

**Concord Quarterly Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business at West Chester
April 30, 2023**

Minutes

Opening Worship

The Clerk opened the Meeting with silent worship.

Welcome to Newcomers

Debbie Murray-Sheppard (Clerk)

Debbie asked newcomers to Quarterly Meeting to introduce themselves. Andy Coe from Westtown Meeting, Johana Halmaith from West Chester Meeting, and Paul Kaniefski from Birmingham Meeting introduced themselves and were welcomed by Friends.

Monthly Meeting Count

Debbie Murray-Sheppard

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

Twenty people were present at the beginning of the meeting. All Meetings from the Quarter were represented except Concord and Goshen.

Approval of Agenda

Debbie Murray-Sheppard

Friends approved the agenda as written but noted that Gary Johnson who was to give a report for the Climate Action Working Group was not in attendance.

Approval of Minutes from January 22, 2023,

Debbie Murray-Sheppard

The minutes were approved as written with the correction of one typo that Rich Ailes volunteered to update on the Quarter's website.

Joys and Challenges Report from Birmingham Meeting (attached) Charles Spadoni

Charlie Spadoni, Clerk of Birmingham Meeting, presented the joys and challenges report from the Meeting.

A question was asked about changing the name of the Religious Education Committee to the Children and Youth Program. The change in name was made to more accurately reflect the current practices. The Children and Youth Program oversees programming for children and youth and the Worship and Ministry Committee oversees adult religious education programs.

Some questions were asked about how Birmingham updated their website. Friends General Conference is no longer hosting the Quaker Cloud but is providing support for meetings to update their websites. Rich Ailes would like to put an article in the Quarter's Newsletter about how Birmingham updated its website that may be of help to other meetings in the Quarter. Charlie suggested that Rich contact Celia Lang about the new website.

Nominating Committee report

Rich Ailes

Charles Spadoni has agreed to serve as the Quarter's Treasurer for the period beginning July 1, 2023, and ending on July 31, 2024. Friends approved having each subsequent Treasurer's term begins on August 1 and end on July 31 to accommodate accounting needs. Friends approved with gratitude having Charlie Spadoni serve as Treasurer for another year.

Friends approved with gratitude having Debbie Murray-Sheppard serve another year as Clerk of the Quarter.

The Nominating committee continues to search for a new clerk and recording clerk and currently has queries out for both offices. The committee is examining the demographic character of each of our 8 meetings.

Friends expressed appreciation to Marty Boston for serving as Recording Clerk for the past three years and to Chris McKenney for serving an additional year past his term as Assistant Clerk of the

Quarter.

Climate Action WG Report & Epistle (attached) Gary Johnson

Gary Johnson was not available to give the report today. Debbie Murray-Sheppard explained that The Climate Action Working Group is asking for approval for a letter of support for the Eco-Justice Epistle to go to PYM in July. Debbie is going to send the Eco-Justice Epistle to each of the meetings in the Quarter to review the epistle and approve it before sending the letter of support to PYM.

Report on Possible Welcome Corps Refugee Program Susan Brodesser

Susan Brodesser gave a report on the Possible Welcome Corps Refugee Program. Susan reviewed the past support the group gave to the Isaac family. The Refugee Program was laid down after the Isaac family moved to another city. Later some people in the group came together to support another refugee.

President Biden and the federal government recently initiated a new program to have private citizens help support refugees. Susan said various members from the West Chester community have volunteered to help with refugee settlement. Susan has been seeking support from the community before committing to sponsorship of another refugee family. The Clerk asked if Susan could write up a brief announcement to be disseminated in the Quarter for what the group needs.

Working Group on Aging Concerns (attached) Evelyn Brownlee

Evelyn Brownlee gave a report from the Working Group on Aging Concerns. The group recently sponsored two workshops. Evelyn's term as clerk is ending at the end of June. The group is seeking a new clerk.

Coordinator Resignation and New Coordinator Strategy Debbie Murray-Sheppard

Bianca Santini-Dumas, Concord Quarter Coordinator, resigned from the position in early March to pursue other opportunities. Debbie thanked Rich Ailes for filling in for the coordinator this past month. Friends approved having the Quarter move forward to fill the coordinator's position as soon as possible. The search committee is composed of Debbie Murray-Sheppard, Christopher McKenney, Rich Ailes, Charles Spadoni, and Pat Daly.

Newsletter Articles Rich Ailes

Rich Ailes, Concord Quarter Newsletter Editor, asked the group for ideas for articles for the next newsletter. One article will advertise the program for the next Quarterly Meeting. A second article could be about Birmingham Meeting's experience developing a new website. The Historical Library at Swarthmore could be asked for an article about graveyard records. Matt Bradley will contribute a story about expanding the science lab at West Chester Friends School. Rich will look into an article about the Concord Quarter "See for Yourself Tour" to be held Saturday June 17th sponsored by the Climate Action Working Group. The three tour sites will include Birmingham Meeting's bee project, Barclay Friends' gardens, and Kendal-Crossland's gardens.

Treasurer's Reports (attached) Charles Spadoni

Charles Spadoni gave the Treasurer's Report. The following issues were covered:

Adoption of Total Return Practice

In accordance with the requirements of 15 Pa. Con. Stat 5548 (c), the Meeting has an investment practice that seeks a total return for its assets and the assets it holds in trust, and the Meeting has committed to follow such a practice. Friends approved following this practice.

Concord Quarterly Meeting Friendly Audit

Paul Kaniefski gave a report on the audit. Tom Gilbert (from Willistown Monthly Meeting) and Paul Kaniefski (from Birmingham Monthly Meeting) completed a "Friendly Audit" of Concord Quarter's financial statements for the three annual periods ending June 30, 2020, June 30, 2021, and June 30, 2022. Several disparities were identified, which do not materially alter the financial results of, nor

assets held by, Concord Quarter. (Full details are outlined in the Reports).

Paul and Tom reviewed the Quarter's information backup and financial institution access. The auditors found these processes to be appropriate. In particular, the QuickBooks file is backed up to iDrive, with the password contained in the Quarter's records and retained by the Quarter Coordinator as well.

Separately, both the Treasurer and Clerk are authorized signatories on the Quarter's bank account at National Bank of Malvern and investment accounts and Friends Fiduciary Corporation.

The auditors thanked Charlie for his work in support of Concord Quarter and his cooperation with the Friendly Audit. The auditors reported, "We find that Concord Quarterly Meeting is well-served by Charles Spadoni's careful, detailed, and experienced work as Treasurer. "

Friends approved the audit report and thanked Paul Kaniefski and Tom Gilbert for doing the audit.

Treasurer's Report

Charles reviewed the attached report. Currently the Quarter has a good cash position and all meetings in the Quarter are up to date with their covenants. Tuition Operating Fund money was distributed to Westtown School, West Chester Friends, and Wilmington Friends for the benefit of 17 students. To avoid capital losses, FFC TEF distributions are being invested in a certificate of deposit and the reserve fund is being invested in a money market fund.

Friends accepted the report with appreciation.

Proposed Budget 2023-2024

The proposed operating budget for 2023-2024 included a 5% increase in the constituent monthly meetings' Coordinator covenants over their Coordinator covenants for the current fiscal year. Meeting Covenants for operations for 2023-2024 are the same as the current year.

Friends approved the budget for the coming year.

Planning for Joint QM with Western July 16 at London Grove

(Arrangements Committee & Concord MM Joys & Challenges & Hickman Report)

Western Quarter offered to host a joint meeting between Concord Quarter and Western Quarter at London Grove Meeting. The Program will be given by PYM staff about building relationships internally and externally. The schedule will include Worship from 9:30-10:30; Program from 11:00-12:15; and Lunch from 12:15-1:15.

The children's program would be held during worship and then unstructured childcare will be supplied during the adult program. Western Quarter Business Meeting will be at 2 PM.

Friends approved having a joint meeting with Western Quarter on July 16th at London Grove and Concord Quarter would have their business meeting hybrid on July 23rd at Birmingham Meeting if the building is available or at Westtown if Birmingham is not available.

The program from the last Concord Quarter program was reviewed. Some computer issues were identified. A password was needed to sign in on Zoom and not everyone had the password. Some people had issues hearing on-line if several people spoke at once.

One friend said that she appreciated the fellowship time after the meeting as it brings friends together. Another friend suggested having the host meeting supply food rather than having a potluck. The Clerk thanked West Chester for hosting Quarterly Meeting

Reading of Minutes for Approval

Marty Boston (Recording Clerk)

Friends approved having Charlie Spadoni serve as Treasurer for another year and to have the Treasurer's term to begin on August 1 and end on July 31 to accommodate accounting needs.

Friends approved having Debbie Murray-Sheppard serve another year as Clerk for Concord Quarter.

Friends expressed appreciation to Marty Boston for serving as Recording Clerk for the past three years and to Chris McKenney for serving as Assistant Clerk an extra year beyond his term.

Friends approved having the Quarter move forward to fill the coordinator's position as soon as possible with a search committee composed of Debbie Murray-Sheppard, Christopher McKenney, Rich Ailes, Charles Spadoni and Pat Daly.

Friends approved the audit report.

In accordance with the requirements of 15 Pa. Con. Stat 5548 (c), the Meeting has an investment practice that seeks a total return for its assets and the assets it holds in trust, and the Meeting has committed to follow such a practice. Friends approved this practice.

Friends approved the proposed operating budget for 2023-2024 that included a 5% increase in the constituent monthly meetings' Coordinator covenants over their Coordinator covenants for the current fiscal year. Meeting Covenants for operations for 2023-2024 are the same as the current year.

Friends approved holding a joint meeting with Western Quarter on July 16th at London Grove and having the Concord Quarter business meeting hybrid on July 23rd at 1 PM at Birmingham Meeting if the building is available or at Westtown if Birmingham is not available.

Second Count of Meetings in Attendance

Marty Boston (Recording Clerk)

Seventeen people were in attendance at the second count of the meeting. All meetings of the Quarter were represented except Concord.

Announcements of Upcoming Events

Debbie Murray-Sheppard

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

Many other programs for children, youth and young adults can be found on the PYM calendar: <https://www.pym.org/calendar/>

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Boston, Recording Clerk

Reports

Joys And Challenges 4/30/23 Report to Concord Quarterly Meeting - Birmingham Friends Meeting Charles Spadoni, Clerk

Just like those Seekers who joined George Fox in 1652 to find solace in a society moved by the Spirit to face the great tumult and uncertainty of that time, the members of Birmingham Monthly Meeting have joined together as a community moved by the Spirit to embrace and face the following joys and challenges.

Meeting for Worship

The ongoing effects of the Covid-19 pandemic have meant that the focus of the Meeting remains primarily inward with meeting for worship (mid-week and Sunday) continuing to be the center of the Meeting's life. As that epidemic has waned, the number of worshipers in the meetinghouse has increased. They are now connected with worshipers who are not present in the meetinghouse by a newly-installed (December 2022), professional-quality audio visual system that requires a lot of labor to make it work smoothly from week to week. We are quite fortunate to have a large number of dedicated members and attenders each of whom has made a long-term commitment to provide that labor.

Those who are able to join us in the meetinghouse for Sunday meeting for worship include an attender who lives in Chicago and members and attenders who are unable to attend in-person because of their medical conditions or because they are traveling. Mid-week meeting for worship, which is held only virtually each week, includes not only Birmingham members, but also a person living in Florida and persons from other local Quaker Meetings. In addition, the new A/V system has improved the quality of the experience of those who attend remotely memorials and special programs (such as recent talk by a member of the Lenape Nation of Pennsylvania).

Generally, the total number of people who are attending Sunday meeting for worship either in-person or

remotely is about the same number as those who attended meeting for worship prior to the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic. Nonetheless, there are those who miss having a larger number of members worshipping together physically in the meetinghouse. In addition, many miss singing together during opening exercises, an activity that has been suspended because of the increased risk that singing spreads the Covid-19 virus.

The installation of the new A/V system was long delayed (nine months), initially by supply complications that slowed delivery of some components and subsequently by the discovery of a colony of bats living in the attic where the wiring for the new system was to be placed. Fortunately, all of the bats peacefully exited, the attic was sealed to prevent their re-entry, and their potentially hazardous guano was removed.

Young Families

We want our Meeting to be a friendly, welcoming community where all of us, young and older, can nourish and grow our spiritual well-being together in a safe and friendly environment. To be so, we are focusing on the needs of young families. To that end, we have set aside an area in the worship room that is designated for families with young children. On the floor in front of one bench have been placed a large area rug and a basket of quiet things which the young can look at or manipulate with their hands as they settle into opening worship and where they can shift position as needed. We are continuing to seek other ways to support the needs of families in worship and otherwise. In the coming year, committees are to meet to discuss new ways to incorporate parents and their children (young and old) in the full life of the Meeting.

Religious Education

Our Religious Education Committee has been undergoing some changes in their aspirations and the ways in which they prepare for, and bring their Sunday morning programs to, our young people. In April 2022 the Meeting renamed that committee the "Children and Youth Program Committee." The committee has shifted away from the terms First-Day school, religious education, and teachers and students. In their new and evolving approach, program leaders or guides sit on the floor in a circle with the children, present stories and activities, ask open-ended questions, and invite creative responses that support reflection, exploration and wonder. CYP plans activities for families with young children in mind, and it has been pleased to have attracted a few new families this past year.

Some weeks the guides hold the program outside, and in the summer, families still go to swim at the Quarry Club located in Westtown Township. Our Meeting is blessed to have a caring group of adults who take turns on a consistent basis to guide and assist our programs for children and youth.

Pastoral Care of the Community

We remain focused on the need to stay connected with our existing members and attenders, to share our joys and sorrows as a community, and to welcome newcomers into Quakerism and our community by being attentive to their needs as they move forward in their search for a spiritual community.

We continue to reach out to members and attenders of all ages through pastoral care visits, our Care Groups, and our Prayer Group. In addition, we provide other support such as meals and/or transportation as needed to the Meeting's members and attenders and their families.

We continue to reach out to, and engage with, our Young Adult Friends who are scattered throughout the United States and abroad as they move through the joys and challenges of higher education, travel, career development and their own families and/or other pursuits.

In March 2021 the Meeting adopted the following statement of inclusion for membership: "Birmingham Friends Meeting welcomes into membership people whose declarations and ways of life manifest unity with Friends' faith and practices. We seek to be an open and inclusive faith community by welcoming all persons regardless of age, race, color, national origin, ethnicity, social or economic background, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, immigration status, or faith background. We welcome single people, couples, and families."

Each year we have a few people join us as new members. The joy of welcoming them is tempered by the loss of dear members. On balance, the number of members and attenders remains about the same year after year. As a result, we still have enough members and attenders committed to the Meeting to fulfill its needs.

Spiritual Enrichment

For our adult members, we continue to have spiritual enrichment programs. In 2022 we considered the timely topic of "War is not the Answer" based on a QuakerSpeak video with the same name, and we discussed vocal ministry based on articles from Friends Journal. We continue to have Friends and friends meet together in a Friendly Bible Study including one from Kentucky who found us online.

Fellowship

Until recently, we did not hold indoor fellowship events because of the lingering presence of Covid-19, but we did continue to come together in fellowship. Once a month, after worship, themed snacks were set up for the taking on a table outside the meetinghouse. Some of our challenges to carrying out that undertaking have been inclement weather and the challenge of providing such refreshments safely during the ongoing pandemic. Hot drinks and a covered porch have helped with the weather. Fresh air, gloves, and single

serving portions have helped to mitigate the risk of spreading the virus. We are now cautiously serving food indoors. We are always pleased to hear how meaningful this fellowship time is for members and attenders.

Also, we continue to enjoy many of our cherished traditions including the Easter Egg Hunt, Chicken Barbecue, worship around the fire pit at Westtown School followed by a picnic, and a celebration of our youth by presenting a Bible to each who turned 10 years of age and Faith and Practice to each who turned 15 years of age. The celebration of the Christmas season included a carol sing outside around a bonfire held after a meeting for worship.

Facilities

After several years of design and planning, a new sign noting the presence of Birmingham Meeting was installed along Birmingham Road. It is intended to make those passing be aware that our Meeting is an active and vibrant community.

Areas of the meetinghouse continue to be updated/renovated. After the completion of the ADA-accessible bathroom (that was noted in our 2021 report), the existing bathrooms in the Education Wing were updated with new paint, tile, and fixtures using funds left over from the ADA restroom project.

Website

The Meeting established a new website that is being updated as and when updates are needed. It provides a comprehensive description of the Meeting and its activities.

Finances

We continue to have members and attenders who contribute funds in an aggregate amount sufficient to fund, along with investment distributions, the operation of the Meeting on an annual basis. In addition, at the end of 2021 we were fortunate to have an anonymous donor contribute \$200,000 to the Meeting's unrestricted endowment fund. The annual bulb sale fundraiser allowed the Meeting to purchase another land mine detector (which was matched by the manufacturer) to send to a country in need identified by the United Nations. The annual Chicken Barbecue raised money for Quaker charities while the Pennies for Pumpkins funds supported UNICEF. The Meeting continues to collect supplies and donations for the West Chester Food Cupboard, Act in Faith, and Friends Association for the Care and Protection of Children. However, for various reasons we have been unable to resume our annual Harvest Buffet and, as a result, the amount of our corporate contributions to charities has diminished.

Right Relationship with Leni Lenape People

In 2022 the Meeting established a working group to develop a statement recognizing the Leni Lenape peoples' homeland upon which the meetinghouse, burial grounds and octagonal schoolhouse are located. The Meeting adopted the land acknowledgement statement proposed by that working group, and it established a new working group to develop a right relationship with the Leni-Lenape people

In summary, our joys include all of the works of the Spirit that bind us to one another and that keep us focused on making positive improvements in our Society and in society generally, while our greatest challenge is maintaining those undertakings given the steady state in the number of our members. Respectfully presented to Concord Quarterly Meeting at its meeting for worship with attention to business held April 30, 2023 at West Chester Monthly Meeting and via Zoom.

Charles B. Spadoni Clerk - Birmingham Monthly Meeting

Climate Action Working Group Report for April 2023

As reminder, the CAWG decided to focus on property stewardship into two areas: **land care and building/energy stewardship in 2023**

In terms of land stewardship, our goals are to **increase biodiversity and reduce toxins on and in Friends properties**. To that end, we have created a 4-part series which includes 3 webinars and 1 tour. We have collaborated with the Eco-Justice Collaborative and PYM staff to make this program available to other meetings, schools and retirement communities in PYM.

The webinars provide an orientation to the three available certifications to protect and preserve the local biodiversity on Quaker owned property. The program is designed for members of property committees, cemetery committees, those who care for the landscaping at your site, as well as all of us who love birds, butterflies and pollinator gardens.

- **Part 1: was held on March 1**, and centered on Eco-friendly landscaping policies and a case study from Kendal-Crossland, why they matter by Doug Tallamy and The National Wildlife Federation Greening Sacred Grounds Certification The recording can be found here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NHozYdJYQPM>. We had 35 registrations.

- **Part 2: was held on April 5**, and focused on the Audubon Bird Friendly Certification and Homegrown National Parks registration process. It also included a real life example from Gwynedd Monthly Meeting presented by Paige Mention. Recording not yet available. We had 51 registrations.
- **Part 3: Will be held on Wednesday, June 7, 7:00-8:30pm. The Carbon Forest Project (Zoom):** A model for larger stewardship projects. This is a case study of a pro-active project hosted by Unami Meeting to plant native hardwood forests to counteract climate change damage to our atmosphere by sequestering carbon. This unique major landscape changing project (10-acre minimum plantings) exists so that some on-the-groundwork can be done at the local level to take an action; not just talk, on this global ecological topic. The details of how this work will be done, the organizational collaboration, ecological restoration context, as well as the long-range and environmental purpose of these plantings will be presented. We will also look at the project needs and opportunities to help in this process. Presentation by John & Joyce Munro. **Cloud Forest Restoration in Mexico** Paula Kline and Alan Wright of Westtown Monthly Meeting will share their challenges and successes in restoring 250 acres of degraded land in the cloud forest region of Veracruz, Mexico over the past 20 years. You can register here: <https://www.pym.org/event/greening-sacred-spaces-series/2023-03-01/>
- **Part 4: Saturday June 17** Concord Quarter See for yourself tour. Three tour sites including Birmingham Meeting, Barclay Friends (West Chester) and Kendal-Crossland (Kennett Township) See attached flyer.

As the formal educational program wraps up, we urge Concord Quarter Meetings to support us by:

- 1) Encouraging property and any cemetery committee members to view the webinars.
- 2) Discussing what actions could be taken over the next 1 to 3 years, especially around reducing the use of any toxins and share at a Quarterly meeting either in October or January 2024
- 3) Planning a transition toward electric/battery charged landscaping equipment.
- 4) Determining which of the certifications might be best for them.

At our last meeting, we prepared an Epistle to be sent for consideration to the Yearly Meeting for Business to encourage us to consider protecting biodiversity as a corporate witness. We hope our Quarter unites with us in submitting this Epistle for consideration. (Separate attachments)

Our second area regarding our buildings will begin over the summer. As a reminder, the goals are to reduce carbon emissions and increase use of renewable energy in our buildings with a focus on solar feasibility studies, EV charging stations, energy audits and transitioning HVAC systems away from fossil fuels.

Finally, we welcome Friends interested in either of these areas to join us. We are also seeking a new convening clerk for CAWG. To get on our email list, please contact kline.paula@gmail.com

CAWG and PYM Eco-Justice Epistle - The Concord Quarter Climate Action Working Group and the Eco-Justice Collaborative send cordial greetings to all in Philadelphia Yearly Meeting.

It is with appreciation and gratitude that the Concord Quarter Climate Action Working Group (CAWG) completes our first year as a working group. The focus of the first year was to encourage all our Meetings to create disaster preparation plans in order to be responsive in case of extreme weather events. The CAWG joins the Eco-Justice Collaborative to advance the capacity of all Friends in responding to climate change.

As we looked to 2023, we decided to return to the Climate Action [Sprint report: A Statement on Moving Forward Together in the Face of Climate Change](#). Our focus is on section C: Reducing Our Carbon Footprint with an emphasis on the stewardship of our properties - that which we have direct control over in terms of buildings and grounds.

We are writing specifically in regard to our deeply felt understanding that there is considerable urgency to become more active stewards of the land under the care of Friends, which includes schools, Meeting houses, cemeteries, retirement homes and communities, retreat centers and other properties owned by Friends organizations.

The two parallel and intersecting threats of climate disruption and biodiversity loss call on us to become intentional and proactive stewards. We must all take the most recent and sobering report of the International Panel on Climate Change seriously. <https://www.ipcc.ch/assessment-report/ar6/> It states that:

“In this decade, accelerated action to adapt to climate change is essential to close the gap between existing adaptation and what is needed. Meanwhile, keeping warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels requires deep, rapid and sustained greenhouse gas emissions reductions in all sectors. Emissions should be decreasing by now and will need to be cut by almost half by 2030, if warming is to be limited to 1.5°C.”

As regards, natural resources, the report also states clearly that **“Climate, ecosystems and society are**

interconnected. Effective and equitable conservation of approximately 30-50% of the Earth's land, freshwater and ocean will help ensure a healthy planet."

We are inspired by the efforts of Professor Doug Tallamy of the University of Delaware and his vision of a network of safe havens for the natural world, which he calls "Homegrown National Parks." He advises us to see that

- No property is too small to contribute.
- There is no time to lose.
- Nature is responsive. Life wants to work with us.
- We can heal ourselves as we heal nature.
- We, in PYM, are very fortunate as there are many nationally recognized examples and resources available to us; and
- We don't have to reinvent the wheel. We can follow those who have gone before us and created a structure and process that works.

We believe that Friends can make our houses of worship as well as our schools, retirement communities, cemeteries, farms, seminaries, and retreat centers models of ecological land stewardship.

Paige Menton of Plymouth Meeting has created recommendations which include 14 Community-Focused Ways Quaker Meetings Can Steward Their Land. <https://www.friendsjournal.org/14-community-focused-ways-quaker-meetings-can-steward-their-land/> Her traveling ministry led her to visit and explore the many ways in which Friends are prioritizing and cherishing their relationship with nature.

To support this ministry, the Concord Quarter Climate Action Working Group and the Eco-Justice Collaborative are sponsoring a 4-part series to inform and inspire Friends to start the healing journey with nature. The series covers eco-friendly landscaping policies, The National Wildlife Federation Greening Sacred Spaces Habitat Certification, the Homegrown National Parks Mapping Program, the Audubon Bird Friendly Certification, the Carbon Forest Project and tours of existing examples of ecological land stewardship.

The Concord Quarter Climate Action Working Group and the Eco-Justice Collaborative wish to put out a call, to the entire PYM Friends community, that we commit to a corporate witness in 2023, as a year in which all Friends' institutions in Philadelphia Yearly Meeting commit to policies and practices that support the commonwealth of life through ecological landscaping. Further, we seek specifically the cooperation of all those Friends institutions and organizations that own property, in making a commitment to create living landscapes that provide viable habitat for native plants and animals by completing the requirements for one of two nationally recognized certifications and register with the Homegrown National Park Program within 3 years. We also ask that PYM dedicate resources to supporting our institutions in reducing emissions in the buildings and land under our care, so that we may all lead by example in our communities. We would like land stewardship to be one of the areas the Climate Stewards consider part of their portfolio as they hold us accountable to our witness in protecting our common future.

We request that this be brought to Annual Sessions for discussion and approval.

Respectfully submitted in April 2023, Concord Quarter Climate Action Working Group* Eco-Justice Collaborative of PYM*

"The produce of the earth is a gift from our gracious Creator to the inhabitants, and to impoverish the earth now to support outward greatness, appears to be an injury to the succeeding age." - John Woolman (1720-1772) *Conversations on the True Harmony of Mankind and How it May be Promoted*

Contact for CAWG Clerk, Paula Kline kline.paula@gmail.com

Contact for EJC Clerks, Ruth Darlington rdarlington49@gmail.com Patricia Finley finleyp2932@gmail.com

Concord Quarter Working Group On Aging

The Working Group on Aging continues to meet monthly to discuss issues relating to aging in our meetings and the wider community. Currently we are discussing/planning workshops on "Driving to Not Driving," and "Ageism." Suggestions on other topics are welcome. The group meets the first Wednesday of the month at 10:30 via Zoom.

Treasurer Reports

Adoption of Total Return Practice: In accordance with the requirements of 15 Pa. Cons. Stat. §5548(c), the Meeting has an investment practice that seeks a total return for its assets and the assets it holds in trust, and the Meeting has committed to follow such practice.

Concord Quarterly Meeting Friendly Audit - Concord Quarterly Meeting appointed Tom Gilbert (Willistown Monthly Meeting) and Paul Kaniefski (Birmingham Monthly Meeting) to complete a "Friendly Audit" of Concord

Quarterly Meeting's financial statements for the three annual periods ending June 30, 2020, June 30, 2021, and June 30, 2022. Tom and Paul met to discuss the approach to the Friendly Audit and then requested information from Charles Spadoni, Concord Quarter's Treasurer, for those periods, including the following:

- Financial statements for the fiscal years ended June 30, 2020, June 30, 2021, and June 30, 2022.
- Friends Fiduciary Corporation statements as of June 30, 2020, 2021, and 2022;
- The National Bank of Malvern statements as of June 30, 2020, 2021, and 2022, and bank reconciliations as of those same dates;
- List of covenant receipt transactions by type by year;
- List of expense transactions by type by year; and
- List of Friends Fiduciary distributions by year.

Tom and Paul reviewed the information provided and then met (virtually) with Charles to conduct a Friendly exploration of and challenge to the information presented.

Tom and Paul concluded that the financial statements for the fiscal years ended June 30, 2020, June 30, 2021, and June 30, 2022, are consistent with the source documents and underlying activities. Several disparities were identified, which do not materially alter the financial results of, nor assets held by, Concord Quarter, including the following:

- Funds received, funds held and distributions made for the benefit of an asylum seeker were not separately identified.
- Fund balances at Friends Fiduciary at fiscal-year end for each of those years are estimates and do not exactly match the fund balances reported by Friends Fiduciary because such reported balances were not available at the time the Quarter's fiscal-year end statements were prepared.
- \$130 of capital gain that was realized upon the liquidation of the investments in the Quarter's Tuition Short Term Investment Fund was not reported in the June 30, 2021 revenue and expense statement.

In addition, we reviewed the Quarter's information backup and financial institution access. We found these processes to be appropriate. In particular, the QuickBooks file is backed up to iDrive, with the password contained in the Quarter's records and retained by the Quarter Coordinator as well. Separately, both the Treasurer and Clerk are authorized signatories on the Quarter's bank account at National Bank of Malvern and investment accounts and Friends Fiduciary Corporation.

We thank Charles for his work in support of Concord Quarter and his cooperation with the Friendly Audit. We find that Concord Quarterly Meeting is well-served by Charles Spadoni's careful, detailed, and experienced work as Treasurer.

Tom Gilbert & Paul Kaniefski March 4, 2023

Concord Quarterly Meeting Proposed Budget

for the

Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2024

(Based on Aggregate Budgeted Monthly Meetings' Covenants)

- The proposed operating budget set forth below includes a 5% increase in the constituent monthly meetings' Coordinator covenants over their Coordinator covenants for the June 30, 2023, fiscal year. Those meetings' covenants for operations set forth below are the same as those for the June 30, 2023 fiscal year.

(Numbers are redacted, contact the Quarter coordinator for the full report)

Respectfully submitted,

Charles B. Spadoni, Treasurer
April 30, 2023

**CONCORD QUARTERLY MEETING TREASURER'S REPORT THROUGH THE THIRD QUARTER OF THE
FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2023**

**Un-reviewed Financial Statements through the Third Quarter of the Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 2023
(Except As May Be Noted Below, Reported On A Cash Basis)**

NOTES

- In October 2022, \$11,679 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 \$687.
- To avoid capital losses, FFC TEF distributions are being invested in a certificate of deposit, and the amount in the reserve fund is being invested in a money market fund.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Charitable Undertakings

INCOME STATEMENT

Revenues and Expenses Through the Third Quarter Ending March 31, 2023 Versus the Prior Year's Revenues and Expenses through its Third Quarter

(Numbers are redacted, contact the Quarter coordinator for the full report)

BALANCE SHEET

March 31, 2023 Balance Sheet Versus Prior Year's March 31 Balance Sheet

- There are no liabilities; however, \$6,490 has been reserved to make tuition assistance payments.
(Numbers are redacted, contact the Quarter coordinator for the full report)

*Checking Account 2 (used by the former Coordinator to pay Quarter expenses) was closed on March 23, 2023.

**These FFC accounts have been closed.

***Between March 10, 2022 and November 14, 2022, the Treasurer deposited \$9,405 from 29 contributors, mostly members of the Quarter, to be held in trust and to be used exclusively to pay the living expenses of a destitute asylum seeker during the period he was ineligible to work. As of March 31, 2023, the Quarter held no such funds in trust.

**** Individual constituent monthly meeting March 31, 2023, Growth & Income Fund market value balances are available upon request.

Respectfully submitted, Charles B. Spadoni, Treasurer April 30, 2023

Calendar Items

- May 3** **CQ Working Group on Aging Concerns:** Open to anyone interested in aging concerns. For more info and to register
10:45 am email: concordquarter@pym.org or evelynlbrownlee@gmail.com
- May 4** **Delaware Valley Friends School Care Committee Meeting:** In person at DVFS and ZOOM. Those attending in person will
9:15 am to join Meeting for Worship at 9:15AM and then Meet as a Committee for Business. To join the committee in person or via
12:15 pm ZOOM email: Susan Brodesser (be_still@verizon.net)
- May 7** **Friends Peace Teams at Birmingham Meeting:** Meeting for Worship followed by meeting with FPT North America
10am Facilitators of Towards Right Relationship. <https://friendspeaceteams.org/north-america/>
- May 7** **Kendal Friends Meeting hosts Quaker tea with Friends Peace Teams -** 1109 East Baltimore Pike, Kennett Square, PA
3-5 pm Upper Terrace, if pleasant or Farmhouse, if rainy
- May 16** **Climate Action Working Group Monthly Meeting – contact** concordquarter@pym.org **for Zoom link**
7-8:30 pm