

**Concord Quarterly Meeting**  
Held at Birmingham Monthly Meeting  
April 27, 2014

**MINUTES**

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

**Welcome:** The clerk welcomed those present. Representatives were present from Birmingham, Concord, Goshen, Middletown, West Chester, Westtown, Willistown and Wilmington Monthly Meetings

**Nominating Committee Report:** David Scott (Wilmington)

The following nominations were presented and approved by the meeting:

Bruce Harrison (Westtown), 2-year term as Clerk of Quarter

Rich Ailes (Middletown), 1-year term as Assistant Clerk

Bruce James (Westtown), 1-year extension as Treasurer (see 1/27/08 Quarter Minutes for term limit)

Pete Lane (Westtown), 2-year extension as Quarter Representative on PYM Nominating Committee

The meeting minuted its appreciation to Richard Ailes for his service as clerk and to the others who are completing their terms of service.

David Scott, on behalf of the Nominating Committee, provided the following background information: David Leonard (Birmingham), Recording Clerk, was appointed to a 3-year term starting in 2013. We will need to appoint a new Assistant Clerk in 2015 who will be willing to become Clerk in 2016. PYM Nominating has proposed that it reduce the size of the committee so only one representative per Quarter will be needed. Several people were approached about this position but no one was willing to take it over; Pete agreed to continue in this role for two more years. Quarter Nominating has only a few members, and several meetings are not represented. Clerks of those Meetings have been contacted, but no new members have been identified. Friends should be aware that the committee has contacted dozens of people in recent years to fill Quarter positions, with a fairly low success rate.

**Coordinator's Report:** Charlie Spadoni (coordinator)

The report is attached to these minutes. The meeting expressed appreciation for the event at Middletown Meeting on Joshua Evans and the forthcoming one at Reading Meeting on revitalization of Quarterly meetings.

We have learned that Deborah Fisch of FGC, who presented at a CQM workshop earlier this year, was in hospital and is now recuperating. The meeting minuted its concern and best wishes for her speedy recovery. Friends might like to send her cards c/o FGC (1216 Arch Street, 2B, Philadelphia 19107).

**Treasurer's Report - Budget for 2014/2015:** Bruce James (Westtown)

The current accounts and the budget proposal for the financial year beginning July 1<sup>st</sup> are attached to the official copy of these minutes and the meeting approved the latter's \$145,760.28 in expected income and expenses (including covenanted contributions to Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. Any Friend wishing more details about these reports should contact Bruce James.

There had been discussion of trying to raise additional funds for the Tuition Endowment Fund and those who are interested in this activity might contact the clerk.

The meeting also approved a request for \$200 to cover the expense of a van for transporting QM youth to Camp Swatara.

**Joys and Challenges:**

A report was presented from West Chester Monthly Meeting by Deb Lyons, which is attached to these minutes. The Birmingham Monthly Meeting report consisted of vocal comments from three younger members – Hannah Blossom, Sarah Blossom and Kara Kanefski -- on the Youth Committee of the Meeting. The committee meets once a month and makes its own decisions with the help of an adult advisor. The focus has been on outreach to the meeting youth and service activities.

**PYM Long Range Planning Proposal:** Sallie Jones (Birmingham)

The draft of the proposal was released this past week and is on the PYM web site at <http://www.pym.org/long-range-planning-group/home/works-in-progress/>. Feedback over the next two months would be very warmly welcomed. Sallie presented a brief overview of the report and the feedback process, which is attached to the official copy of these minutes.

Sallie responded to several clarifying questions asked by members of the meeting. The clerk commended this document as being particularly clear in its implications.

**Announcements:**

Introduction to Quakerism at the Hickman on May 4  
Annual Berry Festival at Wilmington Meeting on June 1  
Gathering of PYM Quarters and their supporters at Reading Meeting - June 7  
Concord Quarterly Meeting Annual Tubing Event -June 29  
Next Concord Quarterly Meeting at Concord on July 20 (moved due to Yearly Meeting Annual Sessions)

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Ailes, Clerk

David Leonard, Recording Clerk

**CONCORD QUARTERLY MEETING**  
**April 27, 2014**  
**COORDINATOR'S REPORT**

Since my last report was published in the April 2014 Quarterly Newsletter, I have had the privilege of helping Middletown Meeting host Ralph Greene's April 5, 2014, workshop on Quaker ministry. It attracted 25 Friends from across PYM. In addition to bringing his spiritually based message, Ralph introduced us to Quaker Minister Joshua Evans (1731-1798) of Haddonfield Monthly Meeting who visited all but four Quaker meetings in North America while working tirelessly to abolish slavery.

For those of you who are interested in the life of the Quarter, the place to be is Reading Meeting on June 7, 2014 for a gathering to discuss how to revitalize all thirteen of PYM's Quarters. This is a grassroots, Spirit-led undertaking.

Please put on your calendar June 29, 2014, for the Quarter's annual tubing down the West Branch of the Brandywine Creek. It will be a great way to start the summer with your family.

I look forward to seeing you on July 20, 2014 (rather than July 27, 2014) at Concord Monthly Meeting when and where the next Quarterly Meeting will be held.

Charles B. Spadoni  
Coordinator

## **West Chester Monthly Meeting, April 2014**

In the year since our last “Joys, Hopes, and Challenges” report, West Chester Monthly Meeting has continued to draw positive results from the work done through and as a result of our “Celebrating the Life of Our Meeting” discussion/study series. Inspired by those deliberations, a Finance Committee is in place, supporting the work of our Treasurer, and a simple but attractive Web site now provides basic Meeting information to the wider community. Further, we are conscious that the notes from those discussions are a resource available to draw upon for further growth.

When way opened this summer for three Friends from Concord Quarter to spend several October days in England, learning from the “Kindlers” group, one of our members assented to this opportunity, and our Meeting supported his travel. He and his fellow travelers have since worked at the Quarterly and Monthly levels to help Friends rediscover what “kindled” our individual feelings about Quaker practice and to build upon those feelings. We are hopeful that still more growth and inspiration may develop from this initiative as well.

Our Meeting has been saddened by the loss of three members within the last few months: Alda Knowles, Posey Jones, and Martha Yerkes. Each of these three was a distinctive and vital member of our Meeting, and we are grateful for the example that each of them provided as Quakers, as vital and generous members of the community, and—each in her own distinctive way—as educators.

At this moment in our Meeting’s life, our active participation numbers are lower than we could wish. But we are glad to have been able to welcome several new children to our First Day School and to welcome their parents to our Meeting for Worship.

We are also grateful for the increasing warmth of connection and cooperation among the three entities on our Quaker Block: our Meeting, West Chester Friends School, and The Hickman. Together, we hope we will find new and useful ways to help each other in doing the work of the Spirit.

Deb Lyons