

Minutes of the Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business of the Western Quarterly Meeting held on 19 October, 2019 and hosted by Kendal Monthly Meeting

1:00 pm In attendance: Members from Kendal, Mill Creek, Newark, New Garden, London Grove, Kennett, Hockessin, and Centre Monthly Meetings, and Crosslands Worship Group

22.35: Meeting began with worship, during which Monthly Meeting responses to the 7th query from New Garden, London Grove, Newark, Kennett, West Grove, and Mill Creek were shared.

22.36 **Announcements** - A Kendal group seeking to address the bitterness over the divide in our political life are drawn to listen to each other without the goal of changing minds. The Friend shared this endeavour to encourage Friends gathered to go back to our communities and listen to others. Grayferd Gray

Friends Historical Association will have their annual meeting and a lecture on 9th day 10th month at Arch Street Meeting House. After the short business meeting, Katharine Gerbner will present on Quakers and Slavery.

Parents Morning Off is the next Western Quarter Youth event co-sponsored with Concord Quarter. It will be at the Cabin at Westtown School on Saturday, November 23.

22.37 Friends **approved the Minutes of the September 1, 2019 meeting** of Support Committee.

22.38 Friends **approved the Minute of Appreciation for Hockessin Friends Meeting.**

Western Quarter minutes its appreciation for the warm reception of Hockessin Friends and the cool reception of the Hockessin Meeting House for July 19, 2019 Quarterly Meeting. We felt blessed that the summer heat wave coincided with gathering at the recently renovated Meeting House. Several toured the new First Day School rooms and saw the morning's work- plantings to take home- that Claire and Rose helped produce with young Friends. The tour also made clear the extent of the work as well as the vibrancy of the space. We had a quiz on environmentally friendly lawn practices in the morning. Our group effort paid off, we passed as well as learned new practices and strategies for nurturing the plants and pollinators in our local world. Ministry was meaningful and many found the James Turrell quotation posted in the Meeting Room to fit the naturally lit space and the Friends gathered: "Light is not so much something that reveals, as it is itself the revelation."

22.39 **Treasurer's Report** Western Quarter treasurer, Stan Glowiak gave the following report.

Friends were reminded there is not a covenant amount set by our Yearly Meeting or Western Quarter for constituent Meetings. Because Monthly Meeting, Quarterly Meeting, and Yearly Meeting schedules vary, covenant income and expenses are not the same each quarter. The treasurer does send reminders for covenant payments to be made. Guide One has changed its policy structure. Now our previous policy would be made up of several policies. The increase in the Quarter's Expenses is the result of spending more on bookkeeping and accounting. It was also noted that no support from the William Jackson Fund to support Quarter students in Friends schools was made.

Discussion

A Friend asked if the timing of covenant payments during the financial quarter made a difference.

The treasurer noted that paying early in the quarter is better.

A follow up question led the treasurer to note that Western Quarter does work on an accrual vs cash basis, so he has to show the numbers, but it does not cause too much distress to work in that format.

22.40 The **Treasurer brought forward two minutes for consideration:**

Western Quarterly Meeting assembled in Meeting for Worship for Business today does hereby approve that the following names of Friends be removed from the bank accounts of Western Quarterly Meeting at Citadel Federal Credit Union: Wright Horne, Karen Conlan, Richard Logan, Jr., and Shelley Hastings.

Friends approved.

Western Quarterly Meeting assembled in Meeting for Worship for Business today does hereby give approval to our treasurer to open a Citadel MasterCard account and to approve our Office Coordinator's name, currently Deborah Wood, be placed on the account.

Friends approved, noting that a monthly spending limit and regular oversight of the account be conducted by the Treasurer.

Approval of these two minutes brings Western Quarter more in line with our bank's standard operating processes.

22.41 The **Friends Home Report** is posted at the Western Quarter website.

Friends Home is a continuing care facility with a care relationship with Western Quarter.

Sarah Kastriner highlighted the following portions of the Friends Home 2018 Annual Report to Western Quarter:

Bob Norris, an active Kennett Square resident, joined the board, and several staff changes occurred during 2018;

The Board Vision seeking a safer connection to Linden Hall and resident access to outdoor facilities, led to a number of renovations. Several Western Quarter Meetings provided help for these changes and participated in celebrations of the renovations;

Plans include a 24 hour bistro;

Friends Home was able to make grants for financial support of residents and did not turn away any request for assistance;

The Friends Home census is above budgeted numbers;

Work towards Montessori certification continues and completion of all 102 tasks should happen in the fall of 2019;

There was a week of wonderful celebrations for the 120th anniversary of Friends Home;

Volunteers provide invaluable service to residents and Friends Home, especially driving people to appointments, please feel free to sign up;

Future areas of work for Friends Home are the inclusion of dementia residents, providing affordable housing and care, and being a walkable community. Kennett Square's community resources positions Friends Home to meet these objectives. They remain dedicated to continuing to provide these options for Chester County residents;

Friends Home is thankful for the volunteer and financial assistance from Western Quarter Monthly Meetings and individuals.

Discussion:

The Census is up about 30% from a few years ago, and people going in to Friends Home are going later in life.

Please visit!

We should consider it a location for Quarterly Meeting.

22.42 Penns Grove Annual Report- Bob Frye and Mary Sproat shared that Penns Grove is in good shape physically and financially. There was a lightning strike over the summer that damaged a tree and jumped to the porch to cause some damage. Plans are underway to tend to trees on the property, and fix the porch.

The Quarter clerk noted that Penns Grove is a good model for historical meeting houses under the care of the Quarter. It has a very dedicated group to tend to it and solid financial reserves.

22.43 Coordinator and Youth Report

Deb Wood shared the following highlights of the report, the full report is attached:

Attending worship, business and programs by Monthly Meetings and Friends in the Quarter is the highlight of the work as well as providing the best way to get a sense of each Monthly Meeting and Quarter Friends. Attending meetings does present a challenge to maintaining the needed connection to my home Meeting.

The recent hayride and potluck co-sponsored by Western Quarter was delightful, but had little attendance from Western Quarter Friends. Our Youth Coordinator has begun work on the next joint Quarter youth program.

I provided logistical and some follow up support for the best practices session for the Quarter's burial grounds.

Mill Creek will host the January Quarter gathering and Fallowfield will host in July. Kennett will host a joint Western and Concord Quarter gathering the 4th Sunday in April.

Discussion:

Should the January meeting be at Friends Home?

Mill Creek Friends can be the hosts and perhaps Friends Home can provide the space. It will be more accessible for Friends and their vehicles especially in inclement weather.

The Burial Grounds session was excellent. Will there be more?

A next meeting on burial ground best practices will likely focus on green burials. London Britain, Centre, and Kennett have all had green burials.

Respectfully submitted,

Deb Wood, Western Quarter Coordinator, acting recorder for tonya thames taylor

Coordinator Report and Youth Programs Events - September and October 2019

I visited Crosslands WG, Parkersville MH, Mill Creek MM, Kennett MM for hospitality, and Kendal MM's Meeting for Business. I also joined F/friends mostly from Kendal and Crosslands for witness at Old Kennett Meeting on Sept. 20, the international climate strike day. I have enjoyed meeting Friends in the Quarter and being a part of worship in the different Meeting communities.

Mill Creek MM and Fallowfield MM will exchange hosting dates for Western Quarter. Plans are in the early stages for first month 2020's gathering at Mill Creek. The program will likely be intergenerational.

I sent the two minutes originating from London Grove MM and affirmed by Western Quarter to Chris Lucca, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Clerk. The YM clerk forwards MM and QM minutes received to the relevant council(s). I did note that Birmingham MM and Concord QM had read a very similar minute on nuclear weapons prohibition to the Yearly Meeting body

in 2018. I also noted that the nuclear minute was posted at the FCNL website. For the Jane Rushmore minute, I lifted up that action was requested of the YM

I attended the Burial Ground Property session at London Grove and helped distribute materials and notes to individuals unable to attend. I followed up with Friends Historical Library about holding a copy of burial ground (and other) records and with an archivist about making pdfA1B documents.

Western and Concord Quarters co-hosted a hayride and potluck. There were about 40 people in attendance at the Stratton farm. (The Strattons are members of Middletown MM.) Most attendees were from Middletown and Birmingham MMs. I was the one present with an affiliation to WQ. Rain may have kept Friends from farther distances away. We fielded phone calls about a rain date in the hour or so preceding the hayride

In addition to planning programs for QM events, Claire has developed some Quaker themed word puzzles. I sent her notes the YM's youth programmer, Melinda Wenner Bradley, solicited from youth and families on MM and QM programming. Claire has settled on using a Google form to survey youth and families in Western Quarter.

Fielding phone and e-mail communications, and reading newsletters and records for information to share with WQ via the website is ongoing. Mail comes to WQ from local, national, and international Friends and non-Friends groups. As I have visited WQ Friends, a current to the worship is how are we connecting and living not just in our immediate communities, but also in those less known and familiar to us that we are beholden to just the same.