

Bucks Quarterly Meeting for Worship for The Purpose Of Business  
 20th Day, Eleventh Month, 2022  
 Hosted by Lehigh Valley Friends Meeting

#	Agenda Item	Person	Suggested	
			Start	Time
1	Opening Worship		12:45 PM	5
2	Welcome	Bill Daly	12:50 PM	5
3	Review and Approval of Agenda	Bill Daly	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	15
7	Report - Quarter Coordinator	Wendy Kane	1:25 PM	10
8	Consideration of Quakertown's minute	Bethann Morgan Jonathan Snipes	1:35 PM	10
9	Treasurer's Report	Ed Snyder Lisa Parry Becker	1:45 PM	5
10	Break		1:50 PM	10
11	Auditor's Report	Bill Dockhorn	2:00 PM	5
12	Annual Report - Friends Village	Chiyo Moriuchi	2:05 PM	15
13	Do we hold a Hybrid meeting in Second Month 2023	Bill Daly	2:20 PM	5
14	Annual Report - Peace Fair Committee	Tim Cunningham	2:25 PM	5
15	Annual Report - Newtown Meeting	Janet Braker	2:30 PM	5
16	African American Museum Contribution	Leo Fitzpatrick	2:35 PM	5
17	Annual Report - Plumstead Meeting	Dafydd Jones	2:40 PM	5
19	Announcement: 2022 Peace Pilgrimage	Rick Dow	2:45 PM	1
20	Other Announcements		2:46 PM	5
21	Closing Worship		2:51 PM	

Reminder: next Quarterly Meeting is 19th Day, Second Month, 2023 at Middletown Quaker 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**  
**21<sup>st</sup> Day, Eighth Month, 2022**

Held under the care of Fallsington 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 – 3; Doylestown – 3; Fallsington – 12; Lehigh Valley – 2; Makefield – 1; Middletown – 3; Newtown – 8; Plumstead – 2; Quakertown – 3; Solebury – 2; Southampton – 4; Wrightstown – 2; Yardley – 3

**Review and Approval of Minutes from May 15 Quarterly Meeting– Approved**

**Stories of Vitality & Strength** – Solebury Friend reports Ujima Friends Peace Center visited Solebury Friends.

Lehigh Valley Friend reports hosting summer picnics: these have been restorative to the membership; example: 26 LV Friends took a trip on Joshua White canal boat ride.

Buckingham Friend reports that Buckingham Friends School is very near capacity enrollment and is refurbishing/remodeling/rebuilding buildings with an eye toward sustainability.

Yardley Friend reports that they will host their 66<sup>th</sup> Annual Flea Market – it has energized the members.

Middletown Friend reports that three women doctors with Middletown connections will be added to a mural behind the World Travel Building in Langhorne.

Southampton Friend reports that they held a gathering last weekend at which many former young members of Southampton rejoined meeting.

Lehigh Valley Friend wonders what percentage of Friends attend Buckingham Friends School – 6.5% last year; uncertain about this year; Buckingham Friend reports that scholarships are available for Buckingham Friends School; Doylestown Friend wonders what percentage of Quaker youth apply and what percentage are accepted – difficult number to calculate; four teachers are Friends.

**Quarter Coordinator Report** – Wendy Kane (complete report attached). We had intended this meeting to be a hybrid format (i.e., a mix of in-person and virtual attendance). Sadly, new variants of COVID and higher infection rates have led us to meet via Zoom. This is our 10th consecutive virtual meeting. While we are weary, we are resilient; we have risen to the challenge and are learning to adapt to and utilize new technology and new ways to interact. We are able to connect with more distant Friends and decrease our carbon footprint. Keeping families connected continues to be a challenge; we remain a relevant spirit-filled community.

**BQM Inreach:** In the past quarter, Wendy visited 11 meetings (most in person). Wendy has consulted with Wrightstown and Bristol meetings about graveyard record-keeping. Wendy in conversation with Friends Historical Library archivist, Caitlin, regarding digital preservation of Bucks Quarterly Meeting and Bucks Quarter Monthly Meeting records. **BQM Budget and Nominating Committee** met in July and will bring Lisa Parry Becker forward as BQM new Treasurer. They continue to seek nominees for Alternate Clerk, Rising Recording Clerk, and a nominee for PYM Nominating Council. Friend Bill Dockhorn will be nominated to join Bucks Quarter Audit Committee.

**PYM** – Quarter Staff are now meeting regularly with the goal to improve communication between Quarterly meetings and PYM. Olivia Brangan will clerk; Zachary Dutton who served in this capacity and others has moved on from PYM. Paul Jepson (Interim PYM Communications) has offered support/advice for our YouTube channel and is willing to put our stories of vitality on the PYM website.

**Event attendance** – Song for Ukraine–Plumstead Meeting; Buckingham Friends 300th Birthday Bash; Sam Nicholson Memorial Meeting for Worship; “Gathering Virtually” A PYM Special Workshop; Listening Session w/ Sheila Sorkin (new PYM Aging Coordinator) re “Aging Concerns”; PYM 342nd Annual Sessions; Quaker Call to Action (July 25<sup>th</sup>); attended by almost 200 Friends; They would like yearly, quarterly, and monthly meetings to consider: What if anything, is the Light Within calling Friends to do in response to the unprecedented rise in extremism, white supremacy, and authoritarianism.

**Bucks Quarter Outreach Grants:** 13 meetings have each received the \$500 Outreach Grant; more grants are available during 2022-2023 fiscal year information has been posted on the website about how to apply for these grants. Meetings expected to include how their outreach grant was used in their annual reports to the Quarter.

**Outreach Postcard:** additional cards will be printed later this summer.

**YouTube:** we continue to expand our YouTube channel (56 subscribers to date); added presentation from May Quarterly Meeting (Gretchen Castle) and posted our first “Take 3” video featuring Plumstead Friend and clerk Dafydd Jones.

**Bucks Quarter Quaker Meeting Driving Tour** we have submitted descriptions of the meetinghouses located in Bucks County to Bucks County Tourism Bureau; Wendy shares examples; awaiting notification that the driving tour is available on their website.

**Website:** we have a regular section of Quakerphenalia highlighting ‘What’s new on the website’ – this includes links to items of interest and stories of vitality; some of our stories have been reprinted on the PYM website

**Facebook:** Wendy continues to scan Facebook daily to provide interesting links and events for the Bucks Quarter Facebook page followers. She has designed posts of monthly queries that hopefully will be shared across the Quarter.

**Times Publishing:** in addition to paid ads, they published two articles one advertising Buckingham Meeting's 300th birthday and a story highlighting the poetry reading at the upcoming Peace Fair.

**Miscellaneous Outreach:** Chandler Hall: restarting worship services is on hold due to the emergence of the BA.5 variant of the COVID-19 virus; will revisit the CH Worship once transmission level drops to "low."

**Fall Events:** plans are in place for Yardley Flea Market, the BQ Peace Fair, Historic Fallsington, Historic Bristol, and Olde Langhorne Harvest Day. BQM will be offering tile painting for children at each of these events. We received a donation of 200 reclaimed tiles. Wendy announces Quarter-wide book discussion group, *These Walls Between Us* is first read – virtual discussion scheduled for Oct 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Special Report – Bucks County Advocacy Teams (BCAT) – Betsy Crofts** – reports on work with FCNL; The BCAT is active with FCNL to help citizens establish relationships with members of Congress in support of Peace, Social Justice, Environmental Stewardship; BCAT is one of 125 teams in 44 States; success comes from a commitment to building relationships with Congress grounded in mutual respect and listening. There are three levels of participation. 1) Regularly attend meetings (via Zoom – new members may observe); 2) Agree to receive FCNL Action Alerts and commit to writing letters to the editor or opinion columns. 3) Be a Friendly Face; agree to attend (not participate) legislative meetings on Zoom (it's impactful to see more faces on a Zoom call). BCAT is not just for Quakers, but for all who value Peace, Social Justice, and Stewardship. Bucks County Advocacy Team meets Thursday, August 28<sup>th</sup> at 4pm on Zoom. RSVP to Betsy Crofts (emcrofts@gmail.com) to receive Zoom link. Advocacy Training is available through FCNL: Contact Timheishmann@fcnl.org for more information. The next training dates are August 22nd at 7pm and September 26th at 7pm.

**Special Report – 342nd PYM Annual Sessions Summary – Bethann Morgan** – Outstanding annual sessions this year; the epistle was particularly inspiring; Bethann suggests that Friends visit the website to see for themselves what was discerned; Bethann reports that 2023 Budget is balanced and encourages financial support of PYM; DEI Deep Listening teams project not going forward at this time; monthly meetings are encouraged to support Ujima Friends Peace Center; Abington Minute read; Federal Truth and Healing Commission is supported by PYM to address genocidal practices of boarding schools for indigenous youth in 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century; PYM requests climate steward from each monthly meeting – part of climate crisis group see Earth Care Witness website; membership and belonging, At-Large Membership is now a reality; important to support PYM Committees; new PYM Clerk Melissa Rycroft and Rising Clerk is Nikki Mosgrove.

**Annual Report – Middletown** – Lance Mervine (full report attached): Middletown is moving forward despite COVID challenges. Nonetheless, they have sponsored outdoor social gatherings for families and young people to preserve a sense of community. The meeting hosted two very large memorial services. As a consequence of these meetings, they have learned some important lessons regarding technical issues in large meeting for worship which they have incorporated into regular meeting for worship. They have done work on their schoolhouse which houses Bucks Learning Cooperative; they continue work with PennDel Food Pantry; Middletown Meeting Young Friends served as “Holly’s Helpers” and sold pet-related items at the 2021 Peace Fair – they plan to do this again this year; last winter the meeting found a homeless woman sleeping in utility room; she was assisted by members; the meeting is concerned about proposed PennDOT plan which would widen Route 413 and have a substantial negative impact on the community; the meeting celebrated Edward Hicks Day along with the Langhorne borough community. This fall the meeting will be hosting a movie series on Women’s Suffrage; they are working with Friend Sally Farneth in support of gathering books for Rwanda; in the past year the meeting has gained two members for total of 88.

**Annual Report – Solebury** – Marian Hepburn (full report attached): Marian reports pandemic induced lack of involvement has continued; attendance has been light with a small core group doing all the work; they fear burnout issues; several of their members serve on various boards: George School (2), Buckingham Friends School (4), Camp Onas (1), Chandler Hall (1), Friends Village (1), and Mercer Street Friends (1); thanks to their Blackmar education grant they have young Friends in many local Quaker schools. They now purchase electric from renewable resources.

#### **BREAK**

**Treasurers Report** – Ed Snyder (full reports attached): As of June 30<sup>th</sup> (end of Fiscal Year); we are in good shape; for this fiscal year we are where we expected to be, some items below budget but these are mostly timing issues; last year we gave \$15,000 more than budgeted to PYM; also \$5,000 more than budgeted each to Friends Village, Chandler Hall, and Camp Onas. Buckingham Friend wonders how to explain to membership how the Quarter decides to spend a surplus above requirements; should Monthly Meetings have input on how excess funds are distributed – Ans; a lot of this disconnect is due to timing; BQM is pass-through organization 70% goes to PYM and we pay a coordinator. Wrightstown Friend notes that 2 or 3 years ago, the Quarter gave money back to Monthly Meetings (Ed explained that these were the funds that would have supported the coordinator during May-October 2019 when the position was vacant); Southampton Friend equates Quarterly meeting spending to buying in bulk – by combining resources we have more impact at the cost of fiscal agility; Southampton Friend wonders about timing issue with regard to surplus that has grown over time – Ans: we don’t discern that we have a surplus until August and we want to be sure that we have a prudent reserve in the short term. Southampton Friend wonders if there is a way to anticipate systemic causes of budget surplus and adjust long-term budgeting process. Lehigh Valley Friend wonders if Budget and Nominating will examine this at next meeting.

Yardley Friend remarks that she is not uncomfortable with budget as it stands because it is useful to have a surplus in the event of unforeseen circumstances. Wrightstown Friend remarks that BQM will be going through a transition and that would be an opportune time to revisit this issue; moreover, the budget committee contains representatives from most of the meetings in the quarter; also, members of Monthly meetings should look to our minutes to follow the discernments about budget and spending; Fallsington Friend suggests that we consider a contribution to the African American Museum of Bucks County. The Clerk summarized that Budget and Nominating will revisit this issue with an eye toward how to be more responsive to concerns of monthly meeting. Coordinator suggests sending minutes from Budget and Nominating to monthly meeting Treasurers.

**Annual Report – Bucks Food for Friends (BFFF) –** Marna Matthews (full report attached): BFF has been going for many years, cooking meals for an average of 60 people once per month; because of COVID we are now reduced to making/packaging hoagies that are distributed to encampments via Advocates for the Homeless on the third Monday of each month. When BFF reopens (hopefully soon) they plan to resume in-person meals.

**Annual Report – Southampton –** Stephen Moyer (full report attached): “We are a small but mighty meeting whose longstanding members continue live their faith while walking cheerfully seeking that of God in themselves and those around them”; they have an adult first day school on the 2<sup>nd</sup> First Day of each month; they are proud to be a part of the quarter; they hold monthly visioning sessions that build spiritual community; Friend asks if they are still having vigils for social justice and how many folks attend; they report that the vigil has attracted at least on visitor/attender; vigils continues and attendance is variable. In response to question of when Southampton MM will lay down vigils; “When we see racial justice and equity in the world, we’ll stop the vigils.”

**Annual Report – Wrightstown –** Drew Augenblick (full report attached): The past year membership has dropped from 205 down to 200; 30 to 40 people regularly attend; a large screen TV was donated to meeting and now they can exploit technology to grow their spiritual community – a friend who lives in Berlin is able to regularly join them for worship. Resistance to COVID protocols caused some friction and some members stayed away from meeting for worship; while many members have returned, a few families with young children have not; nursery school has been successful; the meeting had a grand Christmas Carol party last year which was well attended; Easter Breakfast was enjoyed by many; they are looking to do more outreach; they are pleased to note that annual giving is at the highest level ever; this is timely – restoring the care-takers house will cost \$50,000-60,000; also a number of trees have to be removed from the graveyard; the meeting is having trouble filling positions of service to the meeting (e.g., Clerk); they recently found deed indicating that the land was deeded to them in 1722, so Wrightstown Meeting (like Buckingham) is 300 years old.

**Budget & Nominating Committee Report –** Leo Fitzpatrick – the committee met at the end of July; brings forward a request for Lisa Parry Becker to rise to the position of Treasurer – **APPROVED.**

Ed Snyder nominates himself as Assistant Treasurer so that he can assist Lisa – **APPROVED**. Leo reported that the committee approved updating their QuickBooks software to a cloud-based model; the committee has not identified a rising clerk; the committee brought request for Bill Dockhorn to join audit committee – **APPROVED**.

**Annual Report – Yardley –** Marna Matthews (full report attached): As of Christmas, the meeting has returned to meetinghouse; a women’s discussion group has been reactivated; they have adult ed once per month – program content varies; Bucks County Interfaith Coalition has made a presentation; discussions about how to discern priorities that the meeting wants to focus on – they have identified five areas; they are hosting outdoor movie nights (thanks to Bucks Quarter outreach grant); Flea Market will be back this year; the meeting has established a Plant Medicine Committee and have started a medicinal herb garden. The meeting hosted two large memorial services that had been postponed because of pandemic (Rose Koch and Laura Cadwallader Clappison); Children’s religious ed attendance lows; because they lack families with children; they have done a lot of remodeling, including an ADA bathroom – there is a challenge in that the flooring contractor used the wrong adhesive.

**Special Minute – Quakertown MM, re Roe v Wade** (minute attached) Lisa Uchrin: Quakertown Monthly Meeting is asking you to support our belief that a woman has the absolute right to control her own body and to make reproductive decisions within the privacy of her own counsel, the counsel of her doctor 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 woman’s right to control her own body and her 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 women from the dangers of forced pregnancies or illegal abortions.

Discussion: Doylestown Friend wonders if language can be changed to include transgender men who can also become pregnant. Yardley Friend wonders if we are approving here or taking this back to our individual meetings – Ans: while we welcome support from other meetings, we want to approve and forward this to PYM; Quakertown Friend notes if we return this to monthly meeting, we can revisit the language; Coordinator notes that we generally do not take minutes back to monthly meetings; Buckingham Friend suggests grammar change “women, and those folks who can become pregnant” and replace “doctor” with “healthcare provider”; Buckingham Friend supports this minute; Friend offers clarification of transgender men and supports wording of Buckingham Friend; Fallsington Friend wonders if they are asking for BQ endorsement; Ans: Endorsement is inherent in approval and forwarding to PYM; Buckingham Friend notes that PYM is not accepting minutes because this practice implies hierarchy; Makefield Friend is not certain that everyone in his meeting would support it, he would stand aside; Friend reminds that everyone in the quarter is invited to attend, people who attend do not represent their members; Coordinator cites PYM *Faith and Practice* regarding abortion.

Quakertown Friend suggests adopting Buckingham Friend’s wording; Quakertown Friend believes we should support this minute; Fallsington Friend notes that this issue deals with bodily autonomy and therefore this is an attack on women’s freedom and in contradiction of our testimony of gender equality; Fallsington Friend wonders if we are asked to endorse this minute; Coordinator refers to *Faith and Practice*; we can approve a minute of concern without obligation to take action on referral; what is the next step; or we could have a called meeting to discuss this issue;

Clerk tests sense of meeting: at this point in time, can we support this minute as amended? **APPROVED** (with Makefield Friend standing aside).

Clerk asks for committee to recommend further action; an ad-hoc committee was formed to explore what steps, if any, the Quarter would like to take in support of this minute. Friends who volunteered were Wendy Kane (Newtown), Bethann Morgan (Buckingham), Lisa Uchrin (Quakertown), Marna Matthews (Yardley) and Terry Christensen (Yardley). Wendy volunteered to act as convenor.

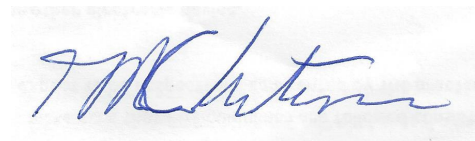
**Audit report – FYs ending 2020, 2021, 2022** – Bill Daly – Bill notes that for a variety of reasons we have gone without an audit for three years; however, given the hour, we will ask the audit committee to resume its work expeditiously and revisit this issue at our next meeting.

**Announcements** – Quakertown recommends Pendle Hill Pamphlet Radical Transformation; the coordinator announces the Peace Fair and volunteers to deliver yard sights to monthly meetings.

**Closing Worship** – There being no further business before us, the meeting settled in worship at 3:47 PM and was adjourned at 3:50 PM.

Our next gathering will be on the 20th Day, Eleventh Month, 2022, under the care of Lehigh Valley Monthly Meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Terry M. Christensen', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

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.



Middletown Friends Meeting  
453 W. Maple Avenue  
Langhorne, PA 19047

---

**Response to the following minute from Quakertown Monthly Meeting:**

*Quakertown Monthly Meeting is asking you to support our belief that a woman has the absolute right to control her own body and to make reproductive decisions within the privacy of her own counsel, the counsel of her doctor 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 woman's right to control her own body and her 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 women from the dangers of forced pregnancies or illegal abortions.*

The Friends of Middletown Friends Meeting at Langhorne considered the above query at meeting for business on September 11, 2022. While many Friends are in support of this minute as individuals, Friends did not reach unity on corporate support as a monthly meeting, mainly citing the need for separation of church and state. It was noted that Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) exists so Friends have a vehicle to handle political issues. Friends can also vote for candidates that reflect their beliefs on the abortion issue.

Approved by the Friends of Middletown Friends Meeting  
on November 6, 2022

---

Lance Mervine, Clerk

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

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>
<b>ASSETS</b>	
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>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b><u>139,185.00</u></b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	
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>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b><u>139,185.00</u></b>



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

	Jul - Sep 22	Budget	\$ Over Bu...	% of Budg...
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>				
<b>Income</b>				
Interest and dividends				
FFC	0.00	2,020.00	-2,020.00	0.0%
<b>Total Interest and dividends</b>	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%
<b>Total Monthly Meeting contributions</b>	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%
<b>Total Income</b>	53,481.25	281,415.00	-227,933.75	19.0%
<b>Gross Profit</b>	53,481.25	281,415.00	-227,933.75	19.0%
<b>Expense</b>				
Contributions				
Philadelphia Yearly Meeting	0.00	208,724.00	-208,724.00	0.0%
<b>Total Contributions</b>	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%
<b>Total Gifts/Donations</b>	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%
<b>Total Other</b>	200.00	7,850.00	-7,650.00	2.5%
<b>Personnel</b>	12,695.56	71,033.00	-58,337.44	17.9%
<b>Total Programs, Activities, Outreach</b>	15,059.58	84,883.00	-69,823.42	17.7%
<b>Total Expense</b>	15,059.58	294,507.00	-279,447.42	5.1%
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	38,421.67	-13,092.00	51,513.67	-293.5%
<b>Other Income/Expense</b>				
Other Income				
Unrealized gain/loss (FFC)	-3,298.34			
<b>Total Other Income</b>	-3,298.34			
Other Expense				
Kirkbride expenses	500.00	7,000.00	-6,500.00	7.1%
<b>Total Other Expense</b>	500.00	7,000.00	-6,500.00	7.1%
<b>Net Other Income</b>	-3,798.34	-7,000.00	3,201.66	54.3%
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>34,623.33</b>	<b>-20,092.00</b>	<b>54,715.33</b>	<b>-172.3%</b>

**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 Treasurer<sup>1</sup>  
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 statements<sup>2</sup>, 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.

---

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

<sup>2</sup> 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
<b>Paxson campus total</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>75%</b>	<b>24</b>
Styer – West Wing	11	0	100%	10
Styer – Cottages	27	4	85%	30
<b>Styer campus total</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>93%</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>Friends Village total</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>84%</b>	<b>64</b>

- 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  
20<sup>th</sup> Day 11<sup>th</sup> Month 2022

With outstanding weather, enthusiastic attenders, and the hard work of many volunteers, the 22<sup>nd</sup> 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](http://www.peacefair.org), "Like" us at [www.facebook.com/peacefair](https://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

8

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

All are invited to join  
FCNL's  
Bucks County Advocacy Team  
December 1<sup>st</sup> at 4pm  
Meets on Zoom.  
[emcrofts@gmail.com]

What is an FCNL Advocacy Team? (Friends Committee on National Legislation) We are one of 125 teams in 44 States! Our success is rooted in a commitment to building lasting and influential relationships with our members in Congress grounded in mutual respect and listening.

As a member of an FCNL Advocacy Team, we commit to having a relationship with our team, our members of Congress, and with FCNL over a period of at least a year. Come to a meeting and see what you think!

We have crafted three types of memberships where Friends can either jump in with both feet or lean into how they wish to become involved in advocacy efforts.

1) Regular membership involves attending monthly meetings, as well as legislative appointments. New members may observe until they feel ready to contribute!  
2) Op-Ed writers - Attendance is optional, but you agree to receive FCNL Action Alerts and commit to writing letters to the editor or opinion columns. 3) Friendly Faces meaning you agree to attend (but not participate) in legislative meetings on Zoom with ours or other Advocacy teams. It can be helpful when speaking to policy makers to visually reflect a larger constituency on a Zoom call. Let us know if you want to be a part of our Friendly Faces network. Whether you are a face in the crowd, an opinion column writer, or choose to attend all meetings, your involvement will make a difference in advocating on behalf of issues that advance peace, justice, and environmental stewardship.

The next meeting of the Bucks County Advocacy Team meets Thursday, December 1<sup>st</sup> at 4pm on Zoom. RSVP to Betsy Crofts (emcrofts@gmail.com) to receive Zoom link. Advocacy Teams are not just for members of the Religious Society of Friends. All like-minded folks are welcome to join in our advocacy efforts.

FCNL hosts a 1-hour Zoom training each month. The next training is December 12<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. The training covers the basic skills and information you need to start taking action with your local team. Contact [Timheishman@fcnl.org](mailto:Timheishman@fcnl.org) for more information.