

**Concord Quarterly Meeting Planning Committee Minutes
February 2, 2020 3pm at The Hickman/Jeanes Building**

Present: Chris McKenney (B, Clerk), Deb Wood (WT), Debbie Murray-Sheppard (Wilmington), Marty Boston (B), Steve Kupferschmid (Willis), Deb Wood (WT), Rich Ailes (M), Julie Senko (B), Lynne Piersol (Coord), Charlie Spadoni (B), Chris Smith (WC)

Excused: Deb Lyons (WC), Judy Reese (C),

Worship

Approval of November 3, 2019 minutes. The minutes were approved.

Review QM at West Chester: A total of 48 adults signed in for all or part of the day, but at least 50 were present for the program. 19 children were there for all or part of the day. The program was very well received as was the children's program and the water filter build activity. All meetings but Goshen were represented. Goshen was unable to complete a Joys and Challenges report, but it hopes to present at another time.

Lynne shared the very positive results from the evaluations turned in - 18 were turned in, representing families of 10 of the children. Everyone really liked the program and the feedback on the children's program was very positive.

Idea for the future - have people put a red dot on their name tags if they don't want a picture taken.

Planning for Joint Quarterly Meeting with Western Quarter at Kennett Meeting on April 26

Business Agenda for April (not necessarily in this order...):

Joys and Challenges Report: Goshen? West Chester

Treasurer's Report

Proposed budget; request for approval

Working Group on Aging Concerns Update

Coordinator's Report

Faith and Practice query on Grounding for Transformed Lives (#7), 4th item How do we in our meetings work toward overcoming differences, separations and restoring wholeness?

Report from Continuing Sessions (Bucks Minute) - Bruce Harrison, Chris Smith or Celia Laing

State of the Quarter Report (recommendation of a process)

Program: We approved inviting Better Angels to do their Skill Building Workshop for a 2-hour period. Debbie Murray-Sheppard and Deb Wood have each attended a workshop and Derrick Stedman from Willistown is also enthusiastic. Western Quarter is in favor of this.

We also approved a donation of \$100 to Better Angels.

Schedule: We will use the same schedule as the last joint Quarterly Meeting at Wilmington

8:45-9:00 Sign-In

9:00-10:15 Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business - for each Quarter

10:30-11:30 Joint Meeting for Worship

11:45-12:45 Lunch for all

1:00-3:00 pm Program by Better Angels

There will probably need to be RSVPs so that Better Angels knows how many handout packets to make.

Children’s programming (including child care): Will be available for the whole time. Lynne will be working with Claire Taylor, Western Quarter’s Youth Coordinator, and the new CQ Youth program planning group. Theme will be about dealing with conflict, peace testimony. We may need more helpers. Julie Senko’s daughter Katie might be able to help.

Idea of adding a query like we did at Westtown?: (At Quarterly Meeting at Westtown there was a time to share what meetings are doing in the areas of peace and social justice) Could this be expanded to be a query from Faith and Practice, or related to the program? We heard that Western Quarter does a rotation of the Faith and Practice queries at the start of meeting for business. For April we thought it would be useful to use a modified piece of the Faith and Practice query on Grounding for Transformed Lives (#7), 4th item How do we in our meetings work toward overcoming differences, separations and restoring wholeness?

Changing the Schedule for rotating Quarterly Meetings?: For 2021? Willistown wishes it wasn’t always hosting in the summer. What would happen if Willistown swapped with Goshen? We did not really discuss the issue of the swap, but the Coordinator will be checking with Concord about their hosting next summer since they have become even smaller, and will let Planning Committee know what they say. They may need help. Ideas suggested included having just a social time such as a picnic, possibly at Westtown. Another idea was to have an intergenerational activity instead of the program. If Concord does host, we should be prepared to step in and help if needed.

Review and Updates on fellowship activities:

Lynne Piersol

Nov 23	Parents’ Morning Off, with Western Quarter – 16 children attended and it went well. However, the two older children came (middle and high school) seemed a bit out of place. Perhaps it should be limited to children up through 6 th grade? We could also have used another adult (we had 3 plus Cheryle Oshman Blunt and Ben Waterhouse to lead Frazzlerham.) There should always be 2 adults present with children and that meant we couldn’t take some outside another time. Tom Haviland, who had been helping, is not available since he moved to New Jersey.
Feb 22	Square Dance at Willistown, snow date is Feb 29. Band is all set. We will not be able to use the kitchen since it is being redone, but the big table can be in there to make space. Rich Ailes and Julie Senko will come and bring refreshments (which will need to be set up elsewhere)
TBD	Tubing on the Brandywine. Coordinator will work with Deb Wood, Western Quarter Coordinator to get a date set.
TBD	Another activity? Several evaluations from QM suggested a game night, but two different meetings are already doing game nights.

Youth Program Working group: We have 4 names plus Melinda Wenner Bradley who said she would help for at least a year. All but one are from West Chester. The Coordinator will reach out to Melinda and the others and also to other meetings to see if anyone else volunteers.

Treasurer: The Treasurer has implemented the Friendly Audit recommendation for a copy of bank account statements being sent to the clerk, so they are going to more than one person. A small group

(Lynne Piersol, Rich Ailes and the Treasurer) is working on a cloud storage service to back up the CQ documents. Lynne is checking with Friends Historical Library to see what Quarter documents need to be archived with it . We got Workers Compensation for the one employee. The Treasurer is looking into additional liability insurance.

Concord Quarter Working Group on Aging Concerns: Rich Ailes, Clerk of the Working Group, reported on the organizing of a workshop on senior residences for people of modest means by Susan Hoskins, director of Friends Foundation on the Aging, for May 2. The Working Group meets monthly.

Newsletter Articles: Ideas include something on the program about Better Angels, a report on the Threshing Session on membership (Debbie Murray-Sheppard), a biography of the hospice person who did the workshop last year, Melinda Wenner Bradley's suggestions for meetings without children- how to be welcoming to families. Rich Ailes is also looking for a young person to write an article. Someone from Birmingham? Possibly a Zug or Cassie Hung?

Outreach: The Coordinator continues to post on Facebook. Boosting the workshop "Organized for Life" in November led to 3 non-Quakers attending who saw it on FB. Other outreach ideas discussed included redoing the brochure for the Quarter and boosting other kinds of FB posts to reach the wider community. The Coordinator will work with Rich Ailes on the brochure and possible funding. She will also look into boosting some of the QuakerSpeak videos aimed at newcomers.

In reach: The Coordinator suggested having a display for PYM Annual Sessions which was approved. Rich Ailes is willing to help. The email list of families has been used twice, but it is pretty small. The Coordinator will use it about 3-4 times a year to promote events in the Quarter. We are getting new families attending Quarterly Meeting.

Delaware Valley Friends School Care Committee: The Coordinator reported that Quarter members are always invited on Thursdays to Worship at 10:05 – RSVP needed (RSVP to Judy Sheridan at 610-640-4150 x2360, or email Judy.sheridan@dvfs.org). The next Care Committee Meeting will be **April 14 (date confirmed after this meeting)**. DVFS is looking for opportunities for service projects for the morning of May 19, 9am-noon, for 6-8 students with 1-2 adults. Birmingham will be doing one; Lynne will check with Concord or maybe The Hickman to see if they might be interested.

Spiritual State of the Quarter report: Lynne Piersol & Debbie Murray-Sheppard had a conversation about this. It made sense to Planning Committee to ask meetings, going forward, to add a query from the ones suggested by PYM for the spiritual state of the meetings reports for the joys and challenges reports given at Quarterly Meeting. We could rotate through the queries. We will do a current State of the Concord Quarter based on the last 2 years of joys and challenges reports. We will aim to have something ready for approval at July Quarterly Meeting with the draft published in the newsletter for the summer. PYM's deadline is mid-May, but we won't be able to meet that. Debbie Murray-Sheppard and Lynne Piersol will work on this.

Coordinator: Chris McKenney, Rich Ailes, Debbie Murray-Sheppard will do a performance review with the Coordinator sometime in March - Chris will be away and back March 5.

Time and location for the next meeting. Sunday, May 3, 2020 at 3pm. Lynne will check on location.