

Concord Quarterly Meeting
Held at Middletown Monthly Meeting
October 23, 2016

Opening Worship

The meeting opened with a period of worship at 8:33 am.

Welcome -- Representatives were present from all meetings save for Willistown and Wilmington MMs.

Approval of Minutes -- Deb Wood (Clerk)

The minutes of the Quarterly Meeting held on July 24, 2016 were approved, after they were amended to indicate that Deb Wood (clerk) signed them, not Bruce Harrison.

Treasurer's Reports -- Tom Haviland (Treasurer)

The Treasurer's Reports are attached to these minutes as Appendix 1. They were accepted with appreciation. Tom has been sick, so he has been slightly behind. It appears that all meetings are planning to make their covenant contributions, although two have not yet been able to confirm it formally.

Investing TEF in FFC's Green Fund -- Tom Haviland (Treasurer)

Last meeting our clerk observed that several of our MMs have shifted some of their funds from the Friends Fiduciary Corporation (FFC) Consolidated Fund to the FFC Green Fund, which has no funds invested in fossil fuel corporations and seeks out investments in corporations working with renewable technologies. Projections of what the consequences of various investments in the Green Fund would be are in the second half of the Treasurer's Report. The projected distribution for next year in the Green Fund is 3.5% versus 4% in the Consolidated Fund. The cumulative returns on the two funds are 7.58% vs. 5.35%. The meeting agreed to invest 20% of the Quarter's endowment in the FFC Green Fund. Annually the Quarter will review the Green Fund's performance and either maintain or increase that percentage.

Coordinator's Report -- Charles Spadoni (Coordinator)

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

Joys and Challenges Report

The report of Westtown MM as approved in its meeting for worship with attention to business was presented by Peter Lane and is attached to these minutes as Appendix 3. It was accepted with appreciation.

Update on PYM's Undoing Racism Work -- Deb Wood (Clerk)

Deb as CQM clerk, attended the September meeting of the PYM Undoing Racism group. The group will meet again this afternoon and Deb will attend that as well. The group has been focused on how to continue its work in the YM and to support Friends of color; how our adherence to Quaker practice may not appear as inclusive to Friends of color as intended; and how the group should continue to work with the YM. Pete Lane had also attended one of the group's meetings. The challenge is how to make progress on this issue at this time and become more inclusive. Rich Ailes reported on the discussion of the same topic at the recent PYM gathering of MM clerks. Another Friend feels that we have not sufficiently acknowledged the work that has been done by the Undoing Racism Group. He also feels that our discipline was lacking at the PYM Annual Sessions in July. We did not hear the minutes from the Saturday sessions, which would have given us a chance to reflect on what had happened. He did feel that there was a sense of movement by the assembled Friends as they reflected further on Sunday and this also was not adequately reflected in the minutes. Friends asked that the CQM Planning Committee bring back to the next meeting of CQM how we could continue discernment about working with the YM to improve its process. Also, Goshen MM has talked about a program oriented toward Undoing Racism when it hosts the next QM session.

Responding to the Challenge of Small Meetings -- Deb Wood (Clerk)

In response to the Joys and Challenges Report from Concord MM at our last meeting David Jones and David Leonard (Birmingham) have written to suggest two sets of issues that are presented by the struggles of small Meetings. (The letter is attached to these minutes as Appendix 4.) The matter will receive consideration at our next CQM meeting, as time was short.

As part of the brief discussion Charles Spadoni noted that Linell McCurry, PYM's Associate Secretary for Business and Finance, is now focused on the future of MMs that own property and have few members. Deb also mentioned that Charles would be attending the October 28 program at Wilmington MM on small, historic churches. She further suggested Friends read and discuss the letter from David Jones and David Leonard, the August issue of *Friends Journal*, and that *Faith and Practice* does outline a process when a Monthly Meeting alerts its Quarter that it feels it is ready to be laid down as a MM. She further thought that the Planning Committee could craft queries in respect to these to guide this section of our next business meeting.

Refugee Relocation Update – Gwynne Ormsby (Birmingham)

The journey of our Congolese refugee family, the Issacs, has been successful to date but there is still a long distance to go. Issac, the father, has work, all are making progress with English, and the children are receiving intensive tutoring to catch up with school. The family has been attending Birmingham Meeting, and the children will be joining us for Middletown's First Day School today.

Announcements and Events

Attached to these minutes as Appendix 5.

The meeting ended with a period of worship at 10:05 am.

Respectfully submitted,

David Leonard (Recording Clerk) and Deb Wood (Clerk)

Appendix 1: Treasurer's Reports for the First Quarter of 2016-2017

CONCORD QUARTERLY MEETING TREASURER'S REPORT – FISCAL YEAR 2016-2017 Q1 October 23, 2016

Income and Expense Highlights

- Covenant checks were received from four Meetings compared to only one at this same time last year.
 - I have reached out to three Meetings that have not yet indicated their covenant contribution level and when they will be sending funds for the 2016-2017 fiscal year.
- Operating/Program costs for the quarter represent a contribution to this past summer's program (Caleb Pusey House) and facility rental of two upcoming programs at Westtown School (Dec and Apr).
- All covenant funds received earmarked for Philadelphia Yearly Meeting (PYM) were sent out in order to be included in Philadelphia Yearly Meeting's fiscal 2015-2016 year that ended September 30.

Concord Quarterly Meeting Income and Expenses (run date 10/20/2016)

[Redacted]

Assets Report

- All Tuition Operating Funds (TOF) were added to the FF - STIF (Friends Fiduciary - Short Term Investment Fund) which was opened in June with the TEF Funds semi-annual distribution. The FF - STIF account has returns equal to or greater than money market rates and now serves as the Tuition Operating Funds (TOF) account. Each fall, all funds from this account are used for the Quarter's tuition aid program that supports Quaker families attending Friends

Schools.

- The Consolidated Funds unit value has risen from \$46.58 on June 30 to \$47.89 on September 30, a result of a mostly positive economic report and encouraging near term outlook.
- The \$47.89 unit value has boosted the total value of our Tuition Endowment Fund holdings to a high of \$[redacted].
- In the 2nd quarter, the \$[redacted] in the FF – STIF (TOF) account will be used for the tuition aid program.

**Concord Quarterly Meeting
Assets (run date 10/20/2016)**

[Redacted]

**CONCORD QUARTERLY MEETING
TEF INVESTMENT – CONSOLIDATED FUND AND GREEN FUND
October 23, 2016**

Recommendation

- At Concord Quarter business meeting last April, I recommending moving 20% (roughly [redacted]) of our Consolidated Fund holdings into the Green Fund with the goal of increasing this to 40% of our total holdings in a 3-5 year period.
- It is important to support this investment sector to show that we value the work being done in this area and to also help to continue to move all the work and advancements being made in this area forward.
- This will slightly reduce the annual income and cumulative returns in the short term but as this investment sector matures and continues to gain acceptance and importance, expectations are that income and total returns from the Green Fund will continue to approach levels similar to the Consolidated Fund.

Friends Fiduciary Fund Highlights	
Consolidated Fund	Quaker Green Fund
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Started 1975 • Net assets as of Jun 30, 2016 is \$304.46MM • Balanced and diversified. • 70% Equity, 25% Fixed Income and 5% REITS target asset allocation. • Goal is to provide stable current income and long-term growth. • Adheres to FFC’s Quaker-values investment guidelines • 4.25% distribution rate for 2016 4.00% distribution rate for 2017 • 7.58% ytd cumulative return 11.63% last 12 months cumulative return • 5-year avg: 0.37% mngmt expense, 0.76% operating expense 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Started 12/31/2013 • Net assets as of Jun 30, 2016 is \$18.37MM • Balanced and diversified (although less so than Cons. Fund due to smaller size and focus). • Fossil fuel free investments. • Seeks out companies dedicated to cleantech, alternative and renewable technologies. • Adheres to FFC’s Quaker-values investment guidelines. • 3.5% distribution rate for 2016 and 2017. • 5.35% ytd cumulative return. 8.8% last 12 months cumulative return. • expense ratio is 0.90% (or 90 basis points), which includes all investment management and administrative fees

Estimated Annual Income from 2 Investment Scenarios Assuming the Amount Invested is \$200,000 (provided by Richard Kent, Friends Fiduciary CIO)

Scenario 1 - 100% Consolidated Fund

Fund	Investment \$	2016	2017		2016-2017 Total	
		Dist	Dist High	Dist Low	Dist High	Dist Low
Consolidated	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 8,526.00	\$ 8,353.00	\$ 7,964.00	\$ 16,879.00	\$ 16,490.00

Scenario 2 - 80% Consolidated Fund, 20% Quaker Green Fund

Fund	Investment \$	2016	2017		2016-2017 Total	
		Dist	Dist High	Dist Low	Dist High	Dist Low
Consolidated	\$ 160,000.00	\$ 6,821.00	\$ 6,683.00	\$ 6,371.00	\$ 13,504.00	\$ 13,192.00
Quaker Green	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 1,436.00	\$ 1,436.00	\$ 1,402.00	\$ 2,872.00	\$ 2,838.00
Total	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 8,257.00	\$ 8,119.00	\$ 7,773.00	\$ 16,376.00	\$ 16,030.00

Appendix 2: Coordinator's Report

On October 8, 2016, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting's Clerk Penny Colgan-Davis convened a gathering of Quarter Clerks and Coordinators. It was held at Abington Meetinghouse. The purpose of the gathering was to discuss (1) what Quarters are doing with respect to the issue of undoing racism within the Yearly Meeting and (2) other issues of concern for the Quarters. Concord Quarter Clerk Deb Wood and I attended. Representatives from five other Quarters (Upper Susquehanna, Caln, Abington, Philadelphia and Chester) also attended. This gathering was the second of its type convened by Penny. She plans to convene another in April 2017.

Also present at the gathering were Christie Duncan Tessmer, PYM's General Secretary, and two representatives of the Undoing Racism Group, a/k/a URG. That group, formed at the end of the 2014 Continuing Sessions, is not a formal part of the PYM structure. It is composed of members of the Yearly Meeting who are involved in work to undo racism within the Yearly Meeting.

Here is some of the work in which Quarters are engaged to undo racism. Abington Quarter, which is ground zero for the issue of racism because of the controversy that erupted in Upper Dublin Monthly Meeting over the installation of a marker in that meeting's burial ground to recognize that African-Americans are buried there, is developing a thread around *The New Jim Crow*, Michelle Alexander's book on the use of the criminal justice system to deprive people of color of their constitutional and civil rights.

During the past year Philadelphia Quarter held a series of programs on the school to prison pipeline; the dual crisis of racism and climate change; what parts of Quakerism are cultural and what are core; and inclusion – what does it mean? Friends from that Quarter participated in the April 2016 White Privilege Conference that was held in Philadelphia. It is also working with the Friends Rehabilitation Program to finance a program for returning citizens, i.e. former prisoners, that will train them to renovate existing housing. Also, Philadelphia Quarter is promoting a program on the 13th Amendment that is being held today at the John Andrew Gallery.

Chester Quarter held a program led by Barry Scott on Quakerism entitled *What is Cultural and What is Essential?* Otherwise, it is struggling with the issue of what to do next. In Caln Quarter, Lancaster Monthly Meeting constructed a

life-size replica of a solitary confinement cell and is sharing it with people in the community. Also, the Quarter is holding a program on racism that will be facilitated by Joan Broadfield and Gabreel James, both members of URG.

Western Quarter is hosting a program led by Robin Mohr, the author of *We Think We Are Separate*. At Upper Susquehanna Quarter's 2016 gathering at Chrystal Lake, Noah White, a tri-clerk of URG, did a Privilege Circle. One of that Quarter's monthly meetings has had book discussions on *Brown Girl Dreaming*; *Just Mercy*; and *Between the World and Me*. Deb Wood, reporting for Concord Quarter, reported on Westtown Monthly Meeting's discussion of *The New Jim Crow* and Goshen meeting's work on the issues of racism and other "isms."

Since we did not have representatives from seven other Quarterly Meetings, it is not clear what they are doing, if anything, with respect to the issue of undoing racism. Hopefully, they are at least as engaged with that issue as the reporting Quarters have been.

In Faith,
Charles B. Spadoni, Coordinator

Appendix 3: Joys and Challenges Report of Westtown MM (Pete Lane)

Fall 2016

Our worship is both a calming and a driving force in our lives. Members, attenders, and visitors have ministered, and frequently meetings have a very deep "gathered" feel. Over the past year we have also begun some new conversations and times for fellowship that have deepened our spiritual connections and experience. On second Sundays a member shares an aspect of their spiritual journey. We also had three after worship gatherings focused on what about Quakerism excites us. Our Peace and Social Concerns committee has also encouraged more sharing out of the concerns and work that individuals in the Meeting community engage in. As it has for years, our weekly Lake Suppers, once again back at a renewed lake, and our almost monthly school year potlucks, provide us fellowship and strengthen our community.

We also continue to feel very blessed by our relationship with FCNL. Monthly witness is often more than monthly. While more peripheral for our meeting, we are energized by the refugee resettlement work led by meetings in the Quarter and other faith communities. For years we have supported the Westtown School community in its anti-racism work. Our recent discussions for *The New Jim Crow* have spurred us as a Meeting to engage more with the Quarterly and Yearly Meetings in efforts to support inclusive and diverse structures in our communities.

Our relationship with Westtown School has grown more intentional over the past year. Together we are exploring ways to support the spiritual lives of students. The Upper School community has strengthened its meeting for worship and meeting for business with short educational programs on Friends faith and practice, and celebrations from other religious traditions. This has spurred students, faculty, and Meeting members to engage with renewed energy and commitment to more diverse and inclusive worship within a Friends framework.

We are more than a meeting of Westtown Monthly Meeting, we are a meeting of Westtown School and Westtown Monthly Meeting. If we want the school community to feel they are more than guests on Sunday, we need to treat them as valued members. We need to be open to be changed as we are welcoming to them and embrace what they come to us with.

Appendix 4: Letter on the Challenges of Small Meetings

October 6, 2016

Dear Concord Quarter Friends:

Re: Responding to the Challenge of Poorly Attended Meetings

At the last meeting of our Quarter we received the "Joys and Challenges" report of Concord Meeting, which is struggling

to maintain its property in the face of a very small active membership. It appears to us that Concord's challenge is less one of finances than of few numbers in attendance at meeting for worship and the consequent difficulty of mobilizing the volunteer support needed to maintain the meeting house and its grounds. Both of us were challenged by this report and feel that it raises issues that the Quarter and individual meetings should discuss further.

David Jones feels we should be considering what the Quarter's responsibilities would be (if any) if a meeting felt it needed to lay itself down. There might be one answer if the property concerned is just a meeting house; if, however, there is a graveyard or the meetinghouse is historic there may be a very different course of events. Does each meeting's articles of incorporation or bylaws speak clearly to the issue of a beneficiary organization? Does the Quarter have knowledge of its potential responsibilities? How might the Quarter insure that it is prepared for such an eventuality?

David Leonard is concerned to maintain the viability of a small meeting's use and retention of its core property. The problem is likely to be more than just one of money; it also is vital that there be a group of people using the property who care enough about it to volunteer labor to maintain and manage it. In the case of some small meetings a primary or nursery school has provided a group of concerned parents to supplement the worshiping community in caring for the property. But this is not a universal option; in the case of Concord, competition forced the meeting to close its pre-school. It may be that the 'market' for schools is now saturated. To achieve viability a meeting such as Concord needs to reach out to other potential, complementary users who, more than pay rent, would volunteer to care for the meetinghouse. For example, Jewish, Muslim and Seventh Day Adventist groups all hold worship on days that do not compete with Friends' meetings for worship and the fact that our meeting houses are free of religious iconography and often are historic would be positive attractions. Some poor immigrant churches also might be willing to consider worshiping on Sunday afternoons or evenings. In sharing a meetinghouse with such a group a meeting would be making a positive gesture of inclusion *and* would benefit from expanding those who care about the building. To create such opportunities, however, we would have to be pro-active. It is not obvious to outsiders when a particular meeting would welcome shared usage. David Leonard suggests that we might form a Quarterly Meeting committee (perhaps jointly with another quarter in the area) to actively look for religious and other communities that would be interested in shared usage of one of our lovely meetinghouses and then help in the negotiation of the terms of such sharing between the new community and the struggling meeting.

We look forward to the deliberation of the Quarter on whether to move forward with either or both of these courses of action.

In Friendship,

David Jones and David Leonard

Appendix 5: Concord Quarterly Meeting's October 2016 Announcements and Events.

Agging Resources Consultation and Help of New York Yearly Meeting program (Sunday) October 30, 2:00-4:00 p.m., The Hickman	Selective Service Registration Workshop (Sunday) November 6, 10-11:30 a.m. South Room (Main Building) Westtown School
CQM Planning Committee Meeting (Sunday) October 30, 7:30 p.m. at The Hickman	Birmingham MM's Annual Harvest Buffet (Saturday), November 12, 4:30 -7:00 p.m.
PYM's Continuing Sessions (Saturday) November 5 Westtown School	Concord Quarterly Meeting at Goshen Monthly Meeting (Sunday) January 22