



Robin Mohr & Associates LLC

UPPER DUBLIN FRIENDS MEETING FINAL REPORT STRATEGIC PLANNING 2024-2026

In July 2024, Friends met and considered several options for the revitalization of Upper Dublin Friends Meeting, including a School of the Spirit program and hiring a community engagement coordinator like Byberry Monthly Meeting. [\[link to report\]](#).

In May 2025, Friends responded to a survey to assess the strengths and weaknesses of the meeting. Here is a summary of the responses: [\[link to full report\]](#)

Strengths		Weaknesses		Most interest	
Worship	12	Diversity	5	Diversity	5
Hospitality	12	Healing	4	Worship	3
Contemplation	11	Testimony	4	Testimony	3
Beauty	10	Justice	3	Justice	3
Reflection	10	Discernment	2	Hospitality	2
Healing	8	Reflection	2	Contemplation	2
Justice	8	Beauty	1	Healing	2
Diversity	6	Contemplation	1	Reflection	2
Discernment	5	Worship	0	Beauty	1
Testimony	5	Hospitality	0	Discernment	1

On May 28, Friends met at Upper Dublin meetinghouse to consider the state of the meeting and the proposal to begin a revitalization project. Some of the ideas that came out of that discussion are here: [\[link to full report\]](#)

- Host a Queer-friendly Bible study or a Queer-friendly Quaker study group
- Invest in Unplug and Recharge (more frequent, more publicity)
- Host an AFSC advocacy group: start with a speaker, read the newsletter together, choose a topic to study and an action each month
- Post the self-guided historical tour brochures and a QR code to recorded video or audio tour and a donation box in the garden

In order to fund this initiative, we would apply to the Shoemaker Fund, with the next grant requests due by 15 October 2025. 2. UDMM fund commitment towards a Shoemaker grant application - A discussion was held concerning the recommendation that UDMM be willing to commit funds as part of a Shoemaker grant application. A discussion ensued and agreement for committing \$15,000 per year, for each of two years (a total of \$30,000) was Approved.

A request for \$20,000 for Upper Dublin MM was included in the letter of inquiry that was submitted to the Shoemaker Fund on behalf of Abington Quarterly Meeting, Byberry MM and UDMM on October 15 to request a total of \$65,000 over two years. The group was invited to submit a full proposal by April 15.

Abington Quarterly Meeting (AQM) is seeking ways to support meetings in AQM to grow and thrive, including but not limited to Byberry and Upper Dublin monthly meetings. For over 300 years, AQM has brought Friends together to achieve goals that were beyond the capacity of a local meeting. In the 21st century, AQM Friends are concerned about the future of the Quaker movement in our region. Over the last five years, the success of Byberry MM has shown that it is possible for a small meeting to reverse their decline by contracting with staff to bring new visitors to the meetinghouse and create opportunities for more neighbors to connect with Friends. Today, more meetings in AQM are exploring this option, among other strategies to prompt meeting growth and strengthening of the Quaker community.

A small committee appointed by AQM earlier this year determined that a grant of \$25,000 over the next two years is needed and desirable to expand our support for the meetings in AQM. After restarting their discernment process between May and September 2025, Upper Dublin MM has committed to a three prong strategy for growth. UDMM requests \$20,000 to begin the work of hiring a community engagement coordinator. Byberry would like to continue to employ the community outreach coordinator who has helped them raise their profile in the community and begun to show results. BMM requests an additional \$20,000 over two years as they transition to local support.

We know that Friends getting involved locally can raise our visibility. We have seen that when Quakers focus very locally: on local politics, environmental issues, economy, education, and/or racial justice, they make the most impact on the world. This is a key element to outreach to the most geographically likely audience for our meetings.

Over 2 years	For AQM	For BMM	For UDMM	Totals
From AQM	40000	30000	30000	\$100,000
From BMM		50000		\$50,000
From UDMM			50000	\$50,000
From Shoemaker	25000	20000	20000	\$65,000
Totals	\$65,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$265,000

Byberry Model to welcome more Friends over the summer of the 250th anniversary of the US and connect with visitors who are looking for a source of spiritual community and nurture.

6. What you hope to accomplish:

Over the last five years, the success of Byberry MM has shown that it is possible for a small meeting to reverse their decline by contracting with staff to bring new visitors to the meetinghouse and create opportunities for more neighbors to connect with Friends. In the last two years, we have 6 new attenders. We want to double the number of new attenders at UDMM in the summer of 2026.

7. How will it contribute to membership development?

In 2024 and 2025, we held monthly outreach events at UDMM, called Unplug and Recharge, which brought over 50 community members to the Meeting. We want to expand our advertising of the event and make sure we connect with them and warmly welcome them into deeper fellowship with UDMM.

8. Who will oversee the project?

Joe Uknalis, Treasurer of Upper Dublin Monthly Meeting and Pam Yaller, Clerk

9. What other resources can PYM provide?

Ordering FGC printed Newcomer cards in bulk to make it cheaper for Monthly Meetings to acquire enough.

Printing the 2017 Quaker Meeting and Me (for unprogrammed meetings) booklets developed by QREC for children, which is currently (sadly) out of print, and is an attractive and easy resource for new families attending worship and for meetings who do not have a regular children's program but would like to welcome children when they arrive.

<https://quakerrecollaborative.org/resource/quaker-meeting-and-me>

10. Attachments, including

a. Project budget

- i. \$7,500 contracted personnel for two months
- ii. \$2,500 for welcoming supplies
 - FGC printed Newcomer Cards (\$1,250)
 - A new rack for the cards (\$50)
 - Name tags for member and visitors (\$100)
 - Printed UDMM history pamphlets (\$100)
 - Advertising in local media, print and online (\$1000)

b. Meeting minute of approval:

- c. Any other relevant documents: **Community Engagement Model for PYM.docx**

Next steps?