

# Concord Quarterly News

of the Religious Society of Friends

Concord Quarterly Meeting Newsletter Volume 15, Issue 4, October 2018

## A Call to the Light

*(ed. Note: Don Badgley is a member of Poughkeepsie Monthly Meeting. He has traveled in the ministry to bring this message to Meetings of New York Yearly Meeting and to several other churches. The Middletown Men's Group met with him this past summer in his home meeting. This piece which he wrote is reproduced here with his permission. It was first published in the NYYM Newsletter Spark following Don's plenary message to that body's Summer Sessions in 2015.)*

Recently, a young man and non-Quaker observed to me that, in his experience, New York Yearly Meeting was best described as a "social justice club." This observation is important and while incomplete, it is uncomfortably accurate. There is no question that our social causes in the world define Eastern non-programmed Quakers to those very few who notice us at all.

Friends have been laboring in the causes of earth care, prison reform, racial justice, women's rights, native American rights, anti-poverty, and the anti-war/peace movement for generations. We often point proudly to our early work as abolitionists. We claim this work as our heritage and as the legacy of 365 years of Quaker history. This Friend supports and participates in much of this work. Yet, even as I support these worthy efforts I observe a Yearly Meeting increasingly disconnected from its constituent meetings and further observe the shrinking, aging and seemingly inevitable collapse of a majority of those local meetings. With few exceptions our meetings struggle to attract young people and young families. Many are figuratively and literally dying.

Social justice outreach concerns do not make Quakers unique and, it seems clear to me that worthy causes in "the world," while laudable, are a weak foundation on which to build a faith community. In fact, these efforts are not foundational at all. Furthermore, the connection to our Quaker history is not sufficient unto itself to define us as a faith community. Yes, we gather in silent "worship" once a week. We reference "The Inner Light," "being led," Divine Love, and call our meetings for business an exercise in worship. In truth, the connection to and trust in the Divine Presence to guide us and to order our lives sometimes seems to be a quaint and vestigial artifact.

This is a somber indictment and it is not made lightly. I am well-aware of my own failings in this concern and trust that awareness of these failings in myself will temper and clarify my vision for a revival of the right-minded emphasis on living experiential faith.

Our founders did not set out to create a new religion, new creed, new doctrines or even new insights. The insights and leadings of those inspired women and men were in fact very old, even timeless. They named themselves a "society" because they considered themselves to be a society within a larger and eternal construct. They named themselves Friends quite simply because of words attributed to Jesus in scripture. (John 15:15 I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.)

Friends initially jettisoned the outward trappings of the church because these were considered superfluous and distractions from the direct experience of the Divine Presence that they named the Spirit of Christ. This Presence in their midst informed all else. Friends did not gather in worship to effect social justice. Those causes were some of the good fruits of lives ordered by living in unity with the holy, the infinite, eternal, and unchangeable Divine Source. Upon that foundation and attached to that living root the Society of Friends grew into an influential force in the world.

Religion can have many dubious and difficult constructs.

Discomfort with creedal and hierarchical religion is still very Quaker, and answering those concerns was a primary motivation for this new "society" that Fox and others formed. Many of that founding generation repeatedly excoriated the hypocrisies of the various churches with far more vehemence than we do today. That notwithstanding, they did it with love, even as they consistently proclaimed the Holy Spirit that inspired, motivated and informed their practice of Experiential Faith. It was unity with the Light and the direct correlation of that Experience with scripture that empowered their ministries. It was on that foundation that their interfaith encounters and interactions with the world were built. While scripture was not considered authoritative, scriptural fluency combined with the authority of gentle, yet firm experiential witness was compelling and carried remarkable weight, even among those in opposition. It was once very difficult to ignore the Quakers.

Today, many Friends are uneasy with the spiritual, scriptural, proto-Christian and living root of Quaker Experiential Faith. Many Friends have abandoned this foundation entirely. They come for the good social causes, and in some cases to appropriate a liberal quasi-religious platform to enable social justice. And, so our small remnant branch of Quakerism fades into deserved oblivion. When the root is unhealthy the tree begins to die.

Let us not judge Friends' "spiritual" journeys. This Friend is simply suggesting that our social justice causes will gain in impact and grow in power when we attribute those efforts to the Divine Light, while also nurturing that Divine Seed within those who may encounter us. Our ministry only has power when it originates in Experiential Faith and is nearly powerless when it originates in worldly concerns.

I share these thoughts because it is my hope that we will remember, seek, and trust the grace-filled stillness that is discovered in the silence of worship. I know that within this pure Stillness we experience Unity with the unchangeable Source, The Ocean of Light that flows over the impermanent and transient affairs of the world. That Experience does not just alter our lives, it reorders our priorities and gives us greatly enhanced power to help create the better world we all seek for ourselves and for humankind. Psalm 46:10 (Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth.)

- Don Badgley, Poughkeepsie Monthly Meeting



## Reflections on PYM Annual Sessions, July 25-29, 2018

I attended the recent PYM Annual Sessions at The College of New Jersey in Trenton, NJ. The experience was very different for me compared to the last couple of years. We felt more grounded and loving in our interactions and I came away feeling like I had participated in a spiritual experience, a feeling I had not had for a while at sessions. Following are some of my thoughts and experiences.

First, there was a Spiritual Retreat the day before Annual Sessions which about 30 of us attended. It was a great experience and it meant that there were 30 of us holding Sessions in the Light, as support to the body and the official elders.

The meetings for worship with attention to business were well clerked by the three Alternate Clerks. Due to Penny Colgan-Davis' passing, the Alternate Clerks, assisted by the Clerks of the 3 Councils, the Treasurer and the General Secretary, worked together as a team to plan the agenda for Annual Sessions. There were no verbal reports from other Quaker organizations, other than Ujima Friends Peace Center, and Arch Street Preservation Trust, resulting in a less crowded agenda. We also had wonderful sessions with Dr. Amanda Kemp who led us in a session on racial justice from the heart, and Walter Hjelt Sullivan who talked about personal covenant relationships. We had an experience with Open Space Technology which allowed those with passions to share them with others drawn to the same issues. And we heard the new Mission Statement for the Youth Programs.

There was a planned listening session on the staff voice policy, and a quickly scheduled one on the progress of Multicultural Institutional Audit Committee when it appeared that the Committee's Clerk and the Committee were not on the same page. 100 people came to the second one, which was scheduled for an



early afternoon when the need arose, and a way forward was found through that process. Mid-afternoon workshops were available all three days on a variety of topics.

The College of New Jersey was the same location as last year, but the spaces used were generally closer together, and we had dinners together in the new naturally lit Student Center although other meals were in the dining hall. I thought the food was better this year.

Challenges are still with us. There is lots of work yet to do around developing our Beloved Community. Nominating Council is having difficulty finding a new Clerk and new Alternate Clerks. We now have one remaining Alternate Clerk. A number of people approached about being Clerk have given one of three responses: 1) I'm

not ready yet, try me again in a few years. 2) Clerking seems like a full-time job; you have to be retired to do it. 3) I don't think I am strong enough, brave enough or courageous enough. There is fear about being in an adversarial relationship with the body and/or some members of PYM. The Nominating Council Clerk asked us to expect that the Clerk will make a mistake, say things you might disagree with, but love them anyway. She asked for support for the Nominating Council.

Later in sessions we approved a structure for leadership until Fall Sessions – The remaining Alternate Clerk, Chris Lucca, will continue to act as Presiding Clerk and work with the Clerks of the 3 councils and the Treasurer until November 3. The Nominating Council intends to bring forward some names at that time.

Now that minutes are approved during sessions, you can find them here: <http://www.pym.org/annual-sessions/wp-content/uploads/sites/7/2018/08/2018-pym-minutes-annual-sessions.pdf> - Lynne Piersol, Concord Quarter Coordinator

## Pre-Session Retreat at Annual Sessions

The Spiritual Formation Collaborative organized a pre-session retreat open to all Friends the day before this year's annual sessions. About 30 Friends attended all or part of the retreat, which was focused on our spiritual roots in Quakerism. The planners offered groups of quotes that those present reflected on and then shared in pairs or small groups. Both the sharing and the listening to each other helped us connect and ground us individually and collectively.

We came to the retreat with many different perspectives on the issues that have faced the Yearly Meeting recently. As we shared ever more deeply, we were united into a community committed to the love and light that we have experienced as Quakers. Differences became less important as we experienced Spirit among us and we entered into the

Yearly Meeting Sessions committed to listening and searching with open hearts. As we moved about the campus, whenever I saw one of the other participants, many of whom I had not known or not known well before the retreat, I felt the bond that we had forged.

As we entered the business before the Yearly Meeting, that sense of grounded connection seemed to infuse the sessions with an attitude of openness to each other and God's Light. The bonds of kinship and willingness to listen spread to others. The sessions were not without disagreement and challenges, but the overall feel of Yearly Meeting Annual Sessions was much more positive than it has been in some time. – Alison Levie – Goshen Meeting

## Reflection on Youth Programs at Annual Sessions

One of the great things about youth programming in Philadelphia Yearly Meeting are the opportunities for youth to have leadership roles, experience presenting in front of groups, as well as opportunities for spiritual growth and reflection, and connections with a variety of adults in our faith community. Over time, my children have had opportunities to present on the floor of yearly meeting, lead youth business processes, organize and present at workshops for youth and adults, write worship sharing questions for the full yearly meeting, and grow as spiritual people inside the nest of Quakerism. As you read the short reflections below, you may notice themes of fun and leadership and more. We hope other local youth will join in the fun at Yearly Meeting youth programs in the coming months. -Susan Waterhouse - Westtown Meeting

I enjoyed my time at Young Friends this past year at sessions. Though I was only there for one day, I really did get a rewarding experience. One of the things we did was we came up with worship sharing

question for all of PYM and Young Friends. I also helped lead a turning the blanket workshop. The turning the blanket workshop is a workshop about forced relocation of indigenous people by the US government. After that, we played board games with the Middle School Friends and Children's Program. All in all, I enjoyed my experience at Annual Sessions this past summer.

-Benjamin, Sophomore, Westtown Meeting

At Middle School Friends we slept in the college dorms a floor above the Young Friends dorms. I wasn't at yearly meeting for very long, but the food was pretty good and on the last night we played some Board games with other kids. It was fun! One of the days some of us went to the workshop that some Young Friends were leading. It was about how Americans were awful and killed a lot of American Indians through relocation programs. The workshop was engaging, and I learned some disturbing history.

-Adeline, 7th grader, Westtown Meeting

## Refugee Resettlement Project Closes as Way Opens for Family

The West Chester Area Refugee Resettlement Project (WCARRP) was laid down in August as the Isaac family, whom project volunteers had assisted in their transition to living in the U.S., moved to Lancaster, PA, on July 29. Project volunteers, who provided planning, financial, and hands-on support, were from Birmingham, West Chester, Westtown, Willistown, Wilmington, Newark, and Downingtown Monthly Meetings, as well as from five other area faith communities.

The WCARRP originated in a leading experienced by members of Birmingham's Peace and Social Concerns committee (and other meeting members) in the fall of 2015, in response to media reports about the plight of thousands of refugees fleeing violence in Syria. Birmingham members reached out to members of other monthly meetings, several local churches, and to the Islamic Society of Chester County, inviting them to participate in exploring ways to help.

A group of approximately fifteen representatives of these faith communities, as well as a number of non-religiously-affiliated individuals, gathered at Birmingham MM on November 10, 2015, to hear a presentation by a Lutheran Children & Family Service staff person about what would be required to sponsor a refugee family. The group learned that, as U.S. regulations allow resettlement of refugees from official UNHCR refugee camps only, it was not likely that any of those fleeing Syria would be accepted into the U.S. in the foreseeable future. The group was encouraged to consider sponsoring a family from one of the many existing, overcrowded refugee camps, which they enthusiastically agreed to do.

The group organized themselves into committees, including Housing and Material Goods, Transportation, Orientation, Education & ELL, Employment, and Fundraising & Finance, and began preparing for the arrival of a Congolese family in March, under the auspices of LCFS, one of the 11 agencies designated by the U.S. to carry out refugee resettlement. Unfortunately, just a few days before the family was due in Philadelphia office of LCFS closed due to fiscal problems and that family was re-routed for resettlement in Nebraska.

### A Reflection on "A Call to the Light"

What is at the core of our Quaker faith and practice? What is it which, when we are connected to it causes our actions to have strength and power beyond our own abilities, and when we are not connected to it causes our actions to reflect solely our own strength and power? Are the Quaker testimonies the core of what it means to be Quaker, or are they the fruit? My sense is that they are, as Don Badgely put it in A Call to the Light, "...the good fruits of lives ordered by living in unity with the holy, the infinite, eternal, and unchangeable Divine Source."



The dictionary definition of the word *testimony* is:

- (1) a formal written or spoken statement, especially one given in a court of law;
- (2) evidence or proof provided by the existence or appearance of something;
- (3) a public recounting of a religious conversion or experience.

These meanings are related; the use of the word in a religious sense is based on the legal definitions. The *Declaration of Friends to Charles II, 1660*, it seems to me, uses all three of these definitions in its use of the word *testimony* in the last clause of the first sentence:

*We utterly deny all outward wars and strife and fightings with outward weapons, for any end, or under any pretence whatsoever; and this is our testimony to the whole world. The*

However, in April WCARRP was able to connect with the Lancaster office of Church World Service, another government sanctioned refugee agency. In July the group was informed of the imminent arrival of a Congolese family of seven--two parents and five children-- who had been living in a refugee camp in Tanzania for 18 years. On July 25, 2016, the group was delighted to welcome the Isaac family to West Chester.

Finding and securing affordable housing, collecting furniture, household items, and clothing, obtaining social security cards, securing employment, connecting the family to social services such as SNAP and Medicaid, and enrolling the children in school (including getting necessary immunizations) were some of the first tasks accomplished. Teaching family members about household appliances/plumbing/thermostats, shopping in American supermarkets for culturally appropriate foods, banking, bill paying, and using public transportation were ongoing efforts. A significant amount of medical and dental evaluation and treatment was necessary, especially for the parents. The children had received substandard schooling in the camp and had limited English skills so WCARRP volunteers provided daily tutoring to help them catch up academically. Family members were assisted in applying for green cards and they received them in March 2018.

Because of high housing costs in West Chester and, more positively, because of there being a large Congolese community in Lancaster (nine families were known to the Isaacs from the refugee camp) the family decided to move to Lancaster. They are settling in well, within a mutually supportive Congolese community and with connection to Lancaster Monthly Meeting.

Walking with the Isaac family as they became increasingly self-sufficient and as they came to be known individually and personally was a privilege. WCARRP members were blessed by their presence and their gifts of graciousness, perseverance, and song. - Susan Brodesser - Birmingham Meeting



*spirit of Christ, by which we are guided, is not changeable, so as once to command us from a thing as evil and again to move unto it; and we do certainly know, and so testify to the world, that the spirit of Christ, which leads us into all Truth, will never move us to fight and war against any man with outward weapons, neither for the kingdom of Christ, nor for the kingdoms of this world.*

The intention of the Friends who made this statement was to provide a basis for their claim to what we now call *the Peace testimony*. The first sentence is the statement of intent, and the remaining sentences are the evidence they present to demonstrate the basis for their actions with regard to non-participation in the civil war then going on. The core of their evidence is that they had chosen to live in "...the spirit of Christ, by which we are guided..." The source of this clearness and resolve is "...the spirit of Christ, which leads us into all Truth..."

When we hear a message in meeting for worship that comes from this place of deep connection to the Spirit, we know it. Such messages carry an authority that comes from somewhere other than the speaker. It seems to me that the likelihood of hearing such messages in meeting for worship depends on the extent to which participants in worship seek to center their worship in the living source of that authority.

- Tom Ceresini - Clerk of Middletown Meeting  
Don's piece can be found here: <http://myym.org/content/call-light>

# Concord Quarterly Meeting's October-November 2018 Announcements and Calendar of Events

## Announcements

The minutes from our July 22 Quarterly Meeting at Concord 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 October 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>

**A monthly shared potluck meal, followed by worship** at Goshen Meeting, 814 N. Chester Rd, West Chester. Bring a dish to share. We welcome all in the Quarter and beyond. Bring a friend, too and enjoy reconnecting or meeting local Quakers! Held on first Fridays. Next event on October 5 at 6:30 PM

**Looking for that flyer about a Concord Quarter event (or individual meeting events)?** Find flyers by month on the website. Go here: <http://concordquarter.org/documents/?category=Flyers>

## Calendar of Events

- Oct 7 1:00 pm** **Threshing session at Westtown Meeting**, 215 Friends Meeting Lane, West Chester, PA to hear about and discuss the proposed care relationship between Delaware Valley Friends School and Concord Quarter, an agenda item at October 28 Quarterly Meeting. Bring a brown bag lunch at 12:30pm if you wish. Proposed care relationship and fact sheet are on the website: <http://concordquarter.org/documents/?category=Proposal>
- Oct 10 1 - 3 pm** **Concord Quarter Working Group on Aging Concerns**, Anna T Jeanes Building Social Room at The Hickman, corner of Marshall and Walnut, West Chester. All are welcome to join this group which is planning programs on aging concerns in the Quarter. For more info email [concordquarter@pym.org](mailto:concordquarter@pym.org)
- Oct 13 10 am - Noon** **Aging and Finances Workshop** offered by the CQ Working Group on Aging Concerns at Goshen Meeting, 814 N. Chester Rd, West Chester. Presenters from Intervention Associates, a subsidiary of Friends Life Care. Registration requested if you are staying for lunch - [concordquarter@pym.org](mailto:concordquarter@pym.org) or 610-864-3802
- Oct 13 Noon - 3 pm** **Harvest Fair & Open House at Goshen Friends School**, 814 N. Chester Rd, West Chester. Activities for toddlers through preschool. Tour classrooms, meet teachers, and find out what makes Goshen Friends special. Registration requested: <http://www.goshenfriends.org/register-for-an-open-house>. For information: Michele Kornegay, 610-696-8183 or [michele.kornegay@goshenfriends.org](mailto:michele.kornegay@goshenfriends.org).
- Oct 19 - 21** **PYM Young Adult Friends retreat at Haddonfield Meeting**. For information and to register: <https://secure.acceptiva.com/?cst=7d3e6f> or contact Meg Rose, YAF Coordinator at [mrose@pym.org](mailto:mrose@pym.org).
- Oct 23** **Dine Around West Chester to Benefit The Hickman!** The restaurants involved will donate 25% of their food sales to The Hickman, including Barnabys West Chester, The Mediterranean, Rams Head Bar & Grill, Side Bar & Restaurant, Spence Café. For more info: <https://www.thehickman.org/event/dawc/>
- Oct 27 10 am to Noon** **The Poor People's Campaign, a National Call for Moral Revival**, hosted by The Atlantic Coast Quaker Activists at Wilmington Friends Meeting, 401 N.4th St, Wilmington: <https://www.pym.org/event/the-atlantic-coast-quaker-activists-hosting-the-poor-peoples-campaign-a-call-for-moral-revival/>
- Oct 27 10:30 - 1:30** **How to Talk Across the Political Divide**, workshop by Better Angel organized by Willistown Meeting, 7069 Goshen Rd, Newtown Square. RSVP: [willistownfriendsmeeting@gmail.com](mailto:willistownfriendsmeeting@gmail.com)
- Oct 27 4:30 to 7 pm** **Harvest Buffet at Birmingham Meeting**, 1245 S. Birmingham Rd, West Chester. All funds raised benefit local and Quaker charities. To reserve tickets email [marcia.cq@gmail.com](mailto:marcia.cq@gmail.com)
- Oct 28 8:15 am - 1 pm** **Concord Quarterly Meeting at Middletown Meeting**, 435 N. Middletown Rd, Media, PA 19063, Registration at 8:15, Meeting for Business at 8:30, Program at 10am, Worship at 11:15 followed by lunch provided by Middletown. Childcare available.
- Nov 1 6:30 - 8:30 pm** **Anne Ford, author and advocate for children with learning disabilities** will speak at Delaware Valley Friends School, 19 E. Central Ave, Paoli. She will discuss her latest book: The Stigmatized Child: Helping Parents Overcome the Stigma Attached to Learning Disabilities, ADHD and Lack of Social Skills. Registration required: <https://www.dvfs.org/page.cfm?p=624> or email [lisa.howell@dvfs.org](mailto:lisa.howell@dvfs.org)
- Nov 3 9 am - 4 pm** **PYM Continuing Sessions** at Arch Street Meeting, 320 Arch Street, Philadelphia. For more information: <https://www.pym.org/event/fall-2018-continuing-sessions/>
- Nov 4 1pm-3pm** **Concord Quarter Planning Committee**, Anna T Jeanes Building Social Room at The Hickman, 400 N. Walnut St, West Chester. All welcome. For more info: [concordquarter@pym.org](mailto:concordquarter@pym.org)

# Concord Quarterly Meeting – October 28, 2018

## Middletown Monthly Meeting

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



## What Stops Our Meeting Listening to God's Call?

Early Friends gathered in worship to discern what the spirit was calling them to do. We will explore through skit and song and discussion if we can still be led as a corporate body to do God's work.

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

Located at 435 N. Middletown Rd Lima, PA next to Lima Estates

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)

or call 610-864-3802 and leave a message

## Concord Quarterly Meeting at Concord Meeting, July 22, 2018

Opening Worship began at 8:30 am.

**Welcome:** 23 Friends were present as the meeting began. All the Quarter's meetings were represented.

The Minutes from April 22, 2018 were approved, after their heading was amended from April 21st to the 22nd.

### **Joys and Challenges Report from Willistown Meeting - Steve Kupferschmid**

The report was approved by Willistown Meeting and was warmly received by the Quarter. (It is attached as Appendix 1.)

**Request from Michael Wajda to sign a minute to support his travel in religious service**, already approved by Goshen Meeting. (Appendix 2) – **Alison Levie**

The minute was read and presented by the representative of Goshen Meeting. The Quarter was pleased to approve, endorsing the minute and sending it on to Philadelphia Yearly Meeting for doing the same.

### **Update regarding the proposal for a care relationship between Concord Quarter and Delaware Valley Friends School (Appendix 3) - Debbie Murray-Sheppard et al**

The report of the committee favors a formal relationship with the school. Those who visited the school and attended its meeting for worship also spoke in favor of this course when it comes before the Quarter for formal action. Appreciation was expressed for the care and manner in which this matter is being considered.

### **The Hickman Annual Report to Concord Quarter (Appendix 4) - Martha Boston**

The report was presented by a member of the Hickman's governance committee and was received with appreciation.

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

A brief oral report was given on how this concern is being carried forward with an effort to place an article in the Delco Times. One Friend remarked on the need to assure that joint users of a meeting house had purposes that were consistent with Friends' principles. Assurance was given that this is indeed part of the outreach effort.

### **Treasurer's Report (Appendix 5) Tom Haviland**

The report was accepted with appreciation.

### **Coordinator Report (including on the Digital Outreach Project and Aging Concerns) (Appendix 6) – Lynne Piersol**

The meeting received the report with gratitude and expressed appreciation for the service that Lynne has been providing.

### **Chichester Meeting - Judy Reece**

The 250th anniversary of the field-stone meetinghouse will occur in 2019. Ideas for the celebration are welcome. Judy continues to actively promote use of the facility. The special Fall Worship will take place on September 16.

### **Second Count of Meetings and Members in Attendance**

Thirty-two Friends were present as the meeting concluded.

The meeting concluded with a period of silent worship at 9:35 am.

Respectfully submitted, Christopher McKenney, Clerk and David Leonard, Recording Clerk

## **Appendix 1. Joys and Challenges of Willistown Friends Meeting Will Scull, Co-Clerk 5/30/18**

### **JOYS**

- Our Worship & Ministry Committee has been active in setting up a series of outreach programs. These Programs have brought 170 people to our Meeting who have never been with us before. The Programs were on: Unintentional Racism; Meeting Modern Muslims; Anti-Human Trafficking; Injustices in our Justice System.
- One of the members also set up programs on Gerrymandering & Bit Coin and the risks of tech currency vs. the hype.
- We are endeavoring to make our Meeting and the Religious Society of Friends relevant in today's world. As with all worthwhile efforts it's a struggle.
- Members who have drifted away are starting to come back.
- We are celebrating 6 new members at our Annual Picnic this year.
- Our First Day School averages about 1/2 dozen each time. We are welcoming a new First Day School Coordinator this May, to continue the work of our wonderful Seroja, who has been doing these last few years. (When Seroja moved to New York to continue her Master's Degree, she loved the First Day School so much she drove home, stayed with her parents, and continued teaching our children every weekend!!) These are very active, and loving children!
- The vitality of our Meeting is reflected in the increase in both the amount of money donated and the increase in the number of member donors.
- There is an article under "NEWS" in the May Friends Journal, about our Injustice Program and including a picture taken at that event!

### **CHALLENGES**

- Our active committees are small and some positions are prone to "burn out" of their Clerks.
- Some active members serve many roles.
- We are challenged by how to apprentice new members to "seasoned" members on how to take on leadership roles in the future.
- We have not figured out how to advertise our relevancy and connect with those who are "Seekers" of a faith community such as the Religious Society of Friends. These people are needed for us to thrive in the future.
- We lose our First Day School adolescents to Sunday sports and other activities with their peers that we cannot provide.

- Our property is expensive to maintain and absorbs much volunteer effort and a major part of our monies. This is very frustrating, as we have a responsibility to care for this historic setting.
- We have not been able to find a volunteer for the P.Y.M. Administrative Council.

## Appendix 2. Michael Wajda

June 17, 2018 Dear Friends,

Goshen Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends issues the attached minute of religious service for Michael Wajda, an active member of our meeting.

Michael has broad experience among Friends. He has served Friends meetings and organizations, both as staff and as a volunteer, for more than forty years. He has traveled widely among Friends giving talks, leading workshops and retreats, and visiting Friends in their homes. He is often led to deep prayer and to vocal ministry.

Michael has extensive knowledge of Quaker history and practice, as well as experience with spiritual disciplines, deep listening, seeking, and finding. He has worshipped in more than 200 Friends meetings throughout the United States, Canada, and Great Britain. From 2003 through 2007 Michael traveled under minutes of religious service from Goshen Monthly Meeting, which were also endorsed by Concord Quarterly Meeting and Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. This current minute is being issued by Goshen Monthly Meeting following Michael's meeting with a clearness committee, our Worship and Care Committee, and our monthly meeting for business.

We ask that you receive Michael in loving care and know that we are with him in spiritual strength. Yours in the Light,  
 Laura Laky Alison Levie Co-Clerks, Goshen Monthly Meeting

## Appendix 3. Delaware Valley Friends School: proposed relationship

Proposed Draft: approved by joint Quarter and School committee April 24, 2018 and by the DVFS Board of Trustees June 5, 2018

The Care Relationship of Concord Quarter for Delaware Valley Friends School (DVFS) is intended to provide a vibrant, active, and meaningful connection between the Quarter and the School, with a focus on spiritual life and nurture of the Quaker identity of the School. Likewise, the School is an outreach of Friends faith and practice to the greater world with a particular focus on students who learn differently and their families. DVFS's operations are financially non-reliant on the Quarter and its governing Board of Trustees is independent and self-perpetuating.

The Quarter and the School have jointly established a Care Committee that consists of six members, three of which are appointed by the Quarter and three are appointed by the School. The committee meets a minimum of three times per school year, with meetings open to all members of the School and Quarter communities. The School and Committee report annually to the Quarter. A Clerk of the committee is selected by the Quarter in consultation with the senior administration of the School. The focus of the meetings are to plan for events and other means of maintaining an active connection between the Quarter and the School, such as:

- Encouraging members of the Quarter to attend School events such as Founders Day, the annual school play / musical, Arts Night, and occasional School-sponsored speakers.
- Inviting DVFS to one or more hosted Meetings for Worship at a monthly meeting of the Quarter.
- Inviting members of the Quarter to the School's weekly Meeting for Worship.
- Members of the Quarter presenting to DVFS students on issues of concern to Friends.
- Coordinating community service work / projects for the Quarter by students.
- Schedule trips for students to visit and tour historic Meetings of the Quarter.
- The School providing educational presentations to members of the Quarter on learning differences, Quaker education, and related topics.
- Include members of the Quarter to participate in Grandparents and Special Friends Day at the School.
- Share community-wide announcements and newsletters between the Quarter and the School.
- Foster relationships with Quarter members which may lead to Board or Board committee membership.

## Appendix 5. Highlights - Treasurer's Report (Complete report is available on request from our coordinator)

- The 2017-2018 fiscal year finished with a small surplus.
  - Coordinator and Operating / Program expenses were slightly less than budgeted while income received from Meeting covenant contributions was slightly higher than budgeted. Program participant donations contributed to the Operating / Programs income line item.
  - The 2018-2019 Budget has been approved by all Meetings (still waiting to hear back from one). This budget includes a Coordinator rate increase and a small increase to Operating / Programs and TEF line items.
- Thank you to all Monthly Meetings for your work and financial support of this year's budget.
- Coordinator line item surplus funds of \$17,000 will be divided and deposited into the Quarter's TEF account or refunded back to Meetings per their instructions. This will bring the Coordinator line item to the recommended 6 month reserve level.
  - Concord Quarter's Assets as of June 30 are shown on the back page and consistent with previous quarters.

*Editor's Note: Due to space constraints, Appendix 4. Hickman Report is not included here. It is available on the web with the complete minutes at <http://concordquarter.org/documents/?category=Minutes>*

**Concord Quarterly Meeting Newsletter**  
**Volume 15 Issue 4 October 2018**

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Recording Clerk: David Leonard  
Treasurer: Tom Haviland  
Coordinator: Lynne Piersol

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**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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