

Concord Quarterly News

of the Religious Society of Friends

Concord Quarterly Meeting Newsletter Volume 17, Issue 4, October 2020

Covid-19 – How Local Groups Are Helping

(Ed Note: Our next QM will be held on October 25 via Zoom, with Meeting for Business followed by a joint Meeting for Worship with Middletown Monthly Meeting. Our program will be held via Zoom on Wednesday October 28, from 7 to 8:30 PM. Read below for information on this timely presentation.)

Two months ago I asked some members of Middletown Meeting what program they would like to promote at our upcoming Concord Quarterly Meeting this October. As the Covid pandemic had been dragging on (and still is) one member voiced his frustration at not being able to reach out and support those folks in marginalized communities who were most at risk from the pandemic's effects. Why not present ways that Friends could support those groups in our local communities? Planning Committee liked the idea and Lynne Piersol, Debbie Murray-Sheppard and I went searching. What we came up with were three organizations that have been supporting such groups for years: The Foundation for Delaware County, the Chester County Community Foundation, and the Delaware Community Foundation. All three have many millions in endowments to support their community work. Their grantees lists present a ready-made selection of groups doing work in our communities. Each has a Covid-19 Fund.

The Foundation for Delaware County (FDC) is the youngest. It has had a rather out-of-the-ordinary beginning in 2016. With the sale of the Crozer-Keystone Health System to the for-profit Prospect Medical Holdings Inc. company, federal law required that the CKHS community health programs and the foundation that supported them, be spun off to a another non-profit. The Foundation was born out of this transaction. Initially FDC's principle grant-making focus was on programs that improved maternal and child health — particularly for children living in poverty. In 2018 they provided over \$1 million in grant money to community organizations. They continue to provide similar financial support and have expanded greatly the list of the groups they are helping. Katie Kenyon is the Community Engagement Director for FDC and will be one of our presenters at our October 28 program. Katie has a long career in social service, having worked in the shelter and domestic abuse fields since 1997.

The Chester County Community Foundation has a much longer history behind it. Started back in 1994 by four prominent Chester County philanthropists with \$174,000 seed money from an estate of a successful Coatesville lawyer. Fast forward to today and CCCF now has over \$60 million in assets, approximately 400 funds, and has awarded nearly \$40 million via 9,200 grants and scholarships. Stephenie (Steph) Stevens is the Grant & Outreach Officer for CCCF and will be one of our presenters at our October 28 program. Steph has a long administrative history working with philanthropic groups and uses her expertise to build relationships with prospective donors and support community outreach initiatives.

The Delaware Community Foundation is among the largest community foundations in the country, started in 1986. Pierre S. duPont III, an active board member of the United Way of Delaware, brought together a large group of philanthropists to create the foundation. The News Journal and parent company Gannett provided start-up money. In 1989, the state of Delaware provided a \$2 million grant to bolster the endowment. The foundation has current assets of over \$270 million. Sarah Grunewald is the Vice President for Community Impact at the organization. Sarah has a long history in the education field. She leads DCF's community engagement work

and will be our third presenter on October 28.

All three Foundations reacted quickly to the developing crisis last Spring. Having direct contact with their grantees and other local groups they saw the effect of the contagion and the lockdowns for their marginalized populations. Fulfilling basic needs (food, diapers, hygiene products) and getting access to support services and healthcare was apparent. CCCF produced the Covid-19 Rapid Response Fund, FDC produced the Delaware County COVID-19 Response Fund, and DCF produced the Delaware COVID-19 Strategic Response Fund. All three funds essentially do the same thing: provide immediate and longer-term resources to nonprofits serving vulnerable residents during the pandemic. The funds draw financial support from their respective Donor Advised Funds and individual contributions from local citizens and organizations. In the last six months all have provided hundreds of thousands of dollars to needy groups in their communities.

The list of community groups which these foundations are supporting are too numerous for this article but here are a few examples.

Chester County Community Foundation Covid-19 Grantees:

[La Comunidad Hispana](#): a diverse, dynamic care team that is dedicated to helping adults, teens, and children to be healthy and stay healthy.

[The Clinic](#): a licensed and insured free medical clinic which does not bill patients or require a fee, but patients can make a voluntary contribution toward care, if they are able.

[Home of the Sparrow](#): provides supportive housing services to single women and mothers who are experiencing homelessness or in danger of losing their homes.

The Foundation of Delaware County Covid-19 Grantees:

[Multicultural Community Family Services](#): works towards improving the social determinants of health for seniors, children, youth and families thru the delivery of culturally targeted community programs for immigrant groups in Philadelphia and Delaware Counties.

[Chester Community Coalition](#): provides trauma-informed support services to families directly affected by violence.

[Teachers' Teammates](#): brings together resources to offer all teachers in Delaware County the opportunity to receive free or low-cost supplies to use in their classrooms.

The Delaware Community Foundation Covid-19 Grantees:

[Latin American Community Center](#): empowers the Latino Community through education, advocacy, partnerships and exceptional services.

[Reading Assist Institute](#): provides direct, intensive intervention to students inside schools, using a unique public-private-nonprofit partnership to serve struggling readers.

[Partners for Justice](#): trains non-attorney advocates to work inside the legal systems. Advocates provide clients with person-to-person legal navigation while helping public defenders protect people from incarceration.

On Wednesday night, October 28 you can learn more about what local groups in our communities are doing to help marginalized people survive in our Covid-19 world. Perhaps what is more important you can find out how you or your Meeting members can get involved with either financial or volunteer support. – *Rich Ailes, Middletown Meeting*



A Report from PYM Annual Sessions 2020



This year, due to the pandemic, PYM held its 340th Annual Sessions (July 29 – August 2, 2020) online. I had the great pleasure of attending both in person at the College of New Jersey in the past, as well as virtually this year.

Pre-pandemic involved washing and packing clothes, then driving to New Jersey. During the pandemic, it was a matter of rolling out of bed, heating a morning beverage and sitting in front of a computer screen. Pre-pandemic we made new friends and shared meals with them. During the pandemic we made new friends during small-group breakout sessions. Still, I wasn't alone in missing the face-to-face experience of live sessions. Let's take a moment to grieve that we couldn't meet in person this year. ...

Despite the lack of social closeness, and the occasional computer glitch (like the time when attendees to Chris Mohr's first Friendly Bible Hour were accidentally funneled into the Worship Sharing session), I think PYM got it right in so many ways. The online sessions were free, and open to anyone who might not have been able to make the three or five-day commitment to attend in person.

I was unable to "see" all that was offered, but here's a brief summary of what I experienced.

Affinity Spaces: This session met on Thursday afternoon and was designed, per the description, "to create intentional opportunities for engagement, checking in, and community building among Friends." The topic, which featured prominently through this year's sessions, and with good reason, was to discuss racial injustice. Naturally, we all agreed that something needed to be done. Someone let out the battle cry, "What are we going to do?" We were a group of Quakers wanting to right the wrongs done to the folks of color. We wanted a grand gesture. Friends fervently keyed their plans into the chat box. Maybe I misinterpreted their intentions, but long after the session ended, I began to wonder, where was God in our conversation? Not, why wasn't He present at our meeting, but why didn't anyone say, "What does God want us to do?" Additionally, did our

yearning for a grand gesture take our eyes off the small gestures, that, when done by enough people, turn into a big one?

Thursday Night: PYM's Poet in Residence, Zenaida Peterson (preferring the pronoun "they"), gave a lively keynote. Their poems were empowering and needed to be told. Though the topics were serious, while speaking to the group, Zenaida projected an endearing playfulness, beaming at us through the screen with contagious, joyous energy.

One of the wonders of Zoom meetings is you get to people watch. During one of Zenaida's readings, an elderly Friend, sat with her head back, eyes closed and mouth partly open. My first thought was, she's only sleeping, right? Thankfully she opened her eyes and sat up. That isn't to say the poetry was slow-moving or hard to follow, it was simply a little late for an older Friend. [To see the presentation, including the Yearly Meeting poem she created from reflections from Friends, here is the link:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dFT_HSFdfQ0&feature=youtu.be

Friday Night: Keynote speaker, Naomi Madaras, spoke about early Quakers and abolition. She began with the question, "What are your earliest memories of learning about Quakers and slavery?" The reality wasn't quite what many Friends had been taught. [To see the presentation in full, here is the link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tp0Kjligy1Y&feature=youtu.be>

Meetings for Worship: As might be expected, the most significant moments occurred during the meetings for worship held on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. The vocal ministry was heartfelt and meaningful. On the last day of sessions, there were multiple messages, but the one that remains with me still, is when a Friend became so moved by the spirit that she began to cry. She quickly muted, mid-message. A seasoned Friend said in a loving voice, "Never mute your tears." The Friend followed his advice. For a moment, she simply cried. I felt a welling in my own soul, that of spirit crying out to spirit, and shed tears along with her. It was the most powerful meeting I'd ever attended.

Annual Sessions only met online this year, but the spirit was still there.

- *Aud Suplee, West Chester Meeting*

Anti-Racism Group Formed at West Chester Friends



West Chester Friends Meeting recently formed an Anti-Racism Action Group. Their mission is to educate and bring awareness to issues of racial injustice and the systems that support it, and to take action, as individuals and as a faith community, to work toward anti-racism.

The group was formed after Marina Pavluk, a member of West Chester Monthly Meeting, felt a

leading to do this work.

"After the George Floyd killing my heart felt heavy," Marina expressed. "I felt under the weight of a concern and felt a Divinely inspired sense of personal responsibility to do something about the problem of racism and racial injustice.

As I do in times of need for discernment or support, I turned to my Meeting community. I expressed the idea of forming a group at West Chester Meeting to address racism. Support from Meeting was immediate, and several other members/attenders of Meeting stepped forward and we formed the Anti-Racism Action Group."

The group will encourage individual and Meeting-wide actions to combat systemic racism. One of the group's goals is to recommend an action item each month for at least a year. Action items include steps meeting members and attenders can take to benefit the current civil rights movement. This could mean educating oneself through videos, articles, or books, or taking action by donating to selected local charities that benefit the black community or purchasing from black owned businesses.

The group's first action item was to watch the movie 13th and hold a group Zoom discussion about the film. The film 13th explores the "intersection of race, justice, and mass incarceration in the United States;" it is titled after the Thirteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, adopted in 1865, which abolished slavery throughout the United States and ended involuntary servitude except as a punishment for conviction of a crime.

It famously begins with an audio quote of President Obama stating, "The U.S. is home to 5% of the world's population and we have 25% of the world's prison population." The prison problem and its roots are laid out clearly through the documentary's attention-grabbing style.

"We had a good group discussion that was lively and deep," Marina shared. "Everyone was engaged and said that they learned a lot from the movie. We had some young folks, a middle schooler and high schooler and a former magisterial judge, so there was a breadth to the discussion that was beneficial."

The group is in the process of buying a Black Lives Matter banner from a black owned business to be displayed outside the meetinghouse. The sign will have ample viewers in the borough of West Chester, just down the street from the county courthouse, where peaceful demonstrators, including Friends from West Chester Monthly Meeting, were protesting regularly for the first few months of the Black Lives Matter movement.

The group also discussed the first three videos from "Uncomfortable Conversations with a Black Man" on Zoom on Wednesday, September 23.

Additional future actions from the group may include suggesting donations be made to specific organizations working to change systems of racism, encouraging holiday purchases from locally owned black businesses and reading a book together as a Meeting.

Group members continue to educate themselves by reading books and articles, watching movies, listening to podcasts and YouTube videos and availing themselves of Quaker and PYM related resources.

Steve Lozowski, a member of the Anti-Racism Action Group put the group's goals this way: "Racism needs to be addressed internally and externally and the Anti-Racism Action Group hopes to suggest actions that will change us and the world."

- *Diane Zappas – West Chester Meeting*

Where will we live in our later years?

Ever since my parents moved into Pennswood Village, a Quaker Continuing Care Retirement Community (CCRC) in 1990 and had excellent care for the rest of their lives, I wanted to do the same thing as I aged. They were young by today's standards – 67 and 70. Their move, from Rochester, NY to Bucks County meant they had cleared out their house and moved where they were cared for seamlessly for the rest of their lives. My brother, who was out of the country at that time, and I did not have to worry about care arrangements from a distance. There certainly were still things to do, including taking over their finances when my mom became ill, and supervising the care of my dad who had dementia. But Pennswood helped me sell a car and clear out their apartment. Their move was definitely a gift to me and my brother.

However, my situation is different. I worked in a similar field to my dad, supervising in the social services, but also took off many years to raise children (as did my mom). Both my parents got to retire at 62 (my mom worked part-time as a public health nurse) and had pensions plus Social Security for income. They had a house to sell to pay the "buy in" fee at Pennswood. I worked full-time until age 66, and now work part-time. We do not have a house to sell and neither of us has a pension, although we have some savings. My husband still works full-time. One of our children lives with us, although that won't be a permanent situation. It's harder for young college graduates today to be financially independent than it was when we graduated.

What will we do when we need more support? None of our children are in a position to care for us, and we don't want to ask them to take that responsibility. Some are nearby and could help with some aspects if needed. I want to live where there is a vibrant community with opportunities to get involved, and supportive services available when needed. My husband would like a wood shop, to volunteer with young children, and to be near woods for hiking. And he is vegan, so food is an issue. Ideally, we'd like to be somewhere run by a faith community or a non-profit with strong values of equity and service.

We started to look at CCRCs especially Quaker ones. The ones we looked at so far seem expensive. Monthly fees are way more than our Social Security would cover, even including income from our investments. We



do understand there can sometimes be financial help from PYM and even from the CCRCs themselves, either up front, or when your money runs out. Recently we started working with a Financial Advisor to help us with financial plans as we age, and it has made us pay more attention to what things cost!

We plan to visit some non-Quaker CCRCs, such as ones run by the Mennonites, which seem to be cheaper. Facilities which include independent living and personal care, but don't include skilled nursing also seem less expensive. I remember hearing that The Hickman, which provides personal care, really tries to keep people there at the end, and not send them out to skilled nursing if possible.

The whole search is helping us discern what is important as we consider what to do. In addition to some of the wishes expressed above we are asking: What kind of supports do we want to have in place? Where is the nearest Quaker meeting and what is it like? How long could we safely wait to move? What diversity is there among the staff, residents and Boards? What kind of assistance might they have if our money runs out?

We also know it is important to look at what the monthly fees include. For example, some contracts provide one meal a day; others might provide three meals a day. Monthly fees might also include all your utilities, or not, and you don't have to do yard work or home maintenance anymore! Comparing monthly price alone might not give a comprehensive picture of the monthly cost.

What happens if we need skilled nursing? It is not covered by Medicare except for a short stint of rehab. A contract at a CCRC that includes skilled nursing means the monthly fees are higher, but then they don't go up when you need nursing care. But those fees seem beyond us. Another option is an "a la carte" contract where the independent living monthly fee is much lower, and fees go up as you use more services. If we need skilled nursing, it would be also good to figure out where to go that also accepts Medicaid (government assistance) when our money runs out.

So, we are still looking around, figuring out what we can afford, and taking good care of ourselves! I know there is a plan for us somewhere!

- Lynne Piersol – CQM Coordinator & Swarthmore Meeting member

Finding Unity by Answering That of God in the Other

(Ed note: Upon asking for a reflection on our Braver Angels workshop where the emphasis was placed on treating political differences with respect, this ministry was provided.)

Empathetic conversation. What a wonderful gift. Listening deeply to someone and uncovering the values, fears, and dreams shaping their life, and sharing your own values, dreams, and fears with someone. Being heard without judgment, hearing without judgment. Asking questions to learn more. A conversation grounded in learning more about another and with openness to learn more about yourself. Revealing. Transforming.



I witnessed what happens when there is a commitment from all parties to listening for and sharing what deeply matters to someone in a recent committee meeting.

We were all Friends that shared a common concern, but our shared concern is shaped by different experiences. While as Quakers we know that building peace rests on seeing that of God in everyone, the hurts and fears we experience(d) makes it a challenge to always look and act with loving kindness. In this meeting, our coming to unity required a space free of judgement. In that space, one Friend, who could no find unity with our group, was able to share the fears that underlay his (initial) disunity.

After sharing his fears, these were acknowledged by others. They were not dismissed or critiqued, but instead reflected back to him with acknowledgement that his fears were real to him. He trusted that he would experience from us empathetic listening, and when he did, when

we shared with him we heard the existential threat he felt, he then found himself in a position to lay his fears aside and focus on how Friends testimony led him. We reached unity not just on the issue at hand, but in placing faith in empathetic conversation. Listening with a spirit of love and feeling that love from the listeners left all of us feeling more deeply connected to each other and to the divine.

What I witnessed that day brought back to me ministry from Friend Jondhi Harrell. He spoke of a favorite George Fox quotation.

"Be patterns, be examples in all countries, places, islands, nations wherever you come; that your carriage and life may preach among all sorts of people, and to them; then you will come to walk cheerfully over the world, answering that of God in everyone; whereby in them you may be a blessing, and make the witness of God in them to bless you."

He lifted up the second part of the quotation, "answering that of God." When we are open to that of God manifest in another, not placing our sense of God in that person, then we "answer" God. When we are empathetic, hearing what is said to us, rather than projecting what we feel or believe to be there, then we are answering.

Answering God in this way is also perhaps the key to the first part of the quotation. Our lives will be patterns to follow when we answer God in another. Empathetic conversation, when we do it, allows us entry to have that of God in us, answer that of God in another.

- Deb Wood – Westtown Monthly Meeting

**Presentation by The Foundation for Delaware County &
the Chester County Community Foundation &
The Delaware Community Foundation
October 28, 2020 on Zoom 7-8:30 PM
Sponsored by Concord Quarterly Meeting**



Local Groups on the Front Lines of the Covid Crisis

Our continuing experience with the Covid-19 pandemic may cause us to be isolated from the people who are the neediest in our communities. Join us for a presentation by administrators from three of our area's largest foundations who've taken it upon themselves to provide financial support to community groups who are working everyday with at risk populations. They will provide information on some of the local groups working in our communities with vulnerable populations.

Katie Kenyon is the Community Engagement Director for The Foundation for Delaware County. She works with The Foundation's public health programs growing external partnerships to improve Maternal and Child Health outcomes throughout the county.

Stephanie (Steph) Stephens is the Grant & Outreach Officer for the Chester County Community Foundation. She works with the President /CEO and VP of Philanthropy Services to strategically enhance the Foundation's position as a leading partner in legacy philanthropy.

Sarah Gruenwald is the Vice President for Community Impact at the Delaware Community Foundation. She leads the DCF's community engagement work, including overseeing grantmaking and scholarship programs and facilitating public-private partnerships throughout the state.

This is a special event that requires registration by October 27. You will be sent the Zoom in an email confirmation.

For more info contact Lynne Piersol at concordquarter@pym.org

Register by October 27 at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84461212693>

Please Note: Our Concord Quarterly Meeting Covid-19 Presentation will be separate (on Oct 28) from our Business/Worship sessions which occurs on October 25

Please see the notice at the bottom of our Calendar of Events on page 4

Concord Quarterly Meeting by Zoom, July 21, 2020 - Minutes

Opening Worship—Debbie Murray-Sheppard

The meeting opened at 8:30 AM with a period of worship. Nineteen friends were present as the meeting began.

Welcome to Newcomers--Debbie Murray-Sheppard (Clerk)

The clerk welcomed all newcomers and invited them to introduce themselves. Jen Karsten, Executive Director from the Hickman introduced herself. The clerk welcomed Tonya Thames Taylor from Western Quarter as well.

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

Nineteen representatives were present from all meetings in the Quarter except Chichester Meeting.

Approval of Agenda--Debbie Murray-Sheppard

The group approved the agenda, with the change of presenter for the DVFS/CQ Care Committee Report from Ginny Sutton to Gray Goodman.

Approval of Minutes from April 26, 2020--Debbie Murray-Sheppard -The minutes from April were approved as presented.

Joys and Challenges Report from Goshen Meeting (attached)--Laura Laky presented the joys and challenges report from Goshen Meeting. The Meeting is now meeting outdoors as weather permits. When the group meets there is also a connection available on Zoom for those who can't be present in person.

Joys and Challenges Report from West Chester Meeting (attached)-- Deb Lyons gave the joys and challenges report from West Chester Meeting.

Appreciation was expressed for the "Open Door" committee. The Meeting is using a wireless internet connection. Tonya Thames Taylor expressed appreciation to the Meeting for using a Pendle Hill pamphlet for a study group.

Report from The Hickman (attached)-- Jennifer Karsten, Executive Director of the Hickman, gave the yearly report to the Quarter from the Hickman. The Hickman has had no residents with COVID-19 infections to date and they continue to work to keep the residents safe. Jen thanked the Concord Quarter Meetings for their support for the Hickman. The Hickman is recruiting volunteers for a safety team to help with screening family visitors to the Hickman and would appreciate anyone who is interested to contact her. The Hickman currently has openings for new residents.

Report from DVFS/Concord Quarter Care Committee (attached)—Gray Goodman, a faculty member at Delaware Valley Friends School, gave the report from the school's Care Committee. The school had distance learning in the spring via Zoom. In the fall the school will meet in person with student distancing and other safety precautions in place. The meeting held the school, faculty, and students in the Light.

Treasurer's Report (attached)--Charles Spadoni gave the Treasurer's report. The clerk thanked Charlie for his work on the budget. The Quarter had approved next year's budget at the last Quarterly meeting.

Working Group on Aging Concerns Report (attached)--Rich Ailes gave a report from the Working Group on Aging Concerns. In October the group will be presenting a workshop by Susan Hoskins on senior housing for Friends of modest income.

Coordinator Report (attached)-- Lynne Piersol, Coordinator for Concord Quarter gave a report. She has been helping the meetings in the Quarter with Zoom meetings and is willing to help with Zoom issues if meetings need help. She is archiving documents at the Friends Historical Library. The Quarter documents are also backed up on iDrive for \$60 per year. Lynne would like to know if meetings in the Quarter are working on racial justice issues so she can share resources. Debbie Murray-Sheppard invited friends to join the Quarter's Planning Committee next Sunday at 2 PM via Zoom. If interested, let Lynne Piersol know and she will email a link for the Zoom meeting.

The Meeting discussed the following query: "What steps are we taking as a meeting to inform ourselves about social injustice and ecological violence embedded in our political and economic systems" – Faith and Practice, p.211--Debbie Murray-Sheppard and group

Wilmington Friends Meeting had a Black Lives Matter demonstration at the Meeting house on July 4th with 150 people attending. Wilmington Friends Meeting is doing outreach to the community.

Westtown Meeting's Peace and Social Concerns Committee is looking at how to stay in relationship with Westtown School on the issues of social justice and ecological issues.

West Chester Meeting has started a racial justice group. Students from West Chester Friend's School participated in a climate march on September 19, 2019, and they also attended a meeting in the West Chester Borough to advocate for change to help the environment.

Reading of Minutes for Approval-- Marty Boston reported that there were no action items from today's meeting.

Second Count of Meetings and Members in Attendance--Marty Boston (Recording Clerk)

There were 20 people present at the end of the meeting. All meetings except Chichester were represented.

The Hickman Annual Report to Concord and Western Quarter Joint Quarterly Meeting – July 2020

The Hickman Friends Senior Community of West Chester offers warm Greetings to Friends throughout Concord and Western Quarters. Now in our 129th year as a welcoming community for older adults, we continue to offer an engaging, caring, home-like residential environment.

In the time since we reported to you last July, the world around us has changed and the way we work and live here reflects that. Some of the bigger developments we experienced over the year include:

1. SEPTEMBER: A thoughtful executive leadership transition, from Pamela Leland to Jennifer Karsten.
2. OCTOBER/NOVEMBER: We initiated a strategic planning process, developed an exciting multi-year financial plan, and expanded our staff benefits & communications offerings.
3. DECEMBER: We finished our 2019 initiatives and prepared for a 2020 year to include programs in horticulture, nutrition, Quakerism (with visits from representatives of FCNL, QVS, AFSC, and others, open to the public), and some ecological elements outdoors. For example, in partnership with our next-door neighbor, West Chester Friends School, we began to install beehives and planned for chicken-keeping to bolster our time outdoors and supply of fresh food for the kitchen.
4. JANUARY/FEBRUARY: We started living into the plans for 2020, including final preparations for our yearly event The Art of Caring which raises funds for Resident Assistance. The Resident Assistance program allows us to cover fees for residents experiencing financial hardship. This long-time commitment to our residents reflects our view that no resident should have to leave The Hickman due to a change in their financial circumstances, nor should they worry about that while we work to craft a long-term solution. But, even as our event plans were coming together, the threat of a new virus was beginning to make news. We chose to cancel that event and the remainder of our in-person gatherings for the foreseeable future.
5. FEBRUARY/MARCH: COVID-19 introduced us to a wealth of new thinking, new tactics, new protocols, and a heightened awareness of transmission pathways. We put our original 2020 plans on hold, re-directing our focus to protecting resident-community health. We canceled the big fundraiser just weeks before its date and made early decisions to mask everyone and prohibit non-essential visitors.
6. APRIL/MAY: We accepted that COVID-19 would not be a “passing concern” and deepened our commitment to learning about the balance between long-term prevention and life-quality. For sake of the staff and the residents (and their families), we studied and discussed multiple ways of staying safe over an extended period while having good lives. Our Staff and our Board’s COVID Task Force groups worked quickly and harmoniously to implement new practices once their value was determined. Ultimately, we chose to be especially vigilant against the disease – at the cost of family members having time with their loved ones in residence; the staff enjoying liberties previously considered “normal” (food delivery, hugs); and residents making do with decreases in communal dining, outings, parties, and other routine activities.
7. JUNE/JULY: As the months have unfolded, the virus has become a lens over every plan and decision we make, and it’s both wearying and motivating. Weariness comes from hearing the ache from loved ones who cannot have proper visits with elderly relatives – and not having a way to “make it better”. Motivation comes from discovering “what’s possible” and seeing the endurance and creativity of everyone trying to make an acceptable path for themselves and for everyone else. Who could have guessed we would be using Virtual Reality and Facetime with people in their 80s and 90s this year? Who would have imagined everyone having their temperatures taken at work daily, or all staff and Board meetings occurring “virtually?”

We know that each of you is also living into all of this “change” – much of it unwelcome. We want to thank the many of you throughout Concord and Western Quarters who have been working on behalf of Aging Concerns; the individuals and Monthly Meetings who have reached out to support us with masks, prayers, supplies, and financial contributions. We feel the caring from you and wish to reciprocate it. It is our view that despite all that’s especially difficult right now, one “silver lining” is the comfort in knowing ourselves as part of a group (or multiple groups) in which the mission is uplifting to you. So...

If you or someone you know would be interested in deepening your relationship with us, we welcome you to consider one of the many doors into the Hickman community. Board or committee membership, offering an educational course or presentation to our residents, notifying us of grants available through an organization in which you’re involved, volunteering with us (even now!)...and, if we can support you or a loved one through consideration of moving here (now or down the line), we would be happy to do all we can to make an inspiring and easy Yes possible. Be well, Friends. We are grateful for you. -Submitted by Jen Karsten, Executive Director, on behalf of Betsy Stratton, Board Chair, and Andrea Taylor, Governance Committee Clerk.

Report from Concord Quarter/DVFS Care Relationship Committee - Concord Quarterly Meeting July 19, 2020

At the January 13, 2020 meeting of the Care Relationship Committee it was noted that the presentation by DVFS at October’s Quarterly Meeting was excellent and resulted in Quarter members becoming more acquainted with the school, its students, and its programs. Also noted: the November Tour and Worship at DV, which was attended by several Quarter and Board members, was informative and inspiring and the committee’s annual report was submitted to the Quarter in January.

Susan Brodesser, representing the Care Relationship Committee, has attended three of the school’s Quaker Life Committee Meetings. This is a Board committee that consists of several Board members, administrators, teachers, and representatives from each of the school’s committees and clubs. Susan has been impressed by the depth of the students’ consideration of such questions as, “In which of the testimonies is DV most/least strong?”; “How might the resources of the Quaker Life Committee be best used?”; “How might the Quaker aspect of the school be enhanced?”. One response to the last question was that the committee might seek Quarter assistance in fine tuning their business meetings.

The committee’s April 14, 2020, meeting was conducted via Zoom, due to COVID. David Calamaro, Associate Head of School and Academic Dean, reported that “everyone is working very hard to pull together, taking care of ourselves and one another”. He said that DV was in a good position to offer education electronically as the systems were already in place.

Gray Goodman, teacher and head of the Social Studies department, said that teachers have learned to do distance learning and they’re doing lots of individual follow-up with students. He also noted that for some student’s distance learning has benefits in that there are fewer distractions. For others, it can be harder to keep up with assignments. Students are appreciative of the fact that schedules are designed so they can have face time with all students, not just those in their small classes.

Christa Harp, DVFS trustee, reported that the Board is continuing to meet via Zoom and is working to support and express appreciation for staff and faculty. Disappointingly, student service projects that had been planned for May at Birmingham, Westtown, and Wilmington meetings had to be cancelled due to COVID. The next meeting of the Care Relationship Committee is planned for September 15, 2020, at 3:15 pm. All are invited to attend; contact Susan or Lynne if you wish to participate. - Susan Brodesser, clerk

Editor’s Note: Goshen and West Chester Joys and Challenges Reports, Aging Concerns Report, Treasurer’s Report, and the Coordinator’s Report are available on our website at <https://concordquarter.org/documents/?category=Minutes>

Concord Quarterly Meeting Newsletter
Volume 17 Issue 4 October 2020

Rich Ailes, Editor
310 Park Avenue
Swarthmore, PA 19081

Clerk: Debbie Murray-Sheppard
Asst. Clerk: Chris McKenney
Recording Clerk: Marty Boston
Treasurer: Charles Spadoni
Coordinator: Lynne Piersol

Address Service Requested

Concord Quarter Meetings

Appoquinimink Preparative (Under Care of Wilmington MM)
Birmingham
Chichester (Under Care of Concord MM)
Concord
Goshen
Middletown
West Chester
Westtown
Willistown
Wilmington

Editor: Rich Ailes

Published: January, April, July and October

Phone: 610-543-7321

Submissions Due: March 15, June 15, September 15 and December 15

Staff E-mail: concordquarter@pym.org