



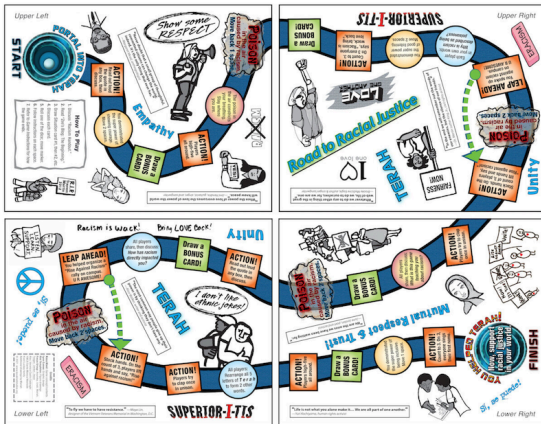
## Concord Quarterly Meeting Newsletter Volume 18, Issue 2, April 2021

### Anti-Blackness - Let's Talk About That

*(Ed Note: West Chester Friends Meeting recently formed an Anti-Racism Action Group. Their mission is to educate and bring awareness to issues of racial injustice and the systems that support it, and to take action, as individuals and as a faith community, to work toward anti-racism. An article on their group appeared in the October 2020 edition of the Concord Quarterly Meeting Newsletter)*

The April 2021 Concord Quarterly Meeting will focus on equality and racial justice. We'll gather and learn more about our BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) Friends' experiences in a discussion that will help you understand your role in this social justice movement. Later in the week, Friends will enjoy a free concert performance of music by Black composers.

**Children and Youth will also have opportunities for program time and community during the Quarterly Meeting weekend. On Sunday at 10:00am,**



youth in middle school and high school are invited to join West Chester Meeting's Young People's Group to explore anti-racism through playing the game, "Road to Racial Justice." The time together on Zoom will be led by West Chester Meeting youth with adult support. This is a [free, downloadable "board" game](#) that

supports and encourages cross-cultural understanding and compassionate action in order to help create a more loving and just world. Players become more aware that racism exists in many everyday situations (interpersonal and institutional), learn why the situations are racist (stereotyping, tokenism, cultural appropriation, etc.), and acquire tools to interrupt these kinds of situations.

Following the game, youth will be encouraged to join Friends in worship. For Children in 5th Grade and younger, families are encouraged to join the PYM "Giant Children's Meeting program earlier on Sunday morning, from 9:00-9:45am. The theme for April's gathering is "Caring for Our World" and will be Earthcare focused. The Giant Children's Meeting is a joyful, growing, PYM-wide community; between 20-30 families join on the fourth Sunday of the month, and Concord Quarter meetings will be sent the Zoom information for April 25. Later in the evening, PYM also hosts a [Youth-led Meeting for Worship](#) from 8:00-8:30pm. Middle and high school youth are welcome, and a member of the Young Friends community will have care of worship; PYM Youth Programs staff host but the focus is on youth voices. Any questions about the Sunday morning program for Concord Quarter Youth, or the two PYM programs, please contact Melinda Wenner Bradley, West Chester Meeting ([mwennerbradley@gmail.com](mailto:mwennerbradley@gmail.com)).

On Sunday, April 25 at 12:30 p.m., Oskar Castro, Director of Human Resources and Inclusion for Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, will be hosting a conversation with Concord Quarter entitled, "Anti-Blackness - Let's Talk About That." This program is open to all. [Use the WC Zoom link.](#)



Castro has contributed over twenty-five years of service in social justice non-profit work. He is a 1992 graduate of Rowan University where he majored in law & justice, and over the course of his professional life Oskar's work has supported BIPOC young adults to help them navigate the many challenges of life.

Attendees will learn more about their personal role in the racial justice movement and how they can be best prepared to help. Castro speaks to his leading for doing this work:

*"I remember as a small child always feeling a deep compassion for suffering when I witnessed it and as I grew older, I started to understand that some of the suffering that I was seeing, and at times experiencing, was the result of injustices in our society.*

*I ultimately followed a leading of wanting to be an anti-racist, anti-oppression, and justice seeking person at an early age, but it wasn't until I got to college that I understood the power of being able to share information to those seeking it and those who don't know that they should be seeking it. Two Black men, Dr. Herbert Douglass and Mr. Bill Myers, who I lovingly called Mr. Bill, were key mentors for me.*

*Dr. Douglass, as my law and human rights professor, helped me to better see behind the veil of American hypocrisies and the impact they have on societies within the US and abroad, and Mr. Bill helped me to understand the importance of giving back and being a resource for one's community.*

*I do what I do out of a love for justice which I fundamentally believe is the only way to peace."*

### [An Evening of Classical Music](#)



On Thursday, April 29 at 7 pm via Zoom, Clipper Erickson, piano, and Holly Gash, soprano, will perform a classical concert of works by Black composers. This event is being conducted specifically for Concord Quarterly meeting and is for all ages. The repertoire will be music by African American composers R. Nathaniel Dett, Harry T. Burleigh, Margaret Bonds, and Florence Price. Clipper will also perform a work he commissioned from the European American composer Laurie Altman, written in commemoration of George Floyd. The concert segments will be pre-recorded and then streamed with live commentary and Q & A. Alex Gilliam will produce the concert and it will last approximately 90 minutes.

- Diane Zappas West Chester Meeting

**New Quarterly Meeting Coordinator Search:** Our Quarter has been blessed with a number of coordinators whose Quaker work ethic and spiritual grounding have provided a solid underpinning for those Friends and attenders who have been called to support our membership and Meetings. Such is Lynne Piersol, who has been faithfully with us for four years. Now she has chosen her retirement date to be June 1. We are pleased that she chose us to finish her work career and wish her well in the future. You can write to her at [concordquarter@pym.org](mailto:concordquarter@pym.org) For more info see our advert at the bottom of page 4

## What is FCNL (Friends Committee on National Legislation)?



If you attended Quarterly Meeting sessions on January 24, you heard from Amelia Kegan, the Legislative Policy Director for the Friends Committee on National Legislation. Some Friends wanted to know more about what this organization is and does. Much of this information can be found on the FCNL website. <https://www.fcnl.org/>

FCNL began in 1943 with a gathering of 15 Yearly Meetings to consider Friends' ability to influence our government's decisions related to war and peace. Out of that gathering FCNL was born. It now is governed by a General Committee of about 180 Friends representing 26 Yearly Meetings and 7 national Quaker organizations. This includes 9 Friends from Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, who also make up the PYM Legislative Policy Collaborative.

FCNL is composed of two organizations: Friends Committee on National Legislation, a lobbying group; and the FCNL Education Fund, a charitable organization. Their registered lobbyists are based in Washington DC and work with people around the country in their advocacy network. They seek opportunities to work together with policy makers and advocates. Their priorities are informed by the belief that there is that of God in every person and that all creation has worth, while acknowledging a variety of religious and ethical traditions.

The FCNL legislative policy can be found here: <https://www.fcnl.org/about/world-we-seek/world-we-seek-statement-legislative-policy> The short version is their "Seeks" statement:

We seek a world free of war and the threat of war.  
We seek a society with equity and justice for all.  
We seek a community where every person's potential may be fulfilled.  
We seek an earth restored.

FCNL engages with others to support various legislation and government actions. They educate, empower and help Friends and others to participate in the political process. They value listening to others, including those who do not agree with them, looking to build mutually respectful relationships in the search for the common good. They have special programs for young adults. Priorities are chosen based on what the General Committee hears from the discernment processes that meetings can go through each year.

FCNL has recommendations for the first 100 days of the Biden Administration, including helping people better access SNAP (food stamp) benefits, reinstating protections for asylum seekers from other countries, establishing a White House Racial Equity Office, rejoining some global partnerships and agreements that the US had withdrawn from under the previous administration, and much more. <https://www.fcnl.org/updates/2021-01/first-100-days-fcnls-recommendations-biden-administration>

So, how can you be involved? A simple way is to sign up for newsletters and policy alerts. They make it very easy to contact your legislators by email or phone about issues of concern. You can sign up for advocacy opportunities here:

<https://act.fcnl.org/signup/one-action-every-week/> I do this one myself.

You can also become part of the Advocacy Team network which is spread out across the country: <https://www.fcnl.org/act/join-advocacy-team>. Bill and Laura Laky from Goshen Meeting are involved with the FCNL Advocacy Team for Delaware County. Teams focus on making personal relationships with their members of Congress and the Senate. They meet in teams with staff from the legislators' offices in a very strategic manner, planning out ahead of time what will be said, including how the issue affects the team personally. Right now all Advocacy Teams are focusing on repealing the 2002 authorization for the President to use military force independently of Congress. The Delaware County team recently met with Toomey's staff, and could share that the Heritage Foundation, a conservative think tank, actually agrees with FCNL on this issue. The Team meets monthly to plan strategy; Bill and Laura find it very helpful to be doing this work with others.

Or you might be interested in the PYM Legislative Policy Collaborative (<https://www.pym.org/legislative-policy-collaborative/>) made up of: 9 PYM Nominated Representatives who serve on the FCNL General Committee; Monthly Meeting Contacts who share news, request assistance and encourage action on specific legislation (does your Meeting have an FCNL Contact?); a Rapid Response Team which is a group of PYM Friends who engage meeting contacts with particularly timely actions; and all of us who take any kind of action from letter writing to visiting our representatives.

Friends Committee on National Legislation is doing awesome work, bringing information to legislators, forging connections and educating advocates and more. - *Lynne Piersol, CQM Coordinator*

## Summary of PYM Action Minutes on Climate Change

NOTE: PYM addressed the concern of climate change as a Yearly Meeting witness on March 27, 2021. For many years, individual Friends and Meetings have taken action in response to these minutes and their own leadings, and Friends organizations, including AFSC, FCNL, FWCC, QUNO and QEW, have spoken out about the threat of climate disruption to world peace, to civil society, and to our most vulnerable populations.

1972: The Yearly Meeting adopted its first query on concern for the sanctity of life on Earth and reverence for all creation: "Query #10—*Are you concerned that our increased power over nature should not be used irresponsibly but with reverence for life and with a sense of the splendor of God's continuing creation?*"

1989 and 1993: The Environmental Working Group urged the Yearly Meeting to heed its own query on the environment, to recognize care for the earth as a religious concern and an extension of our testimonies on peace, justice and simplicity.

1998-2015: PYM approved seven minutes recognizing our commitment to caring for the earth as an expression of our faith. Excerpts from these minutes include:

*The world is God's creation. How we treat the earth and all its creatures is basic to our relationship with God, and of fundamental religious concern to the Society of Friends*

*We unite in urging individual Friends, monthly meetings, and other Friends' organizations to seek Divine Guidance in understanding how to reduce our own use of energy and material resources, to support strong international agreements for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and to participate in a transition to less damaging technologies in our industries, agriculture, buildings and transportation.*

*We call upon the Yearly Meeting, in all its manifestations, to seek ways to hold our members lovingly accountable to live in God's world in a more environmentally sustainable fashion and to join other like-minded groups and organizations in supporting this concern.*

*We charge ourselves to examine all of our facilities and programs so as to continually ask, as a religious community, how we can live in God's world in a more environmentally sustainable fashion. . . [we] charge all Standing Committees and the working groups under their care to explore the implications of climate change and energy concerns for their work.*

*PYM encourages its Clerk and empowers the General Secretary and Councils as they are led to pursue opportunities and communicate publicly on behalf of PYM in support of strategic and effective efforts to abate climate change, as appropriate to their positions of leadership.*

Located here: <https://www.pym.org/eco-justice-collaborative/home/summary-of-pym-action-minutes-on-climate-change/>

**Note: At Continuing Sessions on 03/27/21, those present united with the idea that we should make climate change a corporate witness for PYM. There will be a sprint formed to work out more specifics to bring to Annual Sessions. It will be in collaboration/consultation with the EcoJustice Collaborative.**

## Who Are Our Young Adult Friends?

Our Young Adult Friends (YAFs) are Friends and seekers between the ages of 18-35. There are many communities of young adult Friends around the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting region. You can find YAFs on college campuses, activist spaces, artist spaces, social media, in Quaker Voluntary Service, in local meetings, and beyond! Some have not been to a local meeting since they were Young Friends, and some are exploring the Quaker Way for the first time, right now.

At the yearly meeting level, young adult engagement means supporting the spiritual vitality and community of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting by creating programming specifically for young adult Friends, as well as strengthening commitment and involvement of young adult Friends in PYM's multigenerational community.

Another layer to young adult engagement is understanding that some YAFs may not want, or have the capacity to be, engaged at a higher level and to think creatively for how we can still make our resources available, and offer spiritual support in a way that works for them.

For young adults seeking community with other Friends in their age range, we connect throughout the year over weekend retreats, potlucks, and events. These are spaces where the focus is community building, leadership, spiritual reflection, and fun. Together we explore how Quaker faith and practice resonates within our lives and communities. Annually we release an epistle to share where the spirit is most alive with us.

## Middletown Meeting (Concord QM) Minute on Membership

Concerns for Membership in Philadelphia Yearly Meeting

A concern has been raised in our Yearly Meeting on the conservative nature of our membership practices. A particular part of our community, those in their young adulthood, have told the wider body that their circumstances require attention to the special needs of their spiritual experience. They are in a fluid period where location in time is much more critical to them than their location in space. In such circumstances their guiding spirit places a higher emphasis on their actions according to God's will rather than becoming attached to a Monthly Meeting community. Because of their desire to serve their Yearly Meeting in which they reside, they are asking us to look at various ways which our requirement of Monthly Meeting membership makes it harder for them to serve.

Members of Middletown Monthly Meeting/Concord Quarter unite with these Friends in their desire to serve and urge the Yearly Meeting community to look at ways of changing our rules to allow for more flexibility for service. We highly value their engagement with our Quaker body and wish to see them more connected to our Yearly Meeting.

We also want to hold out a concern that we feel all members of the Religious Society of Friends should bear. We live in times where the needs of the individual Friend tend to ascend over the needs of the Meeting community. We understand this experience because many of us who are older were part of that wave which swept through our country where our inner guides shone a harsh light on old ways and pointed at the new. This brought innovations into our culture which have and will influence generations to come.

There are many ways YAFs serve and participate in the multigenerational yearly meeting community. This year we launched a pilot program called the Young Adult Friend Grants Consultant Program to increase young adult involvement in the yearly meeting's grantmaking. During the 11-month program, eight participants provide consultation to PYM's Granting Committee based on their active participation in one of PYM's nine Granting Groups. As consultants, participants are present for all Granting Group meetings and stand outside of consensus for final decisions. Several times during the year, participants will gather with PYM staff for fellowship, support, debriefing, and opportunities for shared learning. Participants of the program are provided with a modest stipend as consultants to PYM's granting program. At the end of the program, the consultants will share their experience, feedback, and recommendations with the Granting Committee and the wider PYM community.



For YAFs at all levels of participation- let's connect on social media. The Facebook group, PYM Young Adult Friends, is a great resource

for sharing employment opportunities, events, grants, and more. Follow us on Instagram @pymyoungadultfriends for queries and updates.

YAFs are at different places on our journeys, and we come together for rejuvenation, relaxation, and to deepen our connection to one another & Spirit. If you would like to get involved contact the Young Adult Engagement Coordinator, Meg Rose at [mrrose@pym.org](mailto:mrrose@pym.org).

-Meg Rose - Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Staff



However, we want to lift up for every Quaker the joy and the feeling of belonging that gets shared when Friends are drawn by a commitment to a membership that is rooted in a location that evolves over time. At Middletown we hold each other as precious gifts of God's grace where we assist one another and challenge one another in finding God's love within ourselves so that we may act faithfully in the world. A Monthly Meeting is a place where the tools of traditional Quakerism, Meeting for Worship, Meeting for Business, Clearness committees, committee work, marriages, memorials, clerkships, and even property cleanups and Christmas socials, help to solidify bonds that deepen over time. And more notable it is here where we can be affirmed and supported for leadings of the Spirit which can carry some of us on to life changing actions.

We would urge all Friends to hold dear this experience of membership in a Meeting community. A place to start reading about the value of membership is Thomas Gates' Pendle Hill pamphlet titled "Members One of Another." There you will find a rich vein of eldership regarding the value of Meeting membership. As Gates writes near the end of the pamphlet, "Membership in a Quaker meeting is a spirit led journey of coming to know ourselves as individual-in-community, a journey in which we experience meeting as a place of acceptance, a place of shared values, a place of transformation, and a place of obedience." (pp. 37-38)

We urge all Yearly Meeting Friends to hold this attention to a place of Meeting community as something to affirm and cherish as we move into our shared future searching for God's will and grace.

- approved at Middletown Meeting for Business 03/14/2021 Lima, PA

# Concord Quarter January-February 2021 Announcements & Calendar of Events

## Announcements

The draft minutes from our January 24 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 April 20, 2021

Many Quaker organizations have offerings online including Pendle Hill and Friends General Conference. <https://www.fgcquaker.org/connect/events> (early registration for the virtual summer gathering starts in mid-April) and <https://pendlehill.org/learn/workshops-courses-events/>

**PYM Friends General Conference** now has year round programs for children and youth, programs for Friends of Color, virtual worship opportunities and more: <https://www.fgcquaker.org/virtual-opportunities-fgc>. Retreats for high school aged youth of color: <https://www.fgcquaker.org/deepen/help-your-meeting-challenge-racism/virtual-retreats-youth-color> Also, FGC Gathering early registration opens April 15.

## Calendar of Events

- April 7** **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)  
**10:30am-12**
- April 17** **FGC Consultation: Spirit and Community in Online Gatherings.** Via Zoom. (**editorial comment - this looks excellent**) More information and to register: <https://www.fgcquaker.org/events/fgc-consultation-spirit-and-community-online>  
**10:30am - noon**
- April 25** **Concord Quarterly Meeting** with Meeting for Business, children and youth programs, worship and adult program, which will be with Oskar Castro, PYM's Director of HR and Inclusion. "Anti-Blackness - Let's Talk About That". Hosted by West Chester Meeting via Zoom. The link will be sent out to all on our listserves or contact the Coordinator for the link at [concordquarter@pym.org](mailto:concordquarter@pym.org). More information coming in this April newsletter.  
**8:30 am to 2:00 pm**
- April 26** **Choosing Senior Housing Research group.** For those interested in researching options other than staying in your own home. Organized by the Working Group on Aging Concerns. Contact the Coordinator for more information and the Zoom link: [concordquarter@pym.org](mailto:concordquarter@pym.org)  
**7-8:15 pm**
- April 29** **Part 2 of Quarterly Meeting: Clipper Erickson, piano, and Holly Gash, soprano,** will perform a classical concert of works by Black composers. This event is being conducted specifically for Concord Quarterly meeting and is for all ages. The link will be sent out to all on our listserves or you can find it here: <https://www.clippererickson.com/friends-concert-4-29-21/>  
**7-8:30 pm**
- April 30 – May 2** **"Camp" Weekend for Youth and Families.** All PYM youth and families are invited to a weekend of activities that will center fellowship, fun, and a "camp vibe." Online and free. For more information: <https://www.pym.org/event/camp-weekend-for-youth-and-families/>
- May 2** **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 pm**
- May 13, 20** **Save the dates!** A two part workshop via Zoom on various aspects of safety as we age, organized by the CQ Working Group on Aging Concerns. On May 13 will be information about home safety and fall prevention. May 20 will feature medication issues and driving safety. More information coming!
- May 14-15** **PYM Young Adult Friends Spring Retreat.** For those aged 18-35ish. For more information: <https://www.pym.org/event/yaf-spring-retreat-2021/>

**Concord Quarter Seeks Part Time Coordinator** - Applications are now being accepted for a 14 to 20 hour/week, part-time coordinator position for Concord Quarterly Meeting, to begin June 1, 2021. Concord Quarter is part of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting; it consists of 8 monthly meetings in southeast Pennsylvania and northern Delaware.

Applicant will be expected to work with the Concord Quarter Planning Committee. Interested persons may send inquiries for a job description and compensation details to [concordqmsearch@gmail.com](mailto:concordqmsearch@gmail.com). Applications will be accepted until April 30, 2021.

# Concord Quarterly Meeting April 25, 2021 - West Chester Meeting

This is a ZOOM event (see link below in box)

8:30-9:45 Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business  
 9:00 [PYM Giant Children's Meeting](#) -- for elementary school aged youth  
 10:00-10:30 "Road to Racial Justice" Game - Youth Program for middle school/high school youth  
 10:30-11:30 Meeting for Worship  
 11:45-12:30 Lunch Break  
 12:30-2:00 Presentation: Oskar Castro on Anti-Blackness  
 As part of this Quarterly Meeting West Chester Meeting will host a special concert on April 29 from 7 to 8:30 PM

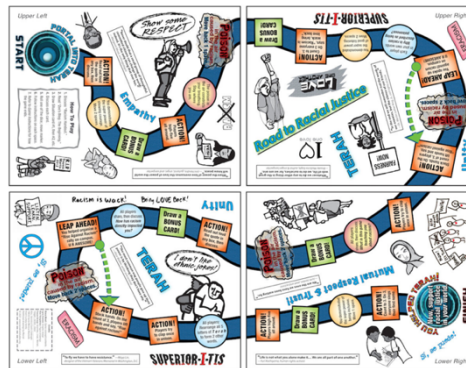
## Anti-Blackness - Let's Talk About That

*Learn more about your personal role in the racial justice movement and how you can be best prepared to help.*



Oskar Castro is the Director of Human Resources and Inclusion for Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. Castro has contributed over twenty-five years of service in social justice non-profit work. He is a 1992 graduate of Rowan University where he majored in law & justice, and over the course of his professional life Oskar's work has supported BIPOC young adults to help them navigate the many challenges of life.

**Road to Racial Justice Game – Youth Program**  
 Facilitated by an adult from WC Meeting, and in a spirit of fellowship and learning together, youth players will explore where racism exists in everyday situations, learn why the situations are racist, and acquire tools to interrupt these kinds of situations. The game was developed by Kesa Kivel, a Los Angeles-based educator. Kesa developed the game with the help of a focus group comprised of individuals of various races and ethnicities. It has become a widely popular, free, downloadable resource.



**CLIPPER ERICKSON** Pianist On Thursday, April 29 at 7 pm via Zoom, Clipper Erickson, piano, and Holly Gash, soprano, will perform a classical concert of works by **Black composers**. This event is being conducted specifically for Concord Quarterly meeting and is for all ages. The repertoire will be music by African American composers R. Nathaniel Dett, Harry T. Burleigh, Margaret Bonds, and Florence Price. Clipper will also perform a work he commissioned from the European American composer Laurie Altman, written in commemoration of George Floyd. Go here for the link: <https://www.clippererickson.com/friends-concert-4-29-21/>

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/582447487>- Or phone: (646) 558-8656 - Meeting ID: 582 447 487 passcode: Friends  
<https://concordquarter.org/nextqtm-pastqtm/2021/cqm-west-chester-april-25>  
 For more info and a map to our meetings, go to <http://concordquarter.org/meeting-maps/>  
 You can also email Lynne Piersol, Coordinator, at [concordquarter@pym.org](mailto:concordquarter@pym.org)  
 or call 610-864-3802 and leave a message.

## Concord Quarterly Meeting via Zoom on January 24, 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

**Debbie Murray-Sheppard (Clerk)**

The clerk extended a welcome to David Calamaro, Associate Head and Academic Dean of School of Delaware Valley Friend's School.

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

**Debbie Murray-Sheppard**

Thirty-one friends were present as the meeting began. All the Meetings of the Quarter were represented.

### Approval of Agenda

**Debbie Murray-Sheppard**

The group approved the agenda as written.

### Approval of Minutes from October 25, 2020

**Debbie Murray-Sheppard**

The minutes from October were approved as written.

### Joys and Challenges Report from Westtown Meeting (attached)

**Bruce Harrison**

Bruce Harrison read the Joys and Challenges Report from Westtown. The group held Westtown Meeting in the Light.

### Joys and Challenges Report from Wilmington Meeting (attached)

**Brian Fahey**

Brian Fahey highlighted some main points from Wilmington Meeting's Joys and Challenges Report. Pam Cerchio reported that Wilmington Meeting has had three meetings about the use of their building. Pacem in Terris has been using the second floor of the Wilmington Meeting house as its headquarters. The group held Wilmington Meeting in the Light.

### Treasurer's Report (attached)

**Charles Spadoni**

Charles Spadoni reviewed the Treasurer's report. He reported that all of the Quarter's assets in the Green Fund are being moved to the Growth and Income Fund. Friend Fiduciary has closed the Green Fund. The Growth and Income Fund is going all fossil fuel free. The group approved the move of the assets to the Growth and Income Fund.

### Report from Delaware Valley Friends School

**David Calamaro**

David Calamaro gave an annual report from Delaware Valley Friends School. He gave details about how the school is dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic. The Lower School and Middle School are meeting in person. The Upper School has had a hybrid teaching model since September. David shared a video called *I Am Light* that featured singing and photos of the students at the school in various school activities. The group accepted the Delaware Valley Friend's School's annual report. The group held the school, faculty, and students in the Light.

### Coordinator Report (attached)

**Lynne Piersol**

Lynne Piersol gave her Coordinator's Report. Lynne mentioned that tuition aid applications are due by February 19, 2021. She said that applicants could email her to receive an aid application. Lynne is accepting an email from the meeting clerks if the applicant cannot get the clerk's signature on the application. Lynne is working with a small group to plan an outdoor event in March 2021 because people have grown weary of so many Zoom meetings and it would be nice to have an in-person event.

### New Support Group for Researching Retirement Housing

**Rich Ailes**

Rich Ailes gave a report about a new support group started by the Working Group on Aging Concerns. The group is for those looking to research and move into a retirement community. The group will have an initial meeting January 28, 7:30 pm. If people are interested in joining the group they may contact the Coordinator for the Zoom link at [concordquarter@pym.org](mailto:concordquarter@pym.org)

### PYM request to Monthly & Quarterly Meetings regarding the EcoJustice Collaborative & PYM's Summary Minutes (see attached) D. Murray-Sheppard

PYM asked individual meetings for feedback on three issues: membership and belonging; climate change and ecojustice; and diversity, equity, and inclusion to help PYM discern what unity there is across the Yearly Meeting for these specific minutes and priorities. At the October Quarterly meeting Concord Quarter asked the Clerk to write a letter to the PYM Clerks expressing concern that the Quarters were not involved with the requests for discernment.

Debbie asked if Meetings from the Quarter have discussed the EcoJustice Collaborative document and the Climate Change Minutes. Bill Laky from Goshen Meeting said that Goshen has discussed the issue and they going to try to make some changes to their Meeting house to help with Climate Change. Charles Spadoni reported that Birmingham Monthly Meeting has been working on the membership issue. Elizabeth Varley from Concord Monthly Meeting said that Concord plans to discuss the issues next month.

Debbie Murray-Sheppard said that she will send out an email about the three issues from PYM to everyone in the Quarter. She would like the monthly meetings to send their responses about the three issues to the Quarter as well as to PYM. PYM would like responses by the summer sessions.

### Reading of Minutes for Approval

**Marty Boston (Recording Clerk)**

Friend Fiduciary is closing the Green Fund and has made all investments in the Growth Income Fund fossil fuel free. Concord Quarter approved moving the Quarter's assets in the Friends Fiduciary Green Fund to the Friends Fiduciary Growth and Income Fund.

Concord Quarter accepted the Delaware Valley Friends School's annual report that was presented by David Calamaro, Associate Head and Academic Dean of School of Delaware Valley Friend's School.

### Second Count of Meetings in Attendance

**Marty Boston (Recording Clerk)**

Thirty-seven people were present at the second count of the Meeting. All Meetings were represented.

## Concord Quarterly Meeting Coordinator Report, January 24, 2021

In just a few weeks, it will be a year since the pandemic was taken seriously and we had to change how we go about our lives. We had to change how we function as a Quarterly Meeting. I have missed the in-person visits at your meetings but have chosen to limit my indoor in-person gatherings. Zoom has been extremely helpful in maintaining connection as I "visit" meetings virtually and set up meetings via Zoom. We have had some successful programs too, via Zoom, but not sitting with folks at lunch after a program or worship is a loss.

I attended the PYM Meeting for Business Session on December 8 and heard about the reports of meetings' discernments on the questions that had been submitted in the late summer. My article about that was in the January newsletter.

Current projects include working with a small planning group for an outdoor event for March 13. It will be a hike with a scavenger hunt at Okehocking Preserve. The feedback we get is that folks are zoomed out, especially those who are working remotely with children zooming to school. Since we were unable to offer the traditional Parents' Morning Off event, we (Western and Concord Quarters) did plan and carry out a virtual "Would You Rather" event in November for elementary school aged children. It was a light-hearted fun event. However, only 3 children attended. They enjoyed it, but it was not the success we had hoped for.

Work on the document retention policy continues. With the help of Planning Committee, I was put in touch with more people in the Quarter who have experience in this work and I recently received more information to add to it. Hopefully, it can be submitted for approval in April.

Ongoing work includes information sharing across the Quarter and the Yearly Meeting. Some meetings asked me to share their special events around the Christmas and New Year holidays. In response to the violence on Capitol Hill in Washington on January 8, I shared several statements approved by various Quaker meetings, PYM and FGC. At least one meeting in the Quarter, Westtown, wrote their own statement and organized an online and in person event for January 20 which I shared with the Quarter.

I'm available for Zoom coaching, and several have taken me up on that offer.

I continue to support the committees of the Quarter by attending, taking minutes, sharing resources, and supporting Clerks. These include Delaware Valley Friends School/Concord Quarter Care Committee, which met in December, the Working Group on Aging Concerns, which meets monthly, Planning Committee, which meets 4 times a year, and Nominating Committee which is working now on nominations for several roles. If you might be interested in getting more involved with the Quarter, do let me know!

The Working Group on Aging Concerns welcomed Jean-Marie Prestwidge Barch, Co-Clerk of PYM to share her knowledge about aging concerns in minority and underserved communities at their meeting in December. Periodically we invite experts to share knowledge on a particular aspect of aging concerns to expand the group's knowledge. The Working Group is also starting a support group for those interested in researching retirement housing options other than staying in your own home.

The Quarter's Tuition Aid program is accepting applications for the 2021-22 academic year. I keep track of those applications which are coming in now and then communicate with the Treasurer and the schools in the fall. Applications are due February 19!

I am hoping that once I am vaccinated, I can visit you more in person. As always, any questions and suggestions are welcome!

Lynne Piersol

### Regarding Climate Change minutes from PYM Continuing Sessions, December 8, 2020

Below is a quote from the section of the Clerks' Report at these sessions. Also attached separately are the minutes referenced (EcoJustice Collaborative and the PYM Summary Minute)

"...There does seem to be some lack of clarity about the PYM Minute vs. the Eco-Justice Collaborative Minute, with different Meetings approving support for one or the other, or, in one case, both.

Way forward might include support in principle by the body for action on climate change as a yearly meeting witness followed by formation of a sprint to review the many documents we have and to outline the specific and actionable behaviors we could undertake. The resulting specific document would then come back to the body for approval.

Given that this issue has been before the yearly meeting in different forms for many years, and given also the urgency of addressing climate change, your clerk would propose final review of this document no later than our summer sessions. As is true for the sprint on membership, this Sprint membership must be widely inclusive with significant membership from the eco-justice collaborative. If you have names to lift up for possible inclusion on the Sprint, please share them with the clerk: [Barch@pym.org](mailto:Barch@pym.org).

*Editor's Note: The Joys and Challenges reports of Westtown and Wilmington Meetings, the Treasurer's Report, the slide show from Delaware Valley Friends School report, and the EcoJustice Collaborative Minute and PYM Summary report on Climate Change are available on our website at <https://concordquarter.org/documents/?category=Minutes>*

**Concord Quarterly Meeting Newsletter**  
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Birmingham  
Chichester Meetinghouse (Under Care of Concord MM)  
Concord  
Goshen  
Middletown  
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