



# Western Quarterly News

of the Religious Society Of Friends

---

Western Quarterly Meeting Newsletter      October 2015

---

## FROM THE CO-CLERKS

Greetings Friends!

I was recently introduced to the work of researcher, author and speaker, Brené Brown, who emphasizes the need for human beings to connect with each other. That is what we try to do as a Quarter – offer Friends opportunities to connect more deeply, both in the Spirit and in person. Your co-clerks, the coordinator, and members of the Western Quarter Support Committee (which consists of representatives of each monthly meeting) hope that you will turn to the Quarter to build new relationships and deepen existing F/friendships!

When I heard the recommendation that the program for October Quarterly Meeting be on the topic of racism, I admit, I inwardly flinched. It was hardly a surprise. Racism within our country, our communities, and yes, even in our own hearts is an important topic to address as we work toward a more peaceable future. And the discussion is taking place around us. The October, 2014 issue of *Friends Journal* brought to our attention that not only is racism alive in our country, it even exists in our meetinghouses. Philadelphia Yearly Meeting has started the conversation and committed to its continuance. It's good work. It's needed.

So, why was I hesitant?

Because it is also hard work. Because it makes us uncomfortable. We want people to be comfortable. We want to bring Friends into community, to build upon what we have in common. Are we in a strong enough place to take on this work amidst our other challenges? Our Quarter has struggled to fill vital roles, and now we're going to take on something this big?

In the September 17, 2015 episode of Quaker Speak, Friend Walter Hjelt Sullivan of Green Street MM in Philadelphia, offered this perspective:

*"I am now a Quaker and I am a member of this tribe, and I'm committed to its health. But every time I say yes to something, there's a new level, a new arena, a new **something** that I'm ready to learn that God is calling me into, and there's a deeper connection to Spirit.*

*So when I first came into the Religious Society of Friends, I was not conscious of the need to work on issues of racism, to have that work be part of the perfection of a religious society..."*

Continued on pg. 2

### ***In this Issue:***

From the Co-Clerks  
October WQM details  
7th Query: Witness  
Marlborough MM  
News  
"Privilege" Illustrated  
Upcoming events &  
Announcements  
July WQM minutes  
FY 2016 Budget

## **Quarterly Meeting Worship, October 18th**

**Kennett Friends Meeting, 9:15 am**

**Children's program \* potluck lunch\* details pg.2**

### **Undoing Racism: Where Are We, and Where Do We Go from Here?**

Kennett Friends Meeting House is located at 125 W. Sickel Street, Kennett Square, PA.



Continued from pg. 1

**I am ready now.  
Are you?**

This Friend speaks my mind. I am ready now. Are you?

Fifteen years ago I facilitated diversity training for a major corporation. Today I am coming back to the challenges of racism. I take great hope in the fact that in the weeks since this topic was first proposed, I have already participated in some deep conversations with Friends on the topic. In each case I left feeling energized, and grateful for a deeper bond with the other participants.

And so our October Quarterly Meeting program will address the topic of racism. I invite you to join us for what promises to be an interesting day of listening and opening... to each other, to Spirit, to what is in our own hearts.

What can Love do with racism? Come to Quarterly Meeting and let us all find out!

Yours in the Light,

Ariana Langford, WQM Co-clerk

## Western Quarterly Meeting § All-Quarter Meeting for Worship at Kennett Friends Meeting Sunday, October 18<sup>th</sup>

[Details & Directions Online](#)

### Schedule:

<b>9:15 am</b>	<b>Sign-in &amp; refreshments</b>
<b>9:30 am</b>	<b>Morning programs begin</b>
<b>11:00 am</b>	<b>Meeting for Worship</b>
<b>Noon</b>	<b>Potluck lunch &amp; fellowship</b>
<b>1:00 pm</b>	<b>Quarterly Meeting for Business</b>

### Lenape Native American Culture\*

Lecture & Presentation with Shelley DePaul



Arranged for our young Friends (though all ages are welcome), this program will include primary history regarding the Lenape, who remained in Pennsylvania, and how they remain active today as caretakers of their

homeland and the Delaware River. Activities include crafts and songs, as well as a display of educational materials developed to teach Lenape language and culture.

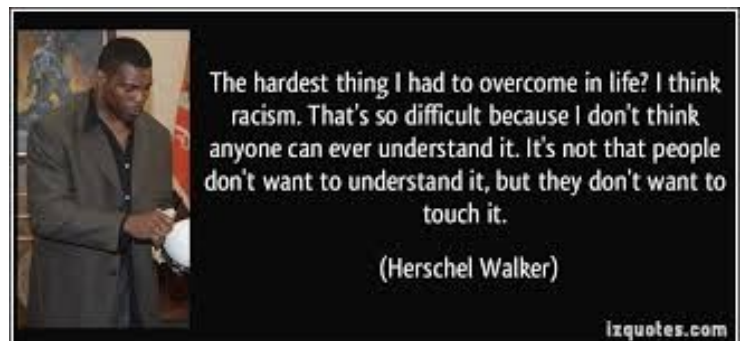
\* This program is supported by the Hadley Fund, and is open to the public.

### Adult Program:

### Undoing Racism — Where are we, and where do we go from here?

Helping us navigate this sensitive topic will be Fallowfield MM member, tonya thames taylor, who will weave her presentation with images, dialogue, queries, worship sharing and discussion. Whether you feel you are well educated about racism in America today, or just ready to engage in the conversation, please join other Friends in the Quarter as we take this journey together.

This program is also in preparation for the November 7th Continuing Sessions event, where we continue the discussion at the Yearly Meeting level.



## Seventh Query – Social Responsibility & Witness

For the Meeting:

How does our Meeting work:

- to overcome social, legal, economic, and political injustices, locally and in the wider world?
- for the funding of community services that does not rely on gaming income?

Does our Meeting serve the community through action on concerns for civic improvement? What actions are we taking to assure everyone equal access to education, health care, legal services, housing, and employment as well as equal opportunities in business and in the professions? When a member has lifted up a concern, how does our Meeting respond?

Does our Meeting encourage those seeking clearness for their convictions of conscience to hold up such convictions with prayerful openness to the Light?

For the Individual:

• *Am I mindful of how my lifestyle and my investments can contribute to the improvement of the human condition, or to the exploitation of others?*

• *Am I open to seeking clearness on matters of conscience and to assisting others in doing so? How do I respond and support one who acts out of a clear leading when I am under the weight of another?*

• *What am I doing to work for the betterment of my community to assure the maintenance of effective public services which do not rely on funding from gaming?*

• *Do I fulfill my civic responsibilities when they do not conflict with divine leadings?*

## Marlborough MM Finds a New (Spiritual) Home

As Friends present at WQM business in April & July will know, Marlborough Monthly Meeting has concluded a long discernment process with a big decision: they have asked for (and subsequently received) release from Western Quarterly Meeting in order to join Rockingham Quarter – Ohio (Conservative) Yearly Meeting’s most recent Quarter, created in 2012 and encompassing MMs from Virginia, Pennsylvania and Georgia.

Marlborough MM has always been the most conservative of the Monthly Meetings in our Quarter, and while Friends in Western Quarter appreciate the diversity offered by their presence and their ministry, the members of Marlborough have always felt “apart from” our (more theologically liberal) Philadelphia Yearly Meeting – rather than “a part of” it. They have explored joining a more conservative yearly meeting more than once over the past several decades, but it wasn’t until recently that Way has Opened through their discernment process. As part of their process, Marlborough members explored a connection with Rockingham Quarter, attending their events, and even hosting Rockingham Quarterly Meeting last year as a way of getting to know these Friends. Friends from Marlborough describe the unmistakable sense of Belonging they felt during these gatherings – which, juxtaposed with the sense of being (merely) accepted within PYM helped lead their membership to unity in their decision.

Even so, it was a difficult step to take, for Western Quarter has long been home to Marlborough Friends, and they have long been an important part of who we are, too. Their approach to the WQM clerk was respectful and well-considered. Our quarter convened a Clearness Committee, which met on multiple occasions with members from Marlborough over the past year. Chip Thomas read Marlborough’s request for release at April QM, and the love and Light apparent in the writing was clear to all present. (We will publish this letter in the next WQM newsletter.) After careful consideration, and on the recommendation of the WQM Clearness Committee, we agreed to release Marlborough Monthly Meeting from Western Quarter during our most recent WQM Meeting for Business in July. The letter of release will be sent to Rockingham Quarter, which is ready to receive Marlborough as it’s newest Monthly Meeting.

We hesitate to say “good bye.” Regardless of Marlborough MMs official affiliation, we will continue in our relationships with each other, as neighbors and as f/Friends.

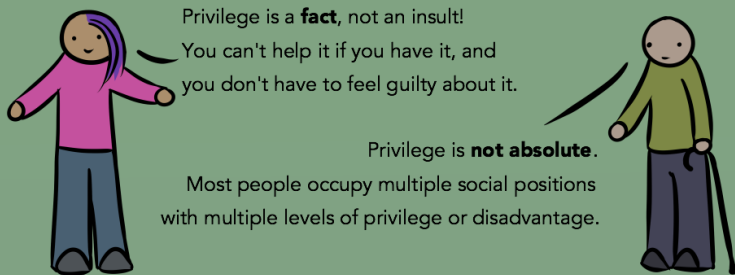
One piece helpful to understanding systematic racism, is the concept of privilege. As this illustration shows, it isn't what we might think it is, and we all carry it to some degree.

## Managing Privilege

Privilege refers to the **uneven distribution** of power within a society.

Privilege exists when that aspect of your life is seamlessly accepted into the world without scrutiny or suspicion.

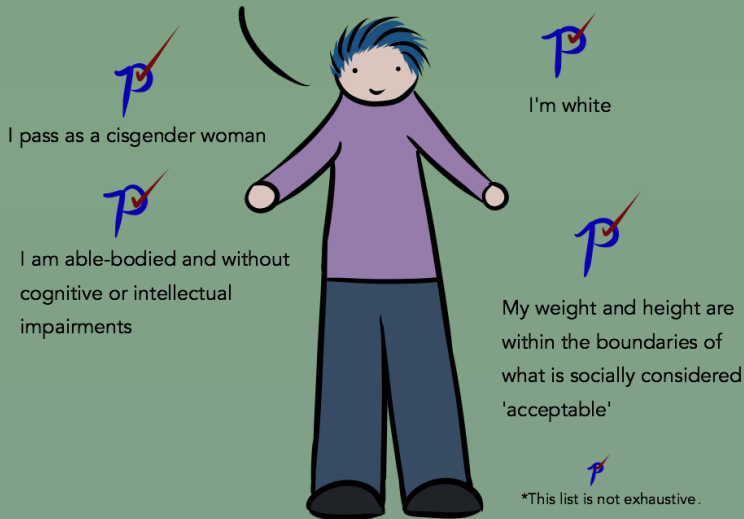
Personal privilege is the possession of these unearned attributes that dictate the ease and influence one will have within society.



Take me for example!

While I am mentally ill, queer, and currently occupy a non-normative internal gender identity,

**I occupy several positions\* of privilege as well:**



Here's how I try to be responsible in the areas in which I hold privilege:

### 1. I Shut Up:

I recognize that the privileged groups that I belong to historically (and currently) are the ones who have dominated discussions and dictated the language, environments, and modes of conversations.



I recognize that I do not always need to be heard all the time, and by insisting on my inclusion, I risk inadvertently reinforcing harmful power dynamics. If I do participate, I will carefully monitor myself to make sure I don't hijack the conversation.

### 2. I Listen:

I recognize that my experiences in privilege are considered normal, and that the experiences of people who do not belong to a privileged group are often silenced or ignored.

I try to listen to those experiences, even if it's hard or I don't like what's being said. The ability to ignore and dismiss is part of my privilege, and I will not contribute to that legacy.

### 3. I Educate Myself:

I seek out resources, authorities, dissenting opinions, and alternate viewpoints on topics in which I hold privilege. I do not require members of disadvantaged groups to be responsible for educating me.

When I have a question, I will make sure I ask it at an appropriate time and that I am not making someone uncomfortable or upset.

I will not ask overly personal or intimate questions unless I know for sure that that is ok.

Hey, when you were talking back there, I heard you use a term to identify yourself that I hadn't heard before.

Can I ask you a little more about that?



### 4. I Use It for Good:

Because social power dynamics have made my voice more important than others, I will use that voice for good. I will speak up in my peer group when someone tells a racist joke or when I hear a slur.

I will not tolerate discriminatory and disempowering behaviour from the people around me. I will consider how the organizations and groups to which I belong treat people who are not privileged, and I will make responsible decisions about whether to associate with them. I will opt-in or opt-out where it matters.

I will always be careful to not speak FOR people, but I will stand up with them wherever I can.



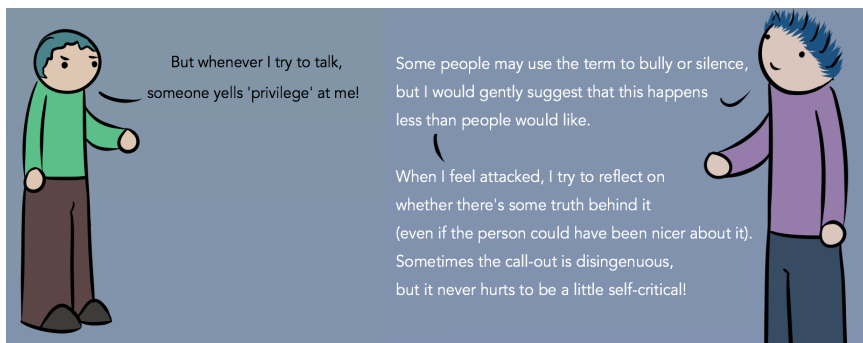
Look, you're my friend. I know you're a smart, kind woman, but the jokes you make and the words you use when someone mentions immigration are really not cool. Can we talk about that?

### 5. I Will Learn from Screwing Up:

My privilege has been internalized and reinforced for my entire life. I will screw up sometimes; I will be thoughtless, misinformed, aggressive, or unkind.

I will listen when people call me out on it, and figure out how I can avoid screwing up again.





## Important! Continuing Sessions, November 7th

On this day we will come together as a diverse body of Friends to consider this query:

### **What is God calling PYM Quakers to do next to end racism and white supremacy in the Religious Society of Friends and Beyond?**

All of PYM will be coming to our neighborhood, as Westtown School has been chosen as the location for this event. Please mark your calendars to be there, Saturday, November 7, 2015. For registration and more information visit: <http://www.pym.org/calendar/events/2015-fall-continuing-sessions/>

## Upcoming Events .....

### Calling all Alumni of London Grove Friends Kindergarten



#### Fall Alumni Gathering - Friday October 9, 2015 from 6:00 - 8:00 pm

We would love to see our friends! LGFK has been a magical place since 1960. Let's gather together and celebrate the joyous and special atmosphere of London Grove! This will be a casual event, with a potluck dessert.

Please spread the word, and bring a dessert to share if you would like.

More information on our facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/LondonGroveFriendsKindergarten>

## Hadley Fund Programs

### The History and Mystery of Wine

Saturday, November 7th 3:00 pm

Lecture, Dr. Elliot Engel

Dr. Engel will trace the phenomenal ancient origins of wine and continue the story through the popularity of wine today.

### Long Hill Home

Saturday, December 12th 3:00 pm

Book discussion with author Kathryn Pincus

This book is an exploration of home as "a place of safety, of love, and ... something we aspire to." Pincus says "I think it is a platform to get people thinking about race, prejudice [and] the importance of judging people based on what they do, and not what they look like or what they own."

Both programs will be held at Kennett Friends Meeting.

Join Fairville Friends School for an evening at their Silent Auction Fundraiser, on Friday, October 16. Tickets are only \$25 — buy them [online here](#) by Oct. 9th.

Fairville Friends School's  
Annual Silent Auction & Social

Join us for a  
WALK ON THE  
WILD SIDE



Friday, October 16th, 2015 / 7pm-10pm  
Kennett Square Golf & Country Club  
100 E Locust Lane, Kennett Square

## Upcoming Events ..... continued

### **October 8 and 15**, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

West Grove Friends are hosting two classes on **ancestry research**. Suitable for beginners as well as those with some experience. The instructor is Frank Southcott, specializing in Family History in Historic Chester County, President, Greater Philadelphia Area Chapter Association of Professional Genealogists and Secretary, International Society for British Genealogy and Family History. The classes are free and the public is welcome. Please email the info to all Meeting Clerks for distribution to their Meetings and encourage everyone to bring along a friend.

### **October 15—Spiritual Nurture Group**

This group meets at 7 pm on 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month at London Grove MM. Next meeting on October 15.

All welcome! For additional information, please contact Ariana Langford, [aklangford@verizon.net](mailto:aklangford@verizon.net) or 610.932.7986.

### **October 18, 5:30 - 7:00, Dining for Women**

Men as well as women are always invited. Bring a dish to share; we provide beverages and place settings and present the program for the project currently being supported. Upcoming projects are: Oct - Education on reproductive health, cervical cancer screening and treatment in Peru; Nov - Hope through Health Maternal and child health care in Northern Togo, Western Africa; Dec - Little Sisters Fund school scholarship program for girls. Education to help lift them out of lives of extreme poverty and child sex trade. We meet on the third Sunday of each month.

### **October 31 — Syrian Refugee Fundraiser**

A garage sale to aid the Syrian refugees in Lebanon will be held at Centre Friends Meeting from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm on Saturday, October 31, 2015. All proceeds will be donated to Mennonite Central Committee which has an active presence in Lebanon and is assisting refugees with needs. Donations of merchandise are being accepted up to October 30th. Pick-up can be arranged for large items. For more information, call 713-301-9003.

### **November 4 3:20 pm**

Osher Adult Education has extended an invitation to 5 f/Friends over 50 years old to join in their book club discussion of *Just Mercy* by Brian Stevenson. This discussion will be led by Linda Pastor of Centre MM. It is essential to be given a parking pass so check your calendars and contact Linda if you are interested. Please rsvp to Linda at [Lpastor47@yahoo.com](mailto:Lpastor47@yahoo.com) Note that this book is one of the selected [books of the year by PYM](#) along with a young adult book, *Brown Girl Dreaming* by Jacqueline Woodson. The discussion will be held in Arsht Hall (room 215) at the UD Wilmington Campus, Rte 52.

### **Mark your calendars for these Christmas events:**

Stay tuned for the exact date of Hockessin MM's open-to-the-community **Carol Sing** - we'll post it on our events page once it's decided.

**Hockessin MM's candlelit Christmas Eve celebration**, with silent worship, singing, and instrumental music begins at 7 PM. Friends are invited to remain after worship for an always bountiful buffet of homemade holiday treats and hot spiced cider. All welcome!

**December 21 @ New West Grove Meeting House, 7:00 pm**  
Join us for our annual Worship and Carol Sing.

**Christmas Eve, December 24 at 6:30 pm** at Centre Meeting House, Adam Dam Road and Centre Meeting Road. Musical reflections followed by worship. All are invited.

## **The Minutes of the Support Committee of Western Quarterly Meeting held on 14 June 2015 at Kennett Friends Meeting**

The Support Committee was held at Kennett Friends Meeting. Friends from Centre, Hockessin, Kennett, London Grove, New Garden, Newark and West Grove were present.

**15.32** – After opening with a brief time of worship, Friends took the opportunity to share news and announcements from Meetings in the Quarter.

**15.33** – Minutes from the Business Meeting of Western Quarterly Meeting held 19 April 2015 were approved with no changes or corrections.

**15.34** – A discussion of the Unified Budgeting Process (UBP) continued, building on prior discussions. At the April Business Meeting, the Clerk offered four points or "suggestions" as a way to organize our (then) discus-

Continued from pg. 6

sion of potential changes to the Unified Budgeting Process. These suggestions were reviewed and included the following:

1. Western Quarter will continue to receive funds from Monthly Meetings and forward those funds to PYM.
2. In forwarding funds to WQ, Monthly Meetings will continue to designate how much goes to PYM and how much to WQ.
3. Funds currently forwarded to PYM are currently split between the Covenant and the Annual Fund. Going forward, Monthly Meetings will designate what portion is directed to the Covenant and what portion is directed to the Annual Fund.
4. Each Monthly Meeting will reconsider and decide if PYM will be allowed to solicit its members for contributions to the Annual Fund (remembering that any individual can choose to “opt out” of PYM solicitations at any time).

In reviewing prior discussions and feedback from several of our Meetings, it was recognized that Friends are not in unity with the proposal to lay down the “Unified Budgeting Process.” In this conclusion, it was clarified that UBP is understood as limited to receiving funds from Monthly Meetings and forwarding these to PYM as a Quarter. Laying down this practice would result in the Quarter no longer gathering funds from Meetings and forwarding these to PYM as a Quarter. It was also realized that while there was not unity to discontinue this practice, there is at least one Meeting that strongly advocates suspending this practice. Given a lack of unity, **Friends approved** the continuation of certain specific practice(s), i.e., items #1 and #2 above. In approving these items, it was recognized that one or more Meetings might choose, at some point in the future, to act independently and send funds directly to PYM. **Friends also approved** Item #3. This represents a change to current practice and was identified as a need because PYM wants to know how the funds forwarded by WQ to PYM should be allocated between “covenant” and “annual fund.” Friends were in agreement that the Quarter Treasurer should not make this decision for member Meetings but only fulfill a Meeting’s intention. The Clerk agreed to send a letter to Monthly Meeting Clerks regarding this change in how Meeting contributions to PYM are reported to WQ. Friends recognized that Meetings may not fully understand this change and may require additional information or presentations to Meetings in the Quarter. Finally, **Friends approved** Item #4, i.e., asking certain Meetings to review, revise and/or re-affirm its position on solicitation of Meeting members by PYM. At this point, Hockessin, Kendal, Kennett and London Grove all allow PYM to solicit its members. Newark Meeting recently affirmed its decision to not allow PYM to solicit its members. Meetings impacted by this item include New Garden, West Grove, Centre, Fallowfield and Mill Creek. [Marlborough Meeting was not mentioned in this discussion given its position on PYM.]

**15.35** – Current vacant leadership positions were reviewed. At this point among Officer positions, the Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer and Assistant Recording Clerk positions are vacant. A new clerk of the Nominating Committee is also needed. Efforts to identify and recruit candidates continue, but no one has yet agreed to serve. One Friend noted that the complicated nature of the Unified Budgeting Process made the Treasurer’s role more complicated. The decision to get more explicit information from Meetings regarding the PYM allocation might make the work of the Treasurer less onerous.

**15.36** – PYM’s request for a representative to a short-term Nominating Committee (to populate two new PYM committees) was reviewed. Linda Pastor had agreed to serve in this role. There was no information available (among those in attendance) as to the details of this role in terms of length of this appointment, the frequency of meetings, etc. As a result of our discussion, Linda Pastor expressed discomfort in fulfilling this role and withdrew her offer of participation.

**15.37** – Treasurer Ariana Langford provided an update on the status of our book-keeping services. **Friends agreed** to continue with Richard Wortmann and Associates (the firm that took over for Brandywine Accounting), pending placement of a new bookkeeper.

*Cont. next page*

July Minutes, continued

**15.38** – Finance Committee Clerk Richard Logan reviewed a draft of the FY16 budget. It was noted that more funds are being provided to the Quarterly my several Meetings. These new funds along with reduced expenses allow for a proposed budget in which revenues closely match anticipated expenses. **Friends approved** the draft with only minor changes. The budget will be presented at the July Quarterly Meeting for approval.

**15.39** – Plans for July's Quarterly Gathering at Mill Creek were reviewed. **Friends approved** the rental of a "port-a-potty" for approximately \$120. The various volunteer needs were reviewed with the expectation that our Coordinator will seek assistance from various Friends.

**15.40** – A report on Youth Activities was provided by Robin Harper. Friends expressed appreciation for the work being done and the planning that has been done for the upcoming year.

**15.41** – Mary Sproat, convener of the Ad Hoc Property Task Force, reported that she has not received any completed surveys. The Clerk will include a reminder of this survey in her missive on the Unified Budgeting Process.

**15.42** – Our time was concluded with a time of brief worship, with the intention of gathering together again for business at our Quarterly Meeting at Mill Creek Meeting in July. Respectfully submitted, Pamela Leland, Clerk Sixth Month 14, 2015

This Budget for FY 2016 (July '15-June '16) was presented and approved at July QM.

Budget  
2015

YTD  
5/31/2015

Proposed  
FY16

					7/19/2015
<b>Income Sources</b>					
	Monthly Mtgs	186,500	166,377		173,400
	Grants				
	Interest	100	285		500
	Outreach Materials		20		
	Other Income		285		
	<b>Gross Revenues</b>	<b>186,600</b>	<b>166,967</b>		<b>173,900</b>
<b>Expenses</b>					
<b>Staff</b>	Salaries & staffing contract	25,000	18,917		23,500
	Health Insurance	5,200	384		0
	FICA	1,900	1,537		1,850
	Worker's Compensation	300	359		400
	Payroll services	1,100	1,028		1,100
	Bookkeeping Services	8,400	2,331		3,500
	Travel	500	0		0
	Staff Development	500	0		500
	<b>Subtotal, Staff expenses</b>	<b>42,900</b>	<b>24,556</b>		<b>30,850</b>
<b>Office</b>	Rent	500	500		500
	Telephone, internet	1,600	1,437		1,700
	Postal box rental	125	106		125
	Insurance, Prop/Liab/SM	2,000	2,561		2,700
	Postage	420	138		200
	Bulk mail permit	220			0
	Computer Software	300	85		150
	Web & Domain	350	385		500
	Communications	500	0		0
	Supplies	500	91		300
	Misc (e.g., ads)	750	443		400
	<b>Subtotal, office expenses</b>	<b>7,265</b>	<b>5,746</b>		<b>6,575</b>
<b>WQMs</b>	Refreshments	100	166		300
	Programs	500	300		500
	Childcare	150	0		150
	<b>Subtotal, WQM Sessions</b>	<b>750</b>	<b>466</b>		<b>950</b>
	Newsletter design		140		
<b>Newsletter</b>	Print/Postage	1,500	668		1,000
	<b>Subtotal, Newsletter</b>	<b>1,500</b>	<b>808</b>		<b>1,000</b>
	Youth programs	300	721		900
<b>Programs</b>	Travel / Training	500	200		300
	Inreach/Outreach	100	126		150
	<b>Subtotal, Youth Activities</b>	<b>900</b>	<b>1047</b>		<b>1,350</b>
<b>Other</b>	Fallowfield Maintenance	600	830		900
	<b>PYM Covenant</b>	<b>151,500</b>	<b>113,556</b>		<b>135,100</b>
	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>205,415</b>	<b>147,009</b>		<b>176,725</b>
	<b>Net Revenue</b>	<b>(18,815)</b>	<b>19,958</b>		<b>2,825)</b>
	<b>Applied Reserves Required</b>	<b>18,815</b>	<b>-19,958</b>		<b>2,825</b>

To read Minutes from our Support Committee Meetings, please visit our Business Resources page online: <http://westernquarterquakers.org/business-meeting-info/>