

**Concord Quarterly Meeting Planning Committee Minutes
October 31 2pm – 4pm by Zoom**

Present: Debbie Murray-Sheppard (Wilmington, Clerk), Deb Wood (WT), Evelyn Brownlee (Wilmington), Steve Kupferschmid (Willistown), Pat Daly (Goshen), Chris McKenney (Birmingham, Assistant Clerk), Marty Boston (Birmingham, Recording Clerk), Deb Lyons (West Chester), Bianca Santini-Dumas (Coordinator)

Excused: Melinda Wenner Bradley (West Chester) Rich Ailes (Middletown), Julie Senko (Birmingham), Charlie Spadoni (Birmingham, Treasurer),

No Representation was present from either Middletown Meeting or Concord Meeting

The meeting opened with Worship

The minutes from July 25, 2021 were approved with minor changes.

The Agenda for today, October 31, 2021 was approved as written.

Review QM by Zoom on October , 2021:

Feedback on the meeting was positive. There was only one Westtown child who connected for the Children's Program at 1:00. It was queried whether the time was difficult for families and suggested that attendance had been better when the program and children's program occurred simultaneously.

There is a mixture of feelings regarding ZOOM. Some feel ZOOM provides more space for Friends to include Quaker meetings and events in their schedules. It was expressed that the hybrid model makes it easier for speakers/presenters of programs to do presentations. It was suggested that each meeting present the work they have done with DEI and Climate Change. The Clerk would like to make the quarter more accessible to the groups formed around climate change. Birmingham's Worship and Ministry Committee is hosting a DEI workshop "Cultural Influences to Meeting For Worship" on November 15th. There was discussion about whether the event could be being open to the Quarter.

Planning for Quarterly Meeting hosted by Wilmington January 2022:

Evelyn Brownlee presented two options for programming for the January 23, 2022 Quarterly Meeting at Wilmington Monthly Meeting. One referenced "energy audits" utilizing Interfaith Power and Light who has worked with several meetings in the Quarter. The Planning Committee did not support the idea of focusing on energy audits as the last two programs at Quarterly Meeting have focused on climate change and local action, which included information on the topic suggested.

The second suggestion for a program on Thomas Garrett (a member of Wilmington Meeting) and the Underground Railroad was more enthusiastically received. The presenter Wilmington has in mind often does children's programs so it was suggested that this might be an inter-generational program, which would also be suitable for school-aged friends.

Debbie Murray Sheppard and Evelyn Brownlee will discuss programming and newsletter article details. Bianca Santini-Dumas will follow up with them for details to add to a draft agenda.

Tentative Business Agenda for January:

The January Quarterly meeting for Business will be conducted by Zoom, but meeting for worship will be hybrid. Friends are invited to worship in person at Wilmington or by Zoom.

Joys and Challenges: Goshen
Treasurer's Report: Charlie Spadoni
Nominating Committee: Deb Wood
Working Group on Aging Concerns: Evelyn Brownlee
Delaware Valley Friends School Report
Coordinator's Report

Schedule (tentative, proposed):

8:30am-9:45am – Meeting for Business

9:45am-10:00am – Break

10:00-11:00am – Faith and Play (Exodus story as a lead-in to Worship)

11:00-11:15am – Break

11:15-12:30pm – Program simultaneous with Children's Program

Possible Children's programming:

It was expressed that there is not a lot of area in the meeting house to use for children's programming. A working group was starting to form last year regarding children's programming. Deb Wood has information on the people beginning to organize. As conversation continued A Faith and Play program was proposed. There was agreement that the time for children's program would need to be earlier in the day. If the Children's program were to run simultaneously with the Quarterly Meeting, Concord Quarter would host the Quarter ZOOM link and Wilmington Monthly Meeting would provide the Children's Program link. It was brought to the groups attention that members of Birmingham have been trained in Faith and Play and could potentially stand in if Melinda Werner Bradley or Sally are unable to do so. The Clerk will contact Melinda or Sally about using their gift to host a Faith and Play.

Review and Updates on fellowship activities:

November 3, 2021	Working Group on Aging Concerns 10:30AM-12:00PM (via Zoom)
November 5-7, 2021	Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Continuing Sessions (via Zoom) https://www.pym.org/sessions/
November 10, 2021	Financial Support for Aging Adults 7:00PM-8:30PM (via Zoom) https://concordquarter.org/aging-concerns/2021/financial-support-aging-adults
December 4, 2021	Joint Concord and Western Quarter Parents' Morning Off 9:00AM-1:00PM at Westtown School

Regarding the Parents' Morning Off event: The insurance certificates from each quarter must be provided to Westtown School in order to use the cabin. There is a \$125 fee (\$25 to be paid to Westtown School and \$100 to be paid to Westtown Meeting) for use of the cabin. The committee agreed that Concord Quarter will pay the full \$125 to secure the facility. Western Quarter is providing payment to a third party helper that day. Debbie Murrery-Sheppard will speak with Charlie Spadoni about paying the fee.

Treasure Report:

Charlie Spadoni

MaryEtta Clendenin (Kennett MM) was paid \$125 for use of her property for the tubing-on-the-Brandywine. Historically, the Quarter has paid her \$100 each year.

The treasurer suggested raising the amount to \$125. Per Deb Wood, Western Quarter is paying her that increased amount. Friends agreed to the increase for the contribution. There was much gratitude expressed for use of her property.

Nominating Committee:

Deb Wood

Nominating Committee is working to coordinate meeting around a variety of schedules. The Committee is still looking for a nominee for Assistant Clerk. This has become a challenge as members are available on opposite times of the day. Marty Boston, recording clerk, is in her second year of a three-year term giving the nominating committee time with that specific position.

Newsletter Articles:

Rich Ailes

The main article will be on the program for January 23. Wilmington will identify someone to draft this article once the topic is finalized.

Wilmington planted native, non-invasive pollinator plants last spring in partnership with other churches in the city and the Sacred Grounds (a program of the National Wildlife Federation) with the goal of improving natural areas in urban areas. Evelyn offered to identify someone to write up an article for the newsletter.

A suggestion was made that some of the materials and links from the Climate Change presentation by Westtown could be included, as there was lots of pertinent information provided during the course of the program.

Goshen is having difficulties finding a seasoned Friend to be comfortable rising as clerk and is exploring alternative options for clerking, including sharing clerking responsibilities. Wilmington has been a tri-clerk system where clerks rotate monthly. Goshen suggested an article describing the clerking structures in the quarter would be interesting.

A reflection from the November 15th Program at Birmingham was suggested.

Birmingham's midweek meeting on ZOOM was discussed. Chris McKenney offered to speak with the meeting about writing an article regarding this experience opening this to the quarter? Chris

McKenney will bring this to Birmingham MM and see if it will be appropriate to invite Friends from the quarter to join, especially those who do not have the resources currently to have a midweek meeting.

Pat Daly offered to ask her husband to write an article on the historical roots of quarterly meetings in Quaker history and their relevance to monthly meetings today..

Delaware Valley Friends School Care Committee may be asked for an article.

Concord Quarter Working Group on Aging Concerns:

Evelyn Brownlee

George Shaefer, PYM's Care and Aging Coordinator will be presenting the November 10 program, "Financial Support for Aging Adults. This event is a great chance to connect with George before his impending retirement. The ZOOM event will be recorded and posted on Philadelphia Yearly Meetings YouTube in response to numerous inquiries to have access the program at a later date, with the support of T.J. Jourian, PYM's Events and Resources Coordinator There are new sign-ups for the event daily (note: registration is required to receive the Zoom link). At The next Working Group Meeting is on November 3, 2021. The working group will be discussing a collective response to the proposal presented by PYM to eliminate and restructure the Care and Aging Coordinator position after George' retirement. There are concerns about support for this concern and how it will be supported by PYM in the future.

In reach:

Bianca Santini-Dumas

Bianca encouraged Birmingham to share it's midweek worship with the Quarter. Birmingham will consider this request and advise Bianca as to whether to include in the Quarter's announcements in the future.

Outreach:

Bianca Santini-Dumas

Bianca reported that she has been posting on Facebook and on PYM's website. New friends are joining the page and engaging with the content posted. Links for future events are being shared on the page as well as with each of the meetings with a Facebook presence.

State of the Quarter/ PYM QM meeting report

Debbie Murray-Sheppard

Debbie Murraray-Sheppard will be getting more information about what is being requested by PYM for this report.

A query was presented at the close of the meeting by the clerk. "What is something exciting you have done as a Quaker this year?"

West Chester meeting shared they received for the renovations being done on their meeting house to increase accessibility for those with mobility limitations. Pat Daly invited encouraged Friends to come and visit to see the changes. Bianca seconded the beauty of the work that was completed.

Wilmington has been cooking meals for Emmanuel Dining Room which serves the homeless and food challenged residents of Wilmington. Emmanuel House is no longer able to have volunteers on-site due to COVID. Wilmington has also partnered with a nearby community center to provide literacy support and created a program to encourage children at the Hicks Anderson Community

Center to read and write poetry about their life experiences. The children read their poetry to a very supportive audience of parents and friends in the meeting house at the end of the program.

The Delaware Valley Friends School Care Committee was invited to join and mentor the Quaker Life Committee. People at the school are very dedicated and motivated and fun to be around.

Time and location for the next meeting.

Bianca Santini-Dumas

January 30, 2022, 2pm via ZOOM with hopes of the following meeting being in person or Hybrid.

The Clerk closed the meeting by giving thanks to those who continue to show and commit to the quarter. She expressed her hope that we might find ways to increase the number and diversity of friends who are involved in the work of the quarter.

Respectfully submitted,
Bianca Santini-Dumas (Coordinator)