

**Minutes of the Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business of the Western Quarterly Meeting
held on 28 April 2019 at Wilmington Friends School,
9:00 -10:30 AM**

This Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business preceded a well-attended, joint Quarterly Session with Concord Quarterly Meeting. Twenty-one Friends gathered from the following meetings: Centre, Fallowfield, Kendal, Kennett, London Grove, Mill Creek, New Garden, Newark, and West Grove Monthly Meetings (MMs). Crosslands Worship Group represented. Sandra Boone Murphy & Jim Murphy of Salem Quarter were guests as well.

22.01: Welcome, Introductions, Review of Agenda, and Announcements. WQClerk Mark Myers welcomed Friends. Karen-Lee Brofee announced Wilmington Friends School's project on food insecurity (20,000 shelf-stable meals) and a flyer was made available for Friends. Coordinator Sarah Kastriner announced Hockessin Friends Meeting would host the July WQM.

22.02: Un-programmed Worship: From the silence, we heard responses to the First Query from Mill Creek, Newark, Kennett, and West Grove.

22.03: Approved Minutes of Western Quarterly Support Committee Meeting March 10, 2019.

22.04: Approved the following Minute of Appreciation for Centre Friends Meeting:

Western Quarterly Meeting extends this Minute of Appreciation to Centre Friends Meeting for a heartwarming day of fellowship at Quarterly Meeting, January 20, 2019. It was a cold, blustery day with a very gray sky, but inside Centre Meetinghouse was filled with love and Light. Centre Friends were gracious, welcoming hosts, and the Worship room radiated comforting warmth from the wood stove. Lunch was a smorgasbord of delights—much appreciation to the Friends who cared for our appetites and thus allowed fellowship to flourish. We thank the organizers of both programs: The children's program engaged and entertained the youth, while the speaker from FCNL was both interesting and informative. New insights into the way FCNL works were shared and many questions were answered. Many thanks to all who made this gathered Meeting possible.

22.05: Treasurer's Report: Friends reviewed and accepted the report. WQM Treasurer Stan Glowiak explained the additional cost for the bookkeeper. Also, Friends agreed to search for person to serve on the Budget Committee, as a short-term, temporary fill-in for Ariana Langford, who will resume the position as soon as possible.

22.06: Consideration, Distribution, and Threshing of London Grove Minute on Nuclear Armament.

The following Minute has been considered at WQM and approved to be sent to Monthly Meetings for their consideration, along with explanatory notes. Monthly Meetings will be asked to send suggestions to London Grove's Peace & Social Justice Committee for integration. A rewrite to be considered at July QM.

The following minute, approved by London Grove Meeting on February 6, 2019, was presented to WQM by London Grove Meeting for consideration:

The danger of nuclear War is enormous. The technological and human complexity involved in the systems that manage the world's arsenals of nuclear weapons makes these systems inherently unreliable. The proliferation of nuclear weapons could snowball. As the speed of the world's missiles and aircraft has increased, the time to respond to an attack has decreased. Increasing uncertainty and distrust amongst the world's nations increases the likelihood of an accidental nuclear war. Some terrorists would like to trigger a nuclear war. Nuclear blackmail could take various forms.

Some may think it naïve to believe that there could be an abolition of nuclear weapons. We propose that it is far more naïve to believe that the danger of nuclear war will just take care of itself.

We support the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) efforts to ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. This treaty was adopted by 122 nations on 7 July 2017, but not by the United States.

We propose that all forms of warfare would be diminished if all the planet's people had their basic life needs met. A global diversion of military spending to life affirming investments is our best plan for peace, security and the prevention of nuclear war.

Preventing nuclear war extends beyond international diplomacy. It must be a collaboration of governments, businesses, civic organizations and individuals, to individually and collectively change our understanding and control of nuclear weapons.

A fruitful, deliberate discussion followed including discussions regarding tactical nukes, land mines, impact of radiation, and undetectable missiles. One question asked was if London Grove discussed the role of corporations & profiteering in the proliferation of war. The answer was "no." Suggestions made were to find other words outside of "terrorist," also adding a line or two about the financial benefits of USA-based corporations. Lastly, the majority of Friends present agreed that "nuclear blackmail" was not the best phrase. Friend Gail Newbold recorded suggestions that will be sent in an explanatory note to Monthly Meetings.

Friends are aware that too many points will make a dull instrument, so Friends will be advised to remain within the scope of the proposed minute and suggestions.

22.07: Continuing Sessions Report. Friend Susana Roberts Davison of London Grove MM read her notes/observations that she shared with London Grove at their April Meeting for Business. Friends attentively listened and were moved by her sharing. Friend tonya thames taylor, Clerk of the Multicultural Audit Steering Committee (MASC) added that failed unity to follow the MASC's suggested timeline was a missed opportunity for PYM to recover from years of injury and to see how Quakers from ALL OVER define themselves and work together. She explained that the Philadelphia Quarterly Meeting didn't have unity within the quarter, but there was enough desire for discord to thwart what was an amazing process. She explained that the joy of working with MASC was that its members enjoyed a dynamic process that fostered threshing, listening, and deeper community. Sandra Boone Murphy, also a member of MASC, added that MASC really worked with love. She expressed the dire need to create space to get rid of disregard/slumber around difficult issues. She provided an example from Salem Quarter to make the point. She explained that Salem Quaker is working on this around Indigenous Peoples Reconciliation (First Contact). She sensed disregard and dismissal from PYM/PQM for these realities. Space was not created for this important work.

Discussion on how to move forward followed. One suggestion was a possible proposal of a Minute of Concern that addressed the spring session's clerking, as well as uneven weight given to Philadelphia MMs and Quarterly Meeting voice vs. further, smaller quarters. One question asked, "How many MMs really were behind the PQM minute?" WQM Clerk Mark Myers sense that it was three mainly.

From this moment, the discussion turned into threshing with awareness that it is more comfortable for some white people to put off the work/discussion as an intolerable atmosphere of disunity persists. Friends are aware that the issue is terribly complex and doesn't always break along "color." Friends also discussed how the restructure of PYM has created a hierarchy that allowed one quarter to go to "the

top” of the PYM structure and that can undermine the voice of the body. This is a critical wound to Quaker process.

WQM Clerk Mark Myers encouraged all WQM Friends to attend PhYM's July Annual Session, as this issue will be present. WQM needs to continue this discussion, gaining deeper understanding, so that we may discern our voice and way forward.

At the end of the threshing session, which ran into worship time, two actions were affirmed: (1) the WQ Coordinator would distribute Friend Suzanna Davison's reflection and encourage MMs to give any feedback about PYM's new structure, if they felt compelled and (2) WQM Clerk will speak with PYM General Secretary to get her view on what happened and to speak with the PQM coordinator to better understand the motivations & thoughts of PQM.

In Friendship,
tonya thames taylor, Fallowfield MM and WQM Recording Clerk
April 28, 2019 (submitted July 2019)