

Bucks Quarterly Meeting for Worship for The Purpose Of Business
 20th Day, Eighth Month, 2023
 Hosted by Plumstead Friends Meeting

#	Agenda Item	Person	Suggested	
			Start	Time
1	Opening Worship		1:00 PM	5
2	Welcome	Bill Daly	1:05 PM	5
3	Review and Approval of Agenda	Bill Daly	1:10 PM	5
4	Role Call of Meetings	Terry Christensen	1:15 PM	5
5	Review and Approval - Minutes	Terry Christensen	1:20 PM	5
6	Stories of Vitality & Strength		1:25 PM	10
7	The Future of Bristol Meeting	Melanie Douty-Snipes, Jim Fine & Paul Shaffer	1:35 PM	10
8	Report - Quarter Coordinator	Wendy Kane	1:45 PM	10
9	Report from the Ad Hoc Technology Group	Richmond Shreve	1:55 PM	10
10	Quarterly Meeting at Quakertown in November	Bill Daly	2:05 PM	10
11	Break		2:15 PM	10
12	Annual Report - Middletown	Lance Mervine	2:25 PM	10
13	Report on FY 22-23 Outreach Grants	Wendy Kane	2:35 PM	10
14	Treasurer's reports	Lisa Parry Becker	2:45 PM	5
15	Annual Report - Southampton	Stephen Moyer	2:50 PM	10
16	Annual Report - Wrightstown	Irv Thompson	3:00 PM	10
17	Budget and Nominating report	Wendy Kane	3:10 PM	5
18	Annual Report - Yardley	Marna Matthews	3:15 PM	10
19	Closing Worship		3:25 PM	5
			3:30 PM	

Reminder: next Quarterly Meeting is 19th Day, Eleventh Month, 2023 at Quakertown 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

21st Day, Fifth Month, 2023

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

Clerk: Bill Daly (Middletown)

Bucks Quarter Coordinator: Wendy Kane (Newtown)

Recording Clerk: Terry M. Christensen (Newtown)

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

Welcome – Bill Daly

Review and Approval of Agenda – APPROVED

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

Announcements – Bill Daly

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Stories of Vitality & Growth –

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Nominations to the Budget and Nominating Committee – Leo Fitzpatrick

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

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

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

Appeal for Nominee to PYM Nominating Council – Wendy Kane

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

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

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

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

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

BREAK

Quarter Coordinator Report – Wendy Kane (report attached).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Friend Christensen *stood aside*.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

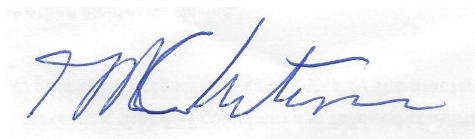
Review and Approval of Minutes from February Quarterly Meeting – Terry Christensen. APPROVED.

Annual Report – Chandler Hall

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

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

Respectfully Submitted,



Terry M. Christensen, Recording Clerk

Report of the Coordinator to Bucks Quarterly Meeting
August 20, 2023
Under the Care of Plumstead Monthly Meeting
Held at Plumstead Monthly Meeting

“Outreach” seems to be the word I hear from Friends these days. Most meetings are looking for ways to entice members back for both worship and fellowship. They are also looking to bring new Friends – especially young families - to their meetings. They are exploring website improvements, social media, community events, and improved signage on their properties. The Quarter has been as proactive as possible with helping them to achieve their goals. As we move into the fall and the resumption of both adult and children’s first day school programs, we hope this will be a time for everyone to remember their Quaker communities and the nurturing and spiritual fulfillment they find there.

Inreach

Care of Meetings

Visiting monthly meetings and sharing worship with them continues to be the highlight of my job. This quarter’s rotation included Solebury, Fallsington, Makefield, Quakertown, Wrightstown, Doylestown, Southampton, Plumstead, Lehigh Valley and Bristol. In addition to worship, I attended Meeting for Business at Quakertown and shared a potluck meal at Lehigh Valley.

Friends are Fun Picnic

The picnic lived up to its name! About 75 Friends from around the Quarter, representing 12 meetings, gathered at Tohickon Valley Park in June. We ate food, we played games, and we made new F(f)riends. Many commented that this was their first time at a Quarter picnic. Turns out this is the first Quarter picnic - at least in the memory of current Friends. The site was chosen specifically to encourage Friends from our northernmost meetings to attend - and they did.

BQ Peace Fair Committee

The committee continues to meet monthly; vendors and non-profits continue to sign up to participate. I made an advertising video which is available on the BQ YouTube channel [Peace Fair Promo short version](#). They are looking for more attendance by Friends, and to track attendance we will be distributing “Genuine Quaker” pins to anyone who visits the Quaker Tent.

Committee Meetings

- **Clerk’s Meeting:** At our July clerks meeting we had representation from eight of our fourteen meetings. We discussed websites and the webmasters who administer them. Most meetings have a web presence but find it difficult to maintain and post current information; volunteers are spread too thin or there isn’t the technical expertise for the job. We all agree that engaging young Friends in this area is key, as well as expanding our presence on social media to engage our current younger friends and attract new families.

- **Budget & Nominating Committee:** At the quarterly meeting of the Budget and Nominating Committee Terry Christensen was nominated to serve on the PYM Nominating Council; approval for this appointment will be brought to the August Quarterly Meeting.
- **Outreach Committee:** The committee met as scheduled in July; highlights from that meeting include printing Quaker Meetinghouse Driving Tour signs for 4 meetings, an overview of the outreach grants given for FY 22-23, presentation of an updated version of the popular “Pick the Quaker” activity, and approval for the coordinator to schedule a meeting of outreach and communication contacts across the Quarter.

Coordinator-Clerk Meetings

One of the coordinator’s goals identified at the annual review was meeting with each monthly meeting clerk to get a sense of the state of their meeting and explore how the Quarter can offer support. This quarter I met with Lisa Uchrin, Quakertown, and Lance Mervine, Middletown.

Yearly Meeting & Other Quaker Organizations

- **PYM Program Committee:** I was asked, and accepted, a second (and final) three-year term on this committee; I will continue as clerk.
- **Mercer Street Friends Community Schools Clothing Drive:** The drive was quite successful, with most of our meetings participating. Bags and boxes of new and lightly used clothing were collected; it was a great community effort by Bucks Quakers. Bernadette Trapp, Community Schools Director, was most grateful.

Event Attendance

Within the Quarter:

- **Doylestown Friends Visioning Session:** Friends held a visioning session to discern how the meeting would like to move forward after the pandemic. I was asked to clerk/facilitate so that all Doylestown Friends could participate fully in the discussion.
- **Ad Hoc Tech Committee Meeting:** A small group of Friends met to discuss issues raised at our last Quarterly Meeting - specifically how can the Quarter provide hybrid technology and volunteers to monthly meetings when they are scheduled to host Quarterly Meeting, and they are unable to provide it themselves.
- **Friends Village Visioning Session:** I was invited to be a part of a visioning session about Paxson Hall, located in the heart of Newtown Borough. Other Bucks Quarter Friends were there including from Yardley, Plumstead and Newtown meetings.
- **The Lenape People in Pennsylvania:** There was standing room only in the Plumstead Meetinghouse to hear Adam Waterbear DePaul speak about the Lenape Nation of Pennsylvania. The meeting experimented with EDDM - Every Door Direct Mail - to advertise the event, which proved to be a great success.

Through Philadelphia Yearly Meeting:

- **PYM Quarterly Meeting Leadership Gathering:** a small group of Quarter leadership gathered virtually to discuss issues of importance to Quarters. We had presentations from PYM staff from the Friends Counseling Service and the new Director of Communication.
- **PYM 343rd Annual Sessions:** July 26th-30th – held virtually and hybrid at The College of New Jersey. Wednesday and Thursday were virtual-only, and I had the pleasure of introducing the opening night keynote speakers, Tucker and Sameer Manchanda. Thursday was business during the day, and in the evening was virtual Quaker Jeopardy. The next three days were in person, and I stayed overnight at TCNJ - evenings are the best time for casual conversation with Friends from around the yearly meeting. PYM staff were well prepared, business was handled in a spiritual manner by our presiding clerk, and there was plenty of fun with Saturday night line dancing and mocktails, including “Margaret Fell on the Rocks.” The next gathering of the yearly meeting will be Continuing Sessions at Arch Street Meetinghouse on Saturday, November 11.

Greater Quaker Community:

- **Mercer Street Friends Leadership Event:** As a current Board member I am encouraged to attend. Bucks Quarter Friends Odie and Bob LeFever accepted the Robert M. Appelbaum Service Award.

Outreach

Bucks Quarter Outreach

- **Bucks Quarter Outreach Grants:** are available to every monthly meeting for FY 23-24.
- **Website:** I have made a special effort to post more stories of vitality over the summer, which were also pushed to our Facebook page. The links are included in each issue of *Quakerphernalia* in the hopes Friends will visit the website:
 - [Bucks Quarter Goes Hybrid - Take 2](#)
 - [Some Friendly English Friends](#)
 - [Local Expert Assesses Historic Plumstead Meetinghouse](#)
 - [Summer Fun with Bucks Quarter Quakers](#) - this story was posted to the PYM website.
 - [The Healing Power of a Quilt](#)
- **Facebook:** postings continue on a regular basis.
- **Times Publishing:** Quaker stories continue to be published on a monthly basis. In June there was an article about the Juneteenth celebration on the grounds of Middletown Meeting and in July was an article highlighting Doylestown’s vigil commemorating Hiroshima Day on August 6th. We continue to submit a monthly advertisement for Bucks Quakers as well.

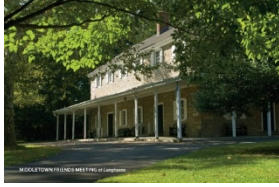
Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Kane

Coordinator, Bucks Quarterly Meeting

Hybrid Meeting Roadshow

Number	Item	Description	Cost	Power Demand
1	Laptop	amazon.com	\$600.00	60 watts
2	Camera	https://www.monoprice.com/product?p_id=35520	\$200.00	5 watts
3	Tripod	amazon.com	\$35.00	
4	Projector	amazon.com	\$1,100.00	350 watts
5	2 Microphones	https://www.bhphotovideo.com/c/product/1554099-REG/shure_blx288_pg58_h11_blx288_pg58_dual_channel_wireless_handheld.html?	\$549.00	4 watts
6	2 Speakers	https://www.bhphotovideo.com/c/product/1547279-REG/samson_rs110a_300w_active_speaker_10_and.html/specs	\$400.00	200 to 400 watts
7	Screen	amazon.com	\$70.00	
8	USB mixer	https://www.bhphotovideo.com/c/product/1701783-REG/yamaha_ag03mk2_b_3_channel_mixer_usb_interface_for.html	\$162.00	
9	Wireless hotspot	amazon.com	\$40.00	10 watts
10	Cables, etc		\$500.00	
11	Cellular Service	Mint = \$15/month (T-mobile network) ... annual cost \$180 with 5 GiB/data use. Verizon ~\$480 -- https://www.t-mobile.com/home-internet	\$500.00	
		SUBTOTAL	\$4,156.00	
12	Portable Generator	For venues without electricity. (Option A)	\$300.00	800 peak, 600 avg
13	UPS	Uninterruptable Power Source and Surge protector	\$175.00	
14	Portable Power Bank	For venues without electricity. (Option B) 1000wh = up to 2 hours power. Extend with auto battery connection?	\$700.00	
TOTAL		(Including option A above)	\$4,631.00	



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

State of the Meeting Report to Bucks Quarter
Eighth Month 15, 2023

While we continued to offer virtual meeting for worship on Zoom, for the most part we have returned to in-person (hybrid) worship. It has been such a joy to be able to meet in person again, which Friends appreciate all the more after being apart for almost 3 years.

Our young Friends are invited and encouraged to help with meeting events, such as our annual auction in the fall, and quarterly meeting, which we hosted in February. Their participation at these events was greatly appreciated. The young Friends also held a drive-through toy and food drive in December for the Bucks County Housing Group's food pantry in Penndel. One young Friend has volunteered to be trained to run the equipment to facilitate hybrid meeting.

Members and attenders often provide rides to or from meeting for worship for several of our members who do not drive.

A copy of our monthly minutes is printed in extra-large type for one of our visually impaired members.

Our Ministry & Nurture Committee sends cards and flowers to members and attenders who are ill or who have suffered a loss in their family. We share joys and concerns in our newsletter.

Our meeting supports the Bucks Learning Cooperative (BLC), a self-directed learning center for homeschooled teens. BLC rents our schoolhouse, participates in some of our community events, and holds some classes in the meetinghouse and garage. Two of our members serve on the BLC board. At our invitation, BLC staff, students, and parents provided a well-received program at the February 2023 Bucks Quarterly Meeting.

The meeting wrote a letter to PennDOT to protest their plan to increase non-local traffic on Route 413 through the African American community and past its churches. The plan would also be detrimental to the physically and developmentally challenged community at Woods Services. Several meeting members have been active in the Borough planning committee, working with a traffic engineer to come up with alternatives and traffic-calming strategies to minimize the impact of the planned changes.

Our meeting supports the African American Museum of Bucks County and recently made a substantial donation to their building fund. Several members are actively involved with the group, including one who has researched and written a book about the Boone Farm in Middletown, the future home of the AAMBC, and is donating the proceeds from the sale of the book to the museum.

The Meeting provided support for a Langhorne community member who held a Juneteenth celebration on the meetinghouse grounds on June 24. This event was first planned for June of 2020 but had to be postponed until now because of the Covid-19 pandemic. The Meeting covered

the liability insurance for the event and arranged for parking at the nearby Heritage Farm and golf carts to transport attendees from the parking area through the woods to the event. For the past three years we have worked with this same community member to display a large Juneteenth banner in front of the meetinghouse.

Last fall, our clerk was contacted by representatives of the Rainbow Room, a group sponsored by Planned Parenthood that provides a safe space for LGBTQ+ youth to gather for fellowship and support. The group currently meets in a church in Doylestown and after receiving a large state grant was looking to expand in the lower part of the county. They were very interested in using our FDS/childcare room, and Friends were initially quite receptive to the idea. An ad hoc committee met with Rainbow Room staff to negotiate the details, but it became apparent that their requirements would not only leave us without a FDS room, but the physical space would not meet their needs. This was a difficult decision, leaving a number of Friends very disappointed. A letter of support for the Rainbow Room was drafted and shared with Bucks Quarter, the Rainbow Room, Planned Parenthood, and our state senator, who was instrumental in getting the grant money. Middletown Friends were joined by members of other Bucks Meetings during the first three weekly meetings of youth at the Rainbow Room. A local conservative Christian church and supporters of former PA Gubernatorial candidate Douglas Mastriano sent followers to protest the Rainbow Room's opening at St. James Episcopal Church in Langhorne.

The largest funeral service in modern times at our cemetery took place on July 28, 2023, with over 350 coming out for a graveside service. The service was for Sherri Jokic, a non-member who lived with her backyard facing the cemetery. Sherri's husband reached out to our Clerk a week before his wife passed, and asked if he could purchase graves. An emergency business meeting was held by email and Meeting granted permission, as the cemetery is reserved for members first.

Some of our environmental efforts include:

- A section of our graveyard is designated as a green burial ground, with one green burial thus far.
- We recycle, not using paper or plastic products when reusable dishes and utensils are feasible.
- We set the thermostat low when the building is not in use.
- We have a butterfly garden that is certified as an official Monarch Waystation by Monarch Watch.
- All trees trimmed on our property, as well as all leaves raked are composted in the woods behind our graveyard.
- At our Food Pantry and Toy drop off collections our young friends greet the cars waiting in line with signs that asks them to turn off their engines as we go to them to pick up their donations.

The meeting has been an active member of the Langhorne Area Ministerial Association (aka the Ministerium or LAMA) for decades, sending a meeting representative to monthly meetings and participating in community events such as the annual Good Friday Cross Walk and Thanksgiving Eve service. Last fall, our clerk attended a meeting of LAMA for pastors, only to find himself under attack and the Quaker faith questioned by some area pastors. There is a growing conservative movement in the Ministerium led by Langhorne Presbyterian, which has dropped

out of PCUSA and joined an evangelical branch. The Presbyterian Church also asked the Boy Scouts to leave, after meeting on church grounds for decades. The general feeling among the pastors seemed to be that the Ministerium should not be dealing with social justice issues; the main focus should be on tending to one's flock and exalting Christ. One pastor quoted information from FGC's website that stated that Quaker belief in Jesus is optional. This pastor said that he was uncomfortable being yoked to non-believers (Quakers) in the annual Cross Walk and bearing witness. Other pastors said that maybe the Cross Walk has seen its time and takes the pastors' energy away from preparing for Easter services at their own church. Reaching out to the community and planning joint programs such as the Thanksgiving Eve service no longer seems of interest. The clerk noted that there were no representatives from the Catholic, Baptist, or AME churches present at the meeting, and that there were a few who defended him and the Quaker meeting.

Middletown Friends were appalled, disappointed, and angered by the way our clerk was ambushed at this meeting. It was noted that the Ministerium was formed as an ecumenical organization for all faiths, not just Christian, as our late Friend Charlene DiMicco often pointed out to the group. Many Friends felt we should step aside until a new organization that better reflects the Langhorne community is formed. But then the Ministerium (minus the Langhorne Presbyterians) decided to go ahead with the Cross Walk. Friends decided to participate, choosing to not let the prejudice of one group influence our actions. As in years past, the walk began at our meetinghouse with brief worship in the manner of Friends. Our clerk was instrumental in planning the walk, obtaining a shuttle bus from Pennswood Village and making other arrangements. Other Friends provided baked goods and refreshments for the group. We received many nice comments from participants from the other churches and felt good that we were a part of this community event.

We have been talking for some time about outreach and ways to grow our membership but other events always seem to arise that need more immediate attention. While we understand the role of a strong First Day School (FDS) program in attracting new families, our youngest attender is now 10 years old and most of our young people have aged out of our traditional FDS program. We have a good core group of active Friends but sometimes, when considering potential events or initiatives we have to ask if there is enough energy or interest to make these things happen. Perhaps we could benefit from PYM materials and support in the area of growing our meeting.

Grace and Peace === from the Friends of Middletown Meeting

Meeting	Project Description
Bristol	
Buckingham	
Doylestown	
Fallsington	Funding for a social justice singer/songwriter concert series
Lehigh Valley	To cover the cost to reserve a space (a booth/table) at Lehigh Valley Pride 2023
Makefield	
Middletown	To purchase audio-visual equipment to improve the quality of hybrid meeting
Newtown	To cover the cost of an audio visual consultant to discuss improving hybrid worship
Plumstead	
Quakertown	To create a website and printed outreach materials for the meeting.
Solebury	To fund website improvements
Southampton	To cover the cost of equipment to improve hybrid meetings, such as a projector, screen, laptop, microphones and stands
Wrightstown	To purchase audio-visual equipment to improve the quality of hybrid meeting; will be using last year's and this year's for the OWL purchase
Yardley	To defray costs of Summer of 23 movie series

BUCKS QUARTERLY MEETING OF FRIENDS

2022/2023 Profit and Loss: 4th Quarter

	JUL 2022 - JUN 2023	Budget	\$ Over Budget	% of Budget
Income				
Interest and dividends FFC	\$ 2,024.56	\$ <u>2,020.00</u>	\$ 4.56	100%
Total Interest and dividends	\$ 2,024.56	\$ 2,020.00	\$ 4.56	100%
Monthly Meeting contributions				
Additional	\$ 300.00			
Pledged	\$ 264,070.00	\$ 278,195.00	\$ (14,125.00)	95%
Total Monthly Meeting contributions	\$ 264,370.00	\$ 278,195.00	\$ (13,825.00)	95%
Other contributions	\$ 600.00			
Quakerphernalia advertising	\$ 1,062.50	\$ 1,200.00	\$ (137.50)	89%
Total Income	\$ 268,057.06	\$ 281,415.00	\$ (13,957.94)	95%
Gross Profit	\$ 268,057.06	\$ 281,415.00	\$ (13,957.94)	95%
Expenses				
Contributions				
Philadelphia Yearly Meeting	\$ 208,724.00	\$ 208,724.00	\$ -	100%
Total Contributions	\$ 208,724.00	\$ 208,724.00	\$ -	100%
Gifts/Donations				
Camp Onas	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00	\$ -	100%
Chandler Hall	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00	\$ -	100%
Friends Home and Village	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00	\$ -	100%
Total Gifts/Donations	\$ 900.00	\$ 900.00	\$ -	100%
Programs, Activities, Outreach				
Operating	\$ 6,005.79	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 5.79	100%
Other				
Advertising	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 2,200.00	\$ (400.00)	82%
Liability Insurance	\$ 1,143.00	\$ 1,100.00	\$ 43.00	104%
Outreach Committee Activities	\$ 300.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ (1,700.00)	15%
Programs for Peace	\$ 200.00	\$ 1,700.00	\$ (1,500.00)	12%
Quakerism Classes		\$ 500.00	\$ (500.00)	0%
Young Friends and Other (net)		\$ 350.00	\$ (350.00)	0%
Total Other	\$ 3,443.00	\$ 7,850.00	\$ (4,407.00)	44%
Personnel	\$ 70,640.55	\$ 71,033.00	\$ (392.45)	99%
Total Programs, Activities, Outreach	\$ 80,089.34	\$ 84,883.00	\$ (4,793.66)	94%
Total Expenses	\$ 288,813.34	\$ 294,507.00	\$ (5,693.66)	98%
Net Operating Income	\$ (20,756.28)	\$ (13,092.00)	\$ (7,664.28)	159%
Other Income				
Unrealized gain/loss (FFC)	\$ (328.99)			
Total Other Income	\$ (328.99)			
Other Expenses				
Kirkbride expenses	\$ 6,500.00	\$ 7,000.00	\$ (500.00)	93%
Total Other Expenses	\$ 6,500.00	\$ 7,000.00	\$ (500.00)	93%
Net Other Income	\$ (6,828.99)	\$ (7,000.00)	\$ 171.01	98%
Net Income	\$ (27,585.27)	\$ (20,092.00)	\$ (7,493.27)	137%

BUCKS QUARTERLY MEETING OF FRIENDS

Balance Sheet

As of June 30, 2023

	TOTAL
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Bank Accounts	
First National Checking	25,605.41
Petty cash	0.00
Total Bank Accounts	\$25,605.41
Total Current Assets	\$25,605.41
Other Assets	
Friends Fiduciary Corporation	50,301.85
Total Other Assets	\$50,301.85
TOTAL ASSETS	\$75,907.26
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Total Liabilities	
Equity	
Kirkbride Estate	9,196.43
Opening Balance Equity	0.00
Unrestricted Net Assets	95,365.24
Net Income	-28,654.41
Total Equity	\$75,907.26
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$75,907.26

Annual Report from Southampton Monthly Meeting, Religious Society of Friends

To Bucks Quarterly Meeting, on August 20, 2023

Regarding the twelve month interval from August 2022 through July 2023.

Dear Friends,

The events of the past twelve months at Southampton have a richness and increased diversity that we regard with pride.

The basis for our Meeting, continued from past years, is our twice-weekly Worship using hybrid technology. Sunday mornings we worship from 10-11 am, and Tuesday evenings there is worship from 7:30 to 8:30 pm. Our attendance is smaller than we wish, although some Sunday mornings are lit with the delightful presence of a young family with a toddler.

Also continued from past years is our hosting a weekly Vigil for Social Justice at the (busy) corner of Street Road (PA 132) and Gravel Hill Road. The vigil is held at 4 EDT and at 3 EST. We are grateful that the night-time vandalism, which marred the vigil signs left displayed between Sundays a year or two ago, has ceased. Participants at the vigil include members of Southampton Friends Meeting (“SFM”) and also neighbors from Upper Southampton Township and surrounding towns. The third anniversary of the first vigil occurred June 2023! In honor of this longevity, folks gathered at the Meetinghouse for a covered-dish meal and a picture show of photos taken three years before.

Members continue to participate in the Earth Quaker Action Team (an arrest at a demonstration) and in the PYM group “Addressing Racism Collaborative.”

Southampton Meeting continues to provide low-cost meeting space for two Narcotics Anonymous chapters. Welcoming The Stranger, which teaches ESL and does citizenship preparation uses our space as well. We also rented our facility this year to a group from a nearby church that needed a safe, third-party meeting room to air LGBTQ issues that were damaging their social structure.

Adult Religious Education – Once a month, on third Sundays, we gather for forty-five minutes of discussion before Meeting For Worship. In the past 12 months we discussed “Race, Systemic Violence, and Retrospective Justice” by Dr. Harold Weaver (Pendle Hill #465) and started discussing “The Testimony of Integrity in the Religious Society of Friends” by Wilmer A. Cooper (Pendle Hill #296). The discussions are useful and seem to attract attendees.

Facilities Improvements – At the Southampton Meeting we have two buildings, a Meetinghouse (one story, 1968) and what we call the House on the Hill (a three-story residence built a hundred years ago). This year saw the electric panels in both buildings replaced, modernizations that are sure to be applauded by our insurance company. Moreover, the Meetinghouse has a new HVAC system. This means more comfort (A/C) during summer months, and electric bill savings during the winter months (heat pump).

More modernization is planned, however: After twenty-three months of Visioning sessions we have reached the point of hiring an architect to create plans of remodeling the hundred-year old House on the Hill. We are agreed that we want a modern kitchen, new bathrooms, and better space for gatherings on the first floor, and upstairs apartment space with a separate entrance.

Outreach – Southampton Meeting wishes to express appreciation to Bucks Quarterly Meeting for the outreach grant we received during FY23. The first one hundred dollars went to purchase an eight-foot projection screen – a granddaddy version of the screens grade-school teachers might set up in front of

their classroom for a slide show or movie. The screen was lying neglected in a camera store, where it used to be rented out, but demand has dropped off in the age of large screen TVs. The screen saw its first use in the Meetinghouse for the “picture show” mentioned above, which we held in recognition of the third anniversary of the vigil.

The remainder of the grant, with a private donation, went to purchase a projector. The model purchased was recommended as being bright enough to use in a lighted room (not just in a darkened theater). We will be trying it out soon.

New outreach events this year:

- A musical member entertained members and guests with an hour of fiddle playing.
- The founder of the Bucks County Anti-Racism Committee, Kevin Levin, gave a speech in our Meetinghouse.
- “Southampton Days” is a carnival held in Tamanend Upper Southampton Park the first week in July. They offer space for rent for advertising and meeting carnival-goers. We rented a “table” (using funds from BQM – thank you!) for two evenings. We staffed it with Quakers from Southampton, Wrightstown and Newtown Meetings. The advertising materials were loaned to this effort by Wendy Kane. (Again: thanks to the table staff and to Wendy.)

The event was a rousing success. Lots of visitors asked “Are you those people who do the vigil on Street Road?” The conversations generated feelings like “I belong here in Upper Southampton and so do you. This is a community.” While their parents were talking, children, probably 3 dozen, took advantage of the coloring pens and blank tiles to express themselves artistically. After drying, the art work went home with the artist along with an Edward Hicks “Peaceable Kingdom” postcard.

- This year, after long deliberation, Southampton Friends Meeting joined P.O.W.E.R. This organization is an interfaith, multi-racial, people’s movement of Pennsylvania congregations and individuals committed to racial and economic justice on a livable planet. It conducts campaigns in areas of education justice, economic dignity, civic engagement, climate justice and justice reform.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Michener, for the Trustees of Southampton Monthly Meeting

Wrightstown Monthly Meeting Annual Report to Bucks Quarterly Meeting

August 2023

In 2022 and 2023, Wrightstown Meeting focused on two main challenges: rebuilding community and re-envisioning leadership. This Annual Report consists of the report on the Spiritual State of the Meeting that we submitted to the Ministry and Care Committee of PYM's Quaker Life Council in March 2023, and an August update to that report.

March 2023 Report on the Spiritual State of the Meeting:

In discussion of the queries provided, our thoughts coalesced around two major areas: what we had achieved, and what we felt we could do better (and, in some cases, what we had plans in the works to do better).

In the past year, we've worked to re-create the community we had before the pandemic. Our momentum built during the year with many of the actual achievements coming in the latter half of the year. In working to create and strengthen our community, we achieved the following:

- We have a solid core of attendees at each Meeting for Worship (now around 25 – 30 people each week).
- Our Care and Counsel committee has done an excellent job of reaching out to keep current members and attenders connected, and of sponsoring some in-person events.
- We have installed technology to improve the audio and visual experience linking our remote and in-person participants. We've benefitted from Bucks Quarter Outreach grants to do this.
- We have hosted different kinds of in-person events: picnic, outdoor music concert featuring the Fools and Prophets (formerly Faith and Practice) and some of our home-grown talent; monthly "Meet and Eats." These events have grown in frequency as we emerged from our pandemic shells.
- We continue to participate in providing the Penn's Park Food Pantry with food, contributions, and lending hands.
- We have a vibrant Nursery School which interacts in the greater community in profound ways.
- We have continued to provide part of our grounds to PDC Athletics for baseball tournaments and to the Middletown Grange for parking at its annual August event. The Bucks County Folksong Society meets monthly in our building.
- We were prompted by Lancaster Meeting's minute decrying Christian Nationalism and the "Urgent Call" issued by a group of weighty Friends to meet several times and discern responses.
- We purchased several copies of books on racial justice (*How to Be an Anti-Racist*, *White Fragility*, *So You Want to Talk About Race*) and urged members and attenders to take them and read.
- To mitigate the effects of climate change, we have actively been pursuing ways in which we can be greener stewards of our property by collecting our leaves to create compost, leaving some for leaf litter to promote insect growth, converting some to wildflower meadow for pollinators, and explored mowing greener and/or less.
- We have appointed a Climate Witness Liaison.
- We are now going through the learning process of creating a 5 person leadership "clerk's team" (including the presiding clerk, the recording clerk, the recorder, a rising clerk, and a past clerk). Initial indications are that this model has great potential. So far we see that the duties can be naturally divided according to the gifts and leadings of the individual team members and that the job of clerk can become less burdensome.

Our yearnings are best summed up in this list of what we feel we could do better. In some cases, we have made nascent efforts to get there:

- Although we have people with the required clearances providing childcare at Meeting for Worship, few children and young families have been attending Meeting, and we have no formal First Day School program. We have been unsuccessful in finding leadership to revive it.
- We have failed in many ways to connect with our Nursery School families and to pull them into the embrace of our Meeting. We have belatedly created a 6-point plan to remedy this, led in no small part by one of the Nursery School families that joined our Meeting before the pandemic.
- We are rejuvenating our Spiritual Exploration Group (SEG), which before the pandemic met monthly for 75 minutes before Meeting for Worship. It will once again meet monthly starting in March 2023, this time in hybrid form. These discussions have been almost exclusively attended by our members and attenders.
- We would like to do better at providing literature and following up with new attenders at Meeting.
- We have talked about rejuvenating our Outreach “conversations” which were similar in nature to our SEG, but used Meetup to engage a wider audience and took place on weekday evenings to engage a different demographic.
- Although we still contribute to the food pantry, we feel we could be more hands on with them again.
- Some people would like the Meeting to be more active in advocating for social justice. Our Peace and Social Concerns committee has not been active. Not many people are aware that we have books about racial justice to lend, and we would like to encourage people to read them.
- Meeting members have not yet actively engaged with our Climate Witness Liaison, but we hope to schedule opportunities for her to build interest and connection.
- The Nursery School staff hopes to start a vegetable garden on campus for the children and their families to tend.
- We would like to have more socialization after Meetings for Worship and recreate our annual “progressive” dinner (which does not involve travel).
- Most people in our leadership and clerking roles are well on in years and have served many terms. We continue to struggle mightily to identify new, and younger, members and attenders willing to take on these roles.

We will be applying to PYM for a Membership Development grant to continue to improve our audio, especially for those in our Meetinghouse who are hard of hearing. It seems likely that the Yearly Meeting could act as a clearinghouse for ideas from around the Yearly Meeting to assist us with our yearnings. We could also use resources from PYM to help revive our First Day School.

August 2023 Update:

Our Recorder confirmed that at the end of 2022 the Meeting had 196 members, down from 200 at the end of 2021. These include 175 members, 6 members under 21, and 15 associate members. Within the Meeting community there have been four marriages and one birth. There were no further deaths in 2022 since those noted in last year’s Annual Report. We are sad to report that Anne Alden died in February 2023.

The Spiritual Exploration Group has met every third Sunday morning of the month since March and is going strong. It is well attended, drawing anywhere from 10 to 20 participants each time. Several people have volunteered to lead the discussions on a topic of their choice.

A small but enthusiastic group is planning a series of events to take place from September 2023 to May 2024 in celebration of the Meeting’s 300th Anniversary. These will range from brief “opening” programs before Meeting for Worship to a public event on our grounds sometime in the spring.

The vegetable garden designed by a Nursery School staff member and cared for by Nursery School families received enthusiastic support from the Meeting and is thriving. To further connections between the Meeting

and the school, Meeting members attended the Nursery School's end of year picnic. To kick off the celebration of Wrightstown's 300th anniversary, the Meeting will provide cake and ice cream for the Nursery School's opening social event in September.

The Meeting approved the proposal of member Michelle Hunter, a teacher of special needs children, to offer a six-week early intervention summer program for young children with autism on our campus starting in June 2024.

The Meeting's Environmental Stewardship Committee is actively researching options for installing solar energy and reducing our dependence on oil by using heat pumps as our primary source for heating, ventilation, and air conditioning in the Meetinghouse, Social Hall, and Nursery School. The Peace and Social Concerns Committee has stated its intention to become more active over the coming year.

We hope that all this community-building progress will generate greater involvement from Meeting members and help to attract new families. Unfortunately, the Meeting is still stalled when it comes to reviving its First-Day School program and cultivating the next generation of Meeting leaders. The new "Clerks Team" model is working well in terms of sharing responsibilities and generating ideas. However, we have not yet identified a fifth member of the team to serve as a rising clerk, and there is very little new leadership – or new membership -- on committees for the coming year.

Respectfully submitted,

Irv Thompson, Co-Clerk

Jeff Cogshall, Co-Clerk

Alice Maxfield, Recording Clerk

Nancy Culleton (she/her/hers), Assistant Recording Clerk

Wrightstown Monthly Meeting

Yardley Friends Meeting
Annual Report to Bucks Quarter

August 2023
Submitted by Marna Matthews, Clerk

This has been a year filled with lots of outreach by current members and attenders to the outside public and to former attenders. We have slowly built back up the numbers of people attending meeting for worship in person, and have had many engaging events. Younger families have attended once or twice, but since we do not have an active children's group the families have not revisited. We continue to build connections and programs to engage with important issues.

Our electronic arrangements for hybrid meetings for worship worked quite well all year. The Zoom connection failed only twice. We were happy to participate in the PYM "All Together Worship" while sitting in our own worship room together and be online. Our handheld Bluetooth microphones have helped solve the sound issues. The community has adjusted well to using them. We have held hybrid meetings for business during most of the year.

Religious Education committee has worked hard to develop lessons that can be offered to children of varying ages. We have sporadic attendance from children. It has been hard to plan the activities and to have a willing pair of adults available. We are now offering lessons twice a month, and are considering how best to offer daycare for any children under the age of seven.

Adult religious discussions, or community Ponderings, have occurred generally once a month. We have had guest speakers such as Susi Hoskins who discussed issues and advocacy with the elderly, and George School teacher, Tom Hoopes, told us about working with teens. Chiyo Moriuchi shared the annual report of Friends Village with us. Shirley Lee Corser of The Gather Place, an old A.M.E. church in Yardley, gave us a presentation on historic local black personalities. Mark Eastburn, a teacher at Princeton High School, (former teacher of First Day School at our Meeting) spoke to us about the work he is doing with immigrant students in his science classes. He told us about their personal struggles of survival in a new country with little family support.

On October 16, 2022 we hosted with the Peace Center of Langhorne and the United Christian Church of Levittown the playing of the film ***Walking While Black: L.O.V.E is the Answer***. The event was open to the public and the trained moderators helped all of us, including two police officers, process the racism issues raised in the film.

The movie ***Organic Roots*** was shown on Friday November 18, 2022. The director Al Johnson answered questions about his friends, the beginning group of farmers who founded the first organic farmers collectives in the Northeast.

Other group activities included gathering to decorate the building and tree for the Christmas season, and regular Games Nights each month. We had an informal "Come

Back” Day on January 29, 2023 and were pleased to see several former attenders and friends. A Winterfest night of food with a bonfire in our outside stone fireplace was held on a chilly evening. When the floor was available for foot traffic, we held some Red Cross blood drives in the building.

The Medicinal Herbs Project continues in three garden beds. Singular Botanicals, in Chester, is the business that coordinates the project. They have brought in many Quaker communities from all over the area to participate. We grow plants for them to use for herbal supplies for the Chester community.

Several meetings for worship were devoted to discussion of the guidelines to use for determining categories and amounts of donations to other non-profit institutions. The following four topics were used as guidelines this year.

- Environmental and Climate Change Support
- Education
- Immigration and Human Respect
- Peace & Social Action

The annual September Flea Market was a big success in 2022. We host about a hundred vendors who sell a huge variety of items. The meeting sells donated books, “white elephant” items, and lots of food. The weather was particularly conducive for the outdoor event. We are very grateful for all the current and previous members of our community who spend hours preparing and working at the Flea Market. As we do every year, we agreed it was a marvelous way to spend our time, in spite of the very hard work and summer heat. Our main goals of Fundraising, Community Outreach, and Community In-reach were happily met again.

For a second year, negotiations continued with Holland Floors for replacement of faulty flooring of the entire meeting house that was installed in October 2021. After little to no progress, we ended up using an attorney, Dawn Burke, to write a letter to the company stating our expectations for a floor replacement. Finally the company agreed to order new tiles, new glue and to fix the original errors. As of the second week of August 2023 Yardley Friends have another new floor. We did not have to pay for the replacement. We are very relieved that the two year process is over. Our clerk of the Property Committee, Drew Sites, deserves a large amount of credit for persevering to get this result.

Several welcoming signs and flags posted at a neighboring St. Andrews Episcopal church in Yardley were heavily vandalized. The signs included rainbows and were an indication to the LGBTQ community that they would be welcome at the church. As a sign of solidarity, Yardley Friends Meeting sent a letter of support to the parish at St. Andrews. We also posted similar signs of welcome on the street along our property. We are relieved to report they have not been vandalized or stolen. We also have two large banners hanging on our front porch with messages of Welcome, and Love Thy Neighbor, No Exceptions.

Lancaster Meeting sent a minute of concern about the rise of a Christian Nationalism Movement. We had a discussion in meeting for business about how we could deal with our concerns. It was felt that the action of individuals is important. Two of our members, Rosa David and Mercy Ingraham went to worship in Lancaster and spoke with them about this issue and our shared concerns.

Three members attended the PYM Thread Gathering Hand in Hand: Religious Education & Outreach as Partners. They expressed their positive feeling about the program. The title of the presentation and discussion was "*Spaces, Schedules, Relationships — How Being Prepared Supports Outreach*". The information gained at the event helped the children's religious education committee set goals for how to re-energize and reorganize the Meeting's children's classes.

Our Meeting library is receiving attention from two new committee members who are sorting and reorganizing the books and pamphlets.

YFM approved the proposal to support Immigrant Rights Action (ImRA) in Doylestown as an event sponsor in the name of Yardley Friends Meeting at the Gala in the Michener Museum (using a private donation) on Thursday May 4th. Several members attended the gala, and are working with the organization to help immigrants with legal and personal issues.

YFM approved participation in a Quarter-wide service project to provide clothing for the children who attend the three Community Schools served by Mercer Street Friends. We collected clothes in a variety of sizes and Wendy Kane took them to the school for us.

This year, community attendance was much higher for the three movies we showed outside on the large screen at the summer monthly Movie Nights. Only one of our summer month Movie Nights was rained out. The movies were shown in conjunction with the Yardley Borough Recreation Committee, which helped with publicity and loaned us a speaker and microphone. We are very grateful for funding assistance from the Bucks Quarter Outreach Funds..

We had a Celebration of the new Labyrinth on the 2nd Saturday of May. Over forty people attended our picnic and ceremony dedicating the labyrinth, which was built by many members of our community. It was a delightful event.

We continue to support our member Ted Taylor in his role as chaplain at Robert Woods Johnson hospital. He has had a very challenging set of years working with families, staff, and volunteers throughout the years of the pandemic. We approved a travel minute for him to attend an annual conference, Quakers in Pastoral Care Counseling conference (QPCC), at Earlham College. "Yardley Friends Meeting commends Ted Taylor for his work as chaplain and religious mentor at the Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital Hamilton. He is a valued member of our community." He also acts as the Treasurer for the Meeting, and runs the equipment that enables our hybrid meetings.

We have experienced the loss of four members during the past year, and hosted a family memorial for the loss of another member in 2021. We honor the memories of Maury Benbow, Ruth Blattenberger, Laura Clappison, Rose Koch, and Graham Leonard. Each of these people had contributed much energy, love, and fellowship to the community when they were active here.

Under the care of the Meeting, member Sarah Crofts and Kirk Gosweiler were joyously wed at the Yardley Meeting House in May 2023.

In conclusion, the Yardley Friends Meeting community has had a busy year concentrating on making connections throughout the nearby community, and maintaining relationships within, with the Quaker Spirit as our guide.