

Minutes of the Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business of the Western Quarterly Meeting held on 26 April 2020 by ZOOM 1-2:55 PM

This Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business is the first virtual meeting of the Western Quarterly Meeting. Twenty-nine (29) Friends attended the Quarterly from Centre, Crosslands Worship Group, Fallowfield, Hockessin, Kendal, Kennett, London Grove, Mill Creek, New Garden, Newark, and West Grove Monthly Meetings (MMs).

22.73: **Un-programmed Worship** convened at 1:05 PM: From the silence, we heard responses for the Second and Fourth Queries from Hockessin, Mill Creek, and Newark.

The following is from Hockessin, submitted by Richard N. Bernard Jr, "In preparing for today's business meeting I was looking over old files and discovered notes from a clerking workshop I helped facilitate a number of years ago. It was helpful to read over that material. What I took away was the sense that we always need to keep in mind that Meeting for Business is sometimes described as Meeting for Worship for Business. We should allow time for the spirit to inform us and be consulted even when we're dealing with matters such as repairing the roof. Also, sense of the meeting is the more favored term to be used when a decision is being made by the meeting. You can watch for that and that'll mean we're in agreement. I also was reminded of a spectrum of dissent we used to share with students at Wilmington Friends School. It was helpful to give them a range of possible methods or ways not to unite with a decision. Some years ago, I started using 'Meeting for Worship for Business' to emphasize that Meeting for Business includes Worship."

Therese "Terry" Cannon (Mill Creek) shared the following: "Mill Creek Monthly Meeting of Friends considered the 2nd query on Deepening Our Faith: Meeting for Business, from Faith and Practice at our MFWFB held March 1, 2020, and members gave the following responses: ***Is our meeting for business held in worship in which we seek divine guidance?*** We hold a worshipful attitude, open to and seeking diving guidance. ***How do we sustain prayerful consideration of all aspects of an issue and address difficult problems with a search for truth that is unhurried by the pressures of time?*** We try to remain open to the spirit. We listen to each other and wait until the spirit leads to unity. We are a small group, and rarely experience a lack of agreement, but when we do, we hold issues over to a future meeting until we can reach unity. ***Do we recognize that we speak through our inaction as well as our action?*** Though busy individually, we try to notice problems at the meeting and resolve them. We do worry if we do enough in the world and recognize that we could do more.

Shelly Hastings (Newark) read the response. ***To read the detailed response/reflection, please read Addendum #1.***

22.74: **Friends Approved Treasurer's Report** –Stan Glowiak (Centre) presented an **Action Item** to Friends regarding COVID-19-impacted reimbursement and payment of Youth Activities Coordinator Claire Taylor. Friends agreed to allow the Personnel Committee to work out

specifics for the Action Item. *To read Treasurer's Report and suggested Action Item, please read Addendum #2.*

22.75: **Pennsgrove Property Committee Report**– Bob Frye (London Grove) presented the report for committee members Pat Mooberry (Clerk), Mary Sproat (West Grove), and Robert Frye (Treasurer). *For details, please read Addendum #3.*

22.76: **How are Monthly Meetings responding to the spiritual and pastoral needs of members during Covid-19 as of April 26, 2020?:** **Centre** has organized a sprint group of medical professionals and meets via ZOOM. Members discussed how much they miss one another and were eager for a chance to meet. Queries are posted each week through a Google document, but members have yet to comment. Centre's Oversight Committee, which doubles as the Care and Counsel Committee, has reached out to members. **Fallowfield** uses texts and calls. Fallowfield plans to meet via ZOOM. **Hockessin** meets via ZOOM meetings, but acknowledges it is not the same energy, thus far, as in-person meetings. Members have discussed a central question, *What binds us together?* First Day Coordinator works remotely. Business is continuing, including the work of the Investment Committee. **Kennett** holds ZOOM meetings for worship and committee work. Care and Counsel Committee called every member in the directory for a one-on-one phone call. Kennett is also leveraging social media. Currently, Kennett is in discussion regarding July's Concord-WQM Joint Quarterly Meeting. **London Grove** started off using the Uber conference platform, but members are now mainly using ZOOM. Some of the committee meetings are still using Uber. There is also a hosting of "Coffee" and Conversation to continue community. To date, NO business meeting. And, while the annual plant sale has been cancelled this year, a few supporters are still sending in donations. **New Garden:** No in-person or videoconferencing. **West Grove** does not meet using ZOOM, but members are keeping in touch via email. **Crosslands Worship Group** host meetings via Zoom. Also, reports that spatial distancing has helped in NO cases being reported at Crosslands. There was a special shout out to WQM Coordinator Deb Wood for helping them set up initially. **Newark** meets via ZOOM. **Mill Creek** worships in spirit and stays in contact via email, text, and phone. **Kendal** uses ZOOM for Meeting for Worship. Individual members use individual accounts for committee meetings. Like Crosslands, Kendal is free of COVID-19 and have made cash disbursement to the Kennett Food Cupboard, a subset of Kennett Area Community Services.

22.77: **Next Support Committee Agenda:**

- How will returning to meeting post-COVID-19 look like?
- Discussion regarding Joint Concord-Western Quarterly Meeting at Kennett with Braver Angels;
- Job Descriptions as described by WQM Handbook; and,
- Minute of Appreciation for Mark Myers.

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

Addendum #1 (*kept as submitted*)

Query Minutes
Newark Monthly Meeting
April 5, 2020

QUERY FOUR: NURTURING OUR COMMUNITY: CARE FOR THE MEETING

The fourth query was considered by Aliza Appel, Margaret Badger, Fran Beer, John Beer, Ginny Bailey, Tom Eleuterio, Lily Grosso, Shelley Hastings, Richard Ladd, Maggie Ladd, Sally Milbury-Steen, Mike McDowell, Treba Thompson, Trebs Thompson, Wayne Thompson, and Diane Kesler.

Our meeting for worship benefits from listening deeply to each other. There is a love and trust in our meeting, which we need to spread around.

This query is looking at the relationship of individuals to our meeting as a whole. This time during the Covid-19 Pandemic is really important. We may come out better for it.

There are different levels of care. A Friend finds that it is harder to teach in Zoom, but she has to do what is needful. She recalled that Ben Franklin advised us to determine what we need to do and then do it. This is a time for reaching out to both Friends and friends. This is also a time for making community and holding each other in care. Being homebound, we're more able to do that.

We have an active care and concerns committee that does a good job of keeping up with people. A Friend agrees that it works well, and that she feels cared for. She said that if she got sick knowing that Friends would be holding her in the light is tremendously reassuring.

It's important to see each other's face. A Friend's call, reaching out, was so important to one of our Friends. We have an obligation step forward; maybe a different person, if led so, will do so.

We nurture members, in all stages of life, by meeting people where they are. A Friend connected with his family when he saw his grandchild running around by video. We try and nurture each other with open arms, and a long email list.

We can't recall the last time a member's conduct or manner of living caused concern. These issues may mean someone is in trouble. When people behave badly it is often because they are hurting, and we need to speak to that hurt. We also need to encourage one another, and to make each other stronger. It is usually easy for us to come forward. Newark Friends are ready to offer assistance. A Friend remarked, "Where would I be without it?"

We always intend to treat adults and children alike with respect and without condescension. But sometimes we hear people with our expectations about how they should behave, and that can include condescension. A Friend noted that in her choices she has a respect for people that have more experience, which she thinks needs to be honored. However, we should consider not just age but experience. Another Friend remarked that he never met someone that he couldn't learn something from.

We would like to take more opportunities to know, work and worship with Friends in the larger spiritual communities we share. A Newark Friend went to a FGC Gathering, and found it a wonderful experience. She shared a room with a Conservative Quaker who didn't think one could be a Jewish Quaker, but was convinced through loving dialogue and they became friends.

A Friend observed that people want to know what Quakers believe about different things, but she doesn't have an answer. Another Friend believes there is a need for representation of Quakers in the wider world, so she will reference being a Friend. She finds that people often don't know what it means, and ask about it. She noted that it has been meaningful for her that her daughter has found a resonance with Friends.

A Friend shared that people are surprised to learn that she is a Quaker, and to find that it doesn't mean what they think it does. As a Friend, she tries to create moments of peace and reflection.

In closing, a Friend remarked that she finds it a miracle that she's getting warmth through the Zoom Meeting for Worship.

On behalf of Newark Monthly Meeting,
respectfully submitted,

Mike McDowell

Addendum #2:
WQM Treasurer's Report July 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020
Treasurer, Stan Glowiak (Centre)

Looking at **Covenant** Income on page 1, every year there are differences, given different situations. This year it will be hard to tell how we finish up on June 30, the end of Western Quarter's fiscal year. Last year on March 31, total Covenant income was 63% of what was expected in the budget for FY 2018-19. This year, as of March 31, we are just under 55% of total Covenant received. Our goal is to be closer to 75% for three-quarters of the fiscal year. Since July 2019, of our ten Monthly Meetings in the Quarter, one Meeting has increased its total Covenant by about \$850 annually. One meeting has had to reduce its total Covenant by more than half. Eight Meetings have been giving the same as in Western Quarter's last fiscal year (four of these are giving the same as they did in FY 2015-16). So far, this fiscal year, including April, three Monthly Meetings have given 100% of their Covenant amount. Three Meetings are at 75%. Three Meetings are at 50%. One Meeting has yet to make Covenant payment, but they usually make one annual payment in late April or May.

Also, **Citadel interest** is down about \$12 from last year at this time. Friends Fiduciary Corporation (FFC) distributions last December were up a little from a year ago. June's FFC distributions are expected to be about the same since the "distribution is calculated based on the previous 12 quarters" according to FFC's Executive Director Jeff Perkins in his update letter of April 7.

Regarding **Payroll Taxes and Expenses** at bottom of page 1 and continuing on page 2, we're hoping that Payroll will finish slightly under budget, same for payroll taxes and Evolution Payroll Services expense.

It was decided to keep the printed **Newsletter costs** as a separate line item, but our WQ Coordinator Deb Wood recommended that we combine newsletter postage cost with postage under Office Expense since the postal mailing of the newsletter has decreased over time.

Under **Office Expense**, the rent for the office space went up a little. The improvements that Kennett Meeting made— new floor covering in the hall of the wing and rooms along with freshly painted walls and ceilings throughout really freshened up the office. It also gave us an opportunity to de-clutter the office space. I find it now to be a more wonderful place to work from; a shame we are forced to do most work from home. Thank you Kennett Meeting Friends.

Bookkeeping/Accounting costs, hopefully, will be under budget for the fiscal year. Moving to page 2, Youth Programs spending continues to be low. We anticipate invoices from our Youth Coordinator Claire Taylor.

Line 851 notes that two Monthly Meetings had their last fiscal year's Covenant checks deposited by the Quarter on Friday, June 28, 2019 and could not be transferred to PYM until July causing them to be included in QuickBooks and the budget for this fiscal year.

Lastly, the final summary on page 2, the last five lines ending with WQM Net Revenue, was made less complicated for us by our bookkeeper/accountant since the January's report.

Lists and details of WQM's reserves are on page 3 and hopefully self-explanatory.

Action Item: I have a thoughtful suggestion regarding our Youth Activities Coordinator under Salaries and Staffing Contracts. Because we canceled our live Joint Meeting with Concord Quarter in compliance with Pennsylvania's COVID-19 restrictions, Claire Taylor, a contract worker paid by the hour, has lost the opportunity to work hours in April. With restrictions continuing, Claire is very limited with what she can do from home to gain worthwhile hours of pay in May and possibly longer. I suggest to pay Claire a retainer of \$100 each month for April, May and June to keep her working for us and to consider to continue with us for the next fiscal year. Also, to consider making available to her additional hours, up to \$75 a month for May and June if she works on planning youth and intergenerational activities for future Quarterly Meetings.

Follow-up: *Personnel Committee met on Monday, April 27, 2020 from 4-45 PM. The Personnel Committee agreed to provide Claire Taylor with funding to continue her work.*

Addendum #3:
Pennsgrove Property Committee Report

PENNSGROVE PROPERTY COMMITTEE FINANCIAL STATEMENT - 2019

BB&T BANK ACCOUNT

OPENING BANK BALANCE 1/1/2019	\$52,058
Money Market \$50,857	
Checking \$1,201	

INCOME	\$5,927
FFC Distribution 6/20 \$2,739	
FFC Distribution 12/12/2019 \$2,794	
Money Market Interest thru 12/31 \$393	

EXPENSES	\$4,519
Insurance 4/15 \$605	
Lawn Care* thru 12/31 \$2,037	
Building Storm Repair 11/1 \$439	
Property Renewal 12/2 \$1,394	
Purchased checks 9/15 \$44	

CLOSING BANK BALANCE 1/4/2020	\$53,466
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Money Market \$52,466

Checking \$1,000

*includes \$429 receivable for 2019 received after 12/31 bank statement.

Actual 12/31 bank balance=\$53,895

FRIENDS FIDUCIARY

OPENING INVESTMENT BALANCE 1/1/2019	\$133,247
Change in Market Value thru 12/31	<u>\$23,066</u>
% Change in Market Value 17.3%	
CLOSING INVESTMENT BALANCE 12/31/2019	\$156,313

PENNSGROVE YEAR-END CASH AND INVESTMENTS	
CASH – BB&T	\$53,466
INVESTMENTS - FRIENDS FIDUCIARY	<u>\$156,313</u>
PENNSGROVE TOTAL (12/31/19)	\$209,779

2019 YEAR-END REPORT

1. Lightening damage to tree and front porch: Porch repair completed / Tree removal to be done in 2020
2. Landscaper clear-out of overgrown areas in the back and side commissioned and completed
3. No changes in committee membership / No burials occurred / One site purchase inquiry.