

Concord Quarterly Meeting at Birmingham Meeting, April 22, 2018

Opening Worship: The meeting opened with a period of unprogrammed worship at 8:30 am.

Monthly Meeting Count: All member meetings, except Concord, were represented. Thirty-one Friends were present as the meeting began.

Minutes from January 28, 2018 were approved.

Joys and Challenges Report from West Chester Monthly Meeting **Deb Lyons** The report is attached below as Appendix 1, which was received with appreciation.

Update and discussion regarding a possible care relationship between Concord Quarter and Delaware Valley Friends School **Kirk Smothers (Head of School)**

At this point the committee has met once, in January. One of the things identified was that if we are to enter into a meaningful relationship we need to get to know each other better. At the end of this month people from the school will have visited all the Quarter's meetings. The school does have several alumni families in the Quarter but it would love to have visits to the school from other Quarter Friends. David Jones asked what the care relationship between the school and Quarter might look like. Kirk replied that there are a variety of possible models. The older relationships were ones in which a Friends body founded the school and appointed its board. In the case of the school it was incorporated under Philadelphia YM but is now financially and legally independent of it. What the school is looking forward to instead is an active connection to Quaker meetings, so that the students, who often are quite damaged by their experiences at other schools, can feel a part of a larger spiritual relationship which they can interact with from time to time. Another asked about visits to the school. Kirk encouraged attendance at school events or at school meeting for worship Thursdays at 10:10. Friends present today who are interested in attending such events were asked to put their names on a sheet being circulated. Individual visits can be arranged through contact with Kirk. Currently the school has 187 students from grades 3-12.

Working Group on Aging Concerns Report **Rich Ailes**

The report is attached below as Appendix 2. Several Friends spoke to the value of the trainings to them and to all our meetings. The committee will be sharing resources with Friends on these issues.

Minute on Nuclear Weapons, request for approval **Connie Eash**

Birmingham Meeting presented a minute on Nuclear Weapons, requesting that the Quarter join in endorsing it. Several of the Quarter's meetings have already approved the minute. Willistown wanted the minute sent to FCNL rather than Philadelphia YM. Birmingham responded that it has already been sent to FCNL and appears on its web-site but that the minute would have more power with Quarter and YM endorsement. Goshen MM wants us to do more than just endorse a minute; it is embarrassing how many international treaties the US has not signed (across administrations). *The Quarter approved endorsing Birmingham's minute on Nuclear Weapons and forwarding it to Philadelphia YM, FCNL and other relevant parties. It is attached as Appendix 3.*

Treasurer's Report **Tom Haviland**

The report is attached below as Appendix 4. *The budget was approved. Friends suggested that a cost of living increase for the coordinator be included, which will require an adjustment in the budget and bringing it to the July meeting for approval.*

The Treasurer proposed refunding to the MMs the surplus in the coordinator's reserve fund. One Friend suggested that the funds instead should be placed in the Education Endowment Fund. *The Quarter asked the Treasurer to write to the Quarter's MMs notifying them of the surplus in the reserve fund and asking each one if it wants a refund or to re-donate the refund to the Education Endowment Fund or some other Quaker cause.*

School of the Spirit Spiritual Nurturers Program **Michael Wajda**

The School of the Spirit is running an 18 month Spiritual Nurturers Program starting in the fall and invites wider participation in this highly recommended program. An introduction and information session will be held at Goshen Meeting on May 12.

Coordinator's Report **Lynne Piersol**

The report was not read but is attached at Appendix 5. The Coordinator encouraged members to check our website regularly and to let her know what other programs they would like to see in the Quarter.

Announcements of Upcoming Events/Deadlines **Deb Wood, Clerk**

- April 29, 2018, 7:30pm, Concord Quarter Planning Committee – all are welcome
- June 3 – 1-4pm – Wilmington Meeting's Berry Festival – see article in recent newsletter
- June 24 (Sunday afternoon) - Tubing on the Brandywine! Details to Come

Second Count of Meetings and Members in Attendance Thirty-seven Friends were present as the meeting concluded.

Respectfully submitted: Deb Wood (clerk) and David Leonard (recording)

Appendix 1: Joys and Challenges Report from West Chester Monthly Meeting -- Deb Lyons, Clerk

Asked “What joys do you experience or encounter in Meeting life?” one Friend responded: “The friendliness of the people. The silence, resulting in a closeness to God. The joy of having children share part of our worship time. The intergenerational aspect of the Meeting’s placement on the ‘Quaker Block’: Meeting, School, and Home. The thoughtfulness of those who feel moved to speak. The willingness to help with ‘coffee hour’ and Shared Lunch.”

We have welcomed several new families to membership. One of those new members said, “It feels rewarding and comfortable being a part of something bigger than ourselves.”

In the Social Room, our “photo bulletin board” has expanded to a second panel, displaying faces and names of members and regular attenders—and providing a helpful memory jog!

Our Peace and Social Concerns Committee has been re-invigorated. In the past year, it has presented a workshop on nonviolent communication, an educational session on the Second Amendment (in cooperation with Gun Sense of Chester County), and another on the opioid-addiction crisis (with Chester County Drug and Alcohol Services). The committee also keeps Meeting members and attenders informed about upcoming social-action marches and workshops.

Our Worship and Ministry Committee has presented several before-Meeting series of Bible-study sessions, as well as a recent a well-attended evening series on Quaker Testimonies.

With logistical help from West Chester Friends School, we’ve hosted Young Friends gatherings—and heard deeply moving vocal ministry from some of those visitors.

As we welcome the fact that the years of construction on the Hickman’s new Jeanes building are coming to a close, we also welcome the prospect of new residents there and the hope that some of them might choose to worship with us.

That prospect has encouraged us to undertake a serious study of whether and how we might make our Meetinghouse more accessible, both from the outdoors and within.

For the moment, that’s our biggest challenge; one we will need to approach both prayerfully and practically while keeping the appreciation of the basics expressed in the Friend’s words that opened this report.

Appendix 2: Report of Concord Quarter Working Group on Aging Concerns-- Rich Ailes

Since our last Quarterly Meeting in January, the Concord Quarter Working Group on Aging Concerns has met in February and April, skipping the March meeting due to inclement weather. On March 3, in spite of the previous day’s bad weather which knocked out many home and businesses on the local electric grid, George Schaefer presented a program on Aging in Place at Goshen Meeting. About 27 people participated in a thoughtful and informative program. George is the Care and Aging Concerns Coordinator for Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. The slides presented and notes taken by Lynne Piersol are on the CQM website.

On the weekend of April 13, 20 people participated in the Aging Concerns Facilitator training held at West Chester Meeting and The Hickman, funded by Friends Foundation for the Aging. Callie Janoff, The ARCH Program Coordinator for New York Yearly Meeting, and George Schaefer were the presenters. Many critical concerns around aging and disability were presented in a very helpful format that left all participants with the tools needed to start operating as Aging Concerns Facilitators in our Meeting communities. Here is the definition of an Aging Concerns Facilitator we developed:

“An Aging Concerns Facilitator is a Friend in Concord Quarter of PYM or elsewhere who has taken the Aging Concerns Facilitator training to be of service with seniors and adults with disabilities within their Quaker communities. Facilitators provide a listening ear and an open heart, as well as a connection to appropriate resources to improve the life of the person assisted. Facilitators also bring guidance to their Monthly and Quarterly Meetings on concerns around aging. They are helped in this through contact with their coordinating committee and their Coordinators.”

The Working Group is also exploring ways to support the trained Facilitators as they move forward. Some ideas include an email group, occasional workshops aimed at the Facilitators, and a way to request help on the website. An additional 1/2 day to consult with Callie Janoff was included in the grant and will be scheduled at a later date. George Schaefer will also be available to consult with us.

Meetings in our Quarter will be seeing the Friends who participated bringing items of interest around the issues of aging in the year ahead. The Working Group is committed to meeting monthly and is already considering a workshop on financial issues involved in aging this fall for all interested.

Presented by Rich Ailes, Clerk of the Working Group

Appendix 3: Minute on Nuclear Weapons-- Connie Eash, Clerk, Birmingham MM

Birmingham Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

Minute on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons

In 2017, 122 United Nations member states wrote the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, designed as a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination. The Birmingham Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) strongly requests the United States to sign and ratify this Treaty.

On August 6, 1945, the United States incinerated, annihilated, and irradiated with one atomic bomb 200,000 people and destroyed 62,000 buildings in Hiroshima. Three days later the U.S. caused similar devastation in Nagasaki. The effects—physical, mental, and genetic—linger 72 years later. The question of the morality of using such weapons has been debated ever since.

In the ensuing decades, more countries have pursued development of nuclear weapons. Currently, nine nations possess nearly 15,000 such weapons. The risk of using this inventory of nuclear weapons and the threat of building additional ones for use must be eliminated. Total abolition of nuclear weapons is the moral choice and is essential to our survival.

Approved by BMM March 4, 2018

Appendix 4: Treasurer's Report

Tom Haviland, Treasurer

CONCORD QUARTERLY MEETING

TREASURER'S REPORT – FISCAL YEAR 2017-2018 Q3 (Jan – Mar)

April 22, 2018

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

Income and Expenses Summary

- Covenant contributions from seven Monthly Meetings for 3rd quarter was (redacted).
- Operating/Program expenses of \$(redacted) were incurred through the ARCH and Square Dance programs.
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2017-2018 Projected Actuals and 2018-2019 Proposed Budget

- Coordinator income will exceed expenses by approximately (redacted) while Operating/Programs income will have a small short fall of (redacted).
- Total TEF contributions will come in at (redacted), (redacted) below the encouraged target of (redacted).
- For the 2018-2019 Budget I am recommending,
 - Coordinator covenant support of (redacted) (an 11% decrease from this year's (redacted}).
 - Operating/Programs covenant support remains at (redacted). I will be tweaking Monthly Meetings current giving levels by a few dollars to make up for this year's \$126 deficit.
 - TEF covenant support remains the same and I will continue to encourage Meetings to increase as able.
- I plan to email each Meeting's Clerk/Treasurer with that Meeting's 2018-2019 Budget recommendation.

Concord Quarterly Meeting - Income and Expenses (report date 4/19/2018)

Redacted – contact Coordinator for a full report

Assets Report

- All funds' unit values decreased slightly in the first quarter, a result of negative news and expected 2018 interest rate increases (Consolidated Fund (redacted))

- The Coordinator Payroll asset subaccount continues to have a sizeable surplus. The goal is to have a 6 month cushion (redacted) to be able to make payroll in case of a financial hardship. It is projected that the June 30 balance for this subaccount will be approximately redacted.
 - A one-time surplus refund totaling (redacted) will be divided and refunded to each Meeting. Refund amounts will be based on the Meeting's Coordinator covenant contributions in prior years.

Concord Quarterly Meeting Assets (report date 4/19/2018)
Figures Redacted – contact Coordinator for full report

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

Appendix 5: Report of the Concord Quarter Coordinator-- Lynne Piersol, Coordinator
What's Your Coordinator Been Doing Lately?

I find it hard to accept that I have been serving as your Coordinator for nearly 11 months already! I appreciate all the support you have shown as I learn how everything functions and how the events are planned. In addition, it has been exciting to support the Aging Concerns Working Group of the Quarter and their events.

The Concord Quarter Working Group on Aging Concerns meets monthly (and is open to anyone in the Quarter), and a piece of my role is to support the group. In March we offered a workshop on "Aging in Place" held at Goshen Meeting with George Schaefer, the Aging and Care Coordinator for PYM. It was well attended and well received. The Aging Concerns Facilitator training ran last weekend, and was very successful! I was excited to see the project come to fruition after a year's worth of planning that started even before I came on board. We are also working to develop support and structure after the training so that the volunteers continue to feel supported.

I also attend Philadelphia Yearly Meeting sessions and bring back my impressions. On March 24, PYM Continuing Sessions were held in Harrisburg, further west than usual, in hopes of attracting some who normally don't attend. There were no new attenders, but there were a number who appreciated having a much shorter travel time. We heard about the new process for how a minute of concern should come to the Yearly Meeting, a procedure which was missing from the new structure. We also heard about the rejuvenation of the Undoing Racism Group with new Clerks and a website and energy around this important work. And we heard from the Discernment Team and their examination of how the conflict in Upper Dublin Meeting became so serious, and what could be done to prevent a future situation like this. Their report is on the PYM website, along with all the other reports presented. Most moving to me was the group of Middle and High Schoolers who shared their messages with us and then attended the March for Our Lives in Harrisburg that day.

A recent meeting with other Quarterly Meeting Coordinators and the PYM Youth Programs staff was also helpful. This meeting had been delayed until Melinda Wenner Bradley, the new Youth Engagement Coordinator (and a West Chester Meeting member) was in place and all her facilitators were hired. It is always great to hear what is happening at PYM with youth programming, and with other Quarters. New communication lines always open up.

Event planning is also part of my role. We had a very successful Square Dance hosted by Willistown in February, and Tubing on the Brandywine is set for June 24 jointly planned by Western and Concord Quarter. Stay tuned for further details! Do you have an event or project you would like to see on a Quarter level? Let me know! And if you have a meeting event you would like me to publicize, let me know by the 15th (preferably) of any month.

Lynne Piersol

Concord Quarter Coordinator