

## Friends Fiduciary Corporation and Quaker Investing

Most Meeting Treasurers each year look forward to January and July, as the Meetings will receive their semi-annual distribution from Friends Fiduciary Corporation (FFC). For most, this is the largest portion of the Meeting's annual income, so the amount distributed is quite important to keeping the Meeting operating and financially viable. Delaware Valley Quakers have heard the name "Friends Fiduciary" numerous times, but do not really have a full understanding of its workings. Many simply know that it means there will be a lot of money for the Meeting two times a year. At the July Quarterly Meeting, Jeff Perkins, Executive Director, and Richard Kent, Chief Investment Officer, will provide an update on the Friends Fiduciary investment accounts of our Meetings. It will be an opportunity for learning more about this important and unique organization, and should prove both instructional and eye opening to our Quarter members and attendees, especially to the Meetings' Treasurers.



Jeff Perkins will provide an overview of the history and structure of Friends Fiduciary, born out of the trust organizations of the Hicksite and Orthodox Yearly Meetings. This will include the growth of the organization in terms of investment capabilities, size of the organization's assets, as well as the increase in staff over the past several years to address the growing needs of FFC's constituents. He will address how Friends Fiduciary aligns investments with mission. This is done through the screening of all companies' stock purchased for Quaker values and an active shareholder engagement program. Shareholder advocacy can include direct dialogue with the companies we own in the investment portfolios. FFC can also file a shareholder resolution that allows all shareholders to vote on the issue that has been raised. FFC can also engage in policy advocacy through dialogues and letters to various organizations. Some specific examples will be shared.

Richard Kent will provide an overview of FFC's approach to investment management. This will include the selection process of the managers FFC utilizes, as well as the unique screening process utilized throughout the investment process. Richard will go into greater detail about the areas of the market that have driven the Corporation's investment performance, both over the short and long term horizons. He will explain how FFC manages

special requests for certain funds, like a totally "green fund," and what special funds are available. Friends Fiduciary has added several new funds over the past few years to meet the ever-changing needs of its constituents.

Jeffery W. Perkins is FFC's Executive Director and he has served for the last five years. Jeff has over 20 years in non-profit financial management, most recently Senior VP for Finance and Administration at the Franklin Institute. Seven years were spent as Vice President for Finance and Administration at the Philadelphia Foundation, a community foundation with over \$350 million in 650 charitable funds. He also spent ten years in the for-profit sector, including Sara Lee Corporation. Jeff has been an active member of the Religious Society of Friends since 1989, and currently is a Member of Chestnut Hill Friends Meeting. He received an MBA from Golden Gate University after receiving his BS and BA degrees from Purdue University.



Richard Kent is the Chief Investment Officer, and he has over 30 years in investment management working in portfolio management, equity research, and business development. He has managed socially responsible portfolios since 1999 with the Wilmington Trust Co. and Glenmede Trust. Non-profit board participation includes: Children's Country Week Association -youth development and environmental education programs; and the Triskeles Foundation in non-profit investment management and in donor advised funds. He holds an MBA from St. Joseph's University, and a BS from Lehigh University. He is also a Chartered Financial Analyst.



After their presentation, Jeff and Richard plan to field questions from the Meetings over a wide range of subjects, and there should be plenty of time for that portion of the program. This program should be of particular interest to those in Concord Quarter who are very interested in their Meeting finances, and the role that FFC plays in supporting the Meetings in Concord Quarter.

- Larry Walker, Concord Meeting

*ed note: Jeffery Perkins' article in Friends Journal titled Witnessing to Wall Street is here: <https://www.friendsjournal.org/witnessing-to-wall-street/>*

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*Notice: Concord Quarter's clerks have switched roles. Deb Wood has moved from clerk to the alternate clerk position and Chris McKenney of Birmingham Meeting is now the Quarter's clerk for a 2-year term. Many thanks to Deb for her faithful service and to Chris for his stepping forward to keep our Quarter's leadership rotation functioning well.*

## Your Coordinator – One Year Later....

It's been a full year since I began serving you as Coordinator and it has been a joy to be in this role of support and helping hands for the work of the Quarter and the individual meetings. I thank you all for your support and encouragement.

For me the biggest event recently was the Aging Concerns Facilitator training that was held in mid-April. It was a busy month since I managed the logistics for it including making hotel reservations, arranging with The Hickman for meals, shopping for supplies, arranging home hospitality, getting packets printed, and communication to make sure all participants, hosts, trainers, and space providers were all on the same page. The Working Group on Aging Concerns did the overall planning and supported the weekend as well. We truly appreciated the generosity of West Chester Meeting and The Hickman for providing space for us to meet. It was very satisfying to see it all come together after a year of planning.

The Working Group on Aging Concerns continues to meet monthly to expand on this work. I have set up a list-serve for all participants to communicate what we are doing and to ask questions and share resources. A follow up ½ day session in November is in the works for Callie Janoff from NYYM to return, as is a workshop open to all in the fall.

The next Quarter event was Tubing on the Brandywine on June 24. It was my first event as your Coordinator last year. It is a lot of fun whether or not you get wet! This event is sponsored jointly with Western Quarter, and it has been wonderful to work with their Coordinator, Sarah Kastriner, on several events.

Planning for the next Quarterly Meeting on July 22 at Concord Meeting is underway. Concord Quarter Planning Committee meets about a week or 2 after each Quarterly Meeting session to plan for events and the next Quarterly Meeting. Membership includes all 8 meetings in the Quarter, officers and myself, but is open to anyone who would like to join us. The next meeting is August 4.

Part of my job as your Coordinator is to stay up to date about Yearly Meeting happenings. Next up is Annual Sessions July 25-29. I am registered and hope that many of you will come too! It's a time to connect with others across PYM and to be part of the decision making. There are also workshops and interest groups, exhibits and more. There will be programming for all ages. Don't stay away for lack of funds – there is financial aid. I'll report my impressions after I attend.

Lastly, I continue to send out your monthly Announcements about happenings in the Quarter, post events on our website calendar, and on the PYM website when appropriate. The Quarter has received a small grant from PYM's Membership Development Support Fund to get us up to speed on the use of social media through the Digital Outreach Project of Friends General Conference. Look for a Facebook page in the fall....

As always, let me know if you have any questions, concerns or ideas!

- Lynne Piersol, Concord Quarter Coordinator

## Quarter Working Group on Aging Concerns Hosts Successful Training



The fruition of about a year of planning was evident when our working group's training was presented at West Chester Meeting and at the Hickman on the weekend of April 13th to April 15th. The presenters were Callie Janoff from New York Yearly Meeting, and

our own PYM Care & Aging Coordinator, George Schaefer. The joint resource for their work on Aging Concerns, which they co-produced, can be viewed at <http://www.quakeragingresources.org>. The participants mostly hailed from Concord Quarter monthly meetings, as well as from Downingtown, Fallsington, Newtown, Haverford, Old Haverford, and Yardley Meetings. There were also two representatives from the Friends Foundation for the Aging, which was the funding source for the workshop.

The topics we budding facilitators learned about ranged from senior housing to loss of a loved one. The material was well presented and the two leaders did a fine job lending their expertise by turns. The time allotted was sufficient to paint a broad picture for participants, most who will be assisting as resource persons on aging concerns within their own meetings, as well as teaming up to serve another meeting with needs.

Our learning highlighted our own spiritual journey as the core theme. We also gained information specific to our Yearly Meeting's existing resource material that is readily available to any who have an interest in aging concerns. We began to plan for the structure that will enable the Aging Concerns Facilitators who did the training to use what we learned. This includes use of shared contact information and an email list, establishment of a coordinator for

our work and future learning sessions, all to help bring our learning and skills back to our monthly meetings.

We who participated are on the aging continuum, and we became aware of matters that can promote our use as facilitators, bringing to bear our own personal experiences of aging. This is a ministry for us that is timely for many Quaker Meetings. We look forward to living this ministry as we move ahead to strengthen our communities, addressing aging concerns now, and into the future.

- Laure Laky - Goshen Meeting



The following list was generated from a question posed to us at the beginning of our ACF Training - What are you looking forward to as you age? :

1. Sharing life journey with others
2. Contributing to something bigger
3. Inner serenity (getting it!)
4. Comfort in being alone
5. (Re)discovery of gifts and creative talents
6. New pathways to spiritual growth
7. Life seems more integrated and full
8. Turning fear into curiosity.
9. Not caring about what others think of me
10. Continuity of values and activities
11. Being more present to the beauty of the moment
12. Being physically active

## Are You Called to The School of the Spirit?

*A Ministry to Help Nurture our Reliance on God's Living Presence in our Worship, our Business, and our Lives*

Have you ever felt a nudge to go deeper in your Quaker spiritual life—to discern, name, and live into your calling and to strengthen your ability to serve? The School of the Spirit program "On Being a Spiritual Nurturer" is designed to affirm you in going deeper and to assist you in your efforts toward faithfulness, as well as your ability to serve.

The Spiritual Nurturers Program is an 18-month journey with fellow seekers and finders who feel a call to any form of spiritual nurture ministry. It is a transformative opportunity to learn about the unique Quaker aspects of Christianity and to practice the Quaker experience of worship, prayer, discernment, and spiritual direction, as well as to name and clarify your call to serve. The program involves six 4-to-5-day residencies, plus individual and group work at home in between.

I was in the first class of the Spiritual Nurturers Program in 1990-91 and it felt like a gathering of the Quaker ministers and elders of old, a call to live in the school of Spirit where the Inward Teacher is available all the time. The experience had a profound effect on my Quaker journey and I came out of the class naming and serving a call to ministry that carried me throughout the United States and beyond. It was a call to support Friends in going to the Deep Place and to help meetings support Friends who felt God's call. I am grateful to my meeting, Goshen Monthly Meeting, as well as Concord Quarterly Meeting, and Philadelphia Yearly Meeting who supported my call. I am especially grateful to the School of the Spirit who nurtured me along this path.

The School of the Spirit had a deeply led beginning. When Kathryn Damiano, then a member of Middletown Monthly Meeting, and Sandra Cronk, then a member of Princeton



THE SCHOOL  
OF THE SPIRIT  
A ministry of prayer and learning.

Monthly Meeting, founded the School of the Spirit in 1990, they were responding from a place of contemplation and inward guidance—not to a survey, brainstorming, or the consideration of a good idea. Their ministry came as a calling to prayer and learning, a call to nurture more spiritual grounding at a time when the Religious Society of Friends was becoming more and more analytical and prone to making decisions based on our own good thinking rather than relying on God's Living Presence in our worship, our business, and our lives.

Unfortunately, this tendency away from abiding in God's life and power has continued, so the work of the School of the Spirit is not done. I am aware that it is going to take many, many Friends to help us return to our foundational posture of deep listening, trusting, waiting, and faithfulness.

Our religious society (and the world) needs multitudes of us who shine forth our experiences of the Living Presence's profound wisdom, guidance, and love. The School of the Spirit brings Friends together to help regain this essential faithfulness. I hope you will prayerfully ask if it is for you.

The next cycle of the Spiritual Nurturers Program will be held nearby our Concord Quarter meetings at the Franciscan Center in Aston, PA. The first retreat is in early September and detailed program information, as well as registration instructions can be found at [www.schoolofthespirit.org](http://www.schoolofthespirit.org). Don't let money keep you away. There are ways for any Friend who is called to find funds.

I have just returned to the School of the Spirit board and I am willing to speak with anyone about the Spiritual Nurturers Program or any other questions related to this need for a deeper Religious Society of Friends. Please email me and I will reach out to you. You also can reach out to any of the teachers, whose contact info is on the website. God is not finished with us yet. -Michael Wajda, [mfwajda@gmail.com](mailto:mfwajda@gmail.com) - Goshen Meeting

## Social Media Outreach Project for Concord Quarter



Many Quaker Meetings, including some in Concord Quarter use Facebook and other social media for outreach through the

announcement of events, posting of queries, and giving information about their meeting. Emily Provance, a Friend who is called to the ministry of outreach and a member of Fifteenth Street Meeting in New York Yearly Meeting, describes social media as "an unprecedented platform for witness and ministry."

Emily conducted research in New York Yearly Meeting to see how a Facebook media outreach campaign might reach people and let them know that Quakers are still out there. If you want to read more about this, her blog is quite interesting <https://quakeremily.wordpress.com/the-social-media-ads-outreach-experiment>.

She says "Many people under the age of forty use social media as their exclusive source of information and communications. If we do not engage meaningfully with social media, they will never know we exist." According to the Pew Research Center, around 70% of people living in the United States use social media (including Facebook) on a regular basis. Emily "wondered what would happen if we used quotations from modern Quakers as outreach more deliberately, through social media ads, especially if we connected those ads to local meeting websites so that a person viewing the ad could immediately learn more about their local meeting".

She began with an experiment with 6 meetings, and then expanded to 12 for the second round. The project included paid ads on Facebook that targeted people 18-40 since she was serving as the Young Adult Field Secretary at that time, but also this is an age group that heavily uses FB, and so would be more likely to see multiple ads. Targeting can also be based on other factors such as zip codes. The cost was about \$250 for 50 days of ads per meeting. The results were impressive in terms of how many people looked at the ads and clicked through to links to meeting websites and events. Query based ads (which might include quotes from current Quakers) with a call to action were most successful (a call to action could be something like "come explore these questions with us...").

Friends General Conference has offered an opportunity for meetings to participate in a Digital Media Outreach project like the one in New York State. In April, Concord Quarter's Planning Committee approved the application for this project to expand the Quarter's social media presence and the skills of the Coordinator and others. The cost is \$300, and will include help building a Facebook page as well as an ad campaign for 50 days. We applied to be part of the program as of September 1, and to PYM's Membership Development Support Fund for a small grant to cover the cost (which has been approved!). Your Coordinator will be the Administrator but is very interested in working with some others to develop the program. If you are interested in getting involved, contact Lynne Piersol, Concord Quarter Coordinator, [concordquarter@pym.org](mailto:concordquarter@pym.org) - Lynne Piersol



# Concord Quarterly Meeting's July-August 2018 Announcements and Calendar of Events

## Announcements

The minutes from our April 22 Quarterly Meeting at Birmingham 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](mailto:leonard@berkeley.edu) by July 15, 2018

**Want to know more about Delaware Valley Friends School?** Concord Quarter and DVFS are in conversation about a possible care relationship. To learn more about the school: <https://www.dvfs.org>

**Curious about Quaker aging resources?** Check out the Quaker Aging Resources website <http://www.quakeragingresources.org>. It's a joint project of PYM and New York Yearly Meeting.

**Pacem in Terris (Peace on Earth)** is a grassroots, non-partisan, interfaith, organization that brings together people of all ages, ethnic backgrounds and professions for the purpose of positive peaceful change on the local, national and global level. Currently housed at Wilmington Meeting, it has much to offer, including programs for children, educational events, a newsletter and more: <http://depaceminterris.org/>

## Calendar of Events

- Jun 27-Aug 15, Weds at 6:30pm** **Westtown Meeting's** weekly lake supper picnic at Westtown Lake 975 Westtown Rd, Westtown, PA. Drive down the lake road and turn right to park along the access road to the shed. Hot dogs and burgers provided. Bring a side dish to share, as well as your own place setting. If it rains, picnic suppers are held in The Cabin, off Shady Grove Way, on the School campus. Great opportunity for fellowship with members of Westtown and other Meetings in the Quarter.
- July 1 7:50 pm** **Twilight Meditation** at Kirkwood Preserve, Willistown Conservation Trust. Open to All. Meet at Newtown Square Meeting. For info contact John Custer: [jscuster@verizon.net](mailto:jscuster@verizon.net)
- July 2 7:15 to 8:15 pm** **"How Should Congress Support Nuclear Diplomacy with North Korea"** at the auditorium at Kendal at Longwood, 1109 E. Baltimore Pike, Kennett Square, PA. Join Anthony Wier, director of FCNL's work on nuclear weapons policy. No RSVP necessary.
- July 8 1:00 to 9:00 pm** **Pacem In Terris Music Festival** (postponed from June 2) Butch Zito's Farm, 301 Stanton Rd, Wilmington DE. Music, food, crafts! For more information and tickets: <http://depaceminterris.org/fw-event-slug/pacem-music-festival-2>
- July 11 6:30 PM** **Summer Concert at The Hickman**, by the Trailer Grass Orchestra. 400 N. Walnut St, West Chester. Rain date is the following evening. Free
- July 22 8:30 am- 1 pm** **Concord Quarterly Meeting at Concord Meeting**, 827 Concord Rd, Concordville. 8:30-Meeting for Business, 10:00-Program by Friends Fiduciary (have you ever wondered about who they are and what they do?), and 11:15 worship followed by lunch provided by Concord Meeting. Childcare provided. It's a great way to hear what is going on in the Quarter and connect with people from other meetings!
- July 24-25 2 pm to noon** **Pre Sessions Spiritual Formation Retreat** at The College of New Jersey, 2000 Pennington Rd, Ewing Township, NJ 08618. For more information: <http://www.pym.org/event/spiritual-formation-pre-sessions-retreat/>
- July 25-29** **PYM Annual Sessions** at The College of New Jersey, 2000 Pennington Rd. Ewing Township, NJ 08618. "How Our Lives Speak" Come for all or part of sessions. Programs for all ages. Financial aid available. Registration is open now. For more information: <http://www.pym.org/annual-sessions/>
- July 29 7:35 pm** **Twilight Meditation** at Ashbridge Preserve, Willistown Conservation Trust. Open to All. Meet at Newtown Square Meeting. For info contact John Custer: [jscuster@verizon.net](mailto:jscuster@verizon.net)
- August 4 4 – 7:00 pm** **BBQ at Birmingham Meeting**, 1245 Birmingham Rd, West Chester, PA. Food, music, and divine inspiration. Contact Marcia Cole-Quigley ([Marcia.cq@gmail.com](mailto:Marcia.cq@gmail.com)) for tickets ahead (cheaper than walking in!)
- August 5 7:30 pm** **Concord Quarter Planning Committee**, Concord Meeting, 827 Concord Rd, Concordville. All members of Concord Quarter are welcome to join this active group that plans events & Quarterly Meeting, and has oversight of the Coordinator. For more information: [concordquarter@pym.org](mailto:concordquarter@pym.org)
- August 8 6:30 pm** **Summer Concert at The Hickman**, with the Original Dueling Pianos! 400 N. Walnut St, West Chester. Rain date is the following evening. Free
- August 19 -25** **Young Friends Camp Onas Gathering at Camp Onas, Ottsville PA.** Young Friends gatherings create a fun and vibrant community of high-school-aged Quaker and Quaker-friendly folks! For more information: [http://www.pym.org/event/young-friends-camp-onas-gathering-2018/?instance\\_id=1906](http://www.pym.org/event/young-friends-camp-onas-gathering-2018/?instance_id=1906)

# Concord Quarterly Meeting – July 22, 2018

## Concord Monthly Meeting

8:15-8:30	Sign-in
8:30-9:45	Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business
10:00-11:00	Program on Friends Fiduciary
11:15-12:00	Meeting for Worship
12:15-1:00	Lunch provided by Concord Meeting



## Investing in the Manner of Friends

Many Delaware Valley Quakers have heard the name "Friends Fiduciary" numerous times, but do not really have a full understanding of its workings. Most simply know that it means there will be a lot of money for the Meeting two times a year. At the July Quarterly Meeting, Jeff Perkins, Executive Director, and Richard Kent, Chief Investment Officer, will provide an update on the Friends Fiduciary investment accounts of our Meetings. It will be an opportunity for learning more about this important and unique organization, and should prove both instructional and eye opening to our Quarter members, especially to the Meetings' Treasurers.

**Childcare will be provided with crafts from 8:30**

**Directions:** Located at 827 Concord Rd., Concordville PA 19331. From Rte. 1 in Concordville, take Concord Rd. south 1/4 mile past the Concordville Fire House; meetinghouse is on left.

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](mailto:concordquarter@pym.org)

## Concord Quarterly Meeting at Wilmington Meeting, January 28, 2018

Opening Worship: The meeting opened with a period of unprogrammed worship at 8:30 am.

Monthly Meeting Count: All member meetings, except Concord, were represented. Thirty-one Friends were present as the meeting began.

Minutes from January 28, 2018 were approved.

**Joys and Challenges Report from West Chester Monthly Meeting-** Deb Lyons The report is attached below as Appendix 1, which was received with appreciation.

**Update & discussion regarding a possible care relationship between Concord Quarter and Delaware Valley Friends School - Kirk Smothers (Head of School)**  
At this point the committee has met once, in January. One of the things identified was that if we are to enter into a meaningful relationship we need to get to know each other better. At the end of this month people from the school will have visited all the Quarter's meetings. The school does have several alumni families in the Quarter but it would love to have visits to the school from other Quarter Friends. David Jones asked what the care relationship between the school and Quarter might look like. Kirk replied that there are a variety of possible models. The older relationships were ones in which a Friends body founded the school and appointed its board. In the case of the school it was incorporated under Philadelphia YM but is now financially and legally independent of it. What the school is looking forward to instead is an active connection to Quaker meetings, so that the students, who often are quite damaged by their experiences at other schools, can feel a part of a larger spiritual relationship which they can interact with from time to time. Another asked about visits to the school. Kirk encouraged attendance at school events or at school meeting for worship Thursdays at 10:10. Friends present today who are interested in attending such events were asked to put their names on a sheet being circulated. Individual visits can be arranged through contact with Kirk. Currently the school has 187 students from grades 3-12.

### Working Group on Aging Concerns Report

Rich Ailes

The report is attached below as Appendix 2. Several Friends spoke to the value of the trainings to them and to all our meetings. The committee will be sharing resources with Friends on these issues.

### Minute on Nuclear Weapons, request for approval

Connie Eash

Birmingham Meeting presented a minute on Nuclear Weapons, requesting that the Quarter join in endorsing it. Several of the Quarter's meetings have already approved the minute. Willistown wanted the minute sent to FCNL rather than Philadelphia YM. Birmingham responded that it has already been sent to FCNL and appears on its web-site but that the minute would have more power with Quarter and YM endorsement. Goshen MM wants us to do more than just endorse a minute; it is embarrassing how many international treaties the US has not signed (across administrations). The Quarter approved endorsing Birmingham's minute on Nuclear Weapons and forwarding it to Philadelphia YM, FCNL and other relevant parties. It is attached as Appendix 3.

### Treasurer's Report

Tom Haviland

The report is attached below as Appendix 4. The budget was approved. Friends suggested that a cost of living increase for the coordinator be included, which will require an adjustment in the budget and bringing it to the July meeting for approval.

The Treasurer proposed refunding to the MMs the surplus in the coordinator's reserve fund. One Friend suggested that the funds instead should be placed in the Education Endowment Fund. The Quarter asked the Treasurer to write to the Quarter's MMs notifying them of the surplus in the reserve fund and asking each one if it wants a refund or to re-donate the refund to the Education Endowment Fund or some other Quaker cause.

### School of the Spirit Spiritual Nurture Program

Michael Wajda

The School of the Spirit is running an 18 month Spiritual Nurture Program starting in the fall and invites wider participation in this highly recommended program. An introduction and information session will be held at Goshen Meeting on May 12.

### Coordinator's Report

Lynne Piersol

The report was not read but is attached at Appendix 5. The Coordinator encouraged members to check our website regularly and to let her know what other programs they would like to see in the Quarter.

### Announcements of Upcoming Events/Deadlines

Deb Wood, Clerk

- April 29, 2018, 7:30pm, Concord Quarter Planning Committee – all are welcome
- June 3 – 1-4pm – Wilmington Meeting's Berry Festival – see article in recent newsletter
- June 24 (Sunday afternoon) - Tubing on the Brandywine! Details to Come

Second Count of Meetings and Members in Attendance Thirty-seven Friends were present as the meeting concluded.

Respectfully submitted: Deb Wood (clerk) and David Leonard (recording)

### Appendix 1: Joys and Challenges Report from West Chester Monthly Meeting – Deb Lyons, Clerk

Asked "What joys do you experience or encounter in Meeting life?" one Friend responded: "The friendliness of the people. The silence, resulting in a closeness to God. The joy of having children share part of our worship time. The intergenerational aspect of the Meeting's placement on the 'Quaker Block': Meeting, School, and Home. The thoughtfulness of those who feel moved to speak. The willingness to help with 'coffee hour' and Shared Lunch." We have welcomed several new families to membership. One of those new members said, "It feels rewarding and comfortable being a part of something bigger than ourselves."

In the Social Room, our "photo bulletin board" has expanded to a second panel, displaying faces and names of members and regular attenders—and providing a helpful memory jog!

Our Peace and Social Concerns Committee has been re-invigorated. In the past year, it has presented a workshop on nonviolent communication, an educational session on the Second Amendment (in cooperation with Gun Sense of Chester County), and another on the opioid-addiction crisis (with Chester County Drug and Alcohol Services). The committee also keeps Meeting members and attenders informed about upcoming social-action marches and workshops.

Our Worship and Ministry Committee has presented several before-Meeting series of Bible-study sessions, as well as a recent a well-attended evening series on Quaker Testimonies.

With logistical help from West Chester Friends School, we've hosted Young Friends gatherings—and heard deeply moving vocal ministry from some of those visitors.

As we welcome the fact that the years of construction on the Hickman's new Jeanes building are coming to a close, we also welcome the prospect of new residents there and the hope that some of them might choose to worship with us. That prospect has encouraged us to undertake a serious study of whether and how we might make our Meetinghouse more accessible, both from the outdoors and within.

For the moment, that's our biggest challenge; one we will need to approach both prayerfully and practically while keeping the appreciation of the basics expressed in the Friend's words that opened this report.

## **Appendix 2: Report of Concord Quarter Working Group on Aging Concerns— Rich Ailes**

Since our last Quarterly Meeting in January, the Concord Quarter Working Group on Aging Concerns has met in February and April, skipping the March meeting due to inclement weather. On March 3, in spite of the previous day's bad weather which knocked out many home and businesses on the local electric grid, George Schaefer presented a program on Aging in Place at Goshen Meeting. About 27 people participated in a thoughtful and informative program. George is the Care and Aging Concerns Coordinator for Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. The slides presented and notes taken by Lynne Piersol are on the CQM website.

On the weekend of April 13, 20 people participated in the Aging Concerns Facilitator training held at West Chester Meeting and The Hickman, funded by Friends Foundation for the Aging. Callie Janoff, The ARCH Program Coordinator for New York Yearly Meeting, and George Schaefer were the presenters. Many critical concerns around aging and disability were presented in a very helpful format that left all participants with the tools needed to start operating as Aging Concerns Facilitators in our Meeting communities. Here is the definition of an Aging Concerns Facilitator we developed:

*“An Aging Concerns Facilitator is a Friend in Concord Quarter of PYM or elsewhere who has taken the Aging Concerns Facilitator training to be of service with seniors and adults with disabilities within their Quaker communities. Facilitators provide a listening ear and an open heart, as well as a connection to appropriate resources to improve the life of the person assisted. Facilitators also bring guidance to their Monthly and Quarterly Meetings on concerns around aging. They are helped in this through contact with their coordinating committee and their Coordinators.”*

The Working Group is also exploring ways to support the trained Facilitators as they move forward. Some ideas include an email group, occasional workshops aimed at the Facilitators, and a way to request help on the website. An additional 1/2 day to consult with Callie Janoff was included in the grant and will be scheduled at a later date. George Schaefer will also be available to consult with us.

Meetings in our Quarter will be seeing the Friends who participated bringing items of interest around the issues of aging in the year ahead. The Working Group is committed to meeting monthly and is already considering a workshop on financial issues involved in aging this fall for all interested. Presented by Rich Ailes, Clerk of the Working Group

## **Appendix 3: Minute on Nuclear Weapons— Connie Eash, Clerk, Birmingham MM**

Birmingham Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

Minute on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons

In 2017, 122 United Nations member states wrote the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, designed as a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination. The Birmingham Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) strongly requests the United States to sign and ratify this Treaty.

On August 6, 1945, the United States incinerated, annihilated, and irradiated with one atomic bomb 200,000 people and destroyed 62,000 buildings in Hiroshima. Three days later the U.S. caused similar devastation in Nagasaki. The effects—physical, mental, and genetic—linger 72 years later. The question of the morality of using such weapons has been debated ever since.

In the ensuing decades, more countries have pursued development of nuclear weapons. Currently, nine nations possess nearly 15,000 such weapons. The risk of using this inventory of nuclear weapons and the threat of building additional ones for use must be eliminated. Total abolition of nuclear weapons is the moral choice and is essential to our survival.

Approved by BMM March 4, 2018

*Editor's Note: Due to space constraints, the Treasurer's report and Coordinator's report are not included here. They are available on the web with the complete minutes at <http://concordquarter.org/documents/?category=Minutes>*

**Concord Quarterly Meeting Newsletter**  
**Volume 15 Issue 3 July 2018**

Rich Ailes, Editor  
310 Park Avenue  
Swarthmore, PA 19081

Clerk: Chris McKenney  
Asst. Clerk: Deb Wood  
Recording Clerk: David Leonard  
Treasurer: Tom Haviland  
Coordinator: Lynne Piersol

Address Service Requested

**Concord Quarter Meetings**

Appoquinimink Preparative (Under Care of Wilmington MM)  
Birmingham  
Chichester (Under Care of Concord MM)  
Concord  
Goshen  
Middletown  
West Chester  
Westtown  
Willistown  
Wilmington

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