

**Concord Quarterly Meeting Planning Committee Minutes
August 4, 2019, 1pm at The Hickman/Jeanes Building**

Present: Chris McKenney (B - Clerk), Lynne Piersol (Coordinator), Charlie Spadoni (B), Deb Lyons (WC), Debbie Murray-Sheppard (Wilmington), Steve Kupferschmid (Willis), Rich Ailes (M), Ginny Sutton (WT)

Excused: Chris Smith (WC), Deb Wood (WT), Judy Reese (C), Marty Boston B), Bruce Harrison (WT), Julie Senko (B)

Worship

Approval of May 4, 2019 minutes - approved with minor edits (typos)

Review QM at Willistown:

Chris McKenney +

A total of 35 people signed in for all or part of the day. 5+ children were there for all or part of the day, including Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business when Melinda Wenner Bradley (WC) provided programming. She also did a great job with the program for the multigenerational group. We agreed that it was a very nice event, and was cooler than expected in the meeting space, although it was still pretty hot. It was noted that only Birmingham has air conditioning.

Planning of Quarterly Meeting at Westtown Meeting, October 27, 2019:

Business Agenda for October (not necessarily in this order...):

Lynne Piersol

- Joys and Challenges Report:** Middletown
- Treasurer's Report**
- Friendly Audit report** if completed
- Care Committee Update**
- Working Group on Aging Concerns Update**
- Coordinator's Report**
- Other (State of the Quarter discussion?)** see below

Program – DVFS: faculty, parents, students to share about learning differences.

Schedule

- 8:15-8:30 Sign-In**
- 8:30-10:15 Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business**
- 10:30-11:30 Meeting for Worship**
- 11:45-12:45 Program**
- 1:00-2:00 Shared Meal provided by Westtown Meeting**

Children's programming (including child care): will be available from 8:30 on. Ginny is part of the children's religious education programming at Westtown.

Changing the Schedule for rotating Quarterly Meetings? Willistown wishes it wasn't always hosting in the summer. Wilmington is in January (bad roads). Birmingham is air conditioned; should they host July 2020? Chris McKenney will bring that up next week at Birmingham's meeting for business.

Possible Joint Quarterly Meeting with Western Quarter next spring?

Lynne Piersol

Do we want to pursue this? Western Quarter is very interested. (Meeting on August 15 with the Western Quarter folks). Planning Committee agreed to have the Coordinator pursue this with Western Quarter for spring 2020. Location to be determined, but probably more planning would be done by the Quarter's Planning Committee, especially if the location is not a particular meeting.

Review and Updates on fellowship activities:

Lynne Piersol

June 23 12:30-4:30	Tubing on the Brandywine – wonderful weather and time together both on the water and on the porch with Rich and Pete's music, but fewer than 20 came – last year a large group (15) came from West Chester Meeting, but only a few this year – many were away. MaryEtta sent a note thanking us for our check (\$100) but saying she didn't need it this year so she donated it to a fund at Kennett Meeting that helps immigrants. The date conflicted with some other events. We agreed to continue to send MaryEtta a contribution.
October 6	Hayride and campfire potluck - is scheduled for Wynnorr Farm, Do we want to grill? Who will do that? Coordinator will ask Bruce Harrison (WT) to grill, and Peter Lane to play. It was suggested that we see if Mike Duffey's bluegrass group could be paid to perform. (Rich will check this out). Rich Ailes will be away.
Nov 30 or Dec 7?	Parents Morning Off, with Western Quarter – planning meeting later this month, August 15. The Coordinator will pursue planning
December 14	PYM Family Meetup at Birmingham (PYM event, but in our Quarter)

Treasurer :

Charlie Spadoni

The Treasurer presented the idea of investing \$6000 of the \$12,000 reserve fund to Friends Fiduciary Corporation's Short-Term Investment Fund. The fund is designed to be liquid. Right now the reserve fund is in a checking account and it gets no interest. Currently, the Tuition Endowment Fund income is invested in the STIF. The Treasurer will implement this change and probably create two sub accounts so the Quarter's reserve fund is kept separate from the TEF. The Planning Committee approved.

Concord Quarter Working Group on Aging Concerns :

Rich Ailes

Next meeting is September 4, 10:30-12 at West Chester Meeting. All welcome. A list of possible topics for the next workshop was passed around. Charlie brought up the recent Swarthmore Meeting session about the future of the meeting and the concern about an aging membership? This is a concern in many places. Wilmington is working on a strategic vision process. Goshen has had a threshing session.

Newsletter Articles:

Rich Ailes

Ginny will ask Kirk Smothers (Delaware Valley Friends School's head of school) to write something on learning differences and DVFS. Tips for First Day School (Melinda and the Coordinator. Ask Pam Leland (Director of The Hickman) to write an article on choosing a care community? Ask Melinda's son James to write something? (He did write a recent article published in Friends Journal). Highlight the PYM outgoing epistle or a children's epistle?

FGC Institutional Assessment:

Lynne Piersol

What might we want to do further with it? So far there has been an article in the newsletter and the link to the assessment was sent out. Members of the Implementation Team are available to talk with

meetings. Wilmington had two social resource justice friends come who have never felt comfortable in a meeting (Friends of Color). There was a wide ranging discussion. We are individuals first, then Quakers, with people of varying points of view on what changes are needed. Wide ranging discussion of where we stand, complicated. We will see where the Yearly Meeting goes with their next steps and revisit.

Outreach:

Lynne Piersol

Coordinator is continuing with Facebook posts. Folks on social media are encouraged to invite people when there is an event and “like” posts and the page. The Coordinator has not yet spent more money on boosting posts. She continues to try to post 3 times a week (recommended).

In reach:

Lynne Piersol

Follow up on idea of the Quarter’s doing the Spiritual Formation Program or School of the Spirit. (we were going to ask Randy Lyons (WC) for a report when he is finished his participation in his School of the Spirit program, or perhaps one of FGC’s e-retreats. The Coordinator shared about the FGC Spiritual Deepening Library resources. Randy has not yet finished his program

Update on Tom Brown Endowed Chair – No updates from Deb Wood

Lynne Piersol

Delaware Valley Friends School Care Committee–

Lynne Piersol

Any interest from a particular meeting to host a worship and invite the school? Maybe Willistown? Steve is interested. The third meeting of the DVFS/Concord Quarter Care committee is September 23, 3:15 at DVFS – open to anyone. There are plans to have a special meeting for worship at DV in early November with a tour, date to be confirmed at our meeting in September.

State of the Quarter report?

At PYM Sessions, it was mentioned that they received only 16 State of the Meeting reports, including 1 Quarter. There could be extra time during Meeting for Business in October to have this on the Agenda for Quarterly Meeting. Idea of developing some sort of evaluation for QM? Paper copy? Online?

Could we have a program at a Quarterly Meeting and look at this? Interactive. No decision was reached.

Coordinator report re: PYM Annual Sessions. The report was appreciated.

Lynne Piersol

Time and location for the next meeting – November 3, 2019 at 1pm. at the Jeanes Building. The Coordinator will check to see if it is available.