

**Concord Quarterly Meeting Planning Committee Meeting
Held at Concord Monthly Meeting
February 12, 2017 – 7:30 p.m.
Minutes**

Present: Deb Wood, Clerk (WT); Bruce Harrison, Assistant Clerk (WT); David Leonard, Recording Clerk (B); Tom Haviland, Treasurer (WT); Tom Woodward (G); Julie Senko (B); Ray Hamilton (C); Gwynne Ormsby (B); Marian Walker (C); Chris Smith (WC); Chris McKenney (B); and Charles Spadoni, Coordinator, recording.

Regrets: Pete Lane (WT); Rich Ailes (MT); Ron Ploeg (WillT); Cruce Stark (Wilm); and Deb Lyons (WC).

The meeting began with a period of silent worship.

Quarterly Meeting held at Goshen MM (January 29, 2017)

Comments

The Clerk thanked Tom Woodward (Goshen MM's Clerk) for hosting Quarterly Meeting and presenting wonderful programs for the adults and children.

There was extensive discussion of the need to prioritize agenda items so that substantive issues are dealt with in a timely fashion. The Clerk noted that the Quarter was not in a position to act on Middletown MM's minute with respect to the process observed at Philadelphia Yearly Meeting's Annual Sessions because only one monthly meeting had considered that minute and forwarded its response to the Quarter prior to the January 2017 Quarterly Meeting. There was further discussion about the detail to which the Treasurer should report on the state of the Quarterly Meeting's finances.

The Coordinator was directed to distribute to the constituent monthly meetings a request that the monthly meetings (1) consider Middletown MM's minute, the draft ARCH minutes that were distributed to them, and the minute of the Friends of African Descent that has been endorsed by both Goshen MM and Westtown MM and (2) advise the Coordinator prior to the April 23, 2017, Quarterly Meeting whether they had approved all, any part of, or any variation of, those minutes.

Quarterly Meeting to be held at Westtown MM on April 23, 2017

Business Agenda

(1) Middletown MM's Minute regarding the process observed at PYM's 2016 Annual Sessions

The Quarter will consider Middletown MM's minute. So far, the Quarter has received responses to it from West Chester and Birmingham MMs.

(2) ARCH Minutes

Draft minutes were distributed to the monthly meetings for their consideration. The questions those draft minutes raise for each monthly meeting are (1) whether it is

interested in having an ARCH-type program be implemented within monthly meetings of the Quarter, and, if so, (2) whether it is willing to appoint at least one person to serve on a steering committee that would undertake to establish such a program. The monthly meetings were asked to respond by the end of March 2017. Based upon those responses, the Quarter will decide whether to establish such a steering committee.

(3) Minute of Friends of African Descent

At the request of Goshen MM, the Quarter will consider endorsing the minute of the Friends of African Descent attached to these minutes.

(4) Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee will present its report on the nomination of an Assistant Clerk.

(5) Joys and Challenges Reports

Wilmington MM and Birmingham MM will provide their reports

(6) Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer will submit a proposed budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2018.

Joint Adult Program

(1) Financing of Playback Theatre

The cost will be \$1,300. Concord QM has authorized the payment of up to \$500. Western QM has committed to pay at least \$350. The balance is to be paid by Westtown MM and Westtown School.

(2) Topics of Playback Theatre

Tom Woodward is to forward to the Coordinator notes of the discussions of the small groups at Quarterly Meeting. The Coordinator will forward them to the Clerk and the Coordinator of Western QM to inform their discussion of what topics Playback Theatre should deal with.

(3) Schedule

8:30-10:15 meeting for business
10:30-11:30 meeting for worship
11:45-12:15 lunch (potentially in boys' collection room)
12:30-2:30 program

(3) Youth Program

8:15-8:45 Drop Off
 9:00-11:30 Canoeing and Ropes Course
 11:30-12:30 Lunch
 12:30-3:00 Canoeing and Ropes Course

Currently, the Youth Program is designed for children in the 3d grade through the 12th. Westtown MM and Western Quarter's Youth Coordinator will provide daycare and potentially a program for children in school through the 2d grade. The Clerk will check with the Director of Westtown Schools' outdoor program to determine whether children in grades lower than 3d grade can participate in the Youth Program.

The cost is \$35 per child. The Planning Committee united in a cost structure that calls for a member or attender of a monthly meeting to pay \$10 for the first child and \$5 for each additional child and for the Quarter to pay the balance of the cost for children whose parents are members or attenders of a constituent monthly meeting of those Quarters.

Review of, and Update on, 2016-17 Youth & Intergenerational Activities

The Coordinator reviewed the following schedule of 2016-17 youth and intergenerational activities. In red are the Coordinator's comments.

6 Nov	10:00 a.m.	Margaret Haviland's talk on the issues facing 18-year olds in registering for Selective Service @ Westtown School. Only three Westtown School students attended. With Margaret's permission, in 2017, members and attenders should be invited to attend her presentation of a topic that is very important to Quakers and others who contemplate being conscientious objectors.
3 Dec	9:00 a.m.– 1:00 p.m.	Parents' Day Off – The Cabin – Westtown – Four children from Concord Quarter and eight children from Western Quarter attended. It was well received and should be continued, if possible.
11 Feb 2017		Elementary students' visit to Newlin Grist Mill in conjunction with Western Quarterly Meeting. Four children and two adults from Concord Quarter and two children and one adult from Western Quarter attended.
18 Feb 2017 (snow date 25 Feb)	7:00-9:00 p.m.	Sixth (Almost) Annual Square Dance – Willistown MM
23 Apr 2017	9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Youth Program with Western Quarter – Westtown School - canoeing and ropes course
? June 2017	12:30-4:30 p.m.	Tubing on the Brandywine
1 Oct 2017	Afternoon	Canoeing and Picnic on Westtown School's Lake in conjunction with Western Quarter

Nominating Committee

Nominating Committee Clerk Charles Spadoni reported that the Committee had been in discussion with Chris McKenney about becoming assistant clerk, and that Clerk Deb Wood had invited Chris to attend the meeting to learn more about the Quarter's operations.

Friendly Review

Tom Gilbert of Willistown MM and David Wickard of West Chester MM have agreed to conduct a "Friendly Review" of the Quarter's financial books and records for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2016 and June 30, 2017. Their names will be submitted for approval at the April Quarterly Meeting.

Feedback to Wilmington MM's Proposed Program at Newlin Gristmill

Wilmington MM is considering having a program at Newlin Grist Mill in June 2017, in conjunction with its celebration of the 200th anniversary of the construction of its current meetinghouse. The program would include demonstrations of what the construction of the meetinghouse entailed in 1817 including joinery, brickmaking, blacksmithing and sandcasting. Lisa Samson, who is helping to organize events to celebrate that anniversary, asked the coordinators of Concord and Western Quarters whether they thought members of other meetings in their respective quarters would be interested in participating in such a program. Members of the Planning Committee thought it important for the Quarter to support such an undertaking and they believe that some of the members of its constituent meetings would participate.

PYM First Day School Retreat – May 5-7, 2017

Philadelphia Yearly Meeting's staff, working with Melinda Bradley, a member of West Chester MM who is an employee of New York Yearly Meeting and Beth Colea who is an employee of New England Yearly Meeting is planning a weekend workshop on First Day School programs for the period of May 5-7, 2017. West Chester Friends School and West Chester Monthly Meeting have agreed to host that workshop. Members of the Planning Committee support such an undertaking.

Need for Articles in the April Newsletter

The Coordinator reported that Rich Ailes, the newsletter's editor, is looking for articles to be published in the April newsletter. The Coordinator will contact Susan Brodesser about an update on the refugee relocation project; Tom Woodward will speak to Alison Levie about writing an article on why Goshen MM endorsed the minute of the Friends of African Descent; and Deb Wood will speak to Marc Dear, Elson Blunt (or others) about an article on how Westtown MM moved all of its investments into Friends Fiduciary Corporation's Green Fund (which could be combined with an article written by the Coordinator on why Birmingham has reallocated its investments to the Green Fund over time).

Ad Hoc Committee on Meetings with Limited Attendance

The Planning Committee was in unity that David Leonard could and should expand the membership of the Ad Hoc Committee on Meetings with Limited Attendance to members of meetings in Western Quarter.

Workshop on Racism - URG

Given the program Goshen MM conducted at the January 2017 Quarterly Meeting and the program that is contemplated to be held at the April 2017 Quarterly Meeting, the Planning Committee postponed a decision on whether to sponsor a program conducted by the Undoing Racism Group.

Outreach

Bruce Harrison inquired whether other meetings were seeing an increase in the number of people attending meeting for worship because of the uncertainty surrounding the installation of a new administration in Washington, D.C. If so, he recommended that meetings focus on reaching out to these new attenders to ask them whether they would like to become members.

Update on Tom Brown Endowed Chair – None

Other

Noting that is unlikely that he will be able to attend the April 23, 2017 Quarterly Meeting, David Leonard presented his view that the Quarter should be careful when it considers endorsing Middletown MM's minute that endorses Thomas Swain's concerns about the process that was followed at PYM's 2016 Continuing Sessions. David noted that language such as "good order" can be misinterpreted and counterproductive when dealing with Spirit-inspired concerns. He suggests that other language such as "effective process" be considered.

We closed the meeting at 8:50 p.m. following a period of silent worship.

Charles B. Spadoni, Coordinator, recording