

**Concord Quarterly Meeting Planning Committee Meeting
Held at Concord Monthly Meeting
January 31, 2016 – 7:30 p.m. Minutes**

Present: Bruce Harrison, Clerk (WT); Deb Wood, Assistant Clerk (WT); Tom Haviland, Treasurer (WT); Rich Ailes (MT); Tom Woodward (G); Marian Walker (C); Chris Smith (WC); Pete Lane (WT); Gwynne Ormsby (B); Julie Senko (B); and Charles Spadoni, Coordinator, recording.

Regrets: Ray Hamilton (C); Deb Lyons (WC); Ron Ploeg (WillT); Brian Fahey (Wilm).

The meeting began with a period of silent worship.

Quarterly Meeting held at Wilmington (January 31, 2016)

Comments

Bruce Harrison commented that the business meeting was well attended, but had hoped that more members of Wilmington MM would have attended.

Willistown did not have a representative present. Pete Lane will follow up with Eric Metzker of Willistown MM, and the Coordinator will follow up with Ron Ploeg, Willistown MM's new clerk, to discuss that meeting's involvement with the Quarter.

Everyone agreed that the program "New Beginnings: Next Steps," which assists prisoners in some of Delaware's state prisons prepare to return to their communities and assists those who have been released to become integrated into their communities, was quite informative, and that the main speaker, John Kornegay, was very inspirational. Rich Ailes will contact Mary Starkweather-White to obtain information about how members of the Quarter can assist that program, and Rich will post that information on the Quarter's website.

Treasurer's Report and Transfer of Coordinator Budget Surplus to Tuition Endowment Fund

At Quarterly Meeting, Tom Haviland reported that \$19,797 had been transferred from the Coordinator Budget Surplus to the Tuition Endowment Fund. At Quarterly Meeting, Rich Ailes questioned whether it was rightly ordered for the Quarter to continue to run large surpluses in the Coordinator Budget that would be transferred automatically to the Tuition Endowment Fund. At the Planning Committee meeting he raised that issue again and questioned whether the transfer of \$19,797 was in addition to another amount that Bruce James, the Quarter's prior Treasurer, may have transferred from the Coordinator Budget Surplus to the Tuition Endowment Fund. Tom Haviland assured the Committee that only the \$19,797 had been transferred. After extensive discussion of what steps should be taken to minimize the overfunding of the Coordinator Budget, the Clerk appointed a sub-committee consisting of Deb Wood, Rich Ailes and himself to meet with Tom Haviland to help Tom prepare a budget to be submitted to the Quarterly Meeting in April 2016 that would allocate revenue to the Coordinator Budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2017, so that it not exceed the actual amount expended by no more than a *de minimis* amount. That sub-committee was also given the task of working with the Treasurer to determine whether the Treasurer should recommend to the Quarterly Meeting to increase the amount of the hourly rate paid the Coordinator and, if so, what that increase should be.

Quarterly Meeting at Birmingham MM – April 24, 2016

Business Agenda

Friends Fiduciary Corporation

At Quarterly Meeting Tom Haviland noted that all of the money invested in the Quarter's Tuition Endowment Fund is invested in Friends Fiduciary Corporation's Consolidated Fund. Gwynne Ormsby raised the issue of whether the Quarter should consider transferring all or at least a portion of its investments from the Consolidated Fund into FFC's Green Fund (which has no investments in companies exploiting fossil fuels and which invests a portion of its assets in companies involved in "green" businesses). Tom Haviland agreed to contact FFC to discuss this matter further. The Planning Committee also recommended that Tom report to the Quarterly Meeting in April about his discussions with FFC so that the Quarter can begin a discussion of whether the Quarter should move all or a portion of its investments from the Consolidated Fund to the Green Fund. The Clerk agreed to place Tom's report about FFC's Green Fund and the pros and cons of investing in it on the April Quarterly Meeting agenda.

Monthly Meeting's Annual Contributions to the Quarter's Tuition Endowment Fund

Rich Ailes noted that at its meeting in April 2013 the Quarter agreed to review at its meeting in April 2016 the Quarter's program of having its constituent monthly meetings (other than Wilmington MM) contribute voluntarily funds to the Quarter's Tuition Endowment Fund on an annual basis. No members of the Planning Committee suggested that the current program should be changed. The Clerk will place this matter on the April 2016 Quarterly Meeting agenda.

Program

Gwynne Ormsby reported that the first part of Birmingham's Program at the April Quarterly Meeting will be a Birmingham-written play entitled *Who Is My Neighbor?* It will consist of two scenes. The first will be a rendition of the Good Samaritan as described in the Bible. The second will be a version of the Good Samaritan taking place today on a school's grounds. After the play, that meeting's Worship and Ministry Committee will pose a series of questions about the play, and those present will be asked to provide responses to those queries. Gwynne Ormsby agreed that Birmingham will provide Rich Ailes, the editor of the Quarter's newsletter, with a short article about the program.

The committee then discussed the schedule of the next Quarterly Meeting. The Committee recommended that it begin at 8:15 a.m. and end no later than 9:45 a.m. If Birmingham conducts opening exercises at 10:00 a.m., meeting for worship will end at 11:15 a.m.; the program will follow; and lunch prepared by Birmingham MM will follow the program.

Square Dance at Willistown MM Update

Pete Lane reported that all the personnel to hold the square dance are in place. Several of the Planning Committee members agreed to provide some refreshments. The Coordinator will follow up with Ron Ploeg, Willistown's Clerk, to ensure that their plans to host the event are moving forward.

Tom Woodward's Workshop

Tom Woodward reported that he is ready to conduct his workshop entitled *Friends and the Gospel of Thomas*. Rich Ailes agreed to post on the Quarter's website the syllabus Tom has prepared.

Parents' Drop Off

The Coordinator reported that 15 children from Concord and Western Quarters attended and seemed to enjoy getting to know other Quaker children. A suggestion was made to include Philadelphia Quarter in such a program. Another member suggested that children of members of Downingtown MM be invited to attend rather than children of members of another Quarter. The Coordinator took such suggestions under advisement.

Schedule of Youth and Intergenerational Events

The Coordinator presented the following schedule:

Date	Time	Event
28 Feb 2015	2:00 p.m.	Family roller skating @ Christiana Roller Rink
19 Mar 2016	9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.	Continuing Sessions – Car pooling
23 Apr 2016	9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Ropes course, canoeing or other activities @Westtown School for children 3 rd to 12 th grades
29 Apr 2016		Camp Swatara – Middle and High School students - Coordinator to drive van
26 June 2016	12:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Potluck lunch and tubing on the Brandywine for families
24 July 2016		Post Quarterly Meeting family tour of Chichester Meetinghouse and Caleb Pusey House in Upland
18 Sept. 2015	12:30 p.m.	International Peace Day @ <i>Kennett Monthly Meeting</i> – Potluck supper involving international foods
Fall 2016 Date TBA		Intergenerational Pilgrimage: Continue following the migration of Quakers west from Chichester Meeting to Birmingham Township (Brinton 1704 House) and Birmingham Meetinghouse
Oct 2, 2016	5-8:00 p.m.	Bonfire & Hayride, Wynoor Farm

The Coordinator and Tom Woodward have been discussing the possibility of the Quarter's sponsoring an intergenerational program that explains how Quakers migrated from the Delaware River (Upland n/k/a Chester) west to Birmingham Township. The first part, which may be coordinated with the July 2016 Quarterly Meeting, would involve visiting the Caleb Pusey house and Chichester Meetinghouse (both in Delaware County) The second part might be held in the fall and would involve visiting the Brinton 1704 House and Birmingham Meetinghouse.

The Planning Committee recommended that the Coordinator pursue holding such events and that he work with Concord MM to see if its program could be coordinated with a visit to the Caleb Pusey House and Chichester Meetinghouse.

Use of Quarter's Website

The Clerk made an inquiry regarding the use of the Planning Committee members by others in their respective meetings. It appears that the website is being underutilized.

Survey of Topics for Workshops and Quarterly Meeting Programs

The committee discussed that list of topics for workshops and Quarterly Meeting programs that members of monthly meeting had submitted to him. Julie Senko agreed to review those suggestions, prepare an analysis of them, and submit that report to the Planning Committee for consideration at its meeting scheduled to be held on May 1, 2016.

David Leonard mentioned that his wife Leslie could conduct a program focused on the book *Light to Live By* by Rex Ambler, one of the topics mentioned in several responses to the Quarter's survey and one which resonated with British Friends while the Leonards lived in Great Britain. David suggested that such a program would be more applicable to a Quarterly Meeting program than a workshop. Rich Ailes recommended that the Coordinator distribute such survey quarterly. The Coordinator agreed to do so.

Outreach - 2015-2016 Open Houses

West Chester MM Open House January 17, 2016

The Coordinator reported that three families whose children attend West Chester Friends School attended West Chester MM's Open House for families of children attending Quaker schools. He also noted that Rob Vosburgh, an attender at West Chester MM whose children matriculate at West Chester Friends School, personally invited parents to attend, and that he gave a heartfelt introduction to meeting for worship. The Clerk noted that so far one family with children attending Quaker schools attended the open house at Willistown MM, one such family attended the open house at Wilmington MM, and three such families attended the open house at West Chester MM despite the Quaker schools' dissemination of invitations to the parents of students attending their schools. David Leonard noted that the only non-Quaker family that attended Birmingham MM's open house did so because they saw a sign near the meetinghouse's driveway announcing the event. The Clerk reiterated that outreach is more effective when done directly person-to-person rather than through impersonal electronic invitations. He suggested using post cards. Julie Senko suggested using E-Vites. David Leonard spoke about how Britain Yearly Meeting has found its "Quaker Week" and use of the media covering its activities are effective means of attracting people to Quakerism.

Coordinator – Evaluation

The Clerk and Rich Ailes (former Assistant Clerk) are to prepare an evaluation of the Coordinator's work during the past 24 months and provide that report to the Planning Committee prior to its May 1, 2016 meeting.

Update on Tom Brown Endowed Chair – None

Nominating Committee

The Coordinator noted that David Leonard is willing to serve for a second three-year term as the Quarter's Recording Clerk. The Coordinator will submit his name to the Nominating Committee for consideration. The Coordinator also indicated that he will draft a letter for the Clerk's signature directed to the clerks of the constituent monthly meetings who do not have members on the Quarter's Nominating Committee requesting that this year they appoint members to that Committee so that it has a full complement when in early 2017 it begins the process of nominating someone to act as the Quarter's Assistant Clerk beginning July 1, 2017, who will become the Clerk for a two-year term beginning July 1, 2018, followed by a one-year term as Assistant Clerk beginning July 1, 2019.

We closed the meeting at 9:20 p.m. following a period of silent worship. Charles B. Spadoni, recording
N.B. The next meeting is scheduled to be held on Sunday, May 1, 2016 at 7:30 p.m. at The Hickman.