday, September 18th; other fall festivals are still in the process of discernment about whether and/or when to hold their events.

WK attended a meeting of Quarter Coordinators and PYM support staff. WK will take a leadership role in that group.

WK continues to volunteer 1 day per week at Mercer Street Friends

Annual Report – Bristol Meeting - Paul Shaffer (via video; also see attached) – Bristol attendance continues to be low; COVID a significant factor; in warmer months Friends gathered outside under a large tree; it is the discernment of Bristol Friends that in person worship is an important part of the spiritual health of the meeting; unlike last year, BMM will participate in Historic Bristol Day which takes place in October. Bristol membership did not choose to hold Meeting for Worship via Zoom. Nonetheless, BMM

committee meetings were held online and that kept the membership involved. Attendance at committee meetings was good owing to the fact that Friends were not forced to commute to and from meetings. BMM Business meetings have been conducted online via email; BMM has maintained its contributions to BQM and PYM.

Annual Report – Fallsington Meeting – J. David Brimmer (see attached) – Pre-COVID, Fallsington enjoyed many activities that included in-person ministry to Chandler Hall as well as traditional events (e.g. Contra Dancing, Bucks Food for Friends, film presentations). After COVID FMM had to adapt. They conducted meeting for worship and other activities (e.g. Meeting for Music, meeting for Healing) via Zoom. Much of FMM spiritual energy is directed at Undoing Racism; they have adopted an anti-racism minute and are conducting classes in collaboration with the Peace Center on undoing racism. Several FMM members regularly take part in BLM vigils. FMM First Day School has weathered the COVID storm; in addition to Zoom meetings, FMM young friends were often able to gather outside on either the Snipes farm or the meeting grounds. FMM’s traditional Easter and Christmas programs were held via Zoom; when weather permitted, FMM conducted Wednesday meetings for worship outdoors.

Annual Report – Buckingham Meeting – Christine Godshall (see attached) – Buckingham membership has remained at the same level. Last March, BMM immediately suspended in-person meetings and began using Zoom for Meeting for Worship. Additionally, when weather permits, BMM has held a concurrent MFW outside. This has been beneficial in that BMM has found that Friends and Seekers from across the country as well as Friends who are unable to travel now join MFW on a regular basis. Virtual meetings have also been beneficial for committee work. BMM has begun a “not just meeting for worship Wednesday” meeting which has proven attractive to many. BMM is noticing more member involvement in BQM and PYM activities. On the negative side, BMM has noticed that some members are not attending via Zoom. Also COVID halted what had been strong growth in the First Day School program. In addition to the cancellation of the 2020 Peace Fair, BMM was unable to properly celebrate the 300th anniversary of their meeting being established. On the plus side BMM has been able to make significant repairs to the meetinghouse. Looking forward, BMM hopes to retain many of the positive lessons that have come from this ordeal.

(1:55 PM to 2:01 PM – Break)

Treasurer's Report – Ed Snyder (see attached) – We are $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way through our fiscal year and seem to be on track; between FNB and Friends Fiduciary Fund we have \$111 K in assets. BQM has doubled its contribution to FH&V, Chandler Hall, and Camp Onas. COVID restrictions have resulted in a considerable savings in the travel budget; we had an unexpected and significant expense to Holly Olson’s pension fund which has been resolved; meeting contributions are behind schedule but we expect to meet budget

2021-2022 Budget – Ed Snyder (see attached) – We are projecting \$279, 850 in revenue; our contribution to PYM will be \$198, 785. Friends requested that the \$7,000 allocated for monthly meeting outreach grants be included as a line item in the budget; the budget

will show a \$7000 deficit, however, this expense will be ultimately be funded by the Kirkbride bequest. Our total expenses will be \$286,850.

Friends raised the possibility of budgeting the increased contributions to Quaker organizations; Friends that that we can reevaluate the situation at Quarterly Meeting in August.

Comment – FH&V, Chandler Hall, and Camp Onas should get more money but concur that we can revisit the topic later.

2021-2022 Budget Approved

Proposal BQ Outreach Fund to support MM Outreach – Ed Snyder (see attached, including proposed application) – BQ Outreach is proposing to offer support the outreach efforts of BQ Monthly Meetings. Grants would be up to \$500 per cycle (i.e. per Fiscal Year) per meeting and could be used to fund any product or activity that supports Quakerism. Meetings would apply to BQ Outreach, who would review application and, provided the application meets minimum criteria, will approve the application. Examples include funding for equipment to develop hybrid meetings, branded merchandise for handout, build or repair an attraction on meetinghouse grounds (e.g. labyrinth), or donations to local charities. It is anticipated that BQ could renew this program for up to three years.

Discussion ensues: Questions about accounting methodology, frequency of application, and inauguration of program (July 1st) are resolved.

Proposal for BQ Outreach Grants is Approved for FY 2021-2022

BQ Budget and Nominating Committee – Betsy Bayardi – BQM Budget and Nominating Committee believes it is prudent to expand the management team. They are seeking nominations for the positions of Alternate Clerk and Assistant Treasurer. The committee is hoping to establish a chain of succession such that the Alternate Clerk would, in time, succeed the presiding Clerk of BQM.

Annual Report – Chandler Hall – Betsy Bayardi (see attached) – This has been a very difficult year for Chandler Hall. In addition to the logistics of having to deal with protecting residents and staff from COVID, state and local health departments prohibited long-term care facilities from accepting new admissions. On site marketing efforts were also constrained. Immediately after COVID restrictions were implemented CH routinely tested residents and staff. Staff who tested positive were advised to stay home. Consequently, CH did not suffer any COVID deaths for the first six months of the pandemic. Closing the facility to visitors was particularly hard on residents. CH installed “sensory development areas” where residents can experience music, spoken word, and images which imparted a sense of well being and improved morale. There have also been changes in CH leadership; they have a new CEO. CH is pleased to report that as of May 3rd, CH is open to visitors without the requirement of social distancing.

? When can MM resume ministry visits to CH – Response: too early to know but sense that CH would like MM visits to resume soon.

Comments: Please convey BQM appreciation to staff; Friend remarked that CH care of a relative was excellent

Annual Report – Lehigh Valley – Louise Young (see attached) – LVMM closed its doors in March 2020 but the meeting remains active. LVMM has noted advantages of Zoom (i.e. distant Friends and those who cannot easily travel are attending regularly). Adult RE has taken advantage of Zoom to connect with distant Friends (e.g. Peru). LVMM has held outdoor MFW when weather permitted. LVMM notes that some members did not use the “virtual meetinghouse.” Nonetheless, attendance at mid-week worship increased during quarantine. Virtual attendance is typically in the mid 40s but has been at 50. LVMM member continue to be active in social justice issues including Jail Release Assistance, support of local food pantry and BLM vigils. Over the course of the past year, LVMM have a net loss of 2 members. LVMM notes that 85 of 117 members are involved in committee work. Moving forward LVMM is planning to adopt a hybrid MFW model with both in-person and virtual platforms.

BQ Oversight Committee – Rick Dow (see attached) – BQ Oversight meets regularly with the BQ Coordinator. These meeting include an annual performance review. Oversight feels that WK has done very well – particularly in adapting to the challenges brought forward by COVID. Oversight notes that WK has taken advantage of technical expertise among our members to enhance the connections between meetings. In the past year WK has rebuilt the BQ website and given Quakerphernalia a makeover. Committee membership is largely unchanged. Kim Gronek has replaced Jerry Taylor as the representative of Makefield MM. Bill Daly of Middletown MM has stepped into the role of recording clerk for the Oversight Committee.

Annual Report – Bucks Quarterly Meeting - Leo Fitzpatrick (see attached) – BQM has remained active in the face of COVID; BLM vigils at Lehigh Valley, Newtown, and Southampton meetings stand out as proactive efforts in raising awareness of social injustice. BQM has a new website that has helped us remain connected throughout the COVID ordeal. BQM’s Facebook page has also been an important communication tool. On Jan 30th, George Schaefer of PYM held an Eldership Workshop for BQM. There was a follow-up discussion at the February 2021 Quarterly meeting. While both positive and negative aspects of the training were raised, most felt that they came away with fresh insights. As monthly meetings plan for reopening, several are looking to hold hybrid meetings in order to retain the involvement of distant and infirm Friends and attenders. WK has formed a committee that is prepared to assist MM’s make the discernment. Grants are available from both BQM and PYM to help defray the cost of equipment for those meetings who choose to offer hybrid MFW.

Guilford College Announcement – Marie Branson Knapp – Guilford College has been particularly hard hit by COVID. While it’s true that there were problems in Liberal Arts Education, COVID has exacerbated the situation – particularly at Guilford. An alumni group has formed to re-envision how GC can continue to operate while maintaining a Quaker governance structure. Ms. Knapp wonders if BQM would draft a minute in

support of GC; are there Friends who would be willing to help with recruitment and or fundraising?

? has Ms. Knapp contacted George School; Response – Yes.

Comment: Ms. Knapp was one of the originators of the BLM vigil in Quakertown

Comment: There are several GC alumni in BQ

Comment: Olivia Brangan offers to write article about GC for PYM website.

Comment: Suggests Ms. Knapp contact Pendle Hill

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

Adjournment – Clerk Leo Fitzpatrick adjourned the Meeting for Business at 3:32 PM.

Reminder: next Quarterly Meeting is 15th Day, Eighth Month, 2021 under the care of Wrightstown Meeting

Report of the Coordinator to Bucks Quarterly Meeting
August 15, 2021
Under the Care of Wrightstown Monthly Meeting
Held Virtually via Zoom

Just as we thought that we were winning the fight against COVID-19, two obstacles were thrown into our path. One is the reluctance of a certain segment of our population to get vaccinated, and the other is the emergence of the new, more virulent and more transmissible delta variant of the virus. As a result of these two factors we have seen a rise in infections and hospitalizations that haven't been seen in many months. We are fortunate that Bucks County has a high vaccination rate, and while transmission has increased somewhat, it is still relatively low. Friends remain cautious, as evidenced by our holding this Quarterly Meeting virtually and not in person, even though many of our meeting houses are opening for in person worship. Out of an abundance of caution many have returned to wearing masks to slow the spread. It is important for us to listen to the science as it emerges and accept the guidelines offered; it is the only way that we will come out on the other side of this pandemic. In true Quaker spirit, our meeting communities continue to make every effort possible to remain grounded in the Spirit and to embrace community, in any way they feel they safely can.

Inreach

Care of Meetings

Re-opening our Meetings: in May, as vaccination rates were rising and infection rates waning, Friends reached out to ask about the reopening plans for meetings around the Quarter. Areas of interest included re-opening time frames, special accommodations planned, hybrid options and equipment, etc. I contacted all monthly meeting clerks asking them for their reopening plans, and spoke to members of our ad-hoc technology committee as well. Some meetings are reopening slowly, beginning with outdoor Meeting for Worship weather permitting. Others are meeting indoors, with windows and doors open to increase air circulation and ventilation. Some meetings have invested in equipment to enable them to hold hybrid meetings. Many of these decisions, however, have been affected by the emergence of the delta variant of COVID-19 and are causing Friends to change or even put their reopening plans on hold. The Quarter has made available information gathered by Friends on our ad-hoc technology group, who are also available for consultation to meetings who would like to explore hybrid technology.

Miscellaneous Inreach

I have been assisting a meeting with conflict resolution issues and I helped facilitate a panel discussion at Fallsington Meeting which dealt with their need to discern a succession plan for their next clerk as well as the possibility of changing from a single clerk to co-clerk model. Their discernment process continues.

Event Attendance

Within the Quarter:

- Fallsington Meeting's Clerking Workshop

Through Philadelphia Yearly Meeting:

- PYM Quarter Leadership meetings held in May and July
- PYM Runway to Annual Sessions Workshops
- PYM Annual Sessions

Greater Quaker Community:

- Force for Good Gun Violence Prevention presentation
- The History and Caretaking of Quaker Burial Grounds
- Friends General Conference
- Pendle Hill's Reading Group

Outreach

Outreach Committee

A \$500 per monthly meeting annual outreach grant was approved at May's Quarterly Meeting. An application form is available on the website, and to date we have had two applications: one approved for Middletown Meeting and one pending approval for Buckingham Meeting. The availability of these grants has been widely publicized through information sent to meeting clerks, and announcements in *Quakerphernalia* and on our website.

Website & Facebook

Keeping the website up to date with events and stories is time consuming, but continues to be a labor of love. I try to focus on Quarter-wide Events and Stories of Vitality. These stories are either submitted by meetings, or I reprint stories from monthly meeting newsletters. The average continues to be two per month; they are also posted on Facebook. Monthly meeting pages have been updated to reflect the change to their worship modes and schedules. Friends are encouraged to reach out to the coordinator with stories of vitality from their meetings.

Fall Events

Preparations continue for the 21st Annual Peace Fair which is scheduled for Saturday, September 18th. The committee has been meeting, vendors and non-profits are registering for space, and a request for volunteers was emailed to the entire BQ community. The event is being publicized on Facebook and in the Times Publishing publications. Flyers are scheduled to be mailed by Quakertown Friends, and your Coordinator will be at the Wrightstown Farmers Market on August 28 and the Yardley Farmers Market the following week. We will have flyers for the taking and tile painting for the children. Given the ever changing pandemic situation there has not been a decision made about BFS student participation as ambassadors. I have reached out to Newtown Friends to see if there is any interest in their students participating in the Fair.

Bucks Quarter will be a presence at the Yardley Meeting Flea Market scheduled for Sept 11, and applications for space at Historic Fallsington Day and Historic Bristol Day have been submitted. Bristol Meeting plans to have the archeological dig on their property again this year. Application for Olde Langhorne Harvest Day has been submitted and is pending approval from their committee.

Miscellaneous Outreach

I continue to volunteer one day a week at the Mercer Street Friends Food bank assembling food packages for those in Mercer County who are experiencing food insecurity. The need for volunteers continues.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Kane
Coordinator, Bucks Quarterly Meeting

Middletown Friends Meeting at Langhorne
Annual Report to Bucks Quarterly Meeting
August 15, 2021

Middletown Friends have experienced the same challenges as other meetings over the past year during the coronavirus pandemic. We continue to search for ways to gather in meaningful, Spirit-led worship; communicate with our members and attenders and provide opportunities for fellowship; keep up with the business of the meeting and maintain our historic meetinghouse; and engage with the broader community to respond to the many concerns in today's world.

Meeting for Worship

Middletown Friends began worshipping together virtually on Zoom in mid-March 2020 when the pandemic stay-at-home orders were issued. While we all missed in-person worship in our beloved meetinghouse, virtual worship has had some upsides, too, most notably the participation of several Friends afar. As of July 11, 2021, we have resumed in-person meeting for worship with a Zoom option. We received a grant for \$993 toward the purchase of equipment needed to hold hybrid worship as well as a grant from Bucks Quarter for \$500 to cover the cost of Verizon hotspot service for one year. Friends appreciate the time and technical expertise Tom Olson has contributed to make this possible. Our midweek meetings on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. also resumed in July under the care of Jerry Belew.

Our Children's First Day School

Our First Day School consists of 11 children ranging in age from 7-17. The Covid-19 crisis moved us to Zoom meetings and a socially distanced treasure hunt for the Meetinghouse grounds for one family at a time. Our young Friends hosted a double donation drive-through event for the Penndel Food Pantry, collecting 353 pounds of food and approximately 150 toys! In May, our FDS families met in person for a socially distanced, outdoor gathering with a cornhole tournament and s'mores around a firepit. The FDS is planning to have a booth, Holly's Helpers, at the Peace Fair in September. They are having workshops to produce pet items to sell to earn money to donate to Bucks Food for Friends, another "pet" project of our late Friend Holly DiMicco Olson.

Several young Friends from Middletown are attending Camp Onas this summer.

For several years we have had a monthly family-friendly movie night and potluck supper. This event is building community both within the meeting and with Friends from throughout Bucks Quarter. On hold since February due to Covid-19, we look forward to resuming this monthly event once children can be vaccinated and it is safe for families to gather.

Ministry & Nurture of Our Members and Attenders

The Ministry & Nurture Committee engages in visiting our shut-ins and those who are ill or in the hospital, providing clearness committees as needed, sending cards and flowers on joyous and sad occasions, and tries to be aware of other needs within the meeting. Ministry and Nurture was especially concerned this year with the pandemic affecting the needs of members and attenders who are isolated, and reached out to them with notes, e-mails and phone calls to help them keep connected with the Meeting. Normally we coordinate volunteers to help with worship services at Chandler Hall but of course this is still on hold. Kathleen Parry, of our Meeting, has served as the Coordinator of the weekly services at Chandler Hall for the last 15 years. The support of Bucks Quarter Meetings that send their

members to help with services is most appreciated. We hope to be able to resume this program in some form in the future when it is safe for residents and volunteers.

Our annual auction has been one of the highlights on Middletown's social calendar for decades and serves as the sole fundraiser for the Ministry & Nurture Committee, which uses the proceeds to meet unbudgeted requests throughout the year. While we all missed the warm fellowship of our traditional auction-night potluck supper, the auction itself went on in true 2020 style – online! We came up with our own system—an auction “catalogue” featuring photos and descriptions of all 114 of the donated items that was updated and sent out twice a week via email. We had some wonderful items to bid on this year, including many hand-crafted by our young Friends. Thanks to the generosity of the bidders and donors, we raised significantly more than previous years and more people, including Friends from the Quarter and members of the Langhorne community, were able to participate. Our Zoom grand finale on November 6 when the winning bids were announced was “attended” by local Friends as well as those in Maine, North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland, and Pittsburgh. While we all hope that we'll be able to safely gather in person this November, we are planning to do a hybrid version after the excitement that last year's virtual auction generated.

We stay in touch with our members and attenders through our newsletter, Facebook page, and website, and send minutes from our business meeting out each month via email. We started the year with 87 members 21 or older and 3 under 21. Sadly, three cherished meeting members have passed away in 2021.

Community and Global Outreach

Our food pantry collection locker has been moved outside the meetinghouse and donations have increased as a result. Nancy and George Pickering pick up the donations each week and deliver them to the pantry in Penndel. A special drive thru Food Collection was held on June 26 to honor the 55th Wedding Anniversary of Nancy and George. 1,264 pounds of food were collected during this one-day drive.

The meeting participated in Langhorne Council for the Arts' historic banner project by sponsoring a banner highlighting the history of the meeting. The banners are hung on the Victorian light poles throughout Langhorne and are part of a self-guided walking tour of the borough.

In August 2015, Bucks Learning Cooperative (BLC) assumed use of our schoolhouse building. BLC is a home-schooling support group that manages two similar facilities in New Jersey. Two meeting members serve on their board. The meeting worked with the board to establish safety guidelines to allow the Cooperative to reopen last Fall, paying attention to detailed public health measures. The Meeting maintains the outside of the old schoolhouse; extensive repairs are now underway, with stucco repair, a new chimney pot, painting, and interior electrical work, drywall, and painting.

Middletown meeting has a representative to the Langhorne Ministerium, providing opportunities for interfaith sharing and collaboration. Sadly, the Ministerium's community Thanksgiving service and Good Friday Cross Walk did not take place this year.

In June, in collaboration with a Langhorne resident, we displayed a Juneteenth banner featuring a portrait of Frederick Douglas and the words “Finally Free” on the meetinghouse lawn.

Friends are currently supporting the leading of Friend Sally Farneth, who is working on the Friends' Peace Team's Rwanda book project. The group plans to make six children's books for each of the six

libraries in the African Great Lakes region books, plus a librarian's copy/teacher's manual available for each library.

Handling Conflict Among Friends

In November 2019 the meeting prepared a minute to Bucks Quarter (BQ) expressing our meeting's concerns about racist and sexist behaviors at the August 2019 QM, stemming from events reported by several of our members who attended that meeting. The minute ended with a call to action to make BQ Meeting for Business an inclusive place where all will feel safe and welcome. The minute was received with some anger, although many seemed to come around after further consideration. It is hoped that the minute will have any effect on behavior at future QMs and that Friends would be more mindful of how their words and actions (or lack of) affect others, particularly women and people of color. Two Middletown Friends met with the BQ Clerk this past fall to follow up on the minute, which was read again at the November 2020 QM. As a result, a virtual program on eldering was presented by George Schaefer in January 2021, with many Middletown Friends participating.

Stewardship of Our Historic Meetinghouse and Graveyard

The meetinghouse property and graveyard were maintained through our annual cleanup, conducted this year with social distancing and wearing masks, and the ongoing efforts of numerous Friends who simply perform the tasks they see needing to be done. We are grateful to Friends for their care and work. Our graveyard convener continues to answer and assist many researching relative's graves, often upon a referral from our local historical association. A section of our graveyard has been designated for green burials, with one to date.

Maintaining Our Christmas Traditions During a Pandemic

Even though we were not able to gather in person for Christmas this year we came up with ways to maintain some of our most cherished meeting traditions. Instead of a Christmas pageant this year, we had a virtual inter-generational event, The Gifts of Christmas. The gifts were what Friends of all ages bring to share—playing musical instruments, reading, or sharing poetry, art, or meaningful memories, with others quietly listening and supporting Friends through their presence. Another tradition, having a harpist play during meeting for worship on the Sunday before Christmas, continued this year on Zoom from the meetinghouse. And finally, five open house sessions were held at the meetinghouse in the week leading up to Christmas for visitors to come and enjoy the quiet, holiday setting enhanced with a miniature Victorian Village, the Meetinghouse Manger Scene, and the Giving Tree where donations were left to benefit the Bucks County Homeless Shelter and Mercer Street Friends Center.

We look forward to peace and healing in the upcoming year and hold our world in the Light amidst these difficult times. Our hearts are lifted by our faith in the Spirit and the love and sharing we bring to each other.

Submitted by
Lance Mervine, Clerk
Robin Hipple, Recording Clerk
August 15, 2021

Yardley Friends Meeting Annual report 2021

Like everyone throughout the world our year was different than any we've experienced.

We usually start the season with our Flea Market. The Flea Market we've held for 65 years couldn't happen in September 2020.

As the need arose Ted Taylor and Peg Smedley transferred worship to Zoom. A few of us attended outside worship with masks until all the long johns and blankets didn't keep anyone warm. In the winter it was all zoom. As weather warmed some of us started to worship around an outside fireplace. The spot is beautiful and serene. As rules relaxed we started having snacks and visiting by the picnic table.

July 4 worship inside began. More people came than for meeting outside. It isn't as many people as before Covid yet. There is the feel that we starting to be together again. Hybrid worship continues. Guests are joining us and continuing to attend. There are signs up letting people know they should wear a mask if not fully vaccinated. We have masks, disinfectants and ask for everyone to keep a distance in seating. It is strange not knowing whether to shake hands at the break of Meeting.

At a time where we only could be with those in our own home, it was good seeing each other on Zoom. Most of us agree it doesn't feel as spiritual as worshipping in person. There is an advantage to having evening committee meetings while sitting at home. Some things are better with Zoom.

We found everyone was affected differently. Parents with school age children had a hard time being in touch at all. Juggling children at home and maintaining jobs was challenging. Single people living alone really felt lonely. A couple members did get Covid but are doing okay. Those of us that could made phone calls and reached out in any way we could. Some of us had more time to spend on the care of Meeting. Others had no time at all.

We welcome Rosa David and Denis Copeland as new members. We held clearness for membership on Zoom. Our celebration will be a pool party that will bring many of us together.

We lost three dear Friends but not to Covid. Ann Bishop was a long time member. She was welcoming, helped however she could, and was known for big hugs. Rose Koch attended off and on for years before transferring her membership to Yardley. Rose had a giving way and interesting life experiences to share. We were so sad when she died shortly after becoming a member. We had a Zoom Remembrance for both that brought together people from all over the world. Ed Sites left us most recently. Ed, his wife and two sons have all been an active part of Meeting for many years. A memorial on August 8 will be in person. We miss them!

We made use of the time away from the Meetinghouse to make improvements to our grounds and building. Our Meetinghouse was a gift we've been given by the generation before us. It is our job to maintain the Meetinghouse for future generations and to make it appealing for ourselves and potential new members. Our property committee has grown and many others help. We have new windows, painted walls. Soon new floors, and a unisex, handicap bathroom will be complete. Paving repairs and

many little and big projects were also included. Thanks to Drew Sites and the property committee for shepherding this project.

We will soon build a labyrinth that was delayed a few years back. This is another project we will work on together. We look forward to inviting the community to walk the finished product.

A few of us gain a lot by attending the weekly Women's Group. We got to know each other better than we otherwise would by discussing a question a week. It's a highlight of the year for those who attend.

Aside from keeping in touch we did a few little things to brighten up lives. We sent cards around the holidays and surprised everyone personally delivering a flower to plant as spring arrived. Our Peace and Social Action committee remained diligent helping others outside the community less fortunate than us.

It is with great joy that we enter the Meetinghouse again. I know this time has left a mark and we will find new challenges collectively and individually. Hopefully we will have learned some lessons and will continue to do our best to be a stronger community than ever. We are mindful of continued changes every day.

We look forward to having our Flea Market this September and seeing you all when we host Quarterly Meeting in November.

4:34 PM
07/19/21
Cash Basis

Bucks Quarterly Meeting of Friends
Balance Sheet
As of June 30, 2021

	<u>Jun 30, 21</u>
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
First National Checking	103,652.86
Total Checking/Savings	<u>103,652.86</u>
Total Current Assets	103,652.86
Other Assets	
Friends Fiduciary Corporation	57,067.25
Total Other Assets	<u>57,067.25</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>160,720.11</u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Equity	
Kirkbride Estate	22,196.43
Unrestricted Net Assets	111,280.26
Net Income	<u>27,243.42</u>
Total Equity	<u>160,720.11</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u>160,720.11</u>

Bucks Quarterly Meeting of Friends Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual July 2020 through June 2021

	Jul '20 - Jun...	Budget	\$ Over Bud...	% of Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense				
Income				
Interest and dividends				
FFC	1,788.36	1,770.00	18.36	101.0%
Total Interest and dividends	<u>1,788.36</u>	<u>1,770.00</u>	<u>18.36</u>	<u>101.0%</u>
Monthly Meeting contributions				
Additional	8,824.00			
Pledged	269,068.00	271,245.00	-2,177.00	99.2%
Total Monthly Meeting contributions	<u>277,892.00</u>	<u>271,245.00</u>	<u>6,647.00</u>	<u>102.5%</u>
Other contributions	1,100.00			
Quakerphernalia advertising	1,980.00	1,500.00	480.00	132.0%
Total Income	<u>282,760.36</u>	<u>274,515.00</u>	<u>8,245.36</u>	<u>103.0%</u>
Gross Profit	<u>282,760.36</u>	<u>274,515.00</u>	<u>8,245.36</u>	<u>103.0%</u>
Expense				
Administrative				
Budget and Nominating Committee	0.00	50.00	-50.00	0.0%
Clerks, treasurers, auditors	0.00	500.00	-500.00	0.0%
Total Administrative	<u>0.00</u>	<u>550.00</u>	<u>-550.00</u>	<u>0.0%</u>
Contributions				
Philadelphia Yearly Meeting	193,136.00	193,133.00	3.00	100.0%
Total Contributions	<u>193,136.00</u>	<u>193,133.00</u>	<u>3.00</u>	<u>100.0%</u>
Gifts/Donations				
Camp Onas	300.00	150.00	150.00	200.0%
Chandler Hall	300.00	150.00	150.00	200.0%
Friends Home and Village	300.00	150.00	150.00	200.0%
Total Gifts/Donations	<u>900.00</u>	<u>450.00</u>	<u>450.00</u>	<u>200.0%</u>
Insurance Expense	940.00			
Programs, Activities, Outreach				
Operating	3,704.03	7,000.00	-3,295.97	52.9%
Other				
Advertising	250.00	2,200.00	-1,950.00	11.4%
Liability Insurance	-42.45	860.00	-902.45	-4.9%
Outreach Committee Activities	0.00	2,000.00	-2,000.00	0.0%
Programs for Peace	200.00	1,700.00	-1,500.00	11.8%
Quakerism Classes	200.00	500.00	-300.00	40.0%
Young Friends and Other (net)	0.00	350.00	-350.00	0.0%
Total Other	<u>607.55</u>	<u>7,610.00</u>	<u>-7,002.45</u>	<u>8.0%</u>
Personnel	<u>63,900.99</u>	<u>65,772.00</u>	<u>-1,871.01</u>	<u>97.2%</u>
Total Programs, Activities, Outreach	<u>68,212.57</u>	<u>80,382.00</u>	<u>-12,169.43</u>	<u>84.9%</u>
Total Expense	<u>263,188.57</u>	<u>274,515.00</u>	<u>-11,326.43</u>	<u>95.9%</u>
Net Ordinary Income	<u>19,571.79</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>19,571.79</u>	<u>100.0%</u>
Other Income/Expense				
Other Income				
Unrealized gain/loss (FFC)	11,455.63			
Total Other Income	<u>11,455.63</u>			
Other Expense				
Kirkbride expenses	3,784.00			
Total Other Expense	<u>3,784.00</u>			
Net Other Income	<u>7,671.63</u>			
Net Income	<u><u>27,243.42</u></u>	<u><u>0.00</u></u>	<u><u>27,243.42</u></u>	<u><u>100.0%</u></u>

ANNUAL REPORT OF SOUTHAMPTON MONTHLY MEETING
TO BUCKS QUARTERLY MEETING

August 15, 2021

In past years our report started out with the wonderful turnout at the Peace Fair. The Peace Fair, among many other events, had to be cancelled due to the pandemic.

Since March of 2020 at Southampton Monthly Meeting we have had meetings for Worship and Business on Zoom, with about 6-10 people on Sunday mornings at 10 am and 3-12 people on Tuesday evenings at 7:30 pm. Our online format at first allowed our local people to attend without risking infection, and now continues to allow our people in Iowa, Florida, Delaware, and Maryland to continue attending. We had missed the in person Meetings during the covid-19 pandemic and only at the end of July did we have the joy of eight people in the Meetinghouse for the first time in quite a while. Our Meetings for Worship have been meaningful and thoughtful. We plan to continue the hybrid style Meetings thanks to our “hotspot” and Stephen Moyer who sets up his laptop.

We have allowed the current NA (Narcotics Anonymous) groups to use our Meetinghouse, using proper ventilation, mask wearing and distancing. We moved some benches and marked 6 Ft. seating locations with tape to help with distancing.

Our Vigils for Racial Justice continue, weekly. We started them following the murder of George Floyd in June of 2020. There is still much work to be done to combat systemic racism. We regularly have 12-20 people at the corner of Street and Gravel Hill Roads from 4-5 on Sunday afternoons (although the time of day varies with the hours of daylight). We practiced mask wearing and distancing during the pandemic before we were vaccinated. Vigils have continued throughout the heat and the cold in all weather. We cooperate with Newtown Meeting on activities for Racial Justice. John Magee has been liaison

Along with the vigils, Hans Peters and Stephen Moyer have had meetings with two Upper Southampton Chiefs of Police, one recently retired and his successor. Although the opinions differ about the existence of racism in Southampton, we try to keep a dialogue going.

Christmas brought a new challenge as to how to celebrate with our Candle Light Christmas. We devised a zoom program, with readings and music where everyone but the speaker (or musician) was muted. For the sharing portion, we had the usual candles in sandboxes in the Meetinghouse with video. As people spoke, one of two people in the meetinghouse placed a lit candle in the sandbox. Some Friends from Newtown and Trenton Meetings joined us. Positive feedback from a Latina Friend in Trenton came regarding our inclusion of singing “Somos El Barco”.

Richmond Shreve of Newtown recorded our program and combined portions with videos of the children of Newtown Meeting for a presentation of a “Quaker Christmas Celebration” shown to Pennswood Village residents.

For the first time in a number of years Southampton meeting hosted Bucks Quarterly Meeting. Our speaker was Helen Higginbotham, Esq., community organizer and law professor, who has organized “When Black Women Gather”. She talked about “Conversation is Action – Getting to the Tough Conversations”. She received positive feedback. Several people asked to be put on her

email list for events. We plan to host BQM again, (but in person!), when our turn comes around again.

Bill Dockhorn has been spending considerable time and effort organizing our records to send to Haverford for archiving. We appreciate his initiative and diligence.

In December 2020, Southampton Meeting passed a Minute addressed to the President of the United States, the Attorney General, and the Senators and Representative that represent us in Washington. The Minute spoke against the (at that time) recent resumption of federal penal executions.

In June 2021, Southampton Meeting passed a Minute addressed to the Pennsylvania state legislature, regarding Equity in Education, requesting that all funds, not just “new” funds, be equitably distributed so schools with lower tax bases could have better funding.

Last year we replaced a 90 year old slate roof on our House on the Hill for \$11,000. Thanks to two generous members who offered matching funds of \$2,000 and \$3,000 plus members’, attenders’ and former members’ contributions, we have been able to regain most of this amount in the past year.

On June 26 Jim and Carolyn Michener celebrated their first Wedding Anniversary with a small gathering of Friends, friends, and relatives in the Meetinghouse. They restated their vows at the beginning of 45-minute Meeting for Worship, which included thoughtful messages from those present. Guests then signed the marriage certificate, something that had been impossible during the wedding, held, as it was, at the height of the pandemic quarantine. Afterward we had a trash free gathering outside – with ceramic plates, glass glasses, washable utensils, cloth napkins and tablecloths. Food scraps were composted or enjoyed by local chickens.

Our members have been active in Quaker activities, outside of Southampton Meeting, such as EQAT actions, and various other organization demonstrations for racial justice. Bill Dockhorn serves on the budget and Nominating for Bucks Quarter. Carolyn serves on the Bucks Quarter Oversight and Outreach Committees in addition to the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Anti-Racism Collaborative (ARC). The ARC has collected many resources, which appear on the PYM website. Stephen Moyer is taking over the position of clerk of Southampton Monthly Meeting. We plan to have some listening sessions regarding the future of the meeting and possible changes to the House on the Hill to better suit our needs. Other hopes are directed towards programs/discussions/book readings regarding actions to interrupt structural racism.

Our Meetinghouse with a hybrid meeting is open for Meeting for Worship at 10 am on Sundays. Worship on Tuesdays at 7:30 continues only via zoom. Our picture window looks out into a woods beautiful at any time of year, in the spring when the leaves are coming out, the summer, the fall as the leaves turn and in the winter as the snow falls. All are welcome. Come visit.

Peace and Love,

Carolyn Peters Michener,

Outgoing Clerk (2002-2021).

Solebury Friends Meeting's Annual report to Bucks Quarterly Meeting 8th month 2021

We celebrated Irene Fisher's 100th birthday this spring by sending birthday cards and calls, and Friends Village helped us celebrate with a few people in person, and a great zoom connection so more of us could join in. We are grateful for her continued involvement with her son Phillip. They both attended Meeting for worship in person once in July, along with Irene's daughter Karen.

We are concerned about our lack of connection during the pandemic, and are trying to come up with ways to connect meaningfully with Friends when worship is not available. We resumed worshipping in person at the Meetinghouse this spring, and those who feel safe to attend find it a great joy to be back together. Zoom meeting for worship is still available, but it isn't being used much, and we grieve over the loss of connection it was providing for and with far flung Friends. In person attendance is very light, but that is usually true during the summer months. We hope it will be safe enough for more members to worship in the fall. We have been discussing hybrid worship, but have not reached clearness and will continue to work with each other to discern how to include the most people.

Solebury has active members on many Boards of Directors: George School (2), Buckingham Friends School (4), Camp Onas (1), Chandler Hall (1), Friends Home and Village (1), and Mercer Street Friends (1).

We have an education grant fund named in honor of a past member Mary Blackmar, to give some financial support to Friends attending Friends Schools. While I don't have the details in time for this report, we continue this work. Our connections to Buckingham Friends School, George School, and others are strengthened by our young Friends attendance, and we are grateful for the longstanding ties they help create.

Our House and Grounds, and Graveyard committees have continued to keep our Meeting in good repair, in spite of the challenges of the pandemic, fallen trees, stone wall repair, and historic building maintenance.

Respectfully Submitted,
Marian Hepburn, Clerk
Solebury Friends Meeting

Wrightstown Meeting Annual Report
Bucks Quarterly Meeting
August 15, 2021

What a year of transition this has been for the Wrightstown Friends Meeting - a year and a half of COVID and a transition in leadership for our community. Our longtime clerk, Betsy Bayardi, took me under her wing over the last year, as I served as the rising clerk which has allowed for a meaningful and smooth transition in leadership. Betsy currently serves our community as the 'past clerk', and both an elder and mentor to me. Wrightstown Meeting is incredibly grateful for her continued service.

A look at where Wrightstown has been:

As reported by our Recorder, Alice Maxfield, the Wrightstown Meeting statistics for the year ending December 31, 2020 are as follows:

181 members, 21 years of age and older
6 members, under the age of 21
18 associate members, under the age of 21
205 = total membership

We had two new members join our meeting, one death and one resignation. One Associate Member turned 21 and was released.

Kim & Randy Viscio are our new members. Their children, G. Viscio (11/30/2011) and A. Viscio (9/3/2013) became members under 21.
George Rowe (5/15/2020) died during the year.
K. Biggs resigned.
R. Comley turned 21 and was released.

As the COVID-19 pandemic infiltrated our world in February and March of 2020, Wrightstown Meeting began to quickly assess how to create a safe and spiritually connected worshipping community. We closed the meetinghouse and pivoted to an online Zoom platform for worship and social time at the rise of meeting. This was a blessing for some but was not for others. Each week about 15 – 20 folks joined for worship.

First Day School continued and finished the 2019-2020 academic year online and under the care of Kate Whitman Kamara and several other dedicated members. The children's religious education program ran concurrently with Meeting for Worship from 10am – 11am each week. The children attending ranged from K through 6th grade; the attendance varied from 4 to 10 children each week.

Wrightstown Meeting is blessed to have Wrightstown Friends Nursery School (WFNS) under its care. It is a beautiful nursery school rooted in Friends spiritual practice of kindness, patience, love and listening. My three children attended WFNS which created a comfortable pathway for our family to come to Quakerism.

The Wrightstown Friends Nursery School finished their year in an online platform filled with arts and crafts, story time, and music.

Zoom has been such a gift for our meeting to unwrap; it has allowed for many members and attenders to connect with us each week (about 15 to 20 people) – one member from Germany and one attender joined us each week from Florida, both of whom found themselves in their respective places for a prolonged period due to safety concerns of COVID.

Our zoom link continues to be available upon request from others outside the Wrightstown Community – we had two guests over the last year; the zoom platform is used to primarily connect with and support the Spiritual Formation of our members, attenders, and families of Wrightstown Meeting.

What about those who are not connecting online with us? What about those whom we are missing? Care and Counsel has done a wonderful job in making phone calls and sending emails during the past year to connect with Friends who are not wanting to or able to join online worship. We have found that Zoom worship is not for everyone.

In December of 2020, we held our longstanding traditional Candlelight Carol Sing – it just looked a bit different this year online. A candle burned in one of our Zoom squares for special effect while we heard singing, poetry, and a beautiful musical instrument piece by one of our young Friends. Children, families and our community far and wide, came together for this special occasion. Sadly, we had to give the Lingohocken Fire Truck the year off – this beautiful antique fire truck traditionally stands watch over our meetinghouse in case of fire. We hope to engage them again this year.

Our Children's Religious Education program took a pause from the Fall of 2020 to January of 2021. From January 2021 through June 2021, we held First Day School via zoom from 9:00am to 9:45am each Sunday, before Meeting for Worship at 10am. It was a wonderful space for the children to worship, connect, and share with each other – attendance varied from 3 to 10 children, ranging from kindergarten to 6th grade. Each 4th Sunday, the children were invited to join Philadelphia Yearly Meeting's wonderful online Giant Children's Meeting. They connected with a community of about 30 other Quaker children in PYM's geographic area. They seemed to really enjoy this time and the program offered.

In February 2021, Wrightstown Friends Nursery School re-opened its' doors with a good COVID safety plan and ran at full-COVID-capacity – the decreased class size allowed for safe social distancing; masks were required. The co-directors, Karen Bryk and Claranne Merlo were very creative and flexible in the teaching and playing in the newly configured outdoor learning spaces. WFNS plans to re-open in the fall with nearly full attendance in both the Morning and Afternoon Friends programs.

In the winter of 2021, we began an online experiment and formed a Pendle Hill pamphlet discussion Group on the 4th Sunday of each month. This has been a wonderful opportunity to gather together as a community, deepen our spiritual formation, and listen and learn from each other through worship sharing and query reflection. Approximately 10 to 20 Friends gather online each month.

In the Spring of 2021, Wrightstown Meeting began to gather outside on campus while others continued to gather online – parallel worship. We experimented with the hybrid model for a few weeks, but found that it was not conducive to the outdoor space. Approximately, 15 folks joined on campus; 15 joined each week on zoom.

A look at where Wrightstown Meeting is presently:

In May 2021, the sense of the community revealed that we wanted to open the meetinghouse for worship. An ad hoc committee on Re-Opening the Meetinghouse met to draft COVID safety guidelines and procedures to gather indoors. Due to the fluid nature of this virus and its' conditions, we agreed to re-assess the protocol every two months as a community.

We currently have a hybrid meeting each week – we welcome Friends to join us on Zoom where participants online can be heard in the meetinghouse and see the meetinghouse, however those in the meetinghouse cannot see those online. In the near future, we will discern as a meeting, how or if we can create blended worship, where we can see & hear, welcome & include everyone joining in-person and online.

A look forward for Wrightstown Meeting:

We agreed as a community to re-assess the Wrightstown COVID-19 Community Guidelines and Safety Procedure every three months. We continue to review and monitor the CDC recommendations and local Bucks County Department of Health information on infection rates; this helps us discern the impact on how we will continue to gather as a meeting community.

A Community Conversation (hopefully in-person) is on our calendar for October 23. We will explore how we can center the needs of our children and families in the meeting, welcome and include members and attenders whom we have not seen since before COVID, and discern a way forward on bringing the yearly meeting wide ministries of Addressing Racism and Climate Change into the life of our meeting through some changes, shifts, and religious education.

Respectfully submitted with gratitude,

Olivia Brangan
Clerk, Wrightstown Meeting

Bucks Food for Friends
Annual Report August 15, 2021
Bucks Quarterly Meeting

Bucks Food For Friends is operated completely by volunteers comprised mostly of Bucks Quarter Quakers. COVID 19 continues to interrupt the model of how Bucks Food For Friends serves meals. March of 2020 was the last hot meal prepared, packed, and served to our guests “to go”. However, the mission of serving those experiencing food insecurities has adapted to simpler “to go” meals and then delivery is coordinated through the Advocates for the Homeless to the camps they service.

The organization has been so lucky to have a wonderful pool of volunteer resources who historically help with meal preparation, serving, and cleanup. We cannot wait to resume the personal one on one hot meal service for guests. If you are interested in being added to the pool of volunteers or are curious about volunteering, please contact Carol whose email is at the bottom of the report.

BFFF is completely dependent on external donations to support the mission. We are grateful for the continued generosity of monetary donations from individuals and meetings within Bucks Quarter. We are currently in good financial shape, but welcome donations to support the mission. Send donations to Rich Richardson, BFFF Treasurer 1 Atkinson Lane, Newtown, PA 18940.

Submitted by Carol Richardson Volunteer Coordinator
email: c.richardson@cbhearthside.com

Report from the Membership & Belonging Sprint

The Sprint

The sprint has met biweekly over the last six months via Zoom. The sprint's work focused on the following goals as outlined in the charge:

- Explore a broadened path to membership beyond the tradition of becoming a member of a monthly meeting.
- Consider how this path contributes to our goal of being a welcoming, supportive, and inclusive faith community.
- Assess new ways of recognizing and recording membership.
- Submit a report with recommendations for a trial process to Annual Sessions in 2021.

To accomplish these goals, we reviewed a variety of data sources, including:

- Minutes from Monthly and Quarterly Meetings in PYM.
- Minutes from other yearly meetings, such as New York Yearly Meeting.
- Interviews with Friends who volunteered or were identified as having a need or a story involving membership.

Insights

For some Friends, traditional membership doesn't work. There may be a variety of reasons, including but not limited to: previous experiences with monthly meeting membership, challenges of very small meetings, lack of religious education, opportunity, and diversity, and difficulty in connecting with "place" based meetings.

Proposal for At Large Membership in Philadelphia Yearly Meeting

Friends who are interested in exploring at-large membership should become familiar with the sections of Faith & Practice that explain traditional membership:

Membership - <https://www.pym.org/faith-and-practice/faith-reflected-organization/friends-meetings/membership/>

Procedures for Membership - <https://www.pym.org/faith-and-practice/guidelines-and-procedures/procedures-for-membership/>

Individuals who wish to apply for at-large membership in Philadelphia Yearly Meeting are encouraged to submit a letter of application to the clerk.

The letter should include the following:

- A statement of the applicant's understanding of the Religious Society of Friends, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, and an understanding of how at-large membership meets their spiritual needs.
- A plan for worshipping in the manner of Friends over the next year.

- Worship may include monthly meetings, quarterly meetings, yearly meetings, Pendle Hill, or another body with regular or irregular worship.
- A plan for religious education over the next year.
 - Religious education may include workshops, retreats, or religious education classes from any one of the many organizations that offers these opportunities, including but not limited to, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, Pendle Hill, Friends General Conference, a quarterly meeting event, or a monthly meeting event.
- A commitment to remain in communication with PYM, including updated contact information and requests for support or assistance as needed.
- An annual update to the appropriate committee with an evaluation of what's working, what's not working, what needs to change, either personally or in the at-large membership process.

Friends have the option of asking a group to write a letter of support for their application. That group could be a committee, a quarter, a worship group, Young Adult Friends, or another Quaker organization the applicant is in community with.

When the letter is received, the clerk will appoint a clearness committee to meet with the individual and explore their spiritual journey. If the committee and the applicant are clear that the individual is open and prepared for at-large membership, then the clerk will write a letter of welcome.

Individuals who complete the clearness process are welcomed into membership. At-large members are eligible to serve on PYM councils and committees, as PYM officers, as representatives to external organizations, or to receive grants. Membership is one way to be a Quaker, but not the only way.

Quarterly Meetings

Quarters are encouraged to consider at-large membership in the Quarter. Some Friends have expressed that their spiritual home and community lies with their Quarter and they'd like to be members of their Quarter. This may not be applicable to all Quarters, as some may not have the capacity or structure to care for at-large members.

The Sprint

The sprint asks that the process for running and evaluating the trial of at-large membership over the next year be turned over to Quaker Life Council. QLC is the natural home for the ongoing care for at-large members, as "Quaker Life Council maintains the community and the spiritual depth within Philadelphia Yearly Meeting."

The sprint members would like to be invited to serve on clearness committees and consult on the drafting of the final report presented to Annual Sessions 2022.

Respectfully,

Carl Stanton, Chester, Chester Quarter
 Deborah Lyons, West Chester, Concord Quarter
 Emily Blanck, Mickleton, Salem Quarter
 Meg Rose, Central Philadelphia, Philadelphia Quarter
 Melanie Douty-Snipes, Fallsington, Bucks Quarter
 Rachel Eshun, Chestnut Hill, Philadelphia Quarter
 Melissa Rycroft, Upper Susquehanna Quarter