

CQM at Goshen Highlights the Ujima Peace Center

In April 2017, Concord Quarterly Meeting endorsed the minute from the Fellowship of Friends of African Descent on State Sanctioned Violence. At that time, one Friend present reminded Friends that endorsing the minute should involve more than a single statement of support. We needed to be prepared to back it up. The January Quarterly Meeting Program at Goshen is one of the ways we are continuing to show our interest, concern, and support.

The original minute of the Fellowship noted four areas of concern with possible actions, and way opened quickly for significant movement on one: the establishment of a peace center in North Philadelphia. At Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Annual Sessions in July, Dr. Ayesha Imani showed a slide show and led an inspiring presentation of



several Friends involved with Ujima Friends Peace Center. This center is not only promoting peaceful alternatives to violent conflicts, it is addressing many of the social, educational, and service needs of this underserved community. It serves an outreach role, providing a place for Friends of color “to be unapologetically black and unapologetically Quaker” while introducing others in the community to Quakerism and Quaker testimonies. The leadership and significant resources come from the Black community. White Friends have supported the project both financially and spiritually.

Quarterly Meeting is an opportunity for Friends who were not present at annual sessions to learn more about an exciting project. For Friends who were there, we will be hearing the latest news and progress of the center that has been developing rapidly.

- Alison Levie, Goshen Monthly Meeting

PYM Quaker Life Council Supports Ujima Friends: Part of Us

At a recent meeting, the Quaker Life Council considered and celebrated the expression of Quaker Faith & Practice that is our Ujima Friends Peace Center. In the year that it has existed, the center has forged profound connections with the community in which it is located in North Philadelphia. Friends at the center established a summer freedom school, teaching young people an adapted peace curriculum called the Mpatapo Curriculum, which synthesizes African principles and Quaker values. The Ujima Friends Peace Center community also offers tenants’ rights classes every Saturday at 11am and organizes a monthly food give away. The community meets for worship every Sunday, and many PYM Friends who are members at monthly meetings also count themselves as members of the Ujima Friends Peace Center.

As stated on their website, the work of the Ujima Friends Peace Center is to reduce violence and provide a safe haven with educational, cultural and recreational opportunities for adults and young people. It is a ministry of the Fellowship of Friends of African Descent.

The word Ujima conveys the intention to make our brothers’ and sisters’ problems our problems and to solve them together. At its meeting held on Saturday, September 15, 2018, the Quaker Life Council honored this intention by recognizing that the Ujima Friends Peace Center is an imperative part of the wider body of PYM of Friends. The center’s ministry expresses a central message of Quakerism: with worship and spiritual practice at its core, it is possible for faith to reveal insights in unexpected and liberating ways that bring us closer to justice. Indeed, the emergence of the Ujima Friends Peace Center has tremendous historical significance. This is the first worshipping Quaker community conceived of and maintained entirely by Quakers of African descent. The center was

envisioned first by the Fellowship of Friends of African Descent in their 2016 Minute Regarding State Sanctioned Violence. Read the full minute here:

friendsofad.org/about/minute-regarding-state-sanctioned-violence/

The Quaker Life Council approved the following minute of action:

“Friends around the table gave joyful and tearful spirit-led testimony to how Ujima Friends Peace Center in a short period of time has changed the neighborhood around the Peace Center, the lives of individual Friends, and Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. Friends sensed the joyful presence of the Spirit being witnessed and fed at Ujima. QLC sensed Spirit calling members to support the programs and efforts of the Center. Supporting the Center is in alignment with PYM strategic directions. Members acknowledged that the Ujima Friends Peace Center arose from a 2016 minute from the Fellowship of Friends of African Descent. The minute exemplified a minute of concern with clear action and designated resources committed to following it through. At the time, there was not a clear path for bringing a minute of concern to PYM.”



From the Ujima Website - used with permission

1.Friends APPROVED \$10,000 to Ujima Friends Peace Center from its General Fund and \$5,000 from the Strategic Reserve Fund.”

The Ujima Friends Peace Center has asked that we hold their ministry in the Light. They are happy to hear from friends through email or receive words of encouragement through the mail.

For those who are interested in donation, you can give through their website: <http://www.ujimafriends.org/donate/> or by mailing a check made out to Ujima Friends Peace Center at 1701 W. Lehigh Avenue, 19132

-Zachary Dutton is the Associate Secretary for Program and Religious Life of PYM. Reprinted here with permission

My Service to Friends General Conference



FGC
FRIENDS
GENERAL CONFERENCE

You may know that I also serve you as a Philadelphia Yearly Meeting (PhYM) representative to Friends General Conference Central Committee. Why do I serve?

It's part of my journey of spiritual growth and Quaker service that started in 2000. That year I attended my first FGC Gathering (an annual week-long summer gathering in July of Friends from all over North America) in Rochester, NY. My daughter had been campaigning to go, and it was the last year she could be in the High School Program (which got rave reviews from her friends), AND I grew up in the Rochester Friends Meeting. So we went, and I returned home spiritually nourished enough to make a major change in my life. We both wanted to go back the next year.

I've attended nearly every Gathering since, returning home spiritually nurtured, and strengthened with new resources and F(f)riends. My workshops have varied from dance to spiritual practices to discernment, and most recently non-violent communication. There are always awesome plenary speakers, including in 2018, the Reverend William Barber. And there is excellent programing for youth and other groups. Other year-round programs of FGC include the Spiritual Deepening Program, Ministry on Racism, QuakerBooks, Quaker Cloud (some of your websites are through this program), and the Friends Meeting House Fund. There are also shorter programs such as the Digital Media Outreach program which Concord Quarter participated in this fall.

Wanting to give back, especially after watching my daughter's loving volunteer involvement with FGC, I volunteered to help plan the 2014 gathering at California University, PA which was under PhYM's care. I was struck by how grounded and worshipful the planning sessions were. It did not feel like work! Later, when I retired from full-time work, I offered my name to PhYM's Nominating Council as a PhYM representative to FGC Central Committee, and was appointed in the Fall 2016.

"BETTER ANGELS" presents workshop at Willistown Meeting

On Saturday, October 27, 2018 WFM hosted for about thirty people a "skills workshop" on the topic of "Talking Across the Political Divide". Better Angels provided the three moderators, format and the written materials for the workshop. Attendees came from Abington, Chestnut Hill, Chadds Ford, Fort Washington, New Jersey and more local communities near WFM.

So what is Better Angels? It is a not-for-profit, nationwide organization primarily staffed and run by trained volunteers. It was begun in the fall of 2016, as an organized effort to have as equally divided as possible workshops for "liberals" and "conservatives" who are asked to focus their dialogs on important, national ideas to see what common grounds could be found and therefore discussed in civil, productive ways.

The founders of Better Angels took its name from Abraham Lincoln's First Inaugural Address in 1861 on the eve of the Civil War. *"We are not enemies, but friends. We must not be enemies. Though passion may have strained, it must not break our bonds of affection. The mystic chords of memory...will yet swell the chorus of the Union, when again touched, as surely they will be, by the better angels of our nature."* The Better Angels organization "...instead of asking people to change their minds about issues, gives Americans a chance to better understand each other, to absorb the values and experiences that inform our political philosophies and to recognize our common humanity."

Better Angels devised two different workshops which are organized and facilitated/moderated by Better Angels trained volunteers. One is titled, "Bridging the Red/Blue Divide". It begins with an exercise

Central Committee is the Board of FGC and meets once a year for a long weekend. In between times there are an Executive Committee and a number of program and administrative committees which meet throughout the year. Central Committee is quite large (about 130 at the moment), consisting of representatives from all the affiliated Yearly Meetings (15) and individually affiliated meetings (13). Currently there are openings for more PhYM representatives.

At my first meeting in October 2016, Central Committee (all 130+ of us) united to move forward with an Institutional Audit to assess structural racism within the organization and make recommendations. FGC, as is true for other Quaker organizations, lives in and is affected by the culture of white supremacy. The assessment was recently completed. I am hopeful that FGC will be taking the steps recommended to become a more blessed community, and that the assessment results will also help other organizations such as Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. The assessment can be accessed here:

fgcquaker.org/news/October-report-institutional-assessment-racism-task-force-recommendations-fgc-central-committee

I serve on the Development Committee and am learning more about this work. It is really about communication. People don't give money unless they are interested in the work that you do, which is communicated clearly and with specific examples of the benefits received. Since our members are spread out across the country, our meetings involve travel. I have visited California, Washington State, and Arizona where local Quaker meetings have hosted us. In case you wonder, PhYM pays for my travel. It has been wonderful to worship with others across the country, to hear what is on their hearts, and to share the work of FGC.

If you are interested in more information about FGC (<https://www.fgcquaker.org/serve>), or serving as a PhYM representative, feel free to contact me at lhpiersol@gmail.com

- Lynne Piersol, Concord Quarter Coordinator

Polarization is Tearing Us Apart
Better Angels is Bringing Us Together

exploring often-stated, stereotypical labels put on Reds/Republicans or Blues/Liberals. These labels are explored by Red or Blue teams of participants in separate groups. Information is then shared by all and all are asked what was learned in this candid sharing. More exercises are utilized as each group discusses how its values and policies impact the USA. Each group is asked about concerns or reservations each individual has about his/her political party. Much is learned in these exercises by the participants. More goes on in these workshops, but this should give the reader a brief sense of the primary elements.

The Better Angels "Skills Workshop" offered at Willistown addresses a different aspect of the efforts to "depolarize" Americans. Participants are first taught about "setting a constructive tone" to any political conversation. What to try to do and what to avoid. The next skill focuses on "Listening Skills" so the other person clearly feels heard in a mutual dialog. After that are "Speaking Skills" used in ways that help the other person really hear you in a conversation. These skills are practiced in pairs of people. The final topic is how do we handle difficult moments in political discussions.

At Willistown, all participants were asked at the "wrap up" time, "What were the pluses and what did they wish had happened?" Some responses were: "I learned I don't have to refute the person's ideas", "I learned skilled listening without judgments" and "I wish we could get Congress to do this workshop!"

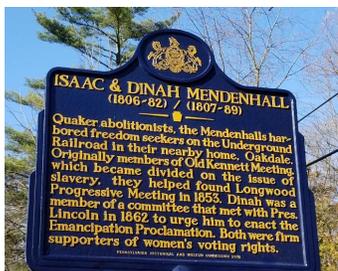
- Derek Stedman - Willistown Meeting

A Marker For The Mendenhalls

A new Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC) marker is now installed at the intersection of Route 52 South and Hillendale Road in Chadds Ford, Chester County, for Isaac and Dinah Mendenhall. This marker was nominated by myself and Carol Luzak, a direct descendant of Isaac Mendenhall through her grandfather Clarence Mendenhall's line. It was approved by the PHMC in March of 2018; the dedication ceremony was held on November 10, 2018.



Isaac (1806-1882) and Dinah Mendenhall (1807-1889) were abolitionists and conductors on the Underground Railroad (UGRR). They were born in Kennett Township, Chester County, and were members of the Religious Society of Friends. They married on May 12, 1831 at Old Kennett Meeting. They lived at "Oakdale," their home and farm on Hillendale Road. Oakdale was the first stop on the UGRR in Pennsylvania and was part of a 1,000-acre land grant originally purchased from William Penn in 1703 by Robert Pennell and Benjamin Mendenhall. Oakdale is listed on the National Register of Historic Places as well as on the PHMC Register of Historic Sites and Landmarks. The Mendenhalls assisted several hundred freedom seekers sent to them by Thomas Garrett (1789-1871) from Wilmington, Delaware. The Mendenhalls were also active in the temperance and women's rights movements. Both attended Pennsylvania's first Women's Rights Convention held in West Chester in 1852.



After being disowned by Old Kennett Meeting for their anti-slavery beliefs and activities, in 1853, the Mendenhalls and a number of other Quakers, organized the Society of Progressive Friends at Longwood. On June 20, 1862, six members of Longwood Progressive Meeting (Dinah Mendenhall, Thomas Garrett,

Oliver Johnson, William Barnard, Eliza Agnew and Alice Hamilton) met with President Abraham Lincoln in Washington, DC, to plead for the immediate abolition of slavery. In September of 1862, President Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, effective January 1, 1863. The Mendenhalls are buried in the Longwood Cemetery across the road from the

Aging Concerns Follow Up Workshop

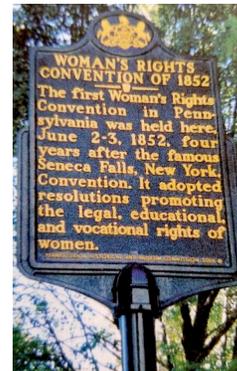
Last April, Callie Janoff of New York Yearly Meeting's ARCH program, helped lead a weekend long training for many of us who feel called to be Aging Concerns Facilitators, carrying a concern about aging and how it affects our members and attendees. Callie came back to us on November 17 for a follow up session at Birmingham Meeting. Thirteen of us met for 3 1/2 hours sharing our experiences with this work and discussing how to become more effective at it.

We began by sharing feelings we have about how things are going since the training. These included: frustration that no one has taken advantage of the offer to help; gratitude for the training which has helped in personal situations as well as at meetings; enjoyment of the Concord Quarter Working Group on Aging Concerns meetings; sensing our "radar" is better, our "antennae" are up; challenged with the breadth of the work that needs to be done; appreciating the resources we have encountered. Several mentioned that there are many aged members in their meetings which shows the need for educating others about these concerns.

We spent time identifying one another's gifts and identifying our own desires for growing into new gifts that we wish to bring to our

former Longwood Progressive Friends meetinghouse, now the Chester County Conference and Visitor's Bureau.

Since 2001, I have been submitting proposals to PHMC for markers commemorating Pennsylvania's history. In 1998-1999 and 2005, while a student at Pendle Hill, I started researching the lives of many local Quakers. I was surprised to find that they seemed hidden from history and were not publicly recognized. I resolved to submit historical marker nominations each year for persons in history who had a connection to Quakerism. Out of the 21 markers that have been approved by PHMC that I submitted since 2001, the following have Quaker connections to history:



- 1) Site of 1852 Women's Rights Convention, West Chester;
- 2) Home of Ann Preston, MD, West Grove;
- 3) Home of artist Ida Ella Ruth Jones, Ercildoun;
- 4) Home of scientist Graceanna Lewis, Kimberton;
- 5) Atkinson Family, Upper Dublin Friends Meeting, Glenside;
- 6) Home of astronomer / physicist Charlotte Moore Sitterly, Ercildoun;
- 7) Site of the Lynching of Zachariah Walker, Coatesville;
- 8) Williamson Free School of Mechanical Trades, Media;
- 9) Home of peace activist Mildred Scott Olmsted, Rose Valley;
- 10) Home of scientist Mary Engle Pennington, Philadelphia;
- 11) Home of Isaac and Dinah Mendenhall, Chadds Ford.

Erecting and dedicating historical markers for Quakers has led to an opportunity for outreach to the general public about our religion. Several times on these projects, I have been approached by people who have expressed surprise that there are still living Quakers in the world. This led to inviting the public in to the Quaker meetinghouses after several dedication ceremonies for a 15 or 30-minute Meeting for Worship and refreshments.

The next dedication ceremony is scheduled for Saturday, September 14, 2019 for the Hawk Mountain Sanctuary and its founder Rosalie Edge, located in Kempton, Berks County, Pennsylvania. You are invited!

*Robyn Young - Concord Monthly Meeting
Robyn is the author of Women in Penn's Woods: A History of Women in Pennsylvania*



meetings. This recognition of one another helped build a community bond amongst us.

We talked about ideas for the future of our work of which there were plenty. We explored the following: doing our own training; consulting with the Hickman staff, doing a needs assessment in our meetings, inviting others to be part of our working group, doing training throughout the year at working group meetings, highlighting our work at a Quarterly Meeting, helping PYM develop a collaborative, and continuing the use of our listserv.

Friends left with a hopeful sense that our work will continue effectively. The workshop ended with participants receiving a DVD of Atul Gawande's interview and the book "The Other Talk". The money left over from the Friends Foundation for the Aging grant was used to purchase these resources. *-Rich Ailes*

Concord Quarterly Meeting's October-November 2018 Announcements and Calendar of Events

Announcements

The minutes from our October 28 Quarterly Meeting at Middletown have been posted on the Quarter's website (<http://concordquarter.org/documents>). Please send any comments about those minutes by January 15 to the Recording Clerk, David Leonard, at leonard@berkeley.edu

Check out Concord Quarter's new Facebook Page: Concord Quarterly Meeting - Quakers. Questions or comments? Email concordquarter@pym.org.

Looking for that flyer about a Concord Quarter event (or individual meeting events)? Find flyers by month on the website. Go here: <http://concordquarter.org/documents/?category=Flyers>

For many more events across Philadelphia Yearly Meeting: <https://www.pym.org/calendar> Flyer about all youth programs through May 2019 attached.

Concord Quarter Tuition Aid applications are now posted on Concord Quarter's website: <http://concordquarter.org/documents/?category=Tuition> . Due by February 15.

Calendar of Events

- Jan 4 6:30 pm** A shared potluck meal, followed by worship at Goshen Meeting, 814 N. Chester Rd, West Chester. Bring a dish to share. We welcome all in the Quarter and beyond. Bring a friend, too and enjoy reconnecting or meeting local Quakers! This is a monthly event on first Fridays.
- Jan 5-6** PYM Winter Family Overnight at Camp Onas, For more information and to register (due January 2): <https://secure.acceptiva.com/?cst=6e0b0b>
- Jan 4-6** PYM Young Adults (ages 18-35ish) Retreat at Swarthmore Meeting. For more information contact Meg Rose, Young Adult Engagement Coordinator: mrose@pym.org
- Jan 9 11 am – 12:30** CQ Working Group on Aging Concerns, West Chester Meeting, 425 N. High Street, West Chester, PA. Open to anyone in Concord Quarter interested in Aging Concerns. For more info: concordquarter@pym.org
- Jan 25-27** PYM Middle School Friends Winter Gathering at Medford Meeting. For more information contact: Melinda Wenner Bradley, Youth Engagement Coordinator, mwennerbradley@pym.org.
- Jan 27 8:30 am to 1:30 pm** Concord Quarterly Meeting at Goshen Meeting, 814 N. Chester Rd, West Chester, PA. Come one, come all. Business Meeting at 8:30, Worship at 10am, Special children's program provided by Melinda Wenner Bradley. Dr. Ayesha Imani will be presenting on the Ujima Friends Peace Center (11:15am) and lunch is provided. (12:30) Questions? Contact: concordquarter@pym.org
- Jan 31 5 to 9 pm** Dine and Donate to The Hickman at P.J.'s Pub West Chester, 1347 Wilmington Pike, West Chester, PA, 610-235-4200. The Hickman will receive 15% of what you spend (doesn't apply to takeout)
- Feb 1 6:30 pm** A shared potluck meal, followed by worship at Goshen Meeting, 814 N. Chester Rd, West Chester. Bring a dish to share. We welcome all in the Quarter and beyond. Bring a friend, too and enjoy reconnecting or meeting local Quakers! This is a monthly event on First Fridays.
- Feb 3 1 to 3 pm** CQ Planning Committee, The Hickman at the Jeanes Building Social Room, 444 N Walnut St, West Chester, PA 19380. Planning Committee meets 4 times a year to plan Quarterly Meetings, other events and has oversight of the Coordinator role. Open to anyone interested. Questions? concordquarter@pym.org
- Feb 8-10** PYM Young Friends (high school aged) Winter Gathering at Green Street Meeting in Philadelphia. For more information and to register: <https://www.pym.org/event/young-friends-winter-gathering-2019/>
- Feb 9 7 to 9 pm** Concord Quarter Annual Square Dance at Willistown Meeting, 7069 Goshen Rd, Newtown Square, PA 19073. Great fun for all ages. Live caller and band. Refreshments. Free. Questions: concordquarter@pym.org. Snow date is February 23.

Concord Quarterly Meeting – January 27, 2019

Goshen Monthly Meeting

- 8:15 Sign-in
- 8:30-9:45 Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business
- 10:00-11:00 Meeting for Worship with Goshen Meeting
- 11:15-12:15 Program on the Ujima Center
- 12:30-1:30 Light Lunch provided by Goshen Meeting



The Ujima Friends Peace Center



Dr. Ayesha Imani, President of the Ujima Friends Peace Center in North Philadelphia will explain the Quaker and African roots behind this new and innovative resource center that has blossomed under the direction of the Fellowship of Friends of African Descent.

YOUTH AT CONCORD QUARTERLY MEETING

Young People and Families are invited when our Quarterly Meeting community gathers at Goshen Meeting on Sunday, January 27!



The morning will include cooperative games to get better acquainted and a story to explore how queries are tools to help Friends work together.

Childcare will be provided from 8:30

10 AM to 11 AM

- Youth Meeting for Worship with Attention to Story (ages 4 and up; child care also available)
- Young people return to worship with the body 10:45

11:15 AM to 12:15 AM

- Children’s Program focused on fellowship and problem solving together
- Middle School & High School youth attend program on the Ujima Friends Peace Center

Lunch 12:30-1:30pm

814 North Chester Rd. West Chester PA 19380

For more info and a map to the meeting go to <http://concordquarter.org/meeting-maps/>
 You can also email Lynne Piersol, Coordinator, at concordquarter@pym.org
 or call 610-864-3802 and leave a message

Opening Worship

The meeting opened at 8:30 am with a period of worship. Twenty-one Friends were present as the meeting began.

Welcome to Newcomers

Chris McKenney

The Clerk welcomed four guest attenders associated with the Delaware Valley Friends School – Molly Watson, Christa Harp Krystofiac, Dan Krystofiac, and Kirk Smothers. Also present was Don Badgley, of Poughkeepsie, New York, a member of Nine Partners Monthly Meeting, who had a traveling minute which the clerk acknowledged.

Monthly Meeting Opening Count

Chris McKenney

Birmingham- 6, Concord- 1, Goshen- 0, Middletown – 3, West Chester- 1, Westtown- 4, Willistown - 1, Wilmington - 1, Chichester- 1
Representatives were present from all meetings in the Quarter save for Goshen.

Approval of Minutes from July 22, 2018

Chris McKenney

The minutes were approved without further correction.

Joys and Challenges Report from Westtown Meeting

Margaret Haviland

The report was presented by Margaret Haviland and Bruce Harrison and is attached as Appendix 1. It was received with appreciation. A question was raised about the current relationship between the meeting and the new administration of Westtown School.

Request for approval of Proposed Care Relationship between Concord Quarter and Delaware Valley Friends School

Chris McKenney & Kirk Smothers

The report is attached as Appendix 2. The clerk commented that it seems that Friends see this relationship as mutually beneficial and the head of the school shares that view.

The Quarter approved of the proposal for the Quarter to enter into a Care Relationship with Delaware Valley Friends School and that a Care Committee as proposed in the attached report be established. Three of its members will be appointed by the Quarter (through its Nominating Committee) and three appointed by the School. The School and the Committee will report annually to the Quarter. The Quarter is not assuming an “oversight role” and will not have a legal responsibility for the School. The relationship is being established for the spiritual care and support of the School.

Nominating Committee Report

Rich Ailes

Concord Quarter Nominating Committee met in July 2018 to discern who best would serve the Quarter as Treasurer. It recommends Charles C. Spadoni to be Concord Quarter Treasurer for the period beginning November 1, 2018 and ending June 30, 2021. Charlie has great experience; he has served as Birmingham Meeting Treasurer, as Quarter Coordinator, and on Concord Quarter Planning Committee.

The appointment of Charles Spadoni as Treasurer, as detailed above, was approved by the meeting. Tom Haviland will work with him on the transition. The meeting is grateful to Tom for the service he has given.

The Committee has also discerned a name to bring forward at a later date to serve as Assistant Clerk and then Clerk starting in July 2019. We are also looking for a new Recording Clerk to start in July 2019. Suggestions of names for this role are welcome.

Report of Ad Hoc Committee on Monthly Meetings with Limited Attendance - David Leonard

The committee reported that it had worked with Concord MM to develop a story about the availability of space in many Brandywine Friends’ meetings. It had hoped to place this story in the Delaware County Times, but the approach failed. So, instead, it has printed the story (with photos) as a flyer which can be distributed by Concord MM, the CQM secretary, and others. Copies of the flyer were distributed to those who were interested. It would be useful to also publish the contents of the flyer on a web site that is Google searchable. Rich Ailes is willing to undertake this task. David is willing to be the telephone contact for inquiries that arise from the flyer. Other attempts to find potential partners for the use of Concord meeting house have been unsuccessful, however. The committee recommended that it now be laid down. Friends made suggestions as to how the concern might be advanced but accepted the recommendation that the committee be laid down, with the understanding that the Planning Committee can provide advice where it is needed.

Working Group on Aging Concerns

Rich Ailes

The report is attached as Appendix 3, to which Rich Ailes spoke.

Treasurer’s Report

Tom Haviland

The report is attached at Appendix 4 and was received by the meeting. The meeting again expressed appreciation for Tom’s work as Treasurer.

Coordinator Report

Lynne Piersol

The report is attached at Appendix 5 and was presented by Lynne Piersol. The Quarter is grateful for her efforts.

Second Count of Meetings and Members in Attendance

David Leonard

Twenty-seven Friends were present as the meeting ended.

Respectfully submitted, Christopher McKenney, Clerk and David Leonard, Recording Clerk

Appendix 1. Joys and Challenges Westtown Monthly Meeting

The following report was presented to Westtown Monthly Meeting in the Meeting for Business Tenth Month, the twenty-first day, 2018. This report of our meetings’ joys and challenges was approved by the meeting to be shared with Concord Quarterly Meeting in its October meeting for business

We at Westtown Monthly Meeting appreciate this opportunity to look back on our last twelve months and look forward to our upcoming year. Like all faith communities we are striving to support each other in our individual lives --both material and spiritual --while also attending to our corporate meeting as a vital worship community where our lives speak. Like all smaller meetings we have found the need to be judicious with what we choose

to take on as a community of faithful. A recent article in the Philadelphia Inquirer about faith communities choosing to sell their physical buildings so that they could focus on their spiritual and outward expressions of faith reminded us of our blessing of not owning our meeting house. We are also blessed with a thoughtful treasurer and can report our accounts are well ordered—we live within our means and have funds to support organizations we value. We continue to support the work of PYM and CQM as well as tending to our own projects.

Our relationship with our landlord Westtown School continues to be a source of creative tension. We welcome the intimacy of our summer worship when the students are on vacation and enjoy the energy when they are here with us during the school year. Sunday rentals of the campus for sports tournaments make for a new definition of quality silence and we have also had a few individuals stop in and worship with us. The upper school students are engaging in a series of experiments this year to address issues of equity and exploring how to make worship more meaningful for the students. We have invited the students to engage with us as a means of exploring why one would choose to belong to a faith community. The school has a new Head of School, who is continuing to discern her own relationship with our monthly meeting and Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. Our own desire to let our lives speak corporately, while remaining welcoming to all has presented us with a few challenges in this particularly charged partisan climate we are living through.

Our First Day School is small but lively with regular attendance by children whose families are committed to nurturing their spiritual growth. We as a meeting take seriously our responsibility to these our youngest Friends who are the future of our larger Quaker community. Our challenge is in finding staffing for our First Day School. We want our adult members to be supported by regular attendance in Meeting for Worship. Going forward we are interested in inviting Westtown School families to join us in worship.

Our meetings are well attended and follow good order. The Spirit regularly finds expression in our vocal ministry, another regular demonstration of the ways in which there is that of God in each of us and that we are expressions of the Divine. The Silence in our meeting for worship is equally an expression of the Spirit moving among us. To support our worship, we have a regular pattern of the sharing of spiritual journeys by members and the reading of queries or poems and meditations. We close each meeting with the invitation for the sharing of names of friends we wish to hold in the light.

In the area of letting our lives speak, our Peace and Social Justice committee thoughtfully focuses our energies in a few areas. This past year we have considered what it would mean to be a sanctuary community and how to best support the work and discern the priorities for FCNL. We used our annual plant sale to support the residents of Barclay Friends. Going forward we see ourselves re-engaging with concerns for climate change and perhaps the Poor People's Campaign.

Respectfully submitted, Bruce Harrison and Margaret Haviland, Co-clerks, Westtown Monthly Meeting.

Appendix 2. Report on the Threshing Session on the Proposed Care Relationship between Concord Quarterly Meeting and Delaware Valley Friends School, held October 7, 2018 at Westtown Meeting

Present: Christopher McKenney (Birmingham Meeting and Concord Quarter Clerk); Susan Brodesser, Serita Spadoni, David Jones, David Leonard (all from Birmingham), Tom Ceresini, Shirley Wright Kamara, Rich Ailes (all from Middletown); Deb Lyons (West Chester); Bruce Harrison, Andy Coe, Ginny Sutton (all from Westtown); Debbie Murray-Sheppard (Wilmington); Steve Kupferschmid, Willistown); Lynne Piersol (Coordinator)

We started with worship. After a review of the proposed care relationship, the meeting was opened for comments.

Some questions were raised about the nature of the school, its Quaker identity, its fiscal health and makeup of the Board of Trustees. The school is a member of Friends Council on Education. It is financially solvent, has a waiting list, and wants to expand. Some students pay tuition, which is steep, and some are placed by school districts which then pay the tuition. There is some financial aid. Students come from many different communities even as far as New Jersey! The school is geared to students who learn differently although they may well be very intelligent. They have language and or math based learning differences, or they might be kinetic learners. Many arrive at DVFS damaged because other schools were not supportive. There are very few schools that do what DVFS does in providing a very individualized approach to students.

Questions we had no answers for included: what is the size of the Board and how many are Quakers (and do they have enough?) How many students are enrolled?

Those who know the school expressed that DVFS really “walks the talk in terms of Quakerism”. They really do value that of God in their students. One shared an example of vocal ministry during the weekly worship by a student who expressed sincere appreciation for a team mate because he forgot to do it at a game. It was an amazing experience and it seemed meaningful to the students.

Others shared that it would be beneficial to the school to have a relationship with a Quaker community, and a Quarter would fit better for this than an individual meeting since the students are scattered. With a relatively new Quaker Head of School, the potential for growing in Quaker values has increased. Another expressed that he had worked at a Quaker school that did not have a care relationship with a meeting, and he saw that as something lacking. A care relationship would have tremendous value.

Another expressed that this would be a form of outreach. Do we have the energy as a Quarter to do this? Would this be a pro forma relationship? Several expressed interest either in being on the “Care Committee” or in being involved in other ways. Messages of support from some not present were shared. Concord Meeting has minuted its support for going forward with a care relationship at their September Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business.

This could be an opportunity for people in the Quarter to get involved in things they are interested in – Quaker history, writing notes of encouragement to graduating seniors, inviting them to meeting for worship. We have a number of historic buildings that could be visited. A member of the ad hoc committee shared that the list in the proposal is a working list of what could be done to help the students know the Quaker presence.

After noting the positive energy in the room, the group recommends that we move forward with a care relationship between Concord Quarterly Meeting and Delaware Valley Friends School. The details of how the Care Committee will be created can be dealt with later by Nominating Committee. - Report by Lynne Piersol

Editor's Note: Due to space constraints, Appendix 3, Aging Concerns Report, Appendix 4, Treasurer's Report, and Appendix 5, Coordinator's Report, are not included here. They are available on the web with the complete minutes at <http://concordquarter.org/documents/?category=Minutes>

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