

Concord Quarterly Meeting via Zoom

April 24, 2022 – Birmingham

Minutes

Opening Worship

The Clerk welcomed attendees to the meeting and began the meeting at 8:30 AM with a period of silent worship.

Welcome to Newcomers

Debbie Murray-Sheppard (Clerk)

Debbie extended a welcome to newcomer Marcia Hepps from Westtown Meeting.

Monthly Meeting Count (Birmingham, Concord, Goshen, Middletown, West Chester, Westtown, Willistown, Wilmington)

Debbie Murray-Sheppard

Thirty-four friends were present as the meeting began. All the Meetings of the Quarter were represented except Concord Meeting and Middletown Meeting.

Approval of Agenda

Debbie Murray-Sheppard

Friends approved the agenda with one modification. The report from Delaware Valley Friends School is from the school not the Care Committee.

Approval of Minutes from January 23, 2022

Debbie Murray-Sheppard

The minutes from January meeting were approved as written. Debbie thanked Marty Boston for doing the minutes.

Joys and Challenges Report from West Chester Monthly Meeting (attached) Chris Smith

Chris Smith read the Joys and Challenges Report from West Chester Monthly Meeting. The Clerk asked Friends present to hold West Chester Friends in the Light.

Treasurer's Report (attached)

Charles Spadoni

Charles Spadoni reviewed the Treasurer's report. The check from the Shoemaker grant that had not been received when the document was written was delivered last week. Friends approved the same budget for 2022 as last year with the condition that if there are unanticipated increased expenses, the budget could be revisited at that time.

Nominating Committee Report

Julie Senko

Julie Senko presented the report. The Quarter approved an extension of current clerk, Debbie Murray-Sheppard, for an additional year and that of assistant clerk, Chris McKenney, for an additional year. Debbie talked about how having a strong Quarter can be of benefit to monthly meetings and she encouraged Friends to be involved with the work of the Quarter.

Working Group on Aging Concerns (attached)

Evelyn Brownlee

Evelyn Brownlee gave a report from the Working Group on Aging. The program about nutrition called “Age Proof Your Brain” has been shared on the Quarter’s website. Evelyn invited people to join the group that meets monthly on the first Wednesday of the month.

Climate Action Working Group (attached)

Paula Kline & Bill Laky

Paula Kline gave a report on the Climate Action Working Group. The focus of the Working Group is to help Friends’ institutions to develop environmental disaster preparedness plans and to reduce their carbon footprints. The Working Group would like to expand to all local Friend’s meetings, retirement centers, and schools. The Working Group meets on the third Tuesday of the month, with the next meeting on May 17th. The Quarter’s most recent newsletter included an article about the goals of the Working Group. The Working Group shared a video about the climate disaster at the Brandywine River Museum that Friends found to be informative. Bill Laky gave a summary of survey results from the groups that have responded to date. The Group is hoping to communicate with all the Property Committees of meetings in the Quarter. The July program will be

Delaware Valley Friends School (attached)

Gray Goodman

Gray Goodman gave a report for the Delaware Valley Friends School. The school has 323 students who have learning differences, an all-time high. The school is in the second year developing a strategic plan. Masking for COVID is now optional for students and staff. The Care Committee has not been able to join students for meeting for worship due to the pandemic but are hoping that these meetings may resume next school year.

Susan Brodesser from the Delaware Valley Friends School Care Committee invited everyone from the Quarter to attend the Care Committee Meetings which are held in September, January, and May.

Westtown School wrote a grant to provide training on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and invited Delaware Valley Friends School to take part in the training. Melinda Werner Bradly asked that the Quarter might try to have some communication between Friends who serve on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committees. It was suggested that the Quarter consider the relationship between schools and meetings in the future and specifically include DEI work.

Friends accepted the report from Delaware Valley Friends School.

Coordinator’s Report (attached)

Bianca Santini-Dumas

Bianca Santini-Dumas gave the Coordinator’s Report. She asked that people go on the Facebook page to follow the page and to “like” posts. She is trying to expand the Facebook by adding articles, announcements, and links.

Sharing Across the Quarter:

This topic had to be postponed due to time limitations.

Reading of Minutes for Approval

Marty Boston (Recording Clerk)

Marty read the minutes for the items that Friends approved today. They are bolded and underlined above.

Second Count of Meetings in Attendance

Marty Boston (Recording Clerk)

Thirty-four people were present at the second count of the Meeting. All Meetings were represented except Middletown and Concord.

Quarterly Meeting YouTube Channel

This topic had to be postponed due to time limitations. The topic will be taken up at the Quarter's Planning Committee. Everyone in the Quarter is invited the Planning Committee, May 1 at 2 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Martha Boston, Recording Clerk

Announcements of Upcoming Events

(all also on the CQ website calendar <http://concordquarter.org/quartercalendar/>)

Calendar of Events:

April 30 To May 1

Spring Family Overnight 2022: Overnight at Camp Dark Waters in Medford, NJ

<https://www.pym.org/event/spring-family-overnight-2022-2/>

May 1 2:00 pm

Concord Quarter Planning Committee via Zoom. Open to all interested in the activities and workings of Concord Quarter. Contact the Coordinator with questions and for the Zoom link at concordquarter@pym.org

May 4 10:30 am

Concord Quarter Working Group on Aging Concerns: Open to anyone interested in aging concerns. For more info and to register email: concordquarter@pym.org

May 7 10:00 am-12:00 pm

Gathering Virtually - A Special Workshop by PYM. Best Practices for Gathering Virtually for more information visit: <https://www.pym.org/event/gathering-virtually/>

May 17 7:00 pm-8:00 pm

CQ Working Group on Climate Action

For more info visit: <https://concordquarter.org/climate-action>

Many other programs for children, youth, and young adults on the PYM calendar:

<https://www.pym.org/calendar/>

Unless otherwise noted, contact the Coordinator for the Zoom links (concordquarter@pym.org)

REPORTS

West Chester Meeting Report to Concord Quarterly Meeting Virtual Session 4/24/2022

West Chester has continued our journey through the pandemic with care for one another and our community. It is a joy to note that the Open Doors Project was completed this year. Providing greater access to our worship and social room spaces, and a beautifully renewed porch, this has been a joy for our meeting both because of the completion of a well-stewarded project, and the careful attention to accessibility it demonstrates. All three PYM priorities – anti-racism, climate justice, and membership/belonging – have touched our meeting in some way in the last year.

We gather for worship, and meeting for worship with attention to business, as a hybrid body with some on Zoom and others in the meetinghouse. It is a joy that those living at a distance or otherwise unable to attend in the meetinghouse continue to be part of our community. We have been blessed both to have a clerk, Todd Krasnai, and others who are keeping track of Covid safety and know how to make this technology “work for us” as a meeting community. In the recent intergenerational discussions that prepared our Spiritual State of the Meeting report, we heard questions about how hybrid worship and returning to the meetinghouse have impacted vocal ministry and our sense of communal worship. These are questions we will continue to hold and explore together under the care of the Worship and Spiritual Growth Committee.

It was a joy to use the renovated “side porch” for three intergenerational gatherings in fall 2021, which were a re-imagining of Friendly Gatherings we hoped to do in small groups but shifted after recognizing the exhaustion and need for simple fellowship that Friends were feeling. We also used the porches for our Children’s Meeting and Young People’s Group programs throughout the fall. We have been blessed this year to welcome a Quaker and first-year WCU student, Joe Schiffer, to join us as the childcare/Children’s Meeting assistant, and his participation is both a joy and reminds us of the possibilities for outreach to the University community. Our Youth RE Committee has been creative and collaborative as they met first outdoors and then created a space for the YRE program in the social room when the WCFS class who was using the space returned to the school’s classroom building. We are looking forward to “rethinking” our social room space and how it can serve the meeting’s needs.

It is a joy to share that in the last year, we have welcomed three new members and several attenders. It is also a challenge that two families with children have not returned this year and one member transferred their membership; we released them with both love and sadness. Our relationships on “Quaker Block” in the borough of West Chester continue to be important to us. The meeting’s care relationship with West Chester Friends School includes close collaboration with the school on issues of property and finance thanks to the faithful service of the Stewardship Committee. Six members of our meeting serve on the WCFS Board of Trustees, and school families receive information from the weekly email about programs for children and youth sent out by our Youth Religious Education Committee. We were delighted to invite the WCFS and Hickman communities to a recent fellowship event and hope to resume more Quaker Block activities as the pandemic wanes.

More broadly, we seek to be a presence for justice and peace in the Borough of West Chester and continue to explore how to strengthen our meeting’s witness. The meeting is a faithful supporter of the West Chester Food Cupboard, through service shepherded by both the Witness and Outreach Committee and Youth RE. Recently, the Anti-racism Action Group of the meeting has come into the care of the Witness and Outreach Committee, and there is hope to deepen our witness in this area. In the last year, the ARAG brought forward several important ways to witness anti-racism work for us as individuals, families, and a meeting community. These included encouraging support for local Black-owned businesses, support for the Ujima Peace Center, and hosting the “Troubled Waters” concert celebrating Black composers as part of CQM in April 2021. We know there is more work to do and have wrestled recently with how to deepen our witness to racial justice. Our witness in the Quarter has included support for a Uganda asylee.

Additional challenges we see for our community are places where we have “growing edges.” In the process of creating our Spiritual State of the Meeting report for PYM we identified a hope to be more visible and connected in the West Chester community. (In December, the meetinghouse was part of a holiday tour hosted by the WC Library, and we hope for more opportunities to open our doors to WC area organizations using our space.) We know there is more to do to care for our Earth in crisis and are led by the Witness and Outreach Committee in finding projects in our small corner that do our part.

A great joy in the last year has been the times when we have been “all together.” Whether for threshing of the Spiritual State of the Meeting report, Community Worship, or times of fellowship, we are whole when all ages are together. We hope to continue to grow as a meeting community and be a welcoming place for all.

Todd Krasnai, Chris Smith, Melinda Wenner-Bradley
West Chester Friends Meeting

TREASURER'S REPORT to Concord Quarterly Meeting Virtual Session 4/24/2022

**CONCORD QUARTERLY MEETING TREASURER'S REPORT THROUGH THE THIRD QUARTER OF THE
FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2022**

**Un-reviewed Financial Statements through the Third Quarter of the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2022
(Except As May Be Noted Below, Reported On A Cash Basis)**

- One constituent monthly meeting fulfilled its financial covenants for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021, in the first quarter of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022.
- In September 2021, the amount of \$10,795 in the Tuition Operating Fund was distributed to three Quaker Schools (Westtown, West Chester Friends and Wilmington Friends) in the form of grants for the benefit of 17 students. Each grant was for \$635.
- Philadelphia Yearly Meeting did not fulfill its obligation to deliver to Concord Quarterly Meeting the \$1,000 grant for computer equipment it had promised to deliver to the Treasurer prior to March 31, 2022.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

INCOME STATEMENT

**Through The Third Quarter Ending March 31, 2022
Revenues and Expenses Versus Prior Year's Revenues and Expenses Through the Third Quarter
(numbers are redacted, contact the Coordinator for a full report)**

BALANCE SHEET

**March 31, 2022 Balance Sheet Versus Prior Year's March 31 Balance Sheet
(numbers are redacted, contact the Coordinator for a full report)**

- There are no liabilities.

Note: Individual constituent monthly meeting March 31, 2022, Growth & Income Fund balances are available upon request.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles B. Spadoni, Treasurer April 24, 2022

Concord Quarterly Meeting Proposed Budget

Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2023

(Based on Aggregate Budgeted Monthly Meetings' Covenants)

- The proposed operating budget set forth below is the same as the one the Treasurer proposed for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022.

(numbers are redacted, contact the Coordinator for a full report)

Respectfully submitted, Charles B. Spadoni, Treasurer April 24, 2022

Nominating Committee Report to Concord Quarterly Meeting Virtual Session 4/24/2022

If you or someone you know would be interested in a leadership role please do not hesitate to contact Deb Wood, Clerk (gdeb406@gmail.com) or Bianca Santini-Dumas, Coordinator (concordquarter@pym.org). Debbie Murray-Sheppard has agreed to serve the Quarter as clerk for an additional year and that of Chris McKenney has agreed to serve as assistant clerk for an additional year.

Concord Quarter Working Group on Aging Concerns Report to Concord Quarterly Meeting Virtual Session 4/24/2022

The Concord Quarter Working Group on Aging continues to meet on the first Wednesday of the month. Meetings are continuing on Zoom

Members of the Working Group are writing testimonials to be posted on the website about why we joined and continue to be a part of this group.

We recently hosted Elizabeth Kautz, a registered dietitian at Kendal-Crosslands, who gave a presentation called "Age Proof Your Brain" about eating well in all stages of life. This was recorded and will be made available on the website.

We hope to sponsor in-person workshops again when people are comfortable gathering. We have done some by Zoom. We continue to look for a time for the workshops that will accommodate busy schedules.

For more information, you can contact Bianca Santini-Dumas at concordquarter@pym.org or the clerk, Evelyn Brownlee: evelynbrownlee@gmail.com or visit <http://concordquarter.org/aging-concerns>

Concord Quarter Climate Action Working Group Report to Concord Quarterly Meeting Virtual Session 4/24/2022

For more information, you can contact Bianca Santini-Dumas at concordquarter@pym.org or visit <http://concordquarter.org/climate-action>

Coordinator Report to Concord Quarterly Meeting Virtual Session 4/24/2022

I continue to attend Meeting for Worship and Business of the Quarter's Monthly Meetings. I continue to support the Working Groups. I continue to support individual requests.

I updated the website calendar to reflect our current events incorporating Philadelphia Yearly Meeting's calendar as well.

I have attended PYM Threshing Sessions, Clerking Skills Workshops, and Continuing Sessions.

I received the Laptop and Printer provided by the Technology Grant. On May 7th I will present the Quarter's Story regarding the Grant.

Facebook Report:

Content:

Reach has increased 296.2 %

Visits are up 18.4 %

Likes are down 46.2 %

Demographics:

Women 58.9 %

Men 41.1 %

18-24 .5%

25-34 .5%

35-44 13%

45-54 18%

55-64 20%

65+ 50%

Original content such as flyers, photos and graphics perform well with our audience. Continuing to like, share and comment on our content increases visibility.

What are our goals for this coming quarter?

I will Demonstrate How to "follow" our Facebook page.

April 24, 2022 Bianca Santini-Dumas concordquarter@pym.org