

Dear Rich,

At the December Meeting for Business our meeting took up the Quarter's request for feedback on our commitment to Concord Quarter's tuition aid fund. We had a robust discussion with about 25 members in attendance. Below I have included the minutes from the meeting, ending with a number of questions and queries that came out of our conversation. The sense of Westtown Monthly Meeting is that we should begin paying into the fund again as it is an important form of outreach to our members. As a Meeting, we are committed to supporting the Tuition Aid for Friends in Quaker Schools program. As you read below you will also see that we raised many questions for which we do not have any definite answers.

Please know that I welcome any questions that would help bring greater clarity to our notes. You may contact me by phone at 610 344-7613 or email me at marc.dear@westtown.edu.

Respectfully submitted,
Marc Dear
Clerk, Westtown Monthly Meeting

Minutes from Westtown Meeting's December Meeting for Business:

CQM: Tuition Aid for Friends in Quaker Schools. The Quarter is seeking the sense of each Meeting's commitment to the Tuition Aid Endowment Fund's future growth. For more information on the CQM Tuition Fund and CQM Operating Budget fund visit these two sites.
http://www.pym.org/sites/pym.org/files/meeting-site/46/Tuition_Endowment_Fund_Apr2010_0.pdf
http://www.pym.org/sites/pym.org/files/meeting-site/46/2012-10-28_Treasurers_Report_TEF.pdf

- The question for us from CQM is whether or not we should return to paying into and help the endowment fund grow or should we let the fund just chug along as it is.
 - We do have a balanced budget at our MM. To return to contributing to the endowed fund would mean less money for other groups we support. Last year we supported PYM, FCNL, AFSC, Oak Lane, Westtown School, WMM education grants in addition to our WMM endowed education fund.
- If we didn't contribute to help the CQM endowed fund grow what would happen? The principal right now is \$130000.00 which produces approximately \$6000 for tuition aid. The fund uses all of the income towards grants (no re-investment). Over time this \$6000 will with inflation be less useful and vital. (Quarterly Meeting information)
- Is there a set amount that each meeting is expected to send to the quarter – per capita? Originally it was \$7/person but meetings have wandered. Should we return to a per capita contribution?
- What is the demand by our families for these education grants?
 - 17 families in CQM received \$600/student.
- What is the relationship between the Quarterly Meeting Fund and the PYM Fund handed over to Friends Council on Education to administer. These funds are separately administered. These are not [“aid” or “need”?] based. The application is done at the Monthly Meeting level and then sent up to the quarter and the yearly meeting. The grant

is done per child. From the individual family's perspective there is one application process.

- The amount of money that the grant provides is a small percentage of the tuition for a Quaker school. Should we move to a needs based formula for our Quaker families?
 - Should all of these funds be more efficiently managed through combining with like funds?
 - Westtown School has doubled its financial aid in real dollars for the past few 4-5 years.
 - Over the same period our percentage of Quaker kids at Westtown has dropped from 20-14%. Some of that is demographic but much of it is also financial.
 - Should we have two streams – a non need base for any Quaker child/family to tip the balance for Quaker families as well as a need based stream?
 - Two streams would perhaps be more costly per person to administer.
 - Westtown MM has its own education fund which coincidentally about the same value in principal as CQM. We take half of the income and reinvest and half for grants to our children's education
- Several years ago (–18-20?), we asked MM members to contribute to build our own fund. Should we do this again?–this discussion was tabled for later discussion.
- What service can the Quarter provide? This tuition fund is one of the major means for the Quarter to help its larger community.
 - There are MM meetings who have contributed and don't have children applying.
 - There is one MM that does not contribute.
 - Is this a service the Quarter should provide?
 - It helps to define the Quarter.
- What is the role of the quarter in our lives in the 21st century?
- Should the quarterly meeting spending rule change? Should it become one of reinvest some and spend some?
- Our Westtown MM has a very different perspective than Middletown or other meetings who currently don't have children.
- The grants show that meetings at all levels support our children attending Quaker schools.
- Should we increase our contributions to WMM and that the increase of the recommended amount go towards the Quarterly Fund?
- Wilmington Friends, Westtown School, West Chester MM, Goshen Friends are great outreach for PYM. These schools touch lives of many, even those who are not Friends and don't become Friends.
- We as a meeting propose increasing our own contribution by \$50 per member with the \$\$ going to CQM education fund for increasing the principal. And that we change the spending rule for administering the funds with some of the income being re-invested.
- Should we ask CQM to re-invigorate the financial need committee?

- Are we also recommending a needs based system?
 - Should we work more closely with schools to calculate need based aid?
 - We need to check with Nathan Bohn to ask how Westtown Admissions views the CQM/PYM tuition aid grants. Are they need based or egalitarian?

- If you have made a commitment to being a Friend and belonging to this meeting, you should be guaranteed that your child should have a grant of for instance \$500 and that any amount over that be determined by the school based on awareness of the child's need.

All the questions/queries and tentative recommendations should be summarized and sent on to CQM

What is our goal in terms of percentage of Quaker students at a Quaker school?

The endowed education funds are a form of outreach. They help to bring Quaker families to Quaker schools. These children go on to invigorate and touch the lives of others, Quaker and non-Quaker, while also experiencing Quaker values in action.

A summary of our tentative decisions and queries to CQM

Tentative decisions – to be tested again.

- The CQM spending rule should change so we do not spend all of the income each year, but reinvest part of it.
- Meetings should continue to contribute to the fund—Westtown Monthly Meeting should continue and we as members should increase our annual giving to the M Meeting to help support this contribution.
- The amount of \$\$ given to families should continue to be egalitarian/non-needs based.
- We also recommend that we have a larger discussion with the whole Quarter sometime besides CQ Meeting for Business so we can draw a larger number of Quarter members.

Questions and Queries

- What is the role of the quarter in our lives in the 21st century?
- What service can the Quarter provide to members of the quarter?
- How does the Education Fund help in our outreach to Friends and non-Friends?
- What is our goal in terms of percentage of Quaker students at a Quaker school?
- Should we return to a per capita contribution to the Quarterly Meeting?
- What is the demand by our families for these education grants?
- What is the relationship between the Quarterly Meeting Fund and the PYM Fund handed over to Friends Council on Education to administer?
 - Are there efficiencies to be gained by merging?
 - What is lost at the local level in terms of local connection, local knowledge?
- Should we move to a needs based formula for our Quaker families? Should we have a needs based program to help bring down the cost for some families and an egalitarian system as a means of saying to all meeting member families that we as an institution value your child's attendance at a Friend's school?
- Should the quarterly meeting spending rule for the education fund change? Should it become one of reinvest some and spend some?