

## Concord Quarterly Meeting via Zoom - January 23, 2022 – Wilmington - Minutes

### Opening Worship

Debbie Murray-Sheppard welcomed attendees to the meeting and began the meeting at 8:30 AM with a period of silent worship.

**Welcome to Newcomers** - The clerk extended a welcome to newcomers: Rosanna Ceresini from Middletown Meeting; Walker Beadenkopf from Westtown Meeting; Debbie Fetzer and Ellen Gay from Wilmington Meeting; and Diane Zappas from West Chester Meeting.

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

Thirty-one friends were present as the meeting began. All the Meetings of the Quarter were represented.

**Approval of Agenda** - The group approved the agenda as written.

**Approval of Minutes from October 24, 2021** - The minutes from October were approved with one change. October 24 Minutes indicated the September 18, 2021, minutes were approved. It should have said the JULY 18, 2021, minutes were approved.

**Joys and Challenges Report (attached)** - Laura Laky read the Joys and Challenges Report from Goshen Monthly Meeting. A question was asked about how friend, Pat Daly from Goshen Meeting is doing. She is recovering from some medical issues and may be able to join Quarterly Meeting later today. The group held Goshen Meeting in the Light.

**Treasurer's Report (attached)** - Charles Spadoni reviewed the Treasurer's report. The Quarter is in good financial shape. Charlie said the covenants to the Quarter for Meetings would be the same for 2022 as in 2021. A question was asked about whether a property tax law has changed to tax Meetinghouses. Charlie said that school property could be taxed, but not Meetinghouses. Elizabeth Varley said Concord Meeting is being taxed on everything except the Meetinghouse. Chichester is being taxed \$12,000 as a commercial property for the woods and the care-takers house which is creating a hardship for Concord Meeting.

**Nominating Committee report (attached)** - Deb Wood gave a report from the Nominating Committee's meeting this past week. The Committee continues to seek an assistant clerk and is checking about whether the Delaware Valley Friend's School Care Committee members will continue next year and whether the Treasurer will continue in his role. Debbie Murray-Sheppard thanked the Committee for its work.

**Working Group on Aging Concerns (attached)** - Evelyn Brownlee gave a report from the Working Group on Aging. George Schaffer recently gave a workshop to the group about going into retirement communities and that talk is now on YouTube. The Working Group meets monthly. One person stated that she has a problem attending workshops in the evening and thought that Saturday morning might be a better time to host programs, but others felt that the evening works better for their schedules. Evelyn asked for people to send her feedback about whether future programs should be held on Saturday mornings or on a weeknight and she also asked for suggestions for topics for future presentations. The next time the group meets will be February 2<sup>nd</sup> at 10:30.

**Climate Action Working Group (attached)** - Paula Kline gave a report from the Climate Action Working Group. Paula mentioned that Jonathan Evans who is on the Working Group lost his mother last week. The group is holding Jonathan and his family in the Light.

**The Climate Action Working Group's vision is to unite monthly meetings, schools, and retirement communities in Concord Quarter to support each other in spirit-led actions to address climate change. This is in line with the work of PYM's Climate Change Sprint. Concord Quarter's initiatives will respond to and be organized according to the following action areas: activism, education, carbon footprint reduction, finances, mourning loss and instilling hope, and disaster preparation. The Quarter's initiatives will ask each meeting to look at energy use and to have a six-part series that will develop a disaster preparation plan in place in six months. The next meeting will be at West Chester via Zoom on February 1<sup>st</sup> at 7 PM. The Working Group is asking each Meeting in the Quarter to send one or two representatives to be a part of the group. The Quarter approved the charge.**

The Working Group is asking each meeting to complete a short survey on energy use and level of disaster preparation as a baseline and as a tool to discern priorities. The survey is here. The group will support one another in taking actions and use the CQ website, the monthly meeting websites, and social media to make information available; report at each Quarterly Meeting in 2022; and connect with and draw inspiration from the Climate Action Network organized by the PYM Eco-Justice Collaborative.

Serita Spadoni noted that Birmingham Meeting already has a disaster plan in place and is using all green energy.

**Coordinator Report Bianca Santini-Dumas** - Bianca updated the group on the following topics:

George Schaefer gave a program on Financial Support for Aging adults that is now available on YouTube. PYM Continuing Sessions will be held on March 25<sup>th</sup> 7 PM; March 26<sup>th</sup> 9:30 AM – 4 PM; and March 27<sup>th</sup> after worship.

Seven children came to Parent's Day Off at Westtown Meeting, and they all had a great time. Bianca has been attending the Listening Sessions at 9 AM with Tom Haviland of Westtown Monthly Meeting, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sundays before meeting for worship. The Climate Action Working Group is asking all Meetings to send representatives to the group and to fill out a survey. Delaware Valley Friends School Care Committee is discussing how to do an event later in the year. The students were invited to the program today on the Underground Railroad. Applications for tuition aid from the Quarter are due February 19, 2022. Bianca attended a potluck dinner at Goshen Meeting and a Holiday Pageant at Willistown Meeting. Bianca reported that Quarterly Meeting Leadership is connecting with other Quarters.

Bianca is continuing to create posts on Facebook and other social media. She asked if Meetings in the Quarter could send her things to post, to check-in on the Quarter's Facebook group, and to comment and "like" things that are posted.

**An item for discussion or sharing:**

Susan Brodesser, Clerk for Delaware Valley Friends School Care Committee, said the school normally gives an annual report to the Quarter at the January Quarterly Meeting, but because the staff has been so incredibly busy due to the Covid pandemic, the report will be given at the April meeting instead. The school continues to meet in person. The Quarter held DVFS and all Quaker Friends Schools in the Light.

Westtown Meeting had a meaningful Christmas Eve program. Westtown has a Land Acknowledgement for indigenous people. Middletown Meeting is working on a presentation on indigenous people for October. There is an interfaith group in Chester County that is hosting a program on indigenous people. Bianca will send out the information.

**Reading of Minutes for Approval** - There was one action item approved today from the Climate Action Working Group as noted above.

**Second Count of Meetings in Attendance** - Thirty-one people were present at the second count of the Meeting. At one point, thirty-six people were in attendance. All Meetings were represented.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted, - Martha Boston, Recording Clerk

**Reports**

**Goshen Meeting Report to Concord Quarterly Meeting Virtual Session 1/23/2022**

As in previous years, our meeting can report many joys. Among these is a centered meeting for worship with ample ministry. And there are new attenders since last report as well as two new members.

Other things that bring joy to us are periods of time meeting in person at the meeting house. We have a robust adult learning session (Meeting for Learning) via Zoom once a month. We also enjoy a check-in time once monthly via Zoom, which sustains fellowship for those who cannot come to the meetinghouse. Some of us are even reaping benefits from the Zoom format. We see ourselves as a loving meeting. We are finding ways to interface with the wider community through outreach activities, such as a yard sale, and having a presence on Facebook

Our relationship with Goshen Friends School is collaborative, and the school is doing well with all preschool classes. Our property is in very good order, with needed work being accomplished in a timely manner.

The challenge of being a small meeting and needing to do the work of the meeting is a continuing issue at Goshen. We of course have also been challenged to provide worship both live and on Zoom in a safe manner during the pandemic. It has also been a challenge to do without two seasoned Friends who have died. We miss their presence. We try to discern ways to help some increasingly infirm Friends find ways to contribute to our Meeting. The Meeting continues to rise to the challenge of offering Quaker worship and spirituality to seekers near and far.

Submitted,  
Laura Laky, Clerk, Goshen Meeting & Pat Daly, Goshen Meeting

**TREASURER'S REPORT to Concord Quarterly Meeting Virtual Session 1/23/2022**

**Un-reviewed Financial Statements for the First Quarter of the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2022  
(Except As May Be Noted Below, Reported On A Cash Basis)**

- One constituent monthly meeting fulfilled its financial covenants for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021, in the first quarter of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022. Another monthly failed to make its normal semi-annual payment in December 2021.
- The significant increase in the cost of administrative/programs expenses is a result of the payment of the property casualty insurance premium in

December 2021 instead of January 2022.

- In September 2021, the amount of \$10,795 in the Tuition Operating Fund was distributed to three Quaker Schools (Westtown, West Chester Friends and Wilmington Friends) in the form of grants for the benefit of 17 students. Each grant was for \$635.

## FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**INCOME STATEMENT - Through The Second Quarter Ending December 31, 2021 Revenues and Expenses Versus Prior Year's Revenues and Expenses Through the Second Quarter** (numbers are redacted, contact the Coordinator for a full report)

**BALANCE SHEET - December 31, 2021 Balance Sheet Versus Prior Year's December 31 Balance Sheet**

- There are no liabilities.

Note: Individual constituent monthly meeting December 31, 2021, Growth & Income Fund balances are available upon request. (For a non-redacted report, contact the CQ Coordinator)

Respectfully submitted,

Charles B. Spadoni, Treasurer January 23, 2022

### **Nominating Committee Report to Concord Quarterly Meeting Virtual Session 1/23/2022**

The Nominating Committee was able to meet on January 18<sup>th</sup> to discuss positions coming to term and potential candidates to approach for potential nomination. If you or someone you know would be interested in a leadership role please do not hesitate to contact Deb Wood, Clerk ([gdeb406@gmail.com](mailto:gdeb406@gmail.com)) or Bianca Santini-Dumas, Coordinator ([concordquarter@pym.org](mailto:concordquarter@pym.org))

### **Concord Quarter Working Group on Aging Concerns Report to Concord Quarterly Meeting Virtual Session 1/23/2022**

The Working Group has sponsored several virtual programs in the last year on topics related to aging. Attendance has been sparse. No programs are planned for the immediate future; however, we continue to explore topics that may be of interest. Our most recent program led by George Shaefer was successful and is available on YouTube. If anyone has suggestions on topics they would like to see covered, please contact the Quarter Coordinator.

As part of our outreach efforts, members of the Working Group will have testimonials posted on the website of why we are involved in the Working Group and how this adds value to our lives. The Working Group continues to meet virtually on the first Wednesday of each month. Please contact the Quarter Coordinator if you are interested in joining the group.

For more information, you can contact Bianca Santini-Dumas at [concordquarter@pym.org](mailto:concordquarter@pym.org) or the clerk, Evelyn Brownlee: [evelynbrownlee@gmail.com](mailto:evelynbrownlee@gmail.com) or visit <http://concordquarter.org/aging-concerns>

### **Concord Quarter Climate Action Working Group Report to Concord Quarterly Meeting Virtual Session 1/23/2022**

The Climate Action Working Group has agreed upon its charter:

The group has successfully gathered on ZOOM twice since the October Quarterly Meeting of 2021. Representation from each meeting continues to grow as we continue developing an ongoing calendar of events and schedule. Our next meeting is February 1, 2022, at 7:00PM Via ZOOM.

There will be a Disaster Preparation presentation and discussion on ZOOM on February 21, 2022, at 7:00PM. The subject was generated the most interest from our Survey regarding the current state of Monthly Meetings and Climate Change. We are grateful to West Chester Monthly Meeting for being the first to host a CAWG sponsored event.

For more information, you can contact Bianca Santini-Dumas at [concordquarter@pym.org](mailto:concordquarter@pym.org) or visit <http://concordquarter.org/climate-action>

### **Friends Caring for Each Other in Times of Extreme Weather**

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Concord Quarterly Meeting Climate Action Working Group's Schedule

Extreme weather puts our lives, Meeting properties, schools, retirement communities and homes at risk. How can we protect our community and serve our neighbors in very tangible ways in times of natural disaster? The Concord Quarter Climate Action Working Group is hosting a monthly Disaster Preparedness Series. We will cover:

- Resilience - Developing a Meeting Preparedness Plan
- Responding to Disaster and helping our neighbors
- Emotional and Spiritual Care Join us!

Session 1: Why should we be concerned? Consider making a commitment to creating a disaster preparedness plan over the next 3-4 months. We will share how and provide resources to develop a Disaster Preparedness Plan for your school, meeting, or retirement home. We will support you over the next few months with programs to give you the resources you need to make informed decisions. (February)

Session 2: Understanding the risks and impacts of extreme weather events on our health, households, and institutions. (March)

Session 3: An introduction to the cycle of disaster management and the goals of resilience. We will highlight community partners such as the Red Cross and VOAD, and what happens at the local, state, and federal government level during an emergency. (April)

Session 3 Emotional and Spiritual Care and Worship in times of disaster. (May)

Session 4 How to think about our buildings and facilities – how to maintain and protect them to be resilient. (June)

Session 5 An introduction to the risks and response strategies to flooding. (July)

Session 6 How we can serve our wider community during a disaster. Identifying community needs and partners (August)

Session 7 Review of our planning efforts and next steps (September) Just in time for the hurricane season!

### **Coordinator Report to Concord Quarterly Meeting Virtual Session 1/23/2022**

George Schaefer – Financial Support for Aging adults

Fall Continuing Sessions

Parent's Day Off

Listening sessions with Tom Haviland of Westtown Monthly Meeting, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sundays before meeting

CAWG

DVFS

Tuition Aid

Goshen Potluck

Willistown Holiday Pageant

CM Leadership

Facebook / social media

Bianca Santini-Dumas [concordquarter@pym.org](mailto:concordquarter@pym.org) January 23, 2022