

Via Zoom (call will open at 8:15)

8:30am-9:45am Concord Quarter Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

9:00am PYM Giant Children's Meeting (for elementary school aged, separate registration and link)

10:00-10:30+ Youth Program (grades 6-12) in separate breakout group (Road to Racial Justice Game)

10:30-11:30am Meeting for Worship

11:45am-12:30pm Lunch Break

12:30-2:00pm Oskar Castro on Anti-Blackness – Let's Talk about That. *Please have writing materials on hand.*

Thursday, April 29, 7pm – special concert via Zoom: Troubled Waters-Black Voices in Classical Music (for all ages)

All links will be found here: <https://concordquarter.org/nextqm-pastqm/2021/cqm-west-chester-april-25>

Concord Quarterly Meeting via Zoom on April 25, 2021

Minutes

Opening Worship

The meeting began with opening worship.

Welcome to Newcomers

Debbie Murray-Sheppard (Clerk)

Debbie Murray-Sheppard welcomed everyone. No newcomers were present.

Monthly Meeting Count (Birmingham, Concord, Goshen, Middletown, West Chester, Westtown, Willistown, Wilmington)

Debbie Murray-Sheppard

At the opening count 16 Friends were present. All Meetings were represented except Goshen.

Approval of Agenda

Debbie Murray-Sheppard

The agenda was approved as written.

Approval of Minutes from January 24, 2021

Debbie Murray-Sheppard

The minutes from January were approved as written.

Joys and Challenges Report from Birmingham Meeting (attached)

Celia Lang

Celia Lang read the Joys and Challenges Report from Birmingham Meeting. The Clerk thanked Celia for the report.

Treasurer's Report (attached)

Charles Spadoni

Charles Spadoni presented the Treasurer's report. Charlie explained how Friends Fiduciary has made changes to its investment strategies. In the Friends Fiduciary Growth and Income Fund, it has divested in any companies that invest in fossil fuels. After review, Friends approved the budget for 2022.

Nominating Committee report (attached)

Deb Wood

Deb Wood gave an update from the Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee has considered and approached Friends about the Assistant Clerk role. Charles Spadoni was approved for one more year as Treasurer. Deb Lyons was approved to serve on the PYM Nominating Council for three years. Ginny Sutton was approved for an additional term on DVFS Care Committee.

Working Group on Aging Concerns (attached)**Rich Ailes**

Rich Ailes gave a report from the Working Group on Aging Concerns.

Coordinator Search Committee report**Rich Ailes/Debbie Murray-Sheppard**

Rich Ailes and Debbie Murray-Sheppard gave a report on the search for a new Concord Quarter Coordinator. Friends approved extending the deadline for applying for the position of Concord Quarter Coordinator from April 30th to May 14th. The job description has been sent to the PYM website and to nearby Quarters. Friends minuted their thanks to Lynn Piersol for her service as the Concord Quarter Coordinator with much gratitude.

Coordinator Report (attached)**Lynne Piersol**

Lynne Piersol gave the Coordinator's report. She said that if a new Concord Quarter Coordinator is not hired by June 1st, she will stay on until a person is hired.

PYM request to Meetings for discernment: sharing**Debbie Murray-Sheppard**

Debbie Murray-Sheppard asked the Meetings about how they are responding to queries from PYM regarding membership, climate change, and racial equity. The following responses were given:

Birmingham clerk, Celia Lang reported that Birmingham had called meetings about climate change and racial justice. A working group has been set up on membership. David Leonard reported that adult young Friends at PYM wanted to know if Meetings object to having people have membership in PYM without being members of a monthly meeting.

Concord Meeting has not had time to work on these issues due to their small membership.

West Chester Meeting reported making good progress on the climate change and racial equity queries. They are working on membership. They have not submitted anything back to PYM yet. Bruce Harrison said that Zoom meetings have attracted people from other places and they may not be official meeting members. West Chester wants to encourage these people's continued attendance.

Westtown Meeting has addressed the topics in various formats.

Middletown Meeting has considered the queries from PYM. Middletown wants to encourage young adult friends, but they say many Quaker processes are tied to monthly meetings (like clearness committees) that may be difficult to do if a person is not tied to a monthly meeting. Rich Ailes reported that in the past it was difficult to get young people or people raising children to serve on PYM standing committees and they don't want to discourage young adult Friends who want to serve on PYM committees.

Reading of Minutes for Approval**Marty Boston (Recording Clerk)**

Friends approved the Concord Quarter budget for 2022.

Charles Spadoni was approved for one more year as Treasurer for Concord Quarter. Deb Lyons was approved to serve an additional three years on the PYM Nominating Council. Ginny Sutton was approved for an additional three-year term on the Delaware Valley Friends School Care Committee.

The Quarter minuted its appreciation to Lynn Piersol for her service as the Concord Quarter Coordinator with much gratitude.

The group approved extending the deadline for applying for the position of Concord Quarter Coordinator from April 30th to May 14th, 2021.

Second Count of Meetings in Attendance

Marty Boston (Recording Clerk)

At the second attendance count, there were twenty-five people present and all Meetings were represented.

Announcements of Upcoming Events (all also on the CQ website calendar) Debbie Murray-Sheppard

Unless otherwise noted, contact the Coordinator for the Zoom links (concordquarter@pym.org)

April 26, 7pm – CQ Choosing Senior Housing Research Group

May 2, 2pm – CQ Planning Committee via Zoom.

May 5, 10:30am – CQ Working Group on Aging Concerns

May 6, 7-8:15 – part one of Staying Strong. Staying Smart. Staying Safe – on fall prevention and home safety.

May 13, 7-8:15 – part two of Staying Strong. Staying Smart. Staying Safe – on medication management and driving safety.

May 24? CQ Choosing Senior Housing Research Group

July 18 – Joint Quarterly Meeting with Western Quarter – via Zoom.

August – Tubing on the Brandywine with Western Quarter IN PERSON! Stay tuned.

Many other programs for children, youth and young adults on the PYM calendar:

<https://www.pym.org/calendar/photo/page/3/>

JOYS AND CHALLENGES 2020/21

Report to Concord Quarterly Meeting - Birmingham Friends Meeting

Celia Lang, Clerk

The Christmas Cookie Platter still sits on the bench in Birmingham Meetinghouse, waiting to be claimed by its owner. It is a reminder of our lovely Carol Sing in December 2019, before the whole world changed. The pandemic impacted how we worship, how we meet in committees, how we conduct pastoral care and how we reach out to one another and stay connected. It is the major challenge Friends faced in 2020 and early 2021.

Our primary joy is that Birmingham Friends has remained a vibrant faith community, continuing our work together to find meaning and truth in our lives. The Clerk and many other Friends learned how to conduct meeting for worship and business by Zoom. The Worship and Ministry Committee supported this effort with their thoughtful discernment on how best to move forward. Birmingham Meeting now has four new active Working Groups. These Working Groups have engaged many Friends in the work to keep our faith community connected in worship and fellowship.

Reopening Working Group - prepares Guidelines for Outdoor and Indoor Blended Worship and reopening the meetinghouse.

Zoom Host Working Group - supports virtual worship.

Tech Support Group - provides guidance for tech equipment and training

Special Projects Group – works with the Fellowship Committee to offer activities and events in the absence of in-person gatherings.

The joy of Virtual Meeting for Worship is that we are now joined with Friends who live at a distance or have been unable to worship with us in person. Reconnecting and expanding our community has given added depth and joy to our worship experience. During the summer months we combined worship outdoors with our expanded virtual community. We worshipped to the sounds of nature as well as the sounds of the modern world. In November 2020, we began worship inside the meetinghouse under Guidelines based on State directives.

One deep concern of Birmingham Friends since the pandemic started is keeping our children and youth engaged in the Meeting. Dedicated Friends have continued to work with our children outdoors. We have utilized the Peace Garden and our beautiful grounds for the study of nature and the relationship Quakers had with the Lenni Lenape who once inhabited the land upon which our meetinghouse stands.

The Property Committee and Fundraising Working Group successfully raised funds for and completed the long-awaited ADA accessible restroom. The new space is as beautiful as it is functional. With the meetinghouse being unoccupied, the Property Committee arranged to have the East Room floors refinished. The meetinghouse with all of its improvements waits for all Friends to return to our beautiful space.

The Oversight and Pastoral Care Committee continues to be attentive to the needs of our faith community, utilizing the care groups that have been formed. This support has helped many of us to stay connected and to help the larger community to understand the needs of our members and attenders. Meals, flowers, personal notes, virtual and phone visits and other support have kept us in touch with one another and offered solace to those in need.

Birmingham's two annual dinners that raise funds for charities were cancelled. A Special Projects Working Group planned an outdoor dinner with music and take-out dinners that successfully raised funds for the Chester County Food Bank. The Peace and Social Concerns Committee held a flower bulb sale enabling the purchase of two new land mine detectors to be distributed by the UN. On a sunny day in December 2020, Friends gathered outdoors around a fire pit for worship, refreshments and to purchase holiday cookies organized by the Youth Committee. Proceeds were donated to Friends Association for Care and Protection of Children.

One evening in February 2020, the meetinghouse was filled with laughter as the Fellowship Committee organized a game night, not knowing this would be the last gathering we would have together before quarantine. Undaunted, the Fellowship Committee planned and carried out two very enjoyable virtual game nights later in the year.

This year Friends began working on anti-racism initiatives. An Anti-Racism Action Group has been formed to plan and implement initiatives that will move us forward in this work.

The lesson of the pandemic is that Birmingham Friends rose with love and care to meet the challenge. It is due to the spirit led efforts of so many in our beloved faith community that Birmingham Meeting has thrived.

**CONCORD QUARTERLY MEETING TREASURER'S REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDING MARCH 31, 2021 AND
PROPOSED BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2022**

**Un-reviewed Financial Statements Through the Third Quarter Ending March 31, 2021
(Except As May Be Noted Below, Reported On A Cash Basis)**

- Effective February 1, 2021, Friends Fiduciary Corporation exchanged Green Fund units for Growth and Income Fund units thereby terminating the Green Fund. A final earnings distribution from the Green Fund was made in February 2021.
- Two constituent meetings made their 3d quarter covenant contributions in the 4th quarter, and one made its annual contribution in the 3d quarter rather than the 4th quarter.
- Approximately \$956 of the Coordinator's compensation that was awarded for the prior fiscal year was paid in the current fiscal year for ease of administration.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

INCOME STATEMENT

**Through The Third Quarter Ending March 31, 2021
Revenues and Expenses Versus Prior Year's Revenues and Expenses Through the Third Quarter**

(numbers are redacted, contact the Coordinator for a full report)

BALANCE SHEET

March 31, 2021 Balance Sheet Versus Prior Year's March 31 Balance Sheet

- There are no liabilities.
- Effective February 1, 2021, Friends Fiduciary Corporation exchanged Green Fund units for Growth and Income Fund units thereby terminating the Green Fund.
- The material increase in the market value of the Quarter's Growth and Income Fund units over their prior year's market value is attributable to the significant increase in the market value of equities during that period and the mandatory exchange of the Quarter's Green Fund units for Growth and Income Fund units.

Note: Individual constituent monthly meeting March 31, 2021, Growth & Income Fund balances are available upon request.

Respectfully submitted, Charles B. Spadoni, Treasurer
April 25, 2021

Concord Quarterly Meeting Proposed Budget

Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2022

(Based on Aggregate Budgeted Monthly Meetings' Covenants)

- The proposed budget set forth below is based on a three percent increase in the constituent monthly meetings' respective Coordinator covenants. *(Financials are redacted, contact the Coordinator for a full budget)*

.....

Respectfully submitted,

Charles B. Spadoni, Treasurer
April 25, 2021

Concord Quarter Leadership Roles and Terms from Nominating Committee

	Role	Name	Term (July 1- June 30)	Term limits	need renewal or new one	Notes
1	Clerk	Debbie Murray-Sheppard	2020-2022	2 years, plus a year of Asst Clerking at both ends of term= 4 yrs.	2022	Starting her 3rd year of a 4-year term
2	Incoming Assistant Clerk	open	2021-2022		2021	First year of a 4-year term
3	Assistant Clerk	Debbie Murray-Sheppard	2022-2023	2 years, wrapped around 2 years of Clerking	2023	will be in her 4th year of a 4-year term.
4	Incoming Clerk (same person as #2)	open	2022-2024		2024	2nd & 3rd year of a 4-year term
5	Treasurer	Charlie Spadoni	2021-2022	3 years, can be extended for 1 years at a time, up to 3 more years	2022	term extended by 1 more year, could be extended 1 year at a time in 2022 and 2023 To be approved
6	Recording Clerk	Martha Boston	2019-2022	3 years, can be extended	2022	
7	PYM Nominating Council	Deb Lyons	2021-2024	2nd term	2024	second term, need replacing 2024, to be approved
8	DVFS Care Committee	Steve Kupferschmid (Willistown)	2020-2023	3 years, could be extended for 3 years	2023	
9	DVFS Care Committee	Ginny Sutton (Westtown)	2021-2024	3-year term after a 1.5-year term	2024	to be approved
10	DVFS Care Committee	Susan Brodesser (Birmingham)	1/27/19-7/1/2022	Could be extended for 3 years	2022	Also is clerk

Concord Quarter Working Group on Aging Concerns Report to Concord Quarterly Meeting Virtual Session 4/25/2021

Rich Ailes, Clerk

We have continued to meet regularly via ZOOM technology, however we decided to meet in person at Birmingham Meeting for our next session on May 5. In part we wanted to celebrate with Lynne Piersol, her pending retirement. We'll meet outside, socially distanced, following Birmingham's guidelines and have a brown bag picnic after our session. All of the members of the group have been vaccinated against Covid. Although Lynne will be leaving Concord QM's employ in June, she has asked if she can continue participating with our group as she finds it very useful. Our group heartily affirmed Lynne's continued participation.

Friends like the ZOOM format and will probably continue it to some extent after the Covid experience recedes as it cuts down on travel time. Anyone interested is welcome to attend our meetings and become part of the group. Meeting times are usually from 10:30 AM until 12 PM, the first Wednesday of the month. The group continues to use our sessions to check in and support one another on our mutual experiences around aging issues in our own lives and in our Meetings.

Our current project is two short programs on safety issues for older adults "Staying Strong. Staying Smart. Staying Safe" on May 6 and May 13, Thursday evenings from 7 to 8:15 pm. May 6 the program will cover falls and home safety concerns with Mark Quinlan, Director of Resident Services at Barclay Friends, and Ellen Houle and Kiersten Dortone from Friends Life Care. On May 13 the presentation will cover medication management and vehicular driving concerns with Toni Kelly, acting director of The Hickman and Eric Bull of Bryn Mawr Rehab.

We have an active subgroup studying strategies for choosing and moving into a senior residence. So far, the group has hosted presentations from residents of The Stapeley, The Hickman, and Kendal. We are currently developing a spreadsheet to help us compare current expenses with projected costs of a residence.

Last but not least our Aging Concerns group will have an orderly change of clerkship come July 1. Evelyn Brownlee of Wilmington Meeting has agreed to be the new Clerk and was given enthusiastic approval at our March meeting. I've been very pleased to be the clerk of this wonderful group since its inception four years ago and I look forward to working under Evelyn's clerkship.

For more information, you can contact Lynne Piersol at concordquarter@pym.org or the clerk, Rich Ailes at railesjr@ailesdodson.org.

Concord Quarterly Meeting Coordinator Report for April 25, 2021

Somehow the last three months have zipped by, and in some ways, things seem brighter now. More meetings are holding hybrid meetings again, with growing numbers actually attending in-person. More have access to the COVID vaccine and are feeling safer once they are vaccinated.

We could not hold the traditional Square Dance this February, but we did hold a very successful outdoor event, "Hiking in the Land of the Lenape" at the Okehocking Preserve on March 13. I worked with 4 other people from several meetings to plan this and it could not have happened without them! It was fully enrolled (we had to register folks in order to limit the numbers for both safety reasons and also because the permit process was going to be quite complicated). All registrants attended and stayed through the wonderful creation story read by Melinda Wenner Bradley at the end of the hike. It was so wonderful to watch people of all ages who had not seen each other for a year

greet each other so warmly.

I am beginning to plan for the joint Quarterly Meeting on July 18 with Western Quarter. We had an initial planning meeting with a representative from Willistown (whose turn it would normally be) and people from Western Quarter and will bring that report to Planning Committee next week. If you are interested in helping to plan, let me know.

The draft Archiving/Retention Policy for Quarter documents has been further refined and will also go to Planning Committee. I appreciate all the comments from the people who made suggestions.

I have continued my work with the Working Group on Aging Concerns and hope to stay involved as a volunteer there. There is nothing like it in other PYM Quarters.... I also serve on the Quarter's Nominating Committee in my Coordinator role and the committee has been hard at work in 2021. There is a Delaware Valley Friends School/Concord Quarter Care Committee meeting coming up, which I will also attend – this group is open to any interested in addition to the official CQ representatives.

As well, the regular communication work continues of responding to email, sending out the general monthly announcements, and quarterly newsletter, along with sending more specific information to smaller groups, such as Peace and Social Concerns Committees, or to families who have attended events. I also post on our Facebook page and add documents to the website such as minutes, and aging resources. I attended several PYM Thread Gatherings and Continuing Sessions along with some of the Caln Quarter Membership Development series and shared information from these with meetings. And I publicize meeting events when asked.

Lastly, I want to express my appreciation to all of you in Concord Quarter as I wind up my tenure as Coordinator. It has been a pleasure to get to know you, serve you and learn with you. My paid work career is definitely ending on a high note! If you know anyone who might be interested in the job, they can go here: <https://concordquarter.org/special-events/2021/coordinator-search>

Lynne Piersol