

# Concord Quarterly News

of the Religious Society of Friends

## Concord Quarterly Meeting Newsletter Volume 18, Issue 4, October 2021

### Climate Change: "Think Globally, Act Locally"



"Climate change [is] widespread, rapid, and intensifying" was the headline when the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released its [Sixth Assessment Report](#) on August 9th. Established in 1988 by the United Nations Environment Program and the World Meteorological Organization, the IPCC provides political leaders with periodic scientific assessments concerning the implications and risks of climate change, as well as putting forward adaptation and mitigation strategies.

The report's findings will be at the center of the upcoming UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) scheduled to convene October 31 - November 12 in Glasgow, Scotland. Strikingly, the recent IPCC report provides new estimates of the chances of crossing the global warming level of 1.5°C in the next decades, and finds that unless there are immediate, rapid and large-scale reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, limiting warming to close to 1.5°C or even 2°C will be beyond reach.

The report also shows that human actions still have the potential to determine the future course of climate. The evidence is clear that carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) is the main driver of climate change, even as other greenhouse gases and air pollutants also affect the climate. "Stabilizing the climate will require strong, rapid, and sustained reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, and reaching net zero CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Limiting other greenhouse gases and air pollutants, especially methane, could have benefits both for health and the climate," according to Panmao Zhai, a Chinese climatologist who serves as IPCC Working Group I Co-Chair.

Faith communities around the globe are stepping up internationally and at the national level to meet the challenges of climate change. Our own Philadelphia Yearly Meeting took a major step forward at July Annual Sessions. Building on years of eco-justice and climate change activism, PYM established a Climate Change Sprint at Spring Continuing Sessions 2021 to discern and offer strategies for moving our witness forward. As minuted on July 31st, "We accepted with deep gratitude and approved [the Sprint's] work as forming a foundation for our way forward in our efforts to mitigate climate change."

Where do we fit in, and what can we as individuals, as monthly meetings, and as Concord Quarter do? Join us on Sunday, October 24th to learn more about the global and local context and the work summarized above, to share your ideas, and to hear from others about actions being taken and planned! We will be hosted virtually by Westtown Monthly Meeting, and the program will complement the compelling January 24th "an earth restored" quarterly session hosted by Goshen MM and featuring FCNL.

We recommend you review and reflect on these resources related to the IPCC report before the October Quarterly Meeting:

[5 Big Findings from the IPCC Report](#)  
[8 Things you need to Know](#)  
[Key Takeaways from the IPCC](#)  
[Just Have a Think on the IPCC Report](#)  
[Faith Leaders Response to IPCC Report](#)

In addition, in preparation for our October program, consider attending a local climate related event. There are several local opportunities to learn more about key strategies to address the transition called for by the IPCC report as well as interfaith global action days.

[Sept. 18 to Sept. 26 is National Drive Electric Week](#) (NDEW.org).

[Sep 25, 2021 - National Drive Electric Week in Ambler, PA](#) - As Vehicle emissions are #1 source of local air pollution and GHG for most of Pennsylvania. Attend an NDEW event to drive the EVs that are **NOW** available to reduce residential, township and business GHG emissions while **lowering costs**. Over 25 EVs shown by owners to ride and drive.

[September 29th](#) 7:30 PM you can attend *Efficiency First!: A How-to Webinar on Energy Efficiency* as a lead up to National Energy Efficiency Day. [Register here](#). *Energy efficiency is the cheapest, quickest way to meet our energy needs*, cut consumer bills and reduce pollution. Energy efficiency is also an economic engine, supporting more than 2.4 million jobs nationwide in manufacturing, construction and other fields – most of which can't be outsourced overseas. This webinar will include tips from a host from the Chester County Clean Energy Tour, a PECO Energy Efficiency specialist, and an analyst from PennEnvironment on state policies to improve energy efficiency.



Starting October 2nd [The National Solar Tour](#). [Chester County is offering a virtual county wide clean energy tour with more than 15 sites](#). There will be lots of great examples to watch in other parts of the region as well.

### [October 17-18 Interfaith Action](#)

Consider participating in the [Faiths 4 Climate Justice](#) global multi-faith action Sunday October 17 and Monday Monday October 18, calling on governments and institutions to act immediately and aggressively to address the climate emergency. **Faiths 4 Climate Justice** is a global multi-faith action with faith communities taking actions across the world. It is organized by the GreenFaith International Network and co-Sponsored by over 100 organizations, denominations, and lineages, representing more than 100 million people from Jewish, Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist, Sikh, Jain, Baha'i, Indigenous, Christian, and many more faith and spiritual backgrounds.

- *Jonathan Evans and Paula Kline - Westtown Meeting*

## The Epistle Committee: A Newcomer's Commitment



According to the dictionary an epistle is "a letter". Specifically, it is "a letter adopted as books of the New Testament". Ultimately, it is a "poem or literary work" directly addressing its desired audience. Letters are written for numerous reasons; informational exchange, expression of feeling and a call to action are among the many. The PYM Epistle published on August 1, 2021, was no exception. The words gathered by a few

Friends, coming from across the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting's wide area, summarized this year's annual session events with devoted attention and presence. I am proud to have served on this year's committee

When I signed up for the Epistle Committee, I thought I was going to be able to listen in and smoothly sail under the radar of a largely attended Zoom meeting. I was surprised to find myself and four other individuals participating. At that point in time I was just getting started in my position taking in a lot of new information, meeting a lot of new people and attending many required events. Gathering with this intimate group after hours gave me a unique perspective on what it is to be a Quaker.

My first introduction to Quakerism was during my visit to William Penn Charter in 2005. I was provided the privilege of insight to a world of encouragement, acceptance and accountability. If Quakers do anything they will surely hold you accountable and our unofficial leader of the committee and Rising Clerk of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, Melissa Rycroft, held true to this standard. She took notes and translated the flowing conversation while navigating the insistent tail of her loving feline in the process. Each of

the members contributed not only what they witnessed over the course of the annual sessions but also advice, feedback and laughter.

Each of the meetings left me light and smiling. Long days turning into long nights are not a foreign concept to me but to walk away from that long day with a sense of love and the fullness of spirit was a new experience all together.

I end with the words that we used to end our PYM epistle:

*"We leave [Annual Sessions] with an awareness of the work ahead of us and a commitment to move forward with our transformation. This is when we begin to apply the lessons, use the resources, and uplift the members of our community who have identified themselves as ready to serve. We recommit ourselves to the necessary work to help build the beloved community as we embrace the discomfort of growth and transformation. We are more than just Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, we are family."*

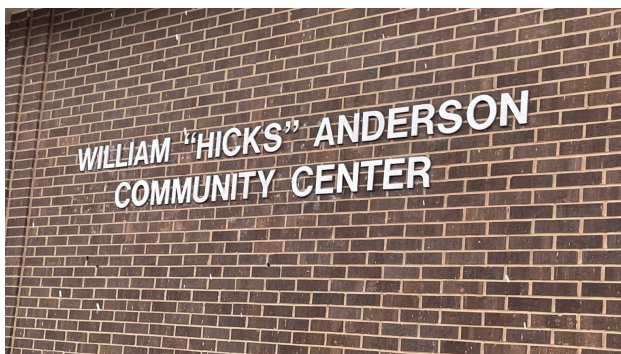
No one expected me to sign up for the epistle committee just like no one expects anyone to go above and beyond their line of duty. But the opportunity was presented and accepted. The time spent with the 2021 PYM Epistle committee showed me what good comes of moving at the will of spirit. I give thanks. B peace.

The full Epistle for this year can be read and found here: <https://www.pym.org/philadelphia-yearly-meeting-epistle-for-annual-sessions-2021/#more-15381>

- Bianca Santini-Dumas, CQM Coordinator

## Wilmington Meeting Does a "Reach Out" to the Community

Wilmington Monthly Meeting sits at Fourth and West Streets in Wilmington, Delaware, in the midst of a residential area. As a meeting, we became even more aware of the community within which we resided, especially during the Covid-19 pandemic and the stay-at-home advisory, as well as the lack of involvement we experienced as neighbors in this community. In typical Quaker fashion, we began many discussions about how we, as a Meeting, could become more engaged members of our community; we knew we could do better. A small contingent representative of meeting members reached out to the Wilmington Hicks Anderson Community Center (WHACC), only two and one-half blocks from our Meeting location. We were well received, guided on a tour of the facilities, and participated in a discussion focused on ways the community center and Wilmington Friends could work together to build a partnership.



Just a few weeks later, Wilmington Friends was asked to do a read aloud and craft or art activity for the younger age group during WHACC's summer camp. We worked with children from July 6<sup>th</sup> to August 20<sup>th</sup> twice a week. Meeting member volunteers participated in a preparatory planning session to select the read aloud books and to plan the supplemental activities that would go along with the read aloud books. While there was some apprehension around working for an hour with 6-to-8-year olds, as many volunteers were not teachers or had never before worked with children, the end result could not have been more rewarding. The summer camp sessions were fun; the crafts and supplemental activities included planting seeds, cutting and coloring projects,

singing, measuring activities, and table games. The summer camp sessions were filled with excitement, curiosity, and eagerness.

Wilmington Friends was also fortunate to support a seven week Young Writers Workshop entitled Pizza, Poetry, and Prose to school aged children at WHACC on Thursday evenings from 5:00 to 6:30. The purpose of the writer's workshop was to give a space for children to have a voice. The program concentrated on the children and who they are as people. Several models were used to help the children understand poetry and the sessions consisted of mini lessons but also focused on a different theme all revolving around the children and their voice.

For example, the first evening involved a mini-lesson on what poetry is all about with respect to rhyme, repetition, and comparison. We shared the poem, DREAMS by Langston Hughes from which we identified rhyme, repetition, and comparison. The children wrote I Am poems that first night. The other themes around which we wrote poetry included "Where I Am From, My Dreams, and If I Could Change the World." The children practiced the poems they wrote concentrating on speed and volume to emphasize their voice. As a final event for the workshop, the children invited others to the dramatic reading of their poetry held at the Wilmington Friends Meeting, and an open invitation to Wilmington Meeting Friends was extended. Everyone involved in the dramatic reading had a rewarding experience.

Overall, it was an impactful summer for the friends at Wilmington Meeting. Discussions are in the works for our next steps on our journey to be better neighbors in our community, in general, and better partners with the Wilmington Hicks Anderson Community Center in particular. - Deborah Fetzer, Wilmington Meeting



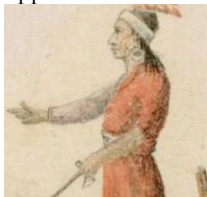
## A Trip to Wyalusing's Hidden Sachem

The Middletown Men's Group has a summer retreat every year to strengthen our Christian fellowship and to devote time and thoughts on ways to support our Meeting. This past August three of our group went to the Poconos in the hope we would learn about the experience of the First Nations people who had lived in an Indian peace community near Wyalusing PA. Our trip was inspired by John Woolman's encounter with the Lenni-Lenape/Munsee sachem (chief), Papunehung in 1763. This was the trip where Papunehung said of Woolman's ministry, "I love to feel where the words come from".

But our trip was also inspired by our Quaker pastor Friend, Ralph Greene who joined us all the way from "downeast" Maine. Ralph has had a long-standing interest in the First Peoples and their relationship with Quakers in the 17th and 18th century ([he has just published a book on this titled "Turtle Island \(First Peoples\)/Peaceable Kingdom \(Quaker\) - Encounters 1656-1799" based on early Quaker journal material](#)). He was very enthusiastic that we would visit Wyalusing which he knew to be the home of Papunehung, whom he considered a quintessential First Nation's man of peace.

Ralph has a fervent sense that the study of Papunehung and his community has lessons to teach modern day Friends. He brought two pamphlets regarding Papunehung. The first was about Papunehung's vision for a peace-oriented community which he established in the area near Wyalusing. The 2nd pamphlet was an account of Papunehung's visit to the Philadelphia Quaker community in 1760. This 2nd pamphlet titled "An Account of a Visit Lately Made by Papoonahoal, An Indian Chief..." was published in London in 1761 and gives an extraordinary view of the personality of this impressive sachem whose life story resembles somewhat that of our own George Fox. Papunehung went through a time of confusion and self-doubt complicated by severe alcoholism. He came through this period after he went through a vision quest which told him he was to build a beloved community for a people dedicated to peace. That community he gathered in 1752, came together on the east bank of the Susquehanna (north branch) near present day Wyalusing which was called M'chwhilussing.

There is not much available about the inner workings of this community, but we do know that Papunehung was widely respected for his great skill as a negotiator and diplomat. He had come in contact with Moravian missionaries in the 1750's and became attracted to their pacifist positions and emphasis on Christian love which closely matched his own developing spiritual view. He went to Philadelphia with a small band of supporters in 1760 at the request of the Quakers who were impressed by



his pacifist views which is detailed in Part 1 of the above-mentioned pamphlet.

Part 2 of this pamphlet describes how a Friend accompanied Papunehung back to his home region. This part contains several quotations of Papunehung which are quite remarkable, one of which follows:

*Being asked what he thought of war he answered, "It has been told to my heart that man was not made for that end; therefore I have ceased from war; yet I have not labored to bring about a peace as I should have done. I was made weak for that work by the bad spirit striving to overcome the good spirit in my heart; but I hope the good will overcome the bad and then I shall be strong to labor heartily to turn people from war to peace. I have often thought it strange that Christians are such great warriors and*

*have wondered they are not greater lovers of peace." For said he, "from the time God first showed himself to my mind and put his goodness in my heart, I found myself in such a temper, that I thought if the flesh had been whipped off me with horse whips, I could have born it without being angry at them that did it."*

With these pamphlets and Ralph Greene's guidance for our background we were able to learn a great deal about the noble yet tragic history of the First Nations peoples of this region, as well as share some deep Quaker worship and fellowship for four days. Ralph had been driven down by his son Jonathon who in one discussion provided us some insights on how to make our Meeting more attractive to younger people. We were able to

connect with Reverend John Norwood, a tribal leader and historian for the Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape Tribal Nation of New Jersey via Zoom for information on their current situation (WE ARE STILL HERE!!). Ralph especially appreciated the connection and found some valuable insights from the discussion.

The highlight for us was to be a 90-minute journey to Wyalusing on Saturday. There were three objectives for this Quest: 1) To find the Munsee village location, established by Papunehung and the Moravian missionaries (to which Papunehung's community had converted) and look for a memorial monument there. 2) To find the sacred area identified as the "Prayer Rocks" used by the First Peoples overlooking the Susquehanna. 3) To find some deeper connection to these places that could sustain us in our Meeting community.



Unfortunately, Ralph fell ill the night before and had to be taken to the hospital by his son. He was back with us on Saturday morning but encouraged us to go on without him. His only request was that we bring him back some stones and dirt from the monument area if we found it. We did find the monument. It was built in the 1870's to commemorate the old Moravian Indian community of Friedenshutzen (Huts of Peace). It was in the middle of a cornfield and meadow about 2 miles south of Wyalusing, almost hidden from view. Hats off to Carol Walz and Margaret Wood, two Quakers who had organized a Papunehung/Woolman event there back in 2013 and had helped us locate the monument. We also found the Prayer Rock on Route 6 north of Wyalusing, overlooking one of the most beautiful spots of the Susquehanna. We were very moved by this cliff perch and had a brief Meeting for Worship there. Our respectful silence was broken by a Raven flying overhead and calling out. It seemed to us to give voice to the spirit of Papunehung's community and seemed to be telling us to pay attention. We later found out that one of the sacred things that Raven represents among the First Peoples is, "Creator of Light."

That evening we met together with Ralph and Jon to share some of our reflections and answer some of their questions. We expressed our love and appreciation to Ralph for making the journey to Pennsylvania and for all he did to prepare us for the retreat by sharing his research and his internal journey to Wyalusing with us. The next morning, we said our goodbyes. Ralph took the handful of soil and rock from Wyalusing back with him to Maine. Meanwhile this retreat we were able to have together with Ralph, Jon, and even that Raven, continues with us all. Thank God for this opportunity to hear God's voice and feel God's presence through the lives of Papunehung's community. "The Light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it." (Jn 1.5 NIV).

[For a look at Papunehung's community you can tune into Facebook Live on October 10 for a service at Swan's Island Baptist Church.](#)

- Rich Ailes & Chris Stern - Middletown Meeting

# Concord Quarter October-November 2021 Announcements & Calendar of Events

## Announcements

The draft minutes from our July 18 Quarterly Meeting via Zoom are on the website:

<https://concordquarter.org/documents/?category=Minutes> Please send any comments about those minutes to the Recording Clerk, Marty Boston, at [mboston0916@gmail.com](mailto:mboston0916@gmail.com) by October 20, 2021 so they can be presented for approval at the October 24th Quarterly Meeting.

Philadelphia Yearly Meeting and the wider community has many events for all ages. Check them out here at the PYM Calendar: <https://www.pym.org/calendar/>

Pendle Hill has a number of programs this summer: <https://pendlehill.org/learn/workshops-courses-events/> and is open on a limited basis for in person personal retreats: <https://pendlehill.org/stay/extended-stays-sojourns/>

Looking for a job with a Quaker organization? PYM has some listings from several organizations, part-time and full: <https://www.pym.org/our-organization/employment/>

Concord Quarter has an active Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/concordquarterlymeeting> and a Facebook Groups page at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/activequakersofconcordquarter>. Bianca, our coordinator, is happy to help you with becoming part of Concord Quarter Facebook. Email her at [concordquarter@pym.org](mailto:concordquarter@pym.org) or call her at 267-632-7770.

## Calendar of Events

- Oct 2** **Children & Families Community Playdate: Apple Picking at Linvilla Farms** - This is an adult/child event for children in 5th grade and younger. You need to Register plus sign up for the 2 PM time slot at Linvilla's website. All info is here: <https://www.pym.org/event/children-families-community-playdate-apple-picking/>  
**1:30 to 4:30pm**
- Oct 3** **Celebrate World Quaker Day.** Join an online worship organized by the Young Adult Friends of the Traveling Ministry Corps! Join with Friends around the world in a koinonia time honoring World Quaker Day. Go here for info and to register for the worship: <https://fwccamericas.org/wp/event/world-quaker-day-2021/>  
**7:00pm**
- Oct 3** **Memorial Meeting for Worship** in honor of Jessie Boyd. It will be held in person, masks required, as well as virtually. ZOOM link: <https://westtown.zoom.us/j/91776460909> use wmm-mfw  
Westtown Website: <https://www.fgcquaker.org/cloud/westtown-monthly-meeting>  
**1:45pm**
- Oct 6** **Concord Quarter Working Group on Aging Concerns via Zoom.** All interested in aging concerns are welcome. Contact the Quarter Coordinator for the Zoom link or questions: [concordquarter@pym.org](mailto:concordquarter@pym.org)  
**10:30 am to 12pm**
- Oct 9** **Memorial Meeting for Worship** for Marian Walker at Concord Friends Meeting in Concordville, PA. Marion was a profound advocate for civil rights and racial justice in the Chester County area.  
**2:30 pm**
- Oct 16** **Memorial Meeting for Worship** for Sally Dougherty, former member of Wilmington Meeting. All are welcome. This will be held at Centre Meeting  
**1:00 pm**
- Oct 24** **Concord Quarterly Meeting at Westtown and Virtual:** Meeting for Business at 8:30. Hymn Singing at 10:10. Meeting for Worship at 10:30. Program on Climate Change at 11:30 AM. Some in person but mostly virtual.  
**8:30am-1:30pm** **Note: This event has 3 separate ZOOM links involved. Please see Page 5 for those details!!**
- Oct 31** **Planning Committee via Zoom.** Open to all interested in the activities and workings of Concord Quarter. Contact the Coordinator with questions and for the Zoom link at [concordquarter@pym.org](mailto:concordquarter@pym.org)  
**2:00pm**
- Nov 10** **Financial Resources for Senior Living (on ZOOM)** – The Working Group on Aging Concerns hosts George Schaefer, PYM's Care & Aging Coordinator who will discuss money issues regarding Friends who are aging, both at home in place or intending to move into a care community. Open to all interested, young or old. Info will be available at <https://concordquarter.org/aging-concerns>  
**7:00pm-8:30pm**



**October 16, 7 to 9 PM** at Highland Orchard, West Chester  
Please REGISTER at <https://concordquarter.org/hayride2021>  
Seating is Limited





# Concord Quarterly Meeting October 24, 2021 - Westtown Meeting

This is a 3 ZOOM Link event (Please Note in the schedule below)

- 8:30-10:00 Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business (use Zoom link on next line)  
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87910134825?pwd=NjMvbGhyeENwL2ZaRUMzV2Z2ZkhQZz09>
- 10:10-1:00pm Use Westtown Zoom link: <https://westtown.zoom.us/j/91776460909>  
With the password wmm-mfw
- 10:10-10:30 Hymn Singing
- 10:30-11:15 Meeting for Worship
- 11:15-11:30 Break
- 11:30-1:00pm Presentation on Climate Change provided by Westtown Meeting
- 1:00pm-1:45 Children's virtual program "Harvest" - 45 minutes with games, stories, songs, and activities with Teacher Susan Pierson!  
Children's Program uses Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5997708742>

## Climate Change: "Think Globally, Act Locally"



Where do we fit in, and what can we do as individuals, as monthly meetings, and as Concord Quarter? Our presentation will help you learn more about the global and local context regarding work on the critical issue of Climate Change. It will allow you to share your ideas and hear from others about actions being taken and planned! We will be hosted virtually by Westtown Monthly Meeting. If you attended the compelling January 24th "An Earth Restored" quarterly session hosted by Goshen Meeting and featuring FCNL, this program will provide the next steps.

Presenters will include Jonathan Evans and Paula Kline from Westtown Meeting, and Kathryn Metzker and Margaret Mansfield who are members of the PYM Eco-Justice Collaborative.

**Presentation includes: Info on the recent IPCC Report and the November COP meeting in Scotland – International and National Faith Community Actions – Update on PYM Annual Sessions Approved Action Plan – Info on the PYM Climate Action Network and Upcoming local Climate/environmental stewardship opportunities and BREAKOUT GROUPS!**

For more info go to <https://concordquarter.org/nextqm-pastqm/2021/qm-at-westtown>  
You can also email Bianca Santini Dumas, Coordinator, at [concordquarter@pym.org](mailto:concordquarter@pym.org)  
or call (267) 632-7770 and leave a message.

## Concord Quarterly Meeting via Zoom on July 18, 2021 Minutes

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

**Welcome to Newcomers** - The clerk welcomed Bianca Santini-Dumas, the new Concord Quarter Coordinator.

**Monthly Meeting Count (Birmingham, Concord, Goshen, Middletown, West Chester, Westtown, Willistown, Wilmington)** Nineteen friends were present as the meeting began. All the Meetings in the Quarter except Goshen were represented.

**Approval of Agenda** - The agenda was approved as written.

**Approval of Minutes from April 25, 2021** - The minutes from April 25, 2021, were approved as written. Debbie thanked Marty Boston, the recording clerk, for taking the minutes.

**Joys and Challenges Report from Concord Meeting** - Elizabeth Varley gave the Joys and Challenges report from Concord. Attendance at Concord remains low. A Montessori Preschool for ages three to six may begin using the Concord Meeting building by 2022. Debbie asked the group to hold Concord Meeting in the Light.

**Report from The Hickman (attached)** - Marty Boston gave the yearly report from The Hickman. Debbie asked the group to hold The Hickman in the Light.

**Treasurer's Report (attached)** - Charles Spadoni reviewed the Treasurer's report. All Meetings except one contributed to the Quarter. These funds go into the Friends Fiduciary Fund. The Quarter gave seventeen students scholarship money this past year. The Clerk thanked Charlie for his work as Treasurer.

**Nominating Committee Report** - Deb Wood gave the Nominating Committee Report. The group is still looking for an Assistant Clerk. If people have suggestions for this role send suggestions to Deb Wood, Julie Senko, Melinda Wenner-Bradley, Rich Ailes or Bianca Santini-Dumas. **Chris McKenney volunteered to be Interim Assistant Clerk for the Quarter until a new Assistant Clerk is identified. The group approved Chris in this position.**

**Working Group on Aging Concerns (attached)** - Rich Ailes gave the report on the Working Group on Aging Concerns. This group that has been in existence for four years is vibrant and continues to make various presentations on aging. Evelyn Brownlee will be the new clerk for the Working Group. **The Quarter thanked Rich for his leadership of the Working Group on Aging Concerns for the past four years.** Serita Spadoni detailed a more in-depth history of the Working Group. The most recent issue of the Concord Quarter Newsletter has an article about the Working Group on Aging that shared its history and some of the programs it has sponsored.

**Coordinator Report (attached)** - Bianca Santini-Dumas, the newly hired Coordinator, introduced herself to the group and gave the Coordinator's Report. Rich Ailes encouraged friends to let Bianca help the Quarterly Meetings with social media as she has strong skills in this area. Debbie Murray-Sheppard welcomed Bianca on behalf of the Quarter.

**An item for discussion or sharing: Safe Return to Meeting Houses**

**Debbie Murray-Sheppard**

Debbie asked what the Meetings in the Quarter are doing about returning to in-person worship. Steve Kupferschmid reported that Willistown Meeting is meeting in-person as well as on Zoom. Elizabeth Varley reported that Concord Meeting is meeting in-person since it does not have the capability for Zoom meetings. Chris McKenney reported that Birmingham Meeting has blended worship—currently meeting outdoors and on Zoom. On September 5<sup>th</sup> Birmingham will begin meeting indoors as well as on Zoom. Serita Spadoni added that Birmingham Meeting surveyed members about how they wish to meet and received helpful information about how to proceed this coming year. Rich Ailes reported for Middletown Meeting. Middletown has had blended worship using Zoom via Rich's iPhone with some people meeting in-person. Middletown Meeting plans to continue both in-person and Zoom meetings. Pam Cerchio reported for Wilmington Meeting saying it has been meeting indoors with attendees masked and via Zoom as well. Wilmington Meeting has asked unvaccinated people to continue to wear masks ongoing.

Debbie asked the group about the format for the Concord Quarter business meeting in the future. Evelyn Brownlee asked to continue with a Zoom option. Elizabeth Varley asked to have hybrid meetings for business. Rich Ailes encouraged the group to choose either in-person or Zoom meetings as all meetings don't have good technology for blended meetings. Serita Spadoni suggested that the Quarter alternate Zoom business meetings and in-person business meetings. Debbie Murray-Sheppard said that in-person meetings attract more people. David Leonard spoke about how attendance in some places has grown by reaching out to meeting alumni through Zoom. The group will continue to discuss how to proceed in the future at Concord Planning Committee.

**Reading of Minutes for Approval - Marty Boston (Recording Clerk)** Actions that were approved by the group were reviewed. They are in bold and underlined in the minutes.

**Second Count of Meetings in Attendance - Marty Boston (Recording Clerk)** At the second count of the attendees, twenty people were in attendance. All the meetings except Goshen Meeting were represented.

Respectfully Submitted, Martha Boston, Recording Clerk

### Attachments:

#### Report from The Hickman

The Hickman Friends Senior Community of West Chester is pleased to bring this report to the Quarter, particularly this year as we slowly emerge into a post pandemic era and as we celebrate 130 years of quality Quaker inspired senior care. We continue to remain committed to our mission which is to offer individualized services and assistance to older adults who seek a comfortable, safe and supportive living environment.

The last years events have informed us of the pragmatism and resilience of our beloved residents, as well as our staff. The Hickman has persevered and recovered from two nationwide pandemics. (The first being the 1918 influenza pandemic). Our future and sustainability remain front of mind for our Board and Leadership team. As you recall, we opened the Anna T. Jeanes building in May of 2018 and while building a solid census we were forced to cease our admissions to ensure the safety of our residents and staff through the COVID-19 pandemic. This past April, we were able to once again welcome back families and visitors due to achieving "herd immunity" internally and with the successful vaccine roll out within the county driving community positivity rates down. We are again able to admit new residents and provide for the robust community programming our residents have come to enjoy over the last 130 years.

Toni Kelly who was previously the Hickman's Director of Resident Services and Risk Manager is now serving as the Interim Executive Director. With Toni's leadership we are currently undertaking an evaluation and strategic revisioning of our historic Hickman building. This charming 87-year-old

building is an integral part of the Quaker Block. Planning and long-term use visioning is beginning to take place and we are hoping to identify an exciting, durable use of this building to enable us to continue to provide for a safe, accessible, worry-free senior living environment for many years to come. We approach this next period of change with optimism and intention, fully understanding that our industry is rapidly changing, highly competitive and remains in great demand. Given this knowledge as a small single site mission-driven organization, we recognize the investment of time necessary to develop a larger group of supporters and donors to assist us to position for the future.

In sharing this report to the Quarter, we would like to acknowledge those individuals and Meetings who continue to support our efforts through financial contributions. Additionally our work is strengthened through the staunch support of the following Concord Quarter Friends on our 16 member board of directors: Betsy Stratton from Middletown Meeting; Marty Boston from Birmingham Meeting; Evelyn Brownlee, Chenda Davidson and Barry Snyder from Wilmington Meeting; Dean O'Bannion and Diana Hodgson from Willistown Meeting; These Concord Quarter Friends are joined by Andrea Taylor from Centre Meeting, Matt Krasney of Falsington Meeting, and Hank Schellenger of Valley Friends. We would welcome the participation of other Friends who are interested in our mission and are able to deeply engage in the work of governance.

In closing, the next year will bring about welcomed change, and another year of welcoming new residents into our service. We are grateful and appreciative of the support and encouragement from Concord Quarter Friends.

*Submitted by Martha Boston, Clerk of the Governance Committee and Member of the Board of Directors, on behalf of Betsy Stratton Chair, Board of Directors*

### **Concord Quarterly Meeting Nominating Committee Report: 18 July 2021**

Committee members: Rich Ailes, Melinda Wenner Bradley, Julie Senko, Deb Wood, Lynne Piersol/Bianca Santini Dumas, coordinator - The committee has continued to search for a nominee for the role of Assistant Clerk. We have spoken with many. Friends have responded that their lives are full enough with volunteer, family, Monthly Meeting and/or work responsibilities. The committee is open to receive names to consider or thresh. The assistant clerk would have until July 2022 meeting to learn the role and gain familiarity with the Quarter's work before assuming a two-year term as clerk in July 2022.

### **Concord Quarter Working Group on Aging Concerns Report to Concord Quarterly Meeting**

The Aging Concerns Working Group continues to meet regularly. It is a vibrant group and is open to anyone in the Quarter interested in dealing with the experience of aging. The next meeting will be September 8 at 10:30 AM and will probably meet at The Hickman with some participants joining by Zoom. The group has transitioned over to a new clerk, Evelyn Brownlee of Wilmington Meeting, with Rich Ailes ending his clerking duties as of June 30. In May the working group hosted two on-line workshops titled Staying Strong, Staying Smart, Staying Safe. The first workshop was on home safety and falls awareness, with presenters from Friends Life Care and The Barclay. The second workshop was on medication management and driver safety, with presenters from The Hickman and the Bryn Mawr Rehab's Driving Program. Both workshops drew about 12 folks in attendance at each session. Notes from these workshops are on our web page at: <https://concordquarter.org/aging-concerns>.

The working group will be discerning how to increase attendance at future workshops although we are a bit perplexed as to why attendance has been below expectations. The Senior Residence research group also participated in a nice information session with the marketing director of the publication "Senior Directory" which is a free quarterly booklet of the hundreds of senior residential and health services in our Delaware Valley region. We are looking forward to working with our new coordinator Bianca Santini-Dumas. We welcome Lynne Piersol's continued participation in the group in her new civilian role. Lynne asked the group if she could still participate because she finds the work so valuable. Members approved enthusiastically.

### **Concord Quarterly Meeting Coordinator Report for July 18, 2021**

Greetings Friends! I felt it would be appropriate to include my introduction from the most recent newsletter below:

It is my pleasure to introduce myself, your new Concord Quarterly Coordinator. My name is Bianca Santini Dumas, OPC'10 Alumna. I am a mother to a rising 3rd grader who may be attending meetings with me. I appreciate all topics related to wellness, productivity, music and travel. I enjoy nature and its ability to provide an escape into familiarity.

My time at Penn Charter gave me an introduction to the importance of embodying virtues, values & principles to the best of my ability under all circumstances. The pandemic tested me in almost every way possible but ultimately strengthened my heart, my connection with my family & ignited my call to action. Connecting and providing resources is a passion of mine and I look forward to doing my part by uplifting the community through this position.

I have been coordinating meetings and events for a little more than a decade throughout high-school, college, my professional career and as an active member & volunteer of Lambda Theta Alpha Latin Sorority, Incorporated.

I am excited to meet each of you in person as the world continues to "open up", safely. I am eager to learn and never been known to be shy. Please make your presence known as you feel called. If you have any questions regarding meetings, I am available during regular business hours except for most Wednesdays. 267.632.7770

I have attended a few Meeting for Business as well as Meeting for Worship (Wilmington & Birmingham). I was unaware of how much I missed these spaces since my last encounter with Quakerism in 2010.

My hope is to put time into the coordinator's blog featured on our website as I continue participating and welcoming the "still, small voice".

I am thrilled to see how fluent the meetings I have attended are with Zoom and the hybrid method of inclusion for those who still feel uncomfortable with meeting in person. I see that most meetings will continue using this approach to retaining participation from those who are further away physically and would love to connect with anyone leading or organizing the website, social media, technical and general communications of each meeting in our quarter. If this is you please reach out, I would love to chat with you! - [concordquarter@pym.org](mailto:concordquarter@pym.org) Be peace, Bianca Santini-Dumas

*Editor's Note: A redacted Treasurer's Report, for these minutes are available on our website at <https://concordquarter.org/documents/?category=Minutes>*

**Concord Quarterly Meeting Newsletter**  
**Volume 18 Issue 4 October 2021**

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Recording Clerk: Marty Boston  
Treasurer: Charles Spadoni  
Coordinator: Bianca Santini-Dumas

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**Concord Quarter Meetings**

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

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