

Abington Quarterly Meeting

Minutes of Tenth Month 2nd, 2016 – at Horsham MM

Abington – 8 & 4 youth : Byberry – 0 : Gwynedd – 8 & 2 youth : Horsham – 14 & 9 youth : Norristown – 1 : Plymouth – 8 & 4 youth : Richland – 1 : Unami – 5 : Upper Dublin – 3 .

Amelia Diamond, clerk, opened the meeting and thanked Horsham Friends for their hospitality. The agenda was approved. **Minutes** of Eighth Month 7th were approved as presented.

Friends approved Joan Eyre, Richland FM, to serve a full **term on AQ Trustees**.

Tom Armstrong, vice president of AQ Trustees presented the **Incorporated Trustees Treasurer's report** for 070115 thru 063016. Investment committee approved no change in investment in Friends Fiduciary Green Fund, as the stock market has been volatile. Investment policy is set a 4% distribution for fiscal 2017-18 from the FF Consolidated Fund, as it was for fiscal 2016-17 as well (report attached). New officers for 2017 are: Bob Taylor-president, Tom Armstrong-vice president, Karen Russell- secretary, Dan Hazelton- treasurer, Bob Reiff-assistant treasurer. A clean audit was received from Bee Bergvall CPAs.

Bob Reiff introduced Dan Hazelton, our previously approved Trustees Treasurer. Bob continued by giving the accounting on the Trustees Treasurer's report, with focus on letters of intent balances that indicate 4 write offs of General Fund grants. Bob moved to the **AQ treasurer's report**. Sources and uses of funds reflect our youth conferences fee income and expenses (report attached). Our Quarter's policy has been to retain \$17.5 K to cover insurance and programs and to send covenant balance to PYM.

Nancy Gold, clerk of **AQ Home & Care** committee, presented H&C **semi-annual report**. The committee continues to identify alternative sources of care for seniors. Awareness of end of life issues has included the reading of Being Mortal, by Atul Gawande. Foulkeways' board recently approved a staff coordinator to help residents handle aging, health and end of life. Assistance to members of our Quarter, those with a 3 yr membership and active service, continues by means of the General, Spruance and Enabling Funds and prompt responses from our Treasurer. (report attached)

Lowell Booth, Abington MM, updated us on a current immigration project : **The Congolese Refugee Family**. The Tuyenda family arrived from a refugee camp in Tanzania on August 31: 3 adults, 3 teen agers, 5 children. The family is living in a convent house in Wyndmoor. In coordination with three area churches and with backing from Bethany Christian Alliance, teams were set up to carry the initiative forward. Abington Friends chose to be the food team, with several Abington MM members serving on the education team as well. The family now has food stamp privileges and is beginning to shop and budget. Three children will begin school this week. The adults and 18yr olds must find jobs. Job and language skills training will start shortly. A surfeit of food, clothing and toys has been donated. Learning CDs and family DVDs would be appreciated (report attached).

Gail Moxey, Gwynedd MM, introduced us to a call to action from GMM member, Carol Shearon. Its movement lies in providing cash assistance to poverty stricken refugees who live outside refugee camps, as do the majority of refugees. **Refugee Support Overseas** has been initiated at Gwynedd MM through "Lifeline", a project of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees. Lifeline gives 97% of donations to refugees. Upon acceptance, a family receives \$148 monthly. Most significantly, they are

given dignity: personal safety, community acceptance. Friends at Gwynedd MM have set a goal of \$10.2K. To date \$7.3K has been raised by donations from attenders and members and by fund-raising projects. On October 30th, Gwynedd MM will hold an intergenerational walk followed by a typical Syrian meal. Those present may offer financial contributions (report & flyer attached).

Ann Marie Wolf-Schatz, Plymouth MM, drew us into her life's call. She carried us through 38 years of **Foster Care at Home**, sharing with us several of the 26 individuals to whom she has opened her heart. Ann began with one troubled teen, taken in as a foster daughter. With church assistance, she was quickly able to retain a house in North Phila with 5 teens and 2 grand-children. Most come to her traumatized. Only 3 started in life well-loved and secure. Psychological disturbances are common. Some have medical disabilities. Ann Marie has taken guidance from Paul's false imprisonment in the Book of Acts. Here, a metaphor is revealed for holding others captive by prejudice and other forms of violence. Ann effectively relies on patience and prayer- "hanging in" through all turns and reversals. Slowly, space opens. Light enters. Those who come to her in need, find jobs, develop friendships, become integrated community members - and will continue for decades in relationship with Ann Marie.

Following meeting for worship with Horsham Friends, we reconvened to hear from Karen Shanoski, **Youth Conferences 2016 Report & Video**. The theme was "Open your Heart" – Is it kind? Is it safe? Does it build community? Twenty-seven JFC, twelve MSFC students and five Faith & Leadership students brought their gifts. The week began with a meeting for worship for business centered on living in community and then expanded into day classes and evening activities. Classes explored religion, art, SPICES, the great outdoors and sports/games. A camp fire, scavenger hunt, poetry workshop and talent show opened students to new awareness in personal growth and mutual care. Four students from the Faith & Leadership program shared their involvement in both campus support and off-site sharing and service: Pennswood Village and Cradles to Crayons. (report attached) The conferences drew students from 6 of our monthly meetings as well as 2 students for Bucks Quarter and 2 from Merion MM. Program evaluations were "joyful", "connected" in "safety and kindness". Students responded to "learning about Quakerism" and "making new f/Friends".

Margaret Anderson, Richland FM was not able to present **Human Trafficking Awareness Month**. We noted that we would stay connected with this concern as it arises again in January.

Our meeting closed with a moment of worship.

Amelia Diamond, Clerk