

**Concord Quarterly Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business**  
**Held at West Chester Monthly Meeting**  
**April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2013**

Meeting began with a period of silent worship. Rich Ailes welcomed everyone. There were 23 Friends in attendance. The Meeting welcomed visitors Janet and Thom Olshewsky from Sarasota Florida. Friends from Birmingham, Concord, Goshen, Middletown, West Chester, and Westtown were present. The agenda was reviewed and approved.

**Threshing Session Minute on Tuition Endowment Fund** was read by Rich Ailes.

A Friend brought a concern regarding the fund continuing to be evenly distribute versus using a needs based distribution. This was discussed in threshing and felt sticking with a grant approach was best at this time.

A Friend was concerned about getting a minute from a Threshing Session and not the diverse inputs that the session wrestled over. The threshing session did grow the minute out of the body. At the end of meeting, the sense of the meeting was this minute.

Friends approved the following revised minute:

Friends were united that the Quarter' s current leading on the Tuition Endowment Fund is as follows:

1. The Quarter' s Tuition Endowment Fund (TEF), currently at Friend' s Fiduciary, will continue to be maintained as a granting vehicle for the Quarter' s Quaker students while they are attending primary and secondary Quaker schools.
2. The Quarter will ask Monthly Meetings to contribute to this fund as they are led.
3. The first priority regarding this fund will be to grow the endowment
4. The second priority will be to provide evenly distributed grants to all students requesting aid. For the first few years the grants will be smaller. The choice to evenly distribute grants versus a distribution being based on need will be reconsidered in three years.
5. For simplicity and transparency, all funds received from monthly meetings will be sent to the TEF, and only the distributions from the TEF will be used for student grants.
6. This process will be evaluated after 3 years at the April 2016 Quarterly Meeting.
7. The Quarter will encourage increased contributions from monthly meetings and individual Friends to grow the TEF.
8. Representatives of the Quarter will meet with a few heads of the local Quaker schools in regard to how they allocate financial aid and how our aid impacts student' s other financial aids. Bruce James and Erica Young agreed to assist.
9. The Quarter will form a committee to support efforts to grow the endowment. Michael Wajda, Bruce James, and Ed Dunlop agreed to help.

**A Workshop on Quaker Business Practice** was proposed by Rich Ailes. There are many new Friends in our Quarter and Birmingham Monthly Meeting felt that the Quarter would benefit from a workshop on how business meetings and committee function. Friends approved holding this workshop. A suggested name was "Decision making among Friends". A Friend suggested Deborah Fisch as a facilitator.

**Treasurer's Report** was given by Bruce James. Cash flow is good, and the Quarter has six months reserve to pay the Quarter expenses. Contributions are within 4% of the budget. Operating expenses are on budget. Much of the Operating budget is dedicated to printed copies of the newsletter. Approximately \$6,000 will be available for student grants. There are only 14 applications for student grants this year.

A Friend was concerned that the drop in grant requests might be due to Friends not being aware it is available. Meetings should make sure that Friends know about the grant. Friends gratefully accepted the report.

**West Chester and Birmingham's Joys and Challenges** were reported and are attached to the minutes.

**Report on Quarter Website Relocation** was given by Rich Ailes. The Quarter has moved off of PYM's website. The url is: <http://concordquarter.squarespace.com>. The service for the website will cost \$20 per month. The Quarter will have its own domain name soon.

**Coordinator's Report** was given by Averyl Hall and is attached to the minutes.

A handout titled "**Visioning New Fire with the Kindlers**" was shared. The clerk asked Friends to consider if the Quarter should pay to send a person to the event. The event will be held in October at the Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre in England. Friends were interested in sending someone to the event, preferably a younger Friend. Friends approved the planning committee to work on finding a Friend for the event and raising the funds necessary for the trip. Friends approved the clerk and planning committee to create a minute of travel for the Quarter once the Friend has been identified.

#### **Announcements:**

The annual Tubing on Brandywine event will be held at Mary Ellen Clendenin's home on June 22<sup>nd</sup> from noon to about 4pm.

Meeting ended with a period of silent worship.

Respectfully submitted,  
John Lavin  
Recording Clerk

Rich Ailes  
Clerk

Coordinator's Report  
Averyl Hall

Since my report in January I have been busy with a variety of activities. We had a wonderful Square Dance hosted by Willistown Meeting. I spent a day at Philadelphia Yearly Meeting's offices in Philadelphia. At that session I met other Quarterly Meeting Coordinators and learned about what services the Yearly Meeting provides and ways that they can be supportive of Quarterly Meeting activities. I have been attending Meetings for Worships and Meetings for Business at various meetings. I learned about clerking at a workshop at Willistown and heard about some of the struggles and joys that Meetings have in their business practices. The Quarter had a called session about the Tuition Endowment Fund and came to a proposal to be approved at this Quarterly Meeting.

There was a desire expressed to hold a sleepover at this Quarterly Meeting with Western Quarter. However, there were not enough registrations for the event to occur. I believe that there is energy around having youth events, and I will be working to have events be known well in advance of when they occur. I am in discussion with Zac Dutton, coordinator for Western Quarter, to discuss dates for youth events for our Quarters for the next year.

## Birmingham's Joys' and Concerns

Probably the biggest concern for Birmingham, as well as for most Meetings, is growing our membership. We feel as if most of our challenges: meeting our budget, finding people for opening exercises, filling committee rosters, to name a few, would fade with a larger membership. Many committees are working to address this need. Worship and ministry has sent out post cards to new neighborhood residents. Oversight and Pastoral Care has a special emphasis this year on reaching out and engaging adult children of members. We have formed a Website and Communication working group to enhance our presence in the wider world.

A vibrant First Day school is often the biggest way to enhance membership and our current First Day school program is a great Meeting joy. Although the population is not large, the young families are very committed to the community. Attendance is consistent so the continuity and sense of family among the children is strong. The children attend the first fifteen minutes of worship before their lessons. They return during announcements to tell the Meeting about their lesson that day. We all love hearing this participation with our entire community. During the summer the children meet at the Quarry Swim Club which is another way of fostering a sense community among the children.

## West Chester Joys, Hopes, and Challenges

We have many joys here at West Chester Meeting. We have a lovely green space that we worked with the other members of the Quaker Block--The Hickman and West Chester Friends School--to keep, and will continue to work to improve.

We are blessed to have the School as a partner in drawing families to the Quaker Block, to help in the School's guidance through Meeting members on its Board, and to be actively involved in the search for a new Head of School. We have been blessed during current Head Matt Bradley's twelve years' tenure to have had Melinda Bradley's steady hand and creative vision leading our Youth Religious Education committee.

In the last year we held a series of sessions with the Meeting Enrichment Group from PYM that has brought us together in a deeper and stronger way. Several exciting new things have already happened as a direct result of those sessions. Most important, we have formed a new Finance Committee to provide oversight as we work toward the greater the financial sustainability of our Meeting. We have also established a web site to help us in communications and outreach.

While the number of our members has remained basically the same, we see this as a joy because of the number of new families that have become members or regular attenders.

It is our hope that we will continue to feel the deep sense of community that has enriched our Meeting though out the years. We have started to feel more of a desire to reach out to people in the West Chester community who may be seeking a spiritual home, and we hope that by following this leading we will be able to offer them the home they seek.

Our challenges are many, as with any faith organization. We will need to continue to be careful with the resources that we have, and to search out appropriate ways of finding new resources--including identifying and nurturing the gifts our members and attenders bring to our Meeting. We must also be careful not to become so entangled in the desire to seek greater numbers that we lose the sense of community that draws us together in love.