

**Minutes of the Support Committee of the Western Quarterly Meeting held on  
16 September 2018 at Kennett Monthly Meeting**

In attendance were Friends from: London Grove, Newark, Kennett, Fallowfield, West Grove, Kendal, Centre, New Garden, and Hockessin Monthly Meetings.

**21.48 Unprogrammed Worship:** Friends began their gathering with unprogrammed silence.

**21.49 Monthly Meeting Updates:** Friends introduced themselves, including Mark Myers as new WQM Clerk. *Hockessin* has a fall bazaar coming up to benefit the FDS classroom renovations.

*New Garden* remains small, but 40 people attended their annual peach social/"Family" reunion last month.

*Centre* has a group of Friends working on defining what "membership" means and trying to create a membership list that is a more truthful picture of who we are. There is also an emerging concern within the Meeting to do work on behalf of people experiencing homelessness in Wilmington. The direction is not yet clear, but there is an authentic sense of needing to be more active in our community.

*Kendal* has confirmed their hosting of October QM on third Saturday, tenth month, 2019. Friends from Kendal have recently drafted some queries related to aging to share with those interested.

*West Grove* hosted the Heading God's Call to end gun violence t-shirt display in July, which generated some discussion. The Meeting has decided to lay down their First Day School program due to lack of attendance, despite dedicated teachers for 6 years. There is also a newly donated baby grand piano in the meeting room. *Fallowfield* remains focused on worship and work with People's Hall, as well as hosting yoga classes (Sat. & Weds.), which helps them stay connected to the community. The classes don't result in membership, but that isn't the goal. Fallowfield Friends desire more connection in social outreach – they are seeking a spiritual grounding.

*Newark* has recently lost 4 of the 5 children who regularly filled their FDS program (due to moves and schedule conflicts). Newark Friends hosted an information table on immigration at Community Day in Newark. Several members are involved with Black Lives Matter as ongoing work. Friends are welcome to Wednesday evening Worship (6 pm) at London Britain Meeting House while the weather remains warm enough.

*Kennett* Meeting's current resources are going into building stewardship & renovations. Their other programs (FDS, Friend for Immigrant Support, and Family Promise) remain active.

*London Grove* is considering how to get families from their Kindergarten & preschool involved on Sundays. The Religious Education Committee gave school families a QREC booklet on silent worship along with an invitation to join in the second First Day of each month, when a newly hired teacher leads younger children in a lesson. London Grove is also preparing to host this October's Quarterly Meeting with a big program planned. They will be telling stories around the building of the Meeting House and establishing of Western Quarter.

**21.50 Minutes from Quarterly Meeting held on July 15, 2018:** Two corrections suggested: Friends agreed that 50% of the budget for 2019 should not be spent from the reserve fund. Was changed to: *Friends agree that 50% of the current budget should be set aside as a reserve against contingencies in WQM operating expenses.* Fallowfield Orthodox Burial Fund Changed to *Ground*. **Minutes were approved with these two corrections.**

**21.51 Treasurer's Report:** The bookkeeper was hard to get a hold of this summer, so the Treasurer ran the reports himself for July QM. They will work together to prepare the report for October Quarterly Meeting. May & June of last Fiscal Year (FY) still need to be reconciled, as well as July & Sept of this year. We have two auditors ready to work on the WQM books, and we are looking to start on that project in October. Update from July report: only one MM covenant came in July (after FY end) this year; last year 3 covenants came late. Thanks to all MM treasurer's who make sure to get payments to WQM on time. Only 2 covenant payments have been received so far in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter so far this Fiscal Year. Report accepted with thanks.

**21.52 Property Committee:** The committee is in the initial stages of formation. The minute proposed by London Grove contained two proposals: 1) an operating expenses contingencies fund, and 2) a contingency fund to support inactive MH under the care of the Quarter. At this point only the first proposal has been approved by all Meetings in the Quarter. An exploratory committee has been established to further explore this second charge: Mary Sproat, Mark Myers, Ariana Langford and Shelley Hastings will serve. Margaret Moore from Kennett MM has also volunteered.

Responses to the property survey have been collected in a spread sheet. To summarize, eight Monthly Meetings own buildings used for primary worship spaces. Newark and Kendal MMs own no property. Several Meetings are responsible for additional buildings, such as old meeting houses or caretaker houses. There are 16 burial grounds in the Quarter, including a few associated with inactive Meeting Houses. Burial grounds carry liabilities around perpetual care for plots property. Totals: 8 active MH, 6 historic MH, 5 support buildings, 16 burial grounds

Current thinking is that WQM should have restricted funds available to support properties & burial grounds, OR transfer ownership of lesser used properties to interested/invested parties (a la Homeville Meeting). When the Property Committee meets they will set the scope of what to considered first. Suggestions include a physical inventory of buildings and meeting with Bill Parker (Kendal) soon for thoughts, as he is a wealth of resources. PYM is hosting a workshop on considering unused meeting houses on Oct. 27 at Downingtown MM, and Mary Sproat will be on the panel.

**21.52 Aging Concerns:** The coordinator and tonya have reached out to PYM and Concord Quarter to ask about bringing a presentation to Western Quarter Friends about supporting aging concerns among our Friends' communities. Real issues include: how to ask for help, how to gather resources, how not to burn out same (often few) helpers. David Elder shared "Draft Queries for Older Friends" developed by Kendal Friends. Some thought this might make a good QM program in the future.

**21.54 Coordinator's Report:** October Quarterly Meeting is well planned. We will hear responses to the 9<sup>th</sup> query. Concord Quarter was warmly receptive to having another joint QM program in April. Wilmington Friends School was suggested as a good location for this larger gathering. Coordinator will follow up with contacts at Friends.

Coordinator sought input on whether records needed to be kept in both physical and digital formats. Friends affirmed that we don't need print archives in the WQM office if they are at FHL & digitally kept. Old minutes can be scanned and kept as pdfs. Fiscal records need to be kept for 5 years, plus the current year. Only the current insurance policy needs to be kept on hand. Decades old receipts for items no longer for sale do not need to be kept.

**21.55 New Business:** An application to the John Woolman Fund was received. Karen & Shelley volunteered to review the request.

Closed with silent Worship, Friends adjourned until October Quarterly Meeting.

Respectfully Submitted, Sarah Kastriner (WQM Coordinator)