

Concord Quarterly Meeting at Westtown Meeting, October 27, 2019

Minutes

Opening Worship

The meeting opened at 8:30 AM with a period of worship. Twenty-six friends were present as the meeting began.

Welcome to Newcomers—Chris McKenney (Clerk)

The clerk welcomed all newcomers and invited them to introduce themselves.

Monthly Meeting Count (Birmingham, Concord, Goshen, Middletown, West Chester, Westtown, Willistown, Wilmington, Chichester)—Chris McKenney

Representatives were present from all meetings in the Quarter except for Concord, and Goshen Meetings.

Approval of Agenda— Chris McKenney

The group approved the agenda.

Approval of Minutes from July 21, 2019—Chris McKenney

The minutes were approved without further correction.

Joys and Challenges Report from Middletown Meeting—Rich Ailes

Rich Ailes from Middletown Meeting presented the report. It is attached as Appendix 1. Rich answered some questions from the group. The Meeting begins worship at 11 AM. They have a new sign in front of the Meeting to invite people to the Meeting. Rich talked about the Men's Group at the Meeting.

Treasurer's Report (attached)—Charles Spadoni

Charles Spadoni gave the Treasurer's report. It is attached as Appendix 2. The group thanked Charlie for his work on behalf of the Quarter.

Working Group on Aging Concerns (attached)—Rich Ailes

Rich Ailes gave a report from the Working Group on Aging Concerns. Rich thanked Lynne Piersol for the support that she has given the Group. Rich said that the presentations from the Group on Aging Concerns are open to those from Western Quarter and Caln Quarter. The report is attached as Appendix 3.

Coordinator Report (attached—Chris McKenney

Chris McKenney gave the Coordinator's report as Lynne Piersol was unable to attend the meeting. After the report was read a friend announced that the PYM Thread Gathering on Religious Concerns will be held at Wilmington Monthly Meeting on December 7th. Chichester Meeting offered thanks to Lynne Piersol for her help with some of their recent projects. The Coordinator's report is attached as Appendix 4.

Minute of Travel for Religious Service for Deb Wood—Bruce Harrison

Bruce Harrison read the minute of travel for religious service for Deb Wood. The travel minute was approved by the group. The Minute is attached as Appendix 5.

Time to share what is happening in your meetings around Peace and Social Justice or other areas—Chris McKenney

Chichester Meeting used to have help from Delaware County people who had to do community service help care for their grounds, but now the county imprisons or fines these people and they no longer can help Chichester. Judy Reese asked help from the group to see if there is a way to change this new practice.

Birmingham Meeting holds two dinners a year and donates the proceeds to a number of charities. They have asked the recipients from these groups to come speak about their work. Birmingham Meeting has also raised money for twelve landmine detectors. Birmingham contributes to the food bank monthly. Some Birmingham Meeting members work with GunSenseUs, a group that works to have sensible gun laws.

Wilmington Meeting hosts Pacem In Terris at their Meeting. The Meeting works with Hockessin Meeting to support Family Promise, a group that supplies meals for families in crisis. They help citizens returning from incarceration. They are trying to figure out a way to help people who are recovering from addiction.

Willistown Meeting has been donating supplies to the New Day Halfway House in Philadelphia for women who have been abused by human trafficking. They donate monthly to the West Chester Food Cupboard.

Peter Lane from Westtown Meeting announced that he and his wife will go to Mohonk Center to a meeting called Creating and Sustaining Peace. Westtown participated in Chester County Green Day. They are also helping with The Middle

East Collaborative. A Peace March from Nazareth and Bethlehem is going on in the first weekend in December and some of their members will attend.

Reading of Minutes for Approval—Marty Boston (Recording Clerk)

The group decided not to have this redone as it had just been completed.

Second Count of Meetings and Members in Attendance—Marty Boston (Recording Clerk)

Thirty-two members were present at the end of the meeting. All meetings except for Concord and Goshen were represented.

The group was asked to fill out an Evaluation form and leave at the sign in table—Chris Mckenney

Announcements of Upcoming Events (all on the CQ website calendar) Chris McKenney, Clerk

- November 2, PYM Continuing Sessions at Arch Street Meeting House
- November 3, 1-3pm – CQ Planning Committee at the Jeanes Building of The Hickman
- November 6, 10:30-noon – Working Group on Aging Concerns at Birmingham Friends Meeting
- November 9, 4:30-7pm – Harvest Buffet at Birmingham Friends Meeting
- November 10, 7pm – Quaker Vespers at White Horse Village.
- November 14, 10am – worship with Delaware Valley Friends School, followed by a tour, RSVP to the school.
- November 16, 9:30-12 - followed by lunch. “Organized for Life” with Carol Bernard, sponsored by the Working Group on Aging Concerns and held at Willistown Meeting
- November 23, 9-1pm – Parents Morning Off with Western Quarter, at The Cabin at Westtown.
- December 7, PYM Thread Gathering on Religious Education and Youth Work, at Wilmington Meeting
- Westtown Meeting is hosting a holiday an ongoing plant sale that helps Barclay Friends.
- February 22 7PM a square dance at Willistown Meeting.
- November 10 7- 7:45 PM--Quaker Vespers at White Horse Village
- January 26 10 AM PYM--Threshing Session at Haddonfield Meeting about Evolving Into the Future

Respectfully submitted,

Christopher McKenney

Clerk

and

Martha Boston

Recording Clerk for Concord Quarter

Appendix 1:

Middletown Meeting report to Concord Quarterly Meeting Oct 2019

Middletown Meeting remains a small but strong community. Our worship is rich and often deeply rewarding. Our meetings for business are filled with a mix of serious discernment and humor. Our social gatherings are warm and supportive. We continue to meet on all Sundays with an average of about ten attenders and members in attendance. We now have an ongoing after-worship social event every first Sunday of the month, thanks to the commitment made by specific members to prepare and host it. In September at that event there were about 12 of us who sat around the table in the Social Room for more than an hour taking refreshment and sharing stories. There seems to be more openness to fellowship in our meeting community these days. As in the past we had a successful Middletown Day in June and a Christmas Social in December, which brought about 25 past and present members and attenders together for fun and food. At both events there was even homegrown music provided by aspiring member musicians.

Our meeting benefits from our location next door to Lima Estates retirement community. Currently three of our member/attenders live at Lima.

Some new folks have entered our community and regrettably a few of our elders have passed on, so our numbers are probably the same as when we reported two years ago. But the commitment of our members and attenders has now extended to two new committees. We have reinstated our Property Committee and we have a Worship and Care Committee, both meeting regularly. The Property Committee is currently working on a restoration of our mid-19th century stone schoolhouse and the Worship and Care Committee is discerning gifts of members, how we know we are led to speak in worship, and the appropriateness of approving a member as a recorded minister. Our ad hoc Nominating Committee has functioned effectively, having brought forward two clerks of Meeting for approval in the last 2 years. We recently approved Richard Ailes to replace outgoing clerk, Thomas Ceresini, using this Nominating process.

Our Men's Group meets regularly, almost every other Monday evening for fellowship and worship. Over the summer three of the men traveled to Maine to spend five days in retreat with our Quaker minister Friend, Ralph Green at his son's parsonage on Swan's Island near Bar Harbor. On the way up to Maine, the three Friends visited with Peter Crysdale and his partner Daphne Clement, in New Bedford, Massachusetts. Peter is the pastor of nearby Allen's Neck Meeting. That Sunday morning the three Friends participated in Allen's Neck's Meeting for Worship.

Last Fall the Meeting held six adult First Day School classes on the gospels of Mathew and Luke. This Fall we are following up with six classes on the Gospel of John. We have been blessed with two members committed to teaching these classes.

Our joys include our depth of worship and the discernment in our business meetings as well as the increasing sense that God's presence in our community is growing. Our challenges remain our aging membership and our difficulty in attracting younger people into the meeting. With God's help we hope to meet these challenges in a future filled with grace and faithfulness and love for one another.

Note: This report was approved at Middletown Meeting for Business, 10/13/2019

Appendix 2

CONCORD QUARTERLY MEETING TREASURER'S REPORT (redacted) Financial Statements for the First Quarter Ending September 30, 2019

A full non-redacted treasurers report can be obtained from the Coordinator

Concord Quarterly Meeting's financial statements for the first quarter ending September 30, 2019, are set forth below. The revenue and expense statement displays actual revenues and expenses versus the prior year's first quarter revenues and expenses.

CONCORD QUARTERLY MEETING TREASURER'S REPORT Financial Statements for the First Quarter Ending September 30, 2019

Concord Quarterly Meeting's financial statements for the first quarter ending September 30, 2019, are set forth below. The revenue and expense statement displays actual revenues and expenses versus the prior year's first quarter revenues and expenses.

Appendix 3:

Concord Quarter Working Group on Aging Concerns Report to Concord Quarterly Meeting at Westtown Meeting 10/27/2019

We continue to meet regularly, almost every month, sometimes at Birmingham Meeting and sometimes at West Chester Meeting. Anyone interested is welcome to attend our meetings and become part of the group. Meeting times are usually from 10:30 AM until 12 PM, the first Wednesday of the month.

The group remains focused on developing our skills around the experience of aging, providing support to one another on various aging issues in our Meetings, and preparing workshops for the Quarter. Generally, our meetings begin with a round robin sharing of the aging concerns we have encountered in our meeting communities. The assistance we provide one another during these exchanges is often very rich and helpful to everyone.

Occasionally we schedule a knowledgeable resource person to present information on aging that will help us sharpen our skills. At our second such meeting, June Lunney, a Birmingham Meeting Friend who has done research on the subject of trajectories of functioning in late life will speak to us. It will be at the end of our normal working group meeting on November 6 from 11:15 to 12. Everyone is invited to attend this discussion.

We have organized our fourth workshop on an aging topic for the Quarter, set for Saturday, November 16, at Willistown Meeting. Carol Bernard of Hockessin Meeting will speak to us about downsizing. Carol is the former director of the University of Delaware's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute where she taught "Organized for Life" courses for a number of years. She is currently the co-clerk of Hockessin's Ministry and Care Committee.

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

Appendix 4:

Concord Quarter Coordinator Report for Quarterly Meeting, October 27, 2019

As you may notice, I am not here in person for Meeting for Business! (I'll be here later this morning) I am driving back from Friends General Conference Central Committee where I serve PYM as one of your representatives. This work has allowed me to share even more resources with you than I would have known about before.

This fall has been busy for me. I have met once with the Delaware Valley Friends School/Concord Quarter Care Committee, and twice with the Aging Concerns Working Group. Each group has planned activities for later in the fall for which I do a lot of the logistical work. The popular Hayride and Campfire Potluck did happen on October 6, despite the threat of rain. Earlier rain stopped at Wynnorr Farm (thanks so much to the Strattons for hosting us) at 4:45pm and we ended up having a great time with 37 participants!

Upcoming events include the annual Parents Morning Off, jointly organized with Western Quarter. Due to some other events happening in early December in the Quarter, we decided to try the Saturday before Thanksgiving, November 23, for this event. Parents get to drop off their children for a morning of crafts, games, outdoor play and lunch and we get to have fun with the children! Please RSVP.

You'll also hear more about the workshop planned by the Working Group on Aging Concerns. This group also meets monthly and anyone is welcome to attend. I manage a list serve for those who were trained as Aging Concerns Facilitators in 2018, and also recently had a question relevant to this group posted on the Concord Quarter Facebook page. My social work experience in finding resources for people serves me well in this job!

I am heartened by the increase in the number of families attending Quarterly Meeting. This is especially due to the energy and support of Melinda Wenner Bradley, the PYM Youth Religious Life Coordinator, and member at West Chester. We are committed now to offering children's programming at Quarterly Meeting starting at the beginning of the day, and she has either been involved directly, or indirectly each time this year. I've created an email group of families who have been involved with any Concord Quarter program over the last 2 years and plan to email them several times a year. Let me know if you want to be included!

Today we are trying something new; we are asking you to fill out an evaluation form for Quarterly Meeting. We really want to know what your thoughts are, so please fill it out and leave it with us. The results will help us as we move forward with our programs and events.

Other work has included communication around the Quarter's Tuition Assistance program, involving communication with the schools and coordination with our Treasurer. This year we helped the families of 18 children. Daily email, Facebook posting on our page, and regular announcements, plus more targeted emails to specific groups such as Peace and Social Concerns Clerks. I'll be attending Continuing Sessions on November 2, and will report back what happens there.

I am always open to new ideas, suggestions, and offers to serve the Quarter if you are led. See you soon.

Lynne Piersol

Appendix 5:

Westtown Monthly Meeting
215 Friends Meeting Lane
West Chester, PA 19382
Sixth Month 2019

Subject: Minute of Travel for Religious Service for Deborah Wood

Dear Friends:

This letter serves to introduce Deborah Wood, a member in good standing of Westtown Monthly Meeting, Concord Quarterly Meeting, and Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. Over the coming year, and perhaps longer, Deb will be traveling to various parts of the world following her leading to become more involved with the work of Friends Peace Teams. Deb does so with the enthusiastic support of Westtown Monthly Meeting, under whose care a clearness/oversight committee has been established to guide her work. The Meeting has also committed to providing financial support for her travels and related service.

Westtown Meeting is clear that Deb's leadings are grounded in the Spirit and in Friends' testimonies, particularly the testimony on peace. Her leadings arise from her life's work to date and were most recently prompted by her lead organizing role on behalf of Westtown Meeting in hosting the annual meeting of Friends Peace Teams in May 2019. In Deb's own words:

"Multiple times during Friends Peace Teams meetings in May, I felt a deep swelling of the Spirit. FPT's work clearly speaks to me; it combines my current volunteer work with the Alternatives to Violence Project, my previous work with Friends Peace Teams, my 28 years of teaching, and my graduate work in Conflict Resolution and Peaceable Schools, and my search to walk cheerfully answering that of God.

"...The Compassionate Listening training I completed in November [2018], March [2019], and will continue in late July [2019], complements the FPT programs. Indeed components of Compassionate Listening comprise key skills and structures utilized in the FPT's trauma healing and peace building programs."

Deb plans to attend an international facilitators training (Creating Cultures of Peace) by Friends Peace Teams in Pati, Central Java, Indonesia in January 2020. While there, she anticipates joining participants from the Philippines, Korea, Aotearoa/New Zealand, Australia, the United Kingdom, the United States, Chechnya, several African countries, and Indonesia. Post-training, she will be looking for openings for further volunteer work with Friends Peace Teams, involvement that will build on previous work she has undertaken in Africa and the Middle East.

Westtown Meeting is fully aligned with Deb's calling. We have united around the sense that Deb and her leadings are a blessing to our meeting. We believe you will have similar corporate and individual experiences as she comes into relationship with you. We commend Deb to you and ask that you hold her in your loving embrace and offer her your support as she ventures forth into the world.

Respectfully,

Margaret Haviland, Co-Clerk
Westtown Monthly Meeting

Bruce Harrison, Co-Clerk
Westtown Monthly Meeting