

**Concord Quarterly Meeting
Held At
West Chester Monthly Meeting
April 26, 2015**

Minutes

Opening Worship: The meeting opened with a period of worship at 8:25 am.

Welcome: The clerk welcomed the 24 Friends who were present as the meeting began; there were over 45 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. Wilmington was not able to be present. Two newcomers were welcomed.

Coordinator's Report - Bruce Harrison (Westtown)

A report from Charles Spadoni on the Quarter's and the Coordinator's activities over the last three months was received with appreciation and is appended as Attachment 1. As the coordinator was helping to run a Quarter youth event, the report was presented by the clerk. (Approximately 31 youth were attending the ropes event at Westtown.)

Treasurer's Report – Financial Statements 03/31/2015 - Bruce James (Westtown). See Attachment 2. The full report is attached to the official copy of these minutes and is available on request.

Treasurer's Budget Report - Bruce James (Westtown)

An increase of 2.5% in the budget is recommended in order to reflect the increased income the Quarter has actually been receiving recently for the Tuition Endowment Fund. There has been a small surplus in the Coordinator's item due to a misestimate of taxes and to Spadoni's working somewhat fewer hours than planned. The Treasurer recommended that a portion of this surplus be contributed to Philadelphia Yearly Meeting and the balance go to the Tuition Endowment Fund. Some Friends wished that any surplus be dedicated to Quarterly Meeting purposes. These recommendations will be considered by the Planning Committee preparatory to a decision at the next Quarterly Meeting, when feedback from member meeting treasurers also can be received.

Financial "Friendly Review" Report – Tom Haviland (Westtown) and Bob Kolimaga (Goshen)

The review is attached to the official copy of the minutes and is available to members for examine upon request. The review is not an audit as understood professionally, although trained persons were involved. The conclusions were positive, although there are some minor improvements that could be made. Our Treasurer has done a good job. The Quarter minutes its appreciation to Haviland and Kolimaga for a fine report.

Nominating Committee Report - Thomas Woodward (Goshen)

The report of the committee is appended below as Attachment 3.

Approval of Charles Spadoni to be a member of the Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee and the Planning Committee asked approval for Charles Spadoni to join Nominating through June 2016. It was noted that such an appointment is irregular, as Spadoni is the Quarter Coordinator and thus is an employee. Friends accepted the special needs Nominating has at the moment and they value Spadoni's judgement. They therefore approved the appointment on an exceptional basis. It was noted that the Planning Committee, which is nominated by constituent meetings, not the Quarter, is the supervisor of the Coordinator.

Assistant Clerk's Duty to assist with the distribution of tuition aid was eliminated from that job description, as this function is done by the Treasurer and the Coordinator.

PYM Nominating Committee Representative. An exceptional appointment of Pete Lane to a third 3 year term was approved.

Quarterly Meeting Officers. The nominations of Deb Wood for a one year term (ending 6/2016) as Assistant Clerk (following which she will become clerk for two years, and then again become assistant clerk for one year) and Tom Haviland for a three year term (ending 6/2018) as Treasurer were approved.

Discussion of Recent Outreach Undertakings - Bruce Harrison (Westtown)

Three meetings are organizing days for outreach to parents of the many Friends schools in the Quarter. The Willistown Meeting event was not well attended, as it was a snowy day. The next ones are at Birmingham and Wilmington. There is provision for children at these events.

Joys and Challenges Reports

Birmingham MM - John Lavin

The report was received with appreciation and is appended as Attachment 4.

West Chester MM - Deb Lyons

The report was received with appreciation and is appended as Attachment 5.

Announcements of Upcoming Events - Bruce Harrison (Westtown)

- **Planning Committee Meeting**, May 3, 2015 at 7:30 p.m. at The Hickman
- **CQM Sponsored Open House for Parents of Children Attending Quaker Schools**, May 3, 2015, 10:00 a.m. Birmingham MM
- **Tubing on the Brandywine**, Sunday, June 28, 2015
- **Concord Quarterly Meeting**, July 26, 2015, at Willistown MM
- **Thomas Swain's Spiritual Gifts Workshop**, Saturday, October 17, 2015, at West Chester MM

The meeting ended with a period of worship at 9:45 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce Harrison, Clerk

David Leonard, Recording Clerk

Attachment 1:

COORDINATOR'S REPORT

I regret that I am not able to join you today at Quarterly Meeting with attention to business. I am otherwise engaged supervising a youth program sponsored jointly by Concord and Western Quarters that is being held at Westtown School under the guidance of Christine Costa Henwood, Westtown School's outdoor education coordinator. The program is described in more detail in the April newsletter, but here is a description of it in a nutshell. In the morning Chris will be leading the 31 children who registered in activities on a ropes course. After lunch, the children will be heading out to find a series of "control points" through a course surveyed by, among others, KerryLynn Resnik and her daughter Livia (Goshen), Pete Lane (Westtown), Mary Frank of the Delaware Valley Orienteering Association, Melissa McLaughlin of Westtown School, and me. So if you have trouble finding your children after the event is scheduled to end, it could be that they are somewhere on Westtown School's campus trying to find some mythical control points.

The next open house for parents attending Quaker schools in the Quarter's geographic area will be held on May 3, 2015, at Birmingham Monthly Meeting. That meeting has decided to expand the open house to include others as well. I look forward to seeing the results of its undertaking. Hopefully, the lessons learned from it and the one held at Willistown on March 1, 2015, will help improve the subsequent ones. The open house next following Birmingham's is to be held at Wilmington Monthly Meeting on November 1, 2015.

We have made arrangements for holding our tubing-on-the-Brandywine outing (which includes a picnic) on June 28, 2015 at Kennett Meeting's Maryetta Clendenin's property that abuts the West Branch of the Brandywine Creek. This year the FGC Gathering will not conflict with the tubing event, so we hope many more Friends will be there. Now that Western Quarter has two new energetic coordinators (Sarah Kastriner and Robin Harper (for the youth program)), I suspect that there will be a lot of people from Western Quarter for you to meet.

Please put on your calendar Thomas Swain's workshop on spiritual gifts that will be held on Saturday, October 17, 2015, in this meetinghouse. When Thomas holds the workshop, he will have returned from his ministry in Great Britain and will be primed and ready to go.

The next meeting of the Quarter's Planning Committee will be held at The Hickman's parlor at 7:30 p.m. on First Day, May 3, 2015. Any member of Concord Quarterly meeting who is interested in the Quarter's activities is welcome to attend that meeting. I hope you can join us.

In Faith,

Charles B. Spadoni, Coordinator

Attachment 2

CONCORD QUARTERLY MEETING TREASURER'S REPORT: Q3: 03/31/2015 03/31/2015 Q1 and Q2 April 24, 2015

Cover Page

(Full report available to members on request to Coordinator)

Friendly Review: Treasurer supported a review of CQM financials. A separate report is available.

Next Year's Budget Income

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Overall budgeting a 2.5% increase in the budget. This is more due to capturing historical contributions, rather than an actual increase in the budget.

•Coordinator contributions are reduced, because of more accurate estimate of the actual tax burden.

Expenses

•Coordinator expenses are budgeted at the current expenditure rate: 15hr/wk, not 20hr/wk.

If this changes in the coming year, the result would be reduced surplus that is applied to the TEF. •Operations expenses are budgeted at a higher level, more due to capturing historical

expenses, rather than a change in the expenses. This is offset by the reduction in the Coordinator spending.

Report: Financial Statements

Attached to the official

minutes is next year's budgeted and the financial statements for Q3 and YTD.

NOTE: The promotional sign was not in the budget, and was paid for using reserve funds (from prior year surplus).

Respectfully submitted, Ben James, Treasurer

Attachment 3

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Coordinator as Member of the Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee would like to have Charles Spadoni, Coordinator and member of Birmingham Monthly Meeting, be an at-large member of the Nominating Committee. Therefore, it recommends that the Quarterly Meeting approve Charles' appointment to that committee and to serve on it while he is employed as Coordinator until June 30, 2016.

Term of Representative to PYM's Nominating Committee

Currently, the Quarter's representative on Philadelphia Yearly Meeting's Nominating

Committee may serve for one term of three years followed by an additional three-year term for a total of six consecutive years. Unless that term is extended, Pete Lane, who as of June 30, 2015, will have served as the Quarter's current representative on that committee for six consecutive years, will be barred from continuing to serve in that capacity even though he is willing to do so. The Nominating Committee recommends that such term be extended for one additional three-year term so that Pete will be able to continue to serve. Such extension would make the term of such representative consistent with the terms of the offices of Treasurer and Recording Clerk.

Deletion of Duty of Assistant Clerk

One of the duties of Assistant Clerk is to “[w]ork with the treasurer to distribute funds for tuition aid.” Since the Coordinator performs that duty and the Assistant Clerk does not, the Nominating Committee recommends that such duty of the Assistant Clerk be deleted.

Nominations

The Nominating Committee nominates the following persons to serve in the following position and for the periods following their respective names:

Name	Monthly Meeting	Position	Term
Pete Lane	Westtown	Representative on PYM's Nominating Committee	Three years ending June 30, 2018
Tom Haviland	Westtown	Treasurer	Three years ending June 30, 2018
Deb Wood	Westtown	Assistant Clerk	One year ending June 30, 2016

Attachment 4

Birmingham MM Joys and Challenges

Our Meeting has the joy of having our Young Friends participate in this report. They report that our community is vibrant and active through caring for those in need, preparing monthly fellowship luncheons that make space for keeping our connections with each other strong, learning more about members through anniversary luncheons, and participating in our two intergenerational charity fundraising events: the Chicken Barbecue and Harvest Buffet.

Young Friends felt our Meeting is challenged by a lack of middle and high school age children and also a general decline in membership.

I cannot disagree with anything our Young Friends shared. We have the joy of many dedicated individuals that work hard to maintain the life and property of our Meeting. We have an actively

supported First Day School with many Members contributing to it. We are able to meet the maintenance needs of our historic meetinghouse.

Our Meeting is certainly challenged with membership as our Young Friends observed, but I would add also that we are challenged to engage most of the Members that still count themselves as part of our Meeting, but we rarely see or hear from. We must be engaging to both the Meeting Members we do have as well as be open and inviting to new seekers and attenders. Our Meeting is currently wrestling with a concern that our budget adequately reflects our values.

Faithfully submitted,

John Lavin

Attachment 5

West Chester MM Joys and Challenges

“Live up to the Light thou hast, and more will be granted thee.” That advice, recorded by nineteenth-century Friend Caroline Fox as having come to her in the silence of Meeting for Worship, seems an appropriate theme for reflecting on the past year at West Chester Monthly Meeting.

When you come into our Social Room, take a look at the bulletin board near the coat rack. You’ll see something we had long wanted but never managed to produce until now: a display of photos—and names!—of Meeting members and attenders. It’s colorful, it’s lively, and it’s easy to expand as we welcome people to the West Chester Friends community. It’s also a great remedy for that awkward “I know I should remember her name” feeling. And it’s increasingly important for a very encouraging reason: more people coming—and coming back!

A companion innovation is on the big table at the rear of the Meeting room: a user-friendly guest book with a page for each individual or family coming to worship with us for the first time.

We also have—at last!—a lively and still-improving Web site, being engineered by tech-savvy members of the Meeting community in collaboration with our Care of Meeting committee, and being curated by our similarly tech-savvy Meeting secretary.

Underlying much of this growth is the revitalization of our First Day School under the leadership of Teacher Bonnie McLennan and assistant teacher Laura alexander, providing a creatively consistent mix of learning and activity that has helped us attract and retain several young families. When the side door opens and the First Day School comes in for the last few minutes of Meeting each First Day, the smiles are contagious.

The youngsters aren’t the only ones learning. Downingtown Meeting-based Friend Alex Miller’s six-session Friendly Quaker Orientation course has drawn a capacity crowd, some from West Chester and some from elsewhere, including seekers, folks new to Quakerism, and seasoned Friends.

We continue to be blessed by the ability to collaborate with our Quaker Block neighbors, West Chester Friends School and the Hickman. As the Hickman deals with the challenges of replacing its Sharpless-Hall building, we are grateful for the Hickman’s inclusion of Meeting in its thinking and planning. We are hopeful that the Hickman’s negotiations with Borough Council will result in an ordinance that will benefit all three Quaker Block neighbors.

We are grateful that there are new faces on our committees as more Friends feel comfortable taking a more active role in the Meeting. We are also hopeful that our attenders will, in due season, feel drawn to becoming members and sharing their Light with us.

Faithfully submitted,

Deborah Lyons