

# Concord Quarterly News

of the Religious Society of Friends

## Concord Quarterly Meeting Newsletter Volume 16, Issue 4, October 2019

### Delaware Valley Friends School – Overview

(Ed. Note: DVFS will be the featured program at our upcoming Concord QM at Westtown on October 27 – see flyer for details)



SCHOOL

Delaware Valley Friends School (DVFS) was founded in 1986 out of a need felt by leaders in other Philadelphia area Quaker schools because at the time no middle and high school program in the Delaware Valley existed with expertise in educating students who learn differently in the tradition of Friends education. The school opened its doors in September 1987 for students in grades 7-12 under the leadership of Irene McHenry with an enrollment of 21 students. We are now a three-division school with 207 students, serving students in grades 3-12 (we will be adding grades 1 and 2 in 2020-21). Since its inception, however, the Mission Statement and the ethos of DVFS has not changed:

*The mission of Delaware Valley Friends School is to prepare students with learning differences for future work and study.*

*The school develops those personal strengths which enable students to succeed in its college preparatory curriculum. The school also recognizes that it has a responsibility to share its expertise with teachers and students beyond the school community.*

*Delaware Valley Friends School carries forward the Quaker heritage of compassion and justice. We acknowledge that of God in everyone and nurture the unique personal worth and potential good inherent in each individual.*

At the time, an important choice that was made was to refer to DVFS students as students with “learning differences” rather than “disabilities” or “challenges.” This points to the inherently optimistic view that the DVFS faculty and staff have of our students. The Quaker notion that our students are beings with infinite inherent worth and abilities to succeed in many arenas is the starting place for our faculty and staff. Indeed, we often find that students who first show up at DVFS may struggle to see this in



themselves, even though they are, by definition, bright students. It is our work and our charge, through deliberate relationship-building and programming, to reverse the impact of historical school struggle and the accompanying feeling of being “lesser than” that some of our students carry as a burden.

However, our students’ learning differences are also formally diagnosed learning disabilities, and they play out as such in the classroom. We serve students who have reading disorders (or dyslexia), writing disorders, expressive and receptive language disorders, ADHD and Executive Function challenges, working memory and processing difficulties, and nonverbal learning difficulties. Teachers are constantly assessing our



students’ reading, writing, speaking, math, organizational and executive skills so that they can adjust their instruction according to each student’s needs.

A hallmark DVFS program which encompasses the diagnostic-prescriptive approach and commitment to research-based methods is the DVFS Adolescent Literacy Program. This training program instructs teachers in using the Orton-Gillingham

approach to language remediation, in particular to address struggling adolescent readers. Orton-Gillingham is the methodology that is considered the “gold standard” for addressing decoding, fluency and comprehension difficulties, and our program is nationally endorsed by the International Dyslexia Association and by IMSLEC, one of two national Orton-Gillingham governing bodies. Each summer DVFS runs an 8-day, full-day teacher training for both teachers new to DVFS and for other educators who wish to become accredited as Certified Academic Language Practitioners.

Also critical to our program is that we provide ways for our students to compensate for their particular learning challenges. For example, students engage in teacher-led diagnostics that will assess their reading speed, accuracy and comprehension when supported by audio versions of the text. The school provides our students a Macbook Air with a text reader for all electronic documents, a Learning Ally account (where students can listen to novels and textbooks while reading), and MP3 versions of particular texts. Another example of a compensatory tool that is explicitly taught is a consistent notetaking approach for nonfiction text called RUN (Read-Underline-Notate). Learning the executive function (EF) skill of proactively managing time and materials is a compensatory strategy that is modeled, taught and supported throughout the school day. Students use a binder system that is standardized for organizing their classwork. The advisory that students in Middle and Upper School attend each day for 40 minutes allows for the explicit teaching of EF strategies. Through the modeling and teaching of compensatory strategies, students become aware of and involved in all areas of their learning, in developmentally appropriate ways, so that they develop agency in setting academic goals.

DVFS students certainly have many strengths, skills, and talents that are nurtured and celebrated. This “celebration” happens in the academic classroom, where an environment that is conducive to building trust with our students allows students to take chances and “show what they know.” It happens in the art and music rooms, which are often galleries and showcases for true student brilliance. It happens in STEM class when students win a regional championship competition put on by the US Navy for designing an underwater search and rescue robot. It happens on the athletic field, where students compete (and often win) in soccer, tennis, basketball, lacrosse, tennis, ultimate frisbee, golf and cross-country. It happens in Student Government, where students grow in their leadership skills while clerking the school’s activities, service and diversity committees. It happens during the ABLE (Adventure Based Learning Experiences) program, which provides students the opportunity to excel in an outward-bound model.

We are grateful for the founders of DVFS, who had the vision to see the need for and relevance of a school community specifically for students who learn differently--both in 1986 and today. -David Calamaro, DVFS Associate Head/Academic Dean

## Report on PYM Annual Sessions, July, 2019

Attending PYM Annual Sessions at The College of New Jersey was a grounding, productive, spirit led week, with some hard sharing and listening and some progress in the Yearly Meeting's desire to become an anti-racist organization and a blessed community for all. It was fun too, to be with Friends across the Yearly Meeting community over meals, most of which were in a space that was just for PYM.

The Spiritual Formation Collaborative again offered a one-day pre-session retreat. I went on my personal time and came away feeling grounded and connected. We all carried that spirit into Sessions.

The schedule for Sessions was designed to accommodate possible needs for listening sessions or more time for business. One listening session drew 50 people discussing the sustainability of The Religious Society of Friends. We heard from the Councils (only operating at about 60% capacity), the Treasurer and some external organizations.

There were opportunities to speak out of spirit on questions of race, inclusion and diversity. Friends were "invited to share what is weighing on their hearts and lift up prayer for beloved community, naming those concerns which most threaten that vision." Deep sharing and listening followed. Friday evening, we discerned our collective next steps resulting in two proposals given to the clerking group:

- 1.- that we charge the clerks' group to find a process and a body to take up this work, reviewing the Undoing Racism Group proposal from 2016 and propose a way to fold this work into the structure of the Yearly Meeting, as well as revisit our multicultural audit.
- 2.-that we charge Quaker Life Council to make available a Truth and Reconciliation process to support Friends of Color who have experienced trauma from our Yearly Meeting."

On Saturday the clerk's group presented the following minute: "We charge the Administrative and Quaker Life Councils to come under the

### Are You Ready for Your Post-Summertime Religious Ed?

"Are you ready?" is the question posed to children at the threshold of spaces where a Godly Play or Faith & Play story is going to be shared. Pausing to be intentional about getting ready helps us to transition — between both physical spaces and experiences. As we resume First Day programs for children and youth in our meetings, how do we "get ready" and prepare spaces, program content, and our hearts to gather again with the young people in our meeting?

**1. Build the Circle:** For many meetings, summer has been a break from formal programming. It can be valuable to take time the first week (or more) back together in September to re-introduce ourselves, share about the summer, and gather for fellowship. Starting a new school year and returning to those routines can be tiring and even stressful for children. Take some time to play, articulate expectations, and preview topics and events in your program this year. The investment in "building the circle" is the first step in gathering the children in spiritual community this year.

**2. Welcome the Newcomer:** Do people passing by the meeting know on sight that Quakers worship here and all are welcome? Do you include mention of children's programs and welcome on your signage? Birmingham Meeting had a great roadside sign in front of the meeting one summer, advertising the start of their fall program. Welcoming a new family is the work of the whole meeting -- youth religious education, worship and ministry, care of community.

**3. Create Friendly Spaces:** Spaces give unspoken, immediate clues to a family about how prepared the meeting is to welcome them: is there a place to change a diaper? booster seat or highchair? small table and chairs in a fellowship space so children can sit together and parents can talk to other adults? Does the greeter have information about childcare and youth religious education programs to hand to visitors? None of these things need to be fancy, but they send a powerful message of inclusion.



weight of these proposals and discern a path forward. We charge them to include their progress in a report at the end of September and bring an update back to the body at our Continuing Sessions in November." The body was asked if others wished to help with this and 15 people rose.

We also heard from the General Secretary about nurturing connections in the Yearly Meeting between meetings, Quarters, and other Quaker bodies, along with her journey to become anti-racist, acknowledging hurt that has occurred sometimes due to her own actions.

In addition to business sessions, there was multigenerational all together time before the morning sessions began. And each night after sessions, there were brief "vespers" programs by the youth staff and youth groups. An Artist in Residence worked with the children, but also had an art project open to anyone. We saw the One Quilt One Yearly Meeting quilt (33 squares with more welcome), including 3 from Concord Quarter. Afternoons featured various activities including a variety of workshops. Saturday afternoon Friends of Color gathered for a discussion about the FGC Institutional Assessment results facilitated by Vanessa Julye, FGC staff for their Ministry on Racism. Quarter Clerks and Coordinators present also met Saturday afternoon and reported on Sunday morning. Saturday evening, Valerie Brown offered an interactive and powerful program on centering in trust and love.

Sunday, we ended with worship and epistles from elementary schoolers, middle schoolers, and Young Friends. Young Adult Friends had earlier shared their epistle about membership concerns and how this sometimes is a barrier to participation. We heard and approved our outgoing epistle.

For minutes: <https://www.pym.org/annual-sessions/minutes/>

For epistles: <https://www.pym.org/category/epistle/>

- Lynne Piersol – Concord QM Coordinator

**4. Plan Curriculum Content:** Meetings plan program and content in many ways. Most RE programs do not work our way through a single curriculum front to back, but it's worth noting the many curricula available on the PYM web: <https://www.pym.org/religious-education/>. (With older curricula, it's a good idea to read it through for language reflecting earlier times and bias or assumption about differences.)

Sometimes I'm asked if there's a ready-to-go curriculum that meetings can have prepared if a family shows up on a week there isn't regular program (or if a meeting doesn't currently have a children's program).

- Sparkling Still uses children's books and lays out clear lesson plans for many of those listed in the publication. You could have a "capsule" with the book and materials ready in advance. (available from QuakerBooks)

- Finding the Light in You: Bright Silent Worship with Young Friends is a guided imagery book to teach the practice of waiting worship. (available from QuakerBooks)

- FGC Coloring Pages are useful to have on hand with colored pencils, crayons, etc. The activity pages were inspired by the FGC Newcomers Cards: Quaker Testimonies, Quakers and Prayer, and You Are Welcome Here! (free download on the FGC website)

**5. Care for One Another:** The adults who plan, support, and lead programs for young people may not always be in worship with the body. What spiritual nurture and acknowledgement of their ministry might we offer these Friends? Could a pastoral care committee meet with the religious education committee twice a year to check in about their spiritual needs, and the circle of children in their care? Could you write a "minute of travel" for the Friends teaching, to acknowledge their periodic absence from worship and set an intention to hold the spiritual community of the children and adults working with them in the Light? (A sample document, "Youth Religious Education "Minute of Travel," can be found in the Writings on Religious Education section of pym.org.)

How else do you "get ready," Friends? I'd love to hear!

-Melinda Wenner Bradley, Youth Religious Life Coordinator, PYM

## My Thoughts on Quakerism Class at Westtown School



As a Quaker child, I have been fortunate to be able to go to Quaker schools all but four years of my life. My experiences and my encounters at these schools have helped to shape not only my life but my understanding of my faith. From an early age, I've known that I am a Quaker and my education was able to reflect that and support it at West Chester Friends School. I can remember as early as kindergarten or first grade knowing this feeling of belonging, sitting in the West Chester meeting house while other kids sat bored or not quite sure what to do. I felt like I was part of something larger than myself and a community. I loved that about Quakerism.

As a 10th Grader at Westtown, Quaker Education looks different than it always looked to me as a kid at West Chester Meeting. I grew up learning three things in First Day School: first, the core beliefs that set Friends apart from other sects or branches of Christianity. Second, the stories from the Bible that connect us to Quakerism's Christian roots. Third, the stories of historic Quakers like Fox, Fell, Fry, Fisher, and countless others, and their witness and how they let their lives speak. All three of these shaped and formed my faith into what it is today.

Westtown does its religious education, more specifically Quaker education, differently.

Taking the Upper School Quakerism course in 9th Grade, I saw a different outline than what I had grown up learning. We began as I expect many Quakerism classes do, with George Fox. We discussed what early Friends

believed and where they got their assertions from. However, the class then diverged from what I had learned when it began to focus on the "SPICES" of Quakerism and explaining things like Meeting for Worship practices, committees, and clerking, and included modern Quaker activism work at the end. My feeling after taking this course was mixed. On one hand, I appreciated the effort to explain Quakerism in ways that captured its many dimensions instead of making it appear flat -- as if all we do is sit in silence, and "do nothing." On the other hand, I deeply wished it had spent less time going over "Quaker Values" and more time on our history, while also discussing Quakerism as the branch of Christianity it is for many Friends. My concern is that by approaching Quakerism more as a values-based philosophy, the course content might create more questions for students about the basics of Quakerism as a religion. Religion department studies at Westtown are a strong and vibrant part of our education, but for someone like me who spent every Sunday learning about Quakerism, grew up in a Quaker family, and identifies as Quaker, it appears to only scratch the surface of our identity.

There is a fundamental difference between learning a religion for devotion and learning it for education and understanding and this is the line Westtown has to walk when teaching about Quakerism. The class can't feel like its purpose is to convert students to Quakerism when it really is just to give students a better sense of the religion that drives their school. So for kids like me who grew up learning Quakerism for devotion, the class is going to feel different. This doesn't mean, however, that Westtown can't include more about Quakerism as a faith, and not just its testimonies and the activism that follows them.

- James Bradley Grade 10, Westtown School & a member of West Chester Meeting

## Senior Wellness - Where and How to Age: Factors to Consider *(this is an abridged version from Pam's column in The Daily Local)*

As many of us move into the "senior citizen" category, deciding on our future living arrangements becomes a priority. There are a number of options available but choosing among them is not easy. How to decide?

Despite the myriad of options, there are 3 over-arching questions that will guide your choices: What do I want? What do I need? What can I afford? Identifying the questions is the easy part; answering the questions can be unexpectedly hard. And if you are part of a couple, final decisions will likely include negotiation and compromise.

The first hurdle in answering these questions is acknowledging your unique situation and any existing constraints. When talking with people about what they want as they age, I often suggest they start with the financial component. How does your financial situation expand -- or limit -- your options?

If money is no object, then you can focus on your wants and needs. While accepting what you need and knowing what you want may not be easily (or quickly) answered, the good news is that you have choices.

Most of us, however, will age with some financial constraints. I recently heard a statistic that if you reach age 60 without any significant health condition you should plan to live to be 100, necessitating a 40 year financial resource need. This raises concerns like how much longer we might need to work and save money. Housing options for seniors vary widely, from "Life Plan Communities" to federally-subsidized rental housing. And there is, of course, always the option to stay where you are or move in with a family member.

Life Plan Communities, formerly known as Continuing Care Retirement Communities ("CCRCs"), require an initial and significant capital investment -- typically \$300,000 to \$500,000 in this area -- in addition to substantial monthly fees. In exchange, you are guaranteed care through the end of your life. As with any insurance product, there are different types of contracts (state monitored) and different degrees of risk. Depending on the specific contract, your estate may or may not get any of your initial investment back upon your death.

At the other end of the affordability spectrum is federally-subsidized senior housing. These fall into two types -- HUD 202 or Senior Tax-Credit projects. With both options, there are eligibility requirements and long waiting lists. Be prepared to wait 5 years for an available apartment.

There are an increasing number of independent senior apartment communities for moderate income seniors. These communities vary widely, providing little to no amenities to extensive amenities, such as planned activities, athletic facilities, and meal plans, with rental fees varying accordingly. Supportive services are not

provided in these independent living apartment communities. Sponsoring companies, however, typically partner with home care and/or home health care agencies so that these types of services are available on-site if and when they become needed.

If it is time to begin thinking about where, how, and with whom you will age, here are some questions to explore:

- What are the benefits of living with/among other older adults in a senior community environment? Is this idea attractive to you? If not, why not?
- Would you consider alternative models of housing, e.g., living with 1 or more roommates, co-housing, communal housing?
- How do your financial resources shape your options?
- Who will be your support system as you need more help and assistance?
- How important is it that you remain in your current neighborhood, town, or county? If important, why?
- Do you have any health issues that will predictably require care and assistance from another person or persons in the future? How will you access care and support if and as your health declines?
- How do transportation needs impact your choices of where to live? What happens when you are no longer able to drive?
- If you would prefer to remain in your current home environment, what do you need to do to make it safe for you as you age? How will you handle all the tasks that go into maintaining your own home?

These issues and questions apply to older adults who can live independently. For older adults who need assistance with the activities of daily living, there are Personal Care Homes (PCH). Personal Care Homes in Pennsylvania are all private pay, i.e., no public support funds available. Some long-term care insurance may help with PCH fees, but benefits and restrictions vary. There are many sizes of Personal Care Homes, from the small home of 4-6 residents to the larger communities of more than 100 people.

Assisted Living and Skilled Nursing facilities are available to those who need significant medical support or assistance. Assisted Living in PA is also private pay. Skilled Nursing facilities may be private pay or subsidized, if you meet the federal eligibility requirements.

Large numbers of us are aging and it is critical we address these future living arrangements if we wish to keep this journey filled with joy and purpose. This journey must start with the questions of where, how and with whom we will age.

-Pam Leland -- London Grove Meeting and the outgoing Director of the Hickman

# Concord Quarterly Meeting's October-November 2019 Announcements and Calendar of Events

## Announcements

The minutes from our July 21 Quarterly Meeting at Willistown Meeting are on the website <https://concordquarter.org/documents/> Please send any comments about those minutes to the Recording Clerk Marty Boston at mboston0916@gmail.com by October 15, 2019

For Pendle Hill events and calendar: <https://pendlehill.org/learn/workshops-courses-events/page/2/>

For more events across Philadelphia Yearly Meeting <https://www.pym.org/calendar>.

## Calendar of Events

- Oct 6 9:00 am** **World Quaker Day celebrated by West Chester Meeting** at Hibernia Park, 1 Park Rd, Coatesville, PA 19320 Pavilion #1 for a pancake breakfast and Outdoor Worship. Pancakes and beverages for all!
- Oct 6 5 to 8 pm** **Hayride and campfire potluck** at the Strattons' Wynnorr Farm, 1631 East Street Rd, Glen Mills, PA. sponsored by Concord and Western Quarters. Hayride first! We'll grill (meat and veggie burgers and hot dogs, s'mores) and you bring side dishes! Registration helps: <https://concordquarter.org/hayride-2019>
- Oct 8 10:30 am to noon** **Concord Quarter Working Group on Aging Concerns** at Birmingham Meeting, 1245 S. Birmingham Rd, West Chester PA. Open to anyone in the Quarter interested in Aging Concerns. Questions? Contact the CQ Coordinator, [concordquarter@pym.org](mailto:concordquarter@pym.org)
- Oct 12 Noon to 3:00 pm** **Goshen Friends School Harvest Fair & Open House**, 814 N. Chester Rd, West Chester. Free activities geared toward ages 1.5 to 5. Families can tour Goshen Friends' 10-acre campus, meet teachers, and learn about the school's philosophy. Rain date: 10/19. More info: [www.goshenfriends.org](http://www.goshenfriends.org).
- Oct 18 To 20** **PYM Young Adult Friends (18-35ish) Fall Retreat on Vocations**, at Camp Onas. For more information: [https://www.pym.org/event/yaf-fall/?instance\\_id=2271](https://www.pym.org/event/yaf-fall/?instance_id=2271)
- Oct 18 To 20** **PYM Middle School Friends Retreat** at West Chester Meeting, 425 N. High St., West Chester, PA. A great opportunity for Middle Schoolers to get together with others their ages. For info and to register: <https://www.pym.org/event/middle-school-friends-fall-gathering-2019/>
- Oct 20 noon to 1pm** **Actions to Reduce Personal Carbon Footprint** at West Chester Meeting, 425 N. High St., West Chester, during shared lunch. Scott Smith presents, including info about the EPA carbon footprint calculator & ways to reduce your carbon footprint. Sponsored by Peace and Social Concerns Committee.
- Oct 27 8:30 am to 1:30 pm** **Quarterly Meeting** at Westtown Meeting, 215 Friends Meeting Lane, West Chester, PA 19382. Meeting for Business, Worship, Program by Delaware Valley Friends School on learning differences and lunch. Children's programming starting at 8:30am.
- Nov 2 8 am to 4:30 pm** **PYM Continuing Sessions** at Arch Street Meetinghouse, 320 Arch Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106 Programs for all ages! More info coming here: [https://www.pym.org/event/continuing-sessions/?instance\\_id=2118](https://www.pym.org/event/continuing-sessions/?instance_id=2118)
- Nov 3 1 to 3 pm** **Concord Quarter Planning Committee** at The Hickman's Jeanes Building Social Room, corner Marshall and Walnut Streets, West Chester, PA. Open to anyone interested in the workings of Concord Quarter. Questions? Email the Concord Quarter Coordinator at [concordquarter@pym.org](mailto:concordquarter@pym.org)
- Nov 6 10:30 am to noon** **Concord Quarter Working Group on Aging Concerns** at Birmingham Meeting, 1245 S. Birmingham Rd, West Chester PA. Open to anyone in the Quarter interested in Aging Concerns. Questions? Contact the CQ Coordinator, [concordquarter@pym.org](mailto:concordquarter@pym.org)
- Nov 9 4:30 pm to 7 pm** **Harvest Buffet** at Birmingham Meeting, 1245 S. Birmingham Rd, West Chester. (a wonderful and delicious event) All funds raised benefit local and Quaker charities. To reserve tickets email [marcia.cq@gmail.com](mailto:marcia.cq@gmail.com)
- Nov 10 7 pm to 7:45 pm** **Quaker Vespers** at White Horse Village, 535 Gradyville Rd., Newtown Square. Join resident Quakers and others for a Quaker meeting for worship during their weekly Vespers service. All welcome. For more information contact Beth Lawn, Chaplain (and a Quaker) at [blawn@whitehorsevillage.org](mailto:blawn@whitehorsevillage.org)
- Nov 16 9:30 to noon** **Organized for Life** at Willistown Meeting, 7069 Goshen Rd, Newtown Square. Join Carol Bernard, member Hockessin Meeting for this program including information about downsizing and more. Lunch follows Sponsored by the CQ Working Group on Aging Concerns. Questions? [concordquarter@pym.org](mailto:concordquarter@pym.org).
- Nov 23 9 am to 1 pm** **Parents Morning Off** at The Cabin at Westtown School. Drop your children aged 3 & up off for a morning of fun activities and lunch! Co-sponsored with Western QM. RSVP by 11/ 20 to [concordquarter@pym.org](mailto:concordquarter@pym.org). Medical Permission forms required at [concordquarter.org/documents/?category=Youth](https://concordquarter.org/documents/?category=Youth)

# Concord Quarterly Meeting October 27, 2019 Westtown Meeting

8:30- 8:45	Sign-In
8:45-10:15	Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business
10:15-10:30	Break
10:30-11:15	Meeting for Worship
11:15-12:15	Program by Students and Staff of Delaware Valley Friends School
12:15-1:00	Lunch for all

## As Way Opens. Learning Differently At DVFS

Delaware Valley Friends School Presentation

Representatives of the Delaware Valley Friends School student body, faculty and administration will attend so they can articulate the DVFS experience and impact on students and families. We would like to begin the program with a short video about our school, followed by presentations from students and faculty about learning differences, the DVFS academic program, and the culture of community that permeates the hallways and athletic fields. Following the presentations, there will be a Question and Answer period.



*On behalf of Delaware Valley Friends School, I would like to express our excitement about the recent move to being under the care of Concord Quarterly Meeting. We view this care relationship as a symbiotic one, presenting us with ample opportunities for mutual sharing and support. We sincerely thank the Concord Quarterly Planning Committee for approving DVFS as program presenters at the October 27th Meeting. I look forward to meeting many of you on 10/27.*

*In Friendship,  
David Calamaro, DVFS Associate Head/Academic Dean*

Childcare & Children's Program available from 8:45 AM until Lunch

For more info and a map to our meetings 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 Minutes at Willistown Meeting July 21, 2019

**Opening Worship** The meeting opened at 8:30 AM with a period of worship. Twenty-five friends were present as the meeting began.

**Welcome to Newcomers:** The clerk welcomed all newcomers and had them introduce themselves.

**Monthly Meeting Count:** Representatives were present from all meetings in the Quarter except Concord & Goshen Meetings.

**Approval of Agenda:** The group approved the agenda.

**Approval of Minutes from April 28, 2019** : The minutes were approved without further correction.

**Report from The Hickman:** The report was presented by Martha Boston, a member of the Hickman's governance committee and was received with appreciation. It is attached as Appendix 1.

**Minute of Appreciation for Pam Leland:** Rich Ailes, Clerk of Concord Quarter on Aging Concerns, minuted appreciation for Pam Leland for her leadership of the Hickman for the past six years. The minute was approved by those present. A copy of this minute is attached as Appendix 2.

**Nominating Committee Report:** Nominating Committee recommends David Wickard from West Chester Monthly Meeting and Tom Gilbert from Willistown Monthly Meeting to serve on the Friendly Audit committee. The Friendly Audit will be conducted with the Concord Quarter Treasurer, Charles Spadoni. The Quarter is hoping that the audit can be completed by the next Quarterly Meeting, October 27, 2019. The group approved these appointments with appreciation.

**Treasurer's Report:** The report is attached as Appendix 3. The treasurer added a new category in the statement for income. Charles answered questions about the various funds mentioned in the report. Twenty percent of income goes into the Green Fund and eighty percent goes into the Growth and Income Fund. The report was received by the group with appreciation.

**Coordinator Report:** Lynne reported that she has just finished two years as Concord Quarter Coordinator. Lynne answered a question saying that Concord Quarter newsletters are on the website. Planning Committee meets on August 4<sup>th</sup> at the Jeanes Building at the Hickman. All are invited. The report is attached as Appendix 4.

**DVFS/Concord Quarter Care Committee:** A report was written by Susan Brodesser, a member of Birmingham Meeting who is Clerk of the Care Committee for DVFS. Another report was written by Kirk Smothers, Head of Delaware Valley Friends School. The two reports were read by Virginia Sutton, a member of the Care Committee from Westtown Meeting. The students are available to do service projects for Meetings. Meetings that would be interested in partnering with the school on a service project could contact the school. Westtown Meeting would like to have the program for the October Quarterly Meeting about DVFS. The two reports are attached as Appendix 5.

**Joys and Challenges Report from Concord Meeting:** The report was given by Judy Reese from Chichester Meeting on behalf of Concord Meeting. The report is attached as Appendix 6. Judy spoke about service dogs and emotional support dogs. A question was asked about the Chichester Meeting restoration. The restoration will be completed in two weeks.

**Salem Oak at Salem Friends Meeting:** Lydia Willits Bartholomew gave a report about the Salem Oak at Salem Friends Meeting in Salem, New Jersey. It was a 600 year-old tree that recently died. She asked that information about the tree be shared.

**Minutes of Appreciation for Deb Wood and David Leonard:** The body expressed Minutes of appreciation for the service of Deb Wood who served as Assistant Clerk of Concord Quarter and David Leonard for his service as Recording Clerk of Concord Quarter. Their terms ended 6/30/19. Friends approved this expression of thanks.

**Reading of Minutes for Approval:** The report from the Concord Quarter Nominating Committee was the only action item that was reviewed for the minutes.

**Second Count of Meetings and Members in Attendance:** Twenty-seven friends were present as the meeting ended. Meeting representation at that point was: Birmingham, Middletown, West Chester, Westtown, Willistown, Wilmington, and Chichester.

### **Appendix 1. Hickman Friends Senior Community of West Chester Annual Report to Concord Quarterly Meeting**

In our 128<sup>th</sup> year of service to older adults, The Hickman Friends Senior Community of West Chester remains committed to its mission of providing an affordable and accessible supportive living environment.

In bringing this annual report to the Quarter, we are most aware that we have experienced a full year of operating our newly expanded community after opening the Anna T. Jeanes Building in May 2018.

As planned for in the overall expansion project timeline, we remain in the phase of increasing our number of residents. As of June 30, we had a total of 75 residents in the Hickman and Jeanes buildings with the license to serve up to 125 individuals in 114 Studio and 1-BR apartments. We have grown from approximately 55 employees to about 100 full and part-time employees. And, as an indication of the growing need for high quality dementia care, we have a waiting list for our Darlington Neighborhood, a secure, specialized dementia program.

Given the growth in the number of residents, cost of quality care and national trends of decreasing retirement assets, we anticipate an increase in the need for financial assistance in the coming years. A task force was appointed in 2018 and completed its work in the spring, noting in its final report there are no simple or easy answers to this problem: like many mission-driven organizations, we need to invest in developing a larger group of donors who will support our mission through both annual contributions and legacy gifts.

A significant change for us in the coming year will be in our community's leadership. Pamela Leland, who joined us as executive director in 2013, announced her resignation in January. With the assistance of an outside search consultant, the Board of Directors has named Jennifer Karsten as Pam's successor. Pam will remain in her position until Jennifer joins us in September. The Board of Directors is deeply grateful to Pam's leadership during a period of intense change and organizational transformation. We look forward to welcoming Jennifer to our community and to receiving her gifts and talents after serving for 9 years as the executive director of Pendle Hill.

We approach this next period in our community with optimism and intention, knowing that while the senior living industry is both rapidly changing and highly challenging, we are well-positioned to continue our mission of serving older adults of moderate means.

In sharing this report to the Quarter, we would like to acknowledge those individuals and Meetings who support our efforts through financial contributions. In 2019 we will provide almost \$250,000 in financial assistance to specific residents who no longer have sufficient funds to remain at The Hickman. This is a 10% increase over the amount we provided in 2018.

Our work is strengthened through the participation of the following Concord Quarter Friends on our 16-member board of directors: Marty Boston from Birmingham Meeting; Betsy Stratton from Middletown Meeting; Evelyn Brownlee, Chenda Davison and Bary Snyder from Wilmington Meeting; and Don Kidder, Ellen Millick, and Dean O'Banion from Willistown Meeting. Andrea Taylor from Centre Meeting, Matt Krasney of Falsington Meeting, and Hank Schellenger of Valley Friends join these Concord Quarter Friends on the Board. We would welcome the participation of other Friends who are interested and able to deeply engage in the work of governance.

In closing, the next year promises to be another year of growth for us as we continue to welcome more residents into our community. We look forward to the future with gratitude, anticipation, and appreciation of the support and encouragement from Concord Quarter Friends. *Submitted by Martha Boston, Member of the Board of Directors, on behalf of Betsy Stratton Chair, Board of Directors, and Stephen Olsen, Clerk of the Governance Committee.*

**Appendix 2. Minute of Appreciation for Pamela Leland:** The Concord Quarter Working Group on Aging Concerns minutes its appreciation to Pamela Leland, the outgoing Director of The Hickman. Pam raised the concern of Aging Friends in the Fall of 2016 by organizing a workshop on the ARCH program of New York Yearly Meeting. That is the workshop which led a number of us to become involved in this concern, eventually leading to the formation of our group. Pam was instrumental in providing critical logistical support for our Aging Concerns Facilitators Training held at The Hickman in April of 2018. Recently at one of our planning meetings, she presented us detailed information about The Hickman, demonstrating where it fits on the continuum of Senior Care Facilities. She has always been a helpful consultative presence for us whenever needed. We give many thanks for the service she has provided regarding the concern of aging Friends.

**Appendix 3. Concord Quarterly Meeting Treasurer's Report – please email [concordquarter@pym.org](mailto:concordquarter@pym.org) for this report**

**Appendix 4: Concord Quarter Coordinator Report for July 21, 2019**

I answer a lot of questions! They range from where can a meeting get funding for repairs, to what other meetings might be considering on a particular issue, to where is there a week day meeting, to a request to publicize a meeting event.

Publicizing events includes putting them on the Concord Quarter website calendar, including them in the Monthly Announcements, or perhaps sending them out to a particular group of committee clerks, such as Peace and Social Concerns or Property. I also post our own events on the PYM website (Quarterly Meeting in April then became one of the events highlighted by PYM!) and on our Facebook page. Planning Committee has approved some funds to boost events on our FB page, which I did for Amanda Kemp's program. I attend all the committees of the Quarter including Planning Committee, Working Group on Aging Concerns, Nominating Committee, and the newest, the Delaware Valley Friends School/Concord Quarter Care Committee and take all the minutes. I also write for the newsletter, most recently about the Friends General Conference's Institutional Assessment and what PYM could take away from it. I consulted with members of the Assessment's Implementation Team as part of my research.

Events supported include the workshop "The End is Dear" on May 4 on hospice organized by the Working Group on Aging Concerns at Goshen Meeting. Attendance was lower than we would have liked, but those present heard an excellent program by Pat Myatt, a hospice social worker who had a wealth of information, stories and experience to share. The Working Group is now reaching out to see what topics the Concord Quarter community might like to see in a workshop, as well as continuing to strengthen our own knowledge and resources as Aging Concerns Facilitators. We next meet on September 4. Join us!

I'm also now certified in the American Heart Association's First Aid/CPR thanks to Birmingham Meeting, which organized training on June 15. Tubing on the Brandywine was joyous occasion on June 23 with Friends from Western and Concord Quarters enjoying the beautiful day on the water, food provided by our host, MaryEtta Clendenin and attendees, and the music of Rich Ailes and Pete Lane. Those present had a wonderful time. Recently I attended Friends General Conference Gathering as I do pretty much every year. This year I learned about the Spiritual Deepening eLibrary that has free resources online. I'll be sharing more about it with the Quarter.

Moving forward, Western Quarter and I are making plans to meet to plan more joint activities, including the Hayride and Campfire Potluck on October 6 and the Parents Morning Off in December. I'd also like to get the First Day School people in the Quarter together, perhaps with Melinda Wenner Bradley who is available to us as a resource. And I'll be attending PYM Annual Sessions July 24-28 and will bring back information, ideas and resources to the Quarter. - Submitted by Lynne Piersol

**Appendix 5: Report from the Delaware Valley Friends School/Concord Quarter Care Committee**

**The First Report:** The Committee has met twice with a third meeting scheduled for September 23. All interested are welcome to attend. A number of Quarter members have attended DVFS's meeting for worship and special events, such as the school musical (written, produced, and performed by students) and Arts Fest. Head of School, Kirk Smothers, attended Concord Quarter's Amanda Kemp program at Quarterly Meeting. Lynne has publicized events/activities electronically and will continue to do so. November 7 is probably the date for Quarter members to attend a meeting for worship at DV followed by a tour of the school. Please watch for confirmation in Quarter news! Other activities under consideration include having students complete service projects at individual meetings; having DVFS staff provide a presentation about learning differences and Quaker education of students with LD at a Quarterly Meeting, having students present on topics of special interest to them; implementing a structured program of story exchange between DVFS students and Quarter members, and having meetings invite DVFS faculty/families to a particular meeting for worship. If you have other ideas or wish to participate in any way please let Susan Brodesser, Clerk of the Care Committee, know ([be\\_still@verizon.net](mailto:be_still@verizon.net))

**The second report:** DVFS has been thrilled with the beginnings of our care relationship with Concord Quarterly Meeting. It is true that in these first months as a result of the Care Relationship Committee, we have already begun to forge a stronger relationship with the Concord Quarter than we felt we had with the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. There are several reasons for this. First, DVFS has had previous relationships with members of the Care Relationship Committee—in particular Susan Brodesser, who is a DVFS alumni family, and Ginny Sutton, who has worked in her practice with several current and former DVFS students. Also, we are pleased by the several visits by Quarter members so that they can experience our Thursday Meeting for Worship and see the school. The Care Relationship Committee meetings themselves have produced fruitful dialog about strengthening our relationship over time. To this end, any good ideas have been raised for further exploration; these are recorded in the March 4, 2019 Care Relationship Committee minutes. We are especially eager to explore how our care relationship might be an asset to the DVFS Quaker Life Committee, which is charged with overseeing and supporting Quaker values and practice in the school.

As earlier reported, DVFS would be delighted to have a specific occasion to share more with the Quarter about learning differences, how our school responds to the needs of students, and how we might collaborate with the Quarter in the future. Our hope is that this might happen during the October 2019 Quarterly Meeting at Westtown Monthly Meeting. In Friendship, David Calamaro, Associate Head and Academic Dean, Delaware Valley Friends School

**Appendix 6. Joys and Challenges from Concord Meeting, July 21, 2019**

**Joys:** The foresight of our members of times past endowed us with enough means to care for the buildings and property. There are six new children in our membership ranks. Our business meetings are run with good order. We loan out durable medical equipment. (The equipment is much needed and used after the Barclay fire). Our emotional support dog Shakespeare won the Halo award at the Devon Horse Show for the best therapy dog. We provide community service workers with a means of working off their community service.

**Challenges:** We have a small number of active members. We lack an audio book of *Faith and Practice*. Chichester Meeting house that Concord Monthly Meeting oversees is not handicap accessible. We are planning our 250th anniversary of Chichester Meeting House on Sept 22 2019. -Valerie Peery, Clerk Concord Meeting

**Concord Quarterly Meeting Newsletter**  
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**Concord Quarter Meetings**

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Birmingham  
Chichester (Under Care of Concord MM)  
Concord  
Goshen  
Middletown  
West Chester  
Westtown  
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