

Concord Quarterly Meeting Planning Committee Meeting
Held at The Hickman
May 1, 2016 – 7:35 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); Ray Hamilton (C); Deb Lyons (WC) and Charles Spadoni, Coordinator, recording.

Regrets: Ron Ploeg (WillT); Brian Fahey (Wilm).

The meeting began with a period of silent worship.

Quarterly Meeting held at Birmingham MM (April 24, 2016)

Comments

Bruce Harrison commented that the program gave a strong message and it was a “lovely day.” He hoped that members of the Planning Committee will invite members of their respective monthly meetings to the next quarterly meeting to increase participation.

Willistown did not have a representative present. The Coordinator noted that he had had a meeting with Ron Ploeg, Willistown MM’s clerk, in which the Coordinator requested that Ron encourage members of his meeting to become more involved in the matters of Concord Quarterly Meeting.

The Committee discussed the suggestion by Reggie Lowe (Birmingham MM) that the Quarter raise funds for those in need. The sense of the meeting was that such an undertaking should await the identification of a specific need, such as additional financial support for the refugee resettlement effort in which constituent monthly meetings are involved (which currently has at least \$15,000 in hand mostly from individual contributions) or for a food bank.

Quarterly Meeting to be held at Concord MM (July 24, 2016)

Treasurer’s Report and Proposed Budget

Tom Haviland updated the Committee on the state of the Quarter’s finances through April 30, 2016. He also discussed the difficulty he was having preparing a budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2017 (including estimating how much the Quarter’s PYM covenant should be) in the absence of information about what the constituent monthly meetings’ respective contributions would be.¹

David Leonard noted that there is no reason for the Quarter to continue to act as a conduit for the meetings’ PYM covenants unless the Quarter adds value in some way. Deb Wood recommended that the Quarter continue to act as a conduit for the next fiscal year, but that it consider the issue of not being a conduit in future years. The Coordinator suggested that the meeting in which the Quarter’s budget is approved be changed from April to July, and that the budget be based on reports from the constituent monthly meetings as

¹ The Quarter’s PYM covenant does not include money from Wilmington MM.

to how much each has budgeted amounts for the Quarter (on a line item basis) for the next succeeding fiscal year.

Tom Haviland agreed to discuss with Linell McCurry, PYM's Associate Secretary for Business and Finance, the issue of whether the Quarter should continue to act as a conduit or whether each constituent monthly meeting should deal directly with PYM with respect to its covenant. Tom also agreed to contact each Treasurer and Clerk to obtain additional information on each meeting's proposed contributions to the Quarter in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2017, and revise the proposed budget for that year accordingly.

Tuition Endowment Fund – Contributions and Investment in the Green Fund

The Committee discussed the history of contributions to the Tuition Endowment Fund. The sense of the meeting was that monthly meetings should not be required to contribute to TEF, but that they should be encouraged to do so. Tom also discussed his proposal to transfer 20% of the TEF money invested in Friends Fiduciary Corporation's Consolidated Fund (approximately \$40,000) to its Green Fund. The Planning Committee supported Tom's recommendation that he will make at the July 24, 2016 quarterly meeting.

Joys and Challenges Reports

The Coordinator suggested that the each meeting give its Joys and Challenges report biennially when it hosts quarterly meeting. Gwynne Ormsby suggested that the host meeting not be required to give such a report because it would already have the responsibility of hosting Quarterly Meeting and providing the program. The Planning Committee supported the idea of placing on the next quarterly meeting's agenda the issue of whether monthly meetings should provide Joys and Challenges reports biennially instead of annually, and that the counterpart meeting not hosting quarterly meeting provide its Joys and Challenges report.

Program

Ray Hamilton described the program. It is on the migration of Quakers from the Delaware River west to Concord MM via Chichester. It would be led by Quaker historian Nancy Webster and would include a tour of Chichester Meetinghouse and the Caleb Pusey house in the Borough of Upland (Delaware County) Pennsylvania. The program would be held after lunch which would be served at the Concord MM Meetinghouse. Use of a bus or vans was discussed, and the idea was abandoned. The Coordinator will help coordinate car pools from Concord Meetinghouse.

Schedule

The following is the proposed schedule:

Meeting for Business 9:00-10:45 a.m.

Meeting for Worship 11:00-11:45 a.m.

Lunch 12:00-12:30 p.m.

Program 12:30-3:00 p.m.

Review of Quarter's Open House Program

The sense of the meeting was that the Quarter's Open House Program for families of children attending Quaker schools was not successful enough for the Quarter to continue it as a formal program.² The Coordinator will provide printed brochures to any meeting or school that would like to disseminate them.³

Youth and Intergenerational Events

The Committee considered two ideas presented by Pat Daly (Concord MM): involve children in the refugee resettlement project and hold a program on the requirement that all males must register with the Selective Service System at the age of 18. The sense of the committee was that both were good ideas. The first would be referred to the refugee resettlement organizers. Tom Haviland will speak to his wife Margaret about conducting in the fall a program on the negative implications a male faces if he does not register with the Selective Service System. She conducts such a program for Westtown School each year.

Survey Regarding Topics for Workshops and Quarterly Meeting Programs

Because the hour was late, this agenda item was deferred until a **special meeting that is scheduled for May 22, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at The Hickman.**

We closed the meeting at 9:25 p.m. following a period of silent worship.

Charles B. Spadoni, recording

² One family from Goshen Friends School attended Willistown MM open house in March 2015; one family from Westtown School who are members of Centre MM attended Birmingham MM's open house in May 2015; one family from Fairville Friends School (which is not in the Quarter's geographical area) attended Wilmington MM's open house in November 2015; three families from West Chester Friends School attended West Chester MM's open house in January 2016; no family but one coach from Westtown School attended Goshen MM's open in March 2016; and five families from Westtown School attended Westtown MM's open house in April 2016.

³ In the spring of 2015 Goshen Friends School disseminated brochures to the parents of all of its students.