

The Minutes of the Business Meeting Session of Western Quarterly Meeting held on 19 October 2014 at Kennett Monthly Meeting

Business Meeting was held at Kennett Monthly Meeting. Friends from London Grove, Fallowfield, Kennett, Newark, New Garden, and Centre Meetings met to constitute the fourth session of Western Quarterly Meeting in 2014. Friend Charlie Spadoni, Coordinator from Concord Quarterly Meeting, was in attendance also.

14.52- Reporting on the Life in our Meetings. After a period of unprogrammed worship, we began our business. In good spirits, we opened our meeting with updates from Monthly Meetings. *London Grove* reported that the 300th Anniversary held on Saturday, October 18th from 1-7 PM was a success. *Kennett* shared that on Saturday, November 15th, from 9 AM to 12 PM, it is hosting an in-depth financial workshop entitled, “Good Stewardship: It’s Not Just About the Money.” The free workshop promises to “explain specific strategies Friends can use to plan for a more secure financial future in all stages of life in a way that is consistent with Quaker values and one’s individual circumstances.” *Fallowfield* reported that they discussed the Western Quarterly’s financial letter at their October Business Meeting. Fallowfield operates under the impression that they send their covenant to the Western Quarterly and the Western Quarterly allocates what it sends to the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. Yet, Treasure Ariana Langford of Newark Meeting explained that while Fallowfield Monthly Meeting sends the Western Quarterly its covenant, Fallowfield still has authority of the percentage allocation to Western Quarterly and Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. Members of Fallowfield will share this information at Fallowfield’s next Business Meeting. Also, Fallowfield reported that it already has two cemeteries—Doe Run and Fallowfield—to operate and maintain. Therefore, it would like for the Western Quarterly to continue to maintain yearly upkeep of Fallowfield Orthodox Cemetery. *Centre* reported that they are in discussion of matters associated with the Western Quarterly’s Finance Letter.

Friends approved of the proposal made by The Clerk, Pamela Leland of London Grove Meeting, to include information about Philadelphia Yearly Meeting’s online donation page in the next Western Quarterly newsletter. The Clerk explained that the online donation page allows supporters to give financially to monthly and quarterly Meetings at no cost; Philadelphia Yearly Meeting covers all the transactions fees as well as the monthly enrollment fee.

14.53- Friends approved the minutes of the Western Quarterly’s Support Committee Meeting held on 28 September 2014 at Kennett Monthly Meeting.

14.54- Friends received and accepted the Budget Update and Financial Report from Treasurer Ariana Langford of Newark Meeting. Friends learned that Western Quarterly’s finances are aligned with the financial expectations of the Western Quarterly. It was reported that the \$51,171.62 balance in the Certificate of Deposit account was converted into a new CD. The old interest rate was 0.4% APY. The new interest rate is 1.50% interest with a 31 month maturity date. If interest rates rise, the new CD carries the option of bumping up to the new rate once during the life of CD (to a maximum of 3.0% APY). Valuation of fiduciary funds will be included in the next financial report in January 2015.

14.55- Friends approved the Minute of Appreciation to Ruth Thompson. The minute read: *The gathered Meetings of Western Quarter would like to express our appreciation to Friend Ruth Thompson for her energy and dedication in bringing about a quarter-wide tour of Meetings this Seventh Month past. In following her leading, Friend Ruth inspired others to help make the tour both a successful and joyful event, bringing us together as Friends, and serving as*

outreach into the community at large. This event left us feeling blessed as individuals, as Monthly Meetings and as a Quarter.

14.46- Friends accepted the Report of Parkersville Trustees Annual Report to Western Quarterly Meeting for 2014. The report read as follows: *The Annual Meeting for Worship was held on 9th mo. 12, 2014 with about 25 in attendance. There was acceptable ministry on this day of reunion for many family members of the founding families. Parkersville was well attended during the Meetinghouse Tour in Seventh month. William Parker and Joan Hadik greeted visitors and enlightened them as to the history of the Meeting and grounds. A plaque showing the listing of the Meetinghouse on the National Register of Historic Places was mounted on the front wall of the building, and a handrail was placed at the steps to aid visitors. The ashes of Anne Bronner were buried in Fourth month. Rain gutters were installed on the front of the Meetinghouse this year. The outlet was run under the porch to protect the bricks on the porch from running water. Meeting for Worship is held weekly at 9:30 AM to which Friends are warmly invited.* A financial report was also included: Parkersville Meeting Property Finances as of 9/30/2014 showed a checking account balance of \$2088.34 and a Money Market account balance of \$30,898.99.

14.47- Support Committee Implementation— Committee Structure.

A. Youth Activities Committee- The Clerk, Pamela Leland shared that the Youth Activities Committee received the report to lay down its committee. Appreciation of service was expressed to the Youth Activities Committee. The committee consisted of: Karen Conlan, Mark Miller, Steve Spengless, Jan Rivera, and Rosemarie Rupert.

B. Property Summit Update: Friends secured some property deeds within the Western Quarterly. **Friends approved of the Creation of a Sprit (Ad-Hoc) Property Summit Committee.** The charge of the committee is to gather and share information to the Western Quarterly about the scope of the properties in the Western Quarterly, actual ownership of the property and facilities, the Quarterly's connections with the properties, and any liabilities associated with each property. The committee is also to ascertain if there are any legal and financial obligations of the Quarterly to the properties and recommended how Western Quarterly should interact with Monthly Meetings about issues regarding the properties and facilities. Ariana Langford of Newark Meeting and Anthony Taylor of Fallowfield Meeting agreed to serve on the committee. It is the hope that the committee will be populated by others who initially served on the informal committee that secured property deeds for the Western Quarterly.

C. Friends are not laying down Property Committees at each Monthly Meetings. The Western Quarterly Property Summit Committee is one of investigation, not of daily management.

14.48- Discussion of Intention and Frequency of Quarterly Meeting Publication. In August 2014, Friends laid down the monthly printing of the newsletters. Printed monthly newsletters will be sent to those who requested them and Monthly Meetings. A Portable Document Format (PDF) version of the Western Quarterly Newsletter is available online and is sent to households through email. The question was asked: *What should be communicated in the quarterly newsletter?* After discussion among Friends, the suggestion included: updates on the happenings of the Western Quarterly, a possible feature piece that will include a reflection article about the Western Quarterly's quarterly session, and a children's report.

Friends approved of Treasurer Ariana Langford's proposal to cancel our bulk mailing subscription in December to financially align with the laying down of the monthly printing and mailing of the Western Quarterly Meeting's Newsletter.

14.49- Report & Updates and Future Gathering

- A. Faith and Play Training being held on Friday, November 7-Saturday, November 9, 2014 at Centre Meeting. According to the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting's website: "Faith & Play is a Montessori-inspired resource that helps children find words and images for expressing their experiences of holy mystery and wonder in their lives. Faith & Play uses the Godly Play® approach to engage participants in stories of the faith, practice and history of Friends." Western Quarterly Coordinator Sarah Kastriner is working with Friends at Centre Meeting to assist in the successful implementation of this training session.
- B. Reminder of the Inaugural First Day School Convergence on Saturday, November 16, 2014 at 10 AM at West Grove Meeting. We have opened the invitation for youth in Concord Quarter to join us, and our Coordinator is working with the FDS teachers at Wilmington Friends, who are planning on bringing their whole class."
- C. Next Meeting: December 7 or 14th for next Support Committee at Kennett MM. An email will be sent to members of Support Committee to best determine the date.

14.50- Personnel Committee Report and Recommendation on WQ Staff Position.

The Personnel Committee consists of Clerk Pamela Leland, Treasurer Ariana Langford, and Recording Clerk tonya thames taylor. The Clerk Pamela Leland shared that the Personnel Committee met on Wednesday, October 1 at Kennett Monthly Meeting to discuss the Western Quarterly Meeting's Coordinator position. After a personnel session, the Personnel Committee met with and interviewed Sarah Kastriner. After the interview, the Personnel Committee created the following recommendation to the Western Quarterly:

Recommendation: Offer Western Quarterly Coordinator Position to Sarah Kastriner. Re-advertise the Youth Activities Coordinator position. Youth Activities Coordinator will work eight-to-10 hours a week. Quarterly Coordinator would supervise the Youth Activities Coordinator.

Friends approved the Recommendation.

Discussion after approval of recommendation: Friends do not have to pay health benefits, which is a saving of approximately \$450 monthly. Still, Friends will stay abreast of health benefit costs.

14.51- Friends approved releasing our Coordinator to complete a Minute of Appreciation to Kennett Monthly Meeting for hosting Quarterly Meeting on 19 October 2014.

Respectfully Submitted,
tonya thames taylor, Recording Clerk
October 19, 2014