Bucks Quarterly Meeting for Worship for The Purpose Of Business 18th Day, Second Month, 2024 Hosted by Solebury 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	Stories of Vitality & Strength		1:20 PM	10	
6	Report - Quarter Coordinator	Wendy Kane	1:30 PM	10	
7	Annual report of Friends Camp Assoc.	Jess Walcott	1:40 PM	5	
8	Annual report of Chandler Hall	John Whitman	1:45 PM	10	
9	Annual report of Makefield Meeting	Jerry Taylor	1:55 PM	5	
10	Treasurer's report	Lisa Parry	2:00 PM	5	
11	Presentation of preliminary 2024-25 Budget	Lisa Parry	2:05 PM	5	
12	Break		2:10 PM	10	
13	Report on new PYM Young Friends programming	Clare Chalkley	2:20 PM	10	
14	Report from Budget & Nominating Committee	Liz Fritsch	2:30 PM	5	
15	Annual report of the Outreach Committee	Ed Snyder	2:35 PM	5	
16	Annual report of Doylestown Meeting	Liz Fritsch	2:40 PM	5	
17	Annual report of Quakertown Meeting	Lisa Uchrin	2:45 PM	5	
18	Approval of Eleventh Month minutes	Terry Christensen	2:50 PM	5	
19	Announcements	•	2:55 PM	5	
20	Closing worship		3:00 PM	5	
			3:05 PM		

Reminder: next Quarterly Meeting is 19th Day, Fifth Month, 2024 at Southampton 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 18, 2024 Under the Care of Solebury Monthly Meeting Held on Zoom and at Solebury Meeting

Before I became your Coordinator, I had not been to many Quarterly Meetings, nor had I visited all the meetings in our Quarter. Now that it is part of my job to visit all fourteen meetings, I just assume that all Friends have been to all the meetings. That does not happen to be the case. This is why, if it is at all possible, I encourage everyone to attend Quarterly Meeting in person. Zoom is an inclusive tool for those who are distant, or have physical limitations, or happen to be ill that day. But for the rest of us it's a chance to get to know all the meetinghouses in the Quarter. Yes, it can be a bit of a drive, but I think it is well worth the time and gas to have face to face time with Friends that you may get to see only four times per year. The fellowship is rich and the is time well spent - here's to being in person!

Monthly Meeting Connections

Meeting Visitation: This quarter's visitation rotation included Doylestown, Makefield, Lehigh Valley, Solebury, Buckingham, Yardley, Fallsington, Middletown, Bristol, Plumstead and Wrightstown. If requested I also attended their meeting for business, which I did at Bristol.

Holiday Celebrations: I was able to join Friends at Southampton, Yardley, and Newtown Meetings for candlelight services. I also organized the Bucks Quarter Singers for carol singing at both Friends Village campuses.

Yardley Meeting: I attended a threshing session facilitated by George Schaefer.

Solebury Meeting: I have been working with Jeannine Mitchell, new clerk of their outreach committee, to consider ways that Solebury can increase membership through increased outreach.

Wrightstown Meeting: I had a meeting to discuss iMovie software with Joanne Gorman Klein, who is making a video of meeting members to show at their 300th Birthday Celebration later this year.

Bristol Meeting: clerk Alisa Myles was contacted by a George School teacher, who is interested in having a group of students clean headstones as a service project. I hope to connect with this teacher to determine her expectations and schedule the service project. I visited the burial grounds to assess the need for mapping and headstone cleaning. I also attended an outreach committee meeting and was informed about their exciting outreach projects scheduled for the winter and spring.

Bucks Quarter Connections

Bucks Quarter 2024 Handbook: This updated edition is completed and available in both print and digital form. This edition has the bi-annual review of the position and committee descriptions. Each meeting will receive three copies and a limited number of printed copies are available. The digital version, minus the Directory, is available on the website on the "Members" page.

BQ Outreach Committee: The committee welcomed our new clerk, Ed Snyder. We have received, reviewed, and approved five \$500 Outreach Grants. The committee is working on developing a "Quakerism in a Nutshell" curriculum for monthly meetings (ad hoc committee formed), designing new marketing material (ad hoc committee formed), and using some of our budget to produce a series of lawn

banners that can be rotated among the meetings. Harry Branson provided an outline for sending postcards via the USPS Every Door Direct Mail program.

BQ Clerk's Meeting: our quarterly meeting had representatives from 11 meetings. New Yardley Meeting clerk Ted Taylor was welcomed. Clerks were given time to share what is happening at their meetings. The group was surveyed about the status of their hybrid meetings, how many attend on Zoom weekly and the status of their tech volunteers. It was reported that Doylestown Meeting has laid down their hybrid component and has moved to in person only worship. Our next meeting is scheduled for April.

BQ Ad Hoc Technology Committee: the committee met to review our successful hybrid meeting at Quakertown and to plan the next steps. Richmond Shreve, Scott Hoskins, and I traveled to Solebury Meeting and had a successful trial run of the equipment that will be used during February's Quarterly Meeting. We plan to start purchasing equipment, rather than using what we have borrowed from Richmond.

BQ Budget & Nominating Committee: The committee met in early February to discuss the preliminary 2024-25 budget and to approve the formation and population of a new Quarter-level committee: Bucks Quarter Tech Support Committee. Three of the six members were nominated and approved.

PYM Connections

Program Committee: we continue to meet on Zoom monthly. In January we also met with Inaara Shiraz, the new PYM Inclusion and Belonging Coordinator.

PYM Quarterly Staff Meeting: PYM Quarters who have paid staff meet 2-3 times per year on Zoom to discuss how we can support each other. This is facilitated by yearly meeting staff.

PYM Quarterly Meeting Leadership Meeting: This meeting was poorly attended, with 10 Quarter representatives and 4 staff. I found it to be unhelpful and unproductive.

Event Attendance

PYM Fall Continuing Sessions: I attended in person at Arch Street Meetinghouse. In the morning there was worship and meeting for business. After lunch there was an intergenerational program.

Memorial Service: I attended the memorial service of Maria Crosman at Newtown Meeting. She had been a BQ Coordinator.

The Spiritual Life of William Penn: this became a virtual only event at Fallsington Friends due to weather conditions. Doug Miller, Site Director at Pennsbury Manor was the presenter. There were about 40 in attendance. The program was recorded, and I edited the video and uploaded it to the BQ YouTube channel.

PYM Governance & Stewardship Thread Gathering on Property: I attended the morning panel discussion and presented a 90-minute workshop on burial ground maintenance in the afternoon.

Quaker Call to Action Call - Rank Choice Voting: we were honored to hear from Jamie Raskin, US House of Representatives, about the state of democracy in our country and the challenges we are facing as a nation during this election year. We also learned about the benefits of rank choice voting. There were 157 on the call, including others from Bucks Quarter and PYM.

Setting Quaker Lobbying Priorities for the 119th Congress: this was a panel discussion with over 100 Friends on Zoom, including Bucks Quarter Friends.

Young Friends Focus Group: Youth staff from PYM gathered a few Friends from around the yearly meeting to get their input on a proposed restructuring of Young Friends programming that is scheduled for this spring.

Social Media & Outreach

Website: the calendar is updated regularly. I especially enjoy writing Stories of Vitality; I include the links to the stories in each issue of *Quakerphernalia*:

- Bucks Quarter Friends at PYM Continuing Sessions
- Newtown Meeting Hosts Interfaith Service of Unity, Peace and Gratitude
- Bucks Quarter Takes Hybrid Meeting on the Road
- Learning to Cook at Bristol Friends Meeting
- Yardley Friends Welcome New Clerk Ted Taylor

Facebook: I continue to post most days, often sharing Quaker-related postings and events. I have noted that more monthly meetings are posting on Facebook, and I share their posts as well. I post when Quakerphernalia is available on the website and when there is a new quote on the website - the new quote postings are especially popular.

Times Publishing: In addition to our regular monthly ads, there were stories about Doylestown Meeting's presentation of the film Native Women and Allies Speak: What You Weren't Taught in School, a story about Celebrating the Holiday Season with Bucks County Quakers, and a press release about social justice singer/songwriter Crys Matthews's performance at Fallsington Meeting.

YouTube:

• 'Just Debt' - Quakers and Capitalism

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Kane Coordinator, Bucks Quarterly Meeting



ONAS

609 Geigel Hill Rd Ottsville, PA 18942

www.camponas.org friends@camponas.org (610) 847-5858

A Home Without Wallswhere Kids Can Be Kids!

Holly Mueller Hecht, the Executive Director and member of Wrightstown Monthly Meeting shared the following:

Summer Camp:

Presently, the 2024 Camp Onas Summer season is 83% full, with limited spaces remaining in Sessions 1, 3, and 4 for this coming season. Session Dates, registration information, and updated session availability can be found on the Camp Onas Website, camponas.org.

Join Us for Sunday Worship:

We look forward to welcoming guests to join us for Sunday Worship again this season. Folks on our mailing list will receive information and an invitation as the summer season approaches.



We ask that any guest joining us during the summer season register ahead of time via the form Camp Onas Website, camponas.org.

Other Programs:

Camp Onas also operates as a rental & retreat facility serving groups of children and adults - several Quaker and youth-serving groups make an annual retreat to Camp Onas. If this interested you or a group with which you are affiliated, please reach out to our staff at friends@camponas.org.

Additionally, we run outdoor education programs in the spring and fall. We predominantly serve children from area Friends Schools, Philadelphia public schools, and a handful of regional private schools. Most programs are 3-day overnight camping trips designed to promote teamwork, confidence, and connection with Nature.



If you'd like to join our mailing list, this QR code will take you to the right place.

Would you Like to Know More?

Everyone in our extended community is welcome to sign up to receive information & newsletters from Camp Onas. If you'd like to receive regular updates on the goings on at Camp Onas, we encourage you to sign up via our website, emailing us (friends@camponas.org), or by using the QR code to the left.



Thanks for your interest in Camp Onas!

And for the board of directors, we are building community and creating a space where all board members get to be joyful, confident, kind, and engaged!

New Voices: We have recently been joined by two new board directors who are former staff members. A big part of the work of the board right now is to create a culture that aligns with the values that really shine in the camper experience. In doing so, we are making space for, and welcoming, a diversity of perspectives and experiences. This includes directors who may be less familiar with doing business in the manner of Friends. What we are finding is that through encouraging new voices to share their messages, we all learn more about the value of operating with Friends practices.

Join Us: We are always seeking new board members who wish to be involved in our mission to build a community of people who are joyful, confident, kind, and engaged. That's said at both the camper and the board level. Why should campers get to have all the fun? If you are interested or know someone who would make a valuable addition to the board, please reach out to me or the assistant clerk, Christine Godshall, (governance-committee@camponas.org).

Mission, Vision and Values Statement:

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
- Deepening our connection to nature

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)

MAKEFIELD FRIENDS MEETING OF THE SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

877 Dolington Road, Newtown, PA 18940

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2023 February 2024

As I sit in the quiet grace of a beautiful winter snow day reflecting back on 2023, the previous year felt like a year of transition and change at Makefield Meeting.

We completed our Caretaker House renovations in early summer and soon thereafter welcomed our new tenants, one a remote learning teacher and the other a singer and student of Musical Therapy at Mount Sinai Hospital in NYC. We have been feeling the young couple's energy as they are settling in and taking care of the property and grounds.



Some of our older members struggled with illness and injury and needed to re-assess their current living arrangements. Our Care and Concerns Committee provided support, comfort, and guidance in their discernment.

At the end of November, Makefield Meeting lost life-long member Hugh K. Shaudys who knew every farm in Makefield and beyond. Hugh's legacy was his insistence on Integrity and Worship. As one of the cornerstones of Makefield Meeting, he is sorely missed.

Despite the changes, there is a strong sense of vitality and strength at Makefield Meeting. That strength and vitality lie in our caring community, our deep worship, and our strong spiritual enrichment program.

Makefield Meeting currently has 19 members and one active attender. We have no children attending Meeting, but we were happy to welcome one new member in our midst last year.

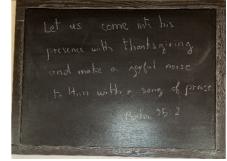
We resumed our tradition of holding a summer picnic which allowed us to deepen our personal connections. The picnic was attended by longtime members, family members and our caretakers.

Worship at Makefield Meeting continues to be deep and closes with a reading of the sentiment board and after thoughts. The deep worship is supplemented by our regular Spiritual Enrichment (adult education) program where we take turns leading discussions on spiritual writings, articles, and podcasts from various sources (Pendle Hill, Friends Journal, Quaker Speak, among others).

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

As I look ahead, I am filled with a strong sense of stability and connection. I invite all to join us for worship to experience it yourself.

Jerry Taylor, Clerk



Sentiment Board

BUCKS QUARTERLY MEETING OF FRIENDS 2023 Profit and Loss: 2nd Quarter

JUL 2023 - DEC

	JOE 2023 - DEC						
	2023		Bu	dget	\$ C	Over Budget	% of Budget
Income							
Interest and dividends FFC	\$	1,029.15	\$	2,020.00	\$	(990.85)	51%
Total Interest and dividends	\$	1,029.15	\$	2,020.00	\$	(990.85)	51%
Monthly Meeting contributions							
Additional	\$	-	\$	17,904.00	\$	(17,904.00)	0%
Pledged	\$	128,885.00	\$	278,195.00	\$	(149,310.00)	46%
Total Monthly Meeting contributions	\$	128,885.00	\$	296,099.00	\$	(167,214.00)	44%
Other contributions	\$	100.00					
Quakerphernalia advertising	\$	-	\$	1,200.00	\$	(1,200.00)	0%
Total Income	\$	130,014.15	\$	299,319.00	\$	(169,304.85)	43%
Gross Profit	\$	130,014.15	\$	299,319.00	\$	(169,304.85)	43%
Expenses							
Contributions							
Philadelphia Yearly Meeting	\$	52,181.00	\$	208,724.00	\$	(156,543.00)	25%
Total Contributions	\$	52,181.00	\$	208,724.00	\$	(156,543.00)	25%
Gifts/Donations					\$	-	
Camp Onas	\$	300.00	\$	300.00	\$	-	100%
Chandler Hall	\$	300.00	\$	300.00	\$	-	100%
Friends Village	\$	300.00	\$	300.00	\$	-	100%
Total Gifts/Donations	\$	900.00	\$	900.00	\$	-	100%
					\$	-	
Programs, Activities, Outreach					\$	-	
Operating	\$	208.85	\$	6,500.00	\$	(6,291.15)	3%
Other							
Advertising			\$	2,200.00	\$	(2,200.00)	0%
Liability Insurance			\$	1,150.00	\$	(1,150.00)	0%
Outreach Committee Activities			\$	2,000.00	\$	(2,000.00)	0%
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			\$	7,900.00	\$	(7,900.00)	0%
Personnel	\$	33,870.50	\$	75,295.00	\$	(41,424.50)	45%
Total Programs, Activities, Outreach	\$	34,079.35	\$	89,695.00	\$	(55,615.65)	38%
Total Expenses	\$	87,160.35	\$	299,319.00	\$	(212,158.65)	29%
Net Operating Income	\$	42,853.80	\$	-	\$	42,853.80	
Other Income					\$	-	
Unrealized gain/loss (FFC)					\$	-	
Total Other Income					\$	-	
Other Expenses					\$	-	
Kirkbride expenses	\$	2,000.00	\$	7,000.00	\$	(5,000.00)	29%
Total Other Expenses			\$	7,000.00	\$	(7,000.00)	0%
Net Other Income			\$	(7,000.00)	\$	7,000.00	0%

2/4/2024

Net Income \$ (7,000.00) \$ 7,000.00 0%

BUCKS QUARTERLY MEETING OF FRIENDS

Balance Sheet

As of December 31, 2023

	TOTAL
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Bank Accounts	
First National Checking	64,159.21
Petty cash	0.00
Total Bank Accounts	\$64,159.21
Total Current Assets	\$64,159.21
Other Assets	
Friends Fiduciary Corporation	50,301.85
Total Other Assets	\$50,301.85
TOTAL ASSETS	\$114,461.06
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Total Liabilities	
Equity	
Kirkbride Estate	9,196.43
Opening Balance Equity	0.00
Unrestricted Net Assets	64,410.83
Net Income	40,853.80
Total Equity	\$114,461.06
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$114,461.06

BUCKS QUARTERLY MEETING OF FRIENDS 2024 - 2025 Preliminary Budget

	23 - 24 Budget		24 -	25 Budget	
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	\$	17,904.00	
Pledged	\$	278,195.00	\$	278,195.00	
Total Monthly Meeting contributions	\$	296,099.00	\$	296,099.00	
Other contributions					
Quakerphernalia advertising	\$	1,200.00	\$	1,200.00	
Total Income	\$	299,319.00	\$	299,319.00	
Gross Profit	\$	299,319.00	\$	299,319.00	
F					
Expenses					
Contributions					
Philadelphia Yearly Meeting	\$	208,724.00	\$	214,986.00	3% increase
Total Contributions	\$	208,724.00	\$	214,986.00	
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	\$	6,500.00	\$	6,500.00	
Other					
Advertising	\$	2,200.00	\$	2,200.00	
Liability Insurance	\$	1,150.00	\$	1,250.00	
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	\$	7,900.00	\$	8,000.00	
Personnel	\$	75,295.00	\$	75,295.00	PYM incr needed
Total Programs, Activities, Outreach	\$	89,695.00	\$	89,795.00	
Total Expenses	\$	299,319.00	\$	305,681.00	
Net Operating Income	\$	-	\$	(6,362.00)	
Other Income					
Unrealized gain/loss (FFC)					
Total Other Income					
Other Expenses					
Kirkbride expenses	\$	7,000.00	\$	5,000.00	
Total Other Expenses	\$	7,000.00	\$	5,000.00	
Net Other Income	\$	(7,000.00)		(5,000.00)	
Net Income	\$	(7,000.00)		(11,362.00)	
	•	(,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,	•	, ,. ,. ,)	

BUCKS QUARTER OUTREACH COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT - February 2024

The committee is well-represented across the Quarter, but new members are welcome. As a reminder, each Meeting may appoint one or two members at their discretion, and any active member or regular attender is welcome to participate.

The committee meets bi-monthly, generally the third Tuesday of each month, starting in January, at 7 PM, by Zoom. We share stories of our individual Meetings' outreach efforts and discuss and plan efforts for the Quarter.

Projects and events of note over the last 12 months, in no particular order:

- We are developing a "Quakerism in a Nutshell in a Box" program, to be used by individual Meetings. It's mostly a concept right now.
- We participated in a Visit Bucks County Quaker Meetinghouse driving tour.
 This is an ongoing feature on the Visit Bucks County website, with
 descriptions of each Meetinghouse. Several Meetings requested laminated
 outdoor signage with a QR code that would direct visitors to their own
 websites.
- We continue to monitor and approve \$500 outreach grants. This will likely
 be the final year of grants as the money is being used up. Reminder –
 Meetings should include a description of how they used the grant money in
 their Annual Report to the Quarter.
- The Quarter, in the form of the coordinator but sometimes with assistance from others, is generally represented at Historic Fallsington Day, Yardley Friends Flea Market, The Peace Fair, Historic Bristol Day and Olde Langhorne Harvest Day.
- The Committee organized a Summer Picnic at Tohickon Valley Park. This event was well attended, and a good time was had by all.
- "Genuine Quaker" pins were designed and purchased and are being used at many events.
- The Coordinator maintains and updates the website and Friends are reminded that stories of Vitality and Growth are always welcome.
- We are working on new and improved Marketing/Outreach cards.

(To be fair, Wendy does most of the heavy lifting and her efforts are greatly appreciated.)

We had been operating without a Clerk for several years, but I was concerned about a lack of continuity and volunteered for a two-year term.

For the Bucks Quarter Outreach Committee, Ed Snyder

End of Year Report for Doylestown Friends Quaker Meeting - 2023

Overview: Doylestown Friends Meeting spent time in 2023 reflecting on the impact the pandemic has had on the Meeting community, not only on members and attenders themselves, but on the Meeting's connection with the world. The result of this introspection was a deepening sense of community and a renewed commitment to engage more with the larger community.

Spiritual Deepening DFM community members worshiped together, either using a hybrid format, or offering online worship for those who were unable to attend in person. In June of 2023, we gathered for a special Meeting conversation with a twofold purpose. One was to draw our own community closer together after a pandemic during which many felt isolated and separated. The second purpose was to discuss ways in which the Meeting could be more present and visible in the larger community, and hopefully attract and retain new members. This led to a plan which was just beginning to bear fruit as the year closed. It includes assignment of Meetinghouse greeters, new improved handouts for newcomers, new and increased signage for the Meetinghouse, and Music in the Meetinghouse performances open to the public on every First Sunday of the month. An application to Bucks Quarterly Meeting was made for a \$500 grant to underwrite some of these outreach activities. The grant was received and is now being used for outreach materials, signage and music performances.

Community Engagement: Throughout the year, DFM participated in activities to connect to others outside our own community. In March, we had a very successful clothing drive for Mercer Street Friends. In April, we opened the Meetinghouse on a Sunday afternoon and invited the public to a musical program. Over the summer, we once again planted and nurtured a Meeting garden which produced a steady supply of fresh vegetables to be contributed to a local food pantry. In September, we had an open House during the Doylestown Arts Festival and docents gave tours of the Meetinghouse to visitors. In November, DFM posted signs on its lawn bearing the names of Bucks County homicide victims and marched with other area church members in a call to end gun violence. And on December 3, DFM invited the public to the Meetinghouse to hear Native Women and Allies Speak, shining a light on both past and current discrimination and disrespect of indigenous peoples in this country. Over 50 people attended, most of them from outside the Meeting community. Finally, two Meeting members have joined with Friends in eastern Montgomery County to form a local Friends on National Legislation Advocacy Group. These members keep us informed and engaged in advocacy around important national and international social justice issues.

Committee Activities and Initiatives: As always, Committees played a vital role in the functioning of the Quaker community. Education and Conference, Nominating, Hospitality, Worship and Ministry, Peace and Social Concerns, and Property Committees. Initiatives included support for Friends School expenses, plans for Easter and Christmas events, Fourth Sunday Forums, and efforts against Book Bans in local schools. Committees also addressed pressing global issues, such as the Israeli/Palestinian conflict and the impact of the Ukraine war. The collective efforts of committees contributed to the overall well-being and functioning of the community.

Financial Considerations: Finances are always in issue for consideration as DFM makes decisions related to stewardship of the Meeting property, support for children in Friends schools and local Friends organizations, and establishing and maintaining a reserve and endowment to sustain the Meeting in the future. The community grappled with financial challenges but navigated them with prudence and collaborative decision-making.

Conclusion: In conclusion, 2023 was a year of resilience, collaboration, and commitment for Doylestown Friends Meeting members. The community navigated spiritual and financial challenges with a focus on inclusivity, meaningful discussions, and strategic planning for the future. The active engagement of Friends in committee activities and the adaptability to hybrid meeting formats showcased the strength and unity of the Quaker community. As the year concluded, the community looked forward to continued growth, spiritual deepening, and a shared commitment to Quaker values in the coming years.

The membership of DFM is currently 154 adults members and 5 members under the age of 21.

Annual Report of Quakertown Monthly Meeting

Submitted February 2024

Throughout this past year, Quakertown Monthly Meeting has welcomed an enthusiastic and energetic new influx of members: Brad Gilbert, John Smith and Karen Tibbals. They have brought a new vitality to our meeting. At the same time, in the autumn, we lost a longtime, beloved member, Jim Livezey. A birthright Quaker, Jim attended meeting for worship faithfully and was an indispensable member of our buildings and grounds committee. He also served as the convener of our Trustees. We miss his wit, his common sense, and his calming presence. Recently we learned that a member, who moved away some time ago, Rosemary Yeaker passed away in 2021. She supported the meeting, even in her absence, for many years.

Our buildings and grounds committee has been exceedingly busy this year. We replaced our ancient furnace in our First Day School (FDS) with electric minisplits to provide heating and cooling. This allowed us to remove the oil tank from our property. Similarly, we were able to replace the propane heat in the meeting house. Not only have these updates reduced our costs dramatically, but also, we've reduced our carbon footprint. Both buildings now have air conditioning which they have never had before. In addition, we replaced the railings around the meeting house and repaired the void created in the FDS when the furnace was removed. The QMM campus has never looked better!

In Adult Education, a member, who had attended Deborah Cooper's Mindfulness Workshop presented through the Friends Counseling Service, led the meeting in Mindfulness Meditations at the beginning of every business meeting for four months.

As part of our efforts to reach out to the local community, we continue to support the Flemington Area Food Pantry with monthly donations. In conjunction with the Quarter, we supported the Mercer Street Friend's mission with bags of new clothes in the spring. Also, we continue to provide more than fifty wrapped gifts and fifty hand knitted hats and many handmade scarves for Christmas.

Inspired by another meeting in the Quarter, we sent Christmas cards, with a stunning drawing of our meeting house in the snow, to members whom we haven't seen in a long time.

Although we are a small meeting, we continue to support the Bucks County Peace Fair. We send out the mailing, provide volunteers to set up the day before and help run the booths and activities on the day of the Peace Fair. Quakertown Friends also continue to participate in an Interfaith Vigil for Equal Justice in Milford, NJ, every Saturday.

In November, we hosted the Bucks Quarterly meeting. Although our meetings are in person, and we don't have WiFi, we were able to present the meeting hybrid. A special thank you goes out to Karen Tibbals, a new member, who stepped in at the last minute for the scheduled speaker, who had to beg off due to illness.

We foster a spiritual environment at QMM in which members and attenders know that they are loved and cared for, trusted, and respected by the whole meeting. We're a small meeting so it's difficult to get overlooked, and there is a feeling that a member or attender can come to the meeting for clearness and support.

Our big news is that QMM now has a website for the first time ever thanks to the Bucks Quarter Outreach Grant. It was launched just a week ago. The website is: www.Quakertownfriendsmeeting.org. While we still need to work out a few of the details and get links posted to the various Quaker sites, the responses to the website have been positive. From here, we plan to build and create a brochure to match; this will account for the rest of the grant monies received. Throughout 2023 QMM has entered the twenty-first century, and overall, 2023 was a very successful year.

Bucks Quarterly Meeting for Worship for The Purpose of Business Nineteenth Day, Eleventh Month 2023

Held under the care of Quakertown Monthly Meeting via hybrid format.

Clerk: Bill Daly (Middletown)

Bucks Quarter 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

Review and Approval of Agenda – Bill Daly – approved.

```
Roll Call of Meetings: Bristol – 0; Buckingham – 6; Doylestown – 0; Fallsington – 1;
Lehigh Valley – 2; Makefield – 1; Middletown – 2; Newtown – 8; Plumstead – 4;
Quakertown – 5; Solebury –0; Southampton – 3; Wrightstown –3; Yardley – 4
```

Review and Approval of Minutes from August 20, 2023 meeting – Terry Christensen

Yardley Friend offers correction to minutes; specifically the date range in which Friends Sid Cadwallader and Sam Snipes attended Princeton Meeting to offer support should read "1900's" rather than "early 2000's"; also their attendance was not "regular" but periodic (typically once per year when Princeton congregation was very small); Yardley Friend notes that Princeton meeting is now thriving.¹

Minutes of August 20, 2023, approved as amended.

Stories of Vitality & Strength -

Lehigh Valley Friend reports they have repaired heat pump and made improvements to HVAC for their meetinghouse; Friends can now gather and worship in comfort.

Southampton Friend reports that they are remodeling their "house on the hill"; they are replacing the house on the hill kitchen with a new entrance that provides improved access to an envisioned full basement along with an upstairs apartment; they are planning on using one entrance which will connecting the house on the hill to their meetinghouse.

Announcement – Recording Clerk requests that those reporting to Bucks Quarterly Meeting submit those reports in advance of the meeting. He notes that having these reports in advance gives the Recording Clerk an opportunity to review the report and listen for the

¹ Given that T. Sidney Cadwallader was born on November 21st, 1914, it seems likely that his and Friend Sam Snipes' involvement in support of Princeton Meeting would have been in the mid to late 1900's.

highlights that should be included in the minutes as opposed to scrambling to capture each detail.

Annual Report – Friends Village – Chiyo Moriuchi – Friend Chiyo reviews history and character of Friends Village; Chiyo articulates how Friends Village mission answers a critical societal need (54% of aging citizens will neither be able to afford CCRC nor qualify for Medicaid supported facilities; significant challenge is to maintain affordability and still provide adequate compensation for staff.

Chiyo details highlights of past year; progress continues on Friends Village Strategic Plan; Friends Village has hired a Wellness Coordinator; Friends Village hosts classes focused on technology; they continue to host "Growth and Change" lecture/discussion sessions; in July, Friends Village hosted a "Bereavement Camp" for children who had experienced trauma; Friends Village has engaged in outreach to the broader Friends Community (e.g. visits to Solebury and Trenton Meetings); Friends Village has restarted Meeting for Worship at the Styer Campus (discontinued during COVID).

Friends Village strives to be a "Great Place to Work"; in the past year Friends Village has instituted a retirement program and a hardship loan program for employees; staff has had SAGE training to enhance sensitivity to LGBTQ issues; Friends Village has worked to enable professional development for staff; average tenure is seven years.

Friends Village has been active in Stewardship; Friends Village has taken several measures to preserve and enhance the environment; Friends Village is ensuring that their meadow is populated with plants native to this area; Friends Village has planted a scion of the "Salem Oak" on the Styer Campus; Friends Village has eliminated single use plastics in food service; Friends Village will host a Spring Event featuring Doug Tallamy, author of *Natures Best Hope*, and founder of Homegrown National Park.

Chiyo makes case for support of Friends Village; Friends Village is an outward facing community of people living purposeful lives rather than serving as "God's waiting room"; Chiyo notes that absent a facility such as Friends Village, our seasoned citizens are often lonely (a severe health risk in its own right); moreover caring for an aging adult without support presents an economic burden for families (typically the oldest daughter) during their prime earning years; thus depriving the children of this population an opportunity to fund their own retirement.

Chiyo encourages Friends to join Friends Village residents during upcoming special events and [bi-weekly] mid-week meeting for worship every other Wednesday.

Budget and Nominating – Leo Fitzpatrick – absent Friend Leo, Terry Christensen assumes temporary clerkship for this agenda item (Bucks Quarter Clerk Bill Daly exits meeting temporarily); Wendy Kane explains that previous Budget and Nominating policy limited the BQ Clerk to ONE TERM (two years) of service; that Budget and Nominating committee has recently changed this policy (with approval of BQ) such that the Quarter Clerk may serve up to THREE CONSECUTIVE [two year] TERMS; Prompt action on this

item is necessary because Clerk Daly's term as Bucks Quarter Clerk expires at the end of this calendar year.

(i.e., before our next quarterly meeting); reports that **BQ Clerk Daly** has been approached on this issue and that he is willing to serve another term as Clerk.

Friends APPROVE Bill Daly as clerk of BQM for 2024-2025

Clerk Daly is summoned and resumes clerking Bucks Quarterly meeting.

Bucks Quarter Coordinator Report – Wendy Kane: Wendy notes that, while other meetings within PYM seem to be struggling, Bucks Quarter is thriving.

Wendy details visitation to Monthly Meetings this quarter (Yardley, Newtown, Solebury, Buckingham, Makefield, Fallsington, Middletown, Quakertown, Bristol).

Wendy's goals for 2023 include meeting with MM Clerks; this past quarter she has met with Yardley Clerk Marna Mathews who discussed joys and challenges of clerking.

Wendy celebrated World Quaker Day at Middletown Meeting who shared worship with their sister meeting, Settle Friends (in UK).

Newtown MM honored Conscientious Objectors buried in their graveyard – First Day School students placed Peace Flags on the graves of nine COs.

Wendy presented a program "Digging into the Graveyard" at Newtown Meeting with her partner Burial Ground liaison.

BQ Peace Fair Committee and BQ Audit Committee have met as needed.

Bristol Meeting Support Committee has been formed; members include Wendy, Clerk Daly, various members of the BQ, members of Bristol Meeting, members of Fallsington Meeting, and members of Redemption Church; goal is to help Bristol Meeting through time of transition; committee thanked outgoing Clerk Paul Schaffer and greeted rising Clerk Alisa Myles; committee is dedicated to seeing Bristol Meeting grow and thrive in coming years; they hope to increase worship offerings and host more events at Bristol Meetinghouse; committee will meet 2x each year.

BQ Outreach Committee met in September and approved Outreach grants for Plumstead and Wrightstown; volunteers to staff the Quaker tent at annual fall events (e.g., Peace Fair) were identified.

BQ Clerks continue to meet quarterly; eleven meetings were represented; items of discussion included status of "Hybrid Meeting in a Box" and how larger meetings in BQ can support smaller meetings.

Friends Village has begun offering mid-week worship (bi-weekly) on Wednesday afternoons.

BQ has established a goal of having a virtual component to Quarterly Meeting; Richmond Shreve and other members of Ad-Hoc Technology Group have assembled components for a "traveling" hybrid meeting; these components have been tested at current site (Quakertown MM) and appear to be working satisfactorily; evaluation will continue after today's meeting.

Wendy continues to serve as Clerk of PYM Program Committee.

Wendy served as panelist at Arch Street Meetinghouse workshop "Learning from Friends: Sharing Tips, Strategies and Resources for Quaker Websites"; Wendy shared her experience upgrading and maintaining BQM website.

Wendy attended Yardley Friends Flea Market, Quaker Call to Action Call, Bucks Quarter Peace Fair, PYM Advocacy Policy Threshing Session, Historic Bristol Day, and Olde Langhorne Harvest Day; given weather conditions Wendy did not attend Historic Fallsington Day due to inclement weather.

Wendy continues to maintain the BQ website as well as BQ presence on social media and in local print media; this last was part of her goals for 2023.

Yardley friend expresses support and gratitude for Wendy.

Yardley Friend raises question about Friends involvement holding peace as goal in Middle East.

Wendy suggests Friends visit AFSC website to see 1) how Friends are dealing with humanitarian crisis and 2) how Friends can help relieve the suffering there.

Southampton requests that those in attendance (whether in-person or via Zoom) identify themselves before they begin speaking.

Audit Committee – Alan Gray (Plumstead Mtg) – BQM Audit Committee includes Alan Gray, Rich Richardson (Newtown Mtg), and Jim Michener (Southampton Mtg). Other participants in the Audit include BQM Treasurer Lisa Parry Becker, past BQM Treasurer and current assistant treasurer, Ed Snyder, and Wendy. BQM Audit Committee met 3x; October 8th, 15th, and 17th 2023. Minutes of those meetings are available via Bucks Quarter. Their report is for the fiscal year ending June 30th, 2023. The audit was conducted in accordance with "Audit Procedures for Bucks Quarterly Meeting" by CLERK DALY and dated Jan 9th, 2013, with minor, non-consequential variances.

Audit Committee Review consists of interviews with BQM Treasurers Lisa Parry Becker and Ed Snyder; examination of relevant I & E statements, cash flow documents, and confirmation of beginning and closing balances of BQM accounts at First National Bank of Newtown.

BQM Audit Committee found BQM financial records to be well organized and supported by documentation; Audit Committee recommends that "work papers" (i.e. "Audit Procedures") be prepared in advance of first meeting of committee (e.g. if an auditor were provided online access, BQM checking account data could be downloaded in advance of meetings). Bucks Quarter Handbook suggests one meeting per year. The Audit Committee suggests changing this expectation to 2x or 3x per year.

Report Accepted by BQM with appreciation.

Treasurers Report – Lisa Parry Becker (presented by Ed Snyder) – BQM is in good financial shape; deposits and expenditures in line with expectations; in terms of financial activity, this is the slowest of four quarters; slightly late contributions by monthly meetings to BQM are not a problem as we control expenditures contribution to PYM.

BQM has made contributions to Camp Onas, Chandler Hall, and Friends Village; we have had a small operating expenditure and met our payroll (Wendy); BQM has \$20K in the bank and \$50K in Friends Fiduciary (we only spend income from this account – not principle)

Lehigh Valley Friend asks if Kirkbride Estate Funds are segregated from general funds. Ans: they are accounted for but not separately invested. Kirkbride funds are gradually being spent down via grants.

Report Accepted with appreciation.

BREAK

Annual Report – Bucks Food for Friends – Carol Richardson – Friend offers historical background; Bucks Food for Friends is composed entirely of volunteers (most of whom are/were Friends); during the time of COVID they were no longer able to offer hot meals; they have transitioned and now offer pre-packaged "food to go"; delivery of these packages is coordinated by Advocates for the Homeless; BFF enjoys a wonderful pool of volunteers; BFFF is entirely dependent on external donations and they are grateful from the support of individuals and meetings within Bucks Quarter; they hope to resume serving in-person, hot meals in the future.

Report accepted with appreciation.

Report – Bristol Meeting Support Committee – Fallsington Meeting – Wendy gives report.

Bristol Meeting Support Committee is composed of Friends from Bristol Meeting,
Fallsington Meeting, Bucks Quarter, and Redemption Church (current tenant of Bristol meetinghouse); Alysa Myles who recently (along with husband Stuart Myles) transferred membership from Newtown MM to Bristol is now Clerk of Bristol Meeting. They are working to build membership; so far, they have one new member and another who has met with the clearness committee. Currently, they hold one meeting for worship per month (on the fourth Sunday); they plan to increase that frequency to two meetings per month and hopefully weekly Meeting for Worship sometime next year. Bristol meeting was involved in Historic Bristol Day (presenting an archeological dig); Bristol MM has a new labyrinth which is open to the public; they have plans for a website and are working to integrate more into the community; outreach efforts include a cooking class for young male refugees.

Bristol Treasurer has moved to the west coast; they are looking to recruit someone to fill that slot.

Wendy encourages Friends to visit Bristol MM and offer support.

Annual Report – Solebury Meeting – Marian Hepburn – report attached.

Annual Report – Plumstead Meeting – Leslie May – In 2023 Plumstead Meeting has focused on two areas: 1) outreach with the goal of returning to pre-COVID attendance levels and 2) repairing the exterior of their meetinghouse.

Plumstead has tried to increase its visibility in the community; these efforts include a daffodil planting that is intended to become an annual event. In December 2022, Plumstead sent Christmas cards to members and attenders whom they have not seen for a while; they will (again) host Christmas Eve candlelight caroling at their meeting house this year; they have sent postcards to the larger community inviting them to join in caroling.

Plumstead has acknowledged to the Lenape people that their meetinghouse stands on Lanape land; this past July, Plumstead invited Adam DePaul of the Lenape Nation of Pennsylvania to present a program which they widely advertised; this program attracted a capacity crowd.

In August Plumstead hosted Bucks Quarterly Meeting; the program featured two speakers: Lois Kuter, Clerk of PYM Quaker Fund for Indigenous Communities and Arla Patch, Doylestown Meeting, from the Coalition of Natives and Allies.

Plumstead had a table at the Peace Fair, selling plants, gardening books, and milkweed seeds to help with Monarch Butterfly migration.

With supervision of Friend Carol Ann Gray, Plumstead undertook a number of repairs and maintenance projects; the exterior was recoated with historically appropriate material; windows have been repaired/reconditioned; stone steps at entryway were raised and repositioned; they plan to install a new handrail at the entrance; in 2024, they intend to replace the porch roof and install new drainage around the meetinghouse; they are considering establishing a natural (i.e. unmowed) area on their property;

Plumstead continues weekly collection of food for Doylestown Food Pantry; they will have a "Mitten Tree" to collect warm clothing for Mercer Street Friends; they also participate in BQM collection of clothing for young people in need.

Long-time Plumstead Friend Kenneth Ahl passed away in April.

(TMC asks Membership??; Attenders? changes?) Ans: There have been no new members; data about attenders is not available; Friend May will communicate membership data to Recording Clerk (via email).

Report Accepted

As of 17 December 2023, no membership data was received.

Annual Report – Newtown Meeting – Katherine Borish – Friend Borish shares Newtown MM highlights of last year; NMM has completed work on their parking lot – they now have twenty new parking spaces at their meetinghouse; this was financed by an interest-free loan from their general endowment; NMM is now working to repay that loan and generate additional funds for landscaping improvement; NMM has hired a landscape architect to help with planning.

NMM has a new audio-visual system for hybrid meetings; Clerk thanks to BQM for \$500 grant which helped defray cost of equipment.

NMM has two children's fundraising events per year (Lasagna Dinner and Simple Supper); NMM children organize, staff, and decide who benefits from the proceeds; this year NMM children raised \$2K from Simple Supper to Penndel Food Pantry and proceeds of Lasagna Dinner garnered more than \$4.1K to Quaker micro-lending organization, "Right Sharing of World Resources" (which supports women owned/operated business). NMM Financial Oversight added another \$2.4 K (minimum donation to Right Sharing organization is \$6.5K); this is going to women/children's rights organization in India.

NMM has had one marriage (Spencer Richardson and Margo Hunt); one birth (Lyra Manchanda); additionally, NMM has added 4 new members (for a total of 6) and 12 new attenders.

NMM Outreach has sent more than 400 hand addressed picture postcards to new residents of Newtown; Outreach is distributing reusable shopping bags with the Newtown Quakers logo.

Newtown Friends School (operating under the care of Newtown MM) has its largest enrollment in several years (324); because of increased demand they have opened a second Pre-K classroom.

Katherine Borish is stepping down as Clerk of NMM at the end of this calendar year. Janet Braker will become Clerk of NMM and Barbara Simmons will be the Assistant Clerk of NMM

Report Accepted

Annual Report – Peace Fair Committee – Tim Cunningham – The 23rd annual Bucks Quarter Peace Fair was held on September 30th (later than usual due to Jewish holidays).

Eight monthly meetings were active participants; planning for the event began in March and all meetings were conducted via Zoom with Peter Ray as their paid coordinator.

The Peace Fair was, again, the beneficiary of outstanding volunteer support from BQM. Yardley MM passed on books to be sold; Quakertown Friends helped in the setup; Southampton Friends helped with clean-up; Newtown Friends ran the café; Solebury, under guidance of John Mathieu, did the cooking with the exception of the chili, which was provided by Middletown; Buckingham Friends School students participated as ambassadors; PYM provided a staff member and support for a Young Friends gathering;

The Peace Fair is hoping for a meeting or group of volunteers to step forward and take on the recycling duties so that we can better model sustainable consumption in our community.

It is estimated that 1200 people attended the fair with a suggested donation of \$2 at the entry; heavy rains in advance of the fair made parking a problem in some areas.

Although the fair operated at a deficit (~ \$800) this year, they were able to make a donation to Bucks County Interfaith Coalition Refugee Resettlement program. Overall, the Peace Fair remains on solid financial footing.

The Peace Fair does not yet have a firm date for the 2024 fair; they coordinate their timing with Peddler's Village Scarecrow Festival so as to have adequate parking. Yardley friend thanks Tim; fair does not require support from BQM.

Yardley Friend seeks clarification; Peace Fair Committee is **not** asking for support from Bucks Quarterly Meeting, and further should BQM stop contributing to the Peace Fair Committee.

Ans: Peace Fair Committee was unaware of BQM continuing contributions; they have a surplus of funds on hand and do not require support from BQM at this time.

Report is accepted.

Announcements – Carol Michener (Southampton) reports on continuing work of combating racism through PYM Collaborative; Michener notes that racism issues do not apply to African-Americans exclusively; for example, the presentation at the last BQ meeting discussed racism issues involving indigenous peoples; the work should be tailored to local circumstances; for example Southampton MM is reaching out to Black churches in their areas; given her position on PYM Collaborative, Friend Michener would like to be informed of anti-racism work in monthly meetings of BQ.

Susan Thompson announces Spiritual Formation Program for Bucks Quarter (Hosted by Newtown MM); opening retreat is September $27^{th} - 28^{th}$ (2024?); Friend Thompson shares flyer and brochure; there is also a short video presentation.

Plumstead Meeting – Thanksgiving Meeting for Worship will be held on Thursday, Nov 23rd at 9:30AM; there will be no potluck meal.

Yardley MM will host "Friends Giving" at 2pm, Thanksgiving Day (Nov 23rd); food is being prepared for people (including those in other meetings) who do not have a family to enjoy fellowship with.

Yardley will host annual candlelight worship on Friday, December 22nd (one day after Winter Solstice) at 8PM.

Chandler Hall Auxiliary Gift and Bake Sale will be Friday and Saturday (Dec 1st and 2nd) from 10AM to 4PM in Wright Hall; Bill Daly asked about location of Wright Hall – Yardley Friend gives inaudible answer.

Clerk Daly announces program "What You Weren't Taught in School: Native Women and Allies Speak;" this program to be held Sunday, December 3rd, 2PM, at Doylestown Meeting

Clerk Daly announces the 64th annual Christmas Peace Pilgrimage from Nazareth PA to Bethlehem PA will be held on Saturday, December 9th, at 10:30AM

Middletown Friend announces their annual Christmas Harp service (Harp music accompanies meeting for worship) on Sunday, December 17th at 11AM; this meeting will also be available via Zoom.

Southampton Friend announces that they will be holding their Christmas Candlelight Celebration of Peace and Light on the Tuesday before Christmas (December 19th) at 7:15 at their meetinghouse (intersection of Street Road and Gravel Hill Road); they welcome donations of refreshments and they will be collecting donations for Bucks Food for Friends as well as Family Service Association (which runs homeless shelter in Bucks County).

Quakertown Friend Lisa Uchrin reports that there is a surplus of food: many refreshments are available for Friends to take home with them.

Clerk Daly announces workshop "Quakerism in a Nutshell – Part 3" to be held at Fallsington Meeting on Saturday, January 20th, from 10AM to 12PM. This will be followed by lunch. The speaker will be Doug Miller, Director Pennsbury Manor and he will speak on the spiritual life of William Penn and how his vision affected the founding of Pennsylvania.

Wendy acknowledges the work of Ramona Kirwan (Quakertown Meeting) who worked tirelessly in the meetinghouse kitchen to keep Friends nourished and refreshed.

Closing Worship – 2:59

Adjoun 3:03

Respectfully Submitted,

Terry M. Christensen, Recording Clerk