

Concord Quarterly Meeting
Held at
Wilmington Monthly Meeting
January 31, 2016

Opening Worship

The meeting opened with a period of worship at 8:18 am.

Welcome

The date of this meeting was moved from the previous week due to a serious snow storm. Representatives were present from the following member monthly meetings – Birmingham, Chichester, Concord, Goshen, Middletown, West Chester, Westtown, and Wilmington. Willistown Meeting was not represented.

Approval of Minutes -- Bruce Harrison (Clerk)

The minutes of the Quarterly Meeting held on October 25, 2015 and taken by John Lavin as Acting Recording Clerk were approved.

Treasurer's Report -- Tom Haviland (Treasurer)

The report was accepted and is attached to these minutes as Appendix 1. The transactions reported are routine, including transfers to the Yearly Meeting and of the surplus from the Coordinator budget to the Tuition Endowment Fund. (As Wilmington MM does not participate in the Quarter Tuition Endowment Fund, its share of the surplus was returned to it.) One Friend recorded that he is uneasy that at the moment we are routinely budgeting for more money for the Coordinator than is needed and then transferring the surplus to the TEF. Another Friend noted that this practice is necessary because the Coordinator costs are unusually low, by historical standards, and we want the MMs to budget appropriately for the normal costs. It is time for member meetings to begin consideration of their contributions to the Quarter and the Yearly Meeting for the next financial year. The meeting acknowledged that the variability in fiscal years within the Quarter and the Yearly Meeting is awkward but seems to be working.

Agreement with Friends Fiduciary Corporation -- Tom Haviland (Treasurer)

Concord Quarterly Meeting approves the new form of Custody and Investment Agreement between Concord Quarterly Meeting and Friends Fiduciary Corporation that such corporation submitted to the Meeting for approval. The Clerk is authorized to execute and deliver such agreement in the name and on behalf of the Meeting. The Meeting hereby designates its Treasurer to be its Fund Representative and its Clerk to be its Second Authorization with respect to all of the Meeting's accounts and sub-accounts held by Friends Fiduciary Corporation. The Fund Representative and the Second Authorization must act jointly to make any withdrawals from, or changes in the allocation of, amounts invested in any of such accounts and subaccounts.

Coordinator's Report - Charles Spadoni (Coordinator)

The report was received with appreciation and is attached to these minutes at Appendix 2.

Planning Committee's Recommendations re Joys & Challenges Reports and Minutes -- Bruce Harrison (Clerk)

In response to the requests made at the last Quarterly Meeting, the Planning Committee considered these two topics and minuted the recommendations attached at Appendix 3. One Friend noted that the substance of action minutes approved in one Quarterly Meeting will be subject only to stylistic changes when the final minutes are approved in the following Quarterly Meeting. The meeting expressed its appreciation to the committee and approved its recommendations.

Refugee Resettlement Report -- Susan Brodesser (Birmingham)

The report is attached at Appendix 4 and was received with appreciation.

Inquiry re Renewable Energy Use by MMs and FCNL priorities responses from MMs

-- Bruce Harrison (Clerk)

Member monthly meetings are encouraged to discuss these issues.

Joys and Challenges Reports

The report of Wilmington MM was presented by Brian Fahey and is attached to these minutes as Appendix 5. The report of Goshen MM was presented by Tom Woodward and is attached to these minutes as Appendix 6. Both reports were received with appreciation.

Count of those in Attendance

As the meeting ended 22 Friends were present.

Respectfully submitted,

David Leonard (Recording Clerk) and Bruce Harrison (Clerk)

Appendix 1: TREASURER'S REPORT – FISCAL YEAR 2015-2016 Q2 (Oct – Dec)

January 31, 2016

- Second quarter receipt and spending activity was consistent with previous quarters and in line with expectations.
- Total Income from Covenant checks and Program contributions for Q2 were \$56,620 while Total Expenses were \$28,224 (this includes outgoing funds to PYM and TEF).
- Account balances from the first two quarters are in line with the 2015-2016 Fiscal Year Budget.
 - CQM will begin conversation about next year's budget at CQM's upcoming Planning Committee meetings and it would be helpful for each Monthly Meeting to review, discuss, and reach a decision regarding their budgeting for CQ and PYM support for 2016-2017 and to report these intentions back to the CQM Treasurer.
- Q2 Income and Expense report and notes are shown on page 2.
- Q2 Assets report and notes are shown on page 3.
- Friends Fiduciary, with whom we invest our Tuition Endowment Funds with, has recently issued a New Custody and Investment Agreement to all of its constituents for review and signature. An authorizing minute needs to be written and included with our acceptance of this agreement.

The new agreement reflects the growth and changes in FFC operations and the addition of 3 new investment fund options. The following comes from FFC's New Custody and Investment Agreement cover letter where they summarize the New Custody and Investment Agreement as doing 3 things.

1. updates the agreement provisions to what is believed to be current industry standard,
2. incorporates our current investment options and operations and,
3. removes a potential source of liability for our constituent investors by deleting the indemnification provision in the current agreement.

Income and Expense Report

Income Notes

- Covenant checks were received from 5 Monthly Meetings significantly increasing the corresponding Covenants subaccount balances.
- The Tuition Endowment Fund (TEF) received funds from the Friends Fiduciary semi-annual dividend distribution.

- The PYM balance (from Q1 and Q2 Covenant checks) will be sent to PYM and reflected in Q3.
- Gifts were made by participants of the Fall Hayride and Christmas Drop and Shop programs

Expense Notes

- 2014-2015 Coord Surplus funds of \$17,440 were sent to Friends Fiduciary (Tuition Endowment Fund). As Wilmington Meeting does not participate in the CQM TEF program, their Coord Surplus of \$1,899.82 was returned to them with the recommendation for the funds to be used for their Meeting's tuition aid outreach program.
- Covenant Expenses for the Coordinator (includes Ailes Graphic Services) and Operating costs were normal.
- Program costs were for Hayride and Drop and Shop programs.
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Income and Expenses (run date 1/20/2016)

[REDACTED]

Assets Report

- \$500 was moved out of Reserve into the Operating Fund to cover Program expenses.
- All Checking Account subaccounts are in good position and as expected.
- \$19,797.38 was contributed in Q2 to TEF (FFC) and the Consolidated Fund (what we are invested in) unit value increased from \$45.10 to finish the year at \$46.21 per unit. This was due in part to the stock market bounce back from a weak 3rd quarter. However, signs of a struggling economy continue to be a concern (slower global growth, weaker corporate profits, rising interest rates, and slowing growth in China).
- The Tuition Operating Fund (TOF) subaccount received the Friends Fiduciary semi-annual dividend distribution. As a reminder, these funds are used in their entirety in the fall for Friends education tuition assistance for CQ families.

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Assets (run date 1/20/2016)

[REDACTED]

Appendix 2: Coordinator's Report

I have been working collaboratively with Western Quarter's coordinators to establish an on-going program for children so that they have the opportunity to meet and establish friendships with other Quaker children. Such bonding is a key ingredient for engaging children in Quaker youth activities, including those sponsored by Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. Very few children venture forth alone to participate in such activities.

On December 12, 2015, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Sarah Kastriner (Western Quarter's Coordinator), Robin Harper (Western Quarter's Youth Coordinator), Tom Haviland (Westtown MM) and I had the pleasure of engaging with 15 children (aged three to twelve) from Concord and Western Quarters in our first co-sponsored "Parents' Day Off" program. Most of the children helped to create a Christmas scene using play dough while others made "God's Eyes" using Popsicle sticks and yarn. While the children were working with the play dough, Tom challenged them to remember the names of their compatriots and entertained them with real-time photographs of their work. After an indoor cooperative game, most of the children moved outdoors to play "frazzleram," an ultimate Frisbee-type game using a soccer ball. Elson Blunt (Westtown MM) provided instructions on how to play the game and refereed the match: boys (including Tom) against the girls (including Robin). Guess who won? After snacks, some of the crew helped Tom make, bake and decorate Christmas cookies. The others played games. A pizza lunch followed. The children continued to play indoors until pickup time at 1:00 p.m. All left with smiles on their faces. We hope to see all of them and more at the next

Quarter-sponsored event for children.

West Chester MM held its open house for families of children attending Quaker schools. It welcomed three families whose children attend West Chester Friends School. Rob Vosburgh, an attender of West Chester Monthly Meeting whose two children attend West Chester Friends School, gave a heartfelt introduction to meeting for worship.

The Quarter is sponsoring a lot of other programs during the first quarter of 2016, including its 5th annual intergenerational square dance at Willistown MM on February 20, 2016 (snow date February 27, 2016), a Concord/Western Quarters-sponsored roller skating event for families on February 28, 2016 (it starts with meeting for worship at Kennett MM at 11:00 a.m., followed by lunch at Kennett MM, followed by skating at the Christiana Skating Center in Newark, Delaware), and Tom Woodward's three-part workshop on Quakerism and the Gnostic Gospels that begins at 2:00 p.m. on February 28, 2016 at The Hickman (which will be providing cookies). I hope you join us at one or more of them.

At the request of the Planning Committee, we have in place (in large measure as a result of the efforts of Rich Ailes (Middletown MM, the Quarter's webmaster) a process by which members and attenders can (1) provide recommendations for workshops and Quarterly Meeting programs and (2) collaborate in one or more undertakings. So far I have received several suggestions about workshops that I will pass on to the Planning Committee at its next meeting.

We meet next at Birmingham MM on April 24, 2016. I hope to see you there.

In Faith,
Charles B. Spadoni, Coordinator

Appendix 3: EXCERPTS OF PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 1, 2015

Joys & Challenges Reports

Quarterly Meeting referred to the Planning Committee for further discussion the issue of whether each meeting should be required to have its annual Joys & Challenges report reviewed and approved by members of the monthly meeting at a meeting for business before it is presented at Quarterly Meeting. After substantial discussion, the Planning Committee approved recommending to the Quarterly Meeting that it suggest to each monthly meeting that it have its annual Joys & Challenges report approved by the monthly meeting before it is presented at Quarterly Meeting, but that it should not establish such procedure as a requirement.

The Coordinator was directed to remind each meeting approximately six weeks before the subsequent quarterly meeting that it is scheduled to present a Joys & Challenges Report at that meeting. By doing so, each meeting will have sufficient time to bring its Joys & Challenges report to its monthly meeting for business for review and comment before it is presented.

Approval of Minutes

Quarterly Meeting referred to the Planning Committee for further discussion the issue of whether the minutes should be read in their entirety and approved at Quarterly Meeting. After extensive discussion, the Planning Committee approved recommending to the Quarterly Meeting that it approve the following process: (1) at each Quarterly Meeting the Recording Clerk will read each draft action item immediately after it is discussed, the Clerk will entertain any comments from members on the draft action item, and then the Quarterly Meeting will approve the action item as it is presented or modified; (2) after the Quarterly Meeting the Recording Clerk will circulate his or her draft of the minutes in their entirety for comment by the Clerk, Assistant Clerk and Coordinator, all three will provide the Recording Clerk with his or her comments, and the draft minutes will be posted on the Quarter's website; (3) during the succeeding three months all members will have an opportunity to review the minutes and bring to the attention of the Recording Clerk any mistakes that need to be corrected; (4) at the next Quarterly meeting, the Clerk will disclose all of the changes that have been proposed and included in the minutes; (5) the Clerk will then ask for approval of the minutes as corrected.

Appendix 4: West Chester Area Refugee Resettlement Report – Susan Brodesser (Birmingham)

Sixty-four people representing seven Quaker meetings, two churches (Westminster Presbyterian and United Methodist of West Chester), the Unitarian Congregation of West Chester, and the Islamic Society of Chester County, plus

several non-affiliated individuals, are currently part of the refugee resettlement committee. Twenty-eight of these are taking on the tasks of the Refugee Support Team (i.e., taking responsibility for Housing & Material Goods, Transportation, Orientation, Education & ESL, Employment, Fundraising & Finance, and Online Oversight.)

We have gathered almost all the furniture and material goods that we expect a family of four or five will need. This may have to be adjusted once we learn the specific composition of the family.

There is a Facebook page listed under “West Chester Area Refugee Resettlement Project”.

The committee has met three times and has agreed that as soon as we have \$8000 in the bank we will notify Lutheran Children and Family Service that we’re ready to receive a family. Initially we had estimated that we will need about \$12,000 to assist a family until they are able to be self-sustaining. That may have to be re-calculated depending upon the needs of the family we receive and how successful we are in finding employment for the adult(s) that will provide adequate income. The family will be eligible for county assistance, SNAP, and Medicaid. As of January 31 we have \$4,205 in our account. Checks can be made out to Birmingham Friends Meeting, with refugee resettlement” in the memo line and sent to Birmingham Friends Meeting, 1245 Birmingham Road. West Chester, PA 19382.

At our January 20, 2016 meeting Todd Miller and Joel Nsongo, from LCFS, met with us to answer questions and to give us information about two families, one of which may be the family we will co-sponsor. One family consists of a single mother with four children and the other is a couple with four children and, possibly, an adult son with his fiancée, who may be arriving at or near the same time. There are many unpredictable variables and there is no guarantee that either of these families will end up being the family we co-sponsor.

Appendix 5: Joys and Challenges Report of Wilmington MM

Clerk's Report/ State of the Meeting

Wilmington Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends meets every First Day for worship and once monthly (except August) for Meeting for Worship for Business. In many ways our Meeting mirrors issues facing everyone today. Our continuing challenges are adequate financial support from members and attenders and staffing committees. Our Meeting offers an opportunity for worship and reflection in a fast paced world and we must all work to ensure this continues.

Ongoing committee work and activities include:

- Adult religious education sessions continue and are now overseen by a separate committee. Members and attenders continue to share leadership of these sessions.
- In January 2015 we displayed on our lawn the Memorial to the Lost, which is an exhibit of T-shirts with the names of those slain ~y gunfire in Wilmington during 2014.
- The Communications committee continues to work to improve the Meeting's website.
- With help from members of Worship and Ministry the children in the First Day are learning about queries. They have been learning about the use of queries and also writing their own queries to use in First Day School. Religious Education committee is instituting a "Rites of Passage" program for the older children.
- Throughout the year First Day School raises money through many events and from the sale of vegetables from their garden. In the spring the children will hold a meeting for business during which they will decide how to distribute all the proceeds of their various sales.
- Adjusting to the population, First Day School now has three distinct groups each Sunday, a nursery group, an elementary group and a middle school group.
- The Peace and Social Justice Committee continues to work together to address the problems of gun violence in Wilmington. The Committee has been involved with several of the events sponsored by Movement for a Culture of Peace, an organization based in Wilmington. Meeting continues to foster fellowship through a variety of activities:

- Pot luck meals, sponsored by the Committee on Care of Meeting, at the rise of Meeting on the third Sunday of most months.
- Refreshments are provided by the Social Committee, at the rise of Meeting, on most other Sundays and by the children in First Day School on the fifth Sunday of each month in which there is a fifth Sunday.
- With leadership from Harmony on the Hill, the Meeting continues to support the Strawberry Festival in June, which serves both the Meeting community and the surrounding neighborhood.
- Again this year the First Day School continued the pumpkin project, enjoyed "trunk or treat" for Halloween, planted and cared for the vegetable garden and harvested and sold what they grew.

Appendix 6: Joys and Challenges Report of Goshen MM

As we considered what to say to the Quarter in this report of the state of Goshen Monthly Meeting, what most occurred to us is that we are currently in a state of change. It is a time of deep introspection about the nature of community, about ways in which we conduct our business, and about our relationship with one another. Underlying all of this is identifying our spiritual needs and finding ways for our experience to be as enriching as possible.

In September we began an experiment with our time for worship, moving from 10:45 to 10:00 in order better to accommodate the needs of members, especially those with children. In October we held a retreat to begin to identify and address concerns within and about the meeting. We began the day with the query "What do you experience in worship and has it changed over time." From the silence of worship we experienced the Faith and Play story "Gifts," and spoke openly and honestly as we wondered together about our meeting's gifts of the Spirit. This activity set a solid foundation for the day. Rather than seek solutions, we outlined what we saw as the most pressing needs of the meeting and began to look for ways to address them so we can move on. We questioned how well the current committee structure serves the needs of a meeting as small as ours. A concrete outcome of this discussion has been to use our meeting for worship with attention to business more fully to do the business of the meeting. We do so with the full awareness that we may well send business back to committee for further seasoning or create ad hoc groups. Our experience so far has been positive; the process is more inclusive

We feel sorrow about the departure of members who are no longer able to attend and whose presence is deeply missed. In this we think especially of Sue Angry who recently celebrated her 91st birthday. We think also of others who have transferred membership to other meetings or have moved to other worship communities. We feel joy, however, with the addition of new members. The number of children attending FDS has increased substantially; we are blessed to have them worship with us for the last fifteen minutes. We are considering ways in which more adults might be involved with the FDS program and exploring with the children their feelings about being in worship more often and for more extended periods.

We have raised concern about how best to incorporate new members and their understanding of Quakerism into the fabric of the meeting. Of equal importance is the ability and willingness of older members to change and grow. As we work together in this process we seek to maintain spiritual grounding and practices that serve to support and nurture Quakerism.

We are grateful to be involved in this process of renewal. Although it is not easy, we are finding in our corporate search both personal and spiritual growth