

Bucks Quarterly Meeting for Worship for The Purpose Of Business
 21st Day, Fifth Month, 2023
 Hosted by Newtown 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	5
6	Stories of Vitality & Strength		1:25: PM	10
7	Germantown Meeting Minute on Women's Reproductive Health	Bill Daly	1:35: PM	10
8	Spiritual Assessment of the Quarter	Bill Daly	1:45: PM	5
9	Clerk's Annual Report	Bill Daly	1:50: PM	5
10	Presentation of final 2023-2024 Budget	Lisa Parry Becker	1:55: PM	10
11	Treasurer's Quarterly Report	Lisa Parry Becker	2:05: PM	5
12	Nominations to the Audit Committee	Leo Fitzpatrick	2:10: PM	5
13	Change to BQ Handbook: clerk's term & limits	Leo Fitzpatrick	2:15: PM	5
14	Appeal for nominee to PYM Nominating Council	Wendy Kane	2:20: PM	5
15	Annual Report: Bristol Monthly Meeting	Paul Shaffer	2:25: PM	5
16	Annual Report: Buckingham Monthly Meeting	Bethann Morgan	2:30: PM	5
17	Break		2:35: PM	10
18	Quarter Coordinator report	Wendy Kane	2:45: PM	5
19	Annual Report : Committee of Oversight	Elyse Fox	2:50: PM	10
20	Discussion: August Quarterly Meeting under the care of Plumstead Meeting	Elyse Fox	3:00: PM	5
21	Annual Report: Lehigh Valley Monthly Meeting	Martha Christine	3:05: PM	5
22	Annual Report: Fallsington Monthly Meeting	Susan Snipes Wells	3:10: PM	5
23	Discussion: recorder of membership position for the Quarter	Bill Daly	3:15: PM	5
24	Approval of Minutes from February Quarterly Meeting	Terry Christensen	3:20: PM	5
25	Annual Report Chandler Hall		3:25: PM	5
26	Closing worship		3:30: PM	5
			3:35 PM	

Reminder: next Quarterly Meeting is 20th Day, Eighth Month, 2023 at Plumstead Monthly 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*

For Consideration at
Bucks Quarterly Meeting
May 21, 2023

The following email was received by Bill Daly, clerk, Bucks Quarterly meeting.

Dear Friends,

On April 23, 2023, Philadelphia Quarterly Meeting received the attached minutes on the issue of women's reproductive health from Germantown Monthly Meeting. It was approved by them on April 9. We understand that some other meetings in our Quarter have also crafted similar minutes.

Those present at Quarterly Meeting on April 23 were in unity to share this minute with the monthly meetings in Philadelphia Quarter and the Quarterly Meetings in Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. The minute was written in response to an invitation by FCNL (Friends Committee on National Legislation) to deeply consider how we are led as Friends on this sensitive issue. Although FCNL had hoped to receive such statements by May 1, we urge all meetings to respond to FCNL on this issue as honestly as they are led and submit their statements to FCNL when appropriate.

Sincerely,

Steve Elkinton
Clerk, Philadelphia Quarterly Meeting

Germantown Monthly Meeting believes that reproductive health care is a human right and should be comprehensive and affordable. We believe women have a right to privacy regarding reproductive matters. We agree that education and access to birth control are essential for responsible family planning. The government should support families with measures like child tax credits, paid maternity/paternity leave, affordable child care and a strong public school system. We feel these measures would reduce the number of unwanted pregnancies. In order to ensure that women can receive the best possible care during pregnancy and to protect health care workers, we believe it is necessary for abortion to remain legal and are in favor of FCNL taking a position to support legal abortion.

Approved at Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business April 9, 2023,
Germantown MM, Philadelphia, PA

Annual Report of the Clerk of Bucks Quarterly Meeting

Bill Daly

Meetings for Worship

During the last year we held Fifth, Eighth and Eleventh Month Meetings for both worship and business in cyberspace via zoom. Second Month 2023 has a hybrid meeting at Middletown.

We must consider the meeting place of Eighth Month meeting under the care of Plumstead and Eleventh Month meeting under the care of Quakertown. Both meetings do not have access to cyberspace.

Programs at Quarterly Meetings

Fifth Month 2022

Peace Assertions in a Global Quaker Context: Presented by Gretchen Castle, Dean of Earlham School of Religion and former General Secretary of Friends World Committee World Office in London, she spoke about the Quaker context of peace building, beginning with some historical background and moving to a more contemporary look at where Quakers are doing peace work.

Eighth Month 2022

The African American Museum of Bucks County at Boone Farm*: The Museum's Director, Linda Salley, shared the story of how the bricks-and-mortar museum is coming to fruition through vision, research, fundraising, work in the community and the support of county commissioners. The African American Museum of Bucks County pays tribute to the lives, culture, accomplishments, and contributions of African Americans in Bucks County from their origins in Africa through the 21st century, featuring a timeline of events in African American history in Pennsylvania, including a memorial list of African Americans who were registered as slaves in Bucks County in the 18th and 19th centuries.

Eleventh Month 2022

Creating Spiritual Autobiographies in Partnership with Incarcerated Women*: A Lehigh Valley Monthly Meeting Project. In the spring and early summer of this year, several Lehigh Valley members and attenders participated in the writing of spiritual autobiographies, drawing on exercises in Dan Wakefield's book *The Story of Your Life: Writing a Spiritual Autobiography*. In addition, they shared poems, drawings, and portions of their autobiographies with incarcerated women at Pennsylvania's Muncy State Correctional Institution, communicating via U.S. Mail and/or the prison messaging system, and invited their partners to produce and share similar work. At this session, facilitated by Lehigh Valley member Joyce Hinnefeld, participants will discuss this project, including the

discoveries gleaned through writing their own spiritual autobiographies and through sharing stories and experiences with their incarcerated partners.

Second Month 2023

We welcomed students and faculty of the Bucks Learning Cooperative, a tenant of Middletown Meeting. The Bucks Learning Cooperative is a self-directed education center for area teenagers who want to leave traditional school and take charge of their education. They offer classes, workshops, field trips, mentoring, independent study and more! BLC provides a warm, welcoming, inclusive space and combines the most valuable parts of school with personalized attention. Most of all, BLC gives kids and their families the freedom to choose how they learn. The panel will include teens and parents currently enrolled at BLC who will share their experiences in self-directed learning and take questions from the audience. They are always looking for ways to engage with the larger community, as well as recruiting volunteers who are interested in sharing their wisdom and knowledge with young people.

Outreach

Grants

We extended our outreach grant program for one more year. We grant up to \$500 to each monthly meeting. For the year ended Sixth Month 2023 we have made six grants.

Peace Fair

Our annual peace fair was held at Buckingham Meeting and School Ninth Month 17.

Meeting House Driving Tour

Working with <https://www.visitbuckscounty.com/> we developed a driving tour of Bucks County Meeting Houses. The tour starts at Plumstead and winds its leisurely way to Bristol. Stopping at many of the Quarter's Monthly Meetings.

Quakerphernalia Face Lift

Starting First Month 2023 we published *Quakerphernalia* with a new look and standard (in the US at least) paper.

Leadings

Southampton Friends Meeting continues a vigil each First Day from four to five pm for Social Justice.

Newtown Meeting held a Black Lives Matter vigil in Newtown on a bi-weekly basis. The vigil ended in Eleventh Month 2022.

The quarter adopted in minute to support all women's access to safe, legal, reproductive care. It is a fundamental human right and a necessity to protect women from the dangers of forced pregnancies or illegal abortions.

Special Programs

The Quarter sponsored a virtual lecture by Plumstead Friend Carol Ann Grey entitled *The Quaker Experience During the American Revolution* on Fourth Month 21 2022.

The Quarter sponsored a virtual lecture by Middletown Friend Patricia Mervine entitled *Boone Farm: Its People and Place in Middletown History* on Second Month 16 2023.

Fallsington Meeting revived its annual hosting of Quakerism in Nutshell in Second Month 2023. The program was free and open to all.

Organization of the Quarter

Faith and Practice recommends four officers: Clerk, Recording Clerk, Treasurer, and Recorder (of members). Bucks Quarter has not named a Recorder and should consider if that is rightly ordered.

Finances

The 2022-2023 budget was adopted with a deficit. The deficit reflects our decision to spend down the Kirkbride Estate bequest through outreach grants to our member meetings.

The quarter's cash balances grew in recent years. In 2022 (2021?) the quarter returned excess funds to our member meetings. The budget for 2023-2024 will show deficit as we spend down some of the excess funds.

Attendance

Meeting	05/21	08/21	11/21	02/22
Bristol	0	0	0	0
Buckingham	2	5	2	3
Doylestown	0	1	1	2
Fallsington	2	1	5	6
Lehigh Valley	2	2	1	2
Makefield	2	0	1	1
Middletown	2	5	1	2
Newtown	2	3	8	9
Plumstead	0	0	1	1
Quakertown	3	2	2	4
Solebury	2	2	0	1
Southampton	6	3	2	5
Wrightstown	6	6	4	2
Yardley	2	3	4	3
Total	31	33	32	41

Respectfully submitted.

Bill Daly, clerk

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		\$ 17,904.00
Pledged	\$ 278,195.00	\$ 278,195.00
Total Monthly Meeting contributions	\$ 278,195.00	\$ 296,099.00
Other contributions		
Quakerphernalia advertising	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,200.00
Total Income	\$ 281,415.00	\$ 299,319.00
Gross Profit	\$ 281,415.00	\$ 299,319.00
Expenses		
Contributions		
Philadelphia Yearly Meeting	\$ 208,724.00	\$ 208,724.00
Total Contributions	\$ 208,724.00	\$ 208,724.00
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	\$ 1,150.00
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	\$ 7,900.00
Personnel	\$ 71,033.00	\$ 75,295.00
Total Programs, Activities, Outreach	\$ 84,883.00	\$ 89,695.00
Total Expenses	\$ 294,507.00	\$ 299,319.00
Net Operating Income	\$ (13,092.00)	\$ -
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)	\$ (7,000.00)

BUCKS QUARTERLY MEETING OF FRIENDS

2022 Profit and Loss: 3rd Quarter

	JUL 2022 - MAR 2023	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	\$ 209,752.50	\$ 278,195.00	\$ (68,442.50)	75%
Total Monthly Meeting contributions	\$ 210,052.50	\$ 278,195.00	\$ (68,142.50)	76%
Other contributions	\$ 100.00			
Quakerphernalia advertising	\$ 1,062.50	\$ 1,200.00	\$ (137.50)	89%
Total Income	\$ 212,227.28	\$ 281,415.00	\$ (69,287.72)	75%
Gross Profit	\$ 212,227.28	\$ 281,415.00	\$ (69,287.72)	75%
Expenses				
Contributions				
Philadelphia Yearly Meeting	\$ 156,543.00	\$ 208,724.00	\$ (52,181.00)	75%
Total Contributions	\$ 156,543.00	\$ 208,724.00	\$ (52,181.00)	75%
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	\$ 5,204.04	\$ 6,000.00	\$ (795.96)	87%
Other				
Advertising		\$ 2,200.00	\$ (2,200.00)	0%
Liability Insurance	\$ 1,143.00	\$ 1,100.00	\$ 43.00	104%
Outreach Committee Activities	\$ 200.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ (1,800.00)	10%
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	\$ 1,543.00	\$ 7,850.00	\$ (6,307.00)	20%
Personnel	\$ 48,919.31	\$ 71,033.00	\$ (22,113.69)	69%
Total Programs, Activities, Outreach	\$ 55,666.35	\$ 84,883.00	\$ (29,216.65)	66%
Total Expenses	\$ 212,209.35	\$ 294,507.00	\$ (82,297.65)	72%
Net Operating Income	\$ 17.93	\$ (13,092.00)	\$ 13,109.93	0%
Other Income				
Unrealized gain/loss (FFC)	\$ (328.99)			
Total Other Income	\$ (328.99)			
Other Expenses				
Kirkbride expenses	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 7,000.00	\$ (2,500.00)	64%
Total Other Expenses	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 7,000.00	\$ (2,500.00)	64%
Net Other Income	\$ (4,828.99)	\$ (7,000.00)	\$ 2,171.01	69%
Net Income	\$ (4,811.06)	\$ (20,092.00)	\$ 15,280.94	24%

BUCKS QUARTERLY MEETING OF FRIENDS

Balance Sheet

As of March 31, 2023

	TOTAL
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Bank Accounts	
First National Checking	52,679.62
Petty cash	0.00
Total Bank Accounts	\$52,679.62
Total Current Assets	\$52,679.62
Other Assets	
Friends Fiduciary Corporation	47,070.99
Total Other Assets	\$47,070.99
TOTAL ASSETS	\$99,750.61
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Total Liabilities	
Equity	
Kirkbride Estate	11,696.43
Opening Balance Equity	0.00
Unrestricted Net Assets	92,865.24
Net Income	-4,811.06
Total Equity	\$99,750.61
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$99,750.61

Bristol Friends Meeting Annual Report
Presented at Quarterly Meeting - May 21, 2023

It is my pleasure to provide the annual report for Bristol Friends Meeting covering the period from June 2022 to May 2023. We are grateful for the opportunity to reflect on the blessings and challenges of the past year and to share with our wider Quaker community.

Membership Information:

Our Meeting has a total of 4 members and attenders in regular attendance. We have gained about one member this year, and we continue to welcome seekers who are drawn to our Meeting. We gather once a month at 11 AM on the fourth Sunday in person—no hybrid.

Spiritual Life:

The Spirit moves in our community in many ways. Our worship continues to be a centering experience for all who attend. We are grateful for the opportunities to share messages that have been given to us and to listen deeply to one another. In addition to our worship, we also support Quaker charities and local non-profit organizations such as Bristol Riverside Theatre.

Report on Use of BQ Outreach Grant Funds:

We did not apply for any BQ Outreach grants this year.

Activities:

Bristol Friends Meeting remains active in social witness, advocacy, and outreach. Paul continues to serve on the BQ Outreach committee, and we are proud to have had a successful Historic Bristol Day. This event was very well-attended, and we are grateful for the opportunity to engage with our wider community with the help of archaeologists from Delaware Valley University. We also continue to enjoy warm relations with our renter congregation, the Redemption Church. Bristol Friends Meeting's relationship with the Bucks County Interfaith Coalition for Refugee Resettlement (BCICRR) continues, as well. The Meeting serves as the fiscal agent and PO box for BCICRR.

Meeting-Specific Concerns:

We have no major concerns about our Meeting's physical property or other meeting-specific issues.

Lastly, it is important to note that Bristol Friends Meeting continues under the care of Fallsington Friends Meeting as a preparative Meeting. We appreciate their guidance and support as we continue to grow and deepen our spiritual practice.

In closing, we would like to express our gratitude to the Bucks Quarter community for your dedication and commitment to our spiritual journey together. We also extend our gratitude to Wendy, the Coordinator, and to the wider Quaker community for your ongoing support and encouragement.

With warm regards,

Paul Shaffer
Clerk of Bristol Friends Meeting

*Please note: the preceding report was generated with the help of ChatGPT, an artificial intelligence.
I welcome comments regarding my choice to produce the report this way.*

Buckingham Monthly Meeting
2022 Annual Report
Fifth Month 2022 to Fifth Month 2023

The past year was spiritually rewarding but also continued to be challenging as we approached what felt more like a normal world. As concerns about COVID lessened, regular weekly meetings for worship resumed in the meetinghouse, with masking optional for those who were vaccinated. Even so, we continued a hybrid format, with every meeting being available on Zoom as well as in person. This allowed members to attend from afar, many of whom we would not have been able to see even during normal times. Although online participation decreased as attendance in person picked up, this format was surprisingly fulfilling both spiritually and in being able to connect with others. We met fewer times outside in the graveyard as most seemed pleased to be able to use our meetinghouse to its fullest once again. Overall, attendance at meeting for worship declined somewhat, as some Friends we had seen before the pandemic did not return, even as others resumed attending. However, we also had a significant number of new visitors and regular attenders to our in-person meetings, and welcomed two new members. We recorded 66 adult members and 24 minor members, for a total of 90. We also mourned the passing of two weighty Friends.

Meeting life outside of worship rebounded significantly during the year. We were able to celebrate the 300th anniversary of our incorporation with a picnic and community tour. Our annual Easter egg hunt was a successful outdoor event. At the end of the summer Friends were able to share a pot luck and our summer experiences. The Bucks Quarter Peace Fair held at Buckingham was highly successful and great fun, after a great deal of hard work. Our annual meeting for worship with families, staff, and alumni of Buckingham Friends School was again able to be held in person, bringing our community even closer together as the School embarks on a major construction project and capital campaign. The local magazine *River Towns* contacted us about a story to highlight diverse houses of worship in our area, and our worship space and members were featured in a beautiful photo spread. In December we were also able to hold our holiday events in person, beginning with a candlelight service and ending with a warmly received waffle brunch. In fact, over the course of the year we were so busy with committee work and other events that it was difficult to find time for adult enrichment programs, which we call “Quaker conversations,” an oversight we hope to rectify.

One struggle was with engaging our children. As opposed to worship, children meeting virtually was not as comfortable or productive. We did not always have a critical mass of children whose families were able to attend regularly in person. The burden of teaching also fell on too few shoulders.

As usual when caring for a National Historic Landmark, our Property committee had a busy year. Near-monthly “Helping Hands” days were held for members to work on various projects, including replacing all of the lamps in our custom lighting system with energy efficient LED bulbs. The heating system of the meetinghouse gave us significant trouble with a leaking underground pipe, and we made steps toward lessening our carbon footprint by replacing the

oil fired heating system in our caretaker's cottage with an electric heat pump. Significant painting work needs to be done on the meetinghouse, and we drew on the experience of other meetings in identifying best practices and finding qualified contractors. A good deal of work was also done on our cottage on the Plumstead property to prepare for a new tenant.

We also need to express our deepest gratitude to Bethann Morgan for her (seemingly lifetime) service as our clerk. With our recent rise in new attenders and new activities, we look forward to another year of fulfilling worship and fellowship.

Report of the Coordinator to Bucks Quarterly Meeting
May 21, 2023
Under the Care of Newtown Monthly Meeting
Held at Newtown Monthly Meeting and via Zoom

On May 5, the World Health Organization declared the end of the Covid-19 global health emergency. When the emergency was declared on March 11, 2020, we were so sure that it would be over in a few weeks, the end of summer at the latest. Three years and two months later we know the virus is still with us, but thanks to vaccinations it is no longer life-threatening for most people who contract it. We kept wondering “when will life get back to normal?” The answer is it won’t. Too many things have changed for life to ever go back to the way it was pre-pandemic. Technology—microphones, cameras, projectors, screens, computers—are now commonplace in our 200-year-old meetinghouses. Friends have learned terms like “screen share,” “breakout rooms,” and “virtual backgrounds.” And how many times have you heard, “we can’t hear you; you’re muted.” But it turns out you can teach old dogs new tricks. Technology has been a blessing and a challenge for many meetings in our yearly meeting community. Let’s continue to address the challenges and embrace the blessings.

Inreach

Care of Meetings

I continue to visit monthly meetings on a rotating basis, with all in-person visits this quarter. I had the pleasure of sharing worship and fellowship with Plumstead, Wrightstown, Southampton, Quakertown, Lehigh Valley, Yardley, Newtown, Buckingham, and Bristol meetings.

Committee Meetings

Clerk’s Meeting: At the April Clerk’s meeting we welcomed the rising clerk of Buckingham, David Redenbaugh. We also welcomed Nancy Culleton and Irv Thompson, who are part of the newly formed clerk’s committee at Wrightstown Meeting. Subjects discussed were how to combine monthly meeting annual reports to the Quarter with the PYM Spiritual State of the Meeting reports, archiving records at Friends Historical Library, the Life Cycle of Meetings workshops being offered by Emily Provance, and a check in with Friends about the state of their meetings. Our next clerk’s meeting is scheduled for July.

Budget & Nominating Committee: At the May meeting, the committee discussed the proposed 2023-24 budget, approved the names of two Friends to bring to Quarterly Meeting to nominate to the Audit Committee, and the importance of nominating a Bucks Quarter representative to PYM’s Nominating Council.

Outreach Committee: At the March meeting we discussed outreach efforts at the monthly meetings, a change to how the Quarter presents Quakerism in a Nutshell workshops, the February Boone Farm presentation, meeting signage to accompany the Visit Bucks Quaker Meeting House Tour, scheduling the Quaker Table at fall events, and organizing a Bucks Quarter picnic for June.

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 quarter I met informally with Jerry Taylor, clerk of Makefield Meeting.

Yearly Meeting & Other Quaker Organizations

PYM Program Committee: I continue to serve on this committee as clerk. Currently we are working on updating the name and description of the committee.

Mercer Street Friends: the Clothing Drive that was approved at the February Quarterly Meeting is well underway. Most of the meetings are participating, and the first clothing deliveries have been made. We will continue to accept donations through June when we will re-evaluate to see if the donation program should be continued or not. Bernadette Trapp, director of the MSF community school program has been most grateful for our efforts.

Event Attendance

Within the Quarter:

- Boone Farm: Its People and Place in Middletown History (sponsored by the Quarter)
- Quakerism in a Nutshell - Fallsington Meeting

Through Philadelphia Yearly Meeting:

- Mindful Mondays
- PYM Ministry & Care Thread Gathering
- PYM Continuing Sessions

Greater Quaker Community:

- FCNL Lobby Visit with Mike Fitzpatrick's office
- FCNL Supporting Friends' Discernment on Reproductive Health
- Emily Provance Consultations:
 - The Life Cycle of Meetings
 - The Role of Regions
 - The Role of Record Keepers
 - Restructuring Local Meetings
 - Simplifying Committee Structures
 - Combining/Merging Meetings
 - Sharing, Repurposing & Selling Buildings
 - Laying Down a Meeting
- Lasagna Dinner Fundraiser at Newtown Meeting

Outreach

Bucks Quarter Outreach

Grants: are still available to monthly meetings through June 2023.

Website: continues to be updated as needed.

Facebook: postings continue on a regular basis.

Times Publishing: stories were published highlighting Fallsington Meeting's Quakerism in a Nutshell workshop, the Visit Bucks Quaker Meetinghouse Tour (made the cover of the Langhorne Ledger), and Yardley Meeting's Labyrinth Dedication and Movie Night. Our regular monthly ads were also placed.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Kane

Coordinator, Bucks Quarterly Meeting

COMMITTEE OF OVERSIGHT FOR THE BUCKS QUARTER COORDINATOR ANNUAL REPORT TO BUCKS QUARTERLY MEETING

MAY 21, 2023

NEWTOWN MONTHLY MEETING (HYBRID)

The Committee of Oversight for the Coordinator, Wendy Kane, exists to provide guidance, support, and review of the activities of the coordinator, a salaried employee of Bucks Quarter Meeting of Friends, and to complete an annual performance review of Wendy. The Oversight Committee is also charged with advising on and conducting urgent business of BQ between quarterly meetings for business. The committee is comprised of a representative of each Monthly Meeting in the Quarter, and the Clerk of the Quarter and Treasurer are ex-officio members.

The committee meets monthly, except July and December, to review the report of Wendy's activities, vis-à-vis BQ, and monitor her schedule of reported activities. In addition, each committee member is expected to provide a brief update of their individual monthly meeting's activities which supplement Wendy's report.

This past year was devoid of spectacular developments in BQ, as the Covid Virus continued to play a role with the activities of Wendy and the functioning of the Oversight Committee. Wendy continued to cope with the disruption in the Quarter's meeting schedules, and continued to refine the ZOOM network which allowed the committee to continue their work and the Quarterly Meetings to meet as scheduled. Many meetings returned to in-person sessions, and some adopted a hybrid approach. The February 2023 Quarterly Meeting was a hybrid event at Middletown MM, and except for some unexpected technical difficulties was successful. The Oversight Committee will meet in person at a pot-luck affair in June 2023 at Wrightstown MM which is eagerly anticipated by the members and Wendy.

As stated most MMs returned to in-person meetings, and Wendy continued the practice of meeting regularly with the Clerks of the meetings, and she began the practice of meeting with individual clerks which is especially important to new clerks.

All individual MMs are represented on the Oversight Committee, and the practice of adherence to term-limits for Clerk of Oversight was established. Clerks will serve for two-year periods. The important position of Scribe of the Committee meeting is filled on a strict rotating basis with a new Scribe honored each month.

In summary, "we ain't back to normal yet" but with Wendy's outstanding coordinating efforts, and the sheer brilliance of the Coordinating Committee in supporting her and guiding her through difficult times we look forward to a successful coming year.

Respectfully submitted.

Gerry Kirwan, QMM, Oversight Committee Clerk

Lehigh Valley Monthly Meeting Annual Report
April 2022 - April 2023
Bucks Quarter Meeting, May 2023

Maintaining and strengthening our community has been a focus over the past year. We returned to hybrid Meeting for Worship in March of 2022, after a few months of Zoom only. We required masks and have just begun, a year later, considering making masks optional. We continue to hold both our Meeting for Business and our Adult Religious Education programs on Zoom only, as we find it's easier to manage discussions and it allows our Tech Team to participate without the added responsibility of managing the tech equipment.

In our on-going concern for the health and safety of our members we installed an air filtrator in the nursery. We began discussion of "air quality" in May and formed an ad hoc committee in July. After months of extensive research and lengthy discussions regarding the need for a feasibility study, the surprisingly high costs of improvements, and the various possible financing scenarios, we held a called Meeting for Business in January, believing way would open. We did find our way forward and approved a Minute in February to hire Connie Lezenby Architect and her recommended engineers to provide us with possible solutions to our air quality needs.

Meanwhile many activities were held outdoors—we were lucky the weather cooperated. The Connections Committee facilitated gatherings of outdoor poetry readings and a "Share Fair." They also organized Christmas carol singing outside the apartments of beloved Friends residing in retirement homes. The Worship & Ministry Committee led an outdoor "Attendees Breakfast." The Religious Education Committee invited families to a Canal Boat Ride accompanied by a lecture about Quaker Josiah White's involvement with the development of the Delaware-Lehigh Canal. The Social Concerns Committee held our annual Harambe Meal outdoors, raising money to pay for the continuing education of four girls in Kenya.

Other ways we've stayed connected: Our Library committee began "mobile library delivery" at the start of the pandemic and they've continued this service. Our Outreach and Communication Committee oversees our website and social media pages, as well as our monthly newsletter and weekly Light Board. These publications, distributed via email, are engaging and informative.

Connections to the wider community: We hosted Bucks Quarter Meeting in November with a presentation by our members who were engaged in partnering with incarcerated women to write spiritual autobiographies. We opened our Meeting House to be one of six regional gatherings for the PYM Continuing Sessions in March. We're holding two special sessions in April to provide feedback to FCNL on setting their Priorities regarding Reproductive Health. Our members are involved with area interfaith groups: Bethlehem Interfaith Group sponsored a "Faith Crawl" in June and our Meeting House was a stop on the tour. Somer members participated in the Lehigh Valley Conference of Churches Homelessness Awareness week by sleeping outdoors on our grounds in November. We joined with the GreenFaithCircles of the Lehigh Valley to collect and recycle plastic film.

Our Social Concerns Committee continues to keep us informed about key issues, encouraging us to contact our legislators once a month. They facilitate a monthly meal preparation & serving at Safe Harbor. The children participating in First Day School raise funds and collect donations for Safe Harbor, as well.

With 18 committees (including 2 ad hoc committees) and 27 “named positions” it is challenging for our Nominating Committee to fill all our committees. With this in mind, our Care and Concern committee facilitated a threshing session on what it means to be a member; one of the queries for this session was “Is it necessary to be a Member to serve on Care & Concern and Worship & Ministry committees?”

Our membership seems stable. We lost one member to resignation and one to death; we gained one new member. Our membership at the end of 2022 was 128 (including 6 children under the age of 21 and 6 associate members). Our giving is also fairly stable; the number of people contributing is slightly down, but the total contributions is adequate to meet our budget. Our Worship remains vibrant, with about equal numbers attending and providing vocal ministry, in-person and on Zoom. In recent months in-person attendance has been slowly growing. First Day School has also seen some increase in participation in the past year with reopening in-person in April of 2022.

We’re thankful for the spiritual strength, shared wisdom, and commitment to social action evidenced in our Monthly Meeting. We believe our community will grow stronger as we grapple with some very big decisions regarding our improvements to air quality systems. These improvements will facilitate the transition to completely re-opening our building, and provide opportunities to engage more fully with each other and in the wider community.

Respectfully submitted,
Martha Christine, clerk

FALLSINGTON FRIENDS MONTHLY MEETING
2022 ANNUAL REPORT
Susan Snipes Wells, Clerk
To Bucks Quarterly Meeting
Hosted by Newtown Monthly Meeting
May 21, 2023

We gather for unprogrammed worship on First Day. This is the heart of our Meeting. There is often a class or program preceding worship. First Day school for younger Friends is provided. We share a simple meal together after worship. First Day is also a time for committee meetings and planning. Worship and programs are typically hybrid so that Friends traveling or confined can be with us.

2. We observe the historic holidays, Christmas and Easter, in creative ways. We seek to weave Quaker messages into traditional celebrations.

3. Music is an important aspect. (We put the “sing” in “Fallsington”) We sing during or after weekly worship. Music figures in our holidays, social gatherings, and outreach to the community. Our group includes many gifted musicians.

4. We gathered twice, in January and December, with specific concern for nurturing and extending our group. (This is discussed at greater length in Topic 5, Leanings and Yearnings)

5. We gathered socially outside of worship — sing-alongs, game nights, picnics, bonfires.

6. We hold a regular Meeting for Healing, usually the second Sunday of the month, facilitated by Lisa Collins who the Meeting recognized and supports as a Minister for Healing.

7. We sense the distress and hold in the Light those beset by illness, bereavement, financial difficulty, loss of capacity, or despair. Our Care and Concern committee sees to this, but all see this as fundamental, as they have gifts to respond. There has been some decline in our numbers by death, relocation, or disconnection.

7. We celebrate together the progress of life — new opportunities at work, newborn children, graduations, anniversaries, birthdays. We recorded one birth in 2023: Gideon Chace Griffin-Snipes

8. Our Meeting is available for memorial services and burials. In some cases families who have moved away long ago return to honor or bury their departed with us. We have devoted some effort to the physical care of our burial grounds and our records of burials.

9. We note when someone has been absent from Meeting. We reach out, as seems appropriate, to see what we can do.

10. We gather at least once a year to work on our grounds — raking leaves and other minor landscaping.

11. Bristol Monthly Meeting is under our care. Meeting for worship is held there once a month. We are encouraging the Meeting to attend there. Several Friends are devoting attention to matters at Bristol. Its space is being made available for worship to another group.

Topic 2 Relationship to the World

1. We are in a small historic town and must live with our neighbors. This is a community with many views of the spirit and society. We also belong to a wider Quaker community and even a wider secular world.
2. We support an Annual Village tree lighting in early December, this year providing music at the lighting and a community gathering afterward. We host this gathering on a rotating basis, though not this year.
3. Members of the Meeting are active officers, board members, and volunteers at the local community library.
4. Members are active in the governance of Wm Penn Center, a child-care center renting a building on our property.
5. We support Friends Village, the nearby modest-income residential community, through Board membership and volunteer service (such as caroling)
6. We cooperate with Bucks County Mutual Aid, which supports the unhoused and economically disadvantaged. Currently, we provide storage space for donated items. And the Meeting House is used once a month to provide a meal and showers, etc.
7. Our social room is available for rental
8. We held a half-day retreat on Saturday, Jan. 29, with a specific focus on Outreach and Membership Development. (Discussed further in Learnings and Yearnings)
9. We participate in Bucks Quarter activities. We take a turn leading worship at Chandler Hall, though that has not been active in recent years.
10. At the annual town celebration “Fallsington Day” in early October, we open the Meeting House and provide literature and other information. We cooperate with Bucks Quarter, which also participates in this event.
11. In 2021 we used an Outreach grant from BQM to purchase books (“Faith and Practice” and “Letters to a Fellow Seeker”) to give to new attenders and seekers. Our 2023 Outreach grant from BQM will be used for our ongoing concert series of Singer/songwriters for Social Justice. We look forward to the Annie Blood Patterson concert on June 9 and a November concert by Chris Matthews.

Topic 3. Racism and other social concerns

1. Several years ago, we committed to better educating ourselves about racial justice and seeking concrete ways to respond to promote racial justice in our society. This includes identifying written resources and making them available.
2. We virtually hosted Bucks Quarter in August 2022. We invited a talk by the African American Museum of Bucks County. This museum which is under construction will record and teach Black history and experience in this area. We also financially support the museum. We celebrate that it has received significant funding from the county government to restore a historic building as a permanent home.

3. We contribute financially to two groups in neighboring Trenton, NJ: “Men for H.O.P.E (Helping Other People Evolve)” and “The Father Center”. The Father Center supports parenting by fathers who face challenges (including adolescents, people in the juvenile justice system, or people returning from incarceration). Men for HOPE works for economic development, including sponsorship of a paid apprenticeship program and food distribution programs.

4. We struggle to respond to the crisis in Ukraine. We had an adult class in January 2023. How to interpret the peace testimony in the context of aggression has always been difficult.

5. We are blessed with financial investments that offer us opportunities to give to others. Every two years, we review our Meeting's contributions to different helping organizations.

6. Work with FCNL (Friends Committee on National Legislation)

Some members are active in FCNL. We met in October to discern priorities to share with FCNL. Friends from Bucks Quarter supported Fallsington Friends in this discussion. We arrived at the following, which were communicated to FCNL.

- Increased Resources for effective diplomacy
- Reduce economic inequality
- Defend voting rights and correct campaign financing
- Improve the social fabric
- Reduce greenhouse gasses
- Cleanse and protect our planets water
- Access to healthy food

We see many of these concerns reflected in FCNL’s final decision for priorities.

Topic 4. Climate Change

1. Our Meeting has a strong focus on protecting the environment. We supported individual members lobbying for legislative change and working to limit fossil fuel extraction. A member’s artistic gifts create music and video offering ways to combat climate change.

2. How can we as a Meeting reduce our impact on the earth? The second meeting house on our land is a childcare center (William Penn Center). We work with them to increase energy efficiency of their building. We have longer-term plans for renewable electricity and creating a net zero campus.

3. We have not specifically worked within the action areas of the Climate Change Sprint Report, nor have we appointed a Climate Witness liaison. However, we are in alignment with the 5 dimensions of the Sprint report (Activism, Education, Sustainability/Conservation, Financial, and Spiritual).

4. An appreciation of nature is often expressed in our messages and sharings in worship.

Topic 5. Leanings and Yearnings

During 2022, we gathered twice with intent to consider ourselves as a Meeting, both among ourselves and in the world. At a half-day retreat in January 2022, we considered our Outreach/Membership Development opportunities. We shared what drew us to Quakerism initially. We divided into groups to

discuss what each of our functional committees could contribute. These ideas were memorialized. Examples: 1) Greater use of social media 2) Community events to draw in a wider group. In 2023, we plan to use outreach grant funding for singer/songwriter concerts expressing social justice in accordance with Quaker values.

In December 2022, we met to discuss our “regathering” after a long period when our physical gathering was stopped or limited. This reemphasized some of the ideas of the January 2022 retreat. For example, there will be social gatherings (such as game nights, bonfires, and sing-alongs) outside of worship. There was also interest in learning more about Quakerism — which was moved forward in early 2023.

Quakerism in a Nutshell — a Saturday morning class for the meeting and wider community, grew out of our wish to share the Friends experience and used the teaching talents of several of our members. We began planning in the last quarter of 2022 and were able to present this to about 40 folks in February 2023. Several new participants have attended meeting since then.

We have begun discernment of a leading by member Amy Duckett Wagner to present a Fallsington-approved minute to BQM and ultimately to PYM. The minute entitled Safety Affirmation by Friends Everywhere provides a broad foundation for action on the premise that Spirit may lead various groups or geographies to respond in various ways. Friends are millions strong if we consider Interfaith alliances who share a common goal of protecting Safety and Peace. The Clearness Committee to discern this minute has scheduled a few Meetings for Worship to take up this concern through worship sharing.

Topic 6: Yearly Meeting Support

We acknowledge the supporting role of PYM in the operation of Meetings like ours. Organization of semi-annual gatherings, preparation of educational materials, provision of leaders for workshops, and financial grants have all supported us. Even the request for a report such as the present one is a support because it leads us to self-evaluation in a caring way that we probably would not otherwise do, certainly not with such thoroughness.

All Together Worship is a welcome innovation. We enjoy seeing the many other Meetings in PYM.

Our Meeting would like to maintain closer contact with the Yearly Meeting. We intend to re-establish the role of a liaison to PYM, which we understand is encouraged. We invite PYM to come and speak to us, for example at one of our 10 AM pre-meeting programs, on any topic — as examples history of Quakers, mysticism, differing views on theism and Christ-centered theology, and social activism.

Bucks Quarterly Meeting for Worship for The Purpose of Business 19th Day, Second Month, 2023

Held under the care of Middletown Monthly Meeting in person and via Zoom (hybrid)

Clerk: Bill Daly (Middletown)

BQM Coordinator: Wendy Kane (Newtown)

Recording Clerk: Terry M. Christensen (Newtown)

Friends gathered at 1:05 pm and settled into a period of worship.

Welcome – Bill Daly

Changes to Agenda – **BD** asks meeting if it would be permissible to add a letter from Middletown MM to the agenda

Review and Approval of Agenda (as modified) – **Approved**

Roll Call of Meetings: Bristol – 0 ; Buckingham – 2; Doylestown – 0; Fallsington – 4;
Lehigh Valley – 0; Makefield – 1; Middletown – 14; Newtown – 5; Plumstead – 2;
Quakertown – 4; Solebury – 1; Southampton – 4; Wrightstown – 4; Yardley – 3;
Guest: Berkeley Friends Church – 1

Announcements –

Bucks Quarter Peace Fair will be on September 30th on the campus of Buckingham Friends School;

Southampton Friends reports PYM Addressing Racism Collaborative will hold Thread Gathering, April 29th 2023, topic is “Noticing”;

Fallsington Friends reports that “Quakerism in a Nutshell” will be held at Fallsington Meeting on Saturday Feb 25th, there will be a lunch and there is no cost; please register in advance; (See Falls Meeting website and BQM website

Stories of Vitality & Strength –

Southampton Friend reports their BLM vigil @ corner of Street Road and Gravel Hill Road continues (2 and ½ years to date) and is getting much attention from the community; also they are continuing to discuss Harold Weaver Pendle Hill Pamphlet on Race (one chapter per month?); Zoom link available for those who wish to join

Yardley Friend reports that they are seeing grandchildren of current and former members; newly formed education committee has created a corner in their meeting room that is welcoming to these young friends; this development sprung from three

Stories of Vitality & Strength (cont.) –

Yardley Friends who attended PYM Thread-Gathering dealing with outreach to young families (... **audio discontinues** ...);

Makefield Friend describes visit to Global Engagement Summit at United Nations, notes remarks by Faith Hill regarding her mother's life voyage from poor farming community to Stanford University – feeling that Appalachian poor were “not important enough” for social investment – Friends should be sensitive to this issue

Middletown Friend announces June 24th celebration of Juneteenth – this will be a full day event with many activities

Quarter Coordinator Report – Wendy Kane:

General Remarks – We appear to be emerging from the worst of COVID. Although the public health emergency is due to be lifted later this spring, those who have contracted the latest and most contagious variant continue to suffer the effects of COVID. This is our first in-person meeting since February of 2020 (also held at Middletown MM). Fortunately, we have become comfortable (more or less) with Zoom (or a hybrid format) in the worship space. This development has required much in the way of discernment; similar in many respects to the discernment around bringing a piano into the worship space. Blessed be the flexible, for they shall not be bent out of shape.

Care of Meetings – **WK** continues to visit monthly meetings

(Audio becomes unintelligible; the following taken from WK written report)

This quarter she has visited Doylestown, Yardley, Buckingham, Solebury, Fallsington, Makefield, Bristol, Newtown, Plumstead and Wrightstown Meetings. **WK** has also attended various Christmas celebrations, including carol singing and Friends Village and Wrightstown Meeting, and candlelight worship with Yardley and Southampton Friends

Committee Meetings –

Audio difficult to understand – WK appears to be announcing new MM Clerks; her written remarks continue

Clerks Committee – 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.

Audio continues to be unintelligible – I am only able to make out words because I have previewed WK’s report ... It is not clear that WK included this topic in her live remarks

Budget & Nominating Committee – In January, 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 – In January, Outreach 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 and Cyber Safety in Our Meetings – Following the zoom bomber episode at the clerk’s meeting, Paul Shaffer (Bristol) raised a concern about addressing online and physical security in our meetinghouses; he(?) 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

Coordinator – Clerk Meetings – part of **WK** performance review was to meet with each MM Clerk to get a sense of the state of the MM and identify areas in which **WK** can help. This past quarter **WK** visited Susan Snipes-Wells (Fallsington) and Dafydd Jones (Plumstead)

Yearly Meeting and other Quaker Organizations – **WK** has assumed clerkship of PYM Program Committee; this enables **WK** to have more communication with PYM staff and with others from around the yearly meeting; this appears to be a very fruitful time investment; **WK** has begun her final three-year term as an MSF Board Member, she and currently serves as Board Secretary and on the Governance Committee; working on

Bucks Quarter Handbook – 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 –

Doylestown Meeting; Banned Book Discussion – 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 Singing – 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

PYM Director of Communications Interview Team – 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

Quarter Staff and Quarter Leadership –

Mindful Mondays –

George Lakey Book Launch –

Eldership Gathering –

FCNL Advocacy Team Meeting –

FCNL Bucks County Advocacy Group –

Bucks Quarter Outreach –

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.

Again, I am only getting every third word (at best!); If I had not read WK's written report in advance, I believe my comprehension would be even poorer. While I am aware that WK truncated her remarks, I am unable to pinpoint those contractions.

Annual Report – Friends Camp Association (Camp Onas) –

Jess Wallcott – begins report by acknowledging poor audio; some call and response to discern whether former [Onas] Campers are present (??);

The following is an amalgamation of the oral and written reports

Friend Jess described current state of Camp Onas; distinguishes the work of the board vs the work of the Executive Director and staff; Friend Jess reports that she received a 25% response to a recent survey (a 10% response is considered high); Camp Onas is seeking board members; they would like former campers to see themselves as part of the larger Camp Onas community; most important qualification for board service is enthusiasm for the work.

Report closes with a singing rendition of “Black Sox”

From Wallcott written report:

Camp Onas is celebrating its 100th anniversary;

Holly Meuller-Hecht (Wrightstown Meeting) Executive Director of Camp Onas reports the camp is 86% full for 2023 with availability in 1st and 4th sessions;

For several decades, Camp Onas has run outdoor education courses for middle school students in Spring and Fall – these are typically 3-day overnight camping trips which could not be offered during the COVID pandemic – Camp Onas will be resuming these in the Spring

Work continues on refurbishing the shower house – challenges in securing contractors and project management.

Capital Campaign Committee has completed research and three co-chairs will carry the work forward – looking to recruit people who can help with their capital campaign with regard to renovations of kitchen and dining areas.

If you want to keep abreast of developments at Camp Onas you can email friends@camponas.org, visit the website, www.camponas.org, or use QR Code shown in written report

Camp Onas Board of Directors has revised and expanded our Guiding Principles (mission, vision, and values statements included in written report) such that these statements accurately portray the organization

Camp Onas is seeking board members (informational letter included in written report). Camp Onas Board members serve as fiduciaries in their oversight of Camp Onas' affairs, in accordance with its bylaws; Onas Board members serve on at least one committee; board members commit regular attendance of Board Meetings (6x per year) and committee meetings; Board members provide strategic oversight of the long-range plans of the camp; provide financial guidance and support; actively participate in fundraising and periodic capital campaigns; ensure that good management, legal, and ethical standards are maintained at all times; responsible for appointing, advising, supporting, and evaluating the Executive Director; Board members serve 3-year terms and are no longer required to be Quakers though business is conducted in the manner of Friends.

WK Announcement – WK reports that Mercer Street Friends are investigating barriers to learning; one barrier to learning is for children to have more clothing resources (for a variety of reasons) **WK** wants to know if BQM are willing to support this cause – response in positive.

Annual Report – Quakertown Meeting – Gerry Kirwin (for Lisa Uchrin) – Quakertown Meeting has new HVAC such that they can either heat or cool their meetinghouse ;

The audio faded in and out; ergo, the following is an amalgamation of the spoken and written report

2022 turned out to be a busy year for Quakertown Monthly Meeting; they were able to resume meeting in person last March. During the time when they could not meet in person, many of their members took to Zoom and attended other meetings in Bucks Quarter.

They added a new member (Tyler Powell) in March. Also last March, QMM contributed \$1000 to IRC's Ukraine's Relief Fund. This was supplemented by \$325 in individual donations.

QMM 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 FCNL 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! ***(I heard no mention of membership or Average attendance)***

Treasurers Report – Lisa Parry-Becker – We are halfway through fiscal year and to date income and revenue are tracking with the budget; For example, Friends Fiduciary payout to date is at half budgeted amount and monthly meeting contributions are tracking as expected;

BQM operating expenses also tracking with budget (report included in supporting documents)

Annual Report – Presentation of Preliminary 2023-2024 Budget – Lisa Parry-Becker couple of items to check on new budgets projects 4% increase in monthly meeting contributions; will communicate with MM treasurers; will increase PYM contribution by 2%; increase outreach budget slightly; other items kept flat for next year; Oversight working on **WK** salary for next year ; coming in with negative forecast (loss of \$671); Yardley Friend wants to know how we can achieve balance budget while increasing our donation to PYM; Ans: first pass at budget – more discernment to take place. Kirkbride distributions independent of general funds (BD expands on Kirkbride Fund separate from BQM general budget; we can reassess if we can use Kirkbride for general budget) Buckingham Friend wants to know if BQM can independently ask for donations; **WK** expands on history of Kirkbride fund; BD suggests that Budget and Nominating consider revisiting Kirkbride allocations; Quakertown Friend wonders if we are getting ahead of the process, we will not pass budget until May; also Kirkbride was set aside for Outreach; BD reminds that this is a preliminary budget; (report included in preliminary documents)

BREAK

Committee Report – Nominating Committee – Leo Fitzpatrick – (BD reports for Leo) B&N has not identified a rising Clerk of the Quarter; also currently BQM has no members on PYM Budget and Nominating Committee and we are looking for a member (missing some audio); also BQM is seeking Friends to serve on the BQM audit committee.

Letter of Support – Middletown MM – *much of audio is indiscernible*; also, could not find the text of this letter in the preliminary documents

Annual Report – Outreach Committee – Doug Meaker – Quakers are all but invisible; we need to further our outreach efforts; BQM Outreach has continues to maintain a presence at events in the southern part of Bucks Count (e.g. historic Fallsington, Langhorne Havest Day, Yardley Flea Market) while some of **WK**'s efforts have been positive (e.g. new webpage, YouTube presence), there is much more to do. Kirkbride money has been helpful – BQM Outreach continues to evaluate applications for Kirkbride grants; BQM Outreach is continuing discernment on the intrinsic value of in-person meetings vs virtual or hybrid.

Annual Report – Doylestown Monthly Meeting – Liz Fritsch – DMM had a good year, last March they opened the meetinghouse for in-person worship; they are open for hybrid meetings most Sundays (but not all); discernment and accommodation of hybrid format continues; new visitors in past months, First Day school continues to be strong though small; Christmas Eve caroling had to be canceled due to weather; planning an Easter Breakfast;

Annual Report – Makefield Monthly Meeting – Jerry Taylor – MMM is small meeting – age and illness taking a toll on attendance; regular attendance down to four plus three on Zoom for Adult Forum (after MFW); one member and one attender are consistently active; additionally, they have support from several members unable to attend meeting in person (e.g. Treasurer, Care and Concerns) as well as member who serve the board of Camp Onas and Chandler Hall Auxiliary Committee; Currently have roster of 18 members and one attender and no children; the Caretaker house is under repair – once repairs are complete (possibly one month from now), MMM will seek a tenant to rent caretaker house (a source of income for the meeting); MMM hosts a spiritual sharing group for women (includes members, attenders, and friends of Makefield MM); MMM active in Peace Fair; Note: Adult forum is on Zoom; MFW is always in-person

Approval of Eleventh Month 2022 Minutes – Terry Christensen – approved

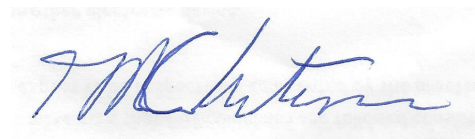
Fallsington Friend raises *inaudible* question – BD replies that he(?) has investigated how these issues have been handled in the past (Germantown MM(?)) – no formal action was taken (?); Yardley Friend proposes that the minute should be sent to all meetings in BQM; Friends **APPROVE** sharing the minute with all meetings in BQM

Fallsington Friend *inaudible* ...

Closing Worship – Quakertown Friend raises issue of passcode which restricts access to members – we should avoid such restriction;

After a period of silent worship, the Clerk adjourned the meeting at 2:55 PM

Respectfully Submitted,



Terry M. Christensen, Recording Clerk