

Abington Quarterly Meeting
Fifth Month First, 2016 at Plymouth Meeting

Abington: 4	Foulkeways W. G.: 0
Byberry: 0	Pottstown W. G. 0
Gwynedd: 4	Guests 3
Horsham: 2	
Norristown: 2	
Plymouth: 12	
Richland: 0	
Unami: 1	
Upper Dublin: 1	

Clerk Amelia Diamond began the meeting with worship. Twenty-nine Friends were present.

The appointment of Frank Jarrett (Horsham MM) to the Quarterly Meeting Trustees was approved, as was that of Dan Hazelton (Unami MM) as assistant treasurer of Trustees.

Rebecca Emerson gave the report of the treasurer of the Quarterly Meeting Trustees, for the period July 1, 2015 through March 31, 2016. Quaker Green Fund is performing well. Trustees have transferred an additional \$300K to the Green Fund; deposits now totaling 25% of all AQ funds. It was accepted, with appreciation, and is attached.

Amelia Diamond presented the report of the Quarterly Meeting treasurer, year to date (April 30, 2016), which was prepared by Robert Reiff, who is doing the treasurer's work until a new treasurer is appointed. The report was accepted and is attached. The clerk asked that representatives inform their monthly meetings of the search for a treasurer.

Nancy Gold presented the AQ Home and Care semi-annual report, ending 4/21/16. The committee continues to identify service agencies, such as BeeHomeCare. The committee attended a workshop "Bioethics and Pastoral Care". The report was accepted with thanks and is attached.

Amelia reviewed Responding & Reporting Procedures, the final portion of AQ Child Safety Policy & Procedures, prepared by Karen Shanoski and Karen Gallagher. Three similar procedures are given for alleged incidents of nonconsensual touch and physical harm at AQM events: adult to adult, adult to child and youth to youth. It lists details of steps to take in the event of an incident. If in doubt, ask for a second opinion. One should err in favor of documenting an incident and calling in a report. There are several mentions of the importance of pastoral care for an alleged perpetrator and victimized party. Amelia recommended sharing the report with staff and volunteers at monthly meetings, in addition to religious education and care of members committees. Friends accepted the report with thanks. The procedures are attached.

The AQM Youth Conference has made a funding request to the Abington Quarterly Meeting Fund in the amount of \$2000 for the Faith and Leadership Program (an enlargement of the former Counselor-in-Training program focused on 9th graders' personal leadership), and for other costs related to Junior Friends and Middle School Friends Conferences. We minuted support for this application. We agreed that the Responding & Reporting Procedures should be posted on the AQM website.

Jean Warrington (Chestnut Hill MM) showed a DVD of Historic Fair Hill. This burial ground was willed by George Fox to Friends for a meetinghouse, a schoolhouse, a burying place, a playground, and a garden. The three latter activities are happening now. A video about the cleanup of the area, which had become greatly overgrown and drug-infested, is on the HFH website. Fair Hill is the poorest neighborhood in the city. Five schools in the area use the green space. Friends-sponsored work includes planting trees in the street, maintaining a five-acre education and nature center (with Awbury Landscapers), a Franklin Institute astronomy night, a vegetable garden where the children grow and learn to eat, a summer festival, field trips, leaf raking in the fall, Christmas baking and decoration, and a "history garden" where all the crops that have been grown in the area are represented. The Reading Buddies program has 20 volunteers. Many of the children are from Spanish-speaking families and don't have anyone to read aloud to them. Over 5,000 gently-used books have been donated. Carol Coffin also described the program more in detail. The group works at the Julia de Burgos School and has rehabilitated the library there, and the children can check books out. The Buddies have learned a great deal from the students and the teachers, and find this a wonderful way to connect with an inner-city community. Friends signed up for more information. (www.historicfairhill.org)

Jim Fitzgerald (Abington MM) gave an update on implementing his concern for Syrian refugees. Lutheran Children and Family Services has brought a number of refugees to the U.S., but recently has had to shut down this project because of loss of funding. HCIS, a Jewish organization in NE Philadelphia, and Nationalities Families & Services Center, mostly Arabs supporting Arab refugees, are two groups working in Philadelphia. Jim, with other local ecumenical representatives, is trying to build a relationship with another agency (which must be licensed), as neither of these seems to be a good fit. There is a family in Philadelphia now, brought there by LCFS, which has passed them to HCIS. The meeting approved extending the deadline for application to the AQM Fund to May 15 (for this year only), so that application may be made for Jim's work and Karen's funding request. The meeting then approved Jim's applying for \$3500, to be held in escrow by the AQ Fund against future support of a refugee family.

There being no other business, the meeting closed so that we might join Plymouth Friends in worship.

Amelia Diamond, Clerk

Judith Inskeep, Recording Clerk