

Abington Quarterly Meeting for Business

Held at Plymouth Monthly Meeting

Eighth Month 4th, 2019

Abington – 4: Byberry –1: Gwynedd/Foulkeways - 12 : Horsham –4 :
Norristown – 1: Plymouth – 15: Richland –6 : Unami –2: Upper Dublin – 3:
Baltimore YM – 2: Children –5

We opened with a moment of worship. Rebecca Cratin welcomed us to Plymouth. Friends approved the minutes from Fifth Month.

Anne Hill (Gwynedd) presented the annual report of the Abington Quarter Worship and Ministry Committee. The report recognized blessings at monthly meetings, including the installation of a historical marker at Abington for Benjamin Lay, hosting homeless families at Gwynedd, providing hospitality at Horsham that has led to more members, the dedication of a recently completed patio at Plymouth, successful communication at Richland, a well-attended Courageous Conversations workshop at Unami, and several outreach and service projects at Upper Dublin. Friends accepted the report.

Tom Rie (Gwynedd) presented a report about the PYM Annual Sessions, which recently concluded. The sessions this year began with a retreat a day ahead of the regular schedule. A minute from Young Adult Friends was considered about the necessity to be a member of a monthly meeting in order to be a member of PYM. A Lenape attender raised awareness about the continuing presence of Lenape people in this area. Discussion continued throughout the sessions about inclusion and diversity. There were many engaging workshops and a moving speaker who had worked with Thich Nhat Hanh and helped the body to center. Tom urged us to volunteer for PYM committees.

Judy Inskip (Gwynedd) added her thoughts about annual sessions. She had observed several people who spoke of their pain about racism, and she is frustrated over limitations about what can be done to address these concerns.

Carol Ritting (Gwynedd) attended the retreat, which centered on trust and love, and this gave her an introduction to the topic of undoing racism. She had thought previously about historical racism, and she learned about the hurt of current racism. People who had experienced racism had formed a group, and according to

Carol, the General Secretary felt that instead the group members should confront the racism individually and directly.

Mary Ellen McNish (Byberry) reported that the keynote speaker that had been scheduled to appear pulled out because the speaker “did not feel safe” in a Quaker gathering. She wondered if others knew about this or the selection of another speaker. Friends present did not have details about this decision.

Mary Ellen McNish then summarized the events of the Interfaith Peace Walk in April. It was a beautiful and spirit-led event that culminated with a delicious meal for 400 provided by the Sikh community. Pam Yaller (Upper Dublin) relayed her experience of organizing and the value of the deep relationships between faith communities that result from this work.

Mary Ellen added that George Lakey and his daughter led a workshop at PYM about how to de-escalate tensions between people. This workshop happened right before the walk and was very useful.

Friends accepted the reports from Tom and Mary Ellen/Pam.

Jack Schick (Richland) reported that the Quakertown Historical Society worked to get a state historical marker installed at Richland to honor Richard Moore, an abolitionist who hosted a hub on the Underground Railroad. The dedication ceremony will be on September 14, with activities from 11:00-4:00.

We closed with a moment of worship.

Respectfully submitted,
Paige Menton

Amelia Diamond, Clerk