



DRAFT Minutes of Western Quarterly Meeting's Meeting for Worship with
Attention to Business 18 October 2020 via Zoom 2:00-3:34pm

Friends attended from Newark, London Grove, Crosslands, Kendal, Centre, Kennett, Mill Creek, New Garden, and Hockessin.

We began with worship. During this time we heard responses to the 8th query, Grounding for Transformed Lives: Integrity and Simplicity, from PYM's *Faith and Practice*.

Response of London Grove Monthly Meeting

The Eighth Query brings our attention and thoughts in worship to the relation and interplay among our testimonies of integrity, simplicity, and stewardship of the earth. Recently Philadelphia Yearly Meeting requested responses from Monthly Meetings on three issues, one of which is a proposed Minute of a Yearly-Meeting-wide witness on **Climate Change**. Our meeting engaged in a thoughtful and constructive gathering on the 27th of September, bearing in mind the interplay of these three testimonies. Members and attenders learned that there is much unity in our Meeting—on the reality and potential impact of Climate Change, and the need for both individual and collective action to effect change on this issue facing the world.

Simplicity—living simply-- is integral to this. Integrity—acknowledging the science on this issue and acknowledging human impact on the earth is required, as well. Eighth Query brings to our Meeting yet another opportunity to apply Quaker testimonies and faith to our lives and the life of our Meeting.

Response from New Garden Monthly Meeting

Quakers practice honesty and truthfulness as we see it. We search for truth. This is a common search, as it is our testimony. We search for honesty and truthfulness in that which is ethical, politically, socially, and economically. This often gives us great concern.

Simplicity in our decisions as a meeting helps us to maintain “spirit led” decisions for what is best for all- rather than for personal gain. The meeting makes decisions in open dialog as a whole, maintaining truth and simplicity. This too, is our testimony.

As individuals, we choose to live simple lives rather than garish lives. We live simply so that others may simply live.

Response from Mill Creek Monthly Meeting

We at Mill Creek Monthly Meeting are definitely simple in both our manner of worship and our use of resources at the meetinghouse. We do without extravagances (and some would say necessities like running water!) and use a propane heater and composting toilet.

Our worship is simple by adhering to Friends’ tradition of quiet worship of gathered Friends.

We show integrity by dealing honestly and fairly with each other, our financial obligations/bills, and our investments. We stand for Peace.

Updates from Monthly Meetings - in their updates Friends were encouraged to share concerning the three concerns communicated from the Yearly Meeting co-clerks in early September.

Newark MM: shared with YM that it feels like the YM is going in too many directions at once too quickly for considered responses. Many at Newark are involved on a regular basis with the NAACP and Black Lives Matter. They will be doing their annual food fundraiser and are discerning what area food cupboard is in need.

Hockessin MM: the appropriate committees at Hockessin are considering the three concerns from PYM

Kendal MM: has had discussions on two of the three concerns. They are in support of the witness on climate change and support the efforts of Kendal to move to a carbon neutral footprint. They are also in support of greater flexibility for Friends for membership options. Several members at Kendal have memberships with the Meetings they attended prior to moving to Kendal. They lifted up the need for an active link to serve Friends who are members at a Yearly Meeting level.

London Grove MM: had sessions for each of the three concerns, and drafted responses that were sent to Yearly Meeting. With regards to climate

change there was unity for the major points. They continue to consider anti-racism more deeply.

Kennett MM: has focused its worship and witness in the past months on anti-racism, seeking to address racism in both the Quaker and Kennett Square community. They recently wrote a statement to that concern and will consider the others in the coming weeks.

In our discussion Friends noted the need to keep track of whether there is interest in or need for membership at a Quarterly Meeting level, and for how the needs of rural, suburban, and urban meetings and Friends may be very different.

Friends approved the following minute to be sent to Yearly Meeting:

Western Quarterly Meeting Response to PYM Major Concerns

Western Quarterly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends is comprised of the following Monthly Meetings:

Centre Friends Meeting	Crosslands	Fallowfield Meeting
Hockessin Meeting	Kendal Meeting	Kennett Meeting
London Grove Meeting	Mill Creek Meeting	New Garden Meeting
Newark Meeting	West Grove Meeting	

As a body in service to these monthly meetings, we affirm the three concerns of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting communicated by the clerks on 6 September, and commit to support all of the monthly meetings under our care as they choose to gain discernment on any or all of these concerns.

Additionally, Western Quarterly Meeting will seek areas of common interest within our network with a view towards offering resources to encourage implementation of actions that may arise as a result of common leadings by our members.

Treasurer's Report - Stan Glowiak

The clerk noted that Stan did outstanding work over the summer investigating our insurance policy, and discovered that we could make a change in type of insurance policy and thus save almost half our premium and maintain excellent coverage. Much appreciation was voiced for Stan's diligence in this matter.

On July 19, 2020 treasurer Stan Glowiak submitted a 4th Quarter Fiscal Year budget report which started with a review of the two page Quickbooks report from our bookkeeper's company, NewWay Accounting (refer to report pages 1 and 2). A page 3 followed with balances of all reserve accounts (Citadel and Friends Fiduciary) as of June 30.

The SUMMARY from our bookkeeper on the bottom of page two indicated that, minus \$132,723.00 of PYM Covenant Income collected and transferred to PYM, WQM's remaining expenses were \$54,158.54. When considering WQM's Total Income, WQM's Net Revenue for the fiscal year was (1,422.42) short of the income needed to balance the budget.

OVERALL, however, given that \$7,725.00 of the money transferred to PYM during FY2020 was actually deposited on June 28, 2019, designated for FY2019 PYM Covenant but not able to be withdrawn by PYM until July 30, 2019, after our FY2020 began. The true WQM Net Revenue, based on total cash inflows versus total cash outflows, was (\$9,147.42). In CONCLUSION, the bookkeeper's SUMMARY looked at net revenue for Fiscal Year 2020's budget but OVERALL we must also look at net revenue as it pertains to the cash flow difference between June 30, 2019 and June 30, 2020. The difference is the \$7,725 deposited in one fiscal year and transferred to PYM in another.

The June 30, 2020 report sent out is just for information purposes. Anyone with questions regarding it can contact me either directly or through the WQM office.

We viewed the September 30th First fiscal quarter report for FY2021, and the Statement of Financial Position document. There were no questions regarding either document.

Coordinator Report - The host for January's Quarterly Meeting is Centre; and the April host is listed as Kendal. It is expected that virtual options will continue to be needed.

The Child Abuse Policy was approved and copies are available upon request. The coordinator will share and review the policy with our Youth Coordinator.

The coordinator posts summaries of PYM and other programs attended in the blog on the website.

London Britain Graveyard Guidelines - Shelley Hastings

We considered the changes to the London Britain Graveyard Guidelines. Of note to Friends was the fee structure and accommodations for green burials. The fees for non-Friends are now more in line with market value. There is interest in learning more about the legality of green burials and what the impact of allowing them may be. We will work to have a follow up session on green burials.

We approved the changes.

Minute from London Grove on Prevention of Nuclear War - David Nuttall

The minute is similar to one approved last year. This one reflects that it is the 75th anniversary of the nuclear bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and that the US has discussed resuming testing of nuclear weapons. Several Meetings have approved the minute, and several more will consider it in the coming weeks. We decided to consider the minute at an upcoming meeting before the January meeting.

Anti-Racism Collaborative Request - Susanna Davison

Susanna is a member of the Anti-Racism Collaborative. The collaborative is a recently formed group of Friends from across the Yearly meeting who seek to support Friends and Meetings as we become anti-racist. The collaborative has a short interview they would like to conduct with each Meeting. Susanna will continue to reach out to clerks and Meeting contacts.

Outreach Discussion – reports from MMs

The clerk heard from a few meetings about their outreach work: financial donations to groups and allowing use of our buildings and grounds for meetings. Several Friends serve as board members of non-profit organizations serving the community. Newark is planning a food and fund raiser this fall and are seeking a recipient of the aid. The coronavirus limits our in-person social interactions presenting a challenge to how some of us keep abreast of needs and initiatives in our communities. Concord Quarter invites Friends in Western Quarter to a virtual program on Wednesday,

P.O. Box 693
Kennett Square, PA 19348
www.westernquarterquakers.org

Kennett Friends Meetinghouse
125 W. Sickle Street
610-444-1012

October 28 from 7:00-8:30 on Covid-19 How Local Groups Are Helping.
Registration is at their website concordquarter.org and the event is listed
on Western Quarter's [events](#) page.

We agreed to return to this matter in the next meeting to have more
time for discussion and discernment probably before the January Meeting.

We closed with a period of worship.

Respectfully submitted,

Deb Wood, Western Quarter coordinator