

Minutes of Abington Quarterly Meeting

Eighth Month 3, 2025 – Upper Dublin Meeting

Clerk: Mike Mrozinski

I. Opening

The Clerk opened the Quarterly Meeting shortly after 9:00 a.m. with a period of silent worship. He offered the 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 was deep and gathered, with the following spoken ministry:

- **Mike Mrozinski** welcomed those new to worship, reminding Friends that settling into silence is a practice that deepens with time.
- **Anne Hill** reflected on being part of an ethical community and the need to acknowledge and witness to something greater than oneself.
- A Friend spoke about the loss of a beloved *Lemon Boy* tomato plant, accidentally severed, which nonetheless rooted and regrew. This became a metaphor for the Religious Society of Friends—resilient, renewing, and able to flourish again.
- **Rebecca Cratin** observed that Quakers are like a garden of plants, feeding and strengthening one another spiritually. She suggested that, following business sessions, each Friend might stand to share their name and meeting to deepen our sense of community.
- Another Friend lifted up joy at the sound of children outside, connecting it to the vitality of Quarterly Meeting.
- Several Friends spoke to the importance of Quakers in the world: seeking out spirituality, finding peace of mind, and witnessing for the Spirit.
- One Friend mentioned the arrival of a new baby in their family, reminding us to remain open to the newness of what can be.
- A Friend also posed the challenge of shining our Light not only on those we love but also on those we find difficult, seeking to see the Light in every person.

At 9:45 a.m. the Clerk thanked Friends for their ministry and reminded the Quarter of (1) the day's business agenda and (2) the fellowship picnic to follow. He noted that the Quarter is alive 365! Friends were invited to bring questions, ideas, and feedback to their meeting representatives, to Lanza (our Communications Coordinator), or to the Clerk directly.

II. Approval of Previous Minutes

The minutes of Abington Quarterly Meeting held Fifth Month 4, 2025 were read.

APPROVED: The minutes were accepted as written.

III. Byberry Community Engagement Model

Mary Ellen McNish rose to speak on the Community Engagement Model developed by Byberry Friends Meeting:

- In 2020, Byberry received its first Shoemaker Fund grant to support outreach. This was shepherded by **Susan Vorwerk**, who became Byberry's first Community Engagement Coordinator. Susan's vision and skill produced extraordinary results: she helped Byberry advance five years' worth of outreach growth in just two years.
- Susan, then a member of Upper Dublin, was able to bring Byberry and Upper Dublin onto Zoom together during the pandemic, strengthening bonds across meetings.
- **Mike Doyle**, Byberry's current Coordinator, has already made remarkable progress. His work is highlighted in the *Byberry Quaker Newsletter*, which was available to Friends at Quarterly Meeting.
- In 2022, Shoemaker awarded further grants: **\$30,000 to Upper Dublin** for strategic planning, and **\$20,000 to Abington Quarter**, contingent upon the creation of a Communications Coordinator position.
- **Robin Mohr** of Greene Street Meeting, formerly with FWCC/Americas, has begun consulting with Upper Dublin on its strategic plan. When the plan is complete, Upper Dublin will discern whether to establish its own Community Engagement Coordinator.
- If successful, the model may extend to **Norristown Meeting** and **Frankford Meeting**, both of which share similar political contexts with Upper Dublin and Byberry (Montgomery County and Philadelphia).

Mary Ellen asked the Quarter to form a committee to consider submitting a *Letter of Intent* to the Shoemaker Fund in Tenth Month 2025 for an expanded Community Engagement Coordinator Model.

APPROVED: A committee will be formed to season and pursue this opportunity.

IV. Worship with Upper Dublin and Byberry

A few minutes after 10:00 a.m., Quarterly Meeting was paused so Friends could join Upper Dublin and Byberry for Meeting for Worship. At the rise of worship, Friends dispersed briefly for stretching and breakfast, then reconvened at 11:05 a.m.

During this time, Young Friends created signs for public witness. Adult Friends were encouraged to join their witness outside at the close of the business meeting.

V. Abington Quarterly Meeting Fund (AQMF) Report

- **Allen Stokes** presented the Fund's financial report.
- The AQMF Committee sought approval of a guideline change: to exclude any committee member from deliberations or decisions regarding requests from their own Monthly Meeting.
- A procedural question arose: should proposed changes to committee guidelines first be seasoned by monthly meetings before the Quarter can act?

APPROVED: The proposed change will be sent to monthly meetings.

DEFERRED: Final consideration is postponed until Tenth Month 2025 Quarterly Meeting.

- Allen also read a **Minute of Appreciation** for the service of **Joyce Moore** to the Fund.

APPROVED: The Minute of Appreciation was accepted with gratitude.

VI. Nominating Committee

Rebecca Cratin reported the following nominations:

- **Tom Peterson (Unami MM)** to the AQMF Committee.
- **Carol Holmes Alpern (Plymouth MM)** to the Finance Committee.

Both nominations were received with appreciation.

VII. Communications

Lanza, Communications Coordinator, encouraged Friends to share news from their Meetings. She intends to prepare a follow-up newsletter after this Quarterly Meeting.

VIII. Future Planning

- **Stacey Kent Wykoff** announced plans for an intergenerational gathering with Quaker artist **Todd Drake** on **Tenth Month 4, 2026**.
 - Todd Drake is a participant in the *Soul Shot Project*, which memorializes victims of gun violence through portraiture.
 - The current *Soul Shot* exhibit is at **Gwynedd Meeting** until Ninth Month 3, 2025.
 - Friends are asked to reflect on the query: “*What is important to our community – its hopes and concerns?*” as preparation for this event.
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IX. Announcements

- **Chris Mrozinski**: AFSC will hold a sale of “useful & miscellaneous items” at **Gwynedd Meeting on Ninth Month 13, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.**
 - **Dave Nepley**: Our current website service, Hubb Church, charges a 3.5% fee for online donations. Philadelphia Yearly Meeting has updated its free donation platform, which forwards gifts immediately to meetings with no delay.
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X. Closing

The Clerk expressed appreciation for a spiritually grounded meeting and for the contributions of Friends.

APPROVED: With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:24 a.m. to a potluck meal provided by Upper Dublin and Friends.

Note: More than a dozen children attended, bringing energy and joy to the day. During worship, they were led by **Joe Schatz** and **Stephanie Rushie** in singing outside—a lively counterpoint to the spiritual atmosphere indoors.

Respectfully submitted,
Dan Turner and Bob Reiff