

Concord Quarterly Meeting Newsletter Volume 15, Issue 1 January 2018

Quaker Family Businesses and the Development of Wilmington

The first recorded Meeting for Worship in Delaware was convened by George Fox in New Castle on September 14, 1673. Fox was returning from his initial sojourn from Maryland to New England (then Long Island) when he was welcomed into the home of Governor Lovelace who offered his home for Meeting on First Day. Fox reported most of the town attended and noted, "Here had never been a meeting before, nor any within a great way; but this was a very precious one, many were tender and confessed to the truth and some received it; blessed by the Lord forever." (Source: Friends in Wilmington, 1738-1938, Your Legacy Press, 2016, 2nd edition).

It is reported that Elizabeth Levis Shipley was visited by a dream about 50 years later in which she saw a beautiful countryside divided by three rivers. She received a divine message that she and her family should settle there and build a thriving community, but she did not recognize the place in her dream. In the spring of 1735, she felt a concern to visit meetings in lower Delaware and Maryland. When she came to a stream "with wild currents... and plunging banks", she was challenged to find a place to ford but as she climbed the opposite bank, she recognized the countryside of her dream. When she returned home, she persuaded her husband, William Shipley, to return with her to the hamlet of Willingtowntown (later to become Wilmington).

At the confluence of the three rivers (the Brandywine, Christina and Delaware), William Shipley saw the advantages for both manufacturing and navigation. He purchased land and was soon

followed by other Quaker families. The Wilmington Meeting of the Society of Friends was established in 1738.

Wilmington Quakers were instrumental in the growth of Wilmington from the incorporation of the city through the 19th century. From milling to machine tools to railroad cars and ship building, Quaker owned companies fueled the local economy. Quaker testimonies and values, including the central role of

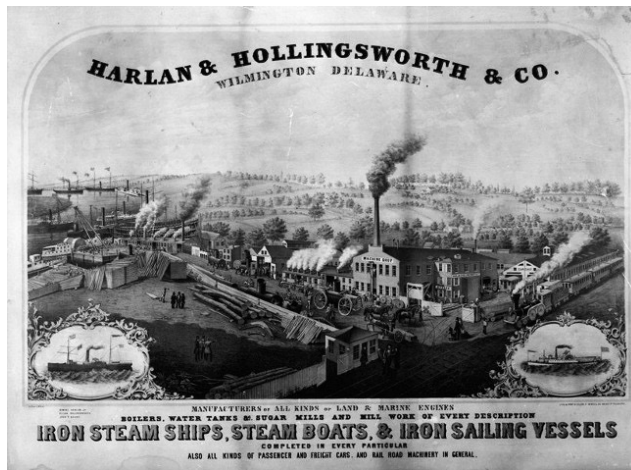
community, were important in establishing relationships with workers and philanthropic investment.

Sally O'Byrne, a member of Wilmington Monthly Meeting and curious historian, environmentalist and birder, began her research in 1979 and 1980, when she and fellow author Priscilla M. Thompson studied the former industrial sites along Wilmington's waterfront, taking photographs, making notes, and doing historical and environmental research. Their work culminated in the publication of Wilmington's Waterfront (Acadia Press, 1999). Sally followed this

work by exploring the role of the Quaker community in Wilmington's industrial development.

At our upcoming Quarterly Meeting on January 28, Sally will provide an engaging presentation, filled with historical pictures, maps, photographs and other artifacts as she weaves the tapestry of Quaker families and their businesses. Meet the Shipley, Tatnall, Hollingsworth, Bancroft, Pusey, and Canby families, as well as many others.

- Debbie Murray-Sheppard, Wilmington Meeting



Support Wilmington Meeting's New Beginnings, Next Step Clothes Closet



Wilmington Monthly Meeting sponsors a clothing closet as a support for the New Beginnings, Next Step (NBNS) program. NBNS is a peer-support group for Returning Citizens who are transitioning from incarceration back into productive community life. It provides important weekly assistance to post-release individuals in the form of bus tokens, food vouchers, clothing, and other basic essentials. From time to time, New Beginnings-Next Step also handles special "moving forward" needs for regularly attending members. This help may take the form of short-term emergency shelter assistance, or contributions towards items or services such as new tools or auto repair, a new bed, or a used computer. It has even been used to expand employment options by paying the tuition for highway flagging certification with the Delaware Department of Transportation.

Recently, many articles of clothing were donated from the clothing closet to the displaced residents of Barclay Friends Senior Living Center. **Friends attending Concord Quarterly Meeting on January 28 are invited to bring donations to the**

clothing closet. Particular needs are extra-large men's pants (especially jeans and work clothes), warm socks, underwear, compression socks, and sweatshirts. Outdoor wear and work boots are also needed. - Debbie Murray-Sheppard, Wilmington Meeting

What has your Coordinator been up to?

As Coordinator, I attend Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Continuing Sessions. On November 4, we worshiped, heard reports and participated in some exercises expanding on what was done at Annual Sessions in the summer about becoming more welcoming. Among other items, Administrative Council reported that work on a process for carrying a minute of concern forward to the body from a meeting or Quarter has been done jointly with Quaker Life Council and will be reviewed soon.

Quaker Life Council's clerk had just resigned, so their report was given by others. Zachary Dutton shared about the new Resource Friends program which will be training people in four areas to be resources in the areas of Social Justice, Pastoral Care, Youth Work and Religious Education, and Young Adults Support.

The other report was from the Discernment Team formed after Quaker Life Council took under their care the long-standing conflict between Upper Dublin Meeting and their member whose membership was terminated earlier this year. The Team had not gotten very far. They are humble, but are continuing to work on the situation. The individual involved was upset and frustrated that no one had spoken with her yet.

The Steering Committee for the Multicultural Institutional Audit of 21 individuals was introduced. The Clerk is tonya thames taylor, our speaker from Quarterly Meeting. She sees this as a very positive opportunity. They had planned to meet in December to start work on selecting a consultant. We were asked to "love us as we go through this process."

Quarter and Delaware Valley Friends School Explore a Care Relationship

Delaware Valley Friends School (DVFS - www.dvfs.org) is a coed Quaker college preparatory school for bright students, grades 3 – 12, who struggle with reading, writing, math, memory, processing, ADHD, executive functioning, and other learning differences. It is one of only two Friends schools in existence that is dedicated to serving students who learn differently from the elementary years through high school graduation. The Quaker principle of recognizing that of God in all members of the community is a cornerstone to the school's honoring of differences and building confidence. All students are supported and encouraged to maximize their potential to learn, to build self-esteem, and to come to appreciate their unique differences.

DVFS was founded thirty years ago, and at the time of the school's planning it was anticipated that the school would most likely be located within Philadelphia. For nearly ten years, the School was housed at Harcum College in Bryn Mawr, before it moved in 1997 to its present home in Paoli.

For the past twenty years, DVFS has officially been under the care of Philadelphia Quarter, and while this relationship has been positive, the connection has not been close due to the geographic distance between the School and the Quarter. At Quarterly Meeting held at West Chester Friends Monthly Meeting in October, Kirk Smothers, DVFS Head of School, requested Concord Quarter (CQM) join DVFS in creating a committee to discern whether establishing a Care Relationship between the two would be appropriate and mutually beneficial.

DVFS is seeking a relationship that is more active, hoping to forge more connections with practicing Friends. The school currently has six faculty members and administrators who are Friends in addition to 25% of its board of trustees. Connection with Concord Quarter would broaden the circle of Friends who positively impact the school as it continually works to educate students in the tradition and practices of Friends education. DVFS would hope to welcome Friends to its events, to share its expertise as a college preparatory school that serves bright students who learn differently, to build relationships with individual members of the

Christie Duncan-Tessmer's report included her trip in September to the Middle East as a member of the National Council of Churches Governing Board. They got to speak with many people on all sides of the conflicts there. Christie also shared that PYM's Annual Fund raised more funds than it had the previous year, for the first time in 6 years.

Later we were led in a listening exercise by Sarah Willie LeBreton, and Inspira Williams. In pairs, with the help of queries, we shared about microaggressions or structural racism. People then shared from all stages of their awareness, many from deep in their hearts.

In addition to attending Yearly Meeting Sessions, I continue to visit meetings, attend events, share information across the Quarter, plan for future events, and more. I also "staff" the Working Group on Aging Concerns. Recently I participated in the annual Quaker worship during the Sunday evening Vespers program at White Horse Village. A very successful Parents' Morning Off event was held on December 9, cosponsored with Western Quarter. 14 children attended, and their parents enjoyed a few hours to themselves.

I hope to find more ways of helping meetings be in touch with each other around issues of interest. And I'd like to find out other activities you would like to see in the Quarter. Facebook anyone? Anyone is welcome to attend the Planning Committee which meets 4 times a year – next is February 11. - *Lynne Piersol, Concord Quarter Coordinator*

Quarter, and to perform community service in the Quarter, among other possibilities.

The joint ad hoc committee of the Quarter and the School held its first meeting in December and began to consider questions related to the creation of a Care Relationship. The group included: Elisa Barbis (member of Willistown Meeting and former DVFS trustee), Susan Brodesser (Birmingham Meeting, DVFS alumna parent), David Calamaro (DVFS Associate Head and Academic Dean), Gray Goodman (DVFS teacher and member of Providence Meeting), Prudence Haines (DVFS trustee, member of Providence Meeting), Elizabeth Kriynovich (DVFS teacher), Debbie Murray-Sheppard (co-clerk of Wilmington Meeting and trustee of Wilmington Friends School), Donald Palmer (DVFS trustee and member of Newtown Meeting), Kirk Smothers (DVFS Head of School and member of Brooklyn Meeting), Shirley Wright-Kamara (Media Providence Friends School teacher and member of Middletown Meeting).

A number of queries were identified and considered at the meeting. They include exploring the purpose of a care relationship between DVFS and CQM, whether CQM has the capacity to engage in and support a care relationship, how CQM Meetings might become better acquainted with DVFS so that this opportunity might be fully considered, and what the next steps in the committee's work should be.

The committee identified ways in which both the composite Meetings of the Quarter and DVFS can become better acquainted. It was suggested that DVFS and CQM engage in a series of events to encourage interaction, such as, requesting Monthly Meetings invite DVFS to send a representative to begin a dialogue to help Friends to better understand the wonderful work the school does with students who learn differently, to explore opportunities for engagement between Friends and DVFS, and having CQM publicize and share DVFS events that are open to Friends to attend. The committee will reconvene in February to consider progress made and to further explore the identified queries.

- *Debbie Murray-Sheppard & Kirk Smothers*

Concord Quarter Hosts Aging Concerns Facilitator Training

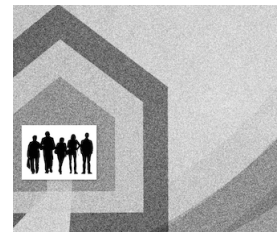
At some point in our lives we are all forced to face what happens to us as we age. We all know the ultimate end of that path but the trail we take to get to it has many twists and turns that can make the journey either jagged or smooth. Our Quaker meetings have all come under the weight of aging, some feeling the pressure more directly than others. But it's safe to say that many of our older Friends have simply taken a path away from their home Meetings never to be heard from again. We miss our older Friends, their contributions and their wisdom, when they stop being involved in the daily and spiritual life of our meetings. So aging concerns is both a personal and community issue.

There are a number of us in Concord Quarter who have come together recently to bring this issue before our community. The Concord Quarter Working Group on Aging Concerns was officially recognized in a minute at our Quarterly Meeting in July 2017. We will be organizing events over the next few years to bring this issue before Friends. One of the important ways we wish to do this is by developing a team of Friends in the Quarter who would be trained as Aging Concerns Facilitators for members and attenders in their Meetings.

The training will be hosted by the Quarter and led by Callie Janoff, ARCH staff person of New York Yearly Meeting, and George Schaefer, Aging and Care Coordinator of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. It will be conducted on the weekend of April 13-15, 2018. The purpose of the training is to give participants the tools to make them viable knowledge sources and helpers for older members who wish to remain connected to their Meetings. The training will be based upon the ARCH (Aging Resources

Consultation and Help) Program that has been running successfully in New York Yearly Meeting since 2008. Below are some of the topics that may be covered in the training:

Developmental Issues of the Last Part of Life
Spiritual Gifts of Aging
Home Visit Checklist
Aging Resources
Working With Families
Caregivers and Care Giving
Palliative Care
On Being a Person with a Disability
Experiences of Illness, Death and Grief
Housing Issues and Hoarding
What is an Aging Concerns Facilitator?



Are you interested in helping your Meeting community assist its aging members in remaining active members and keeping them connected? Do you have a concern strong enough to provide your Meeting with assistance in this area? As you can see this is not a light commitment but neither is it intended to make you a full time social worker. What you will get out of the training is a raised awareness of aging concerns as well as a way towards interacting with your aging members and attenders so that you can point folks in an appropriate direction when help is needed. If you are interested in participating in such a training please visit the following web page and fill out the questionnaire. **Register by February 9 to be given preference as a Concord Quarter member.** <http://concordquarter.org/aging-concerns/aging-concerns-facilitator-training-app>
—Rich Ailes, Middletown Meeting & Ann Murray, Willistown Meeting

Outreach Traffic Patrol at Middletown Meeting

For a while Thomas Swain had been noticing traffic backing up at our Meeting's entrance on Rt. 352 at rush hour. Last Spring, Paul Indorf from Swarthmore Meeting and a member of the PYM Membership Development Committee emailed us data showing about 17,000 cars pass our Meeting House every day. Thomas wondered, "What if we handed out Quaker outreach cards to those drivers waiting for the light to change?"

He brought the idea to the Middletown Men's Group, a regular meeting of some of the men in our Meeting. The Men's Group encouraged him to think of possible strategies. This past May he brought a written proposal to Meeting for Business for discernment. The proposal was to hand out a professionally printed "rack" card containing an intro to the Meeting and Quaker Meeting for Worship, along with bottled water. Through discernment the Meeting decided the bottled water was environmentally unfriendly and changed to it to a small can of juice. The card and the can would have our contact info printed on each. Friend Indorf had encouraged Thomas to apply for a grant from the Membership Development Committee for the project. The Meeting approved the project and asked Thomas to fill out the Committee's application for a \$1000 grant. Meeting also approved funding of \$300 from our resources, which we knew to be a committee requirement.

Thomas completed the necessary development form by July, having talked to some of Development members who suggested refinements to improve its appeal. The grant was approved for about \$900. This plus the \$300 in funds from our resources went to fund the following: printing 2 flag banners, about 1000 rack cards, two "Middletown Welcomes you @ 11:00 AM Worship" signs, and 500 6-ounce juice cans. Thomas personally printed Avery labels for the cans that reiterated our welcome and worship time. Rich Ailes

and Clem Gerdleemann from our men's group volunteered to come at the appropriate afternoon rush hour times to hand out the juice and card. They started to hand out materials at the end of October and did so about once or twice a week until the beginning of

December. The three Friends will now wait until Spring for warmer temperatures and longer daylight to begin again.

Responses from those receiving our "gifts" have been very positive. Some people wanted to give us a contribution thinking we were raising money for some worthy cause. It was a delight to say "no thank you" and then hand them the card and juice saying, "Here's something for your body and something for your soul!" Most people rode by looking straight ahead however almost all turned to look at our "Quakers Welcome You" signage as they drove by. In the five weeks of the project, the three "evangelists" gave out 200 cans of juice and a bit more of the outreach cards. A few people said they knew Quakers and appreciated what we were doing. One

pleasing part of this activity was the opportunity to hand materials to people of all classes and races, a population that is quite different from a typical Quaker Meeting.

An obvious benefit to the Meeting is increased visibility. There were several drivers who did not realize our Quaker Meeting was active. But an additional benefit was making a public witness to our faith. The act of giving something nourishing as well as providing a clear statement of the spiritual gift that Quaker Meeting for Worship provides to folks who might never be touched by Quakerism was a deepening experience. The three Friends did feel a sense they were doing a little bit of God's work in this world. . —Rich Ailes, Middletown Meeting



Concord Quarterly Meeting's January-February 2018 Announcements and Calendar of Events

Announcements

Minutes of the October 22, 2017, Quarterly Meeting at West Chester have been posted on the Quarter's website (<http://concordquarter.org/documents>). If you have any comments on those minutes, please send them to David Leonard, Recording Clerk, at leonard@berkeley.edu.

2018-2019 Tuition Assistance: If you are a member of a Concord Quarter Meeting, other than Wilmington, and your child attends a Quaker elementary, middle or high school, you can get tuition assistance from Concord Quarter. Applications are on our website: <http://www.concordquarter.org/documents/tuition-fund-app-for-concord-qm>, or send an email to concordquarter@pym.org. The CQM form MUST be signed by the clerk of your meeting. Mail the CQM application to the address on the form; it must be received by February 16.

The Phoenixville Advocacy Team works in collaboration with the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL). Whatever your skills are, we can use you. Attend when you can. Meets on the 2nd and 4th Monday of the month at Schuylkill Friends meetinghouse, 37 N Whitehorse Rd, Phoenixville, PA 19460 (just north of Route 23). For further information, contact Barbara Quintiliano (Birmingham Meeting): barbquin@gmail.com

Are you creative? Painting, Passion and Purpose: Quaker Teens (aged 14 and older), students at Quaker High Schools, and Quaker Adults are invited to submit up to 5 paintings per person for a juried exhibition on display at Pendle Hill from May 1-Aug 30, 2018. Digital information due Feb 15, 2018. For more info: <https://pendlehill.org/call-for-submissions-painting-passion-purpose/- .WiVtnUqnHIU>

Registration is now open for the Aging Concerns Facilitator training in April! See information in this Newsletter. Concord Quarter members have preference through February 9.

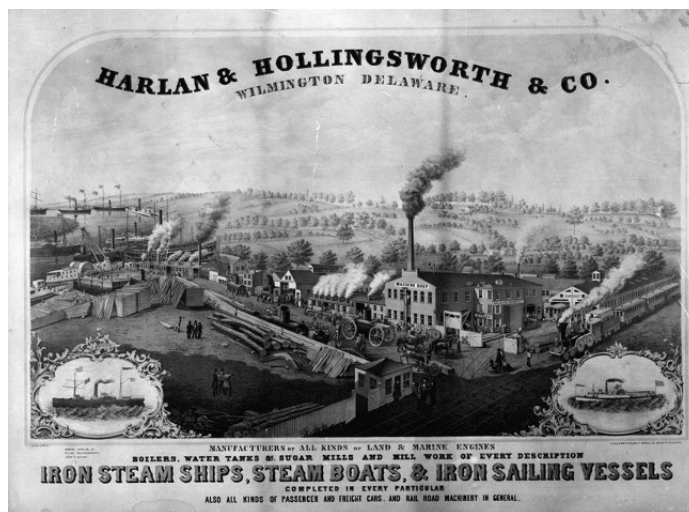
Calendar of Events

- Jan 5-7** **PYM Young Adult Friends Retreat, "Empowering Our Inner Leaders"**, January 5-7, 2018, at Swarthmore Friends Meeting. For more information and to register: <http://www.pym.org/event/young-adult-friends-winter-retreat-2018/>
- Jan 13-14** **PYM Winter Family Overnight at Camp Onas:** <http://www.pym.org/event/winter-family-overnight-2018/>
- Jan 28**
8:15 am-1 pm **Quarterly Meeting at Wilmington Meeting**, 401 N. West St, Wilmington DE. Meeting for Business, worship, program on Quaker Industrialists and lunch. Children's program. Look for more information in the newsletter.
- Feb 3**
9:30 am-2:30 **Resource Friends in Ministry & Care at Friends Center.** An initial gathering of Friends with gifts or interest in developing skills in teaching and learning facilitation in the areas of Ministry & Care. Info & registration: George Schaefer, gschaefer@pym.org or 215-241-7068. Details: <http://www.pym.org/introducing-resource-friends>
- Feb 10**
10:30-1:30 pm **"Reimagining Justice: Prisons as an Opportunity for Change"**. Willistown Friends Meeting, 7069 Goshen Rd, Newtown Square, PA. Join us to learn more about the challenges faced by inmates and life in prison, treatment & reentry programs and services, alternative approaches to punishment, and community engagement. Light refreshments will be served at 10:30 am, speakers and Q&A at 11:05. Email Willistownfriendsmeeting@gmail.com by February 8 to register (walk-ins are also welcome).
- Feb 11**
7:30 pm **Concord Quarter Planning Committee**, The Hickman, 400 N. Walnut St., West Chester. Meets 4 times per year to plan Quarterly Meeting and other events. Has oversight of the Quarter Coordinator. Open to any Quarter member. Questions? Concordquarter@pym.org or Clerk, Deb Wood, at deb.wood@westtown.edu
- Feb 16-18** **PYM Middle School Friends Winter Gathering at Solebury Meeting.** Save the Date, more information is coming soon. Details: http://www.pym.org/event/middle-school-friends-winter-gathering/?instance_id=1613 or Melinda Wenner Bradley, MWennerBradley@pym.org
- Feb 24**
7-9 pm **Concord Quarter Annual Square Dance**, Willistown Meeting, 7069 Goshen Rd, Newtown Square, PA. Come one and all for an evening of fun!
- Mar 3**
10 am-12:30 **Aging in Place Workshop with PYM's George Schaefer** sponsored by the Concord Quarter Working Group on Aging Concerns. At Goshen Meeting.

Concord Quarterly Meeting – January 28, 2018

Wilmington Monthly Meeting

8:15-8:30	Sign in
8:30-9:45	Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business
9:45-10:00	Break
10:00-11:00	Meeting For Worship with Wilmington Monthly Meeting
11:00-12:00	Program-Quaker Family Businesses in Wilmington
12:00-1:00	Shared Meal



Quaker Family Businesses & the Development of Wilmington

Sally O'Byrne, a member of Wilmington Monthly Meeting and curious historian, environmentalist and birder, will provide an engaging presentation, filled with historical pictures, maps, photographs and other artifacts as she weaves the tapestry of Quaker families and their businesses that provided a dramatic uplift to the city of Wilmington. Meet the Shipley, Tatnall, Hollingsworth, Bancroft, Pusey, and Canby families, as well as many others.



Support New Beginnings, Next Step

Wilmington Monthly Meeting sponsors a clothing closet as a support for the New Beginnings, Next Step (NBNS) program. NBNS is a peer-support group for Returning Citizens who are transitioning from incarceration back into productive community life. **Friends attending Concord Quarterly Meeting on January 28 are invited to bring donations to the clothing closet. Particular needs are extra-large men's pants (especially jeans and work clothes), warm socks, underwear, compression socks, and sweatshirts. Outdoor wear and work boots are also needed.**

Children's Program

Young friends are invited to join the First Day School. Youngest friends will be engaged in bible study, while older friends (2nd – 6th grade) will be exploring the peace testimony through reflection on excerpts from Faith and Practice. A service project will also be included.

Location: Wilmington Meeting 401 N West Street, Wilmington, DE 19801

For more info and a map to the meeting go to <http://concordquarter.org/meeting-maps/>

You can also email Lynne Piersol, Coordinator, at concordquarter@pym.org

Concord Quarterly Meeting at West Chester Meeting, October 22, 2017

Opening Worship - The meeting began at 8:17 am with a period of worship.

Welcome -- Deb Wood (Clerk)

The clerk warmly welcomed newcomers and visitors to the Quarterly Meeting sessions. Visitors, all associated with Delaware Valley Friends School, were: Kirk Smothers (Brooklyn MM, NYYM), Donald Palmer (Newtown MM) and Gray Goodman (Providence MM).

Those monthly meetings which were not present were: Concord MM. Twenty Friends were present as the meeting began.

Approval of minutes from July 23, 2017 -- Deb Wood (Clerk)

The minutes as published were approved, with thanks to Rich Ailes..

Ad Hoc Committee on Monthly Meetings' with Limited Attendance Report -- David Leonard

David reported that the initiative had stalled but he is about to reactivate it. The intention was to help meetings with very small active membership find non-Quaker partners to share in using, caring for and managing the meetinghouse property. Concord MM had expressed interest for its meetinghouse and for Chichester's. David wrote to all the other MMs he could identify in Chester County and its vicinity to see if any others were interested in joining the effort, but none responded, not even those that are known to have very sparsely used meetinghouses. David had envisioned some general advertising for partners but the very limited response demands a different strategy with a more focused search. David confessed that lobbying for FCNL against the threatened repeal of the Affordable Care Act has absorbed his energies instead over the last year but he is now ready to work again with Concord MM on finding a suitable way forward..

The clerk also reminded Friends that Concord MM meets for worship at 11:15 and warmly welcomes others joining with them.

Joys and Challenges Report from Middletown Meeting -- Rich Ailes for Tom Ceresini (Clerk of Middletown) - The report was received with appreciation and is attached as Appendix 1.

Delaware Valley Friends School – Kirk Smothers (Head of DVFS) - A letter was received from Kirk Smothers (Head of DVF School), which is attached as Appendix 2. It seeks to have the school come under the care of Concord Quarter. The meeting acknowledged with appreciation receipt of the letter. Kirk responded to questions about the school and about DVFS would like in a care relationship with Concord Quarter. There needs to be a dialogue of just what the relationship would entail. *The meeting approved the appointment of an ad hoc committee to explore the matter further – Debbie Murray-Sheppard (Wilmington MM) and Shirley Wright Kamara (Middletown MM), with further names to be added by the CQM Planning Committee.*

Working Group on Aging Concerns report – Rich Ailes- The committee's report is attached as Appendix 3. Training is being planned for those who are prepared to be resource people on aging and a grant to support its costs has been approved from Friends Foundation for the Aging. *The meeting approved a minute of appreciation to the Friends Foundation for the Aging for the support it has approved for this endeavor.*

Friendly Audit report -- David Wickard - The committee's report is attached as Appendix 4. The committee found that in general the Quarter's accounts are properly and effectively managed. Six recommendations were made. The meeting acknowledged receipt of the report and its suggestions. The Treasurer has already begun to implement some of the suggestions and others will be discussed at Planning Committee and in the next CQM.

Treasurer's Reports -- Tom Haviland (Treasurer) Tom was unable to attend the meeting, but his full report is attached to these minutes as Appendix 5.

Coordinator's Report -- Lynne Piersol (Coordinator) - Lynne spoke briefly to her report, the full text of which was posted on the CQM blog and is attached to these minutes as Appendix 6.

Meeting Close - The meeting closed at 9:15 with a period of silent worship. Twenty-nine Friends were present at this point, including the addition of a representative from Chichester..

Respectfully submitted, David Leonard (Recording Clerk) and Deb Wood (Clerk)

Appendix 1 -- Joys and Challenges Report from Middletown Meeting (Available on the CQM Website)

Appendix 2 -- Delaware Valley Friends School (Available on the CQM Website)

Appendix 3 – Report of the Working Group on Aging Concerns

The committee has met twice after the last Quarterly Meeting on August 16 and September 20, and will meet again on November 1. Meetings remain open to any Friend or attender in the Quarter. All Meetings in the Quarter continue to be represented. Currently the committee has two projects working. A workshop on Aging in Place featuring PYM staff person George Schaefer is scheduled for January 20 at a location to be determined. County resources for Seniors will also be displayed at this workshop. A training for Friends and attenders in Concord Quarter who are interested in becoming Aging Concerns Resource consultants in the Quarter is scheduled to be held the weekend of April 13 to 15 at the West Chester Meeting/Hickman campus. This training will involve the ARCH New York Yearly Meeting staff person Callie Janoff, along with George Schaefer, conducting an intensive weekend workshop on many different

aspects of the aging process. The intention is to help participants become knowledgeable enough to provide guidance on aging issues to members of their Meetings and members in the Quarter. We see this as a way to train a group of 20-25 individuals, who would then be available to help to strengthen their meetings' capacities to fully embrace the participation of their older and differently abled members and attenders.

The cost of this training is fairly high, about \$7,000, which includes meals for the participants and fees for the Trainers. Knowing this, the working group approved our coordinator Lynne Piersol, Rich Ailes and Pam Leland to request a grant from the Friends Foundation on Aging to cover these costs. Lynne was the point person for this effort. She drafted the letter and interfaced with the FFA staff person, Deb Frazer. At their board meeting in early October FFA approved a grant of \$6,993 for this event. This will allow the working group to move forward in our organizing effort. Needless to say the working group is deeply appreciative for the Foundation's support and urges this Quarterly Meeting to minute its gratitude and ask the clerk to forward this minute to the foundation's staff person. Since the approval Lynne set up a conference call with Callie Janoff, George Schaefer, and Rich Ailes to deal with initial concerns about the training.

This looks like an issue that is gathering a lot of weight in the Quarter. The working group appears to have participants who are strong in their commitment to the work. We are blessed with a staff person who offers us tremendous assistance. For more information you can contact Lynne Piersol at concordquarter@pym.org or Rich Ailes at railesjr@ailesdodson.org.

Appendix 4 -- Friendly Audit of Concord Quarterly Meeting Treasurer's Operations (Available on the CQM Website)

Appendix 5 -- Treasurer's Reports (note: complete report email concordquarter@pym.org)

Concord Quarterly Meeting Treasurer's Report – Fiscal Year 2017-2018 Q1 - October 22, 2017 (Available on the CQM Website)

Appendix 6 – Coordinator's Report for October 2017

It is hard to believe I have been serving the Quarter for more than 4 months already! Along with the regular duties of communication, event planning including Quarterly Meeting, and supporting the Working Group on Aging Concerns (which will now be moving forward with an ARCH training!), I have been visiting the meetings. I have now visited 8 meetings, and attended the Fall Worship at Chichester. Soon I hope to visit Appoquinimink, the preparative meeting under the care of Wilmington. I've also attended events at several meetings and am gradually getting to know more people and learn what the various relationships are.

I also attended Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Annual Sessions in July (and was happy to see some of you there!). I participated in several sets of exercises which were meant to encourage us to be more welcoming by being better listeners, and sharing our deepest feelings. I attended workshops by the Eco Justice Collaborative (which shared a wonderful video which can be brought to meetings), one by Spiral Q, and another by the Quaker Voluntary Service program.

In addition, I had the opportunity to meet with other Quarter Coordinators and Clerks of Quarters over lunch. It was very helpful to hear what other Quarters are doing and how the various Coordinators function. Some issues (very small meetings, and how to get meetings to support each other's events, for example) seem to be common to every Quarter. The Coordinators will be meeting again later this fall at Friends Center after the new PYM program staff have been hired.

There was also a meeting of First Day School and Children's Religious Life people, including those of us who attended the FDS retreat in May (I attended before I was hired), along with interested others. We talked about what we'd like PYM to do to support us. Zac Dutton has since reached out.

Several very important decisions were made this summer – including the approval of a new Faith and Practice! Two buildings which had been under the care of PYM are becoming independent of the Yearly Meeting. The Burlington Meeting and Conference Center is being Transferred to the care of Burlington Quarter. The Arch Street Preservation Trust is well on its way to becoming financially independent. I think the decision with the potential for the most impact on PYM is the approval of the undertaking of a Multicultural Institutional Audit – the fruit, I think, of all the discussions, workshops and listening, even when hard, that has taken place over the last several years. An article about this was in the Concord Quarter October Newsletter.

The General Secretary's report was pretty powerful for me. She accepted responsibility for the conflicts and impacts of the controversial staffing decisions made earlier this year in a very humble way, and asked for our help in keeping her open and asking for support.

Another new event at Yearly Meeting Sessions was the inclusion of local faith communities at a picnic (held indoors due to weather), and an interfaith panel around the topic of how faith inspires their advocacy. It was noted that in the past we have gone to Annual Sessions and not interacted with the community around the site, so this programming was an attempt to get more involved and knowledgeable. I found myself talking to some people of the Muslim faith at dinner who did not know about Quakers, but had come to dinner and to hear their leader on the panel.

Overall I am enjoying the work and inspired by all that you are doing both in your meetings and outside of them. I am very open to feedback, so if there is something you would like me to do differently, or you would like my help, please let me know! Here are some small ways I can continue to support you:

- Publicize events at your meeting – I send out Announcements every month around the 20th – try to get copy to me by the 15th.
- I can generally bring and set up the Quarter's sound system for your event.
- I can put you in touch with people in other meetings doing similar work.
- I can find you resources.
- And more – just ask! - Lynne Piersol

Editor's Note: Due to space constraints, Appendices 1, 2, 4, & 5 are not posted here. They are available on the web with the complete minutes at <http://concordquarter.org/documents/?category=Minutes>

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