

DRAFT Minutes of the Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business of the Western Quarterly Meeting held on 19 July 2020 (19th Seventh Month 2020) by ZOOM 1-3:38 PM

[This Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business is the second virtual meeting of the Western Quarterly Meeting](#)

Twenty-four (24) 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).

22.90: Un-programmed Worship convened at 1PM: From the silence, we heard responses for the Fifth Query from Hockessin, London Grove, and Mill Creek Monthly Meetings (MMs).

London Grove's Response given by Susanna Davison: *The 2018 Revised Fifth Month Query, "Religious Education in the home and meeting," challenges the meeting and the family to provide a wide-ranging program of religious education and to offer the experience of belonging to a worshipping community. In response to having this query (much changed since the 2002 Faith & Practice) read during worship on 5/3/2020, a Friend noted the query leans more toward action than to words. In these times, the Friend noted, "we are led to kindness. To respond to messages we hear during the week, it is better to be kind than to disagree, remembering that Christ's message is of love. Preparing this response, I had occasion to review what was recorded a year ago when London Grove Friends considered the same query—the week before our annual Plant Sale and near the end of London Grove Friends Kindergarten's successful year. That day several Friends spoke with joy of how those vital events strengthened our religious community. In contrast, this year's pandemic led to early cancellation of the Plant Sale, Kindergarten sessions, and in-person Adult Religious Education. Worship has evolved through experience using Zoom, although not all members and attenders have adapted to that method. Week to week, we now alternate carefully distanced outdoor worship with Zoom worship. It has been a special joy this year to greet Friends living away (in Vermont, Pittsburgh, Washington DC and North Carolina. Screen-sharing has enabled occasional First Day School classes; and summer refreshments on the porch have been replaced by Zoom virtual coffee hour socials. We have adapted and found new ways to Nurture our Community.*

Richard Barnard shared Hockessin Meeting's Responses to the Fifth Month Queries 2020

- Two things came to mind while the query was being read. Our First Day School coordinator, Rose Rupert does an excellent job helping young

people prepare to become Quakers. They have their own business meeting, which is one way we're preparing them for future Quaker activity. The other thing was our retreat. It helped us look at what Quaker practice is for building community. Oh, and the exhibit of Quaker dress. We're actively teaching about Quaker history with this and other exhibits over the past few years.

- I think we have a strong meeting. The adult first day group has grown in the past few years. It is our meeting's desire to continue religious education and find different ways to do it.
- The query that mentions opportunities for all to learn about various areas reminded me of the work I did last winter to organize the library materials. The meeting has a wonderful resource in the library. I don't know that people take much advantage of it. We have quite a good resource of religious materials covering the areas mentioned in that query.
- I think Mark Parker Miller and Rose Rupert have done a good job of building a good community within the first day school, whether for those who attend regularly or sporadically.

Mill Creek also shared responses to the 5th Query.

22.91: Friends approved Minutes from March, April, May, and June 2020.

22.92: Friends approved FY 2021 Budget (please review attached): WQM's Budget Committee populated by Ariana Langford and Wayne Thompson (both of Newark) presented, in detail, the proposed budget by juxtaposing last year's and FY 2021. The Budget Committee expressed "Thanks" to the Treasurers of the Monthly Meetings (MMs) for their valuable participation.

22.93: Friends accepted the Treasurer's Report (please review attached): WQM Treasurer Stan Glowiak (Centre) provided and articulated a comprehensive, preliminary summary of the end- of-the-year AY 2020 report; the finalized report, per a previous recommendation by Treasurer Glowiak, will be given in October 2020. In discussing the Treasurer's Report, Treasurer Glowiak explained we need to know more about our insurance, particularly in terms of being proactive regarding premiums. Also, Friends agreed that there should be an inclusion of explanatory notes regarding covenants and Philadelphia Yearly Meeting (PYM)'s distributions to ensure understanding of the numerical amount found in Line 851 of the Treasurer's report.

22.94: Friends accepted the Friends Home (Kennett Square) Report (please review attached). Sarah Kastriner (Kennett) provided highlights of the report, particularly noting that there has been a slowdown in gaining new residents, which consequently has impacted income revenue.

After acceptance of the Friends Home's report, WQM Clerk Bob Frye (London Grove) read a portion of a letter he received from Friends Home Executive Director Christine McDonald asking for a financial donation. After a phone conversation with her, he learned that there was a need for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

After some discussion regarding amount and future implications, Friends approved a one-time \$1000 contribution to Friends Home; funds will be pulled from WQM's reserve funds. Also, Friends affirmed Richard Logan's (Hockessin) suggestion that the WQM Clerk distribute the Friends Home's solicitation letter to Monthly Meetings (MMs).

22.95: Outreach Discussion – The following queries guided Friends' discussion regarding inward/outreach community building: (1) How do we best do outreach and engagement?; (2) How do we better articulate that Quakers are still active in the community?; and, (3) How do we engage volunteerism beyond finances?

Friends agreed that there should be a multilayered, varied response including postal mailing, connecting with other Quarters, organizing interested volunteers, hosting ZOOM meetings, and soliciting feedback/input from Monthly Meetings (MM) about what to prioritize inward/outreach and ways to make either or both effective. One Friend expressed the desire for WQM to prioritize outreach.

Friends agreed that WQM Coordinator Deb Wood and WQM Bob Frye will convene a WQM Community Building Sprint that will bring together interested Friends.

22.96: Property Working Group Verbal Report: The working group consists of Mark Myers (London Grove; *servicing as Clerk*), Sarah Kastriner (Kennett), Mary Sproat (West Grove), Shelley Hastings (Centre), and Lars Farmer (Kennett). The only outstanding task of the Property Working Group is to write and submit their formal written report at the September meeting of WQM's Support Committee or at the Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business at the Quarterly in October. The Property Working Group's charge was to answer the following questions: (1) Is WQM, a Monthly Meeting (MM), or a burial committee adequately capitalized to handle ownership of property? and (2) Are there active building committees at each MMs regarding the buildings and burial grounds? Also, the Property Working Group was to ascertain the general condition of

burial grounds and historic meetings. After visiting all— active and historic—of the Monthly Meetings (MMs) and 19 burial grounds, the committee is happy to report that all of the buildings and burial grounds have active committees. The major concerns that will be outlined in the formal report are: (1) sustainable committee structure (age of committee members); (2) perpetual obligations; (3) capital fundraising for projects, (4) the maintenance, role, and value of Historic Kennett Meeting, and (5) the condition of Old West Grove. WQM has ownership of some of the properties. Responsibilities of other properties will fall to WQM, if the MMs cannot handle the issue. One of the recommendations of the Property Working Group is to host a capital fundraising workshop with Monthly Meetings (MMs).

22.97: Responses from Monthly Meetings (MMs) on Bucks Quarter Minute on Gun Violence Peter Weygandt (London Grove) explained that London Grove's Peace and Social Justice Committee discussed input from participating Monthly Meetings (MM). The Committee decided to "put over for further consideration" the Bucks Quarter Minute on Gun Violence. Therefore, since Monthly Meetings in WQM reached no unity, WQM Friends agreed to set aside the Bucks Quarter Minute on Gun Violence until picked up again by a Monthly Meeting.

22.98: Friends accepted the Coordinator Report (please review attached). Coordinator Deb Wood highlighted her ongoing communications with clerks of Monthly Meetings (MMs), coordinating Support Committee Meetings, making timely updates to the WQM website, increasing knowledge of ZOOM, digitalization of files/records, working on WQM programming, attending workshops sponsored by Philadelphia Yearly Meeting (PYM) and various Monthly Meetings, and planning of the Joint Quarterly Meeting with Concord Quarter.

22.99: Minute of Appreciation for Mark Myers to Western Quarterly Meeting
The Western Quarterly Meeting of The Religious Society of Friends wishes to express deep and heartfelt appreciation for the service of Mark Myers as Clerk over the past two years. Mark has offered considerable time and effort in support of our meeting, and the operating and financial improvements initiated by his recent predecessors have continued to progress under his leadership. Mark's fulfillment of his pledge to organize a Property Working Group to assess the financial and physical condition of our inventory of laid down meetinghouses has been of great benefit. We now have a much clearer understanding of how to address the needs of these historic assets. Mark also championed the joint Quarterly Meeting initiative that has been successfully received and will no

doubt become a staple event in the future – potentially to also include other Quarterly Meetings in the region. Most important, Mark has been seen as a steady presence who articulated his conviction that a Quarterly Meeting can be important to the spiritual and social life of our membership. There has been a growing understanding of the role that Western Quarterly Meeting can have in our individual and collective journey. We thank Mark for getting us started on this path.

22.98: Next Meeting – Sunday, 13 September 2020 (presumably

Submitted Faithfully on Sunday, July 19, 2020,
Peace and Progress, Be Kinder to Yourself,
tonya thames taylor (Fallowfield MM), WQM Recording Clerk