

Concord Quarterly Meeting

Held at Middletown Monthly Meeting
October 26, 2014

Minutes

Opening Worship: The meeting opened with a period of worship at 8:20 am.

Welcome: The clerk welcomed the 16 Friends who were present as the meeting began; there were 26 with us by the time the meeting concluded. 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 appreciation. The first part was published in the October newsletter and the supplement is attached to these minutes,

Treasurer's Report – Financial Statements 06/30/2014: Bruce James, our Treasurer, has been overwhelmed with his responsibilities as a parent of new twins, and will have to present his report at our next meeting. We do have sufficient cash on hand to meet our expected outlays.

Annual Financial Review: The meeting asked the Planning Committee to select two Friends to serve as auditors of the accounts.

Yearly Meeting Nominating Committee: The nomination of Peter Lane (Westtown) to serve on the new Nominating Committee of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting was approved. The meeting also minuted its appreciation for Peter's service on the previous committee.

Policy on the Quarter's use of its members' personal contact information (Bruce Harrison – Westtown): The meeting received a draft of the policy and approved the text attached below.

Recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee on Outreach to parents of students attending

Quaker schools (Tom Woodward - Goshen): The report of the *ad hoc* Quarterly Meeting committee on this subject is attached. At the moment the participating schools are those that are within the Quarter. Tom noted that in the future an invitation to participate might be extended to other, neighboring Friends schools which happen to be in other Quarters. The report will be sent to the Quarter's Monthly Meetings so that they now can approve the participation of their meetings in the process. So far Goshen, Middletown and West Chester have approved their being hosts under the program. The ad hoc committee will bring a further report to the next Quarterly Meeting.

Thomas Swain's Report on his ministry to England (Thomas Swain – Middletown): The report is encompassed in the talk he is giving following our business meeting, as well as in the article he published in the October newsletter.

Joys and Challenges Reports: Middletown and Westtown MMs: The report of Middletown Monthly Meeting was made by Rich Ailes and that of Westtown by Deb Wood. Both were received with appreciation and are attached to these minutes.

Announcements of Upcoming Events:

- Barclay Friends – Eric Metzker (Willistown) and Peter Lane (Westtown) are travelling to Meetings in the area to talk-up/ ask for corporate and individual donations to support the on-going renovation project at the Barclay Friends senior living facility in West Chester.

- Richard Newman, “Moving Ahead While Looking Back: The Society of Friends on the Civil Rights Front” -- November 1, 11:30 am at Arch Street Meeting House, 4th & Arch Streets, Philadelphia
- Planning Committee November 2, 2014 7:30 p.m. at The Hickman
- PYM General Secretary’s “You Are PYM Tour” November 7, 2014 7:00 p.m. Centre Meeting
- Birmingham’s Harvest Buffet November 15, 2014 starting at 4:30 p.m.
- FGC Presentation on Planned Giving sponsored by Western Quarter – November 15, 2014 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. – Kennett Meeting
- Western Quarter’s First Day School Convergence – November 16, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. West Grove Meeting
- CQ Meeting -- January 25, 2015 at Goshen Meeting

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce Harrison (Clerk)

David Leonard (Recording Clerk)

Attachment 1:

COORDINATOR’S REPORT

This report supplements the one that was included in the October 2014 newsletter that: (1) recommended that members keep abreast of programs and events throughout PYM by turning to PYM’s Calendar and PYM’s Community Calendar (which includes events sponsored by quarterly meetings and monthly meetings); (2) described briefly the richness of PYM’s youth programs; (3) described PYM’s new General Secretary’s program to focus all of us on the importance of the Spirit in our daily lives and among the body of Friends that is Philadelphia Yearly Meeting; (4) reported on my visit to Bucks Quarterly Meeting; and (5) described my work on the Quarter’s *Ad Hoc* Committee on Outreach to Parents of Quaker School Students. I have enjoyed being part of that committee, and I was heartened by a recent conversation I had with Brian Fahey, Head of West Chester Friends School (and a clerk of Wilmington Monthly Meeting) who was quite enthusiastic about that school’s participation in the Quarter’s efforts. That *Ad Hoc* Committee will submit its first report later in today’s meeting.

We had a delightful hayride and bonfire on September 28, 2014, at the Stratton Family Farm in Thornbury (Chester County) Township. Approximately 43 people attended of whom 15 or so came from Western Quarterly Meeting. In addition to the hotdogs and hamburgers cooked up by master chef Bruce Harrison and the potluck dishes brought by participants, we sat by the bonfire enchanted by the music played and sung by Pete Lane and the Duffy Family (Michael, Sarah Jane and James) all of Westtown Meeting. Fortunately, no one was burned roasting marshmallows.

In 2015, we are hoping to sponsor a couple of activities for the youth of our Quarter. Stay tuned for further updates.

Respectfully submitted,
Charles B. Spadoni, Coordinator

Attachment 2:

**CONCORD QUARTERLY MEETING'S POLICY
REGARDING PERSONAL INFORMATION**

Personal Information Maintained by Concord Quarterly Meeting

Concord Quarterly Meeting retains the names and contact information, including postal address, email address, and telephone numbers, of its members, and it uses such information to communicate and conduct business with those members.

Use of Personal Information Maintained by Concord Quarterly Meeting

Concord Quarterly Meeting will use the personal information of its members only for its own purposes. It will not use any of such information for any other purpose including, without limitation, creating, supplementing or maintaining any independent database, list or web site. Concord Quarterly Meeting will not sell, share, transfer or disclose any personal information of any member to any person including, without limitation, any for-profit or non-profit organization, other than to the clerks and staff of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting so that they can communicate with its members in conformity with its privacy policy.

Attachment 3:

Report on Monthly Meetings' Outreach to Parents of Students Attending Quaker Schools

School-meeting visiting program update

In our July meeting we approved a proposal to invite parents of students enrolled in Friends schools within the Quarter to worship at the eight meetings of the Quarter. We have made good progress in forming and implementing the program. Planning Committee named an *ad hoc* committee to begin this work; the *ad hoc* committee is composed of Bruce Harrison, Concord QM clerk, Charlie Spadoni, Concord Quarter Coordinator, Betsy Swan, Willistown MM, and Tom Woodward, Goshen MM. This group has met twice to date.

Our goal has been to keep the program simple. Rather than try to rush our plans in order to start implementation this year, we decided to take more time and begin next year. Tentatively we have designated March 1, May 3, and November 1 of 2015 as days to invite families of Friends schools to worship at specified meetings. Once the program is established, each meeting will host once every two years. This schedule will become more concrete as meetings and schools indicate their willingness to participate.

We intend to circulate to parents a brief explanation of Friends' beliefs and practice beforehand. Our hope is that each school will contact parents through its own publications and electronic communications to inform them which meeting is hosting the event. We will also have a place on the Quarter web page for this information. Our expectation is that each meeting will welcome guests and provide a brief introduction to Friends practice before worship and provide opportunity for discussion and information sharing after worship. We want the procedure to be uniform among meetings while allowing each meeting to shape it in ways that are authentic to its own character. For those meetings which would like to have additional support, we envision a group of Friends who would be present to help in the discussion after worship.

We have also discussed creating a brochure for the Quarter with photographs of each meetinghouse, times of worship and First Day School, and GPS reliable addresses. This brochure would also list Friends schools in the Quarter and other Friends institutions. We also see the value to the Quarter of such a brochure beyond the school visiting program. It can be a useful outreach tool. Rich Ailes and Charlie Spadoni are working on this project.

We see this as important outreach for the Quarter and for Friends. While we do not want to proselytize, we want our message to be accessible to the wider community.

Respectfully Submitted, Tom Woodward (Goshen)

Attachment 4:

State of the Meeting Report for Middletown MM for 2014

We are a Meeting that continues to encounter the Living Presence of Christ in our midst in our worship and often in our business meetings. We are dependent on a power greater than our own to lead our community life and strengthen the bonds of love and service among us. This commitment has brought us three new members this year, which is a great blessing to us. We are hopeful that more will follow.

We remain a very small meeting and average anywhere from 6-10 attenders for worship and an even smaller group for business meetings. We have no active first day school program or committees. We recognize how frail we are and lift up how much of a burden is upon us in caring for the present responsibilities. However, there is an ongoing and vibrant men's group that meets every other week and has grown in size and depth over the past year.

Many of our members are involved in service to the larger body of Friends and beyond. As a Meeting we feel called to continue to carry a message of hope and renewal far and wide, as we are given opportunity and strength to do so. Recently, this message was shared at a workshop that we facilitated at the 2014 PYM summer sessions on The Presence in the Midst. This workshop was well attended and very well received by Friends from all over PYM.

We have also begun an experiment this year that we have called, the Leading Message. This takes place one time per month and involves an attender or member volunteering to give a short prepared message at the beginning of worship. The response has been positive and these Leading Messages have contributed well to our worship time and beyond. We are continuing to be open to ways that we can hold up the Light and the hope of Christ's Presence among us today.

Attachment 5:

The Joys and Concerns of Westtown Meeting

As of our last meeting for business the following Joys and Concerns were expressed:

Joys:

- Corporate worship with Westtown School students continues to be a highlight as we worship together each Sunday. We have 100 to 200 students from 18 states and 17 countries join us each Sunday. At the rise of each meeting we encourage students to join us for fellowship over coffee and sweets. This is very well attended each Sunday.

- Each 2nd Sunday we have a potluck meal. A few of these are programmed around a topic such as climate change.
- Our Peace and Social Concerns Committee continues to work on issues around Climate Change led by Paula Kline.
- Worship and Ministry has successfully worked to support our Christmas Service, New Year's Labrynth Walk and our Advent Garden every second year.

Concerns:

- Our FDS is well organized though our attendance is smaller than we would like. This may be a cyclical event as we do not have as many families with small children at this time.
- The small committed group of Friends who work on our committiees are very dedicated though we do acknowledge that a more active membership would be helpful.
- We are always looking for ways to foster our relationship with the students of Westtown school our our members.
- Westtown Meeting is a dynamic and exciting place to worship. Our relationship with the school brings a youthful vitality to our Sunday worship.

Marc Dear, Clerk, Westtown Meeting