

Bucks Quarterly Meeting for Worship for The Purpose Of Business
 19th Day, Second Month Month, 2023
 Hosted by Middletown 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	Announcements	Bill Daly	1:20: PM	15
6	Stories of Vitality & Strength		1:35: PM	10
7	Report - Quarter Coordinator	Wendy Kane	1:45: PM	5
8	Annual report of Friends Camp Assoc.	Jess Walcott	1:50: PM	5
9	Annual report of Quakertown Meeting	Lisa Uchrin	1:55: PM	5
10	Treasurer's report	Lisa Parry-Becker	2:00: PM	10
11	Presentation of preliminary 23-24 Budget	Lisa Parry-Becker	2:10: PM	10
12	Break		2:20: PM	5
13	Nominating Committee: Open positions at BQM	Leo Fitzpatrick	2:25: PM	5
14	Annual report of the Outreach Committee	Doug Meaker	2:30: PM	5
15	Annual report of Doylestown Meeting	Liz Fritsch	2:35: PM	5
16	Annual report of Makefield Meeting	Jerry Taylor	2:40: PM	5
17	Approval of Eleventh Month minutes	Terry Christensen	2:45: PM	5
18	Closing worship		2:50: PM	

Reminder: next Quarterly Meeting is 21st Day, Fifth Month, 2023 at Newtown 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*

Report of the Coordinator to Bucks Quarterly Meeting
February 19, 2023
Under the Care of Middletown Monthly Meeting
Held at Middletown Monthly Meeting and via Zoom

As the new year begins, we are in the waning months of this 3-year pandemic; the public health emergency is due to be lifted later this spring. It is going out with a bang – many who have avoided contracting COVID-19 have succumbed to the latest and most contagious variant. Friends continue to debate masking and vaxxing, with most erring on the side of caution and safety. This quarterly meeting will be our first in-person since February 2020, when, ironically, we also met at Middletown Meeting. But in 2023 there is the addition of Zoom – something we have all become comfortable with. Technology has entered the worship space with much debate and discernment. The same kind of debate and discernment that may have taken place 100 years ago when Friends were deciding whether to bring a piano into the worship space. Times change, attitudes change and we as flexible Friends, accept and adapt. Blessed be the flexible, for they shall not be bent out of shape.

Inreach

Care of Meetings

I continue to visit meetings on a rotating basis, with all in-person visits this quarter. I had the pleasure of sharing worship and fellowship with Doylestown, Yardley, Buckingham, Solebury, Fallsington, Makefield, Bristol, Newtown, Plumstead and Wrightstown Meetings. I also attended various Christmas celebrations, including carol singing and Friends Village and Wrightstown Meeting, and candlelight worship with Yardley and Southampton Friends.

Committee Meetings

Clerk's Meeting: At the January Clerk's meeting we welcomed new clerks from Fallsington (Susan Snipes-Wells), Newtown (Janet Braker-Assistant Clerk), Quakertown (Lisa Uchrin) and Lehigh Valley (Martha Christine). Topics discussed were hybrid Quarterly meetings, music at meetings and peace and social justice projects. Of note was our first "Zoom bomber" who found our meeting link on our website. The "visit" was not malicious, and after a short conversation with our "guest" he was removed from the meeting. The Zoom links were subsequently removed from the website.

Budget & Nominating Committee: At the January meeting, the committee discussed nominations for a Bucks Quarter representative on the PYM Nominating Council, a report from our Treasurer about updating our accounting software to a cloud-based system and presentation of the preliminary 2023-24 budget, and a discussion on nominees to fill the positions of rising clerk and recording clerk, both positions to start January 2024.

Outreach Committee: At the January meeting we discussed providing signage for monthly meetings to complement the Visit Bucks Driving Tour of Meetinghouses, approved an outreach grant application from Wrightstown Meeting and formed an ad hoc committee to discuss a summer inreach activity for the Quarter.

Physical Safety in our Meetings: After our experience with the zoom bomber at the clerk's meeting, Paul Shaffer raised a concern about addressing online and physical security in our meetinghouses and scheduled a meeting with Jorj Bauer, a Friend and colleague who has expertise in this area. Jorj gave us some federal resources to contact for an assessment if we feel it is necessary.

Coordinator-Clerk Meetings

One of the coordinator's goals identified at the annual review was for her to meet with each monthly meeting clerk to get a sense of the state of their meeting and explore how the Quarter can offer support. This month I met with Susan Snipes Wells, the new(er) clerk of Fallsington Meeting, and Dafydd Jones, clerk of Plumstead Meeting.

Yearly Meeting & Other Quaker Organizations

PYM Program Committee: assuming the clerkship of this committee has allowed me to have more communication with PYM staff and with others from around the yearly meeting. The time spent on this committee's business is very worthwhile.

Mercer Street Friends: I have begun my final three-year term as an MSF Board Member and currently serve as the Board Secretary and on the Governance Committee. I am currently working on an upcoming project that will allow members of Bucks Quarter to provide new support for the Community Schools program.

2023 Bucks Quarter Handbook

Requests for updates from monthly meetings were sent out in January and these updates made over the next month, resulting in the newest edition of the Bucks Quarter Handbook. Printed copies will be distributed to Quarter committee members, and three copies to each monthly meeting. A limited number of printed copies are available upon request for individual Friends. A digital copy will be sent to meeting clerks to distribute as they feel led. A digital copy minus the directory appendix is available on the website.

Event Attendance

Within the Quarter:

- **Doylestown Meeting Banned Book Discussion:** The Central Bucks School District has been in the news with regard to book banning. In response, members of the meeting read books that have traditionally been placed on banned lists, explaining the reasons they are banned and why they should not be banned. The meeting held a discussion about these findings and are discerning the best path forward to stop the banning of these books.
- **Friends Village Carol Sing:** the traditional carol sings were held at both the Paxson and Styer campuses followed by cookies and fellowship. Many thanks to our accompanist Chris Kerr and the Bucks Quarter singers.

Through Philadelphia Yearly Meeting:

- **PYM Director of Communications Interview Team:** I was part of a five-person team to interview and select the next Director of Communications. The team found unity around one outstanding candidate, who was offered and accepted the position.

- **Quarter Staff and Quarter Leadership:** Quarterly Meeting staff first met with PYM staff to check in and discuss the agenda for the upcoming Quarter Leadership meeting. At the Leadership Meeting, there was representation from seven of our thirteen Quarters. We broke into small groups to discuss topics related to the role of Quarterly Meetings.
- **Mindful Mondays:** a four-part series about mindful meditation presented by PYM and the Friends Counseling Center. I saw quite a few Bucks Quarter members in attendance.
- **George Lakey Book Launch:** Merion Monthly Meeting hosted an on-line lecture featuring George Lakey, who spoke about the publication of his new book: *Dancing With History: A Life for Peace and Justice*.
- **Eldership Thread Gathering:** I attended a Quaker Eldership Thread Gathering, facilitated by George Schaefer, the former PYM Care & Aging Coordinator.

Greater Quaker Community:

- **FCNL Advocacy Team Meeting:** Over 300 Friends gathered on January 4th to hear about the upcoming 2023 FCNL initiatives, which are all based around peacebuilding initiatives and legislation. Bucks County has a very active advocacy team.
- **FCNL Bucks County Advocacy Group:** This small group met online on January 27th to discuss how to move forward with FCNL's advocacy for the 118th Congress.

Outreach

Bucks Quarter Outreach.

Quakerphernalia: due to the decreased availability of legal sized paper, the format of the newsletter was updated and changed to letter sized.

Grants: \$500 grants have been distributed to Middletown, Wrightstown, and Yardley Meetings.

Website: I continue to maintain the website with calendar updates, Stories of Vitality, and events from around the Quarter.

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

Times Publishing: Quarter ads continue to be placed monthly. Another Coordinator goal for the year is to place 10 stories into the publication this year. In January there was a story about Quakers in general, and in February, Fallsington Meeting wrote an article about their upcoming Quakerism in a Nutshell workshop.

Boone Farm book presentation: Pat Mervine, Middletown Meeting, gave a zoom presentation about her newly published book, *Boone Farm: Its People and Place in Middletown History*. There were 24 people registered; the event was recorded and will be uploaded to the Bucks Quarter YouTube channel.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Kane

Coordinator, Bucks Quarterly Meeting

Camp Onas is Celebrating its 100th Anniversary!

Information about the camp from Holly Mueller Hecht, the Executive Director and member of Wrightstown Monthly Meeting: Summer camp is 86% full for 2023 with new registrations coming in daily. We still have availability in our 1st and 4th Sessions, which are usually the last to fill due to conflicting school schedules. The [Camp Onas Website](http://www.camponas.org), camponas.org has availability, registration, and other info if you are interested to know more or sign up. Camp Onas runs outdoor education programs in the spring and fall, and several schools have sent their middle school students to Onas for decades. Most programs are 3-day overnight camping trips and have not been able to run since prior to the pandemic. Camp staff is very much looking forward to resuming these programs this spring. Work continues on the shower house project, although most of that is the behind the scenes work of contracting and project management in a challenging construction market.

The Ad-Hoc Capital Campaign Committee of the board recently wrapped up its research and preparation phase and has since stood up three new Co-Chairs who will carry the work forward from this point. Presently, they are working on recruitment and training to get ready for the public launch of a Capital Campaign to support renovations to the Dining Hall and Kitchen. If you'd like to be put on the list to receive information from Camp Onas, and keep up to date with Onas news, please email friends@camponas.org, visit the website, www.camponas.org, or use this QR Code which will take you to the sign up form.



As to the work of the board of directors, we are focusing on governance and community.

We revised and expanded our Guiding Principles (mission, vision, and values statements included at the end of this report) to better reflect who we are and how we operate as part of our overall planning strategy.

The board will be reviewing the results of the Onas community survey which hopefully many of you participated in. Your input helped us clarify our mission and vision statements and we will use your insights in our strategic planning. We look forward to sharing what we learned with everyone in the spring.

We are actively seeking new board members and have been sharing the following letter to explain what we are looking for in a director:

The Board of Directors of Camp Onas is looking for a few good individuals who want to make a difference in the lives of young people. For nearly 100 years through its summer camp and school programs, Camp Onas, formally known as the Friends Camp Association of PA, Inc., has been dedicated to its mission of “building a community of people who are joyful, confident, kind, and engaged”. To all who have supported us in this work throughout our first century, thank you!

We are also excited about our future as we build the foundations for the next 100 years. A key to that bright future is the leadership of energetic and engaged individuals willing to serve on our Board of Directors. Members of the Friends Camp Association of PA, Inc. Board of Directors serve as fiduciaries in their oversight of Camp Onas' affairs, in accordance with its bylaws.

More specifically, the Directors:

- Function as active, involved members of the Board by serving on at least one committee, regularly attending board and committee meetings, and coming prepared to meetings by reading materials distributed in advance. The Board meets approximately six times per year. Board members serve 3-year terms.
- Provide strategic oversight by developing, approving, and supporting the long-range plans of Camp Onas.
- Provide financial guidance and support by approving and monitoring the annual budget.
- Ensure that big-picture policies are in place to support the Executive Director's management of the organization.
- Conduct board business in the manner of Friends.
- Actively participate in fundraising and periodic capital campaigns for Camp Onas in a leadership, solicitor, and/or support role; and give an annual donation so that this information can be included as part of fundraising efforts.

- Ensure that good management, legal, and ethical standards are maintained at all times. Directors are responsible for appointing, advising, supporting, and evaluating the Executive Director.
- Serve as ambassadors of Camp Onas and its programs, and actively create linkages with the wider community.

Due to a recent change in the by-laws, there is no longer a requirement for a board candidate to be a Quaker or an official member of your meeting, but there is a requirement for them to have a passion for Camp Onas and to be committed to supporting the work of Camp through their service on the board.

If you know someone who has that passion, dedication and willingness to make a difference, please direct them to the Governance Committee of the Camp Onas Board of Directors at governance-committee@camponas.org.

Mission, Vision, and Values Statements*

Our Values

Our program and the community we create are guided by what matters most:

- Respecting and caring for ourselves, our peers, and the world around us
- Self-exploration and taking healthy risks
- Becoming confident in who we are and what we can do
- Learning to challenge and also accept limits
- Careful listening and empathetic understanding
- Making space for, and welcoming, a diversity of perspectives and experiences
- Creative, compassionate, and collaborative decision-making

Our Mission

Building a community of people who are joyful, confident, kind, and engaged.

Our Vision

Camp Onas is a...

- Quaker-based organization that prioritizes human rights and the wellbeing of the Earth.
- Foundational experience that inspires people to lead healthy lives and make a positive difference in their communities.
- Equitable community that continuously evolves to ensure all people feel included, accepted, and affirmed.
- Exemplar of face-to-face and relevant programming, and a collaborative contributor to the field.
- Strong steward of simple, well-functioning facilities that support the emerging needs of our community.
- Well-resourced organization due to widespread ownership and investment in Camp's financial resilience.

Jess Walcott, Clerk

Board of Directors, Friends Camp Association of PA, Inc. (Camp Onas)

2022 Quakertown Monthly Meeting Annual Report

2022 turned out to be a busy year for Quakertown Monthly Meeting despite a slow start due to an increase in Corona Virus cases in January and February. We were unable to meet in person until March when the numbers finally started to come down. During this time many of our members and attenders attended other meetings in the Bucks Quarter through Zoom.

In March, Tyler Powell became our newest member. Also, in March QMM contributed to IRC's Ukraine's Relief Fund with the meeting contributing \$1000 and individual members and attenders adding \$325. We received a \$500 grant from Bucks Quarter for outreach and increased our covenant by 5%.

In May we held a outdoor clean-up, a "Meeting for Weeding", as we call them and enjoyed a bag lunch. Our first time enjoying a meal together in over two years.

June brought some disturbing news, the Building and Grounds Committee reported that the stucco on one side of the Meeting house was peeling away from the wall.

Fortunately, we were able to hire the master mason, who had worked on our earlier ADA project, to repair the wall at an expense of over \$10,000. Thank goodness the repairs were made before there was any permanent damage to the wall.

In August we completed the mailings for the Peace Fair and in September some members helped with the setting up on Thursday and volunteering to work at the Fair.

We had a speaker, Steve Olshevski, from FCAL to inform us of their goals for the coming year. Afterwards we had our first get together with coffee and finger foods.

December was a happy month, we donated fifty gifts to Mercer Street Friends preschool program. Members love participating in what has become an annual tradition. We had our first Christmas gathering which was enjoyed by all those who attended.

QMM donated to 9 local organizations and as well as individual members contributing to their communities through various organizations such as the Milford BLM Vigil and the Flemington food bank. Members and attenders also made individual contributions to aid the residents after Hurricane Ian.

In addition to our faithful members, we are blessed with long standing attenders who are active in the life of our meeting. Members, who have left the area are very dear to the meeting and we were fortunate to have visits from some of them this year. Denise Evan and her son Pasha now living in South Carolina and daughter Olena from California visited a few times and her daughter and son, who were adopted from Ukraine, expressed their gratitude for the meeting's continued support of Ukraine. Cindy Sheward visited twice from Florida and Meave and Stefan Streit visited from NYC. Meave continues to monitor QMM's email.

In December we also started an H/VAC project that will be completed in early 2023. All in all a very productive year!

BUCKS QUARTERLY MEETING OF FRIENDS

Balance Sheet

As of December 31, 2022

	TOTAL
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Bank Accounts	
First National Checking	52,690.16
Petty cash	0.00
Total Bank Accounts	\$52,690.16
Total Current Assets	\$52,690.16
Other Assets	
Friends Fiduciary Corporation	44,101.64
Total Other Assets	\$44,101.64
TOTAL ASSETS	\$96,791.80
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Total Liabilities	
Equity	
Kirkbride Estate	17,696.43
Opening Balance Equity	0.00
Unrestricted Net Assets	86,865.24
Net Income	-7,769.87
Total Equity	\$96,791.80
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$96,791.80

BUCKS QUARTERLY MEETING OF FRIENDS

Profit and Loss
July - December, 2022

	TOTAL
Income	
Interest and dividends	
FFC	1,012.28
Total Interest and dividends	1,012.28
Monthly Meeting contributions	
Additional	300.00
Pledged	133,441.25
Total Monthly Meeting contributions	133,741.25
Other contributions	100.00
Total Income	\$134,853.53
GROSS PROFIT	\$134,853.53
Expenses	
Contributions	
Philadelphia Yearly Meeting	104,362.00
Total Contributions	104,362.00
Programs, Activities, Outreach	
Operating	3,376.34
Other	
Outreach Committee Activities	200.00
Total Other	200.00
Personnel	30,386.72
Total Programs, Activities, Outreach	33,963.06
Total Expenses	\$138,325.06
NET OPERATING INCOME	\$ -3,471.53
Other Income	
Unrealized gain/loss (FFC)	-3,298.34
Total Other Income	\$ -3,298.34
Other Expenses	
Kirkbride expenses	1,000.00
Total Other Expenses	\$1,000.00
NET OTHER INCOME	\$ -4,298.34
NET INCOME	\$ -7,769.87

BUCKS QUARTERLY MEETING OF FRIENDS 2022 Profit and Loss: 2nd Quarter

	JUL 2022 - DEC 2022	Budget	\$ Over Budget	% of Budget
Income				
Interest and dividends FFC	\$ 1,012.28	\$ 2,020.00	\$ (1,007.72)	50%
Total Interest and dividends	\$ 1,012.28	\$ 2,020.00	\$ (1,007.72)	50%
Monthly Meeting contributions				
Additional	\$ 300.00			
Pledged	\$ 133,441.25	\$ 278,195.00	\$ (144,753.75)	48%
Total Monthly Meeting contributions	\$ 133,741.25	\$ 278,195.00	\$ (144,453.75)	48%
Other contributions	\$ 100.00			
Quakerphernalia advertising	\$ -	\$ 1,200.00	\$ (1,200.00)	0%
Total Income	\$ 134,853.53	\$ 281,415.00	\$ (146,561.47)	48%
Gross Profit	\$ 134,853.53	\$ 281,415.00	\$ (146,561.47)	48%
Expenses				
Contributions				
Philadelphia Yearly Meeting	\$ 104,362.00	\$ 208,724.00	\$ (104,362.00)	50%
Total Contributions	\$ 104,362.00	\$ 208,724.00	\$ (104,362.00)	50%
Gifts/Donations				
Camp Onas	\$ -	\$ 300.00	\$ (300.00)	0%
Chandler Hall	\$ -	\$ 300.00	\$ (300.00)	0%
Friends Home and Village	\$ -	\$ 300.00	\$ (300.00)	0%
Total Gifts/Donations	\$ -	\$ 900.00	\$ (900.00)	0%
Programs, Activities, Outreach				
Operating	\$ 3,376.34	\$ 6,000.00	\$ (2,623.66)	56%
Other				
Advertising		\$ 2,200.00	\$ (2,200.00)	0%
Liability Insurance		\$ 1,100.00	\$ (1,100.00)	0%
Outreach Committee Activities	\$ 200.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ (1,800.00)	10%
Programs for Peace		\$ 1,700.00	\$ (1,700.00)	0%
Quakerism Classes		\$ 500.00	\$ (500.00)	0%
Young Friends and Other (net)		\$ 350.00	\$ (350.00)	0%
Total Other	\$ 200.00	\$ 7,850.00	\$ (7,650.00)	3%
Personnel	\$ 30,386.72	\$ 71,033.00	\$ (40,646.28)	43%
Total Programs, Activities, Outreach	\$ 33,963.06	\$ 84,883.00	\$ (50,919.94)	40%
Total Expenses	\$ 138,325.06	\$ 294,507.00	\$ (156,181.94)	47%
Net Operating Income	\$ (3,471.53)	\$ (13,092.00)	\$ 9,620.47	27%
Other Income				
Unrealized gain/loss (FFC)	\$ (3,298.34)			
Total Other Income	\$ (3,298.34)			
Other Expenses				
Kirkbride expenses	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 7,000.00	\$ (6,000.00)	14%
Total Other Expenses	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 7,000.00	\$ (6,000.00)	14%
Net Other Income	\$ (4,298.34)	\$ (7,000.00)	\$ 2,701.66	61%
Net Income	\$ (7,769.87)	\$ (20,092.00)	\$ 12,322.13	39%

BUCKS QUARTERLY MEETING OF FRIENDS 2023 - 2024 Preliminary Budget

	<u>22-23 Budget</u>	<u>23 - 24 Budget</u>
Income		
Interest and dividends FFC	\$ 2,020.00	\$ 2,020.00
Total Interest and dividends	\$ 2,020.00	\$ 2,020.00
Monthly Meeting contributions		
Additional Pledged	\$ 278,195.00	\$ 289,330.00
Total Monthly Meeting contributions	\$ 278,195.00	\$ 289,330.00
Other contributions		
Quakerphernalia advertising	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,200.00
Total Income	\$ 281,415.00	\$ 292,550.00
Gross Profit	\$ 281,415.00	\$ 292,550.00
Expenses		
Contributions		
Philadelphia Yearly Meeting	\$ 208,724.00	\$ 212,898.48
Total Contributions	\$ 208,724.00	\$ 212,898.48
Gifts/Donations		
Camp Onas	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00
Chandler Hall	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00
Friends Home and Village	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00
Total Gifts/Donations	\$ 900.00	\$ 900.00
Programs, Activities, Outreach		
Operating	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,500.00
Other		
Advertising	\$ 2,200.00	\$ 2,200.00
Liability Insurance	\$ 1,100.00	\$ 1,100.00
Outreach Committee Activities	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
Programs for Peace	\$ 1,700.00	\$ 1,700.00
Quakerism Classes	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
Young Friends and Other (net)	\$ 350.00	\$ 350.00
Total Other	\$ 7,850.00	\$ 7,850.00
Personnel	\$ 71,033.00	\$ 71,033.00
Total Programs, Activities, Outreach	\$ 84,883.00	\$ 85,383.00
Total Expenses	\$ 294,507.00	\$ 299,181.48
Net Operating Income	\$ (13,092.00)	\$ (6,631.48)
Other Income		
Unrealized gain/loss (FFC)		
Total Other Income		
Other Expenses		
Kirkbride expenses	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 7,000.00
Total Other Expenses	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 7,000.00
Net Other Income	\$ (7,000.00)	\$ (7,000.00)
Net Income	\$ (20,092.00)	\$ (13,631.48)

BUCKS QUARTER OUTREACH COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT – 2022-2023

Since we no longer wear distinctive clothing such as broadbrimmed hats and bonnets we must use other methods to let people know who we are and what we are. We continue to support the various local events such as Historic Bristol and Historic Fallsington, Olde Langhorne Harvest, the Yardley Friends Meeting Flea Market, and the Peace Fair which are visible demonstrations that Quakers not only appear like the family next door but may actually be the family next door - with a difference. The Outreach cards introduced during the past year were such a success that we needed to reprint them; several Meetings wanted them with their info; we were able to accommodate them. The Peace Fair is especially important because it shows off many of the activities Friends are involved in.

The Quaker tent in a box is an important, helpful element (especially when it includes tile painting for the children) to showing our presence. New additions are the quiz about which of a pair is the Quaker; the surprising answers promote the message that Quakers may look like everyone else. We have extended this outreach this year to include Social Media such as Facebook as well as our revised and up to date webpage. We are also participating in a driving tour of Bucks County Quaker Meeting Houses.

The main new business of the Outreach Committee has been the acceptance and approval of grants as approved by Quarterly Meeting in May 2022. Grants of \$500 have been made to all Meetings except Bristol, which did not apply. While grants were made for a variety of purposes, several were made to enable Meetings to conduct ZOOM or hybrid Meetings for Worship. While this entails both inreach and outreach, there were some instances where the practice enabled those at a distance to join the worship. It may also enable inquirers to sample a Meeting for Worship without attending.

Some in Meeting miss the time together, so there has been an increased interest in hybrid Meetings allowing those who feel uncomfortable during this ongoing COVID pandemic to participate as fully as possible. We are finding that the success of this approach is variable and warrants more trial.

The Outreach Committee has met at 7pm the third Thursday of January, March, May, July, September and November via ZOOM. Most Meetings are represented by a Committee member. We have no permanent clerk; the Coordinator collects the items that need to be considered and has worked with a Committee volunteer on the agenda and clerking of each meeting.

Going forward, we have found ZOOM is a convenient way to meet. We agreed to rotate the volunteer clerking according to alphabetical order of their Meeting.

For the Bucks Quarter Outreach Committee, Douglas Meaker

Doylestown Friends Meeting 2022 Annual Report

In 2022 Doylestown Friends continued to seek, discern, and follow our sense of the Light, in our hearts, in the ways we treat one another, in our local community, and in the wider world.

We faced challenges:

The Covid 19 pandemic continues. At first we worshiped virtually via Zoom only; attendance averaged ~18. With careful consideration of the science, and with care for one another and our many diverse feelings, in April we reopened our Meetinghouse with excellent ventilation, CO2 monitoring, and made masks and vaccination optional. Attendance averaged ~17 in our meetinghouse, ~7 on zoom (whether hybrid or zoom only). (These numbers include all ages.) We continue to strive to balance the needs and wishes of those who cannot attend or don't feel safe in person to the meetinghouse with the needs and wishes of those who cherish in person worship, and/or do not feel comfortable with technology for various reasons. Our efforts to improve the experience of technology in hybrid worship continues. (Hybrid worship is when online worshipers virtually connect with in-person worship in the meetinghouse.) Virtual worship enabled us to occasionally join Friends across Philadelphia Yearly Meeting in All Together Zoom worship.

We have had trouble filling some committee positions and roles in our Opportunities for Service, and trouble finding volunteers to run technology for hybrid worship. So we came to offer hybrid worship only on the second and fourth Sundays, when after worship we monthly hold meeting for business or forums. On first, third, and fifth Sundays, we worship via Zoom, and in person in the Meetinghouse, but these two groups worship separately.

In recent years, we have benefited from having two Co-clerks, but for 2023 only one stalwart Friend will wear the Clerk mantle.

We planned to repeat our outside Christmas program in the backyard of the meetinghouse as in 2021, a bonfire carol sing, but canceled due to extreme cold.

We met these challenges, and we found reasons to hope and feel encouraged:

Our robust First Day School program continues. Dedicated Friends teach new generations about our testimonies, especially Peace. All enjoyed our Easter Egg hunt.

Our children's First Day School is small, but vital. Children attended on most Sundays, and we are happy that our visitors included children.

In May we virtually hosted Bucks Quarterly Meeting; our featured speaker was our longtime member, Gretchen Castle, Dean of the Earlham School of Religion, who spoke about the Peace testimony in the global context. This topic has been heavy on our hearts, especially as the war in Ukraine rages on, and some of us struggle with how to respond in light of our Peace testimony.

In 2022, after we started meeting in person, and dropped the mask and Covid vaccine requirements, we had more visitors than in 2021. Some visitors are motivated by racial justice, and some are motivated to oppose the bans of books about LGBTQ and racial diversity in the Central Bucks School District. Many of our faithful members share these concerns, and many chose to read books banned by CBSD.

We have worked to address racism, and acknowledge that we have more to do. For example, one member volunteers with the Coalition of Natives and Allies to educate the public and oppose the racist policy of using Native peoples as sports mascots. Another member sought guidance from the meeting regarding a pair of moccasins, handed down from his ancestor who worked at the Carlisle Indian Industrial School. We learned that school staff stripped children of every aspect of their Native identity, such as moccasins, as they entered the school and, sadly, that Friends were among the European American perpetrators of this cultural genocide. Once they identified to what Native American peoples they belonged, our members reverently returned the moccasins to a Native member of the Coalition of Natives and Allies who plans to return them to her Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate community in South Dakota, along with the remains of two boys returned by the Carlisle School for burial on their homelands.

In September, we held a DFM Open House during the Doylestown Arts Fest. It was a great success and was well received by many people in the wider community who attended and expressed interest and curiosity about the Meetinghouse and our beliefs.

Monthly Forums: the Pastoral Concerns, Worship and Ministry, and Peace and Social Concerns committees took turns organizing monthly forums after Meeting for Worship. Some popular forums included singer songwriter Reggie Harris, Outreach ideas, and discussion of book bans by Central Bucks School District.

Our meeting garden flourishes; flowers in front of our meetinghouse beautify our community, and vegetables out back we donate to a local food bank. We updated the

bricks around our meetinghouse and sidewalk in front of the meetinghouse, making the way smoother and safer for all.

This report features highlights of our 2022, but is not all the ways that DFM members and attenders corporately and individually live out our testimonies and seek continual revelation of the Light.

Humbly submitted with love,

Lisa Wildman, retired Co-clerk

**MAKEFIELD FRIENDS MEETING
OF THE SOCIETY OF FRIENDS**
877 Dolington Road, Newtown, PA 18940

2023 ANNUAL REPORT
February 2023

Within its light filled gathering space, Makefield Meeting enriches the quiet experience of the Divine. We invite all to join us for worship.



While we are a small Meeting, we are active! We are down to four attenders in Meeting, with age and illness taking its toll. We continue to have three participants via Zoom. One member and one attender are the consistent and active participants of the Meeting. In addition, we continue to have support from members unable to attend Meeting, but serve as Treasurer and finance support, Care and Concerns Committee, Property Committee, Graveyard Committee and Nominating Committee. We have representation on the Camp Onas and Chandler Hall Auxiliary Committees.

We currently have 18 members and one attender. We have no children attending Meeting. Since we do not have a large legacy fund, we rely on donations and the income from rental of the Caretaker House to balance our budget.

Meeting starts at 10 AM and after deep worship we close at 10:45 with a reading of the sentiment board and after thoughts. We have light refreshments followed by Spiritual Enrichment (Adult Forum) where we discuss spiritual writings and articles from Pendel Hill and Friends Journal. We enjoy YouTube video/music on the fifth Sundays and holidays.

Our Care and Concerns committee continues to provide comfort and guidance to our members.

Makefield Meeting also hosts an informal spiritual sharing group where women share their experiences and concerns. The group is open to members, attenders, and friends of Makefield.

The Caretaker House is currently under repair following the departure of our long-time tenant. We plan to be ready to lease in the near future. Members in the Quarter who are interested should contact our Clerk.

We used last year's grant from the Quarterly Meeting for video equipment. We only Zoom conference for the Spiritual Enrichment time after the Meeting for Worship.

We recently posted a yard sign "There is that of God in you and all living things" with the photo above as background and created a new website. The sentiment is posted on our Facebook page each Sunday.

Jerry Taylor, Clerk

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

Held under the care of Lehigh Valley Monthly Meeting via Zoom

Clerk: Bill Daly (Middletown)

Bucks Quarter Coordinator: Wendy Kane (Newtown)

Recording Clerk: Terry M. Christensen (Newtown)

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

Welcome – Bill Daly

Review and Approval of Agenda – Approved

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Minute Approved

BREAK

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Quakertown Friend supports hybrid format for Quarterly meeting.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Contribution Approved

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

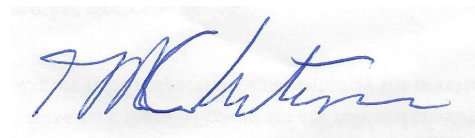
Outreach grants are also available from PYM – Membership Development Granting Group meets monthly.

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

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

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

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Terry M. Christensen", is written on a light-colored rectangular background.

Terry M. Christensen, Recording Clerk