

**Concord Quarterly Meeting Planning Committee Minutes Draft
January 31, 2021 2pm by Zoom**

Present: Debbie Murray-Sheppard (Wilm, Clerk), Rich Ailes (M), Charlie Spadoni (B, Treasurer), Deb Wood (WT), Steve Kupferschmid (Willis), Pat Daly (G), Lynne Piersol (Coordinator), Paul Indorf (Swarthmore)

Excused: Melinda Wenner Bradley (WC) Chris McKenney (B), Marty Boston (B), Deb Lyons (WC), Julie Senko (B)

Worship

Approval of November 1, 2020 minutes: The Minutes were approved.

Approval of Agenda: The Agenda for today was approved

Review QM by Zoom on January 24, 2021:

A total of 38 people were present for all or part of meeting for business, representing all meetings. We lost about 17 for worship, but gained more so that about 40 people were at worship. We lost a few and then gained a few for the program with Amelia Kegan, so there were still about 40 present. About 63 folks came for all or part of the day – a record for our virtual Quarterly Meetings. We could not tell if we had any children present for Community Worship; Melinda Wenner Bradley had reported that West Chester’s children were at the PYM Giant Children’s Meeting held earlier in the day.

Overall the reactions and feedback were very positive. Especially held up were the Faith and Play story as a centering piece for worship which then linked to the program. The schedule and timing worked well. A number of people learned about Friends Committee on National Legislation and realized they could get involved. We had more people than usual present at Meeting for Business, even at 8:30am.

Goshen Meeting appreciated the good deal of help it received from the Coordinator, especially with regard to setting up the technology.

Follow up from Meeting for Business in October and the Quarter’s letter to PYM’s Clerks regarding the discernment of PYM’s three priority queries regarding membership, racism and climate change: **The Clerk will remind the meetings about PYM priority queries and ask them to report not only to PYM’s Clerks but also to the Quarter’s Clerk about their progress or lack thereof in dealing with the related queries. It was requested that the Coordinator disseminate the Clerk’s request to all members of the Quarter by means of the Quarter’s and meetings’ internet list serves.** When the question was asked at October’s Quarterly Meeting about the two environmental minutes sent out for discernment by PYM, no meetings said anything about adopting either one, but they may not have because they did so in the past and they have now forgotten.

Planning for Quarterly Meeting with West Chester hosting on April 25:

No one from West Chester Meeting was able to be present at the meeting, but extensive notes about their planning for the April Quarterly Meeting were available ahead of time.

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

Query: (either at beginning, or as part of sharing at the end)

Joys and Challenges Report: Birmingham

Treasurer's Report and Budget proposal

Nominating Committee Report

Document Retention Policy

Working Group on Aging Concerns Update

Coordinator's Report

Discernment of PYM priorities – updates

Program – Hal Weaver, Quaker author of a new Pendle Hill Pamphlet, #465, Race, Systemic Violence and Retrospective Justice, has been approached and has agreed to come and present on April 25. Deb Wood noted that she knew him from his time at Westtown School. The pamphlet has had good reviews. It can be obtained from Pendle Hill as a hard copy or on Amazon as a Kindle copy. The exact timing of his presentation needs to be finalized by West Chester.

“The pamphlet calls us to have " a deeper, more accurate understanding of the roots of political, economic, cultural, and social phenomena" and suggests that to do that, we need to begin with the truth. It then asks us " as individuals and as corporate bodies--monthly, quarterly, and yearly meetings-to play a more committed, important role in seeking justice." It goes on to define race, racism and institutional or systemic racism. He reviews the history of Quakers and chattel slavery in the United States and asserts that the legacy of slavery is structural violence. Weaver provides a chart listing various kinds of structural violence experienced by People of Color, such as Economic, Political, Environmental, Health, Educational and others. The pamphlet ends with a Proposed Plan of Action for Friends calling for Education and Retrospective Justice which he details as including a) a formal acknowledgement of an Offense, b) a commitment to Truth-Telling, and c) a more robust, active Justice Testimony.”

Planning Committee accepted this proposal for the program and approved payment of up to \$150 toward the contribution West Chester Meeting will make at Hal Weaver's request to The Black Quaker Project through Wellesley Friends Meeting (*Lynne did not have the name of this at Planning Committee*).

Schedule (tentative, proposed):

8:30-9:45--Meeting for Business

(9:00--PYM Giant Children's Meeting -- optional and not part of CQM and for younger kids)

10-10:30-- Youth Program (for older elementary/middle school youth in particular to delve into anti-racism more and build on the film) -- this also gives adults a break before worship

10:30-11:30-- Meeting for Worship

11:45-12:30--Lunch break

12:30-1:30 (or 2pm?) --Hal Weaver (probably this time slot)

Children's programming:

9am – Giant Children's Meeting via PYM. 10am - program for older elementary/middle school youth. There is the possibility of the film Radical Monarchs to be shown ahead of QM, perhaps on a Friday evening which would tie into the children's program. However, the film can be for all ages. Perhaps there could be a separate flyer for the children's programming and the Radical Monarchs film if this is used.

Lynne will be in communication with Melinda Wenner Bradley about how the film would be shown. She will also ask meetings to specifically reach out to families and will directly reach out via her mailing list and to Delaware Valley Friends School.

Joint Quarterly Meeting update:

Western Quarter is on board with an annual Joint Concord/Western Quarter session in July. The draft process for planning a Joint Quarterly Meeting, requested since we have agreed to this annually, was distributed ahead of the meeting and was approved. [A copy of that draft is attached here.](#) Western Quarter has seen the as well, but it has not been approved yet. The decision to go all virtual or hybrid has not been made yet. Willistown Meeting, whose turn it would have been to host, has been asked for volunteers, especially regarding the program and children’s program. Newark Meeting in Western Quarter will also be asked to provide volunteers. **The CQ Coordinator and the Western Quarter Coordinator will work to have an initial planning meeting by the end of February.**

Review and Updates on fellowship activities:

Nov 21	“Would You Rather” was delightful, but only 3 children attended – so Zoom may not be the best platform.
March 13	Hiking in the Land of the Leni Lenape; a hike at Okehocking Preserve in Willistown Township, rain date Saturday, March 20. There is an extensive permit to do from the Willistown Parks Department, although it will be free. We will need to increase our insurance coverage in one area. An enthusiastic group is planning the event.
TBD	Tubing? Another outdoor event later? Schedule for August? Deb Wood will reach out to the host for Tubing and see how she is feeling about hosting. People could bring their own food, bring chairs and blankets so they don’t need go inside.

Treasurer:

Possible increase in our insurance to cover sexual misconduct? The Willistown Parks Department (Okehocking Preserve) requires a higher level of coverage for sexual misconduct than we currently carry. The Coordinator researched coverage levels required by other places that we hold events, and Westtown and Wilmington Friends Schools also require a higher coverage. It would cost an extra \$362 to increase the coverage. **This increase was approved.**

Document Retention and Archiving policy drafts:

The Coordinator received more feedback on the draft policies from members of Wilmington Meeting and Birmingham Meeting.. A revised version has been done and needs to be reviewed again. The Coordinator will next meet with Rich Ailes and Charlie Spadoni to determine the next steps.

Nominating Committee:

Nominating Committee is working to fill positions so a full slate can be presented for approval at April Quarterly Meeting. All roles except that of Assistant Clerk are filled. The Committee will meet again soon. It was also noted that Deb Lyons, the CQ representative to the PYM Nominating Council, could use support to suggest names for PYM roles. The Coordinator will ask her what kind of roles she wants to fill and share that information. Another thought is to have a corner in the CQ Newsletter with opportunities for service. Also, for Planning Committee, the idea of having Young Adults and High School students as representatives was received positively.

Newsletter Articles:

Rich Ailes needs articles about the program with Hal Weaver and the Radical Monarchs film. He would also like an article about the PYM membership issue with a different perspective than the one written by Carl Stanton for the January newsletter. A piece on Friends Committee on National Legislation was suggested. Debbie Murray-Sheppard will ask at Wilmington about someone to write a piece on FCNL since some folks there just learned about it from the Quarterly Meeting Program and were interested. Pat Daly can write on opportunities for young people via FCNL, internships etc. The deadline for submissions is March 17.

Concord Quarter Working Group on Aging Concerns:

The new Senior Residence Research Group met for the first time on January 28, 2021, and will meet monthly. Aging Concerns Working Group continues to meet monthly and is open to anyone who is interested.

In reach:

The Coordinator continues to share resources with meetings. She encourages meetings to share their events with others outside their own meeting, but some choose to limit their offerings to the members of the sponsoring meeting.

Outreach:

The Coordinator is continuing Facebook postings and sharing Quarter information on the PYM website.

Delaware Valley Friends School Care Committee—

The Committee next meets on April 12, 2021 at 3:15 via Zoom and is open to anyone who is interested. The Coordinator will post the school's PowerPoint presentation that was presented at Quarterly Meeting on the Quarter's website along with the minutes of Quarterly Meeting. An invitation for members of the Quarter to join the school for worship is expected, but the schedule is very different due to the pandemic and online programming.

State of the Quarter report: Lynne Piersol & Debbie Murray-Sheppard
Pending.

Time and location for the next meeting. May 2, 2021, 2pm on Zoom