

State of Abington Quarter - Annual Report - January 1 to December 31, 2015

The calendar year 2015 brought us more than its share of challenges. Several of our monthly meetings faced critical circumstances, each from different areas of concern and each requiring variation in attention and action. Prayer and an unflinching eye on the horizon do not come without bouts of fear, anger and pain. Our Worship and Ministry committee was pressed to uphold its purpose of providing spiritual and convivial support. Clerk extended individual pastoral care and small group clearness. We are grateful to Quarterly and PYM Friends who came forward in support. This is the work of paying attention and reaching for understanding in the Divine.

As we moved to heal our corporate selves so have we continued to care for individual members of our Quarter. Our Home and Care committee worked with strength and delicacy to respond to human needs while also pulling in financial constraints. Alternate resources have been opened up. Funding requirements are being clarified to prospective recipients. This committee is about recognizing challenges and opening ourselves to all life's paths.

Abington Quarter Trustees, with recommendation of our Investment committee, has mirrored our Quarter's conviction in fossil free investment by adding to our holdings in the Green Fund, as was begun in 2014. Here, we exercise a balance in means and conscience.

Our greatest investment may be found in our Youth Conferences. Once again, JFC and MSFC summer conferences were enjoyed. The year's organizational challenges were seamlessly met by our gifted director and staff. We so appreciate the inherent message that is being circulated by the care quilt young Friends crafted for us.

In 2015 meetings for worship to attend to business, we brought in the issues of racism with other -isms, gun control, energy usage and child safety. Following from 2014, we learned more about initiatives against human trafficking. At Richland Meeting we gained information on fundraising. At Abington Meeting we held in worship a t-shirt commemoration to Montgomery Co. victims of gun violence. Gwynedd Meeting marked our seasons with another year of "gathering garden" reflections and awakenings. Plymouth Meeting invited us to celebrate the life and times of one accomplished and beloved member of our Quarter. All our monthly meetings have shared with us their witness and work – meditation and Light groups, coffeehouses, book discussions, guest speakers, food distribution, neighborhood outreach, national and global networks, et.al. Our newsletter and our website well attest.

In relationship with PYM, two of our members now serve on the Administrative Council. We have a dedicated representative to annual and continuing sessions. Clerk has attended an annual sharing session for Quarterly clerks. And thanks for our annual picnic!

We have done well. Might we reach further. Our intention in presenting this report is that we remember. We laud the many calls to action shared by our Quarter in 2015. We pray that reflecting back will carry us more deeply into remembering our roots, our inner teacher at work in our lives. In remembering the “where and when” of our year, may we connect more deeply with the “how” of our sharing.

We know the power of queries - How do we embrace latent gifts among us; convictions, uncertainties, ideas? When we sense dissonance, how honestly and humbly, how selflessly and how swiftly will we open up and share our burden? Each of our Quarterly committees has been recognizing how stress and a subsequent slowing in communication can adversely affect either conflict resolutions or funding requests or work flow and transitions. We are sympathetic. We are mindful of the need to reflect and wait. May we wait in full expectation of God’s work. Moving into 2016, may we offer each other even more ways to listen and to speak directly from within the Divine.

Amelia Diamond, Clerk 1/16