

Doylestown Friends Meeting

Minutes of Meeting for Worship for Business - March 12, 2023

Clerk Liz Fritsch opened the meeting with a period of worship. About ten Friends attended in person and six via Zoom. The February minutes were approved.

Finance:

- Ken Miller reported that contributions year-to-date are slightly above the amount received this time last year, but because of a larger annual budget in 2023, contributions are slightly behind percentage wise
- Expenses for the month were minimal for zoom and utilities expenses
- We received a \$600 donation for the Education Fund, which was an employer match from a member's donation of \$300 in January

Education and Conference Committee.

Alan Stifelman reported that the committee allocated \$7300 for children attending Friends schools.

Finance committee:

- Wally announced the committee will meet soon to work on new budget amounts for next year and reach out to the other committees to check on expected expenses.
- The committee recently reviewed the meeting's perceived preference for the creation of a Reserve Fund instead of, (or as a companion to), the Endowment Fund. A recommendation will be forthcoming in April.

Nominating.

Wendy Steginsky didn't have any updates to report

Hospitality.

Tom Dempsey will coordinate with Alan and Joe on the setup for the potluck Sunday breakfast on Easter morning. Volunteers are requested for the Saturday before Easter to help set everything up, and the people attending the event are requested to bring food or beverages.

Worship and Ministry.

- Maggi Boyer indicated that the Worship and Ministry committee and the Hospitality committee will work together to plan and facilitate an outdoor Easter breakfast on April 9th. There was discussion on how heavy the existing tables in the meeting house are, and there was support in the meeting to replace the tables. Alan Stifelman will look into options for lighter tables.
- The committee reflected on the last 3 years as a meeting dealing with covid, and the committee sees an opportunity to have a community conversation on where we are now,

where we are going, and how we can get there. The current thought is for this discussion to take place in the Spring. The meeting encouraged the committee to pursue this idea. The committee will present the meeting with ideas for specifics during the next business meeting.

Peace and Social Concerns Committee:

- The committee held their 2nd meeting of the year on March 9th.
- In light of Israel potentially slipping into a totalitarian regime, the committee will develop a minute on the Israeli/Palestinian conflict and submit it at April's Meeting for Business.
- In April, the Bucks County Anti-Racism Coalition plans to launch a 'challenged books challenge' open to grades K-12 to encourage school-age readers to engage with diverse texts. The Peace and Social Concern Committee is assisting with the effort.
- The committee will facilitate the March Quaker Forum. The topic will be "Homophobia; how it affects ourselves, our families, our friendships, our communities and our governance"
- John reported that the Friends Committee on National Legislation is seeking input from all Meetings as to what legislative priorities they feel should be focused upon. All suggestions must be submitted by April 12th. Listserv emails will be sent out to request involvement and suggestions from members in developing a list of our meeting's priorities
- The committee reaffirmed the minute on the Ukraine war and expressed concern regarding the spread of ever greater numbers of modern weaponry as the result of the war.
- The committee will also be sending out emails addressing aid to the Earthquake victims in Turkey and Syria and how we can help.

Pastoral Concerns.

There was discussion on the current process when new attenders request to be added to the listserv and receive follow up when they sign the book in the meetinghouse. For the remainder of 2023, Bob McMahon will add the members to the listserv and provide their contact information to Betsy for those who also would like to receive follow up.

Liz read a memorial minute for Carol Ann Miller (attached).

Property.

- Dave Crosman reported he has been diagnosing some potential issues with the thermostat.
- Dave asked the meeting about having a work day on April 2nd to do cleanup in the yard and the meetinghouse.

- Dave received estimates for improving ventilation, but in the process of this, he is being advised that there is very little space where the heater is and that there is not much space for a filter system. Multiple contractors have suggested that we move to a newer and smaller heater that would provide room for a ventilation filter and that would also be more efficient. The current heater is at least 35 to 40 years old. The meeting discussed considerations of a heat pump versus natural gas. Based on preliminary estimates, it would cost approximately \$12k to replace with natural gas and approximately \$29k for a heat pump. The heat pump option would also include additional ventilation and air conditioning. The existing air conditioning unit in the meeting house is about 15 years old. There was discussion on obtaining additional estimates and Dave indicated that he will also look for assistance from other members of the property committee to help line them up. There was strong interest in exploring a heat pump. Dave indicated that the property committee will come back with a recommendation to the meeting.

Communications.

Peter Schiano didn't have any updates.

First Day School.

Rosemary didn't have any updates.

Bucks Quarterly Meeting. No reports.

Philadelphia Yearly Meeting.

- Wally provided a report from the Continuing Sessions meeting that he attended virtually. Because of difficulties in getting people to serve on PYM committees, the Administrative Council had been tasked to explore the possibility of allowing non-members to serve. The Administrative Council did not support any such changes, and no further action was taken.
- There was a minute with a recommendation to take a stance against Christian nationalism. This idea will be sent out to the monthly meetings and ask them to respond on the minute.

The meeting was adjourned after a moment of silence.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob McMahon, Assistant Clerk

Miller – Carol Ann Miller, 82, died peacefully on November 28, 2022 in Phoenixville, PA of complications related to Parkinson's disease. Carol was born on February 24, 1940, in Point Pleasant, New Jersey, to Donald Mason Wack and Eleanor Lois Wack. She was the elder of two children.

Carol graduated from Point Pleasant High School in 1957. She earned an undergraduate degree in sociology from Old Dominion University in Virginia and a master's degree in infant child development from Temple University.

Carol married her first husband, Carroll Clark Sturm, in 1958 and had two children with him. Their son Douglas was born in 1959 and their daughter, Susan, in 1961. Douglas was born with Down Syndrome and Carol spent his lifetime doing all she could to enable him to live as independently as possible. To this end, she created of a Circle of Friends, a group of loving family and friends who supported Douglas's independence through the final years of his life.

Carol met her second husband, Larry Miller at Doylestown Friends Meeting and they married in 1990. Carol and Larry shared a strong belief in Quaker spirituality and peace activism. Carol advocated for an end to the death penalty, served on clearness committees, and was very involved with the Nonviolent Peace Force.

In addition to their shared spirituality and values, Carol loved hiking in the White Mountains with Larry, dancing, card and board games and family. Carol spent a lot of time with her grandchildren, visiting and being visited regularly. Vacations with family included an annual trip to the beach and lots of camping. Carol loved to travel both in the states and abroad, including trips to India, Iceland, Scandinavia, the Dominican Republic and Kenya.

Although she remained a member of Doylestown Friends Meeting, in recent years, Carol attended Patuxent Friends Meeting in Lusby Maryland.

A Memorial Service was held at Doylestown Friends Meeting on January 14, 2023.

Carol is survived by her daughter, Susan Pinales (Ramon); stepchildren Ken Miller (Alix), Lee Miller (Janet), Janice Miller and Tim Miller; grandchildren Natalie Hernandez (Daniel), Zachary Pinales, Sam Pinales and Max Pinales; step-grandchildren Hannah Castle-Miller, Haley Castle-Miller, Aleya Miller and Nathan Miller; great-grandchildren Evie and Nico Hernandez; several cousins, nieces and nephews; and many friends, both from childhood and those she made along the way in her rich, adventure-filled life.