

Concord Quarterly Meeting at Concord Meeting, July 22, 2018

MINUTES

Opening Worship began at 8:30 am.

Welcome: 23 Friends were present as the meeting began. All the Quarter's meetings were represented.

The Minutes from April 22, 2018 were approved, after their heading was amended from April 21st to the 22nd.

Joys and Challenges Report from Willistown Meeting

Steve Kupferschmid

The report was approved by Willistown M, and was warmly received by the Quarter. (It is attached as Appendix 1.)

Request from Michael Wajda to sign a minute to support his travel in religious service, already approved by Goshen Meeting. (Appendix 2)

Alison Levie

The minute was read and presented by the representative of Goshen Meeting. The Quarter was pleased to approve endorsing the minute and sending it on to Philadelphia Yearly Meeting for doing the same.

Update regarding the proposal for a care relationship between Concord Quarter and Delaware Valley Friends School (Appendix 3)

Debbie Murray-Sheppard et al.

The report of the committee favors a formal relationship with the school. Those who visited the school and attended its meeting for worship also spoke in favor of this course when it comes before the Quarter for formal action. Appreciation was expressed for the care and manner in which this matter is being considered.

The Hickman Annual Report to Concord Quarter (Appendix 4)

Martha Boston

The report was presented by a member of the Hickman's governance committee and was received with appreciation.

Ad Hoc Committee on Monthly Meetings with Limited Attendance Report

David Leonard

A brief oral report was given on how this concern is being carried forward with an effort to place an article in the *Delco Times*. One Friend remarked on the need to assure that joint users of a meeting house had purposes that were consistent with Friends' principles. Assurance was given that this is indeed part of the outreach effort.

Treasurer's Report (Appendix 5)

Tom Haviland

The report was accepted with appreciation.

Coordinator Report (including on the Digital Outreach Project and Aging Concerns) (Appendix 6)

Lynne Piersol

The meeting received the report with gratitude and expressed appreciation for the service that Lynne has been providing.

Chichester Meeting

Judy Reece

The 250th anniversary of the field-stone meetinghouse will occur in 2019. Ideas for the celebration are welcome. Judy continues to actively promote use of the facility. **The special Fall Worship will take place on September 16.**

Second Count of Meetings and Members in Attendance

David Leonard (Recording Clerk)

Thirty-two Friends were present as the meeting concluded.

Announcements of Upcoming Events

Chris McKenney, Clerk

July 25-29 – PYM Annual Sessions – lots of workshops, worship, business and fellowship. Housing registration is past, but it is in Trenton, so some may want to go for a day or commute.

August 1, 8, 15 – Westtown Meeting’s weekly lake supper picnic at Westtown Lake, 6:30pm (see Concord Quarter website calendar)

August 4 – Birmingham Meeting’s Chicken BBQ

August 19-25 –PYM Young Friends Camp Onas Gathering at Camp Onas, Ottsville PA, for high school aged youth

The meeting concluded with a period of silent worship at 9:35 am.

Respectfully submitted, Christopher McKenney, Clerk and David Leonard, Recording Clerk

Joys and Challenges of Willistown Friends Meeting

Will Scull, Co-Clerk

5/30/18

JOYS

- Our Worship & Ministry Committee has been active in setting up a series of outreach programs. These Programs have brought 170 people to our Meeting who have never been with us before. The Programs were on: Unintentional Racism; Meeting Modern Muslims; Anti-Human Trafficking; Injustices in our Justice System.
- One of the members also set up programs on Gerrymandering & Bit Coin and the risks of tech currency vs. the hype.
- We are endeavoring to make our Meeting and the Religious Society of Friends relevant in today's world. As with all worth-while efforts; it's a struggle.
- Members who have drifted away are starting to come back.
- We are celebrating 6 new members at our Annual Picnic this year.
- Our First Day School averages about 1/2 dozen each time. We are welcoming a new First Day School Coordinator this May, to continue the work of our wonderful Seroja, who has been doing these last few years. (When Seroja moved to New York to continue her Master's Degree, she loved the First Day School so much she drove home, stayed with her parents, and continued teaching our children every weekend!!) These are very active, and loving children!
- The vitality of our Meeting is reflected in the increase in both the amount of money donated and the increase in the number of member donors.
- There is an article under "NEWS" in the May Friends Journal, about our Injustice Program and including a picture taken at that event!

CHALLENGES

- Our active committees are small and some positions are prone to "burn out" of their Clerks.
- Some active members serve many roles.
- We are challenged by how to apprentice new members to "seasoned" members on how to take on leadership roles in the future.
- We have not figured out how to advertise our relevancy and connect with those who are "Seekers" of a faith community such as the Religious Society of Friends. These people are needed for us to thrive in the future.
- We lose our First Day School adolescents to Sunday sports and other activities with their peers that we cannot provide.
- Our property is expensive to maintain and absorbs much volunteer effort and a major part of our monies. This is very frustrating, as we have a responsibility to care for this historic setting.
- We have not been able to find a volunteer for the P.Y.M. Administrative Council.

Appendix 2. Michael Wajda

June 17, 2018

Dear Friends,

Goshen Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends issues the attached minute of religious service for Michael Wajda, an active member of our meeting.

Michael has broad experience among Friends. He has served Friends meetings and organizations, both as staff and as a volunteer, for more than forty years. He has traveled widely among Friends giving talks, leading workshops and retreats, and visiting Friends in their homes. He is often led to deep prayer and to vocal ministry.

Michael has extensive knowledge of Quaker history and practice, as well as experience with spiritual disciplines, deep listening, seeking, and finding. He has worshipped in more than 200 Friends meetings throughout the United States, Canada, and Great Britain. From 2003 through 2007 Michael traveled under minutes of religious service from Goshen Monthly Meeting, which were also endorsed by Concord Quarterly Meeting and Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. This current minute is being issued by Goshen Monthly Meeting following Michael's meeting with a clearness committee, our Worship and Care Committee, and our monthly meeting for business.

We ask that you receive Michael in loving care and know that we are with him in spiritual strength.

Yours in the Light,

Laura Laky

Alison Levie

Co-Clerks, Goshen Monthly Meeting

Appendix 3. Delaware Valley Friends School: proposed relationship

Care Relationship between Concord Quarter and Delaware Valley Friends School

Proposed Draft: approved by joint Quarter and School committee April 24, 2018 and by the DVFS Board of Trustees June 5, 2018

The Care Relationship of Concord Quarter for Delaware Valley Friends School (DVFS) is intended to provide a vibrant, active, and meaningful connection between the Quarter and the School, with a focus on spiritual life and nurture of the Quaker identity of the School. Likewise, the School is an outreach of Friends faith and practice to the greater world with a particular focus on students who learn differently and their families. DVFS's operations are financially non-reliant on the Quarter and its governing Board of Trustees is independent and self-perpetuating.

The Quarter and the School have jointly established a Care Committee that consists of six members, three of which are appointed by the Quarter and three are appointed by the School. The committee meets a minimum of three times per school year, with meetings open to all members of the School and Quarter communities. The School and Committee report annually to the Quarter. A Clerk of the committee is selected by the Quarter in consultation with the senior administration of the School. The focus of the meetings are to plan for events and other means of maintaining an active connection between the Quarter and the School, such as:

- Encouraging members of the Quarter to attend School events such as Founders Day, the annual school play/musical, Arts Night, and occasional School-sponsored speakers.
- Inviting DVFS to one or more hosted Meetings for Worship at a monthly meeting of the Quarter.
- Inviting members of the Quarter to the School's weekly Meeting for Worship.
- Members of the Quarter presenting to DVFS students on issues of concern to Friends.

- Coordinating community service work/projects for the Quarter by students.
- Schedule trips for students to visit and tour historic Meetings of the Quarter.
- The School providing educational presentations to members of the Quarter on learning differences, Quaker education, and related topics.
- Include members of the Quarter to participate in Grandparents and Special Friends Day at the School.
- Share community-wide announcements and newsletters between the Quarter and the School.
- Foster relationships with Quarter members which may lead to Board or Board committee membership.

Appendix 4. Hickman Report

Hickman Friends Senior Community of West Chester Annual Report to Concord Quarterly Meeting July 22, 2018

In its 127th year of service to older adults, The Hickman Friends Senior Community of West Chester remains committed to its mission of providing affordable supportive living to older adults.

It has been a busy year since our last report to the Quarter. Most notably we completed construction of the new Anna T. Jeanes Building, named in honor of Anna Jeanes and in recognition of the support we have received from her and her Estate in the last 100+ years.

Construction of the new building was completed in Winter. After receiving our license from the Department of Human Services, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the Jeanes Building opened to residents in April. With a total of 74 much-needed residential units, we now have a secure dementia neighborhood for 22 individuals on the 1st floor and an additional 52 Studio and 1-Bedroom living units on the 2nd and 3rd floors. The Jeanes Building operates under the same Personal Care license as our Hickman Building. As of July 9, 2018, we had welcomed 36 individuals into the building, achieving almost 50% occupancy in 2 short months.

In the midst of this expansion project, our community was sustained by the approximately 40 residents who lived in the Hickman Building. Our residents displayed curiosity, patience and flexibility throughout this project. A few of our residents were deeply interested in the construction efforts and appreciated receiving monthly updates from representatives from the general contractor, Benchmark Construction. While we were not in a position to take residents through the site during construction due to safety concerns, Benchmark staff provided pictures and videos to show the work being done.

We would also like to acknowledge the support and patience displayed by staff and families of the West Chester Friends School, led by Head of School, Brian Fahey, and members of the West Chester Monthly Meeting. We are closely co-located on the Quaker Block and construction is naturally disruptive. We are *all* glad that the work is now completed and things are returning to normal.

As we look to the future, our immediate focus will be on bringing new residents into our community and in building our staff numbers to support a larger community. We are also now turning our attention to the Hickman Building and possible renovations to that building.

In sharing this report to the Quarter, we would like to acknowledge those individuals and Meetings who support our efforts through financial contributions. In 2018 we will provide almost \$230,000 in financial assistance to specific residents who no longer have sufficient funds to remain at The Hickman. This is an increase of \$50,000 over the amount we provided in 2017.

We anticipate an increase in the need for financial assistance as our community grows. A board-appointed task force is currently exploring ways to increase our capacity to support more individuals.

Our work is also strengthened through the participation of the following Concord Quarter Friends on our Board of Directors: Marty Boston from Birmingham Meeting; Bob Kolimaga from Goshen Meeting; Betsy Stratton from Middletown Meeting; Evelyn Brownlee and Chenda Davison from Wilmington Meeting; and Don Kidder, Ellen Millick, and Dean O'Banion from Willistown Meeting.

Ron Petrocelli and Andrea Taylor, both from Centre Meeting, Matt Krasney of Falsington Meeting and Hank Schellenger of Valley Friends are also members of our Board.

We would welcome the participation of other Friends who are interested and able to deeply engage in the work of governance.

In closing, the next year promises to be another year of growth for us as we continue to welcome a number of new residents into our community. We look forward to the future with gratitude and anticipation, appreciative of the support and encouragement from Concord Quarter Friends.

Submitted by Marty Boston, Member of the Governance Committee, on behalf of Mark Snyder, President, Board of Directors, and Betsy Stratton, Clerk of the Governance Committee.

Appendix 5. Treasurer's Report

CONCORD QUARTERLY MEETING TREASURER'S REPORT – FISCAL YEAR 2017-2018 Q4 (Apr – Jun)

July 22, 2018

Highlights

- The 2017-2018 fiscal year finished with a small surplus.
 - Coordinator and Operating/Program expenses were slightly less than budgeted while income received from Meeting covenant contributions was slightly higher than budgeted. Program participant donations contributed to the Operating/Programs income line item.
- The 2018-2019 Budget has been approved by all Meetings (still waiting to hear back from one). This budget includes a Coordinator rate increase and a small increase to Operating/Programs and TEF line items.

Thank you to all Monthly Meetings for your work and financial support of this year's budget.

- Coordinator line item surplus funds of \$17,000 will be divided and deposited into the Quarter's TEF account or refunded back to Meetings per their instructions. This will bring the Coordinator line item to the recommended 6 month reserve level.
- Concord Quarter's Assets as of June 30 are shown on the back page and consistent with previous quarters.

Concord Quarterly Meeting

Income and Expenses and Assets (redacted, contact Coordinator for full report)

(report date 7/17/2018)

Note: Individual Monthly Meeting Income & Growth and Green Fund balances are available by request.

Appendix 6. Coordinator Report

Concord Quarter Coordinator Report for July 2018 Quarterly Meeting

Your Coordinator One Year Later....

It's been a full year since I began serving you as Coordinator and it has been a joy to be in this role of support and helping hands for the work of the Quarter and the individual meetings. I very much appreciate all your support and encouragement.

The Concord Quarter Working Group on Aging Concerns continues to meet monthly to expand on our work so far. I have set up a list-serve for all participants in the April training of Aging Concerns Facilitators to communicate what we are doing, to ask questions and share resources and what we are doing in our meetings. A follow up ½ day session in November is in the works for Callie Janoff from NYYM's ARCH Program, to return, as is a workshop on October 13 at Goshen Meeting on the financial aspects of aging.

As for event planning, Tubing on the Brandywine was held on June 24, cosponsored with Western Quarter. About 37 people attended, including 15 children. We also enjoyed music with Rich Ailes and Peter Lane. MaryEtta Clendenin is a very gracious and generous host, providing not only the use of her property along the Brandywine, but also tubes and hot dogs. It is a lot of fun whether or not you get wet! A Hayride and Bonfire event is in the works for the fall.

After Quarterly Meeting comes Concord Quarter's Planning Committee on August 5. This group has oversight of me and the Quarter's activities. Anyone is welcome to take part in addition to the official meeting representatives.

Part of my job as your Coordinator is to stay up to date about Yearly Meeting happenings. Next up is Annual Sessions July 25-29. I am registered and hope that many of you are coming too! It's a time to connect with others across PYM and to be part of the decision making. There are also workshops and interest groups, exhibits and more. I'll report my impressions after I attend.

Lastly, I continue to send out your monthly Announcements about happenings in the Quarter, post events on our website calendar, and on the PYM website when appropriate. After discussion at Planning Committee in April, The Quarter applied for a small grant from PYM's Membership Development Support Fund to get us up to speed on the use of social media through the Digital Outreach Project of Friends General Conference. I will participate in a two month training starting in September. Up to 4 can participate, and I have room for two more if you are interested. Look for a Facebook page in the fall....

I encourage people to go to the website when they have questions, too. There are minutes, reports, announcements, along with a calendar and contact information.

As always, let me know if you have any questions, concerns, needs for support or ideas!

Lynne Piersol