



## Concord Quarterly Meeting Newsletter Volume 14, Issue 1 January 2017

### Similarities & Differences-Telling our Stories

National events and internal tensions within Philadelphia Yearly Meeting have focused attention on racism and white privilege. As we at Goshen Monthly Meeting began corporately to take stock of our experience of racism and to seek ways to address its effects, we devised a series of queries to help us focus our experiences and questions. For the last three months we have spoken to these concerns and have found our responses as varied as the people in the group. Some have discovered that while they may not seem part of a minority, they too share a sense of difference. Perhaps most important has been our discovery, or, in some cases, rediscovery of the interconnectedness of the experiences of marginalized members of society. While specifics may vary, there is also a common thread uniting all of us, mainstream as well as marginalized.



In the hour we have for the Quarterly Meeting's program, we will divide into groups to explore the queries we at Goshen have found valuable springboards to discussion and, we hope, finally to action. Each group will have a member from Goshen to get the process started. Near the end of the session, we plan to minute those concerns and insights each group would like to share with the larger assembly. While we will circulate the full list of questions to participants, there will not be sufficient time to consider them all. Our hope is that these queries will be of use to individual meetings as they consider in the future differences in race, religion, gender and gender identity, sexual orientation, and class, to name a few.

We see this program as an opportunity to share the process we at Goshen have undertaken rather than to present a final conclusion or plan of action. We ask that we all speak from our own experiences and that each group gives some consideration to the first query "Why is it so difficult to talk about differences?" and the final "How do we discern our call to action as individuals, as individual meetings, and as a Quarter?"

This is the full series of questions as currently constituted. We will continue to fine-tune them.

1. Why is it so difficult to talk about differences? Why is it that when we talk about our differences we seem to assume they overpower or cancel out our similarities?
2. Was there a time when you felt yourself different from those who surrounded you? What is your story?
3. How do we define "Mainstream" in America? In what ways are you different from the mainstream? In what ways are you similar?
4. How do you think you are perceived by others, and how do you prefer to be perceived by others? How do you explain or understand the difference if one exists?
5. How can we bridge differences and see diversity as essential to a healthy community?
6. How do we discern our call to action as individuals, as meetings, and as a quarter? Other questions that might be useful beyond this interaction are:

Can you think of a time when someone made an assumption about you, based on a stereotype? Did this result in an advantage or disadvantage for you? How much do your differences and similarities affect your politics?

We welcome all high school students to join the adult program.

#### Children's Program

- For those three to ten years old, Sallie Welte will present a new Faith and Play story.
- For middle schoolers we have invited Becky BIRTHA, a member of Central Philadelphia Monthly Meeting and a First Day School teacher, to read from her soon-to-be-published book *Far Apart, Close in Heart, Being a Family When A Loved One is Incarcerated*. The book addresses the feelings and dilemmas of children whose parent/parents are incarcerated. Becky will discuss with attendees how they can help these children in their communities, schools, and other organizations  
- Tom Woodward, Goshen Meeting

### Concord Monthly Meeting's Medical Equipment Loan Program

Concord Monthly Meeting has been informally collecting unneeded "durable medical equipment" for loaning out to Members and their families when a special need arises, and they are stored at the meetinghouse. A collection of wheelchairs, walkers, commodes, shower benches, canes, crutches, and other items have been donated by Members after they were no longer required for their recovery. The Meeting makes these available for loaning out as needed. Frequently, one of these items is needed on a temporary basis, a few weeks or few months, but it can be expensive to purchase, especially if not covered by insurance. For example, a person might need a walker after minor foot or knee surgery, when it was essential that there be a walker used for that comparatively short recovery time. Or a family might require the use of a wheelchair for a few weeks for a visitor to make things easier. Sometimes people will choose not to buy such costly items, especially when they might only be needed for a while. However, the availability of such a device as a loaner could make things easier during recovery.

Concord Meeting would like to offer these items to Members and Attenders of other Meetings in Concord Quarter on loan. Also, to expand the number of items available to be loaned, Concord Meeting would willingly accept the donation of your no longer needed, and gently used, durable medical equipment. We would endeavor to see that these are used to help others.

Please Contact Larry Walker at 302-475-1098 for more information or to arrange to borrow any of this equipment

## A Letter: Responding to the Challenge of Poorly Attended Meetings

*(Editor: This concern is on the agenda at our Quarterly Meeting at Goshen on January 29, 2017)*

At the last meeting (July) 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 meetinghouse 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 meetinghouse; 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 worshipping 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 meetinghouses are free of religious iconography and often are historic would be positive attractions. Some poor immigrant churches also might be willing to consider worshipping 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 proactive. 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 – Birmingham Meeting*

## Moving On: From One Meeting to Another

Tod and Peg Baseden have been in the United States since 1956. Expats from England, they came to the US looking for better economic opportunities. They have been living in the same house near Claymont, Delaware for the past 50 years. In the mid 80's, Tod and Peg had a daughter who was interested in being married in the Quaker tradition. The Meeting she was to be married in, of course, had a clearness process that involved a request letter coming to the parents asking for their approval of the marriage. This was a surprise to them and indicated an attention to a process that seemed full of integrity. These long time Church of England folks started to look at nearby Quaker opportunities.

Alapocas Meeting was originally the School Road Meeting formed by their parent Wilmington Meeting in the 1950's to take care of over crowding. They met in the Meeting Room of Wilmington Friends School. In 1974 Alapocas Meeting became an official Meeting in Concord Quarter. Tod and Peg joined them in 1985. Although the worship was small with about 10 Friends attending on Sundays, they found that parents with young children and a deep sense of spirituality gave the meeting vibrancy. The Meeting had a tradition of asking members to reaffirm their commitment to membership every five years, a further demonstration of the integrity they found in Quaker faith. Another notable facet of the Meeting was its desire to have contributions to the Meeting be anonymous by having donations go to a special bank account from which operating funds were accessed.



Tod and Peg spent about 15 years at Alapocas Meeting. In the late 1990's the children that had provided such vibrancy to the Meeting had left and some of the parents with them. Meeting for Worship had dwindled to at best 5 persons and sometimes fewer. The Meeting had always been at a disadvantage because it had no property, only a consistent meeting room at the school. Even that was changed when Wilmington Friends School built a new meeting room which some of the Alapocas members felt less at home in. Tod related that a turning point in their own perception of their commitment to membership in the meeting was a visit by then General Secretary Thomas Jevons to review the Meeting's long term viability. Jevons' advice was frank: a Meeting community needed its own property, children and a mission. At the time Alapocas seemed to only have a mission of caring for their elderly members. In 2000 the Basedens' were led to consider moving on.

After visiting several nearby Meetings, in 2000 Tod and Peg found a social and spiritual home at Birmingham Meeting. They were impressed by the Meeting's welcoming attitude towards them from day one. Birmingham had a strong attendance at Meeting for Worship; about 40 or more on First Day. There were lots of children and a strong First Day School supporting them. The Meeting was doing a lot of work in Social Concerns. There was a committee furthering that work, but there were also numerous committees taking care of all aspects of the community's needs. Both Tod and Peg have found the organized committee work compelling, and they have moved into positions on a few of them. Tod was Clerk of the Meeting on one occasion

for 2 years, serving as an assistant one year before and one year after, a process he finds very helpful for the Meeting leadership. Peg has found her work on Peace and Social Concerns a critical part of her spiritual journey. They both have had that "I'm needed here" experience since their transfer.

Alapocas was laid down in 2001. Looking back, Tod and Peg see the inevitability of their move away from Alapocas as something, which many Friends in small struggling Meetings must face. For them the move has led to a richer Quaker life that, for a couple in their later years, helps them very strongly embrace the world in which they live. – *Rich Ailes, Middletown Meeting*

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## Concern on Discipline at Annual Sessions in 2016

*(Editor's note: Friends at Middletown Meeting united with this letter at their Monthly Meeting held 12/11/2016 upon a review requested by the Quarterly Meeting Planning Committee. The clerk of our Quarter has circulated this to all Meetings in the Quarter for review in preparation for a discussion of these concerns at our next Quarterly Meeting at Goshen Meeting on January 29, 2017)*

Dear Friends,

Annual Sessions this year were contentious and the good order we usually experience was missing. The agenda item for changes to Faith & Practice brought a focus for me – We did not have good discipline in our Meetings. There were several things that I can point to that demonstrate my concern for good order and corporate discipline among us. While the dominant subject for Yearly Meeting seemed to be our concern for the advantage of white privilege, I only use examples about this topic to illuminate my concern for better discipline. This letter is about the way we behave (our corporate discipline) and not about our racism. My purpose is to help find a spiritual path in our decision-making concerning our privilege so we might build Gospel order.

Minutes: I agree we might find helpful ways to abbreviate the process for our minutes. We have come to expect that only decisions will be read in the face of the Meeting. In most cases this seems an efficient process. There might be times when hearing our minutes would help us reflect on the concern and the various messages offered in considering the concern. When there is a difficult session where strong feelings are expressed and there is no unity, it would help to hear and to reflect on the concern if minutes were read in the face of the Meeting.

On Saturday morning it would have helped us to hear our words and to remember what we said and to possibly gain a new perspective on the concern for when we picked up the concern at another session. There was a time during Saturday morning when the "Continuum on Becoming an Anti-Racist Multicultural Institution" stages were presented. There was an appreciation expressed in the body that Friends experienced. If the minutes had been read we might have been able to deepen our process by seeing what was missing – such as the move towards unity around the stages of the "Continuum" that was missing in the draft minutes. Hearing again our discussion might have risen up hope for our deliberations around this important concern.

Another part of minutes is that they might be posted as soon as possible. Posting them December 5th was too late for Continuing Sessions and for others who might have used them in reporting to their Monthly Meetings in September. My sense is that our recording process is not serving us.

I recommend that the Recording Clerks bring a proposal to Yearly Meeting that has a sensitivity about what is read in the face of the Meeting beyond just decisions we have agreed upon.

On Saturday, when we were to consider the work of Faith & Practice Revision Committee some Friends gathered at the front of the room to indicate their displeasure in not approving the Undoing Racism Group's proposal. I felt this physical display of solidarity was like a convention where people vote. I felt uncomfortable with this display of strength that tried to block our agenda to consider the revisions to Faith and Practice. I had the sense that we were split in two groups. We function by the Spirit and not by force. My sense is that some Friends are not familiar with Quaker Meeting for Business and lack trust and belief in a spiritual process that persuades rather than by human

strength. I recommend that in this year's effort around One Book, One Yearly Meeting, we highlight the sections on our business process. I also suggest that we develop a reading calendar, like Britain Yearly Meeting, for a suggestion for Meetings to deal with particular sections of Faith and Practice.

Another example of our lack of discipline was when our Meeting adjourned on Friday evening and a member shouted that a previous comment was "hurtful" and that the comment itself was "racist". When a meeting adjourns, there is no settled group to hold such emotional outbursts. I felt the Friend was not in good order and it would have been more helpful to speak to the individual directly and personally. This Friend was a staff person and could be a better model for discipline. I recommend that our appointed Elders have a session(s) about good order among us as a part of our Annual Sessions.

When members present a concern or report to the body, it is good to ensure there are different Friends at the podium. There were two Friends who reported twice. One presented the Undoing Racism concern and later presented the American Friends Service Committee report. Another Friend presented the Undoing Racism concern and later presented the Friends World Committee for Consultation report. We miss developing skills of other Friends to present when we focus on only a few presenters. We share the work among committee members. These Friends were staff for these two organizations. In their professional position as staff they are able to influence in helpful ways. I feel their influence is over done when staff dominates our agenda as it happened at Annual Sessions. Staff could help develop the skills of the other appointed representatives to each of these two Quaker organizations. This was a point made by one of our visitors to Annual Sessions. We do have over 11,000 members to draw from. I recommend that the Planning Committee be aware of presenters and to see that there is a broad diversity in who presents at Yearly Meeting.

When we applaud at Yearly Meeting sessions, I feel we move our feelings outward and away from the inward joy we might be feeling. The sound of applause deafens the tender energy of the Spirit. For those who have experienced Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, the thunder of applause sometimes re-stimulates past traumatic experiences. I recommend that our Clerk encourage us to raise our hands or to sit quietly in thankfulness.

While some of these comments might be peculiar to this writer, I hope they give us pause to consider how important our corporate discipline is in our worshipping and discerning matters of concern.

My hope is that we forward this concern to Quarterly Meeting, who, after consideration, and if appropriate might forward this to the Clerk of Yearly Meeting expressing our encouragement to build corporate discipline among us. – *Thomas Swain - 12.11.2016 – Middletown Monthly Meeting, Lima PA*

*(Thomas served as Clerk of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting from 2006 to 2012 and Clerk of Nominating Committee from 2013 to 2015)*

## Concord Quarterly Meeting's January 2017 Announcements and Calendar of Events

### Announcements

Minutes of the October 23, 2016, Quarterly Meeting have been posted on the Quarter's website (<http://concordquarter.org/documents>). If you have any comments on those minutes, please send them to David Leonard, Recording Clerk, at [leonard@berkeley.edu](mailto:leonard@berkeley.edu).

**Feb 16, 2017 Applications for tuition assistance from Concord Quarterly Meeting** for children attending Quaker schools (1st through 12<sup>th</sup> grades) during the 2017-18 school year must be submitted by February 16, 2017. To be eligible, a student must have at least one parent who is a member of a constituent monthly meeting other than Wilmington MM. The application form is available on the Quarter's website <http://concordquarter.org/> or from the Coordinator (610-256-3572 or [concordquarter@pym.org](mailto:concordquarter@pym.org)).

### Calendar of Events

- January 29 Concord Quarterly Meeting at Goshen Monthly Meeting** (Sunday) 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Please read the enclosed flyer and article for a description of the schedule and programs for adults and children.
- February 5 Concord Quarterly Meeting's Planning Committee** (Sunday) 7:30 p.m. at Concord Monthly Meeting (Concordville).
- February 10 West Chester Monthly Meeting** is inviting members and attenders of other meetings in the Quarter to join West Chester's members and attenders in a silent retreat at The Jesuit Center in Wernersville, PA (near Reading), a peaceful place where one can feel the love of the Divine. A second silent retreat is scheduled for June 2-4, 2017. The cost of each retreat is \$170 per person. That amount includes accommodations for two nights (Friday and Saturday) and meals. If you would like to attend either retreat or need additional information, contact West Chester member Scott Smith at 610-405-1959 or [scott@envirosureinc.com](mailto:scott@envirosureinc.com). You can view The Jesuit Center's website at [www.jesuitcenter.org](http://www.jesuitcenter.org) for general information. **The registration deadline for the February retreat is January 27, 2017.**
- February 11 Concord and Western Quarters' Elementary School Age Children's Visit to the Newlin Gristmill, Glen Mills, PA** (Saturday) 9:45 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- February 18 Concord Quarterly Meeting's Sixth (Almost) Annual Square Dance** – (Saturday) 7:00-9:00 p.m. at Willistown Monthly Meeting. Please bring a non-perishable food item or check for the West Chester Food Cupboard.  
**February 25** (snow date is February 25)
- March 25 Philadelphia Yearly Meeting's Continuing Sessions at Arch Street Meetinghouse** (Saturday)
- April 23 Concord Quarterly Meeting at Westtown Monthly Meeting** (Sunday) 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Joint program and worship with Western Quarterly Meeting.
- April 23 Youth Event (3<sup>rd</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grades) sponsored by Concord and Western Quarters** (Sunday) 8:15 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Westtown School's campus.

### Concord/Western Quarters



Photo courtesy of Newlin Grist Mill

**Newlin Grist Mill Tour**  
for elementary school students  
Saturday, February 11, 2017  
9:45 AM to 1:00 PM

### SQUARE DANCE

February 18, 2017 - 7 to 9 pm  
Willistown Meeting  
(February 25 - Snow Date)



Music by the Thornbury Ramblers • Caller: Alan Crosman

# Concord Quarterly Meeting January 29, 2017 at Goshen Monthly Meeting

8:15	Sign-in
8:30-9:45	Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business
10:00-11:00	Program
11:00-12:00	Meeting for Worship with Goshen Meeting
12:00-1:00	Light Lunch provided by Goshen Meeting

## Our Similarities and Differences: Telling our Stories



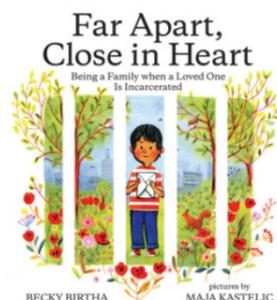
National events and internal tensions within Philadelphia Yearly Meeting have focused attention on racism and white privilege. As we at Goshen Monthly Meeting began corporately to take stock of our experience of racism and to seek ways to address its effects, we devised a series of queries to help us focus our experiences and questions. In the hour we have for the Quarterly Meeting's program, we will divide into groups to explore the queries we at Goshen have found valuable springboards to discussion and, we hope, finally to action. We see this program as an opportunity to share the process we at Goshen have undertaken rather than to present a final conclusion or plan of action.

### Children's Programs

For those three to ten years old, Sallie Welte will present a new Faith and Play story.

For middle schoolers we have invited Becky Birtha, a member of Central Philadelphia Monthly Meeting and a First Day School teacher, to read from her soon-to-be-published book *Far Apart, Close in Heart, Being a Family When A Loved One is Incarcerated*.

Childcare will be provided during Meeting for Business and Worship



For more info and a map to the meeting go to <http://www.concordquarter.org> or email [concordquarter@pym.org](mailto:concordquarter@pym.org)

## Concord Quarterly Meeting - Middletown Monthly Meeting - October 23, 2016

**Opening Worship** -The meeting opened with a period of worship 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 - 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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"> <li>• Started 1975</li> <li>• Net assets as of Jun 30, 2016 is \$304.46MM</li> <li>• Balanced and diversified.</li> <li>• 70% Equity, 25% Fixed Income and 5% REITS target asset allocation.</li> <li>• Goal is to provide stable current income and long-term growth.</li> <li>• Adheres to FFC's Quaker-values investment guidelines</li> <li>• 4.25% distribution rate for 2016 4.00% distribution rate for 2017</li> <li>• 7.58% ytd cumulative return 11.63% last 12 months cumulative return</li> <li>• 5-year avg: 0.37% mngmt expense, 0.76% operating expense</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Started 12/31/2013</li> <li>• Net assets as of Jun 30, 2016 is \$18.37MM</li> <li>• Balanced and diversified (although less so than Cons. Fund due to smaller size and focus).</li> <li>• Fossil fuel free investments.</li> <li>• Seeks out companies dedicated to cleantech, alternative and renewable technologies.</li> <li>• Adheres to FFC's Quaker-values investment guidelines.</li> <li>• 3.5% distribution rate for 2016 and 2017.</li> <li>• 5.35% ytd cumulative return. 8.8% last 12 months cumulative return.</li> <li>• expense ratio is 0.90% (or 90 basis points), which includes all investment management and administrative fees</li> </ul>

*Editor's Note: Due to space constraints, Appendices 2 thru 5 are not posted here. They are available on the web at <http://concordquarter.org/documents/?category=Minutes>. Appendix 4: Letter on the Challenges of Small Meetings appears in this newsletter on page 2.*

**Concord Quarterly Meeting Newsletter**  
**Volume 14 Issue 1 January 2017**

Rich Ailes, Editor  
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Swarthmore, PA 19081

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Asst. Clerk: Bruce Harrison  
Recording Clerk: David Leonard  
Treasurer: Tom Haviland  
Coordinator: Charles Spadoni

Address Service Requested

Concord Quarter Meetings

Birmingham  
Chichester  
Concord  
Goshen  
Middletown  
West Chester  
Westtown  
Willistown  
Wilmington

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**Published:** January, April, July and October

**Phone:** 610-543-7321

**Submissions Due:** March 15, June 15, September 15 and December 15

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