

Western Quarterly Meeting with attention to Business – Fourth Month 17, 2016

Shelley Hastings, Co-Clerk

Minutes

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

We began at 1:12 with silent worship, and the reading of responses to the First Query on Meeting for Worship were shared.

Friends were also invited to share reflections on recent activity in their Monthly Meetings. Centre Friends are under the consideration of how they spend their budget, and how to discern how to spend their money. They have formed an ad hoc committee, and would welcome input from other Meetings. Hockessin Meeting is continuing with their renovation projects, moving on to redoing the “stables” into better FDS classrooms. They are kicking off a \$400, 000 capital campaign to raise the funds. Consideration of how a Meeting budgets and allocates its money is very relevant to them. Hockessin Friends depends on distribution payments from invested income for about half of its budget, so when those funds are cut (as happened to them this year) it can create a problem for the Meeting. Newark Meeting members were supporting Birmingham MM in their recent sponsorship of two refugee families to be relocated to the area. Unfortunately, the managing organization, Luther Family Services, abruptly closed their PA office, and the two families were placed elsewhere in the US at the last minute. Newark Friends also held a yard sale to benefit Dawn’s Place, as part of their ministry against human trafficking. London Grove Friends are preparing for their annual Plant Sale in May.

16.86 Minutes from February 21 Support Committee meeting were considered and approved as corrected.

16.87 Treasurer’s Report-Stan Glowiak

While we had initially predicted a deficit in our budget by this time of the fiscal year, we are currently running a small surplus, thanks to a lower payroll (no Youth Activities Coordinator since December), less than expected bookkeeping expenses, and less spending in the office. We seem to be short on WQM covenant income, which may sort itself out by the end of the FY. We also owe thanks to our last WQM Treasurer, Ariana Langford, for her wise investment of funds in a Citadel 31-month CD, which is generating good interest.

16.88 Annual Reports

Pennsgrove Annual Report was read (attached)

London Britain Annual Report was read (attached). Added to the written report: there was one report of vandalism at London Britain last year, when a Meeting House window was broken.

16.89 Friends Home Update – Debby Brumbaugh

We realize Friends Home has not given an Annual Report to the Quarter in a while. The Trustees have been working since November 2015 to find a new Executive Director. There have been two Interim Directors in that time, and the Trustees have continued to oversee operations at the Home. Friends

Home is operating at “status quo” with regards to finances and occupancy. Trustees also continue work on planning for the future, including development of a Strategic Planning Committee.

16.90 Finance Committee Update- Dick Logan

WQM has received covenant pledges from 6 Monthly Meetings in the quarter for the next FY, amounting to \$170,590 (total PYM & WQM). Hockessin MM has reported that their covenants to both PYM and WQM will be lower than usual this year, and even lower next year, as reflects the sudden cut in income from one of their funding sources. The reduction will affect the PYM covenant the greatest, but will also reduce their contribution to WQM by about \$1500. Western Quarter should expect a reduction in expendable income next FY, unless other Monthly Meetings can make up the difference with increased contributions.

The discussion of WQM budget for the next FY16-17 will take place at the May Support Committee Meeting, and be presented for approval at July QM.

The quarter officers are considering proposals for a new bookkeeper. The request for proposal is available online and in print. The need is for a “minor league”, part-time player who can be present in helping us in the office on a regular basis.

16.70 Youth Activities Coordinator

One person has expressed interest in helping Western Quarter with youth activities and programming. (Christian Garber introduced himself.) Friends approved moving forward with his meeting with the Co-clerks and coordinator to explore the position, review expectations and to see if this is a good match. Today’s youth program was very good – both the Labyrinth and Tai Chi were well received.

19.71 Coordinator’s Report- Sarah Kastriner

Since January Quarterly Meeting’s directive to seek out ways Friends can work towards “undoing racism” locally, the coordinator has been exploring and networking with interested and active groups in and around the Kennett Square area. There are a number of Western Quarter Friends who have been regular participants in these meetings and conversations, and the energy and good will we’ve experienced makes us hopeful. At the same time, plans continue for a Quarter-wide retreat/workshop in the fall. Friends were not yet ready to decide if the fall workshop (a day-long event) should be on October 17, “replacing” the traditional Quarterly Meeting, or not. This suggestion needs seasoning.

Next WQM Support Committee Meeting: May 22, 3:00 pm at Kennett Friends Meeting

Next Quarterly Meeting: July 17, hosted by Newark Friends Meeting at NCCL

The Meeting closed with silence at 2:15

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah Kastriner
WQM Coordinator, temporary recorder