

Concord Quarterly Meeting

Held at Concord Monthly Meeting
July 20, 2014

Minutes

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

Welcome: The clerk welcomed the 24 Friends present as the meeting began. Individuals were present from the following member monthly meetings -- Birmingham, Concord, Goshen, Middletown, West Chester, Westtown, and Willistown.

Coordinator's report (Charlie Spadoni): A report on the Quarter's and the Coordinator's activities over the last three months was received with great appreciation, is *attached* to these minutes, and was published in the newsletter. Charlie has now been able to worship with all the meetings in the Quarter and has assisted in a number of Quarter activities, including those of our Young Friends. Note also was made of the meeting in Reading on the strengthening of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting's Quarterly Meetings.

Treasurer's Report – Financial Statements 06/30/2014 (Bruce James -Westtown): The report was approved and is *attached* to the official copy of these minutes. The Meetings in the Quarter were able to increase their support to Philadelphia Yearly Meeting by 17% this year. The value of the Tuition Endowment Fund rose by nearly 25% in the last year, due to contributions and capital growth. Operating Expenses have been increasing, largely due to postage charges. We maintain a comfortable surplus in the checking account.

Clarification of Last Meeting's Minutes (Richard Ailes -Middletown): Rich Ailes noted that the minutes of last Quarterly Meeting might be misleading to someone reading them who does not have access to the budget that was presented and is available only with the official copy of the minutes. Therefore an explicit minute is made here that "(1) \$800 for programs are no longer included in the Coordinator's Budget and are instead set forth in a separate line item and (2) any unexpended amount in the Coordinator's Budget on June 30, 2015 will be transferred to the Tuition Endowment Fund."

Proposal re Monthly Meetings' Outreach to Parents of Students Attending Quaker Schools

(Betsy Swan -Willistown): Betsy proposed that the Quarter invite non-Quaker families with children enrolled in local Friends' schools to visit monthly meetings during the course of a school year. Betsy suggested that the Quarter adopt a program in which it would invite non-Quaker parents of children in local Quaker schools who are interested in learning more about Quakerism to attend constituent monthly meetings. Monthly meetings would take turns welcoming such families to their respective meetings. A host meeting might hold an educational program after meeting for worship on a topic of its choice. The Meeting approved that the Planning Committee and the Coordinator move forward with this idea (including possible creation of an *ad hoc* committee), as there will be many details to work out. They will report back to our next Quarterly Meeting with the hope of implementation after that.

Joys and Challenges Reports: Willistown and Concord: The report of Willistown Monthly Meeting was made by Betsy Swan and that of Concord by Valerie Peery. Willistown's is *attached* to these minutes. Concord Meeting has accomplished the streamlining of its business meetings, to general appreciation. The Meeting remains challenged by its small membership, which presents difficulty in accomplishing the many tasks needed to maintain its property.

The Hickman Report (Mark Snyder –Chairman of the Board): The Hickman has a new executive director, Pamela Leland, and is thriving under her leadership. The staff also are doing a fine job of providing high quality services to its residents. It continues to work on upgrading its current building and providing better facilities for those with dementia. They are engaged in meeting the zoning and planning requirements. The 19 members of the Board include 10 Friends. The full report is *attached* to these minutes.

Thomas Brown Endowed Chair (Bruce Harrison -Westtown): The target of \$100,000 starting funds for the Chair for Quaker Faith and Practice at Westtown School has been achieved. The implementation of the next steps of making Westtown Meeting and the Quarter parties to the agreement that established the fund is still underway, as there are legal details that still have to be resolved. When further action by the Quarter is needed the matter will be brought before it again.

Announcements of upcoming events:

- Annual Sessions of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting will be held July 23-27
- Middle School, Young Friends and Families Pool Party August 9, 2014 12:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. sponsored by Western Quarter, Hockessin, DE. See Western Quarter's website for details
- Planning Committee August 10, 2014 7:30 p.m. Concord Monthly Meeting
- Young Friends of Concord and Western Quarters' Get-together August 17, 2014 2:30-4:40 p.m. Kennett Meeting. See Western Quarter's website for details
- Chichester Meeting House will be open for meeting for worship on September 21, 2014.
- A Quarterly Meeting family event at the Stratton farm is being planned for late September.
- Next Quarterly Meeting October 26, 2014 – Middletown

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce Harrison (Clerk)

David Leonard (Recording Clerk)

COORDINATOR'S REPORT

Since I became coordinator in January of this year I have visited each constituent meeting at least once to attend meeting for worship. It's wonderful to see Friends of long acquaintance and to make new friends. It's also reassuring to learn that God's work continues to be carried out through the worship and good works of so many Friends who remain committed to their faith community.

In April I was pleased to assist Middletown Meeting as it hosted a Quaker Minister from New England Yearly Meeting, Ralph Greene, in a series of workshops and talks centered on Quaker ministry and the life of Joshua Evans, an 18th century Friend from New Jersey who led a life of witness similar to that of John Woolman.

The program at the April 27, 2014, Quarterly Meeting at Birmingham was based on Quaker's reaction to the Battle of the Brandywine in light of the Peace Testimony. It is described in great detail in the July newsletter.

On June 7, 2014, Bruce Harrison, Clerk of Concord Quarterly Meeting and a member of Westtown Meeting, Tom Woodward, Goshen Meeting's representative on the Planning Committee, Paula Kline, a member of Westtown Meeting and PYM's Eco-Justice Working Group, and I attended a gathering at Reading Meeting of some 30 people interested in revitalizing Quarterly Meetings. The gathering issued this minute:

Members from nine quarterly meetings gathered at Reading Monthly Meeting on June 7, 2014 to affirm the role and importance of our quarters. There was a sense of community and belonging to each other.

We converged upon the truth that regional gatherings can be a place where yearly meeting becomes relevant. The quarterly meeting experience is an inspirational intermediary between monthly meetings and our wider yearly meeting community. When we come together, we collectively fuel our excitement about being Quakers.

We also considered the life in our quarterly meetings as it relates to leadership, youth support, membership, roles and responsibilities, working across our communities, and spiritual formation. As we adjourned, we affirmed the value of fellowship, worship, and sharing in love towards the development of new ideas and the seasoning of others.

It is time that we further explore concrete ways to integrate the structure, energy, and community between monthly meetings, quarterly meetings, and the yearly meeting.

On June 29, 2014, approximately 30 members of Concord and Western Quarters spent a delightful afternoon together tubing on the West Branch of the Brandywine Creek and enjoying a

potluck lunch. I look forward to seeing you at the next Quarterly Meeting that will be held at Middletown Meeting on October 26, 2014.

Respectfully submitted,
Charles B. Spadoni, Coordinator

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[Financial Statements Intentionally Deleted]

Willistown Monthly Meeting
Report to Concord Quarterly Meeting
July, 2014

The year at Willistown was marked by several significant events as well as many of the daily joys and challenges faced by meetings for worship. Our work – on committees and as a community - has focused on tending relationships and on stewardship of our resources. Several times this year the membership at Willistown has pulled together to support Friends within our congregation; these have been our strongest moments. Though our focus has been primarily inward, we find ourselves now fit and ready to begin looking outward to the larger Friends community as we embark on our next year together.

Willistown's handicapped access addition is nearly finished. The wheelchair lift is operational, having carried its first passengers at the beginning of the summer. There are details yet to attend to, but the addition is both functional and beautiful; it will be opened officially this fall with a public celebration. At the same time that we celebrate the joyful achievement of making our building fully accessible to all attenders and members, we have mourned the loss of our friend and architect, Jonathan Dyer, who died in May. Jonathan's wife and children, Gina, Sam, and Henry, are members of Willistown, and the Meeting community pulled together to support them with nourishment, respite, and guidance during the last four months of Jonathan's life. It was a testament to the power of love in our community.

Also driven by the call to love was Willistown Meeting's decision to oversee the marriage of Sue Renz and Cate Stevenson in June. Theirs was the first same-gender marriage held under the care of Willistown Friends Meeting. Cate and Sue, together with their children, have been members of Willistown for several years. They approached the Meeting in January 2014, months before the decision to make same-gender marriage legal in Pennsylvania, to ask for permission to marry under the care of the Meeting. Because of the foresight of Friends in the Meeting, Willistown several years ago discussed and came to unanimity on our desire to hold same-gender marriages under our care. Thus, in February we responded with joy and clarity to Sue and Cate's request to celebrate their commitment and love in the presence of F/friends at Willistown.

Perhaps the greatest challenge we face grows out of the need to transform *commitment to our faith* into *commitment to our Meeting Community*. Certainly we are not alone in this conundrum. First, we need to be creative in our definition and division of the work of the Meeting: is the work we undertake on committees and as a Meeting the most valuable and the most necessary for the Meeting to thrive? The number of members involved in the *work of the Meeting* is not growing, and the younger members of Meeting (those between 30 and

65) need to be encouraged to participate actively in roles which fit the time they have to share. We need to actively develop the next generations of leaders within our Meeting.

Additionally, we need to continue to discuss the finances of the Meeting in context of the changing economy. First the conditions of the market and now the reduction in Friends Fiduciary's disbursements have diminished the income we generate annually, shifting the responsibility for funding the work of the Meeting and upkeep of its property. This emphasizes the necessity for us to find balance among a matrix of needs including: Meeting program, financial contribution *from* members/attenders, property upkeep, contributions *to* local programs, contract support with First Day School and book-keeping, new membership ... If we are not thoughtful, we will continue to try to provide the same programming and support we have in the past with less financial and volunteer support, rather than looking to provide equivalent (and do-able) support to our community.

We continued to have a vibrant First Day School this past year, attracting primarily children between four and ten years old. We were thrilled to hire a young Friend, a Westtown alum home from college before entering graduate school, to teach First Day from late winter through the early summer. The children loved her and dug into the program with her. We are lucky to have a small, capable and committed group of members who will pick up the responsibility of teaching First Day until we are able to hire a new teacher. As seems true of many Meetings in the Quarter, middle and high school aged young friends come to worship only occasionally.

The work which lies ahead of us this coming year not only includes nurturing our worship community and stewardship of our property, it calls us to consider the processes we have developed to do accomplish these tasks. Finding the time to undertake this work speaks both of the overall good spirit of the Meeting and of our growing ability to look both forward and outward. We will, for example, be looking at the policies for maintaining our burial grounds – record keeping, communication with local funeral homes, procedures for reserving space, guidance for families holding memorials. Additionally, we hope to complete our on-going project to build and launch a website for the Meeting which, in addition to our Facebook page, are the Meeting's two most prominent outreach efforts.

Though we will continue to think creatively about ways to draw new attenders to Willistown, our conversation in June with Sallie Jones and Ron Ploeg about PYM's Long Range Planning process was exciting. It began to turn our attention outward toward the wider Quaker community. It was an excellent way to refocus us as we ended the year, inspiring a desire to encourage and support Willistown members to grow in their faith and understanding of Quakerism through involvement in Philadelphia Yearly Meeting in the coming year.

Annual Report to the Concord Quarter

Pamela Leland has completed her first eighteen months as executive director of The Hickman, first in an interim role and then as our full-time senior staff member. The Hickman continues to grow and thrive under her excellent guidance and leadership.

During the past year there have been a number of changes in our administrative staff. While we were sorry to have former staff members leave us, we have been fortunate to attract new staff who are bright and competent and who bring a strong desire to keep The Hickman moving forward.

After eight years with The Hickman, Marilee Mohr, Assistant Executive Director and Director of Resident Care, left in June as she and her husband relocated to South Carolina. We are fortunate to have found Ron Masayko, a skilled R.N. with management experience, to take on the role of Director of Resident Care effective June 23, 2014.

We continue to move forward with our plans for the replacement of Sharpless-Hall Building. Our plan includes replacing our current building with one that includes a secure memory care unit on the first floor and multiple levels of personal care on the remaining floors. Our staff is in the process of learning more about the needs of the growing number of seniors with dementia and Alzheimer's disease and the best ways to serve them and their families. In the meantime, Greenbrier Development continues as our development partner on this project. They and the architectural firm of Lenhardt Rogers are working with The Hickman and its attorneys as we currently resolve zoning and planning issues with the Borough of West Chester. In addition, we have begun work on the \$3 million Capital Campaign needed for the Sharpless-Hall project.

The Mary Taylor house continues as a well-run, attractive and safe community for low-to-moderate income seniors. We work productively with our partners at Pennrose Development and Pennrose Management to ensure good stewardship of this apartment building in the heart of West Chester.

The Hickman's Board of Directors is currently made up of 19 members, 10 of whom are Quaker. Mark J. Snyder is in his first year as Board Chair, with Ronald Petrocelli of Willistown Meeting serving as Vice Chair, J. Dean O'Banion of Willistown Meeting as Secretary and Kenneth M. Witek as Treasurer. We have welcomed new board members Andrea Taylor of Centre Meeting, Deborah McKenty and Stephen Olsen.

And so, we are happy to report that The Hickman continues to provide our residents with high quality personal care services in a warm and home-like atmosphere. We do this in an affordable and financially secure and responsible manner while keeping our eye toward the needs and desire of our future residents.

Respectfully submitted,

~~Ellen Millick~~

Mark Snyder

July 20, 2014