

Concord Quarterly Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business
Held at Westtown Meeting
October 27th, 2013

Meeting began with a period of silent worship at 8:34 am.

Rich Ailes, clerk, welcomed everyone and thanked Westtown Meeting for hosting this session of the Quarterly Meeting. Twenty-four Friends were in attendance as the meeting opened, with all Monthly Meetings represented save for Willistown. Alan Wright (Westtown MM), Tom Rie (Gwynedd) and Tom Jackson (Dover, New Hampshire) were present at the Quarter Business Meeting for the first time.

The agenda was reviewed and approved.

New Recording Clerk Introduction: David Leonard (Birmingham) was welcomed as the Quarter's new Recording Clerk.

Minute of Appreciation:

Friends recorded their appreciation for the service of Averyl Hall, who has resigned as Coordinator for Concord Quarter.

“Averyl Hall has faithfully attended to our needs as our Quarterly Meeting Coordinator since late September 2012. Though it has been a short time, she has served the Meetings in the Quarter well, producing newsletters, organizing events, visiting all Meetings and working with Planning Committee in a very responsible manner. She has left to pursue deep leadings that understandably arise in a young Quaker's life. We minute our appreciation for the care she demonstrated in her work and wish the blessings of the Spirit for the new directions she is undertaking.”

Update on Coordinator Search (Rich Ailes): The Search Committee consists of Rich Ailes, Gwynne Ormsby (Birmingham), Thomas Woodward (Goshen) and Ray Hamilton (Concord). So far we have received no applicants for the position and will advertise it more widely. Flyers for the position were distributed and a job description is posted on the Quarterly Meeting web site.

Treasurer's Report and Kindler's Conference Expense Reports

The reports were made available to those present and are appended as Attachments 2 and 3.

Report on Kindler's Visioning Trip (Todd Krasnai):

Brigitte Burger (Concord Meeting), Todd Krasnai (West Chester Meeting), and Zachary Dutton (Wilmington Meeting) attended the Kindlers workshop on 'Visioning New Fire' at Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre in Birmingham, England from October 11 to 13. This was a weekend conference working for Quaker renewal.

Their report has been posted on the Concord Quarter website and also is appended to these minutes as Attachment 1.

Our participants left the conference with several ideas for our Quarter and Yearly Meeting that we will discuss further in the future.

We are grateful to the three for their trip and their report, both of which are a testament to the power of the Spirit. Their attendance at the conference was supported by the Quarterly Meeting, which has so far has raised from monthly meetings \$3100 of the \$5,178 the trip cost. A statement of the associated income and expenses was prepared by our Rich Ailes and is appended to these minutes as Attachment 3. The trip cost more than has been raised and the balance was advanced personally by individual Friends. The Yearly Meeting's Pemberton Fund has been approached for the balance of the funds. The meeting approved our having sent three Friends to the conference and reimbursement of the individual advances that were made to support them. It also makes a contribution from its own funds of \$300, and officially minuted its support for the request to the Pemberton Fund.

Treasurer's Report (Bruce James, Westtown): The report was received and is appended to these minutes as Attachments 2. Note was made of the payments that will be made for our Coordinator.

PYM Nominating Committee (Ed Dunlop, West Chester): It is important to include younger people on the Nominating Committee. Thus Ed is willing to stand aside from his position on the Committee if necessary to make room for someone younger. The meeting asked the Quarter's Nominating Committee to find such a younger person.

Meeting Reports from Middletown and Westtown:

Reports were heard with appreciation from Middletown (Thomas Swain) and Westtown (Peter Lane) Monthly Meetings (see Attachments 4 and 5).

Update on Upcoming Workshop with Deborah Fisch (Gwynne Ormsby, Birmingham): As approved earlier, Deborah Fisch, Associate Secretary for Ministries for Friends General Conference, will be the presenter at a morning workshop on Quaker business practices to be hosted by Concord Quarter on March 22, 2014 at Concord Meeting.

Concord Quarter as Secondary Stewardship Contact for a fund to support a 'Chair of Faith and Practice' at Westtown School (Tom Rie, Gwynedd),

A group of Westtown School alumni formed at their class reunion in May has established a restricted endowment fund to be administered by, and for the benefit of, the School. The school needs to have someone to act as "stewards" of the fund, in case changes are required by circumstances in the future. The stewards receive reports annually. Westtown Monthly Meeting is expected to agree to be the "Primary Stewardship Contact". The group asks that the Quarter agree to be named as "Secondary Stewardship Contact," something which would only be needed if Westtown Meeting was unable or unwilling to go forward in its role.

The fund's purpose is to support a "Chair of Faith and Practice" at Westtown to coordinate, facilitate, and generally encourage things Quaker at Westtown. The group has sought permission to name the chair in memory of Thomas Shipley Brown. His family was pleased to allow this.

The Quarter is interested in pursuing this proposal and asks that the Planning Committee study the associated documents, seek legal counsel and report back to the next Quarterly Meeting with a recommendation.

New Quarter Domain Name (Rich Ailes):

The web address for Concord Quarterly Meeting is now www.concordquarter.org.

List Serve (Rich Ailes)

In the July Quarterly Meeting a discussion of setting up a list serve to improve email communications was begun. As time was short the item was carried forward again until the next Quarterly Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Rich Ailes, Clerk

David Leonard, Recording Clerk

Attachment 1.

The Kindlers: Visioning New Fire Weekend conference 10/11-10/13 2013

Report from Participants Sent on Behalf of Concord Quarterly Meeting: Brigitte Burger (Concord Meeting), Todd Krasnai (West Chester Meeting), and Zachary Dutton (Wilmington Meeting)

From Friday October 11 to October 13 2013, 91 Friends from three continents gathered for a conference at Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre, Birmingham, England titled "Visioning New Fire." The conference was led by the Kindlers, a project of N.W. London Area Meeting of Britain Yearly Meeting. Three Friends from Concord Quarterly Meeting were nominated to attend the conference, Brigitte Burger, Zachary Dutton, and Todd Krasnai.

The Kindlers were created by a small group of Friends seeking to rekindle the power of Quaker worship by renewing and deepening our spiritual practices. Many of the Friends who founded the Kindlers were also founders and organizers of Quaker Quest. This group of Friends discerned to cease their "whinging" and seek concrete solutions to renew and deepen Quakerism now. Everyone attending the conference was sent four queries to contemplate before the conference commenced. These queries were:

What is needed to deepen the worshiping life of our meetings?

How do we nourish our own spiritual lives more fruitfully?

Are the times now urging us to look again at the roles of traveling Friends, elders, teachers and spiritual enablers?

Is there a way for us to come to terms with contemporary religious insights and to share these more widely though out our Society?

Attendees of the conference were treated to talks by five different speakers, who spoke to the themes of "Where we are now", "Visioning where we could go" and "Visioning how the Society can move forward given our current resources".

Geoffrey Durham, one of the founders of the Kindlers, identified a shift in thinking as a result of a collective spiritual hunch. He spoke of the importance of outreach and how it can lead to in-reach. He also commented that mistakes made through experimentation are a vital source of growth for our spiritual enrichment.

Paul Parker, Recording Clerk of Britain Yearly Meeting, reminded us that we cannot continue as a church of retired middle class people run by retired middle class people; we need to cultivate an inclusive religious community across class, race and age boundaries. He challenged us to discern and articulate not only our own ministry, but also that of our wider Quaker communities.

Richard Summers, General Secretary of Quaker Life at Britain Yearly Meeting, asserted

that for Quakerism to flourish we need to become wholly ourselves and share from the depths of our beings with each other. We need leadership that empowers, facilitates and encourages rather than instructs.

Helen Rowlands, Head of Education at Woodbrooke, shared with us the vision and the study schedule of Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre.

Simon Best, Woodbrooke tutor Nurturing Friends and Meetings, said that we are all ministers fulfilling ministry and not just filling jobs. He suggested that present structures be reevaluated to meet the needs of our current fellowship.

A series of workshops were held dealing with the Fruits of the Spirit and Experimenting with Light. Following these workshops Friends participated in a “Lucky Dip” that divided everyone into threshing groups. These threshing groups were the crux of the conference. Each group observed a formal business practice with a clerk and supporting elders. In these groups Friends firstly threshed ways in which Quaker renewal might happen and the forms it might take. Secondly, each group discerned a minute of their vision for a new fire within Quakerism.

At the conclusion of the conference, the writers of this report wondered why there are no groups similar to the Kindlers in the United States. This conference energized and excited us, and we have a sincere hope that something like this can be implemented and light a fire within the American Quaker community.

The three of us who participated are very grateful that Concord Quarter enabled us to attend the conference and bring home fresh ideas and inspiration. We are also grateful for the British Friends for welcoming us so warmly into their community.

Respectfully submitted:

Brigitte Burger, Zachary Dutton, and Todd Krasnai

Attachment 2.

CONCORD QUARTERLY MEETING TREASURER'S REPORT (ABBREVIATED)

October 26, 2013

ABBREVIATED REPORT

The Treasurer's report for October 2013 is abbreviated due to the arrival of twins in the James household. Rachael and Hannah James were born October 21, 2013. Bruce, Lauren and Rebekah welcome the blessings of life. We are reminded of the stewardship of our world for our children's benefit.

KINDLERS WORKSHOP FINANCIALS

To date, CQM has received the following amounts in support of the young Friends who visited England for the Kindlers Workshop:

Date	From	Amount
9/13/13	Concord MM	\$1,000
9/27/13	West Chester MM	\$1,000
(Deposit Pending)	Wilmington MM	\$ 500
(Deposit Pending)	Individual Contribution 1	\$ 100
(Deposit Pending)	Individual Contribution 2	\$ 100
(Check Expected)	Int'l Outreach	\$ 400
Total:		\$3,100

Other contributions should be forwarded to the treasurer (address below) as soon as possible.

To date the CQM Treasurer has been notified of the following expenses:

Date	Payee	Description	Amount
9/13/13	Dunlop	Trip Insurance	\$ 265.00
9/30/13	Dunlop	Woodbrook Center	\$1,478.59
9/27/13	Ailes	British Airways Airfare	\$2,995.00
	Swain	London Transport	\$ 440.00
Total:			\$5,178.59

Other expenses should be sent to the Treasurer and Rich Ailes as soon as possible. The Quarterly Meeting has sufficient cash flow from reserves and unused coordinator funds to support the expenses of this project, pending arrival of additional monies from Pemberton and/or others. The project deficit is currently about \$2,075.

COORDINATOR DEPARTURE

Averyl Hall has completed her final day of regular pay. We will continue the business relationship with AccuPay as we need them to file the annual Tax reports, and we anticipate having another coordinator join as an employee. AccuPay has changed our status from repeating amounts to a call-in system. On the Tuesday after each of 2 weeks of work, any hours worked by Averyl will be called in to AccuPay for inclusion in payroll the subsequent Friday. If no hours are worked, no payroll is issued. No costs are incurred by the Quarterly Meeting for weeks without payroll.

Treasurers of monthly meetings are reminded to forward all financial correspondence to:
Concord Quarterly Meeting, c/o Bruce James, PO Box 263, Westtown, PA 19395 OR
Bruce@BruceSoft.net

Attachment 3.

Expense/Income Concord QM Kindlers Visioning Trip
Wednesday night 10/9 to Monday 10/14
 (note: costs assume 1£ = \$1.62)

expense	price	notes	reimbursement needed
air fare PHL x 3	\$2,995.00	Philadelphia <-> London Heathrow (Tickets have been purchased by Rich Ailes)	\$2,995.00
trip cancel Insurance x 3	\$ 265.00	(Insurance has been purchased for all 3 participants by Ed Dunlop)	\$ 265.00
Cab transport London/Birmingham x 2	\$ 440.00	cab transport to/from Birmingham (paid by Thomas Swain)	\$ 440.00
transport Philadelphia airport x 2	\$ 0.00	assuming participants will find no cost transport to airport	\$ 0.00
Kindler's Conference fee x 3	\$ 970.33	includes room/board for Friday and Saturday night (paid by Ed Dunlop)	\$ 970.33
Woodbrooke Thursday stayover x 3	\$ 332.00	additional evening stay before conference (paid by Ed Dunlop)	\$ 332.00
Woodbrooke Sunday stayover x 3	\$ 161.62	additional evening stay after conference (paid by Ed Dunlop)	\$ 161.62
Misc Expense x 3	\$ 14.64	currency transaction fee expenses (paid by Ed Dunlop)	\$ 14.64
Post Conference Planning	\$ 0.00	funds to begin implementation of Quarterly Meeting based conference	\$ 0.00
Total Expenses	\$5,178.59		\$5,178.59
Contributed Income			
Concord MM	\$1,000.00	sent to Concord QM account	
West Chester MM	\$1,000.00	sent to Concord QM account	
Wilmington MM	\$ 500.00	sent to Concord QM account	
Concord QM	\$ 0.00	Concord QM contribution TBD	
Individuals	\$ 200.00	sent to Concord QM account	
International Outreach	\$ 400.00	coming to Todd Krasnai then to Concord QM	
Total Income	\$3,100.00		
Total need	\$2,078.59		
Total Transport Cost	\$3,700.00		
	\$ 692.86	Requested funding from Pemberton per participant	

Travelers:

Brigitte Burger - Concord
 Zachary Dutton - Wilmington
 Todd Krasnai - West Chester

Concord QM Kindler's Trip Support Committee:

Rich Ailes - - Middletown
 Ed Dunlop - West Chester
 Thomas Swain - Middletown
 Elizabeth Varley - Concord

Attachment 4.

Report of Middletown Monthly Meeting Concord Quarterly Meeting, October 2013

Middletown Friends have had an interesting year exploring where we are and where we are led. We are meeting for Worship on a regular basis with about five members and three others – one of who is a member from another Meeting. Middletown Friends continue to meet in worship. We have these comments to share with Friends about our liveliness and faithfulness of God's abiding love in covering us. We are sometimes surprised that we have an occasional visitor who seems to be a seeker. We ask them to sign our visitor's book and hope they might return.

We have been able to hold Meeting for Business on a regular basis with temporary clerking from a member. We do not have functioning committees and conduct our business as a committee of the whole. We are able to manage our building and burial grounds on an as needs basis. We have an active men's group that meets twice a month on Monday evenings. A Friend from Chester Meeting has joined us.

We have offered several workshops. One was at annual sessions at Muhlenberg College and another was at the beginning of October with a visiting Friend from Great Britain. The workshop was called, "Conversations with Jesus." This focused on the relationships Jesus had with several people found in the Gospel of John. We also encouraged Pendle hill to sponsor an evening with an Irish Friend (Charles Lamb) who was traveling in the ministry. We are encouraged to continue to lift up the importance of a relationship with Christ. We see ourselves offering this in service to the wider body of Friends in the Philadelphia area.

We started an experiment with semi-programmed Meeting for Worship once a month on the last Sunday of the month. We ask a member to come prepared with a "Leading Message" which is shared in the waiting worship. This has lifted our encouragement to see ourselves as continuing as a regular Monthly Meeting.

Attachment 5.

Westtown Monthly Meeting Report for Concord QM, October 2013

- We are blessed to worship and hold all of our meetings in Westtown School's Meeting House. And to share the social room with Oak Lane Day Care which also uses that building during the week.
 - It's also a blessing to share Hymn Sings, Worship, and social time afterward with the students of the school who are here on a given Sunday.
 - Our current First Day School enrollment is small, mostly caring for pre-teen youngsters who are members of our families. The teaching is being done by the wonderful parents of those kids.
 - Our Wednesday suppers at the Lake were really great this summer. I think we weren't rained out once; that's a record. This program brings quite a number of families who are not necessarily part of the Monthly Meeting but are in the school community.
 - We enjoy pot-luck meals at the Meeting House about once a month during the non-summer seasons. This is becoming a regular program for us again. These often have a theme around them such as identifying priorities for FCNL when they need suggestions. The theme for the program today came from such a gathering.
 - Plans for our annual Christmas season plant sale are under way.
 - Our committee structure continues to serve us.
 - - The Committee on Worship and Ministry is forming a relationship with the school's Religious Life Committee so that when students join us on Sundays, it doesn't feel too different from what they experience in their mid-week Meetings.
 - - Pastoral Care and Concerns Committee carries on with the nuts and bolts projects. One item is the publication of an updated directory, "Westtown Monthly Meeting's Directory 2013". It's also available on line.
- A wedding is coming up in November and one was just held early in this month under our care. "All the legal requirements were met."
- Our relationship with the school paid off as much needed maintenance was done: windows and trim in the main room were scraped and painted and a new carpet was installed. We are grateful for these improvements.
- Members of this committee arranged off-site Meetings for Worship at two of the nearby retirement communities where some of our older members now live.
- - Peace and Social Justice Committee is largely responsible for the program today. This is just one example of the activities they engage us in so that we will appreciate our own good fortune and help others who need help.
 - - Our Finances seem to be under good control thanks to an effective Finance Committee and a careful Treasurer.
- We feel strongly connected to the Quarter and to the Yearly Meeting via representatives in Planning Committee, Nominating Committees and Interim Meeting.
 - We do need to work on our nominating process for filling leadership positions.
 - Our First Day School program needs our support.