



## Concord Quarterly Meeting Newsletter Volume 17, Issue 3, July 2020

### Conversation Training for a Polarized Society

*(Ed Note: Our next QM will be held on July 19 via Zoom, with Meeting for Business followed by a joint Meeting for Worship with Western QM. Our presentation will be held via Zoom on Wednesday July 22, from 7 to 9 PM. It will be a workshop presented by two experienced Braver Angel moderators, Madelena Rizzo and Jennifer Elam. Braver Angels is an organization started after the 2016 national election whose purpose is to teach people of widely divergent political views to discuss those views with respect for one another.)*

#### Madelena, how did you come to become a moderator for Braver Angels?

Braver Angels (formerly Better Angels) came to me on a zephyr, amidst the tornado of the 2016 election, carried by my favorite podcast host Krista Tippett. In her program "On Being," Tippett interviews a diversity of people representing countless professions and lifestyles, all with the goal of gaining insight about what it means to be human. Tippett's soothing voice and boundless wonder at each new discovery gave me hope when it felt as if hatred and anger dominated in most spheres. Tippett made mention of Braver Angels on the podcast, and I was immediately intrigued.

With Braver Angels, I found the community I pined for but feared did not exist outside of my own idealism. I deeply value community. I went to a Friends school in the suburbs of Philadelphia for 12 years, and it was the best decision my parents could have made. The academics were rigorous and the atmosphere was infused with community service and open-mindedness. I felt at home, and I carried the lessons with me to college at a small, liberal arts school in New England.

The more I learned about Braver Angels, the more familiar it felt. It was the manifestation of what I had been striving to do thus far in my life; bring people together, foster respect & curiosity, and celebrate the beautiful complexity in the world. Braver Angels brings people together not to distill their essences, but rather to accentuate the beauty of their differences.

Rainbows are no longer stunning if the colors are mixed together; this is evident to me whenever I am tie-dyeing a shirt. Sometimes, with my perfectionist personality and extra dye to use up, I saturate the fabric so much that I severely damage what I have already created. It becomes a muddy brown blotch. This realization has been formative in my experience: that forcing uniformity—of thinking, of language, of worldview—stifles the breathtaking mosaic that naturally emerges.

I will end with a quote from one of my favorite guests on Krista Tippett's podcast, particle physicist and MIT professor Frank Wilczek. He describes the scientific understanding of complementarity and the implications for our lives:

*[T]hat's the essence of complementarity, that you have to view the world in different ways to do it justice, and the different ways can each be very rich, can each be internally consistent, can each have its own language and rules, but they may be mutually incompatible. And to do full justice to reality, you have to take both of them into account.*

May we all seek to live our lives in the spirit of complementarity connections.

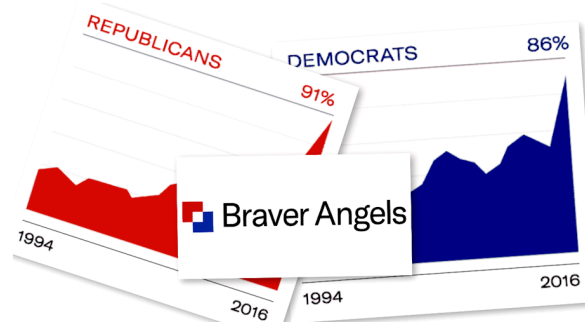
- Madelena Rizzo is currently in her fifth year in a dual law/clinical

psychology graduate program at Drexel University. She attended Friends Central School in Wynnwood, PA, from 1st to 12th grade and credits the school with instilling in her a lifelong pursuit of the common good.

#### Jennifer, how did you come to become a moderator for Braver Angels?

The short answer is that I was introduced to Braver Angels by a friend who had joined. He is from Haverford Meeting and I was invited when they had Braver Angels come to give an Informational Session then a Skills Workshop. I loved what they were doing. Then about a year ago, the Dialogue Institute at Temple University (where I have worked very part-time for the past six years) invited Braver Angels to do a Red/Blue workshop. Once a year, international scholars are invited to spend several weeks in the US so there were 16 different countries as observers. I also came to observe. I was in the back of the room and fairly pre-occupied with rather judgmental thoughts – feeling quite sure I could develop a better curriculum and it would certainly have more depth and other features that would be "better" since I have developed lots of curriculum. (Maybe you can chuckle as you recognize times when you might have done such things.)

When the Reds and Blues came in, there was a bit of tension in the room. As I sat observing/critiquing, I suddenly became aware of a palpable shift in the energy throughout the room; that got my undivided attention. The groups were realizing that under all the rhetoric, they all wanted the same things and they were articulating that shift. I found that I had tears streaming down my cheeks. I was truly moved. I think that is the moment of calling for me to get more involved in Braver Angels.



Some prior events led me to be attracted to the goals of Braver Angels. From 2012 until 2018, I went back and forth on a regular basis from PA to KY to care for aging parents. Both died in January of 2018, six days apart. During their care, the horrific polarization that has divided our country entered my parents' home when a family member got involved with a caregiver with very different views from most of my family. I was declared "evil" and my life was made quite miserable til by 2018, I was dealing with major trauma. I survived. That horrific experience led me to be attracted to whoever might be successful in decreasing this deadly polarization in our country.

In addition, I had worked for the Dialogue Institute and was often filled with hope when I witnessed the international students from Southeast Asia and the Middle East become friends with each other and learn about and come to appreciate many parts of the US.

I am often discouraged by the breadth and depth of the polarization that severely threatens our country and democracy today. I feel a deep need to do all I can to provide hope in this time of despair. Both the Dialogue Institute and Braver Angels do that for me at this time of limited sources of hope for the de-polarization to move toward unity in our world, our nation and our families.

- Jennifer Elam is a member of Berea Friends Meeting in Berea, Kentucky, with a PhD in school psychology from the University of North Carolina. She is a licensed psychologist who has studied Quaker spirituality and the lives of the Christian contemplatives and mystics

For more information on Braver Angels go to <https://braverangels.org/our-story/> Also see the Joint QM flyer on page 4.

Please Note: CQM Meeting for Business & Joint Concord Western Meeting for Worship will occur on July 19

## Growing Our Meetings, Swatara Virtual Plenary

On May 2, I attended "Growing Our Meetings" a virtual program about membership development offered by Caln Quarter as part of their traditional retreat via Zoom this year. Membership development is on the hearts of many Quakers, including my own. The program was a mix of information sharing by many with experience, as well as a session with breakout groups of about 9 people each for idea sharing and reporting back to the larger group. The format worked well, especially since there was a break. Three hours is long... About 86 of us attended from across Philadelphia Yearly Meeting and beyond.

### I. Welcome - divided into several subsections including:

- 1) The first impression:** Newcomers need to be welcomed warmly. Having a pamphlet about what to expect in meeting for worship on the benches or to hand out is helpful. Welcoming, hospitality and fellowship are the responsibilities of everyone, not just a specific committee.
- 2) The first conversation,** which could include introductions, learning how they came to attend, and giving of information. Be friendly but not overpowering. Ask questions without assumptions (what brings you here? versus "You must be new")
- 3) The message needs to be clear and strong.** Don't be so bland that newcomers don't know anything even after they read it.

### II. Facts on Growth

A study of 8-900 congregations from 2000-2005 showed that, for most faiths, the percentage of congregations that are growing is less than 50%. For example, only 21% of Catholic and Mainline Protestant churches show growth. Characteristics of growing congregations included the tendencies for them to be in newer suburbs, to have a multiracial membership, to have younger membership (40% under 35 years), and to have significant male involvement. They were very clear about their missions. People involved thought their churches were joyful, inspirational, and thought provoking. There was youth participation in worship and a recruitment plan involving the membership. Visitor follow-up done by multiple methods. There were often support groups for various needs offered to members and non-members. And there was a digital presence.

### III. What does your meeting currently do to greet and retain newcomers? What are the obstacles to better results? 9 breakout groups reported back:

Practices for greeting and retaining newcomers included things such as having nametags, a greeter as people arrive and a friendly presence at the rise of meeting, a sign in book or information form and fellowship time after meeting. Some meetings have potlucks as often as every week, sometimes including breakfast. Meetings also provide printed information that explained the meeting. One meeting has Friendly 8's organized by themes. Follow up is done by phone call, getting people on the email list (one meeting has a weekly newsletter), and offering to plug people into smaller groups such as Bible study or a book group. A newcomer gathering

## At Your Fingertips; a Form for the Hereafter!

For over three years the Concord Quarter Working Group on Aging Concerns has been meeting regularly to provide workshops and training around the issues that evolve from our own aging process. Since the beginning, our working group has impacted our monthly meetings in various ways. We are not professionals, but resources in aging. We are there to assist meeting members with retirement questions, end of life questions, decision-making.

One area that repeatedly surfaced was avoidance of any planning for the end of life. This left children, family, or others clueless as to personal wishes, or where to find important information in a crisis. Several members of the working group are nurses and see this frequently during our professional lives. Why? Fear, ignorance, unwillingness to share personal information with another could be some answers.

In 2019, the working group reviewed many excellent commercial publications designed to focus and provide outlines to assist a person to complete this very task. Most of the booklets were very detailed. They recalled the old adage, "the devil is in the details". For most of us, the information was too involved, it tempted us to close the material, never to reopen it again. After much discussion, we decided to compose a brief, concise checklist distilled from several of the booklets. The original form was constructed by one working group member. She reviewed several commercial pamphlets on retirement and

monthly or less often is another idea. Websites with information about what to expect can help a newcomer.

Obstacles to greeting and retaining include the tendency to make assumptions about age or any other feature of a person (gender, ability, culture etc). We are sometimes overly enthusiastic (and off putting) when greeting young people when there are few in our meeting. There seem to be few younger families to engage and sometimes children don't want to get involved. Our aging populations may be unappealing to younger folks. It is an obstacle to lack a physical presence on the street, as well as to have space challenges that impact welcoming and greeting, or the rearranging of benches. We also tend to use "jargon" like "First Day School" or AFSC. And Sunday morning sports can affect regular attendance.

### IV. Outreach Panel

Joel Barker from Multnomah Meeting in Portland, Oregon, understands how people take in information through his job in marketing research. Digital outreach is how people find information. Instead of stressing the urgency to grow our meetings, we need to ask what we have to offer a seeker? What needs do they have that we can meet? We have a method for seeking which can be shared clearly on a website.

Mark Myers, from Western Quarter, talked about reaching the unchurched, i.e. those who are mostly Christian, but not currently affiliated with any church. A Pew Foundation study found a jump in unaffiliated people between 2007-14, from 16% to 23% of their survey population. Some of these "unchurched" are still open to exploring another faith community – the switchers. Who are they, where are they and might we be good for them? He has his personal "elevator speech" about Quakerism ready for when he meets someone.

Alex Miller of Downingtown Meeting focused on how we integrate newcomers and the importance of noting the varying needs of people. He shared some myths about outreach including the idea that people can just learn Quakerism by osmosis, that they will be integrated into the meeting in 6 months, and that only seasoned Friends should do greeting. Susan Vorwerk from Upper Dublin Meeting shared what they are doing to optimize their physical presence in the community. They highlight their presence, celebrate it on their website, social media, press releases and on their physical property with banners. Ken Park, from Providence Meeting, shared about the PYM Membership Development Support Fund which is available to meetings. Funds are available!! Applications are on the PYM website; requests for \$1000 or less get a quick decision; larger requests wait for the quarterly meeting of the committee.

Ending, Caln Quarter shared their plan to have an ongoing series of discussions on this topic. Including information from the FGC Toolkit for Meetings and the topic of racism's impact on outreach and welcome.

*For some outreach resources please go to page 4 of this newsletter.  
- Lynne Piersol, Concord Quarter Coordinator*

end of life planning, supplementing with her experience as a registered nurse. This initial effort was then distributed to the entire working group for input and revision. Many thoughtful items were added. Our clerk offered to reformat the checklist. We called it, "At Your Fingertips".

"At Your Fingertips" is designed as a no-frills, two-page registry that gives the most necessary personal data for a caregiver to start functioning immediately in a crisis. It does not give descriptive details. For instance, it provides a space to state memorial service information (Quaker Memorial Meeting, Mass, graveside service), but not the details of that service. That information would best be described at length in one of the commercial pamphlets. Complex financial instructions are also not covered, but the initial starting points: bank name, account numbers, insurance numbers are. "At Your Fingertips" is the index to start directing family / friends on the journey at the end of a life. It is NOT a "Do Not Resuscitate" order, or any legal tool to specify medical care.

To reiterate, it is a useful starting point. Our hope is that its short, easily understood information requests will be the gentle prod some of us need to begin on the path and share the details for our journey. Follow this link to download this resource: <https://concordquarter.org/aging-concerns>

*-Chris Smith – West Chester Meeting*



## Our Spiritual-Moral Compass as Friends



Today in the United States, we are living through anything but normal conditions and circumstances. Children are out from school early, adults are working from home, businesses are closed, and you must wear a facemask to leave your house. The worldwide COVID-19 pandemic that is currently rocking all of our lives is a once in a lifetime crisis that the United States cannot seem to climb out from under. Over 40 million Americans have filed for

unemployment in the last few months and our economy has now been officially declared to be in a recession. Yet at this present time, the focus across the country has shifted from a public health emergency to a social movement strongly rooted in a history of injustices. This is the Black Lives Matter movement.

The killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis by police officers on May 25 sent shock waves that not only brought out thousands of local protesters in Minnesota, but thousands more across the country in cities like Atlanta, New York, and Philadelphia -- as well as in the smaller local communities many of us call home. These groups congregated and marched while COVID-19 stay at home orders were in place and urban curfews were assigned.

Now, over twenty days after George Floyd spoke his last words, "I can't breathe," and while protests push on, we are left with a question. Will we be the ones to answer the call of justice and produce real change in our own communities? In speaking about George Floyd's final words, former Vice President Joe Biden said, "...but they didn't die with him. They're still being heard. They're echoing across this nation." The reality of this moment is that if we fail to rise to the call of the Black Lives Matter movement, as well as many other voices for social and racial justice, those words will continue to be heard for years to come. This call depends on allies of all races and ethnicities to become educated and knowledgeable

in the history of oppression of Black Americans and how we can create a better world. We do this not only for the next generation, but for today.

As a Quaker, I believe the current call for action speaks to me as well as to other Friends. Listening to the words of the attorney representing the family of Rayshard Brook (yet another Black man killed by police not twenty days after the death of George Floyd), there was a clear message of the need for more connected and accountable community in American neighborhoods. As the Religious Society of Friends, community is at the center of what we aspire to cultivate in our daily lives. The testimony of community is just as necessary today as the testimony of equality -- and it is where we must start with our work. I believe that it is the responsibility of Friends to build the "beloved community" that Dr. Martin Luther King preached about. We are called to do so not just among our meeting communities but throughout all our relationships and connections. We must speak up and demand political and structural change to the way our country operates but we must not forget to continue our work at home and with our neighbors every day.

As a white American, I know that it can be all too easy to want to remain on the sidelines or to stay quiet at a time when there is so much conflict and chaos. It feels like maybe you are better off listening and trying to understand than to try and speak up and risk upsetting someone. However, we must acknowledge that education is only the first step and it is the sometimes-uncomfortable conversations that come next where we grow and change as human beings. Let's begin those conversations; let's start to talk about the unique moment we are in, why we are here, and how we can learn from the past to create a future better than our present. We are spread across towns and cities, and in the continued pandemic we are unable to come together in a physical space, but we won't let that stop us from following our spiritual leadings. I believe in the strength and moral compass of meetings and the Friends that make up their members and attenders, and so I have faith that we will rise to meet this moment. We have a part to play in creating real, sustained, systemic change -- as individual Friends, and the Quaker community.

- James Bradley - West Chester Meeting

## Wilmington Meeting's Work for Emmanuel Dining Room



Emmanuel Dining Room, an outreach program of Wilmington's Ministry of Caring, has been serving meals to the hungry for over 30 years. All are welcome at any of the three locations, no questions asked. Diners are

welcomed in and served a hot meal. With the restrictions of the ban on public gatherings, Emmanuel had to make some changes to continue to feed the hungry. Meals are prepared and provided as take away.

Wilmington Meeting was asked to assist in the work of Emmanuel Dining Room through a financial contribution. The Meeting approved a financial contribution, but Meeting member Linda Powell suggested we might do more. Our recently renovated kitchen is a licensed commercial kitchen, so we are able to cook and provide meals for others. Linda contacted the dining room, and they were delighted at our offer to help. We organized a group of volunteers to plan menus, buy supplies, cook the meal, and deliver to the dining room that is a few blocks from the Meeting House. The trustees of the Meeting authorized funds for purchase of food, and Meeting members and attenders have been generous in supplementing these funds. The Meeting is fortunate to have two trained certified food safety managers to be in the kitchen as we cook the meals. Linda Powell and Ed Betz have given generously of their time to oversee kitchen protocol as they help prepare food.

Social distancing requirements have created something of a challenge as we cook. As it is difficult to properly socially distance within the kitchen, couples and siblings, who are not socially distancing from each other, have done cooking while others work at counters or separate tables in the annex to chop and prepare food.

To date, we have prepared over 225 meals on each of five separate occasions. With menus ranging from chicken salad sandwiches to hamburger macaroni casserole (all very tasty!). We plan to continue this throughout the summer. We are also expanding the kitchen use to prepare food for the Family Promise program in Wilmington that we support jointly with Hockessin Meeting. Volunteers are always welcome. If you would like to help, contact Wilmington Meeting.

- Evelyn Brownlee - Wilmington Monthly Meeting

# Concord Quarter July-September 2020 Announcements & Calendar of Events

## Announcements

The draft minutes from our April 26 Quarterly Meeting via Zoom 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 July 10, 2020

Concord Quarter meetings are worshipping mostly virtually with some in person and the access information is on the Concord Quarter website: <https://concordquarter.org/special-events/virtual-meetings-for-worship>

Concord Quarter has a calendar on the website with information about upcoming events, in person, virtual or postponed. <https://concordquarter.org/quartercalendar>

- Sundays 10:30 am** **Joint West Chester Meeting for worship at 10:30 by Zoom.** Children's Program is not every week in the summer. Find the link on their website: <https://www.fgcquaker.org/cloud/west-chester-friends-meeting/announcements/west-chester-meeting-online-and-together>
- Sundays 10:30 am** **Join Westtown Meeting for their virtual worship each Sunday.** Find the link to their google meet meeting for worship here: <https://www.fgcquaker.org/cloud/westtown-monthly-meeting>
- Weds 7:30 pm** **PYM Children's Worship Group online for children and families.** For info and to register: [https://www.pym.org/event/childrens-worship-group/?instance\\_id=3702](https://www.pym.org/event/childrens-worship-group/?instance_id=3702)
- Jul 11 1-3 pm** **PYM Middle School Hangouts:** [https://www.pym.org/event/middle-school-friends-hangouts/?instance\\_id=4445](https://www.pym.org/event/middle-school-friends-hangouts/?instance_id=4445)
- Pacem in Terris Visionary Peace Virtual Art Gallery "Listen to My Art":** <https://prezi.com/view/2uGijjLzi9oLzGzra2V/>

## Calendar of Events

- June 27 7 to 9 pm** **Virtual "Everyone's Got Talent" offered by Concord and Western Quarters by Zoom.** A fun multigenerational opportunity to share your talents, interests and more. You need to register to be in the audience. <https://concordquarter.org/special-events/2020/cqm-wqm-everyones-got-talent> (Link will also be sent out just before the event)
- June 28 to July 4** **Friends General Conference Virtual Gathering: Sink Down into the Seed Sown in the Heart.** Cost is "Pay as Led" this year. Programs for all ages. Many workshops and programs available on the topics of racism and injustice. Come for part or all of the time. For more information and to register (even late!): <https://www.fgcquaker.org/connect/gathering/registration-details>
- July 19 8:30 am to 12 pm** **Concord and Western Joint Virtual Quarterly Meeting.** 8:30am, CQ Meeting for Business, 10am Children's Program (scavenger hunt project), 10:30 Joint worship, 11:15 Breakout groups for sharing. To register for the link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcld-yoqzMvHtC1U7yYr5u5Lo2f4TP-3Jks>
- July 22 7 to 9 pm** **Braver Angels Skills Workshop by Zoom, sponsored by Western and Concord Quarters.** Join Jennifer Elam and Madelena Rizzo for this skill building workshop about how to bridge differences. There will be a video recommended to watch ahead of time. Flyer attached with the newsletter with registration information.
- July 26 2 pm** **Concord Quarter Planning Committee via Zoom.** Open to all in the Quarter interested in the business and events of the Quarter. Contact the CQ Coordinator for more information and the link to the meeting.
- July 29 to Aug 2** **PYM Annual Sessions online.** For more information and to register for workshops and plenaries etc: <https://www.pym.org/annual-sessions/>
- August 5 10:30 - noon** **Concord Quarter Working Group on Aging Concerns via Zoom.** All interested in aging concerns are welcome to attend. At this meeting, at 11:15, we will be hearing from Barclay Friends about their services. Contact the Coordinator for the Zoom link.

### **Outreach Resources from the Growing Our Meetings, Swatara Virtual Plenary**

How to be an Antiracist by Ibram X. Kendi

Simple Church: Returning to God's Process for Making Disciples by Eric Geiger and Thom Rainer (growing vs non growing churches)

Autopsy of a Deceased Church by Thom Rainer

The Unchurched Next Door: Understanding Faith Stages as Keys to Sharing Your Faith by Thom Rainer

Philadelphia YM (Membership Development Support Fund, <https://www.pym.org/grants/membership-development/>)

Bibliography on addressing racism <https://www.pym.org/addressing-racism/resources/>

New York YM – resources on outreach, <https://nyym.org/content/quaker-resources-advancement-outreach>

Friends General Conference - Growing our Meetings Toolkit (Inreach, outreach and integrating newcomers), **Becoming a Welcoming Friend,**

Ministry on Racism. <https://www.fgcquaker.org/deepen/outreach>

# Skills for Bridging the Divide

## Workshop by Braver Angels

July 22, 2020 on Zoom 7-9 PM

Sponsored by Concord & Western Quarters



### Conversation Training for a Polarized Society

*In December of 2016 ... With passions still high following the election we assembled 10 Trump supporters and 11 Clinton supporters in South Lebanon, Ohio. This would become our first Red/Blue Workshop. The goal was simple. We needed to see if Americans could still disagree respectfully – and just maybe, find common ground. Some thought it wasn't likely. We proved our skeptics wrong. <https://braverangels.org/our-story/>*

## Braver Angels

**Madelena Rizzo and Jennifer Elam** are experienced moderators for the Braver Angels organization. Braver Angels was organized in 2016 to help participants with opposing political views learn to speak with one another with respect and understanding while still holding onto their core beliefs. Madelena and Jennifer will conduct an official Braver Angels workshop designed to teach us these skills in this 2-hour online experience.

*Madelena Rizzo is currently in her fifth year in a dual law/clinical psychology graduate program at Drexel University. She attended Friends Central School in Wynnewood, PA, from 1st grade to 12th grade and credits the school with instilling in her a lifelong pursuit of the common good.*

*Jennifer Elam is a member of Berea Friends Meeting in Berea, Kentucky, with a PhD in school psychology from the University of North Carolina. She is a licensed psychologist who has studied Quaker spirituality and the lives of the Christian contemplatives and mystics.*

This is a special event that requires registration by July 21. You will be sent the Zoom in an email confirmation.

Register by July 21 at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/join/joinMeeting?zUofuqopzlvHfZA8pGbVpMB3fe3G8qBbNwp>

Participants are asked to take an online module that takes about 40 minutes within a week of the workshop. That link is here: <https://braverangels.org/online/online-skills-training/> You are welcome to complete the online module even if you cannot attend the workshop.

For more info: email Lynne Piersol, CQM Coordinator, at [concordquarter@pym.org](mailto:concordquarter@pym.org)  
or Deb Wood ([coordinator@westernquarterquakers.org](mailto:coordinator@westernquarterquakers.org))



**Please Note: Our Braver Angels Presentation is separate from our Business/Worship sessions which occurs on July 19**

**July 19 Concord and Western Joint Virtual Quarterly Meeting.** 8:30am, CQ Meeting for Business,  
**8:30 am** 10am Childrens' Program (scavenger hunt project), 10:30 Joint worship, 11:15 Breakout  
**12 pm** groups for sharing. To register for the Zoom link:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcld-yoqzMvHtC1U7yYr5u5Lo2f4TP-3Jks>

#### **Concord Quarterly Meeting by Zoom, April 26, 2020 - Minutes**

**Opening Worship**—Chris McKenney (Clerk)

The meeting opened at 9 AM with a period of worship. Thirteen friends were present as the meeting began.

**Welcome to Newcomers**—Chris McKenney. There were no newcomers.

**Monthly Meeting Count** (Birmingham, Concord, Goshen, Middletown, West Chester, Westtown, Willistown, Wilmington)—Chris McKenney

Representatives were present from all Monthly Meetings in the Quarter except for Concord and Goshen Meetings.

**Approval of Agenda**—Chris McKenney. The group approved the agenda.

**Approval of Minutes** from January 26, 2020—Chris McKenney. The minutes from January 26, 2020 were approved without further correction.

**Treasurer's Report**, including proposed minutes regarding signatories—Charles Spadoni gave the Treasurer's report. It was accepted, and it is attached as Appendix 1.

#### **Friends approved the following:**

Effective July 1, 2020, Christopher McKenney (current Clerk) is removed as an authorized signatory of Concord Quarterly Meeting's primary checking account and its expense checking account each held by The National Bank of Malvern, and Deborah Murray-Sheppard of Wilmington Monthly Meeting (rising Clerk) and Charles B. Spadoni of Birmingham Monthly Meeting (Treasurer) are the authorized signatories of said primary checking account and said Deborah Murray-Sheppard, Charles B. Spadoni and Lynne H. Piersol, Coordinator, are the authorized signatories of said expense checking account.

Effective July 1, 2020, Treasurer, Charles B. Spadoni, shall be Concord Quarterly Meeting's Fund Representative, and its rising Clerk, Deborah Murray-Sheppard, shall be its Second Authorization with respect to all of the Meeting's accounts and sub-accounts held by Friends Fiduciary Corporation. The Fund Representative and the Second Authorization must act jointly to make any withdrawals or changes to any of such accounts and subaccounts.

Proposed Budget for 2020-2021 (starts July 1, 2020)—Charles Spadoni presented the proposed budget for 2020-2021. It is the same budget as last year. It is attached as Appendix 2. Friends approved the proposed budget for 2020-2021. The group thanked Charlie for his work on behalf of Concord Quarter.

#### **Nominating Committee Report**—Deb Wood

Concord Quarter Nominating Committee recommends Steve Kupferschmid of Willistown Meeting for a three-year term as one the Quarter's three representatives on the Delaware Valley Friends School/Concord Quarter Care Committee beginning July 1, 2020. He has already attended several meetings of the Committee and visited the school. Friends approved the nomination of Steve Kupferschmid.

Friends thanked Tom Ceresini from Middletown Meeting for his service. Tom will rotate off the Delaware Valley Friends School Care Committee on July 1, 2020.

As of July 1, 2020, Debbie Murray-Sheppard of Wilmington Meeting, currently Concord Quarter Assistant Clerk will become Concord Quarter's Clerk and Christopher McKenney of Birmingham Meeting will become its Assistant Clerk for one year.

Deb Lyons will continue as Concord Quarter's representative on the PYM Nominating Committee.

#### **Reading of Minutes for Approval**—Martha Boston (Recording Clerk)

Deborah Murray-Sheppard, who will become Clerk of the Concord Quarter on July 1, 2020, and Charles Spadoni, Treasurer were approved as signatories for the National Bank of Malvern checking accounts, Lynne H. Piersol was approved as a signatory on the National Bank of Malvern expense checking account and Deborah Murray-Sheppard, rising Clerk along with Charles Spadoni, Treasurer were approved as signatories for the

Friends Fiduciary Corporation Accounts.

The budget for 2020-2021 was approved as shown in Appendix 2.

The Group approved Steve Kupferschmid from Willistown Meeting for a three-year term for Delaware Valley Friends School Care Committee. Second Count of Meetings and Members in Attendance—Marty Boston (Recording Clerk)  
Fourteen members were present at the end of the meeting. All Meetings except for Concord and Goshen were represented.

**Announcements of Upcoming Events** (all and more on the CQ website calendar) Chris McKenney, Clerk and Lynne Piersol  
The Joint Quarterly Meeting with Western Quarter July 19, 2020 is still pending. PYM calendar gives all virtual programming.  
Concord Quarter's Planning Committee meets virtually Sunday, May 3, 2020 at 3 PM. The Working Group on Aging Concerns meets virtually May 6, 2020 at 10:30 AM.

Respectfully submitted Christopher McKenney, Clerk Martha Boston, Recording Clerk

**Appendix 1 - CONCORD QUARTERLY MEETING TREASURER'S REPORT**

Unreviewed Financial Statements Through the Third Quarter Ending March 31, 2020 (Reported on a Cash Basis) And Proposed Budget for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2021 (Financial figures redacted, contact Coordinator for full report)

Concord Quarterly Meeting's financial statements through the third quarter ending March 31, 2020, that I have prepared are set forth below. The revenue and expense statement display actual revenues and expenses compared to the prior year's actual revenues and expenses for the same period.

- One monthly meeting did not make its covenant contributions during the 3rd Quarter that it had made during the 3rd Quarter of the prior year.
- The Programs/ Administrative expense line reflects the \$286 premium for worker's compensation insurance that was not incurred during the prior year.

March 31, 2020 Revenues and Expenses Compared to the Prior Year's Revenues and Expenses March 31, 2020 Balance Sheet Prior Year Comparison  
There are no liabilities.

The aggregate value of Quarter's investments in the FFC's Growth & Income Fund and in the Green Fund declined by \$49,326 when compared to their aggregate values on December 31, 2019. This decline is a function of the drastic March 2020 downturn in the financial markets as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Concord Quarterly Meeting Proposed Budget**  
**Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2021**  
*Financial figures redacted, contact Coordinator or  
Treasurer for full report.*

Based on June 30, 2020 Aggregate Budgeted Monthly Meetings'  
Covenants

**Operating Income and Expenses**

<b>Operating Income</b>	
Monthly Meetings' Coordinator Covenants	\$
Monthly Meetings' Program/Administrative Covenants	\$
Subtotal	\$
<b>Operating Expenses</b>	
Coordinator	\$
Program/Administrative	\$
Subtotal	\$
<b>Operating Net Income</b>	-
<b>Restricted Income and Expenses</b>	
<b>TEF/TOF Income</b>	
TEF Monthly Meetings' Covenants	\$
FFC TEF/TOF Investment Earnings	\$
Subtotal	\$
<b>Tuition Assistance Expenses</b>	\$
<b>Restricted Net Revenue</b>	\$
<b>Total Net Revenue</b>	\$

Respectfully submitted,

Charles B. Spadoni, Treasurer  
April 26, 2020

**Concord Quarterly Meeting Newsletter**  
**Volume 17 Issue 3 July 2020**

Rich Ailes, Editor  
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Swarthmore, PA 19081

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Asst. Clerk: Chris McKenney  
Recording Clerk: Marty Boston  
Treasurer: Charles Spadoni  
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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