

Doylestown Friends Meeting
Minutes of Meeting for Worship for Business April 8, 2018

Co-Clerk Bill Thode opened the meeting with a period of worship.

The monthly query was read by Barbara Lewis with 12 members in attendance.
The March 2018 minutes were approved as written.

Committee Reports:

Pastoral Concerns: Stu Bush, Liz Fritsch.

Stu reported recommending John Jensen and Nora Allen as members. They are engaged and to be married, no date given for wedding. Members approved their memberships. Stu wanted to know how we handle new memberships, is there a waiting period? Members did not think that necessary. A welcoming committee was formed with Gail and Barbara volunteering.

Communication: Joe Simek

Joe asked if we could all check out the new website and report back with any concerns. He is still dealing with the domain registration for word press and is working with Leslie. You can now sign up for the newsletter on the website. He will send an email with instructions. This doesn't replace the list serve which may be overwhelming for attenders. New attenders can receive the newsletter via the website.

Barbara expressed difficulty with website calendar and wanted to know how up to date it will be. Joe responded that they were working with deadlines for newsletter, the 20th of the month is the deadline currently. Who will update calendar? You can email Joe and Rick with information and Joe will update website. Password for website is georgefox. Security is needed for financial information. Comments from member who had visited the site was positive and we thank Joe for all his work on the behalf of the Meeting.

New protocol for groups using the Meeting house. When a request is made Joe will look at the schedule and Jody will show the group the Meeting house.

Judy mentioned that if the Sunday schedule shows gardening, other events can still be scheduled. Discussion centered on whether each committee could be given a specific reoccurring date.

Joe asked Gail to send agenda for First day school by the 20th of the month.

Worship & Ministry: Barbara Lewis

Please contact Gwen if you can go to Camp Onas. Not sure if we have enough interest to do it. Chandler Hall is looking for coverage in June. The Thodes will look at their schedule and may be able to help.

Topics for Quaker Conversation- may be around the opioid crisis and Narcan use. Is that a topic we want to have? Jody shared her personal family experience and is for the topic. An opportunity to share information on resources available for people who are experiencing this.

Peace & Social Concerns: Jenny Isaacs

On Mar 25 16 members & attenders of Meeting joined the Peace Committee in welcoming Tom Wells of Fallsington Meeting representing Citizens' Climate Lobby. Tom shared the interesting film *The Burden*, about the U.S. military's strong motivation to convert to renewable energy and described CCL's national push for **carbon fee & dividend legislation**, a market-based incentive for companies to transition away from carbon-intensive energy while materially benefiting all citizens of the U.S. with dividend checks to offset rising costs.

Tom shared some of his experiences meeting face-to-face with U.S. Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick around this issue. He reported that 12 members/attenders of Newtown Friends Meeting recently scheduled a separate meeting with Fitzpatrick to discuss climate change; our Representative has taken note that Bucks Quakers are active on this issue!

Friends interested in joining CCL's local lobbying initiative are urged to get in touch with Tom at tom@tgw-construction.com. Even if you cannot participate in person, please call Congressman Fitzpatrick's Langhorne office at (215) 579-8102 to **thank him for meeting with Citizens Climate Lobby and members of Newtown Friends Meeting, and urge him to work with fellow members of his Problem Solvers Caucus to introduce bipartisan legislation** to reduce carbon emissions using this innovative, revenue-neutral mechanism.

Jenny Isaacs of Doylestown Friends Meeting & Mary Starrs of Buckingham Friends Meetings were present at the 3/31 Drone Vigil & Peace Service at Horsham Drone Command Center. The next vigil will be **Saturday April 28** from **12-2 pm**.

This Thursday **April 12** a second meeting of the POWER Interfaith Faith & Justice Roundtable will be held at Salem UCC in Doylestown. DFM signed on to formally become a POWER congregation last year & the paperwork is now in hand for the Meeting to make its annual contribution with Jenny Isaacs designated as the representative.

Member organization responsibilities are:

1. Work with POWER staff to build a team of lay/clergy leaders in your congregation to plan & carry out activities related to POWER campaigns & events.
2. Participate in regional gatherings/trainings with other POWER Metro/POWER Philadelphia congregations & help select representatives to serve on POWER Board of Directors
3. Pay annual member dues consisting of .005 (1/2 of 1%) of member's annual operating budget.

First Day School: Gail Linenberg

Ginger is running this month's Words of Encouragement and each child has been adding words to the book. 6 distinct books to be bound and sent to members of the congregation who may need some encouragement.

Garden to start at the end of April. Judy will be leading this event. Judy will be sending more info on listserv. On Mother's day, they will probably be making flowers for those special women.

Pennies for Pearl raised \$300 for the brick. Check was made out to the Pearl Bucks Foundation and a picture will be sent with the children. They need to decide what to have engraved on the brick.

Treasurer: Bob Kupsch

Treasurers Report for March 2018

In my attempts to understand and own the fiduciary responsibilities of being Treasurer there were challenges. I came in fairly ignorant of the actual dealings and finances of the Meeting. As I came to fully grasp the details of the assignment I prioritized my actual processes.

1. To fully capture and document the donations as they were received, and deposit them in the banking accounts.
2. To understand the documents, reports that are submitted to the Meeting for review. To create Monthly Financial Reports that would eliminate manual calculations and require only the entry of the changes from the previous month.
3. To reconcile the accounting documents I received and eliminate the discrepancies that existed between various forms of reports (i.e. Bank Statements, Quick Books recording, Monthly reports).
4. To have the documentation I leave for my successor clearly understandable, and with a full description of how to maintain the accuracy of those document.
5. To have the documentation easily auditable and certifiable by any individuals who might have the duty to prepare such an audit.

6. To have clear hard copies of all documents to validate the electronic accounting.

The successes, and lack thereof have been on full display in the form of the monthly reports submitted to date. I would like to thank Ken Miller for coaching me through the process. With his help I have completed approximately 80% of the goals. The report submitted for March of 2018 is the fruit of those efforts.

I went back to the last report created by Ken and then built a series of Excel spreadsheets that would build off that, using the assumption that the data was correct as of that date. I did make two small corrections to the July report so that they matched the July Bank statements. The revised reports for August through March were submitted to Ken for review. And he came back with a few changes in terms of how to allocate the cash to the various funds. Those changes will be incorporated in the April. The total of the funds is correct with the possible exceptions of the change to the balances of investment funds that still must be accounted for. Ultimately the reports for the fiscal year will be available at the Meeting Website and available to members having the proper log in credentials.

Income: March donations totaled \$2,015 for the month. The previous years donations for December were \$2,916. With 75% of the fiscal year now completed there is \$2,518 or 6.2% of the Budget still to raise for the remainder of the year. This trend is significantly above last years results.

Expenses: Expenses have generally been below budget. The two minor exceptions is the Peace and Social Concerns and Insurance line items

New Business: Request from the Education Assistance Committee. Alan Stifelman requested \$825 aid for meeting children to attend Camp Onas for the summer. Normally it would come from Educational. Atkins money is what he wants to use. Currently has \$2400 currently, sub division earmarked for retreats.

Garden is allocated \$750 but only needs around \$250 can we use the remainder for this. Meeting approved using the Atkins Fund for the children attending Camp Onas.

Treasurer recommended that the receipts should be submitted with the connotation that it is an in-kind contribution. Treasurer will track these items as well.

Finance Committee: Betsy Eschallier no report

Hospitality: Cori Serayadarian

Easter was lovely. We thanked Cori and Bonnie for hosting the event.

Property: Ted Dempsey No report

Jody reported that people told her that people are parking in our off-street spot. We know who the person is and Jody has spoken to them to remind them that it is private property. The woman states she needs to use our spot because she can't walk far. Is this an issue? Do we need to place a sign? Bill will email Ted to see if we need a sign. Sign should comply with the law, especially if it is a designated handicap sign subject to towing.

Nominating: Wally Evans no report

Librarian: Diana Morris-Bauer no report

Newsletter: Rick Howe no report

Other DFM Business:

Clerks did discuss safety for members during meeting for worship. Ruth did attend a meeting in Warrington on how to protect their parishioners. Do we want to attend a meeting on this? Gail discussed her conversation with a Pastor who is concerned about members. Idea proposed by Gail is to keep downstairs doors locked while they are with the children there. Replacing the door with the bar without a window for front door. Property can be asked about that. We would need a sign on the door stating doors are to be locked and to install a small electronic bell.

Respectively submitted,
Susan Kupsch

Bucks Quarterly Meeting reports

Philadelphia Yearly Meeting reports