

Concord Quarterly Meeting at Wilmington Meeting, January 28, 2018

Opening Worship: The meeting opened with a period of unprogramed worship at 8:30 am.

Monthly Meeting Count: All member meetings were represented. Thirty-two Friends were present as the meeting began.

Minutes from October 22, 2018 were approved.

Joys and Challenges Report from Goshen Meeting: Laura Laky - The report is attached below as Appendix 1.

Update and discussion regarding a possible care relationship between Concord Quarter and Delaware Valley Friends School - The group had a preliminary meeting last year. The school is seeking contacts through which its students can be more involved with Friends. The group agreed that before a decision could be made about oversight, opportunities for Friends in the Quarter to get to know more about the school are needed. Westtown MM has two Friends who volunteered to get to know the school better.

Working Group on Aging Concerns Report: Rich Ailes - The report is attached below as Appendix 2. In response to a question it was noted that after the fire at Barclay Friends our Coordinator put out to the Quarter a call for assistance. This is not, however, a focus of this committee.

Nominating Committee Deb Wood - The committee's nomination of Deb Lyons as Concord Quarter's representative to PYM's Nominating Council was approved. Appreciation was minuted for the long service of Peter Lane on the Council.

Ad Hoc Committee on Meetings with Limited Attendance Report David Leonard
David Leonard is at work at identifying groups that might like to share use of Concord Meeting House The appropriate networks/ outlets are not easy to find. Leads would be welcome.

Treasurer's Report Tom Haviland - The report is attached below as Appendix 3.

Opportunity for meetings to briefly share discernment or faithful action in accord with the testimonies
Westtown Meeting has been discerning what it should do about sanctuary for immigrants. One Friend spoke of her experience with trying to advertise the presence of the small Appoquinimink Preparative Meeting. Willistown also is challenged with modest attendance and few children, so that overseeing the maintenance of the property is difficult. It is putting on public programs to improve its outreach, which are well attended but has not spilled over to attendance at meeting for worship. Its clerk observed that many of our meetings have dynamic concerns but are struggling with regular attendance. Another Friend observed that a decline in involvement in voluntary organizations is a general cultural problem throughout our society today. Still another spoke of the conflict on Sunday mornings with youth sports now and the success that Florida Avenue Meeting in Washington DC is having with Sunday evening worship.

Coordinator Report Lynne Piersol - The report was not presented but is attached at Appendix 4.

Announcements of Upcoming Events/Deadlines: Deb Wood, Clerk

1. Concord Quarter Tuition Aid applications (available on the website and here today) are due February 16 to Lynne Piersol, Coordinator.
2. "Reimagining Justice: Prisons as an Opportunity for Change", Saturday, February 10, 10:30-1pm at Willistown Friends Meeting.
3. Concord Quarter Planning Committee, Sunday, February 11, 7:30pm at Concord Friends Meeting
4. "Friends' Hicksite-Orthodox Schism", lecture by Thomas Hamm, Friday, February 16, 7:30 at Wilmington Friends Meeting
5. Concord Quarter Square Dance, Saturday, February 24, 7-9pm, Willistown Friends Meeting
6. Aging in Place workshop, Saturday, March 3, 10am -12:30pm, followed by a light lunch, Goshen Friends Meeting

Second Count of Meetings and Members in Attendance – Thirty-six Friends were present as the meeting concluded.

Respectfully submitted: Deb Wood (clerk) and David Leonard (recording)

Appendix 1. Joys and Challenges Report from Goshen Meeting Laura Laky

Goshen Meeting is small and in a challenging period. We have lost members due to health, relocation, and discernment about where they want their faith community. Goshen Friends School, which shares our property, has eliminated its elementary school program and is now functioning only as a nursery school. This has changed the uses of our buildings and it appears that we may be renting space to another tenant.

Through all these changes, members shared a feeling that our community paradoxically has been strengthened by the challenges. We are working assiduously together to solve these complex problems. Members are becoming better informed on the details of managing our ten-acre property. We are growing in our sense of stewardship as we carefully look forward at our responsibilities.

In preparing for this report, members reflected a sense of nourishing warmth in our meeting. Our spiritual depth is real. Members feel safe to speak their experiences in their own words and to share from the Deep Place things that are sometimes fragile and other things that are sometimes filled with incredible beauty.

We are grateful for our monthly meetings for learning and our weekly fellowship time with refreshments after worship. The meeting prayerfully considered the challenge of "bridging differences" in this culturally divided time in our country. We spent several months on this topic and found our joint reflections to be valuable as we face person-to-person differences in many aspects of our daily lives.

In our small group there is strong calling to be present at worship and Friends express their gratefulness to be here. We welcomed one new member by transfer this year and we have had a couple of wonderful new attenders. Our committees are small but working hard to care for and nurture the meeting and its property. We have co-clerks now who find strength in sharing the clerking tasks and reflect that gift joyfully to the meeting.

We grieve the loss of members and our inability to provide a religious education program for children. We must be honest with ourselves that we don't have the resources for children's programming right now. We stay open however to new possibilities further down the road.

We are looking at forming a "Light Group" based on Rex Ambler's book, *Light to Live By*. Several members have expressed an interest in participating. While a few of our members serve beyond the local meeting in various ways, we are aware that we don't have members to fill all the requests at the quarterly or yearly meeting level. Right now, it is taking all our energy to keep the home fires burning. We support those who are called to broader service and release our meeting from the guilt that can come from living under "shoulds and oughts."

While our meeting is doing pretty well overall, we also feel our vulnerabilities. We need your prayers and support as we seek to stay grounded in God's strength, which is the true source of our joy, commitment, and ability to keep our meeting strong.

Appendix 2. Group on Aging Concerns – Rich Ailes

Concord Quarter Working Group on Aging Concerns Report to Concord Quarterly Meeting at Wilmington Meeting
01/28/2018

Our group has met three times since our last Quarterly Meeting, in November, December and January. It has agreed to meet monthly for the time being. All Meetings in the Quarter continue to be represented with support provided by our coordinator, Lynne Piersol. The director of the Hickman, Pam Leland remains part of the working group. Meetings are being held either at the Hickman or at West Chester Meeting.

Work on the April Aging Concerns Facilitator Training and the Aging in Place workshop in March has been the primary focus of the group. It was decided to change the date of the Aging in Place workshop to March 3 from January 20 so as not to conflict with the date of the Women's Marches in Philadelphia and elsewhere. Publicity for both events was developed and produced and has been sent out to the various Quarter email lists. An article publicizing the April training appeared in the recent Quarterly Meeting newsletter.

A required registration form for the training is now up on the QM website. Those interested in applying for the training can go to this page to fill out the form: <https://concordquarter.org/aging-concerns/aging-concerns-facilitator-training-app>. The cost of the training is being covered by a generous grant from the Friends Foundation on Aging. Those funds have already been transferred to the Quarter's bank account. We were grateful that a thank you letter was sent out by our clerk to the Foundation shortly after our last Quarterly Meeting. So far 7 registrations have been received. The workshop has a top

limit of 25 participants. The working group decided to give priority status to Concord Quarter members and attenders up to February 9 after which we will consider registrations from other parts of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting.

The Aging in Place workshop will be held at Goshen Meeting on March 3 from 10 AM to 12:30 PM followed by a light lunch. The Working Group has been in contact with our treasurer to see if the Quarter can provide some funding to help with the light lunch meal. The group is developing a set of question for George Schaefer (the presenter) to address during the workshop. Materials relating to the Aging in Place theme will be available at the workshop.

The group continues to have strong attendance at the planning meetings. There is always some discussion of a relevant aging topic during the meetings as well as a healthy dose of fun Quaker banter. Anyone from the Quarter is welcome to join us. The next meeting is at the Hickman on Wednesday, February 7 at 6:30 PM.

For more information you can contact Lynne Piersol at concordquarter@pym.org or Rich Ailes at railesjr@ailesdodson.org

Appendix 3 -- Tom Haviland, Treasurer

Concord Quarterly Meeting Treasurer's Report – Fiscal Year 2017-2018 Q2 (Oct – Dec) January 28, 2017

A non-redacted copy may be requested from the Coordinator at concordquarter@pym.

Income and Expenses Highlights

- Covenant contributions were received from 7 Monthly Meetings (5 of the 7 contributions were received in January and will be reflected in 3rd quarter).
- Tuition Grant funds of \$8,502 were divided among 13 students (\$654/student) and sent to 5 Friends Schools
- October Picnic/Canoeing and December Drop & Shop programs expenses (\$280) were partially offset by donations (\$94). Annual Property/Liability insurance (\$504) and Admin costs (\$272) were other significant operating expenses.
- ARCH Grant (\$6993) from Friends Foundation for the Aging received and added to our books to track.

...redacted: Income and Expenses and Assets....

Assets Highlights

- From September 30 to December 31, Consolidated Fund unit value increased from \$52.05 to \$53.73 and the Green Fund unit value increased from \$38.22 to \$39.31.
- In early October, \$8502 was withdrawn from the FF – STIF account (Tuition Grant Fund). In late December, the Consolidated and Green Funds' semi-annual distributions (\$4200) were placed in the FF – STIF account.
- \$500 was taken from Reserve to open a Coordinator Operating/Programs Expense Account. A debit card for this account has been given to the Coordinator.

Note: Individual Monthly Meeting Consolidated and Green Fund balances are available by request from the Treasurer.

Appendix 4: Report of the Concord Quarter Coordinator – Lynne Piersol

What has your Coordinator been up to?

As Coordinator, I attend Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Continuing Sessions. On November 4, we worshiped, heard reports and participated in some exercises expanding on what was done at Annual Sessions in the summer about becoming more welcoming.

Among other items, Administrative Council reported that work on a process for carrying a minute of concern forward to the body from a meeting or Quarter has been done jointly with Quaker Life Council and will be reviewed soon.

Quaker Life Council's clerk had just resigned, so their report was given by others. Zachary Dutton shared about the new Resource Friends program which will be training people in four areas to be resources in the areas of Social Justice, Pastoral Care, Youth Work and Religious Education, and Young Adults Support.

The other report was from the Discernment Team formed after Quaker Life Council took under their care the long-standing

conflict between Upper Dublin Meeting and their member whose membership was terminated earlier this year. The Team had not gotten very far. They are humble, but are continuing to work on the situation. The individual involved was upset and frustrated that no one had spoken with her yet.

The Steering Committee for the Multicultural Institutional Audit of 21 individuals was introduced. The Clerk is tonya thames taylor, our speaker from Quarterly Meeting. She sees this as a very positive opportunity. They will be meeting in December to start work on selecting a consultant. We were asked to “love us as we go through this process.”

Christie Duncan-Tessmer’s report included her trip in September to the Middle East as a member of the National Council of Churches Governing Board. They got to speak with many people on all sides of the conflicts there. Christie also shared that PYM’s Annual Fund raised more funds than it had the previous year, for the first time in 6 years.

Later we were led in a listening exercise by Sarah Willie LeBreton, and Inspira Williams. In pairs, with the help of queries, we shared about microaggressions or structural racism. People then shared from all stages of their awareness, many from deep in their hearts.

In addition to attending Yearly Meeting Sessions, I continue to visit meetings, attend events, share information across the Quarter, plan for future events, and more. I also “staff” the Working Group on Aging Concerns. Recently I participated in the annual Quaker worship during the Sunday evening Vespers program at White Horse Village. A very successful Parents’ Morning Off event was held on December 9, cosponsored with Western Quarter. 14 children attended, and their parents enjoyed a few hours to themselves.

I’ve been asked on several occasions if other meetings are involved in particular issues, (for example, sanctuary) and have put the clerks of Peace and Social Concerns Committees in touch with each other. I’d like to do more of that. I also would like to help the meetings in the Quarter be more visible. I’d be interested in talking with people about a Facebook page. Also, I’d be happy to help plan more Quarter events that are of interest. Ideas could include social events, like a game night, a parent discussion group, either in person or virtual, another parents’ morning off, more intergenerational events? I’m thinking of doing a survey to determine interest. I’m also happy to research other kinds of resources and hear about ones that have been helpful to your meeting.

Lynne Piersol, Jan 18, 2018