

6/2/24 AQM Representative Meeting Minutes

We opened the meeting with thanks for being together and worship to bring us closer to God. Karen Gee, Rebecca Cratin, Pam Yaller, Ann Dillard, & Lanza were at Upper Dublin in person Stacy Wyckoff-Kent, Ann Tucker, Marguerite Hayes, Tom Peterson, Robert Reiff., Dave Nepley, & Kelly Green. were there Virtually on the zoom meeting app.

Karen G. recorded the meeting and will share it with the clerk, for minutes.

The minutes from March 3rd AQM Representative meeting **were approved.**

Pam Yaller. shared the recent activities of Upper Dublin. They have been active in the, "Heeding God's Call" effort to bring awareness of gun violence, with their traveling exhibit of Lives lost Last year to Gun Violence. They have had it displayed at their meetinghouse and are sharing their experience and support with Norristown's event with the traveling exhibit. The PYM collaborative is spreading out to Chester County , with the exhibit going to Downingtown MM later this summer. We approved to Tom Keils who is an Historian, who attended Upper Dublin elementary school is working on a have the History of the meeting done in a pamphlet. In the past school age children from that elementary school came to visit the meeting to learn about Quakers. We are hoping that this might be a good outreach to connect with him and others.

Rebecca Cratin. shared what's going on at Plymouth. The Plymouth Meeting Quaker school had their annual "Strawberry Festival" yesterday. @ members of the Plymouth set up a table on the meeting's porch and we welcomed the visitors who asked questions about us and take a look at the meeting house. This was a good outreach for us. Today the meeting is having an event to give everyone the opportunity to share their Spiritual Journey and where they are on it. We want to attract new visitors , but we thought it would be important to stir our souls and share our story with each other. Dave & Bonnie Miller have been traveling and recently attended a Pow Wow, in Oklahoma with the Lena Lenape tribe.

Stacy Kent Wyckoff shared the latest from gwynedd. They are having some problems with support of the direction of their Religious Education Committee. So there will be a joint meeting with Their Care & Council committee, The RE Committee & their Worship & Ministry committee, to have conversation of support for the work of the RE committee.

They are having problems filling holes in the committee structure of the meeting. People don't seem to want to step up into key roles of clerking or other aspects of support for the health of the committees mission and structure. The same people keep stepping up in leadership roles and they are getting tired. There is continuing work to reclaim mowed lawn area into natural meadow space. Developing new play areas for our children and the school. The Bus stop project is still making progress.

The Peace & Social Action committee is focused on the Israeli and Palestine War. Recently she attended a Pendle Hill event that focuses on "Feirce urgency of Now , to get Quakers moving into the Twenty First century Mind set". Using whats available now and the language we are using today. She is excited about attending the FGC gathering at Haverford!

Tom expressed that across the quarter a need to train clerks, He suggested that the quarter to facilitate this. We need to find a way to train people to be clerks.

Dave Nepley shared that Byberry had a very successful Earth day last weekend.

We had about 60 people here, There were about 8 different groups and was organized by our Coordinator, Mike Doyle. "Friends of the Poquessing Creek" were here, they have been active in cleaning up this creek for 40 years, we picked up trash with them. We also did tree planting for "Caring for Friends", An organization across the street from us that try to support people who are shut in and can't get out, elderly and disabled. We continuing the work to get the deed for the "African American cemetery" transferred to the "Benjamin Rush State Park".

The Bybery Trustees are meeting today to update our plan of Incorporation, and our Bylaws and changing our bank , where we do buisness. This will help with the deed transfer and save money on our banking. We are looking at how we advise people who would like to apply for membership, who live a distance from us. We have been approached by someone who like have a rock concert at the meeting.

Ann Tucker shared the updates about Richland.

They have been going through the nominating process to find someone to replace Howard Eyre as clerk. It has been hard to get anyone to step into the Clerk's position. We have put together a Team of 4 people who would jointly work together doing the clerk's work. We have two people with experience clerking and two new people, The move is seasoning and we hope to bring to our next Monthly Meeting for business. We continue to do what we call "Quaker Shorts", once month to talk about different aspects of our Faith & Practice. She Highlighted that they continue to serve food in the effort to meet food insecurity in Quakertown. They also have a sprint group for the kitchen upgrades they have been working on. They have a one family with 4 children, they attend sporadically and its hard to be prepared for the RE of the children.

The property is a the major expense for the meeting. They have had to do tree work, needed a new boiler.

Stacy asked , How Richland visions the clerk team to work. and replied ,” The meeting uses, a Blue Book , That describes the organizational plan of Richland. The book describes the responsibility of each aspect of their administration and committee structure. So with the new group of Clerks, they have tried to remove any jobs that would encumber the new Clerks. We moved those responsibilities to committees that are functioning.” We are hoping that will make the team workable.

Kelly shared that he attended clerking workshop at Pendle Hill, to get a better sense of what the role of the clerk is. They have those classes a couple of times a year.

Marguerite reported for Norristown. We are getting ready to join the “ Heeding God's Call “ effort to bring awareness of Gun Violence to our Community. Mary Green and Olivia Brady, have been heading up this effort. We are going to have an installation of the t shirts of those who have lost their lives to gun violence in Montgomery County on June 15. The event on the 22nd we will have speakers and representatives of government the following Saturday. We have been working with Paige Menton's Plant Palooza project, to turn mowing culture into native plant eco systems.

We also Have been trying to update our signage. To reflect the language we use today with our contact information.

Tom Peterson gave us a look at the goings on at Unami. Unami is part of the Upper Perkiomen Ministerum. They are making effort to bring awareness and find shelter for the Homeless population in the area. They would like to make space available in the local area, There seems to be zoning problems. Alternatively they have been coordinating with shelters in Quakertown area, that are all ready established. The meeting continues to provide Religious Education for children and adults, but once a month they have scheduled inter generational worship, where everyone is easy to have the children participate in worship with the adults. The Carbon Forest Project is gathering support from land conservancy Non-profits with the same concern to use forests as a way to combat carbo dioxide in our air.

Tom highlighted their attendance has grown , because of their relationship with the United Friends School in Quakertown. They also have a new banner, says “Love thy Neighbor” and are working in a new sign! We have submitted for a \$400 grant from membership development at Yearly meeting for the sign.

Tom encouraged us, AQM to have a school /session on clerking for those interested.

Tom shared that he will be the new clerk of membership development at PYM,

Pam suggested we have a AQM ,”Quakerism 101” on zoom , so all the meetings can participate. There was lively discussion around this kind of program.

Ann Dillard shared that Abington is moving ahead with their Handicap accessibility & inclusion project. If you come to meeting , Abington has moved into the summer schedule of two meetings for worship simultaneously going on. Choose either joining the outdoor meeting for worship or the indoor worship. Today there is a Pride celebration of LTBGQ picnic event after that.

Deborah Sines Panco is the new clerk of Abington Monthly Meeting.

The clerk shared that we will be having the 8/4 meeting/picnic at Horsham

Lanza shared that she has happy to hear the thread of the conversation this morning that spoke to what her main topics, she would like to talk about this morning . They are Welcoming, communication, education and organizational health.

I am really impressed that all the meetings shared the importance of helping train new leaders and welcoming visitors their meetings. I want to work ever meeting who would like my support for these areas of concern. I have been working with Norristown on the press release and flyer for the event. I have been working with Pam and the work of the gun violence collaborative.

I love the thoughts about helping new people get a seminar on clerking is so important.

There are other sources of funding, and I know I can find funding for this kind of work.

The Post card project that I have been talking about is moving forward. We would like Monthly meetings to consider the benefit of the outreach using the postcards.

The clerk Thanked Lanza for work and expertise , that seems to have lifted all of us in quarter.

The Draft agenda for the 8/4/24 AQM MFWB is flexible and if meetings want to bring something forward, that is fine.

Lanza explained that the PYM sessions will be bringing up the Advocacy policy regarding Lobbying at the sessions. They have been going through a series of listening sessions and that is why its going to be on their agenda.

We closed the meeting with our gathered thankfulness of god being with us.

Minutes Recorded by , Kelly Green