

Concord Quarterly Meeting via Zoom Minutes

October 24, 2021 - Westtown

Opening Worship

The meeting opened with a period of silent worship.

Welcome to Newcomers

Debbie Murray-Sheppard (Clerk)

Debbie Murray-Sheppard welcomed newcomers: Darrell Mayers, Vince Willis, and Ann Byerly Marlowe.

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

Debbie Murray-Sheppard

Twenty-three people were present at the beginning of the meeting. All meetings except Concord, Goshen, and Willistown were represented at the beginning of the meeting.

Approval of Agenda

Debbie Murray-Sheppard

The agenda was approved as written.

Approval of Minutes from July 18, 2021

Debbie Murray-Sheppard

The group approved the minutes from the July 18th meeting as written.

Joys and Challenges Report (attached)

Rich Ailes

Rich Ailes gave the Joys and Challenges report from Middletown Meeting. He answered questions about a trip that Middletown Meeting's Men's Group took to Wyalusing, Pennsylvania, the place where Quaker John Woolman met with Native Americans in 1762. The Men's Group met with a member of the Lenni-Lenape people while they were in Wyalusing. Rich has written an article in the latest Quarterly Newsletter for Friends to learn more about the trip. The group held Middletown Meeting and its members in the Light.

Treasurer's Report (attached)

Charles Spadoni

Charles Spadoni gave the Treasurer's report. Debbie thanked Charlie for his work as Treasurer.

Nominating Committee report (attached)

Deb Wood

Deb Wood gave a brief report from the Nominating Committee. The group is still looking for an Assistant Clerk for the Quarter. The Clerk thanked the Nominating Committee for their work and asked Friends to send suggestions for Assistant Clerk to Deb Wood, Julie Senko, Melinda Wenner Bradley, Rich Ailes, or Bianca Santini-Dumas.

Working Group on Aging Concerns (attached)

Evelyn Brownlee

Evelyn Brownlee gave a report from the Working Group on Aging Concerns. Anyone who would like to meet with this group is welcome.

Coordinator's Report (attached)

Bianca Santini-Dumas

Bianca Santini-Dumas gave the Coordinator's Report. She has been visiting various meetings. Bianca asked Joe

Marchese to give some information on how Westtown Monthly Meeting is following up a program on Radical Transformation about racial justice. John Evans, Deb Woods, and Joe Marchese are co-clerks of a (DEI) Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee for Westtown Monthly Meeting. The DEI Committee has developed queries on the topic that Joe shared.

Bianca encouraged the use of the Concord Quarter Facebook public page. Bianca has also set up a private group Facebook page that can be used to communicate just between members. The private group page can also go “live” where people can see events in real time. People who aren’t on Facebook can see the Concord Quarterly Meeting public page, but they can’t see the private page. Facebook is an additional way to publicize what is going on in the Quarter. Some events that are open to the public, like programs on Aging Concerns, can be advertised through the public Facebook page. Bianca explained that the way Facebook works, the more that people like or comment on posts, the more likely it is that they will show up on other people’s Facebook pages.

Bianca gave an update on Concord Quarter Events. Unfortunately, the October 16th hayride had to be cancelled because of rain on that day. Parent’s Morning Off will be at the cabin at Westtown School December 4, from 9 AM-1PM. Some fun activities will be provided for the children who attend.

Debbie thanked Bianca for all her work on behalf of the Quarter.

Yearly Meeting’s Truth and Transformation initiative and the work of the

Anti-Racism Collaborative (attached)

David Leonard (Birmingham)

David Leonard gave an update from PYM about the Anti-Racism Collaborative. This Collaborative recently gave a survey to various groups in the Yearly Meeting to see how diverse they are, and they found that Meetings are more diverse than they used to be. The Anti-Racism Collaborative has developed an extensive list of resources that is available to Meetings and the link is listed in the attached report. The Anti-Racism Collaborative is developing a program on Racial Justice in conjunction with the PYM Eco-Justice Collaborative, the PYM First Contact Reconciliation Collaborative, and PYM Middle East Collaborative. The program will be at Haddonfield Monthly Meeting on February 5th. The purpose of the Anti-Racism Collaborative is not only to increase diverse membership in meetings, but also to make PYM and monthly meetings more sensitive to systemic racism. Debbie thanked David for his report.

Reading of Minutes for Approval

Marty Boston (Recording Clerk)

There were no issues for action today.

Second Count of Meetings in Attendance

Marty Boston (Recording Clerk)

At the end of the Meeting, twenty-five people were in attendance. All meetings except Concord and Willistown were represented.

Announcements of Upcoming Events (all also on the CQ website calendar) Debbie Murray-Sheppard

October 31, 2021	Planning Committee Meeting 2:00PM (via Zoom)
November 3, 2021	Working Group on Aging Concerns 10:30AM-12:00PM (via Zoom)
November 5-7, 2021	Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Continuing Sessions (via Zoom) https://www.pym.org/sessions/
November 10, 2021	Financial Support for Aging Adults 7:00PM-8:30PM (via Zoom) https://concordquarter.org/aging-concerns/2021/financial-support-aging-adults
December 4, 2021	Joint Concord and Western Quarter Parent’s Morning Off 9:00AM-1:00PM at Westtown School

Many other programs for children, youth, and young adults on the PYM calendar:
<https://www.pym.org/calendar/>

Unless otherwise noted, contact the Coordinator for the Zoom links (concordquarter@pym.org)

Minutes Respectfully submitted,
Marty Boston,
Recording Clerk

JOYS AND CHALLENGES REPORT FROM MIDDLETOWN MEETING

Middletown Meeting Report to Concord Quarterly Meeting, October 2021

As has been the case for the rest of the world, the last two years at Middletown Meeting have been deeply affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. This has been especially true for our meetings for worship and business, which for a time were solely conducted via the Zoom video conferencing application. Over time, many Friends returned to live worship in the meetinghouse, most recently wearing masks due to the Delta variant of the virus. Because some friends, for reasons of health or distance, continue to meet with us via Zoom, we have committed to continue our meetings in this hybrid live/online mode for the foreseeable future. We are grateful for this broadening of those who can participate in worship with us. Until now, we have been running Zoom in an ad hoc manner, using a cell phone, a small speaker, and sometimes an external microphone. We have formed the Blended Worship committee to explore how best to “operationalize” the running of Zoom in the context of a live meeting, thus allowing a broader group of Friends to be able to set up and run Zoom on any given First Day.

We replaced the live celebration of Middletown Day in June 2020 and Christmas Social in December 2020 with events held via Zoom, which worked out very well thanks to the efforts of those involved. We opted to have a small informal gathering in June 2021 to keep the logistics simpler. We look forward to holding these and other gatherings again as live events.

We continue to attend to the business of the meeting, in part through the efforts of our Property and Worship & Care Committees. The restoration of our schoolhouse is nearly complete, thanks especially to the ongoing work of some of our Lima Estates Friends. We welcomed one member as a transfer, and noted the passing of several other Friends, and we provided oversight for the marriage of one of our members. Over a period of months, an ad hoc committee worked out a plan to talk about racial healing modeled on the National Day of Racial Healing program. This resulted in live meetings on two First Days in July 2021 which were attended by about 8 Friends. We found both the process and the two meetings to be very beneficial to our community.

There was no Men’s Group retreat in 2020; in 2021, Friends went to the Poconos. This included our Friend from Maine, Ralph Greene, and his son who drove him from Maine to attend. Friends also drove north to Wyalusing to explore the commemoration site where John Woolman traveled to meet with the Lenni-Lenape / Munsee Sachem (chief) Papunehung and his people who lived there. Friends also spoke via Zoom with John Norwood, a pastor and official in the tribe. The men continue to meet regularly, roughly every other week, either live or via Zoom. Our Men’s Group also ran a Zoom-based workshop entitled “Faith, Hope and the Witness Within” on 6/8/2021 as part of the pre-PYM 2021 summer Zoom series.

The Meeting for Worship remains the center of our meeting community. We come together, recognizing our deep dependence on God to lead us, both together in our Meetings and in our individual lives. We look forward to continuing to be “stretched” in our Quaker practice and witness, as a small meeting with an aging membership.

CONCORD QUARTERLY MEETING TREASURER'S REPORT FOR THE FIRST

QUARTER OF THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2022

Un-reviewed Financial Statements for the First Quarter of the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2022 (Except As May Be Noted Below, Reported On A Cash Basis)

- One constituent monthly meeting fulfilled its financial covenants for the fiscal year June 30, 2021, in the first quarter of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022.
- In September 2021, \$10,797 in the Tuition Operating Fund were distributed to three Quaker Schools (Westtown, West Chester Friends and Wilmington Friends) in the form of grants for the benefit of 17 students. Each grant was for \$635.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

INCOME STATEMENT

Through The First Quarter Ending September 30, 2021 Revenues and Expenses Versus Prior Year's Revenues and Expenses Through the First Quarter

(numbers are redacted, contact the Coordinator for a full report)

BALANCE SHEET

September 30, 2021 Balance Sheet Versus Prior Year's September 30 Balance Sheet

- There are no liabilities.

For a non redacted report, contact the CQ Coordinator

Note: Individual constituent monthly meeting September 30, 2021, Growth & Income Fund balances are available upon request.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles B. Spadoni, Treasurer
October 24, 2021

Nominating Committee Report to Concord Quarterly Meeting Virtual Session 10/24/2021

We have not met since the July meeting due to travel and settling into new work and school schedules for several of us.

We will pick up the work of finding an assistant clerk, as well as review the terms of other roles.

If Friends have suggestions they would like to share, please reach out to Deb Wood (Westtown), Rich Ailes (Middletown), Melinda Wenner Bradley (West Chester), Julie Senko (Birmingham) or Bianca, our coordinator.

Concord Quarter Working Group on Aging Concerns Report to

Concord Quarterly Meeting Virtual Session 10/24/2021

The Working Group on Aging Concerns continues to meet every month via Zoom. The meetings always begin with a check-in, which has proven to be a source of the innovative ways meetings in the Quarter have adapted to the changes required by the pandemic.

The subgroup on senior housing continues to investigate senior living options in the vicinity of the Quarter. The Working Group will sponsor a virtual workshop led by George Schaefer on Financial Support for Aging Adults. It will be held November 10, 2021, from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. Registration information is on the Quarter's website. <https://concordquarter.org/aging-concerns/2021/financial-support-aging-adults>

The Working group will develop a response to Philadelphia Yearly Meeting concerning the proposed changes to the Aging Coordinator position following George Schaefer's retirement.

Membership in the Working Group is open to all. Contact the coordinator if you have interest in joining.

For more information, you can contact Bianca Santini-Dumas at concordquarter@pym.org or the clerk, Evelyn Brownlee: evelynbrownlee@gmail.com

Concord Quarterly Meeting Coordinator Report for October 24, 2021

I have been visiting with more friends and attending Meeting for Business. Recently I attended Westtown's Meeting for Business which included a Visioning Exercise on DEI Work (Joe Marchese, Westtown, will speak on this). I thought this was a great exercise and the solution for sharing individual visions was an excellent suggestion to take into consideration.

I have also had the chance to successfully plan a Hayride which was at capacity, but the weather did not agree with our group. Unfortunately, due to other events coming up very quickly we will not be able to reschedule the Hayride, but it will be fully refunded.

There has been a lot of success to share from the Delaware Valley Friends School Committee. It was great meeting with friends for the first time as well as the representatives of the school helping to maintain a relationship with the Quarter. We had the suggestion of attending future sporting events since we cannot currently join in person for the Meeting for Worship on Campus. There will be more opportunities in the future as the relationship continues to develop. A potential spring event is in the works with a meeting in January for those interested.

Social Media: As of now Facebook is the only social media platform being used. Since last quarterly meeting, there has been a spike in engagement on the page. I look forward to learning how to properly analyze the statistics, which will provide more structured reporting. I wanted to break down a few things to help in understanding the potential of its use and why it is important for the quarter. The platform works off 'engagement'. Engagement is based off the likes, comments and most importantly 'shares.' This essentially shows the platform that our page is relevant to those who follow its content. The more engagement we have the more likely it will show on someone's Facebook feed, therefore, informing them of the events, newsletters, and meetings to increase attendance. Since this is another way to maintain involvement from the quarter, particularly the YAFs, it helps to have people

interacting with the content posted. I encourage friends to like the page, post relevant articles, share memories, and open to the idea of new ways to connect with one another. I understand there are concerns about privacy and monitoring. I can see everything posted on the page. There are also other admins who help monitor content. There is also a private Facebook group where information and events specific to the Quarter will be posted in the future. I am currently building the group to have that be another outlet for Friends to find pertinent information. The private group opens the opportunity to use Facebook LIVE where friends can engage in real time for a hybrid event. The difference between Facebook LIVE and ZOOM is the convenience as well as the experience. It creates an atmosphere of being there rather than being in a cube behind your desk. I am very open to conversation and feedback on the social media subject. If you have questions or want involved but don't know where to start, please let me know. I am also still looking to develop stronger connections with the technology committees of the quarter.

October 24, 2021

Bianca Santini-Dumas concordquarter@pym.org

Quarterly Mtgs' Introduction to Anti-Racism Collaborative autumn 2021

The Anti-Racism Collaborative (ARC for short) of PYM and invited Friends to a Saturday Thread Gathering (i.e. workshop) on February 5th. The collaborative has been at work for a year and a half. It has been learning what's underway within meetings through a telephone survey of monthly meetings in all 13 Quarters. People can use pym.org to find ARC's recommended "Resources" for learning and engaging at:

<https://www.pym.org/anti-racism-collaborative/resources/>

We ask and encourage you to register for the Saturday, Feb 5th PYM Thread Gathering "*Restorative Racial Justice: From the Personal to the Systemic.*" The morning will focus on building personal awareness and tools for communicating. The afternoon will have three additional PYM Collaboratives: the Eco-Justice Collaborative, the First Contact Reconciliation Collaborative, and Middle East Collaborative. The goal of the program is to move us toward ways we can change harmful systems.