

Concord Quarterly Meeting
Held at Wilmington Monthly Meeting
January 26, 2014

MINUTES

Opening Worship: The meeting opened with a period of worship at 8:30 am.

Welcome: The clerk welcomed those present and especially Leslie Leonard (Birmingham), Pam Leland and Reena Van Oot (London Grove), and Kerry Lynn, Aaron, Marissa, Jocie, Livia, Steven, and Stacey Resnik (Goshen), all of whom were attending Concord Quarterly Meeting for Business for the first time. Representatives were present from all the Quarter's monthly meetings save for Willistown.

Introduction of new Coordinator (Rich Ailes, Middletown): The clerk reported that **Charlie Spadoni** has been selected as the new Quarter Coordinator and has begun service in that position. The meeting enthusiastically welcomed the appointment.

Treasurer's Report (Bruce James, Westtown): The full report is appended to the official copy of these minutes. The overview is attached to the web version of these minutes.

In order for our new coordinator to fulfill his duties, the Meeting minuted: "The Treasurer shall establish a second checking account for coordinator expenses with Bruce James, Rich Ailes and Charles Spadoni as signers on the account. This account shall allow the Coordinator (Charles Spadoni) to write checks and use a Credit/Debit Card to pay for expenses." The account should maintain a balance of no more than \$300.

In the interim period when the Quarter was without a coordinator, funds continued to come to the treasurer to support the coordinator's position. Planning Committee has directed the treasurer to maintain a coordinator reserve fund of 6 months to support any cash flow needs for the position and to refund to the Monthly Meetings any payments in excess of this amount.

A request was made for a comparison of this year's financials with those of last year at this time. These will be provided later. The meeting accepted the report presented and expressed its appreciation to the Treasurer.

Coordinator's Report (Charlie Spadoni, coordinator): The written report was received with appreciation and is attached to these minutes. A full set of activities is planned for this winter and spring. The current issue of the Quarterly Meeting newsletter was produced by Rich Ailes, to whom the meeting expressed its appreciation.

Tuition Fund Report (Charlie Spadoni): The fund is dispersing support to 13 or 14 Concord Quarter students attending Friends Schools in 2013/2014. The current application form for the next school year is available on our website at <http://concordquarter.org/documents/?category=Tuition> with a deadline of Feb 15, 2014.

Joys and Challenges for Wilmington and Goshen Monthly Meetings: David Scott presented the state of the meeting report for Wilmington Monthly Meeting and Kerry Lynn Resnick did the same for Goshen Meeting. Both reports are appended to these minutes.

Thomas Swain's minute of travel for trip to England and Denmark (Rich Ailes): Thomas asked the Quarter to consider a travel minute for his planned service opportunities at Woodbrooke (February 8-9; 9-11) on Spirit Given Gifts, a workshop for Kindlers at Friends House in London February 15, service as the keynote speaker at Denmark Yearly Meeting, March 28-30, and two or three other opportunities as way opens for the remainder of his time through until April 2. All of this is in line with the ministry that he has offered at other times among British and Nordic Friends. Middletown Meeting has written a minute for this travel in the ministry to Europe. Concord Quarterly Meeting agreed to endorse this minute and wished Thomas Swain well on his trip.

Minute of Appreciation for grant from Pemberton Fund (Rich Ailes): Concord Quarterly Meeting minutes its deep appreciation for the PYM Pemberton Fund which provided a grant of \$3049 that supported 3 of our Quarterly Meeting Friends to attend the Visioning New Fire conference in the United Kingdom in October 2013. The Quarter especially appreciates the Pemberton committee's flexibility in handling our application for assistance as a Quarterly Meeting request which facilitated our ability to finance this experience in a timely manner.

Update on Thomas Brown Endowment Fund (Rich Ailes): In response to a request for Concord Quarterly Meeting to serve as a Secondary Steward to a proposed Thomas S. Brown Endowed Chair in Faith and Practice Fund, an ad hoc committee has been formed to rework some of the language of the contract. The members of this group are Charlie Spadoni and Amy Brooks both from Birmingham, representing the Quarterly Meeting and Marc Dear, Bruce Harrison and Peter Lane representing Westtown Meeting. They will meet with representatives of the fund proposal with the purpose of revising the contract that will be brought to both bodies at a future date.

Host Meeting request for financial assistance for Quarterly Meeting program (Rich Ailes): The planning committee is asking all Meetings in the Quarter to request 4 weeks in advance any financial assistance needed for their program costs at Quarterly Meeting. The planning committee may not honor financial assistance requests after the events have occurred.

ListServe Service (Rich Ailes): Concord Quarterly Meeting approved the Planning Committee's purchasing a ListServe service that would be used to distribute the Quarterly Meeting newsletter and any other promotional pieces deemed necessary to support the Quarter's work. The service could be Mail-List.com which Birmingham and Middletown Meetings use, whose cost is \$1.07 per person per year. However other services will be considered by the Planning Committee, which will make the decision. In order to keep participants from receiving inappropriate email, the use of this service will be managed by the Quarterly Meeting coordinator.

Announcements of Upcoming Events (Rich Ailes): Friends are asked to take note of upcoming events sponsored by the Quarter or promoted by Quarterly Meeting meetings or members

- Quarterly Meeting Square Dance at Willistown Meeting on Feb 22
- Spirit Led Quaker Decision Making Workshop at Concord Meeting on March 22
- Quaker Ministry Workshop at Middletown Meeting on April 5
- Tom Woodward's presentations on The Gnostic Gospels at the Hickman on the Sunday afternoons in March.

Western Quarterly Meeting: Pam Leland spoke of the activities of Western Quarterly Meeting, of which she is clerk. They are changing the name of what Concord Quarter calls its Planning Committee to "Support Committee" to better reflect the role that the MMs welcome.

The Meeting closed with a period of silent worship.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Ailes, Clerk

David Leonard, Recording Clerk

CONCORD QUARTERLY MEETING TREASURER'S REPORT January 24, 2014

Update: Coordinator Expense Account

The meeting has previously given approval to establish a second checking account for coordinator expenses (July 2013). However, as the coordinator has changed, an update is needed in order to establish the signatories at The National Bank of Malvern. Therefore, the Treasurer requests approval for a minute:

“The Treasurer shall establish a second checking account for coordinator expenses with Bruce James, Rich Ailes and Charles Spadoni as signers on the account. This account shall allow the Coordinator (Charles Spadoni) to write checks and use a Credit/Debit card to pay for expenses.”

Report: Coordinator Payroll □ The new coordinator started on 1/1/14, and has received his first paycheck through our payroll system.

Covenant contributions for the coordinator continued this fall, even during the period between coordinators (10/1/13 – 1/1/14). This has produced a surplus. Some meetings will receive a refund of covenants paid and all others are advised that the expected covenant has been reduced:

Concord Quarterly Meeting							
Coordinator Budget Relief Due to staffing gap							
	%	Budget	Relief	New Budget	YTD Paid	Balance	
Months			1.9				
Total \$		\$ 32,870	\$ 5,265	\$ 27,605	\$ 20,070		
Birmingham	15%	\$ 5,000	\$ 801	\$ 4,199	\$ 5,250	\$ 1,051	Refund
Concord	4%	\$ 1,400	\$ 224	\$ 1,176	\$ 1,400	\$ 224	Refund
Goshen	7%	\$ 2,370	\$ 380	\$ 1,990	\$ 2,370	\$ 380	Refund
Middletown	6%	\$ 2,000	\$ 320	\$ 1,680	\$ -	\$ (1,680)	Expected
West Chester	15%	\$ 5,000	\$ 801	\$ 4,199	\$ 2,500	\$ (1,699)	Expected
Westtown	23%	\$ 7,500	\$ 1,201	\$ 6,299	\$ 3,750	\$ (2,549)	Expected
Willistown	16%	\$ 5,100	\$ 817	\$ 4,283	\$ 2,550	\$ (1,733)	Expected
Wilmington	14%	\$ 4,500	\$ 721	\$ 3,779	\$ 2,250	\$ (1,529)	Expected
					Totals:	\$ 1,655	Refund
						\$ 9,190	Expected

1/24/14

Report: PYM

Covenants received have been transmitted to PYM. To date we are on budget (61%). The Yearly Meeting has requested budgetary information for this year and the coming fiscal year. This is a new process. Treasurers of the Monthly Meetings have been contacted.

Report: Tuition Education Fund

The fund has grown by 8.8% in the last 6 months, in part due to the performance of Friends Fiduciary Fund, and partly through the contributions from meetings. The Tuition Grants for the 2013-14 school year have just been issued, with apologies from the treasurer. The paperwork is in process and should be credited by the schools soon. The application form for TEF Grants for 2014-2015 school year are posted on the CQM website.

Report: Kindlers Project

A grant was received from the Pemberton Fund of PYM, which covered the requested travel expenses. In total, \$5,794 was received, and \$5,184 was spent on the project. The surplus of \$564 has been applied to the operating reserve, for future use.

Report: Financial Statements

Attached are the financial statements for Q1, Q2 and YTD. Some pass-through accounts show a high balance, as the checks to FFC, PYM, and TEF were sent in January (part of Q3).

(note: detailed financials are available upon request. Please email bruce@brucesoft.com)

Coordinator's Report

This is the first time I am addressing you in my capacity as Coordinator, but it is not the first time I have addressed Concord Quarterly Meeting. From July 2010 to December 2011, I had the privilege of doing so as its Clerk. I enjoyed my tenure as Clerk in large measure because of the advice and support I received from the members of the Planning Committee and from Beth Lawn who was the Coordinator then. My goal is to render similar advice and support to Clerk Rich Ailes, Assistant Clerk Bruce Harrison, Treasurer Bruce James, Recording Clerk David Leonard, their successors, and the members of the Planning Committee. My other goal is to fulfill my responsibilities as set forth in my job description including those to “facilitate spiritual and social opportunities for members of Monthly Meetings to come together in mutual support and community-building; to foster relationships between and among Monthly Meetings and the Quarterly Meeting to address issues of common concern; and to provide support to the Youth committees which create youth programming for Monthly Meetings and at Quarterly Meeting.”

In case you were wondering, I've been a member of the Society of Friends for most of my life. I attended my first meeting for worship at age 14 months; became a card-carrying, convinced Friend at the age of 3 (my family became members of Birmingham Meeting in 1951); and I attended meeting for worship and First Day School regularly through my high school years. After graduating from Swarthmore College in 1970, I moved away from West Chester and did not return until 2007. When I did, I was offered the opportunity to be Birmingham's representative on the Quarter's Planning Committee. I'm sure glad I accepted that invitation. It led me to become engaged in Concord Quarter's worship, work and fellowship that I find meaningful in the first instance and fun in the second and third. Currently, I am also acting as Birmingham's Treasurer.

We have some great events and programs ahead that I would like to emphasize. On February 22 the Quarter is holding its 4th annual square dance that is being hosted by Willistown Meeting. This is an opportunity for Quarter families to have fun in the company of our Friends from all meetings in the Quarter.

Then on March 22 we have invited Deborah Fisch of Iowa Yearly Meeting, Conservative, to share her insights into how Friends of all ages “can better understand the unique and powerful manner in which Friends consider the business of their meetings.” That workshop will be held at Concord Meeting. I hope that each meeting will ask one or more of its members to attend so that they can share Deborah's insights with their respective meetings.

Finally, I welcome you to attend Quarterly Meeting that is being held at Birmingham Meeting on April 27. The program (children and adult) will focus on the implications of the Peace Testimony for the Quarter's members during the period the Revolutionary War swirled within its geographical borders and to us now when we remain immune from such conflict.

I look forward to worshipping and working with all of you in the coming years.

Charles B. Spadoni
Coordinator

Joys and Challenges Report - Wilmington Monthly Meeting January, 2014

In many ways our Meeting's challenges mirror the issues facing everyone today. We are all busy with competing demands on our time and money. Our continuing challenges are getting adequate financial support from members and attenders, and fully staffing committees.

Highlights of the past year include:

- Adult religious education that strengthens our spiritual core. Members and attenders have shared the leadership of these sessions.
- Opportunities for social interaction and community building have increased through lunches, the annual birthday party, and potato bakes.

- The First Day School sponsored a Harvest Festival and continued the Pumpkin Project. They participate in their own Business Meeting as they learn Quaker process. The summer garden provides food for fellowship and assists in raising money for distribution by the First Day School.
- Social Committee continues to provide food during fellowship coffee.
- The Strawberry Festival in June involved the Meeting community and the surrounding neighborhood residents.
- The Peace and Social Justice Committee has been revitalized.
- Pacem in Terris is now a tenant in the Meeting House.

We enthusiastically look forward to 2014.

Goshen Monthly Meeting Report to Concord Quarter 1/14

There is much for which we feel grateful at Goshen:

We are nourished by the depth of our corporate worship.

Our adult meeting for learning meets once a month and continues to use questions drawn from a hat, a great source of sharing and spiritual growth. One discussion, for example, has raised the issue of our use of queries to the meeting's attention.

Our Fellowship Committee, formed last year, has been energized and provides hospitality at the end of worship each week. These gatherings have encouraged members and attenders to stay after meeting for coffee and conversation.

Our retreat held last October at Kendal gave us opportunity to share our spiritual journeys with each other, with Kody Hersh serving as facilitator. We value such opportunities to share our discoveries and revelations with each other.

We are consciously working to improve our relationship with Goshen Friends School.

In a year which began with First Day School in temporary hiatus, we now have an ongoing and vibrant program thanks to the arrival of two new families with eight children between them. We have attracted other attenders with children, and some who left Goshen to find First Day School at other meetings have returned.

Our challenges are those shared by other meetings.

Upkeep of property remains an ongoing concern and financial challenge.

We search for the right way to engage in outreach.

Our size places demands on members to fill important roles, sometimes at the risk of overburdening those who do.

We approach these challenges with determination and good will, confident that Way will open as we engage a corporate search. We are fortunate and grateful.