

# Concord Quarterly Meeting at Middletown Meeting, October 28, 2018

## Minutes

### **Opening Worship**

The meeting opened at 8:30 am with a period of worship. Twenty-one Friends were present as the meeting began.

### **Welcome to Newcomers**

**Chris McKenney**

The Clerk welcomed four guest attenders associated with the Delaware Valley Friends School – Molly Watson, Christa Harp Krystofiac, Dan Krystofiac, and Kirk Smothers. Also present was Don Badgley, of Poughkeepsie, New York, a member of Nine Partners Monthly Meeting, who had a traveling minute which the clerk acknowledged.

### **Monthly Meeting Opening Count**

**Chris McKenney**

Birmingham- 6, Concord- 1 , Goshen- 0, Middletown – 3, West Chester- 1 Westtown- 4, Willistown- 1, Wilmington - 1 , Chichester- 1

Representatives were present from all meetings in the Quarter save for Goshen.

### **Approval of Minutes from July 22, 2018**

**Chris McKenney**

The minutes were approved without further correction.

### **Joys and Challenges Report from Westtown Meeting**

**Margaret Haviland**

The report was presented by Margaret Haviland and Bruce Harrison and is attached as Appendix 1. It was received with appreciation. A question was raised about the current relationship between the meeting and the new administration of Westtown School.

### **Request for approval of Proposed Care Relationship between Concord Quarter and Delaware Valley Friends School**

**Chris McKenney**

**Kirk Smothers**

The report is attached as Appendix 2. The clerk commented that it seems that Friends see this relationship as mutually beneficial and the head of the school shares that view.

*The Quarter approved of the proposal for the Quarter to enter into a Care Relationship with Delaware Valley Friends School and that a Care Committee as proposed in the attached report be established. Three of its members will be appointed by the Quarter (through its Nominating Committee) and three appointed by the School. The School and the Committee will report annually to the Quarter. The Quarter is not assuming an "oversight role" and will not have a legal responsibility for the School. The relationship is being established for the spiritual care and support of the School.*

### **Nominating Committee Report**

**Rich Ailes**

Concord Quarter Nominating Committee met in July 2018 to discern who best would serve the Quarter as Treasurer. It recommends Charles C. Spadoni to be Concord Quarter Treasurer for the period beginning November 1, 2018 and ending June 30, 2021. Charlie has great

experience; he has served as Birmingham Meeting Treasurer, as Quarter Coordinator, and on Concord Quarter Planning Committee.

*The appointment of Charles Spadoni as Treasurer, as detailed above, was approved by the meeting. Tom Haviland will work with him on the transition. The meeting is grateful to Tom for the service he has given.*

The Committee has also discerned a name to bring forward at a later date to serve as Assistant Clerk and then Clerk starting in July 2019. We are also looking for a new Recording Clerk to start in July 2019. Suggestions of names for this role are welcome.

#### **Report of Ad Hoc Committee on Monthly Meetings with Limited Attendance David Leonard**

The committee reported that it had worked with Concord MM to develop a story about the availability of space in many Brandywine Friends' meetings. It had hoped to place this story in the *Delaware County Times*, but the approach failed. So, instead, it has printed the story (with photos) as a flyer which can be distributed by Concord MM, the CQM secretary, and others. Copies of the flyer were distributed to those who were interested. It would be useful to also publish the contents of the flyer on a web site that is Google searchable. Rich Ailes is willing to undertake this task. David is willing to be the telephone contact for inquiries that arise from the flyer. Other attempts to find potential partners for the use of Concord meeting house have been unsuccessful, however. The committee recommended that it now be laid down. *Friends made suggestions as to how the concern might be advanced but accepted the recommendation that the committee be laid down, with the understanding that the Planning Committee can provide advice where it is needed.*

#### **Working Group on Aging Concerns**

**Rich Ailes**

The report is attached as Appendix 3, to which Rich Ailes spoke.

#### **Treasurer's Report**

**Tom Haviland**

The report is attached at Appendix 4 and was received by the meeting. *The meeting again expressed appreciation for Tom's work as Treasurer.*

#### **Coordinator Report**

**Lynne Piersol**

The report is attached at Appendix 5 and was presented by Lynne Piersol. The Quarter is grateful for her efforts.

#### **Second Count of Meetings and Members in Attendance**

**David Leonard**

Twenty-seven Friends were present as the meeting ended.

#### **Announcements of Upcoming Events**

**Chris McKenney, Clerk**

**October 28, tonight 7-7:45** – Quaker Vespers at White Horse Village at the Clubhouse. Expand the Quaker presence there for a meeting for worship with resident Quakers and non-Quakers.

**November 2, 6:30pm** – potluck supper and worship at Goshen Meeting.

**November 3 – 9am-4pm**, PYM Continuing Sessions at Arch Street Meeting – all ages, registration requested

**November 4 – 10-11:30am**, CO and Draft Registration workshop at Westtown Meeting. Contact Margaret Haviland (mhavilan@gmail.com)

**November 4, 1pm** – CQ Planning Committee at the Jeanes Building Social Room, the Hickman's new building.

**November 7, 11am** – CQ Working Group on Aging Concerns at West Chester Meeting's Worship room.

**December 1, 9am-1pm** – Parents Morning Off at the Cabin in Westtown. Flyers available here.

### **Appendix 1. Joys and Challenges Westtown Monthly Meeting**

The following report was presented to Westtown Monthly Meeting in the Meeting for Business Tenth Month, the twenty-first day, 2018. This report of our meetings' joys and challenges was approved by the meeting to be shared with Concord Quarterly Meeting in its October meeting for business.

We at Westtown Monthly Meeting appreciate this opportunity to look back on our last twelve months and look forward to our upcoming year. Like all faith communities we are striving to support each other in our individual lives --both material and spiritual --while also attending to our corporate meeting as a vital worship community where our lives speak. Like all smaller meetings we have found the need to be judicious with what we choose to take on as a community of faithful. A recent article in the Philadelphia Inquirer about faith communities choosing to sell their physical buildings so that they could focus on their spiritual and outward expressions of faith reminded us of our blessing of not owning our meeting house. We are also blessed with a thoughtful treasurer and can report our accounts are well ordered--we live within our means and have funds to support organizations we value. We continue to support the work of PYM and CQM as well as tending to our own projects.

Our relationship with our landlord Westtown School continues to be a source of creative tension. We welcome the intimacy of our summer worship when the students are on vacation and enjoy the energy when they are here with us during the school year. Sunday rentals of the campus for sports tournaments make for a new definition of quality silence and we have also had a few individuals stop in and worship with us. The upper school students are engaging in a series of experiments this year to address issues of equity and exploring how to make worship more meaningful for the students. We have invited the students to engage with us as a means of exploring why one would choose to belong to a faith community. The school has a new Head of School, who is continuing to discern her own

relationship with our monthly meeting and Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. Our own desire to let our lives speak corporately, while remaining welcoming to all has presented us with a few challenges in this particularly charged partisan climate we are living through.

Our First Day School is small but lively with regular attendance by children whose families are committed to nurturing their spiritual growth. We as a meeting take seriously our responsibility to these our youngest Friends who are the future of our larger Quaker community. Our challenge is in finding staffing for our First Day School. We want our adult members to be supported by regular attendance in Meeting for Worship. Going forward we are interested in inviting Westtown School families to join us in worship.

Our meetings are well attended and follow good order. The Spirit regularly finds expression in our vocal ministry, another regular demonstration of the ways in which there is that of God in each of us and that we are expressions of the Divine. The Silence in our meeting for worship is equally an expression of the Spirit moving among us. To support our worship, we have a regular pattern of the sharing of spiritual journeys by members and the reading of queries or poems and meditations. We close each meeting with the invitation for the sharing of names of friends we wish to hold in the light.

In the area of letting our lives speak, our Peace and Social Justice committee thoughtfully focuses our energies in a few areas. This past year we have considered what it would mean to be a sanctuary community and how to best support the work and discern the priorities for FCNL. We used our annual plant sale to support the residents of Barclay Friends. Going forward we see ourselves re-engaging with concerns for climate change and perhaps the Poor People's Campaign.

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce Harrison and Margaret Haviland

Co-clerks, Westtown Monthly Meeting.

## **Appendix 2. Report on the Threshing Session on the Proposed Care Relationship between Concord Quarterly Meeting and Delaware Valley Friends School, held October 7, 2018 at Westtown Meeting**

Present: Christopher McKenney (Birmingham Meeting and Concord Quarter Clerk); Susan Brodesser, Serita Spadoni, David Jones, David Leonard (all from Birmingham), Tom Ceresini, Shirley Wright Kamara, Rich Ailes (all from Middletown); Deb Lyons (West Chester); Bruce Harrison, Andy Coe, Ginny Sutton (all from Westtown); Debbie Murray-Sheppard (Wilmington); Steve Kupferschmid, Willistown); Lynne Piersol (Coordinator)

We started with worship. After a review of the proposed care relationship, the meeting was opened for comments.

Some questions were raised about the nature of the school, its Quaker identity, its fiscal health and makeup of the Board of Trustees. The school is a member of Friends Council on Education. It is financially solvent, has a waiting list, and wants to expand. Some students pay tuition, which is steep, and some are placed by school districts which then pay the tuition. There is some financial aid. Students come from many different communities even as far as New Jersey! The school is geared to students who learn differently although they may well be very intelligent. They have language and or math based learning differences, or they might be kinetic learners. Many arrive at DVFS damaged because other schools were not supportive. There are very few schools that do what DVFS does in providing a very individualized approach to students.

Questions we had no answers for included: what is the size of the Board and how many are Quakers (and do they have enough?) How many students are enrolled?

Those who know the school expressed that DVFS really “walks the talk in terms of Quakerism”. They really do value that of God in their students. One shared an example of vocal ministry during the weekly worship by a student who expressed sincere appreciation for a team mate because he forgot to do it at a game. It was an amazing experience and it seemed meaningful to the students.

Others shared that it would be beneficial to the school to have a relationship with a Quaker community, and a Quarter would fit better for this than an individual meeting since the students are scattered. With a relatively new Quaker Head of School, the potential for growing in Quaker values has increased. Another expressed that he had worked at a Quaker school that did not have a care relationship with a meeting, and he saw that as something lacking. A care relationship would have tremendous value.

Another expressed that this would be a form of outreach.

Do we have the energy as a Quarter to do this? Would this be a pro forma relationship?

Several expressed interest either in being on the “Care Committee” or in being involved in other ways. Messages of support from some not present were shared. Concord Meeting has minuted its support for going forward with a care relationship at their September Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business.

This could be an opportunity for people in the Quarter to get involved in things they are interested in – Quaker history, writing notes of encouragement to graduating seniors, inviting them to meeting for worship. We have a number of historic buildings that could be visited. A member of the ad hoc committee shared that the list in the proposal is a working list of what could be done to help the students know the Quaker presence.

**After noting the positive energy in the room, the group recommends that we move forward with a care relationship between Concord Quarterly Meeting and Delaware Valley Friends School.** The details of how the Care Committee will be created can be dealt with later by Nominating Committee.

Report by Lynne Piersol

**Appendix 3. Concord Quarter Working Group on Aging Concerns Report to Concord**

## **Quarterly Meeting at Middletown Meeting 10/28/2018**

Our group continues to meet regularly, mostly every month, though we did skip a month in the summer. The Hickman provides our meeting space which is much appreciated. The group remains focused on developing our skills around the experience of aging, providing one another support in various aging issues in our Meetings, and preparing workshops for the Quarter. Anyone interested is welcome to attend out meetings and become part of the group.

We just completed a successful workshop on Aging and Finances at Goshen Meeting on October 13. Three staff members of Intervention Associates, part of the Friends Life Care organization based in Plymouth Meeting, presented details on medical expenses and nursing homes as well as legal frameworks that are pertinent to the aging experience. Detailed information on Health Care directives, Power of Attorney and Guardianship was presented. There were 15 people in attendance. Most of them handed in very positive reviews.

On November 17 Callie Janoff of New York Yearly Meeting, one of our trainers at our Aging Facilitators training last April, will join us at Birmingham Meeting for a follow up session with those who participated in the April training. Callie will help us focus on next steps for the working group. We will have more to report on our future efforts at the next Quarterly Meeting.

For more information you can contact Lynne Piersol at [concordquarter@pym.org](mailto:concordquarter@pym.org) or Rich Ailes at [railesjr@ailesdodson.org](mailto:railesjr@ailesdodson.org).

## Appendix 4.

**CONCORD QUARTERLY MEETING  
TREASURER'S REPORT – FISCAL YEAR 2018-2019 Q1  
October 28, 2018  
Tom Haviland, Treasurer**

### Income and Expense Highlights

- Covenant checks were received from four Meetings for a total of \$5,335.50. This is in line with this year's budget and last year's first quarter contributions.
- Operating/Program costs for the quarter are for PYM Annual Sessions registration (Coordinator) and Quarterly business meeting related expenses.
- The Coordinator Surplus funds of \$17,001 were split and either refunded back to Meetings or deposited into our Friends Fiduciary Tuition Endowment Fund (TEF).
  - 4 Meetings totaling \$6,977 requested refunds.
  - 4 Meetings totaling \$10,024 requested the funds be deposited into our TEF account.
- Tuition Grant funds of \$8000 were divided among 16 students (\$500/student) and sent to 5 Friends Schools. Last year's Tuition Grant funds of \$8,000 were divided among 13 students (\$654/student) and sent to 5 Friends Schools.
- Asset balances by line item are shown on the back page.

**Concord Quarterly Meeting  
Income and Expenses (run date 10/18/2018)**

*Please note that a full, non-redacted report can be obtained from the Coordinator*

**Concord Quarterly Meeting  
Assets (report date 10/18/2018)**

*Please note that a full, non-redacted report can be obtained from the Coordinator*

Note: Individual Monthly Meeting Consolidated and Green Fund balances are available by request.

## **Appendix 5. Coordinator Report for Concord Quarterly Meeting, October 28, 2018**

I continue to enjoy working with all of you in the Quarter. Thanks so much for all of your support!

The most interesting thing I have been involved with lately on your behalf is the Digital Media Outreach program organized by Friends General Conference, with Emily Provance as the trainer. Planning Committee approved my participation last spring and we started work in early September. The fee was paid for by a grant from the PYM Membership Development Support fund. Concord Quarterly Meeting now has a Facebook page! If you use Facebook, please check it out: Concord Quarterly Meeting – Quakers. It helps to have lots of people “liking” the page and reacting to the posts! I have learned a lot about what makes a good post, what ads can be used for and more. You may have seen some of the ads that were part of the program. Soon, I’ll write up what I have learned to share with you. If you have something going on in your meeting that you would like to have on the Quarter’s page, let me know – or if it is already on your Facebook page, simply share it to the Concord Quarter page. Thanks go also to Tom Haviland and Debbie Murray-Sheppard who have been my consultants and are also reading the emails from Emily Provance.

In September I was part of a Zoom call with other PYM Quarter Coordinators, Clerks of Quarters, and staff from PYM to share what we are doing. It was great to hear from others about what is going on in their Quarters, and hear questions and concerns. We agreed this was a useful experience and will be repeating it every few months. I’ll be attending Continuing Sessions on November 3 at Arch Street and bring back my impressions.

The Tuition Assistance program of Concord Quarter awarded tuition aid to 16 students this year. Watch for new applications in December for the 2019-20 school year.

Planning and supporting events in the Quarter continues to be a big part of my job – Unfortunately the Hayride had to be cancelled due to rainy weather this year. I continue to support the Aging Concerns Working Group which sponsored a workshop on October 13. There will be another Parents’ Morning Off event on December 1, co-sponsored with Western Quarter. And we are exploring plans with Western Quarter to have another joint Quarterly Meeting in April, possibly at Wilmington Friends School with Dr. Amanda Kemp as presenter. She is awesome, by the way....

Submitted by Lynne Piersol