

First Virtual Meeting of the **Support Committee** of the Western Quarterly Meeting

Minutes of the Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business of the Support Committee of the Western Quarterly Meeting held on 24 May 2020 via ZOOM. 1-3:40 PM

Seventeen (17) Friends attended the Quarterly from Centre, Fallowfield, Hockessin, Kendal, Kennett, London Grove, Mill Creek, New Garden, Newark, and West Grove Monthly Meetings (MMs).

After brief worship, Friends approved of the agenda.

22.78: **2020-2021 Budget Committee** consists of Ariana Langford (Newark) and Wayne Thompson (Newark). The Support Committee may gather to vet the 2020-2021 Budget before the next scheduled WQM and Support Committee meetings. **Action Consideration:** WQM Clerk Bob Frye expressed the need for a Financial Clerk. WQM is now considering names for that position.

22.79: **Treasurer's Report** given by WQM Treasurer Stan Glowiak. Treasurer reports that as of April 30, per our last bookkeeper's report, we are 83.3% through the Fiscal Year 2020. Total Covenant received was just under 70%. Total Payroll, Office & Program Expense is about 78%. As of May 12, five Monthly Meetings have met 100% of their Covenant giving. Three Monthly Meetings have given 75% of Covenant. One Monthly Meeting is at 50% with one payment still due. One Monthly Meeting still has to make its usual annual payment. Ideally, we can receive all outstanding payments by June 24 so that we can end the fiscal year with all giving complete and deposited. I will be sending reminders in June. Treasurer Glowiak thanked all Monthly Meeting treasurers for their hard work.

22.80: **Planning for Re-opening Meetings**

Conversation prompts included: *How are MMs planning for re-opening? What plans are underway, if any? What support is needed to re-open?* To get a gist of the ongoing processes, several meetings shared what they were doing. **Mill Creek:** Teal Rickerman shared that while Mill Creek MM is opened, only one family meets on Sunday. Other members are comfortable with tele- and videoconferencing. **London Grove:** Former WQM clerk Mark Myers explained that members of London Grove said, very early on, they would take serious consideration the mandates of the state and have done so. So, while London Grove is open, most members worship via ZOOM. WQ Clerk Bob Frye added that various committees at London Grove have threshed the idea of holding outdoors committee meetings, while still adhering to state mandates. **Fallowfield:** tonya thames taylor shared that Fallowfield threshed in-person v. virtual meetings. The central part of their threshing was that the meetinghouse is a place to gather for fellowship, but God is within. Fallowfield questions the state's and federal timing to re-open places of worship. Fallowfield members also have concerns about liability if a person makes the claim of contacting the virus on their premises. Consequently, Fallowfield will continue to hold online ZOOM Sunday worship. **Newark:** Wayne Thompson expressed that many of the members at Newark are in high-risk categories, so those members will be encouraged to stay home, even if the meetinghouse is open. A consideration for opening is

the sanitization. Therefore, for now, ZOOM is the main way the Meeting worships, but conversations of outdoor gathering, following spatial-distancing mandates, are underway. **Kennett:** Sarah Kastriner shared that Kennett has spent the last two Sundays discussing virtual v. in-person meetings. While there is no pressing need to make an immediate decision, there are some who want in-person worship. For Kennett, it is understood that gathering unquestionably matters, but how to have access varies. So, Kennett has had some conversations about spatial-distancing outdoor worship, when weather appropriate. Also, there have been conversations about hybrid meetings (combination of Zoom and in-person), but responses vary. Currently, Kennett is discussing a retooled singing children's camp that desires to host an in-person meeting. Kennett MM has decided to open Old Kennett Meeting the last Sunday of summer months because the attendance is usually so few and opened windows make complying to governmental mandates easy. **West Grove:** Mary Sproat explained that West Grove is not open, nor using a virtual format for worship. Yet, when they do decide to meet, outside worship is very possible as it has been successfully done in the past. **Centre:** David Wakely shared that Centre meets via ZOOM and has a COVID-19 Sprint Group that is discerning Centre's ongoing re-opening process. Like Kennett Meeting, Centre believes that gathering matters, but how to access varies. Currently, Centre is contemplating a hybrid of in-person and ZOOM for June 7th Meeting.

22.81: Report from Kennett MM on hosting July QM - Sarah Kastriner explained that Kennett is open to hosting an outside meeting limited to the state-mandated of 25 congregants.

22.82: Summary of Research on Re-opening: WQM Coordinator Deb Wood informed us that the Unitarian Universalist (UU) Church has suspended all in-person worship to May 2021. Braver Angels—the group we have been in conversations with regarding July Quarterly-- has online worship/programming. Wood suggests that because research has shown that longer ZOOM meetings are less effective, WQM should consider not having business meeting and the Braver Angels program on the same day. Braver Angels has said it can accommodate a virtual meeting with the WQM and/or WQM and Concord Quarterly on July 12th, 19th, or 26th.

22.83: Recommendation for July QM to share with Concord Quarter

Action Item Completed: While Kennett MM is willing to host an in-person gathering with limitations, the Support Committee of the Western Quarter supports a joint virtual July WQM-Concord Quarterly. The decision was made after taking various realities into consideration: sanitization, high-risk populations, arbitrariness and number restrictions of who can attend, policing of behavior regarding masks and spatial distancing, health liabilities, etc., The Support Committee supports having separate days for business meeting and the Braver Angel programming. The Support Committee still supports providing Braver Angels with a donation of \$100-\$200.

Coordinator Deb Wood shared that the Youth Activities Coordinator Claire Taylor is considering a Youth Scavenger Hunt with or without a joint quarterly meeting. There was some

discussion regarding the importance of including the youth and suggestions on how to do so included asynchronous and pre-programmed education. Contacts at Hockessin and Kennett MMs can provide insights on how to implement possible plans.

Concord Quarterly Meeting meets on Sunday, May 31, 2020 to discuss the Joint Quarterly Meeting. Coordinator Deb Wood will inform the Support Committee of Concord's discernment.

22.84: Worship at Historical Meetinghouses – Mary Sproat (West Grove) affirmed that the historic Parkersville, Pennsgrove, Homeville, and Colora will not open for summer 2020. Since the other two historic meetings are under the care of Monthly Meetings (MM), the opening of them is different. For example, since Old Kennett is under Kennett MM, it will open. Also, plans for London Britain, under Newark MM, are unknown at this time.

22.85: WQM Updates: (a) Virtual Quarter fellowship event: Coordinator Deb Wood explained that plans are still underway, but there is a Save-A-Date for the intergenerational Talent share scheduled for June 27, 7-9 PM happening on Facebook (FB) and via ZOOM and (b) Discussion of Quarterly Handbook resumes in September 2020.

22.86: ZOOM Chat Shares: David Wakely (Centre) shared two articles by ZOOM's Chat feature: (1) New York Times' May 22, 2020 article, "[Can You Gather With God Over Zoom? Quakerism goes virtual, offering an intimate window into silent worship](#)" and (2) the Delaware Health and Social Services' Guidance for Communities of Worship."

22.87: WQM July 19th Tentative Agenda for Virtual Quarterly:

- Presentation of 2020-2021 Budget (Ariana Langford and Wayne Thompson)
- Reports from the WQM Property Working Group (Mark Myers and Sarah Kastriner) and WQM Auditors (Doug Myers and Nancy Pratt)
- Updates regarding the WQM's William Jackson Education Fund and John Woolman Travel Fund
- Reading of Mark Myers' Minute of Appreciation (Sprint Committee consists of Bob Frye, Sarah Kastriner, Teal Rickerman, and Margaret Walton)

Next Western Quarterly: Sunday, July 19, 2020 (virtually)

Next Support Committee: Sunday, September 13, 2020, 3 PM (may meet earlier to discuss budget).

Submitted Faithfully on May 24, 2020,
Peace and Progress, Be Kinder to Yourself,
tonya thames taylor, Recording Clerk, Fallowfield MM