

**Concord Quarterly Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business
Held at Westtown Monthly Meeting
October 25, 2015**

Meeting began with a period of silent worship. Clerk Bruce Harrison welcomed everyone. There were 30 Friends in attendance. Friends from Birmingham, Concord, Goshen, Chichester, Middletown, West Chester, and Westtown were present.

Friends approved John Lavin serving as recording clerk in David Leonard's absence.

The agenda was reviewed and approved.

Treasurer's Report of Tom Haviland was received with appreciation and is attached as appendix one. The transition from old and new treasurers has almost been completed. During the transition, Tom performed housekeeping on the Quarter's electronic documents. The Treasurer has distributed sixteen scholarships from the Tuition Endowment Fund. Each recipient received \$444.

Coordinator's Report from Charlie Spadoni was received with appreciation and is attached as appendix two.

Travel Minute for Thomas Swain was read by Bruce Harrison and is attached as appendix three. Friends approved endorsing Thomas' minute of travel from Middletown Monthly Meeting.

A **Syrian Refugee Crisis Announcement** by Susan Brodesser was received with appreciation and is attached as appendix four.

Clerk Bruce Harrison reported that he purchased three copies of the Biography of Bayard Rustin and has given them to the Bayard Rustin High School library.

West Chester and Birmingham's Joys and Challenges were reported and are attached to the minutes as appendix five.

A Friend raised a concern that the Quarter only approves the action minutes, and not the entire body of the minutes. The response was that in the past, the Quarter approved reading only the action minutes but that the Quarter can change their decision at any time. Friends discussed the concern and requested that the Planning Committee make a suggestion and discuss the concern at a future business meeting.

Friends discussed putting a more formal process around the creation of the Joys and Challenges reports given to the Quarter, such as submitting the report to their Monthly Meeting's business meeting for approval. Friends also referred this concern to the Planning Committee to make a recommendation to the Quarter.

Meeting ended with a period of silent worship.

Respectfully submitted,
John Lavin Acting Recording Clerk

Bruce Harrison Clerk

Appendix One

**CONCORD QUARTERLY MEETING
TREASURER'S REPORT – FISCAL YEAR 2015-2016 Q1
October 25, 2015**

Treasurer Transition Status

- Quickbooks Pro 2016 for PC purchased and installed and electronic files have been moved to and are now fully operational on Tom's computer.
- The active QB file has been updated to only show from Fiscal Year 2014 forward. All previous years have been archived.
- All hardcopy and electronic files are now in Tom's possession.
- All businesses and groups that we interact/do business with have been contacted and have updated contact information from Bruce to Tom (email, regular mail, phone numbers, online accounts).

- Tom was added as a signatory of CQM's business checking account and has been managing all financial transactions and the associated record keeping for activity from mid-August forward (check writing, depositing funds, recording activity, account reconciliations).
- Tom has continued Bruce's good work of documenting all Treasurer transition work to be given to future Treasurers.

Tuition Grants

- 16 students received tuition grants this year of \$444.00 each (\$7104 total).
- Students come from 5 Monthly Meetings (Birmingham, Goshen, West Chester, Westtown, Willistown)
- Students attend 5 schools (Friends Select, Goshen Friends, West Chester Friends, Westtown School, Wilmington Friends).

The Tuition Endowment Fund is down 7% at just shy of \$170k, a result of the concern over global growth and China's slowing economy. Projected weak 3rd quarter corporate earnings and continued market volatility with the possibility of a Federal Reserve rate hike looms over the 4th quarter.

Noteworthy Financial Activity

- Asset account balances as of Sep 30, 2015 are provided as information on the back side of this page.
 - The balances do not reflect Covenant checks received in Q1 (a result of the changing of Treasurers and being delayed in the depositing/recording of this activity).
 - 2 Friends Fiduciary TEF account deposits (one of which is the Coordinator Surplus Funds from FY 2014-2015) were moved from FY 2014-2015 4Q to this FY Q2 (when they actually occurred). Year ending reports for FY 2014-2015 have been replaced with updated versions. No adverse consequences arise from this bookkeeping adjustment.
- As Tom continues working towards taking over all Treasurer work, the record keeping will get caught up and 2nd quarter reports should accurately reflect qtr and ytd activity that is consistent with the same periods for the prior fiscal year. Additionally, we will see how are our finances are beginning to match up against the 2015-2016 Budget.

Oct 25, 2015

[FINANCIAL STATEMENTS REDACTED]

Appendix Two

COORDINATOR'S REPORT

Fortunately, the weather cooperated on August 23, 2015, and we had approximately 50 people (from both Concord and Western Quarters) who came and went (as least some did) down the Brandywine Creek on inner tubes during our annual, pot-luck lunch and tubing-on-the-Brandywine event that had to be rescheduled from June 28, 2015, when a storm caused the water to be at almost flood stage.

Approximately 50 members (adults and children) of Concord and Western Quarterly Meetings converged on Wynoor Farm, the Stratton family (Middletown MM) farm in Westtown Township, to tour their farm via a tractor-driven hay wagon, take a disorienting trip through a corn maze, eat a delicious potluck supper featuring hotdogs and hamburgers grilled to perfection by our culinarily talented Clerk Bruce Harrison (Westtown MM), and a sing-along led by Pete Lane (Westtown MM) playing sonorous notes on his banjo. The Stratton Family generously made their farm available to the two Quarters without charge.

On Saturday, October 17, 2015, nine Quakers from West Chester, Middletown, Concord, Westtown, Goshen and Centre Monthly Meetings were led by Thomas Swain (Middletown MM) in an all-day workshop conducted at West Chester MM in which they undertook to recognize and appreciate their Spirit-given gifts. Katie Senko (Birmingham

MM), a 9th grader at Unionville High School, who was on standby to provide childcare, also participated in the workshop when she was not helping me prepare and serve lunch.

Here's hoping you all return to Westtown School on November 7, 2015, to attend the first-ever Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Continuing Session. The Yearly Meeting will be addressing the following query: "What is God calling PYM Quakers to do next to end racism and white supremacy in the Religious Society of Friends and beyond? This is a timely and compelling topic for all members of Concord Quarterly Meeting.

It is still not too late to offer accommodations and a light breakfast to Friends who are traveling long distances to attend Continuing Sessions. If you would like to host such a Friend, please register at <http://www.pym.org/continuing-sessions/hospitality/>.

Sarah Kastriner, Western Quarter's Coordinator; Robin Harper, Western Quarter's Youth Coordinator; and I are in the process of planning youth and intergenerational events for the next 12 months. Please check the schedule of those events that will be posted on Concord Quarter's website after the next Planning Committee Meeting to be held on November 1, 2015.

In Faith, Charles B. Spadoni, Coordinator

Appendix Three

MINUTE OF TRAVEL ISSUED BY MIDDLETOWN MONTHLY MEETING

Dear Friends,

Our member Thomas Swain has been called to travel in the ministry among Friends. He travels to you with the full support of Middletown Monthly Meeting. His leading is part of a longstanding concern for spiritual growth and renewal, carried by our whole Monthly Meeting. We are blessed to have Thomas as a part of our community. We have watched his vocal ministry grow over the past few years. He has helped us individually and as a Meeting to respond more deeply to the Voice of Christ within. Thomas has devoted many years of service among Friends and has generously shared his spiritual gifts of encouragement, leadership, and nurture. He has served as clerk of our Meeting and of our Yearly Meeting. Many of our lives have been changed by his faithful service.

We commend our dear friend to you and ask that all listen with open hearts to the message that he brings. He carries our love and prayers with him, and our hope that we may all wade deeper into the Living Water together.

On behalf of Middletown Monthly Meeting Lima, Pennsylvania Richard Ailes, Clerk

ENDORSED BY CONCORD QUARTERLY MEETING Bruce Harrison, Clerk of Concord Quarterly Meeting

Appendix Four SYRIAN REFUGEE REPORT

The members of Birmingham's Peace and Social Concerns Committee felt led to try to do something to help alleviate the suffering of refugee families. We are still in the exploratory, information gathering stage.

As most refugees coming to this area will be assisted by Lutheran Children and Family Services through a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Department of State I have attached two documents from LCFS that provide information about the resettlement process, for your information.

If you have an interest in helping, contact Susan Brodesser and the committee will keep you posted on what Peace and Social Concerns learns. Sturgis Poorman, of Lutheran Children and Family Service, will be speaking with us about refugee resettlement, co-sponsorship, and other ways we might help on Tuesday, November 10, at 7pm, at the Birmingham.

Appendix Five

Westtown Monthly Meeting Joys and Challenges

Our life as a community and our individual lives continue to be strengthened from the worship we share together.

Our first day mornings are times of deep awareness of our interconnectedness through the Spirit. Ministry in our corporate gatherings comes from members, attenders, and visitors. Hymn singing precedes worship many Sundays and helps frame worship for some of us. Our Christmas and New Year's Meetings for Worship give us times to worship with more family and friends.

We gain strength from our times together in fellowship. Our second Sunday shared meals and programs following worship, our summertime suppers, committee work, evening films and discussions, game nights and meal preparation for those in need, discussions of energy efficiency, travel to Kendal for worship with there, and travels in Israel and Palestine have brought us closer.

Our fundraisers give us time together in sweat and service. Whether we are sweating to get the forms for the holiday plant sale along with set up and pick up, or moving benches for a concert for Walking with Nathaniel, we give and receive from these gifts. Worshipping with Westtown students and helping to provide a space for a vibrant day care is also a many layered gift for us.

First Day School is enjoyed and anticipated by our youngsters and by the adults who assist with the program.

We continue to explore ways to gain greater active in person participation and financial participation from our entire membership. While we acknowledge the gifts we have from our relationship with Westtown School and Oak Lane Day Care, sharing our spiritual space with others does bring out differences in views and needs that at times take work and patience to understand and resolve.

Middletown Joys & Challenges report for Concord Quarterly Meeting – 10/25/2015

Middletown Monthly Meeting is still a small Meeting. But its membership is active and faithful to God's call that each of us be in service to one another and to the Inward Christ. We continue to experience a deep sense of worship and accompanying grace on First Day that provides personal strength and guidance for our lives. Attendance averages about 8 Friends and attenders at Meeting for Worship but sometimes gets to the low teens. On the first First Day of the month we continue experimenting with asking a Friend to bring a leading message to begin worship. Four men from the Meeting along with one Friend from another meeting consistently meet every 2 weeks to share spiritual fellowship as a Men's Group.

The Meeting has been able to fulfill the typical responsibilities of holding meeting for worship for business on First Day. It now has an approved clerk and recording clerk. Its treasurer reports that finances are healthy. The meeting functions without committees preparing property maintenance and other meeting activities in meeting for business.

Our attention to faithfulness has helped us do many things this past year. The Men's Group conducted a workshop for a PYM Thread Gathering and at PYM Annual Sessions. Three of its members taught an 8 week course for a Salem Quarter group using Steve Chase's "Letters to a Fellow Seeker: A Short Introduction to the Quaker Way." We had a successful Middletown Day in June with a worship sharing afterwards where all the participants reflected on their spiritual lives. In April we hosted a birthday party for our 100-year-old Friend, Kathy Demsey, at her residence in Lima Estates next door to the meeting. Also that April our member, Thomas Swain, traveled to the UK under a traveling ministry minute from the meeting. In late June three of our members attended a Christ centered Quaker Spring in Poughkeepsie, New York, and in early October these Friends brought Long Island Friend Jim Schultz, whom they had met at Quaker Spring, to spend a few days with us. Jim shared his spiritual messages through stories and song at a meeting for worship and a meeting social and participated in our Mens' Group.

Because of our small membership we are not able to attend to all meeting matters with ease. Property concerns weigh upon us as interior painting and roofing are pressing and remain unaddressed. Cleaning up also takes a back seat leaving plenty of time for our industrious spiders to set up their silky homes in the meetinghouse and social room.

In spite of these challenges we are hopeful that our faithfulness to one another and to God's presence in our lives will allow us to support our Meeting community for the next few years

Approved at Meeting for Worship for Business 10/18/2015

Rich Ailes, Clerk