

## Concord Quarterly Meeting at Wilmington Friends School, April 28, 2019

**Opening Worship:** The meeting opened with a period of unprogrammed worship at 9:00 am.

**Monthly Meeting Count:** All member meetings except Willistown and Goshen were represented. Twenty Friends were present as the meeting began.

The Assistant Clerk of the Quarter and today's presiding clerk, Deb Wood, introduced herself. She then asked those assembled if there was approval for Rich Ailes of Middletown Meeting to serve as temporary recording clerk for the session. Friends approved.

The clerk asked for approval of the session's agenda. Friends approved

Minutes from January 27, 2019 session at Goshen Meeting were approved.

**Joys and Challenges Report from Birmingham Monthly Meeting** The Joys and Challenges report was given by Birmingham member Connie Eash and accepted with appreciation. It is attached as Appendix 1 at the end of these minutes. After the report a description of the foods presented at the "What would Jesus Eat" event was presented.

**Nominating Committee Report** Lynne Piersol presented the NC report and recommended Martha Boston as recording clerk starting July 1, 2019 for a 3-year term (ending June 30, 2022). Friends Approved.

**Working Group on Aging Concerns Report** Serita Spadoni of Birmingham Meeting presented the report of Concord Quarterly Meeting Working Group on Aging Concerns (penned by Rich Ailes, Clerk). The report was accepted and is attached as Appendix 2 at the end of these minutes.

### **Treasurer's Report and Proposed Budget**

Charles Spadoni, Concord Quarterly Meeting treasurer and member of Birmingham Monthly Meeting, presented the Treasurer's report. The Quarter is financially solvent. He explained a slight reorganization of the Revenue and Expense section of the report that adds a category of Restricted Revenue/Expense.

The budget for 2019/2020 was presented and approved. The report was accepted and is attached to these minutes as Appendix 3 which includes the approved budget.

### **Coordinator's Report**

Lynne Piersol, Concord Quarterly Meeting coordinator, presented highlights from her written report. The report is attached to these minutes as Appendix 4 and is also posted on the Quarter's website. Lynne asked that any concerns about announcements that go out to our email list on a monthly basis should be shared with her via her Quarter email.

Serita Spadoni gave a brief report on the active involvement of Concord Quarter Friends in the activities of Delaware Valley Friends School.

**Welcome and Introduction of Newcomers** - John McKean of Wilmington Meeting, and Lauren Hastings of West Chester Meeting were welcomed to the Quarterly Meeting as first-time participants.

**Reading of Minutes for Approval** - The minutes were read by Rich Ailes and approved with minor corrections.

**Second Count of Meetings and Members in Attendance** Twenty Friends were present as the meeting concluded.

### **Announcements of Upcoming Events/Deadlines**

**Deb Wood, Clerk**

- \* First Fridays, May 3, June 7, 6:30pm Potluck and Worship at Goshen Meeting.
- \* May 4, 10-12:30, "The End is Dear," organized by the CQ Working Group on Aging Concerns at Goshen Meeting. Please register if staying for lunch; flyers available out at the sign in table.
- \* May 5, 1-3pm, CQ Planning Committee at Concord Meeting., All welcome
- \* May 6, 3-4:30pm, Concord Quarter/DVFS Care Committee at DVFS. All welcome
- \* May 18, 8:30 to 11 AM - Wilmington Friends School. Service Project to package 20,000 shelf-stable meal kits
- \* June 9, 12:30-4:30pm, Tubing on the Brandywine with Western Quarter! Save the date!
- \* June 17, 7:30-10pm. "Quakers Got Talent," at William Penn Charter School – First ever fundraiser for PYM programs featuring music, poetry slam, and a Broadway star, all with Quaker roots!

**Respectfully submitted:** Deb Wood (clerk) and Richard Ailes (recording)

## **Appendix 1: Joys and Challenges Report from Birmingham Monthly Meeting – Connie Eash**

We are grateful for our vibrant Meeting, our fellowship and the caring support we give to one another. Individually, we have been led to Birmingham Meeting, seeking community and a desire to find meaning and truth in our lives as Friends. Together we meet today's challenges, leading to the joy of working in a spiritual community.

Nominating Committee ensures that each Committee is filled with individuals whose gifts can fulfill required tasks. Term limits ensure that Friends rotate among committees and assignments in order to learn new skills and grow in the Meeting. We find both opportunity for service and joy in committee work. Often it is the committee work that forges the feeling of belonging and new friendships.

It is a joy to welcome newcomers and a challenge to find ways to support diverse individuals and families in learning whether Quakerism and Birmingham are the right fit for them. For several years, two members of the meeting have invited newcomers to a series of discussions called "Exploring Quakerism" to learn about fundamental components of our faith and practice and practical aspects of how our meeting works. The Friends Journal "QuakerSpeak" videos are used as a springboard for some of the discussions. Two of our new members, spoke of their experiences as newcomers in one of the QuakerSpeak videos produced in 2018.

A challenge our meeting has faced for a number of years has been finding a way to add an ADA-compliant restroom so we could be fully hospitable to everyone who uses our building. The obstacle was how to reconfigure our existing restrooms. Recently, a dedicated working group revealed a new plan for a "family and accessible restroom" in another location. There has been much enthusiasm for this plan, and it has been a joy for the community to move ahead with fundraising for a dream that we hope will soon become a reality.

After a very wet summer and fall, mildew grew on the wood in our meeting house. Our Property Committee met with indoor air quality experts, brought dehumidifiers and fans from home and organized members and attenders for deep cleaning of benches, woodwork and cushions. Running the heat at a constant temperature throughout the week helped dry out the space until lower humidity conditions arrived with the onset of winter. The committee continues to investigate what to do differently when extremely long, wet conditions occur in a warm season in the future. Birmingham is open to other meetings with similar experience sharing their wisdom with us.

One of our greatest joys is the children and youth in the meeting, but it is a challenge to provide meaningful, age-appropriate religious education experiences to a small number of young and older children. Putting on plays provides joyful interaction among all ages and abilities. You might have enjoyed one of Birmingham's young people's plays when they were presented as the quarterly meeting program in the past. Children enjoy swimming on summer Sunday mornings. Teens gather once a month as their own Youth Committee, where activities include planning service projects such as the Christmas Giving Tree to support Friends Association for Care and Protection of Children that serves families who are homeless in Chester County.

Youth recently joined adults in our Peace and Social Concerns Committee in raising funds to purchase landmine detectors. The First Day School curriculum has focused on the Bible this year, and a highlight for the children was to host a luncheon for the meeting on the theme of 'What Would Jesus Eat?'. The children and youth rejoin the adults at the rise of worship each Sunday to share what they worked on in class or committee, and, after announcements, they race out to grab refreshments and play until their parents call them to go home. It is a joy to see all ages having fun together!

We, as Friends, appreciate the quality of worship and the gifts arising from our connection to the divine and each other. Together, we face challenges and experience joy in community.

## **Appendix 2: Report of Concord Quarter Working Group on Aging Concerns-- Serita Spadoni**

Our group continues to meet regularly, almost every month. We have recently changed our meeting time and location. A late morning meeting was preferred by the members of the working group and this necessitated our moving to West Chester Meeting's worship room which is much appreciated. Anyone interested is welcome to attend out meetings and become part of the group. Meeting times are usually from 10:30 AM until 12 PM.

The group remains focused on developing our skills around the experience of aging, providing support to one another on various aging issues in our Meetings, and preparing workshops for the Quarter. Generally, our meetings begin with a round robin sharing of the aging concerns we have encountered in our meeting communities. The assistance we provide one another during these exchanges is often very rich and helpful to everyone.

An additional feature we've added is the scheduling of a knowledgeable resource person to present information that will help us sharpen our skills. At our first meeting, Pamela Leland, the current Executive Director of The Hickman, provided us with an overview of The Hickman's mission and services and how the Senior Living community aligns with other senior living facilities. It was very illuminating.

We have also organized our third workshop on an aging topic for the Quarter. Next Saturday, May 4, at Goshen Meeting,

Pat Myatt will speak about the experience of hospice, drawing on her 20 years plus service with Neighborhood Hospice in West Chester. Also included will be breakout sessions with Laurie Worth and Laurie Lewis, from our group, who are also experienced in hospice work. The presentation begins at 10 AM followed by a light lunch provided. We hope you will attend. Please let us know if you plan to stay for lunch.

Our group continues to be a strong presence for the concerns of aging in our Quarter drawing a core group of 8 to 10 participants at every planning 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 3: Treasurer's Report**

**Charles Spadoni, Treasurer**

**CONCORD QUARTERLY MEETING TREASURER'S REPORT  
Financial Statements for the Period Ending March 31, 2019  
and  
Proposed Budget for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2020**

Concord Quarterly Meeting's financial statements for the period ending March 31, 2019, are set forth below. Please note that the format of the revenue and expense financial statement has been changed:

- By moving TEF revenue from "Operating Revenue" to "Restricted Revenue;" and
- By moving "Coordinator Surplus Refund" from "Operating Expense" to "Restricted Expense."

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

**Revenue and Expense Prior Year Comparison**

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**Balance Sheet Prior Year Comparison**

- The asset "Checking Account 1 - Restricted-Pass Thru - TEF" was moved from "Current Assets" to "Restricted Assets."
- There are no liabilities.

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

**PROPOSED OPERATING BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2020**

- This year's proposed budget is the same as last year's.

Respectfully submitted, Charles B. Spadoni, Treasurer, April 28, 2019

#### **Appendix 4: Report of the Concord Quarter Coordinator - Lynne Piersol, Coordinator**

Communication is the work that takes most of my time. During the last three months I have continued to send out the monthly Announcements, along with answering email nearly daily. I also periodically send out more targeted information aimed at people interested in particular issues such as Peace and Social Concerns or Care and Counsel people in the Quarter, for example. I am happy, when requested, to promote (include in Announcements, post on our calendar) events happening at meetings and Quaker schools and organizations in the Quarter or sponsored by meetings in the Quarter. I also promote youth and family events sponsored by PYM, and sometimes one of a kind PYM events. As an administrator of our Facebook page, I was given approval to try “boosting” the this Quarterly Meeting information for a period of time to spread the word further. Many more people were reached than would be without the boosting. I write some for the quarterly newsletter, edited by Rich Ailes, and send it out electronically and by snail mail.

Events have included helping with the recent PYM Friends in Fellowship event at Birmingham Meeting. Working with Western Quarter and others to plan this Quarterly Meeting has been a bigger project than usual since it is not at a meeting, and involved advance preparation for the afternoon program, along with the many tasks to keep track of. I also attended three events sponsored by PYM: a day on welcoming new friends on February 9, a day on aging concerns on February 23, and Continuing Sessions on March 24. A report on Continuing Sessions is on our website while the notes from the other events were circulated to various people in the Quarter.

I also attended the first organizational meeting of the Delaware Valley Friends School/Concord Quarter Care Committee held on March 4, and took the minutes (now posted on our website). The group came up with a number of ideas of how to grow the relationship between the school and the Quarter. The next meeting is Monday afternoon, May 6 and is open to anyone interested in the Quarter.

I also support the Concord Quarter Working Group on Aging Concerns which usually meets monthly with note taking and logistical arrangements for meetings and programs, including our next program on May 4 on “The End is Dear”.

Visiting each meeting several times a year is also part of the job, so each month I plan to visit 2 or more meetings on Sunday mornings. I really enjoy connecting with those present and hearing what is on their hearts.

All in all, it has been a great experience working for the Quarter. And I very much appreciate all the support I get from you.

Submitted by Lynne Piersol Concord Quarter Coordinator

