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Kennett Friends Meetinghouse
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The Minutes of the Support Committee of Western Quarterly Meeting held 15 July 2014 at Kendal Monthly Meeting, Kendal Retirement Community

The Support Committee was held at the Kendal Retirement Community and hosted by Kendal Monthly Meeting. Friends from Kendal, London Grove, Kennett, West Grove, Newark, Hockessin, New Garden, Centre met to constitute the inaugural session of the Support Committee.

14-25 After a period of un-programmed worship, we reviewed the nature of the Support Committee's work and welcomed Friends to share news in the life of their Meetings. Kendal Meeting is visioning and reorganizing. Great enthusiasm has emerged among its members for Kendal's continued vitality. Great appreciation was given to Kendal's Clerk, Lark Worth. Hockessin Meeting plans summer activities for its youth and has been laying the groundwork for a lively, well-advertised contribution to the Tour of Meetinghouses this coming Sunday and Saturday. Hockessin is also threshing issues related to the maintenance of its tenant house. London Grove invited photographers from National Geographic to photograph its oak tree. Said pictures will appear in a future addition concerning the human relationship to trees called, "Wise Trees." London Grove has also published a book about its history as part of its 300th Anniversary celebrations. Kennett Meeting is preparing for the Tour of Meetinghouses. It has begun discussions about its fiscal stewardship. Kennett also hosted two retreats, one residential and one in-house. The in-house retreat was patterned in the manner of the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Thread Gatherings. Friends lamented that we continue to struggle with sharing these wonderful stories with each other outside of our meetings for business.

14-26 We approved the minutes of the Western Quarterly Meeting Business Meeting held on 27 April 2014.

*14-27 We considered a set of queries related to supporting representatives to the Support Committee. Suggestions were offered for improving our ways of communicating with leaders of monthly meetings. We continue to struggle with finding Friends who are led to serve in various leadership roles. We wondered about how we will populate the Support Committee and any other committees we choose to maintain in the coming reorganization. A Friend suggested that we identify liaisons on the Support Committee to other monthly meetings who are not represented. Shelley Hastings of Newark Meeting agreed to liaise with Mill Creek Meeting, and Mary Sproat of West Grove Meeting agreed to liaise with Marlborough Meeting. We need to be in touch directly with different monthly meetings to determine whether they are able to send representatives. This clarity allows us more effectively to determine our capacity to do our work in supporting our monthly meetings. We have relied heavily on our Coordinator and our Clerk in ways that are unsustainable.

14-28 Our Clerk, Pamela Leland of London Grove Meeting, reported on our initial work with Brandywine Accounting, which will support the operational duties associated with the management of our finances. See the 11.13.13 minutes, number 13-26, and the 4.27.14 minutes, number 14-16. There was some additional organizational work that was unanticipated, so Brandywine was unable to close out our books for the Fiscal Year 2014 (FY '14). We reviewed a preliminary, proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2015. **Because the final FY '14 numbers were not ready, we decided to wait to consider the Fiscal Year 2015 budget for approval until our next meeting.** Friends requested more clarity on the amount remaining in our reserve funds after making up for the deficit anticipated in FY '13 and FY '14. Friends were encouraged to attend the upcoming Finance and Fundraising Summit to be held on 4 October 2014 where we will discuss ways to examine intentionally how we allocate covenant contributions towards developing balanced budgets. We spent a great deal of time discussing our unified budgeting process. Friends expressed appreciation to our Clerk and Coordinator for their diligent work. We embrace an attitude of abundance and generosity about support to the Quarterly and Yearly Meetings.

14-29 We considered a minute on drone warfare from Kendal Meeting. We reviewed Kendal Meeting's leadings for forming the minute. We acknowledged that five of our six monthly meetings considered and approved the minute. **We approved the minute and agreed to send it to the Yearly Meeting.**

14-30 We considered when next to meet. We tentatively agreed to a meeting on the third Sunday of August, 2014.

14-31 We adjourned after a moment of un-programmed worship.

Respectfully Submitted,
Pamela Leland, Clerk
Zachary Dutton, Coordinator