

**Minutes of the Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business of the Western Quarterly Meeting
held on 21 October 2018 at London Grove Monthly Meeting,
1:03 PM to 2:38 PM**

This Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business followed a well-attended, packed Western Quarterly Meeting. London Grove Meeting (MM) hosted; in attendance were 20 Friends from Centre, Fallowfield, Hockessin, Kendal, Kennett, London Grove, Mill Creek, New Garden, Newark, and West Grove Monthly Meetings (MMs). Crosslands Worship Group represented.

21.56: **Un-programmed Worship:** From the silence, we heard responses to the Ninth Query from Kennett, Newark, New Garden, and West Grove. The responses to the query are located at the end of these minutes.

21.57: Friends **affirmed** Minutes of Western Quarterly Support Meeting for September 16, 2018.

21.58: Friends enthusiastically **received Youth Activities Report** from Youth Activities Coordinator Claire Taylor: Fourteen (14) students participated in today's Quarterly Meeting. The full report follows these minutes.

21.50: **Treasurer's Report:** Friends reviewed report. A Friend inquired about newsletter expenses; the expenses will be included in next report because invoice is still outstanding having recently been received. WQM Treasurer Stan Glowiak explained the importance of timely payments regarding insurance. Also, we are looking to replace our current bookkeeper, who has enjoyed working with us but have gained employment elsewhere. A Request for Proposal (RFP) has been created, will be shared with MMs, and is posted on the website.

21.51: **Western Quarterly Meeting Property Committee Report:** Currently, the WQM has eight (8) meetinghouses, six (6) historic meetinghouses, six (6) buildings, and 17 burial grounds. Friends will focus on historic meetinghouses and their current relationships with Quarterly Meeting and Monthly Meetings. Over the next year, Friends agreed to the following next steps:

- (1) Meet with the local committee attending the meetinghouse to check how it is working;
- (2) Do a visual inspection of the building, exterior, and interior;
- (3) Understand the level of activity for the buildings
- (4) Assess the overall level of maintenance needs of the building;
- (5) How much capital is needed?;
- (6) Determine whether restricted endowments exist for repairs; and
- (7) What are options for this building to assure its best use?

Richard "Dick" Logan volunteered to join Mary Sproat, Mark Myers, Ariana Langford, Shelley Hastings, Margaret Moore, and Lars Farmer of the WQM Property Committee to do the work. Lively discussion followed this report, particularly in regards to the burial grounds and funding. During the discussion, it was announced that Mary Sproat will be at Downingtown MM on October 27, 2018, 10 AM to 3 PM. What issues face us when it comes to maintaining our historic properties and burial grounds? How do we honor their history by making them available for the future? How can we use them as tools for outreach? How do we fundraise for them?

21.52: **Coordinator's Report**

a. **Additional Property Committee Work:** Expenses associated with landscaping, like the cutting of trees impact funds of MMs; life of meeting also impacts prioritizing maintenance.

b. **QM Plans: January** (Centre, emphasizing Friends Community on National Legislation) and **April** (joint meeting with Concord Quarterly, possibly hosted at Wilmington Friends School, possibly emphasizing Implicit Bias by Dr. Amanda Kemp).

b. **Office and Records:** 70% of WQM records are unpacked; copier will not return. Older minutes will be digitized then transferred to Swarthmore, in accordance to WQM's normal practice.

c. **Bookkeeper RFP** (posted online). Bookkeeper is roughly \$2K annually.

d. **Parents' Morning Off:** In conjunction with Concord Quarter, on December 1, 2018, 9 AM-1 PM at The Cabin at Westtown. This fun-filled event gives free daycare for parents to do what they wish during morning hours and lunch.

e. **Haiti Fundraising:** Handmade goods and tag sale will be held on November 3 and 4, 2018, at West Grove Meeting House. Alyce Denver is collecting donations of goods now. They are in need of much in the way of donations: household items, antiques, fine art, crafts, baked goods and homemade jams and jellies, toys... and services are welcome too. Some examples already offered are: yoga lessons, a B&B experience, a special outing or story time for a group, baking lessons, and even a pie-a-month for a year. They are looking for more, such as knitting lessons, an organize your house session, or a flat of seedlings in the spring. Be creative in your thinking, and join the effort. On Sunday, November 4, 2018, after worship service, Friends and the public are invited to hear speaker, Haitian Dr. Patrick Jeudy.

f. **Continuing Sessions:** Saturday, November 3, 2018, at Arch Street. Guiding Query: *How do we, as Friends, center ourselves toward trust and love?*

g. Minute of Appreciation to London Grove will be written by Coordinator Sarah Katriner and Mark Myers.

Closing Worship: Adjourned at 3:16 PM.

Submitted Faithfully on October 22, 2018,
Peace and Progress, Onward,
tonya thames taylor, Recording Clerk, Fallowfield MM

10.21.2018

Report to Western Quarterly Meeting

Presented by Claire Taylor, Youth Coordinator for WQM

Quarter events/meetings

Quarterly Meeting attendance April 15, 2018

Quarterly Meeting attendance July 15, 2018

8/5 Oct Planning meeting with Sarah

8/22 Planning meeting with Sarah and Lynne at Pendle Hill

9/1 Planning phone call with Margaret Walton (London Grove FDS & WQM)

9/6 Oct Planning phone call with Sarah

Various texts with Sarah between August and today

Impromptu planning meeting with Edna & Leona 10/14

10/16 Call with Sarah – 30 min

Total hours spent planning October WQM: Approx. 20

Future WQM ideas

I would love to help implement a better communication system, one that meets the needs of each member, technologically speaking. Part of the attendance challenge that currently exists as far as the youth program goes I believe could be relieved with a shift in communication methods. I know change is hard! I know we have many people who do not have access to the internet or email, and rely on the paper version of the newsletter and word of mouth on Sunday morning for their communication. Most of the *families*, however, do have email and access to 21st century communication methods such as texting and social media. I have used various group text programs in the past, with overall positive

results. At the moment, I don't see a "cure-all" for the communication issues we currently face, but I do believe that expanding beyond some of the older methods may help us communicate more effectively. Taking that step to try something new may be just the breath of fresh air that's needed to inflate the youth program sails again!

I was thinking about creating a Facebook or Instagram page (or both!) dedicated to our Youth Program. We can post updates and important communications there, and parents and children would have access. The group would be "secret", so only approved people would have access – meaning, the groups would be invisible, so they don't fill up with random strangers or compromise the safety and security of the kids. I see this online group also as a chance for kids to make some connection with one another outside the boundaries of WQM. It's a chance for them to communicate and "hang out" in the in between times, growing friendships and connections that become strengthened when they're together on Quarterly Meeting days. They'll want to come and see their friends. I'll post about what I'm planning for the next Quarter, and give the kids a chance to collaborate with me on curriculum if they choose. I especially want the older youth to feel they have a voice and a role to play. If I give them some power and responsibility, it's more likely that they'll want to get involved, and bring their friends along, too. I would like to have 2-3 gatherings outside of WQM throughout the year – sleepovers, picnics, game night...something fun for the children, where the structure is looser and there is more time to visit and get to know each other. Games like Kick the Can and other team games can foster community and cooperation while encouraging children to work together toward a common goal. Even things like group cooking/baking can do this. I'd like each event to be different, so they appeal to a broad demographic of our kids. I'd also like to see the older kids mentoring, or being a buddy to a younger child. When we do activities with the larger group, they older ones can shepherd their buddy along and help them with the task at hand. This, of course, has multiple advantages!

There are so many conversations and activities that I can do with our young people –mindfulness meditation, storytelling, games, arts and crafts, music, group discussions, or simply providing safe space for them to play and hang out – that will help them find their place in this ever-confusing world, and help them identify and act on their beliefs and convictions.

It is my absolute joy to be back in the community. I hold so many wonderful memories of growing up surrounded by the love and care of Kennett Meeting and the Quarter, and it is my deepest wish to impart that same love and care to your children.

West Grove Monthly Meeting's Response to the 9TH Query

The Sixth Query on Stewardship of Resources was read. This Query is important for us at this point, as there are several major repair projects for us to pursue. For the Haiti project, here is an opportunity to engage with other Meetings and churches to agree on one or two projects to put resources behind because we cannot bear the burden of these needs alone. A committee was named to consider this project further to distribute the load beyond our Meeting.

New Garden Monthly Meeting's Response to the 9TH Query

We make our faith and our practices known to others by example. We speak through our actions and our interest in education and schools. Friends attract people to the Society of Friends through their actions. They care for, and are concerned with, education and care of the elderly. Our care for the "here and now" is of greater concern than the "here after".

Newark Monthly Meeting's Response to the 9th Query

Friends from our meeting went to see “Black Klansman,” a biographical film about a black detective who infiltrates a local chapter of the Klu Klux Klan.” A Friend who saw the film found the movie challenging and familiar, having grown up in the deep south. Many acknowledge that racial prejudice is out there, even though it’s not as extreme. However, this gives some the mistaken idea they don’t have to face the issue. One Friend observed that she has seen even more prejudice in New Castle County, than elsewhere in this state. Our nation seems to be going backwards on this problem.

A Friend noted a recent Delaware Art Museum exhibit about the 50th anniversary of the occupation of Wilmington by the National Guard, highlighting racial injustice in the state. This was reportedly the longest occupation of an American city by armed forces since the Civil War. Friends reading of the book *Waking Up White*, was one of the ways we fulfilled section e, which asks, “Do I regularly examine myself for attitudes and behavior that indicate any hidden prejudice regarding race, gender, sexual orientation, disability or class?”

A Friend felt that as a meeting we have not had a problem acknowledging “that of God in every person.” However, a Friend commented that it is very difficult at times to do this with people that aren’t lovable. She has been told to try not hating, as an answer to this. Another Friend recalled that his meeting prayed for President Richard Nixon when Nixon was president. We were encouraged to try to find the place where humanity connects with each individual. Each of us has a piece of the truth. We were also reminded to be kind, because everyone we meet is fighting a hard battle. Also that, prejudice against prejudiced people doesn’t go to the heart of the issue.