



Concord Quarterly Meeting Newsletter Volume 14, Issue 2 April 2017

Concord & Western Quarter Together on April 23, Learning and Sharing with Playback Theatre

At its January 10, 2015, meeting called "to help discern a way forward in addressing many '-isms' including-racism, sexism, genderism and classism," Philadelphia Yearly Meeting adopted a minute focused principally on the issues of white privilege and race. Its minute stated, among other things, "that as a Yearly Meeting we ... [c]ommit to increase our consciousness as Friends about the intersection of privilege and race in our culture and spiritual community...."

Recognizing that becoming aware of implicit racism and white privilege involves a journey that explores our experiences with, and reactions to, all forms of discrimination, Goshen Monthly Meeting held a program at Concord Quarterly Meeting's January 2017 meeting entitled *Our Similarities and Differences: Telling Our Stories*. In an effort to continue that focus, Concord Quarterly Meeting, Westtown Monthly Meeting, Westtown School and Western Quarterly Meeting will co-sponsor a multigenerational, interactive program facilitated by Yes ... AND Playback Theatre entitled *Learning to Understand and Celebrate Our Differences Through Shared Experiences*.

The program will revolve around certain queries to which we were introduced at the January Quarterly Meeting: Was there a time when you felt yourself different from those who surrounded you? How did that realization make you feel? How do you think you are perceived by others, and how do you prefer to be perceived by them? The goal of the program is to help us face truths about our respective implicit biases that are not necessarily apparent to us. The hope is that such experience will help us lovingly embrace - rather than just tolerate - differences among us - both Friends and non-Friends.

In Playback Theatre "performances are carried out by a team of actors, a 'master of ceremonies' called the conductor, and a musician. As the show begins, audience members respond to questions from the conductor, then [they] watch as actors and musician create brief theatre pieces on the spot. Later, volunteers from the audience come to the stage to tell longer stories, choosing actors to play the main roles. Although performances often focus on a theme or interest of concern, the performers follow no narrative agenda, but bring their dramatic skills and their humanity to embodying on the stage the concerns and experiences of audience members."

The troupe will be led by Andrea Jacobs and Davis Rodriguez-Melendez. "Andrea is a freelance facilitator, researcher and social justice educator..." She "is trained as a social linguist and knows that language creates our reality; the words we use

can limit or liberate what is possible. She knows that improv and the arts unleash the transformative power of creativity that's essential to creating change and building community." Andrea earned a PhD in linguistics that the University of Texas at Austin conferred upon her.

Davis, a son of Puerto Rico, "has been involved in Playback Theatre for over a decade" including being a co-founder of Yes ... AND Playback Theatre. Davis has been a community organizer within the Latino and LGBTQ communities and a Spanish and Latin-American Studies professor at Temple University, Rutgers University and Camden Community College." He earned a Masters Degree in Clinical Social Work that NYU's Silver School of Social Work conferred upon him.

Yes...AND



Playback Theatre

The idea to use Playback Theatre as a forum for exploring the issues described above at a joint Quarterly Meeting is the brainchild of Jessie Cocks, member of Kennett Meeting and founder of the troupe, and Sarah Kastriner, a member of Kennett Meeting and the Coordinator for Western Quarter. Sarah was first introduced to Yes ... AND Playback Theatre when it was

giving a public performance at the Kennett Meetinghouse. Sarah and other members of Western's Quarter's Support Committee (the analog to Concord Quarter's Planning Committee) were, serendipitously, at the meetinghouse for a meeting. The troupe invited Sarah and the others to share in the performance. They did so willingly. Sarah found her involvement to be a "full body experience" that got to the "Truth" or "Spirit." Throughout her involvement in the performance, she felt "something familiar and good about it."

Yes --- AND Playback Theatre has another Quaker connection. One of its co-founders is Quaker activist Jessie Cocks, a long-time member of Kennett Meeting. In the 1960s Jessie worked on The Poor People's Campaign; in the 1970s she co-founded and was the first director of the Domestic Violence Center of Chester County; and in the 1980s she co-founded the Chester County Campaign for a Nuclear Weapons Freeze and the American Peace Test. "After a partner's 1987 suicide, Jessie began to explore and learn different modalities of inner work and healing including, among others, shamanic practices, music, movement, and hypnotherapy.... In the early 2000's, finding that Playback Theatre brings together all of the elements that she had been exploring, Jessie founded Philadelphia Queer Playback, the first queer Playback Theatre company in the world ... and [she] graduated from the School of Playback Theatre ('02)."

I look forward to meeting Andrea, Davis, Jessie and the other members of their troupe on April 23, 2017. I hope you will join us. - Charles Spadoni, Coordinator

Our Coordinator bids us a Fond Farewell in June: Charlie Spadoni has been an exceptionally responsible coordinator in the 3 years he has been working for Concord Quarter. To many of us he has also been a great F/friend. He leaves for greener pastures in Illinois in June to accompany his wife Terry who wishes to be nearer her daughter. We wish them both the best. In the meantime we will be starting a coordinator search soon. All interested can send queries and a resume to concordqmsearch@gmail.com.

West Chester Area Refugee Resettlement Project: Update after 7 months

"Our" family that fled violence in the Congo over 17 years ago has been here for 7 months! We are so proud of what they have accomplished, and of what we who support them have been able to contribute.

The family: not only are all five children successfully in school, but 3 have received honors of one kind or another. This is starting from 0 English last August, mind you! And the parents are regulars in attendance at English as a Second Language classes, where they are known for diligence. The father has part time employment in two companies; the mother and oldest daughter have part time employment in one. They need more than this, but this is a good start toward economic self-sufficiency for the family.

As a footnote to family employment, know this: the part time employment of the mother and big sister is within walking distance of their home, but it often is late at night that they end work. So the 16 year-old twin boys meet them as the work ends and walk them home. The sad reality for these times is that prior to this responsibility both boys were trained in how to conduct themselves as young black males, if confronted by police (e.g. never run, keep hands out of pockets).

The WCARRP support: Between mid-August and mid-January volunteers from the West Chester Area Refugee Resettlement Project contributed over 775 hours of assistance – much of this in tutoring and homework help, much in driving to and from medical and administrative appointments, and some in taking family members to holiday activities such as

West Chester's Christmas parade. The recorded miles driven to medical appointments, grocery shopping, English classes, and other activities totaled 3825 for this period. These and other recorded measured accomplishments allowed the family to benefit from a federal matching grant program that offers funds toward self-sufficiency acquisition for refugees who have a support group that provides documented, quantified support for their efforts. Thanks to all the volunteers that not only donated time but also spent the effort to record time and mileage participation in a way that enabled the receipt of these matching funds!!!

This time last year the Congolese family of 7 was still in a refugee camp in Tanzania, living in a tent with no knowledge of whether or when they would be certified to become refugees to a different country. They had only rural experiences and skills, and had never had electricity or running water in their dwelling. What a distance they have come!! We who have been a part of their transition celebrate with them and look forward to coming new possibilities—such as participation by several children in Club Soccer this spring.

Help with homework, English practice, and transportation to activities is still needed. If you can volunteer some of your time, please be in touch with Susan Brodesser, overall coordinator of WCARRP, who will connect you with the appropriate scheduler/coordinator. Her contact information is be_still@verizon.net; 610-399-0823

- Arlene Rengert - Grove Methodist Church, part of WCARRP

Birmingham Meeting – Getting to Fossil Free Investing

Many, if not all, of Concord Quarterly Meeting's constituent monthly meetings make their long-term investments by investing in the Consolidated Fund, a diversified bond and stock mutual fund of the Friends Fiduciary Corporation ("FFC"). They do so because FFC, through investment managers, makes only "socially responsible investments." That is to say, it invests the funds only in stocks, bonds and other securities issued by companies whose undertakings align with the views of Friends on issues of peace, social justice and protecting the environment.

Until January 1, 2014, monthly meetings that wanted to invest only in "fossil fuel free" investments could not do so using FFC's Consolidated Fund because that fund has investments in some companies that are involved with the production and distribution of natural gas. On that date, FFC launched its Green Fund, a diversified bond and equity fund that has only "fossil fuel free" investments. Also, the Green Fund invests 12.5% of its portfolio in "cleantech/alternative energy" companies that include companies working in the areas of the "sustainable use of agricultural resources, alternative and renewable energy, efficient transport, power technology, water conservation and filtration, environmental finance, and cutting-edge clean technologies."

In January 2015, Birmingham MM's Peace and Social Concerns Committee (the "Committee") proposed that the Meeting liquidate all of its investment in the Consolidated Fund and invest those proceeds in the Green Fund. The concept of investing in the Green Fund resonated with the Meeting's members, but given the fact that the Green Fund had only a one-year investment return history and is subject to more volatility (greater ups and downs in value) than the Consolidated Fund (because the Green Fund's investments are not as diversified as those that are in the Consolidated Fund), it decided to reallocate only 20% of its long-term investments into the Green Fund.

In January 2016, the Committee resubmitted its 2015 proposal. The Meeting responded by reallocating another portion of its investments from the Consolidated Fund into the Green Fund so

that 60% of its long-term investments were invested in the Consolidated Fund and 40% were invested in the Green Fund.

In January 2017, the Committee resubmitted its 2015 proposal. The Meeting responded by reallocating an additional portion of its investments from the Consolidated Fund to the Green Fund so that now only 25% of Birmingham MM's long-term investments are invested in the Consolidated Fund and 75% are invested in the Green Fund. Although there was some deep-felt sentiment that it was time for the Meeting to go all in, it held back at least in part because of the existing political and economic uncertainties.

Each of these decisions took into account the disparity in the annual cash distribution rates of the two funds (3.5% for the Green Fund and 4.5% (2015); 4.25% (2016); and 4.0% (2017) for the Consolidated Fund) would reduce in the short-term the amount of cash being distributed by FFC to the Meeting. Also, the most recent decision took into account that if the differential in each fund's annual investment return over the past three years continues (6.97% for the Consolidated Fund and 5.71% for the Green Fund), the Meeting will forego annual earnings of approximately \$1,260 for each \$100,000 it moved from the Consolidated Fund into the Green Fund. Thus the Meeting's members accepted the short-term financial burden of having to increase the aggregate amount of annual member and attender contributions to make up for that forgone investment income.

Over the next ten years it will be interesting to see whether what appears to be a short-term financial burden changes into either a neutral or a long-term financial benefit. That will happen if, and only if, the Green Fund's investment performance equals or surpasses that of the Consolidated Fund's return during that period – an outcome that is not beyond the realm of possibility.

Charles Spadoni – Birmingham Meeting

(editor's note: Westtown Meeting is currently 100% invested in the Green Fund)

Goshen's Support for the FoFAD Minute on State Sanctioned Violence

In 2016 the Friends of Fellowship of African Descent adopted a minute to respond to the violence that has plagued relationships between the police and the African American community. The minute is an activist proposal infused with a Quaker commitment to conflict resolution to address some of the root causes of a problem. Two of us from Goshen Meeting saw this minute at events we attended and brought it to Goshen Meeting, asking that the meeting consider adopting a minute of support. To us, the minute provides leadership for a response to the violence that we have been searching for. At the same time that it deplors the racism and violence that continues to burden our country, it offers responses grounded in love for all involved.

Goshen Meeting adopted a minute of support in January 2017. Westtown Meeting has also adopted a similar minute. Meetings in ours and other quarters are also considering support.

Goshen Meeting expressed a desire to have our support of this effort be more than words. We have stayed in touch with the Fellowship to follow their progress, which has continued. As of

Fellowship of Friends of African Descent Minute Regarding State Sanctioned Violence

The Fellowship of Friends of African Descent at its 2016 Annual Gathering approved the following minute for public circulation to Friends and concerned communities worldwide:

The Fellowship of Friends of African Descent is a 25 year old Quaker organization that supports the spiritual nurture of Quakers of African descent and provides opportunities for the sharing of our concerns. As those of us in the United States witness the media portrayal of high profile police violence and the resulting racial tensions, we are moved by our compassion for our communities to call for action that will lead to justice and respect, particularly for black men but also for black women and children in America. We stand with those who have identified bigotry, structural racism and state sanctioned violence as historical and continuing sources of senseless suffering and death among our people.

We grieve the loss of any human life, including the lives of police. However, the presence of the police too often seems like an occupying force designed to protect and serve an invisible elite instead of protecting those who reside in our communities. We also recognize that the violence and tragic killing of innocent civilians have touched so many in our communities. We believe that these evil forces cannot be overcome through retribution and retaliation, and can only be overcome through respect, resources and love. Jesus taught us that the love of God and our neighbor is the greatest commandment.

The problems of racism, militarism and violence that we face are rooted in a deeper, less recognized sicknesses of materialism and greed. From the slave trade and plantation economies of the American south to the terroristic subjugation of Jim Crow to the modern-day profits of miseducation and mass incarceration, racial stereotypes have been used to mask and justify the exploitation and denial of economic human rights to people of African descent. As a result, these communities are under-resourced as is evidenced by the lack of jobs, healthcare, quality education and decent housing. In the absence of real opportunities for employment and economic self-sufficiency underground economies rise up in our communities to fill the gap. People in these economies are criminalized and prosecuted even though they are only seeking to provide enough resources

February 2017, they were negotiating to purchase a building and were putting together a budget to create a Peace Center Freedom School for the summer, which will engage about 75 young people in North Philly in conflict resolution, literacy activities, social activism, and cultural enrichment activities. They are also working to develop a culturally responsive model for de-escalation and conflict resolution called Pillars of Peace with Quaker Alternatives to Violence training.

Initially, they had planned to fund their work entirely from their own and their families' funds, but when we asked them if we might make a modest donation to their efforts, the clerk of the Fellowship, Ayesha Imani of Germantown Monthly Meeting, promised to take our offer to other members of the Fellowship to see whether they are prepared to receive donations now. She reflected that, "even the thought is a blessing," and expressed gratitude for open hearts and "putting hand to the plow in moving this forward. May the Spirit surround you with Her Light and Love!" –Alison Levie, Goshen Meeting

to support their families. We realize that we cannot have a meaningful conversation about ending racial oppression without also addressing classism, joblessness and wealth inequality.

In response to these realities, we, as Quakers and as people of African descent call for the following:

1. PEACEFORCE. The training, support and employment of a "peaceforce" consisting of police officers and community based peacekeepers, none of whom are armed. The peacekeepers will be local residents who have the community relationships and street credibility (especially with young people) to cultivate the capacity and inclination for the use of non-violent methods for de-escalating conflict. [Returning citizens are an important resource for this work.]
2. PEACE CENTERS. The development and support of 'peace centers' in our communities which will provide safe havens, educational, cultural and recreational opportunities for young people in our communities. Quaker Alternatives to Violence trainings can be redesigned to be rooted in the cultural experience of African people. These centers will also function as spaces where Quaker worship and values can be modelled and developed.
3. COMMUNITY TRAINING. Police training will be ongoing and consistent including sub-conscious bias training that is not just academic but rather is community based. Police departments need to revamp their training so its members are trained to deescalate potentially dangerous situations and are not expected to "shoot to kill" in every situation they consider dangerous.
4. DISARMAMENT. Promoting the disarming of our communities (including segments of the police force responsible for minor offenses) through the elimination of handguns, rifles and automatic weapons. We realize that this goal is long term and will require a cultural shift from our current reliance on violence to solve social problems. However, we believe that we are all safer without guns than with them.

In the words of the poet, Nikki Giovanni, "Black love is Black wealth." We as Quakers of African descent are making a personal commitment to these ends and invite others to join us in this effort. We call on Friends' organizations to use some part of our substantial corporate investments to support this work.



Concord Quarterly Meeting's March – May 2017 Announcements and Calendar of Events

Announcements

Minutes of the January 29, 2017, 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 no later than April 21, 2017.

- April 21 Friday** **Deadline** for monthly meetings to submit their responses to (1) Middletown MM's minute endorsing Thomas Swain's concerns re practices at PYM's 2016 Annual Sessions; (2) proposed minutes regarding the establishment of an ARCH-type program within Concord Quarter; and (3) the minute of the Fellowship of Friends of African Descent. **Please send responses to Charles Spadoni, Coordinator at concordquarter@pym.org.**

Calendar of Events

- March 25** Philadelphia Yearly Meeting's Continuing Sessions at Arch Street Meeting, Philadelphia.
- March 26** Westtown MM's Worship and Ministry Committee, will hold a book discussion / worship sharing gathering on His Holiness the Dalai Lama's and Archbishop Desmond Tutu's new book entitled *The Book of Joy: Lasting Happiness in a Changing World*. Reading all (or even parts) of the book is not required although it is recommended. At the Westtown MM Meetinghouse. Please feel free to bring a snack or brown bag lunch. All are welcome
- March 31** **Registration Deadline** (applications and \$50.00 deposit must be submitted) to attend the Junior Friends Conference sponsored by Abington Quarter that is to be held at Westtown School from June 18-23, 2017 The conference is open to the children of members and attenders of monthly meetings within Concord Quarter.
- April 1 1:30 to 4:00pm** **Unintentional Racism**, a workshop sponsored by, and to be held at, Willistown MM, led by Samuel M. Lemon, Ed.D., author of the book *Go Stand Upon the Rock*, from stories handed down from his grandmother about how their ancestors, who first arrived as runaway slaves during the civil war and were given refuge by members of Providence Monthly Meeting in Media, ought to be free. Registration is required by March 25, 2017, at Willistownfriendsmeeting@gmail.com.
- April 1 11am to 4:30pm** PYM's Collaborative "Supporting Individual Calls to Ministry" offers a free peer group series on providing mutual support to follow more faithfully the Spirit and create a better world. At Friends Center, Philadelphia. For more information and pre-registration go to tinyurl.com/sicmpeer.
- April 7** **Registration Deadline** for Outdoor Youth Event (1st to 12th grades) sponsored by Concord and Western Quarters.
- April 16** **Semiannual Meeting for Worship at Chichester Meetinghouse**, at 11:15 AM. 611 Meetinghouse Rd., Boothwyn, PA 19061.
- April 23** **Outdoor Youth Event (1st to 12th grades) sponsored by Concord and Western Quarters (Sunday)** 8:15 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Westtown School's campus.
- April 30** **Concord Quarterly Meeting's Planning Committee** meeting at The Hickman at 7:30 PM
- May 5 to 7 Friday to Sunday** **A Spring Weekend With Our First Day School Community of Practice : Resources and Renewal for First Day School Teachers**, sponsored by PYM, Concord Quarter and Western Quarter. To be held at West Chester Monthly Meeting and West Chester Friends School. Topics for the weekend include: children's spirituality; worship with children; shapes and models for FDS; resources and planning; nurturing families in our meetings; faithful living in today's world; activism and anti-racism resources for First Day and families.

Concord/Western Joint Quarterly Meeting
April 23, 2017 at Westtown Monthly Meeting



Ropes Course & Canoeing

Sunday, April 23, 2017

8:15 AM to 3:00 PM

At WESTTOWN SCHOOL



Concord/Western Joint Quarterly Meeting April 23, 2017 at Westtown Monthly Meeting

- 8:15 Sign-in Note: Concord Quarter will meet in Westtown Meetinghouse. Western Quarter will meet in the Lower School Gathering Room, in the Lower School off of Shady Grove Road and Walnut Hill Road
- 8:30-10:15 Separate Meetings for Worship with Attention to Business
- 10:30-11:30 Combined Meeting for Worship in Westtown Meetinghouse
- 12:00-1:00 Main Dish provided by Westtown Meeting (Sides and Desserts are Potluck) in the Boys Collection Room in Main Building across from the Westtown Meetinghouse
- 1:00-2:30 Program led by the Yes...AND Playback Theatre Group

Learning to Understand and Celebrate Our Differences Through Shared Experiences.



Improv based on Audience Stories. Locally based troupe brings issues of personal and social change to life in a non-threatening, enlightening and entertaining format.

"Opposite to the traditional theatre forms, Playback theatre is free from being prepared, controlled, pre-cooked. Playback theatre spontaneously captures and transforms the moment. By offering meaningfulness to what often seems a mere caprice of fate Playback invites us to connect with other dimensions of our lives. By taking part in other peoples stories we share the collective experiment of human existence deepening the relation to ourselves and to others..." Karen Gisler Saying Yes: Playback Theatre as a Metaphor for Life

Children's Programing: for 1st thru 12th Grades Outdoor Youth Event - Ropes Course & Canoeing

8:15 AM to 3:00 PM (no rain date) at Westtown School. Open to any child whose parent or parents attend or are members of any monthly meeting in Concord Quarterly Meeting or Western Quarterly Meeting or is actively involved in Westtown School's Quaker Leadership Program (Note: To canoe, a child must be able to swim.) **Registration must be completed by April 7.** Cost is \$10 for first child and \$5 for each child thereafter.

<http://concordquarter.org/special-events/2017/ropes-course-and-canoe-at-westtown> for more info.

Childcare will be provided during Meeting for Business, Worship and Program.
For more info and a map to the meeting go to <http://www.concordquarter.org> or email concordquarter@pym.org

Concord Quarterly Meeting held at Goshen Monthly Meeting - January 29, 2016

Opening Worship: The meeting opened with a period of worship at 8:35 am.

Welcome -- Representatives were present from all meetings save for Willistown. Thirty Friends were present as we began.

Approval of Minutes -- Deb Wood (Clerk)

The minutes of the Quarterly Meeting held on October 23, 2016 were approved.

Treasurer's Reports -- Tom Haviland (Treasurer)

The Treasurer's Reports are attached to these minutes as Appendix 1. They were received with appreciation.

Coordinator's Report -- Charles Spadoni (Coordinator)

The report was received with appreciation and is attached to these minutes as Appendix 2. The meeting approved an expenditure of up to \$500 for Playback Theatre's charges for the April Quarterly Meeting program.

Joys and Challenges Report: The Wilmington MM report will be formally presented in April, as Wilmington has a retreat today.

Refugee Relocation Update -- Leslie Leonard (Birmingham)

Things are going well for our Congolese family. Isaac has been working for some time and Rebeka and Maombi began work as well yesterday. Church World Service's support of the family has now ended and the Isaacs are paying for everything except their rent. The challenge has been organizing phone connections for them with relatives in the refugee camp in Tanzania, which is important currently because of the unsettled state of US refugee regulations. Friends expressed concern about the short and long term consequences for refugees of the changes in US regulations. Friends are encouraged to write to their members of Congress about this matter and to forward stories of relevant experiences to FCNL and Philadelphia YM's collaborative.

Nominating Committee Report -- Charles Spadoni (Birmingham): The committee met in early January in order to begin consideration of the position of CQM Assistant Clerk. Suggested names would be welcome.

Responding to the Challenge of Small Meetings -- David Jones and David Leonard (Birmingham)

In response to the Joys and Challenges Report last year from Concord MM at our July 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 3.) Due to an overly full agenda in October discussion of the letter was deferred to today's meeting. David Jones is concerned that we have in place the procedures we would follow if a meeting had to be laid down. David Leonard wishes to help small meetings find other organizations to share the use of their premises and responsibility for their upkeep and management. In response to the two presentations, one Friend asked if the Quarter had an Outreach Committee which might assist in expanding memberships. The Clerk felt that this idea could be a part of the larger initiative. Another Friend noted that *Faith and Practice* clearly states that the Quarter is responsible when a meeting is being laid down and suggests the processes to be followed. It was noted as well that PYM has an Outreach Committee and funds to assist with new initiatives. Rich Ailes, Peter Lane, Valerie Peery and Judy Reece volunteered to join an *ad hoc* committee with David Jones and David Leonard to work on executing both aspects of their presented concern.

Responses of Monthly Meetings to Middletown MM's Minute re: Rightly Ordered PYM Sessions -- Deb Wood (Clerk)

Following the October 2016 Quarterly Meeting, the Planning Committee recommended that the letter submitted to the Quarterly Meeting by Thomas Swain of Middletown Monthly Meeting regarding the conduct of business at Philadelphia Yearly Meeting's 2016 Annual Session be submitted by Thomas for approval by that meeting. After Middletown MM minuted its approval of Thomas' letter, Clerk Deb Wood circulated Middletown MM's minute and Thomas' letter for consideration by all of the other constituent monthly meetings. A minute was received from West Chester MM, but the one from Birmingham has not been transmitted as yet. Further consideration therefore was deferred to the next Quarterly Meeting. (The original Swain letter, the Planning Committee response, and the minutes of Middletown and West Chester MMs are attached at Appendix 4.)

Responses of Monthly Meetings to Proposed ARCH Program -- Deb Wood (Clerk)

This item was deferred to the next Quarterly Meeting. It was also noted that the coordinator had not received minutes or reports from any MMs regarding the two minutes on ARCH, and encouraged MMs to communicate with the coordinator.

Goshen MM's Proposed Minute re: Fellowship of Friends of African Descent -- Alison Levie (Goshen)

Goshen Monthly Meeting endorsed the August 2016 minute from the Fellowship of Friends of African Descent on state sanctioned violence. CQM MMs were asked to consider Goshen's minute in anticipation of its being further discussed at next Quarterly Meeting. Alison noted that Westtown Monthly Minute has also minuted its endorsement.

The meeting ended with a period of worship at 9:55 am, at which point 34 Friends were present.

Announcements and Events

Attached to these minutes as Appendix 5.

Respectfully submitted, David Leonard (Recording Clerk) and Deb Wood (Clerk)

Appendix 1: Treasurer's Reports for the Second Quaker of 2016-2017

TREASURER'S REPORT – FISCAL YEAR 2016-2017 Q2 (Oct – Dec) - January 29, 2017

Income and Expenses Highlights

- A BIG thank you to all Meetings for communicating with me at the beginning of this fiscal year about Covenant contributions. This has made it much easier to plan and see that we are on schedule to meet our 2016-2017 budget at this midpoint of the year.
- Second quarter income and expenses were normal.
- 20% of our Friends Fiduciary Consolidated Funds were moved into Friends Fiduciary Green Funds. Semi-annual distributions for both funds (\$4,287.34 total) were made in December.
- Second quarter PYM Covenant contributions were recently sent to PYM and will be reflected in Q3 expenses.
- Tuition grant funds (\$8,025) were divided amongst 15 students (\$535/student) and sent to 6 Friends Schools
- Hayride and Drop & Shop program contributions of \$200 are included in 2nd quarter Operating/Programs income.

Concord Quarterly Meeting - Income and Expenses (run date 1/21/2017) [Redacted]

Assets Highlights

- Checking Account line item balances are in good order.
- PYM and TEF funds have been sent to PYM and FFC respectively and will be reflected on next quarter's statement.
- Friends Fiduciary Tuition Endowment Fund (TEF) holdings:
- On Oct. 26, TEF funds were split 80% Consolidated Funds and 20% Green Fund. Going forward, all TEF deposits will follow the 80%/20% allocation.
- December's Consolidated and Green Funds semi-annual distributions were deposited directly into our Short Term Investment Fund (STIF). These funds are fully withdrawn each fall for Friends education tuition assistance.
- The Consolidated Fund unit value finished the year at \$47.47 (down from the Sept. 30 value of \$47.89). The Green Fund unit value finished at \$35.25 (up from the Oct. 26 purchase value of \$34.64). Economic indicators (employment trends, industrial production, and consumer sentiment) are signaling strength for 2017.

Concord Quarterly Meeting - Assets (run date 1/21/2017) [Redacted]

Appendix 2: Coordinator's Report

As a rule, Western Quarterly Meeting ("WQM") meets on the third Sunday of January, April, July and October each year. However, in 2017, because Easter falls on the third Sunday of April, WQM rescheduled its April quarterly meeting to the fourth Sunday, the same day Concord Quarterly is scheduled to meet. Coincidentally, that is the same day (April 23, 2017) that Western and Concord Quarters are scheduled to hold a youth outdoor adventure event at Westtown School for children in the 3rd to 12th grades. The convergence of all of those events led WQM's Coordinator Sarah Kastriner to propose that both Quarters meet that day at the same place (Westtown MM) to join together in worship and in program, but to hold separate business meetings. Westtown MM, which was not scheduled to host quarterly meeting until October 2017, and West Chester MM, which was scheduled to host quarterly meeting in April 2017, graciously agreed to exchange places, and Sarah's idea started to develop into a reality.

Details about the April 23, 2017, program are still a work-in-progress. Currently, we are proceeding on the supposition that Playback Theatre of Philadelphia (<http://www.yesandplayback.org>) will be engaged to lead us in an interactive program involving one or more topics that come out of our experiences at the January 29, 2017, Quarterly Meeting program. In Playback Theatre performances are carried out by a team of actors, a "master of ceremonies" called the conductor and a musician. As the show begins, audience members respond to questions from the conductor, then [they] watch as actors and musician create brief theatre pieces on the spot. Later, volunteers from the audience come to the stage to tell longer stories, choosing actors to play the main roles. Although performances often focus on a theme or interest of concern, the performers follow no narrative agenda, but bring their dramatic skills and their humanity to embodying on the stage the concerns and experiences of audience members.

Our program for children continues with a February 11, 2017, trip to Newlin Grist Mill to experience the life of rural Quakers in the Delaware Valley in the 18th century and with the April 23, 2017 outdoor adventure program at Westtown School. Please join us on February 18, 2017 (rain date February 25) at our almost 6th annual, inter-generational square dance. Square dancing is great fun for people of all ages, and Willistown MM's social room is a great venue for it.

Philadelphia Yearly Meeting's staff members are working assiduously to develop a weekend-long workshop devoted to helping monthly meetings enhance the quality of their respective First Day School programs. I will keep you advised as to when that workshop will be offered.

Please do not forget the February 16, 2017, deadline for filing applications for tuition assistance offered by Concord Quarterly meeting for children of members of constituent monthly meetings (other than Wilmington MM) attending Quaker schools. This financial assistance is derived from an endowment fund the Quarter started in 1993. The principal of that fund now exceeds \$200,000 in value. I am sure that the children who receive and have received that financial assistance and their parents (especially the parents) appreciate the generosity of those monthly meetings that have contributed to the Quarter's tuition assistance endowment fund over the past 24 years. In Faith, Charles B. Spadoni, Coordinator

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>.

Concord Quarterly Meeting Newsletter
Volume 14 Issue 2 April 2017

Rich Ailes, Editor
310 Park Avenue
Swarthmore, PA 19081

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

Address Service Requested

Concord Quarter Meetings

Appoquinimink Preparative (Under Care of Wilmington MM)
Birmingham
Chichester (Under Care of Concord MM)
Concord
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E-mail: concordquarter@pym.org