

# Minutes of Abington Quarterly Meeting held Eighth Month 3, 2025

## at Upper Dublin Meeting

AQ clerk Mike Mrozinski opened the meeting shortly after 9am, and we settled into silent worship for several minutes. Then he shared these queries: What is the right place for Quakers in the world – as a society, as individuals... and how do we walk over the world seeing that of God in every person?

Worship continued, punctuated by friends sharing-

Mike Mrozinski spoke to those new to worship and acclimating oneself to the worship process.

Anne Hill spoke about being part of an ethical community and the need to acknowledge and witness to something greater than oneself.

One Friend spoke to a loss in her garden of Lemon Boy tomato plant being severed by accident and the thought that she had lost them, but the stalk rooted and regrew on its own – this represented the Religious Society of Friends to her.

Rebecca Cratin observed that Quakers are not unlike a garden full of plants as when they come together we take strength from each other and feed each other spiritually. She suggested that after Business Meeting each person present stand and say who they are and which meeting they are from.

Quarterly Meeting is joyful with the sound of the children outside.

Quakers in the world seek out spirituality and soul.

There is a presence of peace of mind, spirit and heart. Quakers witness for the Spirit.

One Friend mentioned a new baby in their family and the importance to be open to the newness of what can be.

It is easy to find the Light in persons that we like. How do we find and shine our Light on others we do not like, and find the Light in them.

At 9:45 Mike thanked us for the many shared messages.

Mike stated that he is mindful of-

- 1) The agenda and
- 2) That we are here for a picnic.

Abington Quarterly Meeting is 365. If any Friends have questions, ideas or feedback reach out to your meeting representatives, Lanza, our Communications Coordinator or Mike himself.

Mike then presented the minutes from the 5/2/2025 Quarterly Meeting which were **APPROVED** as written.

Mary Ellen Mcnish rose and spoke about Byberry's Community Engagement Model. The first grant was received from the Shoemaker Fund to promote community outreach in 2020. That grant produced extraordinary results, due to the skill and talent of Susan Vorwerk, who was the first person hired for the community engagement coordinator position. Through Susan's skill, Byberry Friends Meeting was able to advance 5 years worth of advancement in 2 years time. Susan was a member of Upper Dublin Meeting at the time and therefore was able to get Byberry and Upper Dublin on Zoom together when COVID hit. The partnership with Upper Dublin has been going on for a long time.

Mary Ellen then spoke about Byberry's newest Community Engagement Coordinator, Mike Doyle, who has made extraordinary accomplishments in the short time he has been with Byberry. A testament to Mike's abilities and work is shown in the Byberry Quaker Newsletter, which was available for people to take at Quarterly Meeting. Mary Ellen then relayed that in 2022, a grant was given to Byberry, Upper Dublin and Abington Quarter to help small and struggling meetings grow. \$30K was given to Upper Dublin for a strategic planning process, \$20K was given to Abington Quarter, once they created a Communications Coordinator position.

Mary Ellen also introduced Robin Mohr, of Greene Street Meeting, recently of FWCC/Americas, who has begun working as a consultant for Upper Dublin as they complete their strategic plan. Once completed, it will be determined if Upper Dublin want to grow their Meeting membership by having a Community Engagement Coordinator of their own.

Once this possibility is realized, there is potential for rolling out the program to Norristown Meeting and possibly Frankford Meeting. That reason is because both Upper Dublin and Norristown are in Montgomery County and Byberry and Frankford are in Philadelphia. They each have virtually the same local political issues that need to be worked on. Mary Ellen asked for a committee to be formed to see if there is interest in Abington Quarter submitting a "Letter of Intent" to the Shoemaker Fund in October 2025, to help small and struggling meetings grow through this expanded "Community Engagement Coordinator Model". This request to form a committee was **APPROVED**

It being a few minutes past 10AM, Mike paused the Quarterly Meeting and we joined Upper Dublin and Byberry's regular meeting for worship.

Then at the rise of MfW, we dispersed for 10 minutes to stretch and take advantage of what was left of the earlier breakfast.

Friends were informed that the Young Friends present were making signs and asked that Adult Friends join their witness outside at the conclusion of the meeting for business.

We resumed at 11:05am.

Allen Stokes presented the Abington Quarterly Meeting Fund report.

He also reported that the AQMF committee is requesting approval for a change to the committee guidelines regarding the exclusion of any member of the fund's committee from deliberations or

decisions with respect to issues where the member's Meeting funding request might present a conflict of interest. A procedural issue was deliberated as to whether this (or any) proposal to change committee guidelines should first be sent back to monthly meetings for consideration before the Quarter can formally approve the change. Friends approved sending this proposed change back to the monthly meetings, deferring the issue to our 10<sup>th</sup> month Quarterly meeting.

Allen Stokes then read a minute of appreciation for Joyce Moore's service on the AQM Fund, and on behalf of the Fund's committee asked the Quarter to approve the minute. It was **APPROVED**, is copied below and included in these minutes by reference.

Rebecca, reporting for the nominating committee, told us that Tom Peterson (Unami MM), is coming onto the Abington Quarter Meeting Fund Committee, and Carol Holmes Alpern (Plymouth MM) will join the AQM Finance Committee.

Lanza, our Quarterly Communications Coordinator, suggested Friends let her know about what's going on in their meetings, as she plans to send out a newsletter following up this Quarterly meeting.

In preparation for a creative intergenerational quarterly meeting with Quaker artist Todd Drake, tenth month 4 2026, Stacey Kent Wykoff advised us that Quarterly Reps will be approaching their monthly meeting members and attenders, encouraging them to find time to consider this query "What is important to our community - its hopes and concerns?" Todd Drake is one of the artists participating in the "Soul Shot" project, which has been painting portraits of victims of gun violence. The portraits are presented in exhibitions that travel throughout the year. The project seeks to bring attention to and memorialize the lives lost and tragically altered due to gun violence. The exhibit is currently on display at Gwynedd Meeting and will be there until Sept 3.

Chris Mrozinski announced an AFSC sale of "useful & miscellaneous items" at Gwynedd Meeting 9/13/25 starting at 9:00am.

Dave Nepley told us that Hubb Church (our website service) charges a 3.5% fee to handle online donations. PYM has updated their free online donation collection service that will forward donations to the Quarter or to Monthly meetings and the meeting gets their funds "immediately". There is no longer a processing delay to receive funds.

Mike expressed his appreciation with great gratitude for the spiritually centered meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned to a potluck lunch, provided by Upper Dublin and other Friends at 11:24am.

It should be noted that more than a dozen children came to the meeting with their parents, and Joe Schatz and Stephanie Rushie led them in singing outside, a nice counterpoint to the spiritual atmosphere inside during MfW.

Respectfully submitted by Dan Turner and Bob Reiff.