

Concord Quarterly News

of the Religious Society of Friends



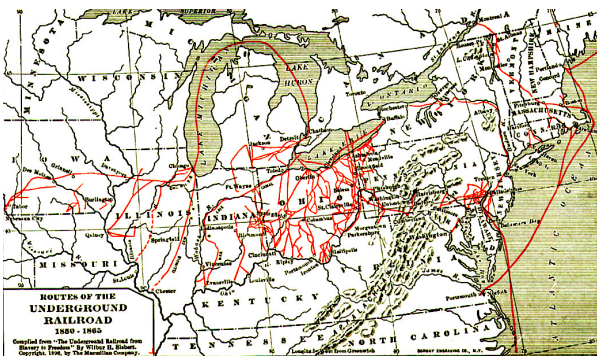
Concord Quarterly Meeting Newsletter Volume 19, Issue 1, January 2022

UNLIKELY FRIENDS: Harriet Tubman and Thomas Garrett

At our next Quarterly Meeting, Ashley Cloud, a masterful storyteller and connoisseur of local history, will weave the tale of the unlikely friendship between Harriet Tubman and Thomas Garrett. Based on her extensive research, she will provide a unique perspective on their deeply personal connection. They shared a powerful leading to provide safe passage to those who sought fulfillment of their innate and undeniable right as humans to be free during a very troubled period in our nation's history.

Wilmington was the last stop on the Underground Rail Road (UGRR) before freedom seekers entered Pennsylvania where the enslavement of humans was illegal (unlike in Delaware). Delaware was in every sense a border state. The collaborative efforts of free African Americans with Quakers were pivotal to the success of the dangerous work of the UGRR in Wilmington. The impact of Quakerism in our area is important to understanding both the history and context of this story.

Thomas Garrett was born into a Quaker family in Upper Darby, Delaware County, in 1789. He became a member of Wilmington Monthly Meeting (where he is buried) after moving to Wilmington in 1820, where he was an iron merchant by trade and operated a hardware and general store. He is remembered for his tireless efforts as an abolitionist and was known as the Station Master of the final UGRR station before crossing into Pennsylvania.



Despite being arrested, assaulted, threatened and carrying a \$10,000 bounty for his capture, he assisted more than 2,500

freedom seekers on their journeys. He was sued and fined \$5,400 under the Fugitive Slave Act in 1846 which required the liquidation of all his assets. In his closing remarks to Chief Justice Robert Taney at his trial in New Castle, Delaware, an unrepentant Garrett stated, "Thou has left me without a dollar... I say to thee and to all in the court room that if anyone knows of a fugitive who wants shelter... send him to Thomas Garrett and he will befriend him." It

was Taney who later wrote the majority opinion in *Dred Scott v. Sandford* in 1857 which held that African Americans were not and could never be U.S. citizens.

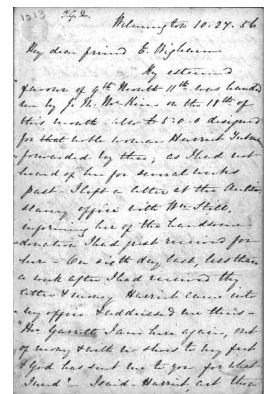
Harriet Tubman is well known for her nineteen journeys to lead freedom seekers out of slave-holding states, many of which traveled through Wilmington. Thomas Garrett was a devoted and supportive friend of Harriet Tubman. UGRR Conductor William Still maintained records and documented many of the stories of the freedom seekers who made it to his office in Philadelphia. A letter to Still from Garrett posted 3rd month, 27th day, 1857 inquired as to her welfare, "... I have been very anxious for some time past, to hear what has become of Harriet Tubman. The last I heard of her, she was in the State of New York, on her way to Canada with some friends, last fall. Has thee seen, or heard anything of her lately? It would be a sorrowful fact, if such a hero as she, should be lost from the Underground Rail Road. I have just received a letter from Ireland, making inquiry respecting her. If thee gets this in time, and knows anything respecting her, please drop me a line by mail tomorrow, and I will get it next morning if not sooner, and oblige thy friend..."



When asked for his reminiscences of Tubman in 1856, Garrett wrote, "...living as I have in a slave State, and the laws being very severe where any proof could be made of any one aiding slaves on their way to

freedom, I have not felt at liberty to keep any written word of Harriet's or my own labors, except in numbering those whom I have aided. For that reason I cannot furnish so interesting an account of Harriet's labors as I otherwise could, and now would be glad to do; for in truth I never met with any person, of any color, who had more confidence in the voice of God, as spoken direct to her soul. She has frequently told me that she talked with God, and he talked with her every day of her life, and she has declared to me that she felt no more fear of being arrested by her former master, or any other person, when in his immediate neighborhood, than she did in the State of New York, or Canada, for she said she never ventured only where God sent her, and her faith in a Supreme Power truly was great."

Please join Wilmington Monthly Meeting in exploring this history and becoming acquainted with its human side. This will be in an intergenerational program which is appropriate for children who are able to sit and listen. It promises to be an engaging and informative presentation which may lead us to consider where and how we, today, are called to listen for and act on leadings of the Spirit.



- Debbie Murray-Sheppard - Wilmington Meeting

Birmingham Midweek Zoom Worship - All are welcome to Birmingham Meeting's Midweek Meeting for Worship. Presently, a group of about 10 Friends from local meetings gather via Zoom on Wednesday afternoons from 4-5 PM. We open about 20 minutes early for fellowship, start with a short Friendly reading at 4:00, and continue worship for another 45 minutes. We close holding situations and people in the Light. - **Connie Esh**
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83870047629?pwd=cXlqOXRiNUw4VzZiR1dudmY5S1B1Zz09> Meeting ID: 838 7004 7629 Passcode: 863654

Reflections on Cultural Influences on Quaker Worship

Birmingham's Worship & Ministry committee periodically hosts spiritual enrichment events, such as discussions of a pamphlet or short video. On November 15th, a dozen Friends viewed (via Zoom) the QuakerSpeak video "How does culture influence Quaker worship?", by Ayesha Imani of Germantown Monthly Meeting. In the video, Ayesha notes that "liberty of Spirit" is at the root of Quakerism, but she believes that as Quakerism has developed over time among white middle class Friends, Quaker leadings and messages began to reflect a specific cultural orientation. As a person of African descent, she felt inhibited to experience worship in the way that she was led, because she was afraid of not being accepted within the culture she perceived in Meeting for Worship. In joining the Fellowship of Friends of African Descent, she found an alternative place of worship where she felt truly free to experience the Spirit.



Following the video, our discussion explored the idea that we need to be flexible in our approach to worship and to embrace messages that may seem unconventional to us. The video points out that we come to meeting expecting the Spirit to "show up" but not knowing what form it will take; if we place limitations on how the Spirit speaks to us, and share messages only in prescribed ways, then we are essentially trying to limit God. This simple but powerful message speaks not only to us as individuals when called to speak, but also as a community when called to listen.

As a "white" male of mostly European ancestry, I do not pretend to know exactly how Ayesha Imani felt, but I can empathize to

some extent. I have been extremely fortunate to have traveled (always in coach!) widely throughout Europe and Asia for professional meetings or seminars. Most of those times I was the only American, or even the only Westerner, in the room. I have found that being immersed in a different culture, even in those outwardly similar to my own, is not only exhilarating but also somewhat disorienting. Even without a language barrier, not knowing all the cultural "rules" can reduce one's confidence, making it harder to speak up and participate fully in group activities. It is difficult being an outsider, regardless of circumstance.

Ayesha Imani is quick to point out that it is not necessarily the fault of the group if a newcomer feels inhibited, and she was led to worship with another group whose style of worship felt more compatible with her own. It is likely that many

Friends in Concord Quarter share a similar experience (albeit without the aspect of race). My own journey to Quakerism, after being raised in a traditional Protestant church, involved attending programmed and unprogrammed meetings in 3 states over a period of 20 years before eventually joining the Religious Society of Friends. I found that unprogrammed communal worship in the manner of Friends speaks to my condition more clearly than liturgy, responsive readings, and other outward rites. Apparently, many Friends with similar backgrounds have felt the same way and have been led to a meeting where (hopefully) they feel free to respond when the Spirit moves them.

Friends are invited to view the video at <https://youtu.be/F1cOX0Nvd9Q>.

- David Scott, Birmingham Meeting

DEI - The Work of Making Hopes and Dreams Become a Reality

"Imagine yourself in the year 2035. Take six minutes to write a thank you note to Westtown Meeting reflecting on the incredible jump in DEI (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion) that the meeting experienced, starting way back in 2021, and the wonderful steps the meeting took to get there."

This was the prompt that meeting member, Judy Asselin, presented to us in Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business in October. After writing, we shared some of our hopes and aspirations out loud and then took the suggestion of Tracy Jackson, a regular attendee at our meeting, to create a Google doc where more letters could be shared.

This envisioning exercise was built on the foundation of several presentations / conversations, led by Jon Evans with meeting members. The series, entitled "Faith and Practice: Planting Seeds, Growing Leadership", helped us explore, among other topics, the history of integration at Westtown School and share reactions to Vanessa Juley's Pendle Hill talk on radical transformation.

Westtown Meeting is now in the process of creating a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee (see the charge to the committee below) to sort through the hopes and dreams expressed in our envisioning exercise and to guide us in making them a reality. Now the real work begins!

Draft Charge for Ad Hoc Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee—Westtown Meeting

While we have started with a description of the work expected of this committee, we recognize that as they get underway, the committee may discover a need to focus on additional avenues they determine to be of importance.

• Review responses to the visioning exercise led by Judy Asselin in October's MFB. Then develop a plan of ongoing activities for WMM

that brings into focus the opportunities and challenges for the Religious Society of Friends articulated by Vanessa Juley in her Pendle Hill talk on Radical Transformation in September.

- Provide support and guidance to the Meeting in answering these queries:
 - *What unwritten norms underlie Quaker Faith & Practice and worship in particular?*
 - *How can we more deeply explore our good intentions?*
- Help the Meeting to **examine, educate, re-evaluate and challenge long-standing assumptions** about our policies and procedures in relation to their implications about race. Help our Meeting be more open to new ways of listening and understanding outside the context of white culture.
- Specifically look at ways for growing more diverse participation and leadership in **the full and vibrant life** of the Meeting (meeting for worship, meeting for worship with attention to business, committee participation, plant sale, advent events, lunch socials, et. al.)
- Explore DEI work done by other Quaker meetings, including those with school-meeting affiliations, as well as DEI work of other faith communities, and report back on their observations, learnings and recommendations.
- In all our DEI work as a Meeting, create an atmosphere of psychological safety and one that presumes an attitude of good will among all participants.
- The committee should plan on meeting regularly and making reports on its work/progress at monthly Meetings for Worship with Attention to Business, as do all standing Meeting committees.

- Deb Wood & Joe Marchese - Westtown Meeting

George Schaefer Helps Friends Attend to Financial Support in Aging



On November 10, the Concord Quarterly Meeting Working Group on Aging Concerns hosted a presentation on “PYM Financial Support for Aging Adults” by George Schaefer. About 30 participants attended the Zoom event. George spoke for a little over an hour sharing his expertise regarding not only the financial supports available for aging but also more general issues which we all must face as we live into the normal aging process.

One stark statistic presented was the research which shows that 70-80% of us will require an average of 2 to 3 years of personal assistance in a long-term care facility or at home at the end of our lives. However, most of us assume we will NOT be in that group.

What is the critical way to approach that possibility? Planning for long term care is paramount and our loved ones must know our desires to keep the “medical system” from taking over in case of a crisis. By the “System” George explained it is the hospitals, nursing homes, laws and courts which automatically “take care” of you if you haven’t put yourself into a situation where the care you want has been designated or implemented.

Having caught our collective attention George went into some specifics regarding residential and nursing care for older adults. He picked apart the terminology surrounding the aging process such as aging in place, congregant settings, assisted living, CCRC’s, boarding homes personal care, ADL’s, skilled nursing, acute care. Most of these terms will become essential knowledge to us as we age. But more important than understanding the terms is understanding our needs. How much are we willing to ask for help, how far will we go to live independently, how critical is our need for privacy and how important is our Quaker community; all are questions we need to wrestle with in our move into a more dependent aging.

Of course, the major point of George’s presentation is where can we go for financial help if we need it. Private sources for assistance require payment from our private resources, this is called self-insuring. Long Term Care Insurance and Continuing Care Retirement Communities are expensive options, but they do provide ample assistance to those who have the means. There are Quaker based supports from some Monthly/Quarterly Meetings in addition to the PYM based funds that have been accumulating over the years. George has been instrumental in connecting PYM Quakers in need to both the Aging Assistance Granting Group and the Greenleaf Granting Group.

The Aging Assistance Granting Group has several small funds that provide assistance to aging Friends of modest means. The Anna Jeanes Fund #1, Strohkarck Fund, Inouye Fund, and the William Satterthwaite/ Anna J.F. Hallowell Funds are available to Friends living in a retirement community or nursing home. Funds are also available that can be used by Friends to fill more

short-term needs (hearing aids, dental needs, medical equipment, etc.) for folks living in retirement facilities, or remaining in their own homes: the Albertson Fund, Cadbury Fund, Shepard Fund, Pennsbury Fund, and the Aging Grant Fund. One thing to note here is the application process for these grants can be initiated by Meeting care committees, Quaker facilities or even family members and the results are kept confidential.

The PYM Greenleaf Fund is more formally administered by the Greenleaf Granting Group. It was established as a result of the sale of the Greenleaf senior residence to Moorestown Friends School and has a sizable capital asset with an annual payout that supports the grants awarded. George told us in his experience over the last ten years the granting group had never exhausted the annual payout the investments provide. However, 2021 was the first year which the committee had to do some rationing.

There is a defined application for the Greenleaf for grants that are larger and for an ongoing need. This fund has an annual granting cycle with a need assessment built in which uses the “350% above the poverty line” need criterion. It provides grants and loans to elderly Quakers, 62 years of age and older, and those in sympathy with Quakers, who are of modest means and need assistance with their housing needs or ongoing medical, maintenance, or living costs. The phrase “in sympathy with Quakers” means that this assistance can be available to non-Quaker family members of Friends in PYM or folks who have worked for PYM organizations for 5 years or more.

Public assistance available to anyone in the country comes from federal Medicare, state Medicaid, and individual county-based Offices on Aging. Medicare can only be used for short term nursing care after a stay in the hospital and is time limited (90 days per year). The Offices for Aging can offer some small financial assistance, but it does provide services for home care assistance to needy individuals. Regarding Medicaid, most residential facilities will provide social worker staff who can navigate the intricacies of getting Medicaid support for those individuals under their care who have “spent down” their assets, deemed impoverished, and can no longer pay for their care at their residence. A critical part of assessing a long-term residence must be an inquiry into how a facility would handle the possibility of you becoming impoverished while under their care. All Quaker based facilities have this social service available to their residents.



George Schaefer has served our Yearly Meeting as the Care and Aging Coordinator since 2009. He will retire in January but will still be available as a Resource Friend in Ministry & Care which includes aging resources. We all were grateful for this presentation which gave us the value of both his insights and compassion. Please take the

time to view this presentation on PYM’s YouTube channel at <https://youtu.be/xdIC8jjNSyQ> where his presentation begins at minute 5:00. For more information regarding PYM Granting Groups contact Nick Gutowski at ngutowski@pym.org or visit <https://www.pym.org/grants/>.

Please note that PYM is currently interviewing for a part time staff position to take over George’s responsibilities specifically dealing with aging concerns.

- Rich Ailes - Middletown Meeting

Concord Quarter January 2022 Announcements & Calendar of Events

Announcements

The draft minutes from our October 24 Quarterly Meeting via Zoom are on the website:

<https://concordquarter.org/documents/?category=Minutes> Please send any comments about those minutes to the Recording Clerk, Marty Boston, at mboston0916@gmail.com by January 15, 2022 so they can be presented for approval at the January 23rd Quarterly Meeting.

PYM's Children and Families Program has a number of events including the Giant Children's Meeting every 4th Sunday, and Community Playdates. For info and to register: <https://www.pym.org/children/events/>

Pendle Hill has a number of programs this winter: <https://pendlehill.org/learn/workshops-courses-events/> and is open on a limited basis for in person personal retreats: <https://pendlehill.org/stay/extended-stays-sojourns/>

Concord Quarterly Meeting has a Tuition Aid program open to member families with children entering grades K-12 in the fall of 2022. Applications can be found here and are due to the Coordinator by February 19, 2022

<http://concordquarter.org/documents/?category=Tuition>

Friends General Conference now has year round programs for children and youth, programs for Friends of Color, virtual worship opportunities and more: <https://www.fgcquaker.org/virtual-opportunities-fgc> Retreats for high school aged youth of color: <https://www.fgcquaker.org/deepen/help-your-meeting-challenge-racism/virtual-retreats-youth-color>

Calendar of Events

- Jan 10 CQM/DelVal Friends School Care Committee Meeting via Zoom.** Open to any interested in strengthening the relationship between Concord Quarter and the Delaware Valley Friends School. Contact the Coordinator for the Zoom link: concordquarter@pym.org
- Jan 13 Concord Quarter Climate Action Working Group:** For more info and to register for Zoom link:
7 pm <https://concordquarter.org/climate-action>
- Jan 12 Westtown Meeting's Peace & Justice Event:** An Evening Honoring Rev. Dr. King's Pilgrimage to Non-violence; A Virtual Conversation with Dr. Kathy Gonzales on the Fellowship for Diversity in Negotiation, Mediation & Conflict Resolution. More info and register here:
7:00pm-8:30pm <https://www.pym.org/event/an-evening-honoring-rev-dr-kings-pilgrimage-to-non-violence/>
- Jan 15-16 PYM Winter Family Overnight 2022 -** Children & Families from across the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting region come together for the Winter Family Overnight at Camp Onas. More info and register here:
<https://www.pym.org/event/winter-family-overnight-2022/>
- Jan 23 Concord Quarterly Meeting via Zoom,** hosted by Wilmington Meeting featuring Meeting for Business (with a report from Goshen Meeting, Community Worship and a Faith and Play by Melinda Wenner Bradley! For more info and to register: <https://concordquarter.org/nextqm-pastqm/2022/qm-at-wilmington>
8:30am - 12:30
- Jan 30 Concord Quarter Planning Committee via Zoom.** Open to all interested in the activities and workings of Concord Quarter. Contact the Coordinator with questions and for the Zoom link at concordquarter@pym.org
2 pm
- Feb 1 Concord Quarter Climate Action Working Group:** For more info and to register for Zoom link:
7 pm <https://concordquarter.org/climate-action>
- Feb 2 Concord Quarter Working Group on Aging Concerns:** Open to anyone interested in aging concerns. For more info and to register email: concordquarter@pym.org
10:30am
- Feb 5 PYM Thread Gathering – Restorative Racial Justice - From the Personal to the Systemic -** 2 sessions, morning with .O of Central Philadelphia MM. Afternoon with reps from 3 PYM Collaboratives, Middle East, Eco-Justice, and First Contact Reconciliation. More info and register here: <https://www.pym.org/event/racial-justice/>
9am-3pm
- Feb 19 Clerking Skills! – A PYM Governance & Stewardship Thread Gathering -** Two Fun Workshops from Two Perspectives, Kathleen Karhnaak-Glasby & Pat McBee. Register and more info here:
10am-3:30 <https://www.pym.org/event/clerking-skills/>

From the Climate Action Presentation on October 24, some relevant links:

<https://www.wri.org/insights/ipcc-climate-report>, <https://www.wri.org/insights/8-things-you-need-know-about-ipcc-15c-report>,
<https://ideas.ted.com/new-sixth-ipcc-report-on-climate-change-key-takeaway>

Concord Quarterly Meeting January 23, 2022 - Wilmington Meeting

ZOOM event but the Meetinghouse will be open

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84039224615>

8:30-9:45	Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business
10:00-10:10	Faith & Play intro to open worship (Exodus story from Melinda Wenner Bradley)
10:10-11:00	Meeting for Worship
11:00-11:15	Break
11:15-12:30	Intergenerational Program on Underground Railroad



Harriet Tubman, Thomas Garrett and Wilmington's Underground Railroad

Ashley Cloud, a masterful storyteller and lover of local history, will weave the tale of the unlikely friendship between Harriet Tubman and Thomas Garrett. Based on her extensive research, she will provide a unique perspective on their deeply personal connection. They shared a powerful leading to provide safe passage to those who were seeking freedom during an extremely troubled period in our country. Thomas Garrett wrote of Harriet Tubman in June of 1868, "In truth, I never met with any person of any color who had more confidence in the voice of God as spoken directly to her soul."



Please join Wilmington Monthly Meeting in exploring this history and becoming acquainted with the human side of the story. Note: There will be no separate children's program as this will be an intergenerational presentation which is appropriate for both children and adults.

For more info go to <https://concordquarter.org/nextqm-pastqm/2022/qm-at-wilmington>

You can also email Bianca Santini Dumas, Coordinator, at concordquarter@pym.org

or call (267) 632-7770 and leave a message.

CQM zoom: (for worship and program)

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84039224615>

Concord Quarterly Meeting via Zoom on October 24, 2021 Minutes

Opening Worship - The meeting opened with a period of silent worship.

Welcome to Newcomers - Debbie Murray-Sheppard welcomed newcomers: Darrell Mayers, Vince Willis, and Ann Byerly Marlowe.

Monthly Meeting Count - Twenty-three people were present at the beginning of the meeting. All meetings except Concord, Goshen, and Willistown were represented at the beginning of the meeting.

Approval of Agenda - The agenda was approved as written.

Approval of Minutes from July 18, 2021 - The group approved the minutes from the July 18th meeting as written.

Joys and Challenges Report - Rich Ailes gave the Joys and Challenges report from Middletown Meeting. He answered questions about a trip that Middletown Meeting's Men's Group took to Wyalusing, Pennsylvania, the place where Quaker John Woolman met with Native Americans in 1762. The Men's Group met with a member of the Lenni-Lenape people while they were in Wyalusing. Rich has written an article in the latest Quarterly Newsletter for Friends to learn more about the trip. The group held Middletown Meeting and its members in the Light.

Treasurer's Report - Charles Spadoni gave the Treasurer's report. Debbie thanked Charlie for his work as Treasurer.

Nominating Committee report

Deb Wood gave a brief report from the Nominating Committee. The group is still looking for an Assistant Clerk for the Quarter. The Clerk thanked the Nominating Committee for their work and asked Friends to send suggestions for Assistant Clerk to Deb Wood, Julie Senko, Melinda Wenner Bradley, Rich Ailes, or Bianca Santini-Dumas.

Working Group on Aging Concerns - Evelyn Brownlee gave a report from the Working Group on Aging Concerns. Anyone who would like to meet with this group is welcome.

Coordinator's Report - Bianca Santini-Dumas gave the Coordinator's Report. She has been visiting various meetings. Bianca asked Joe Marchese to give some information on how Westtown Monthly Meeting is following up a program on Radical Transformation about racial justice. John Evans, Deb Woods, and Joe Marchese are co-clerks of a (DEI) Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee for Westtown Monthly Meeting. The DEI Committee has developed queries on the topic that Joe shared.

Bianca encouraged the use of the Concord Quarter Facebook public page. Bianca has also set up a private group Facebook page that can be used to communicate just between members. The private group page can also go "live" where people can see events in real time. People who aren't on Facebook can see the Concord Quarterly Meeting public page, but they can't see the private page. Facebook is an additional way to publicize what is going on in the Quarter. Some events that are open to the public, like programs on Aging Concerns, can be advertised through the public Facebook page. Bianca explained that the way Facebook works, the more that people like or comment on posts, the more likely it is that they will show up on other people's Facebook pages.

Bianca gave an update on Concord Quarter Events. Unfortunately, the October 16th hayride had to be cancelled because of rain on that day. Parent's Morning Off will be at the cabin at Westtown School December 4, from 9 AM-1PM. Some fun activities will be provided for the children who attend.

Debbie thanked Bianca for all her work on behalf of the Quarter.

Yearly Meeting's Truth and Transformation initiative and the work of the Anti-Racism Collaborative

David Leonard gave an update from PYM about the Anti-Racism Collaborative. This Collaborative recently gave a survey to various groups in the Yearly Meeting to see how diverse they are, and they found that Meetings are more diverse than they used to be. The Anti-Racism Collaborative has developed an extensive list of resources that is available to Meetings and the link is listed in the attached report. The Anti-Racism Collaborative is developing a program on Racial Justice in conjunction with the PYM Eco-Justice Collaborative, the PYM First Contact Reconciliation Collaborative, and PYM Middle East Collaborative. The program will be at Haddonfield Monthly Meeting on February 5th. The purpose of the Anti-Racism Collaborative is not only to increase diverse membership in meetings, but also to make PYM and monthly meetings more sensitive to systemic racism. Debbie thanked David for his report.

Reading of Minutes for Approval - There were no issues for action today.

Second Count of Meetings in Attendance At the end of the Meeting, twenty-five people were in attendance. All meetings except Concord and Willistown were represented.

Minutes Respectfully submitted, Marty Boston, Recording Clerk

Middletown Meeting Report to Concord Quarterly Meeting, October 2021

As has been the case for the rest of the world, the last two years at Middletown Meeting have been deeply affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. This has been especially true for our meetings for worship and business, which for a time were solely conducted via the Zoom video conferencing application. Over time, many Friends returned to live worship in the meetinghouse, most recently wearing masks due to the Delta variant of the virus. Because some friends, for reasons of health or distance, continue to meet with us via Zoom, we have committed to continue our meetings in this hybrid live/online mode for the foreseeable future. We are grateful for this broadening of those who can participate in worship with us. Until now, we have been running Zoom in an ad hoc manner, using a cell phone, a small speaker, and sometimes an external microphone. We have formed the Blended Worship committee to explore how best to "operationalize" the running of Zoom in the context of a live meeting, thus allowing a broader group of Friends to be able to set up and run Zoom on any given First Day.

We replaced the live celebration of Middletown Day in June 2020 and Christmas Social in December 2020 with events held via Zoom, which worked out very well thanks to the efforts of those involved. We opted to have a small informal gathering in June 2021 to keep the logistics simpler. We look forward to holding these and other gatherings again as live events.

We continue to attend to the business of the meeting, in part through the efforts of our Property and Worship & Care Committees. The restoration of our schoolhouse is nearly complete, thanks especially to the ongoing work of some of our Lima Estates Friends. We welcomed one member as a transfer, and noted the passing of several other Friends, and we provided oversight for the marriage of one of our members. Over a period of months, an ad hoc committee worked out a plan to talk about racial healing modeled on the National Day of Racial Healing program. This resulted in live meetings on two First Days in July 2021 which were attended by about 8 Friends. We found both the process and the two meetings to be very beneficial to our community.

There was no Men's Group retreat in 2020; in 2021, Friends went to the Poconos. This included our Friend from Maine, Ralph Greene, and his son who drove him from Maine to attend. Friends also drove north to Wyalusing to explore the commemoration site where John Woolman traveled to meet with the Lenni-Lenape / Munsee Sachem (chief) Papunehung and his people who lived there. Friends also spoke via Zoom with John Norwood, a pastor and official in the tribe. The men continue to meet regularly, roughly every other week, either live or via Zoom. Our Men's Group also ran a Zoom-based workshop entitled "Faith, Hope and the Witness Within" on 6/8/2021 as part of the pre-PYM 2021 summer Zoom series.

The Meeting for Worship remains the center of our meeting community. We come together, recognizing our deep dependence on God to lead us, both together in our Meetings and in our individual lives. We look forward to continuing to be "stretched" in our Quaker practice and witness, as a small meeting with an aging membership.

Nominating Committee Report to Concord Quarterly Meeting Virtual Session 10/24/2021

We have not met since the July meeting due to travel and settling into new work and school schedules for several of us.

We will pick up the work of finding an assistant clerk, as well as review the terms of other roles.

If Friends have suggestions they would like to share, please reach out to Deb Wood (Westtown), Rich Ailes (Middletown), Melinda Wenner Bradley (West Chester), Julie Senko (Birmingham) or Bianca, our coordinator.

Concord Quarter Working Group on Aging Concerns Report to Concord Quarterly Meeting Virtual Session 10/24/2021

The Working Group on Aging Concerns continues to meet every month via Zoom. The meetings always begin with a check-in, which has proven to be a source of the innovative ways meetings in the Quarter have adapted to the changes required by the pandemic.

The subgroup on senior housing continues to investigate senior living options in the vicinity of the Quarter. The Working Group will sponsor a virtual workshop led by George Schaefer on Financial Support for Aging Adults. It will be held November 10, 2021, from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. Registration information is on the Quarter's website. <https://concordquarter.org/aging-concerns/2021/financial-support-aging-adults>

The Working group will develop a response to Philadelphia Yearly Meeting concerning the proposed changes to the Aging Coordinator position following George Schaefer's retirement.

Membership in the Working Group is open to all. Contact the coordinator if you have interest in joining. For more information, you can contact Bianca Santini-Dumas at concordquarter@pym.org or the clerk, Evelyn Brownlee: evelynbrownlee@gmail.com

Concord Quarterly Meeting Coordinator Report for October 24, 2021

I have been visiting with more friends and attending Meeting for Business. Recently I attended Westtown's Meeting for Business which included a Visioning Exercise on DEI Work (Joe Marchese, Westtown, will speak on this). I thought this was a great exercise and the solution for sharing individual visions was an excellent suggestion to take into consideration.

I have also had the chance to successfully plan a Hayride which was at capacity, but the weather did not agree with our group. Unfortunately, due to other events coming up very quickly we will not be able to reschedule the Hayride, but it will be fully refunded.

There has been a lot of success to share from the Delaware Valley Friends School Committee. It was great meeting with friends for the first time as well as the representatives of the school helping to maintain a relationship with the Quarter. We had the suggestion of attending future sporting events since we cannot currently join in person for the Meeting for Worship on Campus. There will be more opportunities in the future as the relationship continues to develop. A potential spring event is in the works with a meeting in January for those interested.

Social Media: As of now Facebook is the only social media platform being used. Since last quarterly meeting, there has been a spike in engagement on the page. I look forward to learning how to properly analyze the statistics, which will provide more structured reporting. I wanted to break down a few things to help in understanding the potential of its use and why it is important for the quarter. The platform works off 'engagement'. Engagement is based off the likes, comments and most importantly 'shares.' This essentially shows the platform that our page is relevant to those who follow its content. The more engagement we have the more likely it will show on someone's Facebook feed, therefore, informing them of the events, newsletters, and meetings to increase attendance. Since this is another way to maintain involvement from the quarter, particularly the YAFs, it helps to have people interacting with the content posted. I encourage friends to like the page, post relevant articles, share memories, and open to the idea of new ways to connect with one another. I understand there are concerns about privacy and monitoring. I can see everything posted on the page. There are also other admins who help monitor content. There is also a private Facebook group where information and events specific to the Quarter will be posted in the future.

I am currently building the group to have that be another outlet for Friends to find pertinent information. The private group opens the opportunity to use Facebook LIVE where friends can engage in real time for a hybrid event. The difference between Facebook LIVE and ZOOM is the convenience as well as the experience. It creates an atmosphere of being there rather than being in a cube behind your desk. I am very open to conversation and feedback on the social media subject. If you have questions or want involved but don't know where to start, please let me know. I am also still looking to develop stronger connections with the technology committees of the quarter.

Editor's Note: A redacted Treasurer's Report and the Quarterly Mtgs' Introduction to Anti-Racism Collaborative Report, for these minutes are available on our website at <https://concordquarter.org/documents/?category=Mimutes>

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