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Kennett Friends Meetinghouse
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The Minutes of the Business Meeting Session of Western Quarterly Meeting held on the Nineteenth Day of the First Month of 2014 at London Grove Monthly Meeting

Business Meeting was held at London Grove Monthly Meeting after Friends from Hockessin, Newark, London Grove, Kennett, New Garden, West Grove, Kendal, and Centre Meetings met to constitute the first session of Western Quarterly Meeting in 2014.

14-1 After a morning of worship and fellowship that included a wonderful talk by Mark Myers on the history of Western Quarterly Meeting, we began our business session with a time for reporting on the life we celebrate in our meeting communities. Friends from West Grove celebrated an influx of new members, and a Friend from London Grove expressed excitement about the planned Tour of Western Quarterly Meetings to be held 7.19 to 7.20, 2014. Kendall Meeting expressed welcome to any visitors, Newark Meeting shared news about planned anti-human trafficking work, and West Grove Meeting is hosting a classical guitar concert!

14-2 We approved the minutes of the Western Quarterly Meeting Business Meeting held on the Thirteenth Day, Eleventh Month, 2013.

14-3 Our Clerk, Pamela Leland of London Grove Meeting, presented a report from London Britain Property Committee, and we accepted it, with the caveat that a detailed financial report will be included in the materials attached to these minutes.

14-4 Mary Sproat, of West Grove Meeting, presented a report from the Penns Grove Property Committee and accepted it.

14-5 Our Clerk presented the Treasurer's report on behalf of our Treasurer, Ariana Langford, of Newark Meeting, and we accepted it.

14-6 Dick Logan, of Hockessin Meeting, presented a report from the Finance & Budget Committee and accepted it. Some Monthly Meetings have reduced their covenant contributions, which has caused our financial outlook to become slightly negative in that we face a deficit in the Fiscal Year 2014 budget and a potential increase in this deficit in the Fiscal Year 2015 budget. We briefly discussed the possibility of raising contributions from individuals in addition to asking for increased covenant contributions from monthly meetings.

14-7 Zachary Dutton, Coordinator and Youth Activities Coordinator, presented the proposed policy of Western Quarterly Meeting Youth Activities for Transporting Youth. Friends had been unable to approve the proposal at a previous business meeting (minute 13-31 on 9.3.13) due to concern with number three, letter c, which has now been revised. **Friends approved the revised policy, to supersede all other previously approved**

policies, with the caveat that a date noting its approval and revision be added to the document.

*14-8 Our Clerk asked Friends to reflect on the elements they'd like included in a minute of appreciation to London Grove Meeting for hosting a Quarterly Meeting session. The minute began: "We extend our warmest appreciation to London Grove Monthly Meeting for hosting Western Quarterly Meeting on the Nineteenth Day of the First Month of 2014..." **Friends approved trusting our Clerk and Coordinator to finish the minute and integrate the following thoughts:** We were intrigued and moved by Mark Myers' Presentation called, "A look at the History of Western Quarterly Meeting." Volunteers had been cooking for days to prepare for the meal we shared at lunch. It was a joy to help celebrate the 300th Anniversary of London Grove Monthly Meeting.

*14-9 The Convener of the Committee and Leadership Reevaluation Advisory Group (CLR), Richard Bernard of Hockessin Meeting, presented on the extreme difficulty Western Quarterly Meeting has faced in populating committees and filling leadership positions (like assistant clerk and recording clerk). This reflects a wider need to consolidate our committee structure and leadership positions in a way that is sustainable for volunteers. The CLR has devised a proposed restructuring of the administrative functions of Western Quarterly Meeting that would bring members of our defunct committees together into one oversight committee called the Support Committee, to which representatives of each Monthly Meeting would be invited. The meetings would be open to all, and they would overlap with Quarterly Meetings. The Support Committee would function as a board of trustees. This restructuring would help to redirect our work to the support of our constituent Monthly Meetings and streamline the work load of our officers. It is the hope that this restructuring combined with the efforts of our staff will also bring new life and purpose to our association of Monthly Meetings called Western Quarterly Meeting.

Friends gave substantive feedback, and through it we agreed to a specific change to the minimum number of meeting times for the proposed Support Committee from six to four times per year. Friends had questions such as whether all Friends would be invited to any Support Committee (they would), whether Support Committee meetings would occur at Quarterly Meeting (they would), and whether all other committees would be laid down. The Support Committee would have the authority to lay down defunct committees that, in effect, no longer function. Committees that still operate would probably not be laid down. Friends expressed concern about whether this change would lead to any change in the Quarterly Meeting's viability and outlook, and there was general agreement that if we were to adopt a new organizational structure we would need to initiate a concerted communications strategy with our constituent meetings about the change. **Especially due to this need for broader input and awareness between all our constituent monthly meetings, we agreed to hold off from approving the change in order to spread awareness and gather input on the change from each of our Monthly Meetings. The proposed change will be brought to April Quarterly Meeting for approval.**

14-10 Friends agreed to reintegrate business meeting with Quarterly Meeting sessions permanently.

14-11 Our Clerk reviewed the discernment conducted at our last business meeting regarding accounting practices (minute 13-26 on 11.13.13) and reported that she has begun to solicit proposals from different firms or independent contractors to support the financial management of Western Quarterly Meeting. One Friend reported on his own experience, from a different organization, of hiring a part time accounting firm. It was not satisfactory, and Friends were properly cautioned to go about revising our accounting practices with mindfulness and care.

14-12 We adjourned after a moment of un-programmed worship.

Respectfully Submitted,
Pamela Leland, Clerk
Zachary Dutton, Coordinator