

# Concord Quarterly News

of the Religious Society of Friends

## Concord Quarterly Meeting Newsletter Volume 17, Issue 2, April 2020

### How is Concord Quarter doing during Covid-19?

Worshipping in person and gathering for committees, children's programs and social times has been our spiritual practice since the beginning of Quakerism. During the COVID 19 pandemic, when the medical and governmental advice is to stay home, it has been a challenge for meetings to find ways to continue our connections with each other. Being in the high-risk age group myself, I had decided not to visit meetings in person for a while and was sad at the idea of not seeing your faces. Then came the increased use of Zoom and other programs allowing folks to connect virtually. I even treated myself (yes, I think of it as a gift for me) to a paid Zoom account for a few months to use in my personal life and for my Quaker work in Concord Quarter and volunteer work at my own meeting. It has been wonderful to have this technology. Various meetings and Quaker organizations have also been using Zoom and other platforms to connect. Below are some of the ways meetings in the Quarter are coping with the pandemic to ensure the safety of members as well as to maintain personal connections.

West Chester Meeting has been offering a children's program at 10am followed by an hour of worship at 10:30 and I joined them on March 22. West Chester meeting members were joined by families from several other meetings for the Faith and Play story about Listening for God. During worship, there were others who joined from as far away as Seattle. It was lovely to see faces and pets! In addition, one camera was at the meetinghouse where several had joined in person, sitting far apart to practice physical distancing. For more information: <https://www.fgcquaker.org/cloud/west-chester-friends-meeting>

Westtown Meeting, located at Westtown School, is part of the school's google-based service. They have been using this for worship on Sunday at 10:30. For more information: <https://www.fgcquaker.org/cloud/westtown-monthly-meeting>. They are also experimenting with a hymn sing at 10:10. Folks who can't often join in person for various reasons came to worship. They will also be working on connecting smaller groups of people within the meeting, and ways of letting the Westtown School community know of their worship.

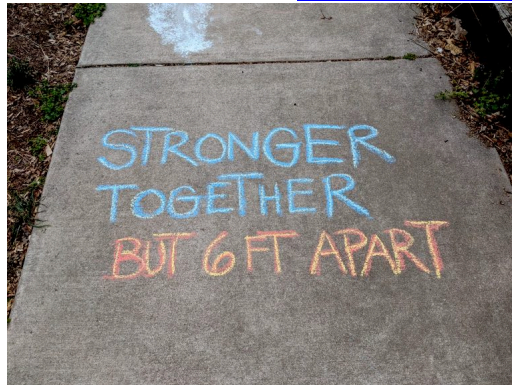
Wilmington Meeting is also having worship by Zoom. They worship at 10am. To get the link, you can email the meeting office: [wilmington.de.friends.mtg@gmail.com](mailto:wilmington.de.friends.mtg@gmail.com). I joined them on March 29 as they worshipped and had an informal social chat time afterwards. They will be having some committee meetings by Zoom as well. A meeting member is sharing his account with the meeting.

Appoquinimink Meeting in Odessa, under Wilmington's care, is open the first and third Sundays of the month at 10am.

Birmingham Meeting had a successful Zoom worship on March 29 for 30

minutes with about 25 people joining in, mostly by video but some by phone. It was so successful that they are scheduling a mid-week meeting on Wednesdays at 4pm.

Middletown Meeting is also having successful Zoom worship on Sundays at 11am and having a virtual social time on a weekday evening. A family joined from Virginia and one from Kendal who hadn't come for years. In addition, they used Zoom for some pastoral care work and for their Men's Group. For more information email [cevstern1@verizon.net](mailto:cevstern1@verizon.net) or [Tom.Ceresini@pobox.com](mailto:Tom.Ceresini@pobox.com).



Willistown Meeting has their meetinghouse open at 10am on Sundays for those who wish to worship in person with physical distancing. No social hour or in person children's programming is scheduled for now, but a reading list and ideas for a service project have been sent home to families. Willistown is exploring Zoom use.

Goshen Meeting has been considering worship via Zoom while their meetinghouse is closed. They are using Zoom to have some informal social time.

Concord Meeting, being very small, has its meetinghouse open at 11:15 on Sundays for those who wish to worship in person. There is

plenty of room to spread out.

For those who would like to worship by Zoom at another time, Pendle Hill has worship every day at 8:30am, and has been drawing people from all over the world. <https://pendlehill.org/explore/worship/join-us-online-for-worship-in-the-barn/>

Philadelphia Yearly Meeting has increased Zoom capacity so that meetings can use the service for weekday and Saturday events, but not Sundays. For more information: <https://www.pym.org/how-to-guides/communications-to-membership/zoom-calls/>. The Yearly Meeting Calendar now has sections for postponed and virtual events which you can find by scrolling down on this page: <https://www.pym.org/>

There are some security settings in Zoom that will ensure your session is safe from hackers (yes there have been reports of bad actors overtaking a session!). Hosts of Zoom meetings should read these resources: <https://www.pcmag.com/news/fbi-watch-out-for-zoom-bombings-on-online-video-meeting-apps> <https://www.pcmag.com/how-to/how-to-prevent-zoom-bombing>

If there is any way your Coordinator can help you find a resource or walk you through Zoom, let me know. I plan to attend Concord Quarter's meetings for worship virtually where possible for the time being.

By the way, PYM's excellent web section devoted in general to dealing with the Covid-19 crisis is here: <https://www.pym.org/covid19/>

- Lynne Piersol, Concord Quarter Coordinator, [concordquarter@pym.org](mailto:concordquarter@pym.org)

*A Friend from our Aging Concerns WG recently shared this revision of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm by First Friends Meeting in Indiana.*

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall wash my hands.  
He makes me scrub down to clean skin;  
He leads me to hot running water.  
He restores my soap;  
He leads me in the ways of covering my cough for heaven's sake.  
Yea, though I watch through the valley of panicked news media,  
I will fear no COVID-19, for good hygiene was taught to me;

Lysol and sanitizer comfort me.  
You prepared a protocol for me in the presence of this virus; You  
anoint my head with essential oil; my cough remains covered.  
Surely TP and sanitizer shall last me all the days of this pandemic  
and I will have peace in the love of the Lord forever.

Courtesy First Friends Meeting Richmond IN

## Membership Threshing Session Report

On Sunday, January 26, 2020, Friends gathered from all over the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting community to worship together and to consider the question of membership in a facilitated threshing session. There were approximately 90 Friends present for the threshing from all corners of our community.

The threshing had its genesis in the 2019 Young Adult Friends (YAF) [Epistle on Membership](#). YAF had expressed concern that the existing structure and definition of membership functions to exclude participation and has specifically functioned to exclude Friends of Color. YAF concluded that “a simple model of monthly meeting membership, in which one belongs to a singular community for life, is no longer useful, if it has ever been considered so in the past.” YAF members shared their experiences of feeling greater connection to Quakerism through service in FNCL, AFSC, YAF and other Quaker organizations, but feeling distanced by an insistence that they might only be recognized for participation and inclusion in PYM and local meeting functions if they can identify as members of a monthly meeting. We listened, reflected and journaled about our reactions to the experiences of YAF. I encourage Friends to prayerfully reflect on the Epistle.

We explored personal experiences of membership and identified and shared what stands in the way of feeling like a member of a group. We also participated in a large group exercise in which we arranged ourselves within a bi-axial grid considering three separate questions: 1) Being in a group is important or not important to me; and I usually find myself in groups of people that are similar to or different from me; 2) In my family of origin we were always or never actively involved in a religious community; and when I come into a new group, I find myself feeling like a member of the group quickly or slowly; and 3) I feel very or not very well connected to the religious group I am most connected with now; and it is very or not very clear how and when one becomes a member in this religious group. This exercise revealed the breadth of Friends’ experiences and made visually evident some of the differences



of experiences across identifiable populations, by age, gender, race and cultural identity.

We considered the idea of “functional” and “regular” members. We considered why and how we limit participation in meeting functions based on whether an individual has expressed an intent to be part of the group and accepted an invitation to join, rather than on whether they are living in harmony with Quaker testimonies, regardless of their membership “status”. We concluded the day in large groups considering advice we would offer to PYM as it considers issues around membership, our angers and concerns, and ways in which we encourage PYM to be both mindful and bold in moving forward. Each group shared out a single response. The complete lists were accumulated by PYM.

Many of the reflections were hopeful and deeply centered in Spirit. All can be reviewed in the [PYM 2020 Membership Threshing report](#). I was moved by an invitation to look forward (not just to history) for guidance. We are encouraged to explore what we are doing that causes feelings of distance and not being part of the meeting, and to also consider how we engender and affirm feelings of inclusion, connection and integration. Friends implored each other not to create stumbling blocks, to keep Spirit at the center of our efforts, and to seek out and listen to voices that are different from our own. We were reminded that it is ok to make mistakes as long as we hold ourselves accountable to fix them and to try again. We are called to believe in the redemptive value of second chances.

It was a day of listening and seeking a way forward. I wonder whether we have mistaken a reliance on “Friends in name” to the exclusion of recognizing the deep commitment of “Friends in-deed”. I was reminded of how powerful our process can be when we are still and wait upon the leadings of the Spirit.

- Debbie Murray Sheppard- Wilmington Meeting

## Water Project Success Story

Back in October 2019, a member of West Chester Monthly Meeting’s Peace and Social Concerns Committee who had traveled extensively in Africa saw the impact lack of fresh water had on communities, and the outsized burden finding and transporting it placed on women and girls. The desire to help became a leading that was shared with WC Peace and Social



Concerns Committee. Extensive research to learn about work being done to increase fresh water sources led the committee with support from West Chester Monthly Meeting and Concord Quarter, to two organizations having excellent results. The committee agreed to fundraise for The Water Project and build a Quarterly Meeting program around that organization and also Wine to Water.

In January 2020, 50 adults and 19 young people participated in a highly successful Quarterly Meeting at West Chester. Participants watched a presentation by Erica Young on The Water Project and an amazing demo of a Wine to Water filter turning a dirty container of water into a clear drinkable liquid. The intergenerational group then went next door to a school room and lined up to construct 25 of these filters. Of course, the young people enthusiastically did most of the work. Following the Quarterly Meeting, the Quarter kept promoting the fundraising for our Water Project until the end of March where it officially became associated with a live project in Kenya.



The Peace and Social Concerns Committee thanks all the donors from West Chester Monthly Meeting, Concord Quarter, and Friends of The Water Project for helping raise a total of \$4621. The project we are supporting is a Rain Catchment for The Friends School Mahira Primary in Kenya. We will share progress reports as the project is worked through. The project can be viewed here:



<https://thewaterproject.org/community/projects/kenya/rainwater-catchment-wash-project-20127>

Our other Quarterly Meeting project that day was the construction of water filters for Wine to Water. They will advise us in a few months where all the filters were deployed. -Rich Ailes – Middletown Meeting

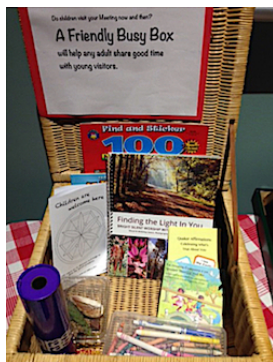
## When New Parents Unexpectedly Arrive

A few months ago, I sent Melinda Wenner Bradley this query: *I recall you may have published what a Meeting can do to provide an activity or lesson to children who arrive unexpectedly to Meeting for Worship. Since we don't have an active FDS at Middletown, we're looking at ways we can be inviting for parents and children if they drop in.* Rich Ailes

And she replied: Thanks for reaching out. I loved your language, **"ways we can be inviting for parents and children if they drop in."** I think that is where to focus your energy, if you do not have families currently in the meeting. A few thoughts:

Younger children often don't want to separate from parents in a place for the first time, and I don't think we want parents who are seekers to show up interested in Quaker meeting and then feel they need to miss meeting themselves, to be with their children either providing care or sitting with someone who is giving a lesson. Older children are able to sit in worship, and I'd advocate that rather than sending younger ones to another space (again, they may not want to go without a parent), why not be prepared to make everyone comfortable in worship as well as having a "lesson in a box" if they are willing to go with someone to another space?

I've attached a piece about having a "busy box" available for children – this could be used both with a visiting child willing to go to another space with adult, or in the meeting room for them to have quiet things to do in that space with their family worshipping there. If you don't have any copies of the little book, "[Quaker Meeting and Me](#)," let me know and I'll bring some to CQM at the end of the month for Middletown. Of course, a basket of children's books is also a good idea – easy to leave next to the greeter's chair, if you have that practice.



Also: If you are prepared for Friends to be with children in another space (not in worship), please keep child safety in mind – The rule of thumb is that unless other adults are in sight, best to have 2 adults if there is one child. When there are 2+ children, fine for it to be one

adult with them although in a space that has visual access – not in a room without windows in a door, or an open door.

On the resources page of the Youth section of the PYM website, there's a nice piece written by Christie (years ago!) about children in small meeting: <https://www.pym.org/religious-education/wp-content/uploads/sites/86/2019/01/nurturing-quaker-children-in-small-meeting.pdf>

That piece is really about children already in small meetings, but I think it makes some nice points and among them is something that I often share when I receive questions like this – *What you have to offer is: worship.* Which leads to the question: How can you be prepared for a family with children to join in worship with you? The "busy box" is one answer.

Another piece on the website is one I wrote about invitation and welcome for families – it includes the suggestion:

"Spaces give unspoken, immediate clues to a new family about how prepared the meeting is to welcome them: is there a place to change a diaper? a booster seat or highchair? a small table and chairs in a fellowship space? *Does the worship space have a basket of books, coloring, and other quiet things to support children be settled – and included – in worship?* Does the greeter have information about childcare and youth religious education programs, to hand to visitors along with announcements or information about the meeting? None of these things need to be fancy, but they send a powerful message of inclusion."

<http://www.pym.org/religious-education/wp-content/uploads/sites/86/2019/08/Families-At-the-Threshold.pdf>

It would be quite wonderful if the meeting also had something a greeter could hand to a visiting family that states that the meeting welcomes children, does not currently have a program for them, is glad for their presence, and what to expect in meeting for worship. (I sometimes wonder about the wisdom of a meeting without a children's program sharing with a visiting family what meetings in their Quarter have programs and families – I realize that seems like you're "sending them away" but it also could be seen as realistic and welcoming to support their journey among Friends.)

I hope some of these ideas are helpful for you to feel you can prepare for being ready if a family crosses your threshold!

-Melinda Wenner Bradley - PYM Youth Religious Life Coordinator

## Nick's Story - An End of Life Journey



Nick moved to another state in retirement with his wife. All of his 6 children and grandchildren made many visits. Occasionally he and his wife would come north for the holidays and special occasions. This continued for 10 years until his wife, mother of his children, died. Shortly after her death he remarried and stayed 15 more years. The visits, both children going south and Nick and new wife coming north, grew less and less.

During this time there were increasing mentions of concerns about his abilities, but no action was taken.

Upon the death of the second wife all the children went south for the funeral and it became apparent Nick could not live alone. Many of his friends expressed concern for his welfare and explained that the wife had been doing a lot of care giving. His long-term plan was to live with his kids, but he never discussed this with any of the family. Within 2 to 3 months the family brought him home and he lived for a while with two different family members. With all the children and their spouses working full time jobs he was alone all day and there were some concerns about his safety.

The next move was to The Hickman which at that time did not have a dementia unit. Within a year his dementia progressed to the point he could no longer stay at The Hickman. The family moved him to a newly built facility with a dedicated dementia program. It looked good, but it was a for-profit venture which provided poor care.

Ultimately, he needed nursing home care and his assets were soon spent down to under \$100,000. His assets were adequate for about a year in most private pay nursing homes but if he made that move and outlived his assets he would have to move again. So he went to the Chester County nursing home, Pocopson, which would keep him after his assets were spent down. He got excellent care there.

With nursing home selection, we tend to go for the glamour and not the quality of care. County nursing homes can be very good, often providing excellent care, in spite of very modest extras. Families are often reluctant to have a loved one go to a county home often feeling guilty. In fact some of the best care in our region is in county homes.

Many people lack foresight when it comes to long term care. They often express the desire to remain in the home and die peacefully in their sleep. This rarely happens and it's the family who is left dealing with this lack of foresight. Nick made no plans and his family scrambled moving him 5 times in less than 5 years. There were adequate financial resources until there weren't. He did end up using private pay for the rest of his life, but he would have been eligible for Medicaid if he had lived longer.

When it comes to long term care it is wise to hope for the best but plan for the worst.

- John Schwab retired in 2012 from his role as Executive Director of The Hickman in West Chester

# Concord Quarterly Meeting's April-May 2020 Announcements and Calendar of Events

## Announcements

The minutes from our January 26 Quarterly Meeting at West Chester Meeting are on the website <https://concordquarter.org/documents/>. Please send any comments about those minutes to the Recording Clerk, Marty Boston, at [mboston0916@gmail.com](mailto:mboston0916@gmail.com) by April 15, 2020

Delaware Valley Friends School is closed until at least April 30 - so no Thursday meetings for worship  
PYM events - to check if something has been cancelled or postponed along with other information:

<https://www.pym.org/covid19/>

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

PYM offers Children's Worship via Zoom. Join us for one week, or every week! We will gather for stories, yoga, waiting worship and kids' meeting for business, writing letters to pen pals, and playing games. For more info and to register: [https://www.pym.org/event/childrens-worship-group/?instance\\_id=2646](https://www.pym.org/event/childrens-worship-group/?instance_id=2646)

PYM Young Adult Friends Community Worship by Zoom. For those 18-35ish  
<https://www.pym.org/young-adult-friends/events/>

Weds  
7:30-8:30  
pm  
Thursdays  
7 pm

## Calendar of Events

- April 5 Postponed** **Vocal Ministry two session course at Middletown Meeting**, 435 N Middletown Rd, Media, PA with Shirley Dodson. Coffee at 9am. Questions? [sdodson@aillesdodson.org](mailto:sdodson@aillesdodson.org) For updates, check the Concord Quarter calendar at <https://concordquarter.org/quartercalendar>
- April 14 3:15 to 4:45 pm** **Delaware Valley Friends School/Concord Quarter Care Committee at DVFS**, 19 E. Central Ave, Paoli, PA. Focus on growing the connections between the Quarter and the School. Meetings are open to members of Concord Quarter and the DVFS communities. Questions or RSVP to [concordquarter@pym.org](mailto:concordquarter@pym.org). This may end up being a Zoom call.
- April 18 3-5:30 pm** **PYM Quaker Family Meetup will be online.** [https://www.pym.org/event/quaker-family-meetup-spring-2020/?instance\\_id=2387](https://www.pym.org/event/quaker-family-meetup-spring-2020/?instance_id=2387) for more info, check the Facebook page.
- April 19 11 am to noon** **Chichester Meetinghouse Spring Worship**, 611 Meetinghouse Rd, Upper Chichester, PA 19061 will be still be held due to the requirement that the meetinghouse be open for worship at least 2 times annually. Physical distancing will be practiced in the meetinghouse. No refreshments this time.
- Postponed to July 19** **Concord and Western Quarter Joint Quarterly Meeting at Kennett Meeting.** Morning will include business, worship and lunch. A Better Angels Skills Workshop is the afternoon program! Children's programming all day. We will keep you posted!
- April 26 9 am** **Concord Quarterly Meeting for Business via Zoom.** Although we are not having a regular Quarterly Meeting, there is some business we need to attend to. More information and the link later.
- May 1 - 3 cancelled** **Camp Swatara 2020 gathering for middle and high school aged Friends**, 2905 Camp Swatara Rd Bethel, PA 19507. For more information: [https://www.pym.org/event/camp-swatara-2020/?instance\\_id=2388](https://www.pym.org/event/camp-swatara-2020/?instance_id=2388)
- May 2 Postponed** **Workshop on housing options for those of moderate income** sponsored by the CQ Working Group on Aging Concerns at Willistown Meeting, 7069 Goshen Rd, Newtown Square, PA. With Susan Hoskins, Executive Director of Friends Foundation on the Aging.
- May 2** **PYM Spring Family Overnight at Camp Dark Waters**, 26 New Freedom Rd, Medford, NJ 08055. Registration is on hold right now: For more information: [https://www.pym.org/event/spring-family-overnight-2020/?instance\\_id=2391](https://www.pym.org/event/spring-family-overnight-2020/?instance_id=2391)
- May 15-17** **PYM Young Adult Friends Spring Retreat at Camp Dark Waters**, 26 New Freedom Rd, Medford, NJ 08055 Registration is on hold. For information: [https://www.pym.org/event/yaf-spring/?instance\\_id=2273](https://www.pym.org/event/yaf-spring/?instance_id=2273) For those 18-35ish.

# Concord Quarterly Meeting Program is Canceled for April 26

A Brief Meeting for Business will be held on Zoom - 9 to 9:45 AM

## Let's Remember How Our Faith and Fellowship Bind us Together



### Concord Quarterly Meeting at West Chester Meeting, January 26, 2020 - Minutes

**Opening Worship:** Chris McKenney (Clerk) - The meeting opened at 8:45 AM with a period of worship. Thirty-Five friends were present as the meeting began. Friends approved John Lavin as recording clerk to fill in for Marty Boston who is ill.

**Welcome to Newcomers:** Chris McKenney The clerk welcomed all newcomers and invited them to introduce themselves but no one identified themselves.

**Monthly Meeting Count:** (Birmingham, Concord, Middletown, West Chester, Westtown, Willistown, Wilmington): Chris McKenney  
Representatives were present from all meeting in the Quarter except for Goshen and Chichester Meetings.

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

**Approval of Minutes** from October 25, 2019: Chris McKenney The minutes were approved without further correction.

**Report DVFS/Concord Quarter Care Committee (Appendix 1):** Susan Brodesser gave a report from the Care Committee from Delaware Valley Friend's School. The report is attached as Appendix 1. The clerk asked how many Friends have been to DVFS taken a tour or participated in one of their events and some of those present had. The clerk noted that the future of Quakers is really dependent on organizations like these to instill Quaker values into our future generations.

**Report of Friendly Audit (Appendix 2):** David Wickard gave a report on the audit of Concord Quarter's finances. The report is attached as Appendix 2.

**Treasurer's Report (Appendix 3):** Charles Spadoni gave the Treasurer's report. It is attached as Appendix 3. Regarding the Friendly Audit, Charlie noted that the Clerk of the Quarter gets the statements mailed to him so there is an additional review step for the Quarter's finances. He noted that Lynne Piersol and Rich Ailes are working with him in reviewing suggestions from the audit committee regarding using "cloud storage" for the Quarter's financial records and they will make a recommendation at a future time. Lastly, Charlie noted that the Quarter does have workers compensation insurance if the Coordinator gets hurt on the job and he is looking into other insurance plans.

**Proposal for Youth Program Planning Group (Appendix 4):** Melinda Wenner Bradley reported on the proposal for a youth program planning group. The report is attached.

Melinda has reached out to some of the families within the Quarter about the planning group. The Coordinator has an e-mail list of families with children. It includes families who have come to events and have applied for Tuition assistance. Members of any Religious Ed, or Oversight committee in the monthly meetings would be able to make sure this program information is shared appropriately within the Quarter.

A Friend asked what the next steps are. If approved, the coordinator will put out a call for volunteers to be the core organizing group. They would work with the four monthly meetings hosting the Quarter.

Friends approved the proposed youth program planning group and directed the Quarter Coordinator to ask for volunteers to serve in its core organizing group.

**Consideration of Bucks County QM Gun Protest Minute (Appendix 5):** Chris McKenney read Birmingham Meeting's response to the Buck's County QM's Gun Protest Minute. It is attached as Appendix 5.

West Chester Meeting has reviewed the minute and Birmingham's minute. Birmingham Meeting agreed with most of the Buck's County minute but there was a concern about the concrete actions. It was unclear who would organize lead the suggested actions. Celia Lang noted that the letter from Birmingham's Peace and Social Concerns committee letter raised an active discussion and we still have lingering questions, but Birmingham Meeting supports the spirit of the minute. The most important message Birmingham Meeting has is that we should heed God's call to action on this important issue.

A Friend asked about how this minute relates to FCNL's work on commonsense gun legislation. The response was that the argument that FCNL makes to legislators is amplified by Friends actively witnessing against gun violence. A discussion ensued about the current status of the minute with PYM. The minute was accepted by PYM's Quaker Life Council but there have been no concrete actions approved. The Quaker Life Council is currently threshing the minute with regard to Buck's Quarter. Friends were asked how the minute sits with them. A concern was raised that the Bucks Quarter Minute appears to be asking others to do something instead of taking the concern up and acting on it. A Friend liked the more specific nature of Birmingham's minute to begin the process and act on the concern.

Friends approved uniting around supporting the spirit of the Bucks Quarter Minute, but also asked for more concrete actions and/or a planning group to be formed to consider many potential actions, and to consider state-level actions in addition to national action. The Quarter recommends that PYM take up further discernment on this concern at either the March Continuing sessions or another appropriate time as soon as can be organized. This minute will be forwarded to both the Quaker Life Council and Bucks Quarter.

Friends approved having an ad-hoc committee formed to represent the Quarter's minute at PYM's Continuing sessions in March. Bruce Harrison, Chris Smith, and Celia Lang agreed to serve. Other interested Friends should reach out to Bruce.

**Coordinator Report (Appendix 6):** Lynne Piersol gave the Concord Quarter's Coordinator Report. It is attached as Appendix 6.

**Reading of Minutes for Approval:** Recording Clerk - John Lavin read action items from the minutes.

**Second Count of Meetings and Members in Attendance:** Chris McKenney. Forty members were present at the end of the meeting. All meetings except Goshen and Chichester were represented.

#### **Appendix 1: Care Relationship between Concord Quarter and Delaware Valley Friends School - Annual Report to Concord Quarter January 26, 2020**

The establishment of the Care Relationship of Concord Quarter for Delaware Valley School (DVFS), approved by the Quarter on October 28, 2018, is intended to provide a vibrant, active, and meaningful connection between the Quarter and the School, with a focus on spiritual life and nurture of the Quaker identity of the School. Likewise, the School is an outreach of Friends faith and practice to the greater world, with a particular focus on students who learn differently and their families.

The Quarter and the School jointly established a Care Committee that consists of six members, three of which were appointed by the Quarter and three were appointed by the School. The nominations of Susan Brodesser (Birmingham MM), Ginny Sutton (Westtown MM), and Tom Ceresini (Middletown MM) to be the Quarter representatives on the committee were approved on January 27, 2019. David Calamaro, Associate Head of School and Academic Dean; Gray Goodman, Friend in Residence and Student Government Advisor; and Christa Harp, Trustee of the Board, were appointed as representatives of the School. The clerk of the committee (currently Susan Brodesser) was selected by the Quarter in consultation with the senior administration of the School. Lynne Piersol, Quarter Coordinator, assists with administrative tasks of the Committee. Meetings are open to all members of the Quarter and School communities.

The Care Relationship Committee met three times during 2019; the focus of the meetings was to plan for events and other means of maintaining an active connection between the Quarter and the School. Outcomes of this planning included:

1. Inviting all Quarter members to join students, faculty, and administration for Meeting for Worship on Thursday mornings (RSVP required). Several Quarter members have availed themselves of this opportunity and have found it to be a meaningful experience.
2. Quarter representatives on the committee sharing information about DVFS and making announcements about DVFS events in their individual monthly meetings
3. Lynne publicizing Quarter and School events and activities to which both communities were invited, such as
  - The Musical, written and performed by students, 4/11—4/12
  - Presentation by Dr. Amanda Kemp at Quarterly Meeting, 4/28
  - DVFS Arts Fest, 5/10
  - Hayride and Potluck, 10/6

Participation in Birmingham MM's Friendly Beast Ensemble, 12/22

4. Kirk Smothers, David Calamaro, Gray Goodman, and Elizabeth Kriynovich providing an excellent and well-received presentation about the School's values, mission and teaching methods at the October 27th Quarterly Meeting

5. The School's arranging for Quarter and Board members to participate in a tour, followed by Meeting for Worship, 11/14. This was more than just a "tour" as participants were able to sit in classes for some time.

A number of Quarter and School community members have participated in the above activities, which has led to increased knowledge about and appreciation of each other's communities.

Plans that have been discussed but not implemented include:

- Social Service projects at individual MMs. Tentative plans for projects at Birmingham and Westtown MMs were discussed in September but neither monthly meeting could accommodate the number of students who would be working together.

Individual monthly meetings inviting members of the DVFS community to their meetings for worship or to other special activities.

- Arranging for structured conversations between students and Quarter members on topics of common interest and/or inviting students to present information at individual monthly meetings on topics of their own choosing.

- Making Quarter members available for consultation with students about Quaker tenets in relation to their committee work and to student life in general.

We believe that these efforts have been successful in beginning the process of developing a meaningful, mutually beneficial, and warm relationship between Concord Quarter and Delaware Valley Friends School. We look forward to expanding and deepening this connection and invite Quarter members to participate in the process by attending School events and Meetings for Worship, by inviting members of the School community to events and Meetings for Worship at Quarterly or Monthly Meetings, by attending Care Relationship Committee meetings to share their expertise/suggestions, and by lovingly holding our two communities in the Light as we continue our journey together.

Submitted by Tom Ceresini, Ginny Sutton, Susan Brodesser, David Calamaro, Gray Goodman, and Christa Harp, members of the Concord Quarter/Delaware Valley Friends School Care Relationship Committee.

#### **Appendix 4: Let's Get Together! A proposal to create a youth program planning group for Concord Quarterly Meeting gatherings**

Since January 2019, Friends have engaged across meetings to plan the children and youth programs at our Quarterly Meeting gatherings. This has created a sense of collaboration, intention, and connection between Friends – both the planners, and the young people attending programs!

At the Quarter's meeting for business in January, we'll consider a proposal to form a youth program planning group. This core group of volunteers would have care of working with the four host meetings to plan the youth programs for that year's Quarterly meetings. The host meetings for the four QM gatherings could send someone to serve on the group for the year, or a Friend from the host meeting could join the "core" planning group to serve for just the planning period before the QM they host. Interested Friends might serve for one year or renew to serve longer.

The children and youth program planners would work together to plan a year-long arc of program and communication to meetings and families, with the CQM Coordinator's support with communication. Collaborating to provide the four programs annually for youth in CQM means that the planners could build on an experience, project, or conversation from one event to the next, while also creating programs that connect with the main CQM program each time. Experience in the last year has shown that this approach could continue to grow the sense of connection among the youth in the Quarter.

The proposed plan will also serve to support meetings where there isn't a religious education committee, or families with children currently in the meeting; regardless of whether a host meeting sends someone to the planning group, a program will be planned for each QM gathering. If Quaker communities are going to be vital and grow, we need to be paying explicit attention to families and children, and this is an opportunity to try an idea toward that end.

#### **Appendix 6: Coordinator Report for Concord Quarterly Meeting, January 26, 2020**

The late fall of 2019 was a busy time for me as your Coordinator, for events, committees and planning ahead. The Working Group on Aging Concerns has met three times since October Quarterly Meeting and offered a very successful workshop called "Organized for Life" on downsizing, decluttering and the feelings that can get in the way. We were generously hosted by Willistown Meeting and had 26 people present on November 16 for the presentation by Carol Bernard of Hockessin Meeting. Three non-Quakers attended who saw it posted on Facebook (using Facebook tools I "boosted" the event). Many stayed for lunch and the evaluations were very positive. Our next event will be a workshop in May with Susan Hoskins, Director of Friends Foundation on the Aging. We have also produced a simple checklist for helping those you leave behind called "At Your Fingertips" which can be found on the website in the aging concerns section. We have also connected with the new director of The Hickman, Jen Karsten. The Working Group welcomes anyone interested in learning more about aging concerns and helping to plan activities.

Also, in November was an event at Delaware Valley Friends School open to those in the Quarter for worship and a tour. The DVFS/Concord Quarter Care Committee met recently and you will hear more about that in their report today. There are 3 members of the Care Committee from Concord Quarter, and 3 from DVFS, but anyone is welcome to attend the meetings which are 3 times a year. I take the minutes for this group and help with logistics, including publicity for our and DVFS events. We scheduled the annual Parents' Morning Off event for an earlier date than usual, the Saturday before Thanksgiving and that seemed to work well. We had 14 youth attend from Western and Concord Quarter who enjoyed activities jointly planned by both Quarters. Cheryle Oshman Blunt and a Westtown student volunteer coached participants through an outdoor game of Frazzlerham and we all enjoyed a pizza lunch. Some children expressed an interest in doing this more than once a year!

Other duties have included gearing up for the application process for the Quarter's Tuition Aid program (due February 17), writing for the newsletter about my experience attending the PYM Thread Gathering on Religious Education and Youth Work hosted by Wilmington Meeting, and the usual announcements, Facebook posting, calendar posting and mailing out the newsletter. I am also working with Deb Wood as the Western Quarter Coordinator on plans for a joint Quarterly Meeting on April 26 to be held at Kennett Meeting. Birmingham Meeting, whose turn it would normally be, is helping with logistics. I also coordinated dates with Willistown Meeting, the band and the caller for the annual Square Dance to be held February 22. We experimented with having an evaluation form at Quarterly Meeting and I saw some interest in having some other events, but we only had 18 responses, so please make sure you fill it out today!! I'd love to help organize more events if you want them!

*Editor's Note: Appendix 2: the Treasurer's Audit, Appendix 3: Treasurer's Report, and Appendix 5: Birmingham Minute, are available on our website at*

<https://concordquarter.org/documents/?category=Minutes>

**Concord Quarterly Meeting Newsletter**  
**Volume 17 Issue 2 April 2020**

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Birmingham  
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Goshen  
Middletown  
West Chester  
Westtown  
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