

## **Western Quarterly Meeting with attention to Business – First Month 17, 2016**

Shelley Hastings, Co-Clerk

Minutes

Quarterly Meeting was held at Hockessin Friends Monthly Meeting, with great appreciation to our hosts. Friends from Centre, Kendal, Kennett, London Grove, West Grove, Hockessin, and Newark were in attendance.

We began at 12:48 with silent worship, and the reading of a query for reflection on the spirit of worship in our Meetings. Out of the silence, two responses were shared. One Friend said she was truly energized and enriched by the quality of our worship when we gather as Quarterly Meeting, especially this morning's gathering, worship and lunch. She hopes that that energy and Light would carry over to our business, and sustain us. She invited more Light into our process. Another Friend recounted her experience of helping with a Reiki treatment on a horse in a bitter cold stall, and that, because the horse allowed the energy to flow- the whole stall was suffused with a warmth that lasted through the night. Our Gathered Meetings are like this experience, she said - it won't work if you block it; you have to let the Light through.

**16.80- Minutes** from Nov 13 Support Committee meeting were considered and approved.

### **16.81- Treasurer's Report-Stan Glowiak**

Budget Report: A computer crash at the office recently necessitated that the bookkeeper use a back up copy the quarter's QB, and as a result, some of the items didn't add up. The revised report (handouts attached) is as accurate as possible. Transition to a new treasurer has had a few bumps along the way; such as when the bank gave Stan access to the wrong account at first. The timing of the holidays and the end of the year delayed some covenant payments into January, as well as payments from our Friends Fiduciary accounts. Checks were sent (and cashed) in January. Our Friends Fiduciary accounts decreased in value by \$17,712 with the stock market decline between May – December 2015. Other amounts on our books are within range.

Friends Fiduciary is now requiring two signatures when withdrawing funds from designated accounts. Mark Myers (LGMM & member of FFC board) explained further that a MM treasurer was able to steal a large sum of money from that Meeting's accounts, prompting the adoption of a more rigorous process so that doesn't happen again. QWM needs to approve another person(s) in addition to the treasurer for these transactions. Members approved the addition of the WQM assistant treasurer (Dick Logan) as second signor, and co-clerks (Ariana & Shelley) as alternates. Stan will get the information to FFC.

Friends Fiduciary has also sent a new agreement to be signed and returned by May. The new agreement puts the responsibility for any(future) legal defense solely on FFC and absolves WQM of responsibility. It was suggested and approved that the WQM officers should sign the agreement.

### **16.82- Updates on WQM staff**

As reported in November, Robin Harper has stepped down as Youth Activities Coordinator. Greta Rech stepped in to organize and implement January QM youth program, but will not be able to continue in the position. There is an active group of families with youth in the quarter – and this work is important to the life of our quarter. The position still needs to be filled.

### **16.83- Update on Marlborough Monthly Meeting**

Co-clerk Ariana Langford read an email sent to the quarter by a Marlborough member, asking for reconsideration of our approval for Marlborough to transfer membership to Rockingham Quarter (OYM).

Through discussion it was affirmed that process was followed by both MMM and WQM in the discernment of the release. The request was made after many years of consideration and discernment. The release was approved after WQM convened a special Clearness Committee, meeting with Marlborough members multiple times over the span of several months. It is understood that the letter-writer was present at at least one of those meetings, and though not in unity with the transfer, agreed to stand aside.

Friends present proposed that our response should be that process was followed, and not in haste, and that WQM is not led to reconsider our approval. So approved. Any change in the affiliation of Marlborough MM would have to come from within the Meeting, not from WQM.

We were reminded that Friends present at WQM Support Committee and/or Business Meetings should be bringing news and information back to their home Meetings, so that all are aware of changes and events in the Quarter.

#### **16.84 Monthly Meeting Visitations**

In an effort to strengthen our ties to each other within the Quarter, we would like to encourage inter-visitation among Friends in our Monthly Meetings. Those interested were invited to “sign up” to visit one (or more) Monthly Meetings within the Quarter over the next several months, and encouraged to identify themselves to the host MM as Friends from Western Quarter (as well as their own MM).

Ten Friends signed up to make 22 visits to other Meetings in the Quarter.

#### **16.85 Coordinator’s Report**

Friend Paula Klein (Westtown MM) is asking Quarterly and Monthly Meetings to consider the environmental impact of their investments, particularly what industries we may be supporting through our fiduciary funds. Friends agreed this should be a future agenda item.

Plans are being made for April QM, hosted by Centre MM – details to follow. Other events: Concord & Western Quarters are co-sponsoring a roller skating event on February 28<sup>th</sup>; WQM will cover ticket & skate rental costs for members who request it. This will be part of the “youth programs” budget. Reminder that March 29<sup>th</sup> will be the second PYM Continuing Sessions, to be held at Arch St. MH in Philadelphia.

**WQM for Business closed with a moment of silence at 1:44 pm.**

**Annual Meeting of Western Quarterly Meeting, Inc. was called to order on January 17, 2016 at 1:45 pm**

The by-laws of WQM, Inc. are due for review. It is agreed the current by-laws will be distributed and reviewed in the coming year. One Friends suggests it should be clear in our by-laws (if it is not already) the process for laying down or transferring membership of a Monthly Meeting. There is a clear process for starting a new MM, which involves PYM, though it does not seem PYM needed to be involved (only informed) with the transferring of Marlborough MM’s membership.

Beyond getting the computers in the office updated, research also continues into WQM’s legal obligations. Reference was found to the Quarter’s “Articles of Incorporation” – but no such document could be found. Friend Mary Sproat thinks she may have a copy.

#### **Property Committee Reports:**

London Britain and Penns Grove property committees have both asked to defer their annual reports to April. Both committees and both buildings remain in good shape.

**WQM, Inc. Meeting was adjourned at 1:50 pm**

Next WQM Support Committee meeting will be Sunday, February 21, 2016 at 3 pm, Kennett Friends Meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sarah Kastriner

WQM Coordinator, temporary recorder