



Minutes of the Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business of the Western Quarterly Meeting held on 19 January 2020 at Mill Creek Monthly Meeting

This Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business followed a well-attended, packed Western Quarterly Meeting. Mill Creek Monthly Meeting (MM) hosted; in attendance were 24 Friends from Centre, Fallowfield, Hockessin, Kendal, Kennett, London Grove, Mill Creek, New Garden, Newark, and West Grove Monthly Meetings (MMs).

22.55: Un-programmed Worship convened at 12:33 PM: From the silence, we heard responses to the 11th and 12th Queries from Mill Creek, Hockessin, and West Grove.

Hockessin shared the following verbal messages to constitute their response to the Query on Simplicity and Integrity: *"It is ironic that simplicity is the query for Twelfth Month when December is the start of the shopping season." "I wonder about the effect of excess on children. When they grow up, they expect so much and then they face reality." "Thanksgiving is my favorite holiday. No gifts exchanged as they are at Christmas or Valentine's Day. Happiness isn't from things, it's from experiences."*

West Grove shared the following: *"The Eleventh Query on Witnessing in the World: Education was read. Messages spoke of the distinct difference of two subjects in this Query—public education and Friends Schools. Private schools exclude—they do not have to take the child who acts up or doesn't want to be there. There is a political factor in public education because decision makers run the schools; they must be held to accountability in making it a priority to improve public education. Quaker schools do not have special education classes, to the disappointment of one parent present. But the key is that education starts in the home—parents are the first teachers. Both parents and the community must see education as a priority. Friends wondered if there is a way that the Meeting can actively engage with the public schools but no way has opened as yet."*

Mill Creek shared the following responses in the form of statements on the *Eleventh Query on Witnessing in the World: Education*. The Meeting (1) supports public education by paying individual taxes, but wished they could do more; (2) Mill Creek would help an adult member who wanted more Quaker Education; and, regarding Friends Education, Mill Creek welcomes children into its main Meeting. Also, Mill Creek highlights and supports the work of member, Teal Rickerman, who is active in youth Quaker programs and Advisory Committee with PhYM.

22.56 Friends **approved** Minutes of Western Quarterly Support Meeting for December 8, 2019, correcting that the minutes should be labeled as "**Minutes of the Support Committee Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business of the Western Quarterly Meeting**" to alert readers of the type of gathering the December Meeting Minutes captured.

22.57: Friends enthusiastically **received Clerk Mark Myers' nomination of Bob Frye of London Grove MM as Western Quarter Clerk for two years**. Friends heard Bob Frye share his experiences underscoring the statement "Quakerism is not so much a religion, but a way of life." He explained why Quarterly Meeting is so important. Address what we can do for one another and the larger community.

22.58: **Consideration of Bucks Quarter Minute of August 2019 (read attached)**: Hockessin, Newark, Centre met unity with the minute. Fallowfield and Mill Creek did not meet with unity on the minute. London Grove, Kendal, Kennett, and West Grove have not considered the Minute as of this WQM gathering. Today's WQM's conversation centered on the Minute's emphasis to encourage the ban on private sales of assault rifles. Friends agreed to carry this conversation over to the next WQM in April 2020. Friends were asked to take the discussion heard at this WQM surrounding this Minute back to their MMs for fuller discussion and to return to the Western Quarter in April 2020 with a position, if possible.

22.59: **Treasurer's Report**: Friends **reviewed** and **expressed appreciation** for the report. A Friend inquired about "Expense 403: Evolution Expense." WQM Treasurer Stan Glowiak explained that some meetings are lagging in covenant payments to Quarter. Office space expense will be paid by April 2020. Friend inquired about the \$3K allocation for Accounting/Bookkeeping in "Expense 630." Treasurer explained she creates reports, but he creates and pays expenses. Treasurer Stan Glowiak will ask the bookkeeper to include an additional line of explanation at the end of the report to explain the "difference" number.

22.60: **London Britain Meeting Report (read attached)**: Friends **approved** the report given by Shelley Hastings (Newark). The meeting will be opened on February 8, 2020, at 9 AM for tour.

22.61: **Pennsgrove Property**: A report will be given at WQ in April 2020.

22.62: **Joint Quarterly Meeting of Concord and WQ**: April 26, 2020 at Kennett Friends. Any suggestions on topics for the Joint Quarterly, please send to WQ Coordinator Deb Wood.

22.63: **Communications Query**: A presiding clerk asked MMs how they handled distribution lists/email addresses. In general conversation, each MM handles communication differently. A suggestion was made that the WQ Coordinator should gather responses from individual MM and these responses be used as a WQ resource guide.

22.64: **Draft Minute of Appreciation to Mill Creek written by Margaret Walton**: *With deep gratitude, Western Quarterly Meeting minutes appreciation for Mill Creek Monthly Meeting's hosting of the January 19, 2020 Quarterly Meeting at Mill Creek, Newark, De. We were greeted warmly and offered coffee and coffee cake, tea and scones before gathering in the coal-stove heated meeting room for the program. Teal Rickerman introduced the 30+*

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people filling the meeting room to the concept of mandalas—geometric designs with a long history of use for generating understanding, intentions, focus, healing and hope. She explained how we would be using colored paper, scissors, glue, markers and ingenuity, to create our own mandalas, incorporating balance—equality in amount, weight, value or importance. We gathered materials and settled in for Gail Bisio to help us meditate on balance using breathing patterns as we considered, with her guidance, our relationship to the sun, earth, air, fire, water and ether. When ready, each person began to create his or her unique mandala. The results were beautiful and, when displayed across the front facing bench of the sun-filled meeting room, the mandalas provided bursts of color as lovely as quilt blocks. It was particularly enjoyable and enlightening to have some of the participants interpret their mandalas. Worship followed the program with several messages arising from what we experienced while meditating and creating the mandalas. We all enjoyed a nourishing lunch of fresh salad, sandwiches and homemade soups. Representatives from 10 monthly meetings stayed for the business meeting where we approved the nomination of WQM's new clerk, Bob Frye (London Grove).

Next Support Committee: Kennett Meeting, Sunday, March 8, 2020, 3 PM.

Closing Worship: Adjourned at 2:03 PM.

Submitted Faithfully on March 7, 2020,
Peace and Progress, Be Kinder to Yourself,
tonya thames taylor, Recording Clerk, Fallowfield MM

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Bucks Quarterly Meeting Minute
September 10, 2019

Christopher A. Lucca
Presiding Clerk Philadelphia Yearly Meeting
1515 Cherry Street
Philadelphia, PA

Dear Chris,

Bucks Quarterly Meeting recently conducted meeting for worship with attention to business at Fallsington Friends Meeting in on August 18, 2019, Friends approved the following minute:

Bucks Quarterly Meeting supports a Friends-led national protest against the private sale and possession of assault-style rifles and large-capacity gun magazines in the United States. This is rightly ordered and in alignment with our peace testimony, or opposition to physical violence, and with our support of efforts to reduce and eliminate armaments and militarism in our society. The protest should take place in our nation's capital at the earliest possible date that a well-organized one can be launched.

Friends of the Quarter also asked that the Quarter communicate its approval of this minute to Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, and that the Quarter request that Yearly Meeting assume responsibility for coordinating efforts with the appropriate local, national, and international organizations to achieve the Friends-led national protest proposed by Bucks Quarter in its minute.

This letter to you is of course my way of fulfilling the Quarter's request to make Yearly Meeting aware of the Quarter's minute and its request for Yearly Meeting action in regard to it. I hope the Yearly Meeting will give serious consideration to the minute and request for action, and I am happy to answer any questions you or others at Yearly Meeting may have in regard to them.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration of this matter.

Yours,
Boris Simkovich
Acting Clerk, Bucks Quarterly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

Bucks Quarterly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends
Bristol • Buckingham • Doylestown • Fallsington • Lehigh Valley
• Makefield • Middletown Newtown • Plumstead • Quakertown
(NJ) • Solebury • Southampton • Wrightstown • Yardley

London Britain Meeting
Annual Report for 2019
January, 2020

The London Britain Meeting house continues to be used by Newark Meeting for weekly meetings for worship on Sundays from 10:30 to 11:30 am during the summer months. A smaller group holds occasional Wednesday evening meetings for worship at 6:30 pm throughout the year, weather permitting.

Four meetings of the London Britain Property Committee were held last year on January 27, March 3, September 29 and November 24. The primary issues addressed were as follows:

Maintenance and repair:

- The meeting house is currently in generally good condition. However, there are signs on the ceiling of the east side of the meetinghouse indicating a leak in the roofing or chimney. An inspection concerning this issue is scheduled with Leeland Slate Roof. The grass was well maintained during the year.
- Limited grounds work, other than mowing, was done by Friends and the mowing crew last year. We currently don't have anyone engaged to provide this service. Rebecca Appleton is no longer in the area enough to continue doing grounds maintenance here.

Graveyard:

- There were no interments or cemetery plots purchased during 2019.
- The new revision of the "Graveyard Guidelines" which were adopted in 1991 is nearing completion. Some new items, inspired by guidelines from other meetings in Western Quarter will be incorporated, since our committee had the benefit information from the Quarter's burial grounds workshop in September.

Safety:

- The brick paving from the patio, by the side door, was extended to the left front door as a walkway. This work was kindly completed by Keener-Sensenig Co. prior to our first regular Sunday meeting of the year. They also installed safer steps up to the patio.
- Handrails for the patio steps and the steps to the left front door are in the process of being made, and will be installed by Cyril Caster this winter.

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We remain very careful in the management of the funds available for the graveyard and meeting house

Mike McDowell
London Britain Property Committee

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London Britain financial report for 2019

Beginning Balance:		\$ 4,939.07
Income:		
Fiduciary June 24		2,431.49
Fiduciary December 28		<u>2,480.12</u>
		\$4,911.61
Expenses:		
Strong Exterminating (termite inspection)		175.00
Mondragon (grass mowing)		1,859.20
Keener-Sensenig (walkway)		2,100.00
Cyril Caster (handrails)		<u>600.00</u>
		\$ 4,734.20
Ending Balance:		\$ 5,116.48