



Western Quarterly News

OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

WESTERN QUARTERLY MEETING NEWSLETTER
WINTER 2020-21

MESSAGE FROM THE CLERK

So, here we are. As the year 2020 draws to its end we can probably all agree that it has been a year unlike all others, a year that we will be talking about for the rest of our lives. There has been so much pain, so much sorrow and anger. And yet as Quakers we've also witnessed many examples within our monthly meetings of shared compassion, of working together creatively to keep moving forward, of reaching out to those who needed a helping hand. It warms the heart to see us as a gathered people living the faith that we profess – peaceable lives lived simply and with integrity. As a Quarterly Meeting, we owe a tremendous debt to our coordinator (Deb) who made this year seem as normal as humanly possible, to Claire who created vibrant virtual youth programs, to our Treasurer (Stan) whose efforts ensured that our financial viability actually improved in 2020, and to our Recording Clerk (tonya) for being our North Star. Many thanks from all of us to the four of you.

Finally, please continue to be careful for a little while longer. Let us redouble our efforts to answer that of God in everyone. And let's try to see the blessings around us, even the smallest ones. We can gain warmth and Light from the Spirit within.

Merry Christmas.
Robert Frye

IN THIS ISSUE:

FROM THE CLERK

TWELFTH QUERY

QUARTERLY
MEETING

FROM PYM—THREE
SPRINTS AND
UPCOMING THREADS

MEMBERSHIP
DEVELOPMENT

MINUTES

Western Quarterly Meeting

will gather on 17 January 2021—virtually
9:45 am—all are invited to an intergenerational program
with Claire!

11:00 am- Meeting for Worship—Centre Monthly
Meeting invites us to worship with them—virtually or
perhaps at their Meetinghouse. Covid depending.

2:00 pm —Western Quarter Meeting for Worship with
Attention to Business via Zoom

Register on the website or contact

coordinator@westernquarterquakers.org

The 12th Query - **Witnessing in the World: Witness and Civic Responsibility**

What is our meeting doing:

- To become aware of systemic legal, economic and political injustices in our local community?
- To build relationships with other faith communities around common concerns?
- To reduce polarization within the larger community?
- To work together with others to address injustice?
- How does our meeting assist in restoring public recognition that government fulfills legitimate functions?

For the individual:

Am I mindful of how my lifestyle, work-life and investments affect others?

Am I open to seeking clearness on matters of conscience? Am I open to assisting others in doing so?

Do I fulfill my civic responsibilities when they do not conflict with divine leading?

From PYM's *Faith and Practice*

Western Quarter invites you to an intergenerational event!

January 17, 2021, 9:45 am – 10:45 am via ZOOM (click [HERE](#) to register)



**FOOD FOR
THOUGHT**

(for grownups and kids!)



GIVING & RECEIVING

Draw or paint a picture that shows how you answer to that of God in everyone. Bring it with you to the Zoom on 1/17 and share the story with us if you want to (no pressure)!

Did you know that January 9 is National PLAY GOD Day?? Come to WQM with ideas about what you would do if you could play God for just one day!

Questions about the program, or anything else? Contact Claire Taylor, Western Quarter Youth Coordinator, at 717.342.4027 or Deb Wood, Western Quarter Coordinator, at 484.639.8536.

How Do You Know When You're Embodying Your Quaker Values?

- Does your body give you a clue? Where do you feel it?
- Can you remember a time when you *didn't* display your Quaker values, because you were scared, or too angry, or ashamed, embarrassed, etc.?
- Which feelings are more vivid? What are some things you can do that bring positive feelings?

FAMOUS QUAKERS THROUGH HISTORY

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HORACE ALEXANDER

IWAQ AYUSAWA

ANN AUSTIN

ANTHONY BENEZET

ALBERT BIGELOW

SANDRA BOYNTON

BEN KINGSLEY

ELIAS HICKS

JAMES MICHENER

EDWARD R. MURROW

LUCRETIA MOTT

PARKER PALMER

ISAAC PENNINGTON

ANNIE PATTERSON

ANDREA SEABROOK

D. ELTON TRUEBLOOD

BENJAMIN WEST

JOHN GREENLEAF WHITTIER

JOHN WOOLMAN

GEORGE BRADSHAW

KENNETH BOULDING

JOAN BAEZ

FLORENCE MARY BARROW

RUFUS JONES

OLIVE PINK

WHITTAKER CHAMBERS

MARY DYER

MARGERET FELL FOX

CARRIE NEWCOMER

JOAN SLONCZEWSKI

BAYARD RUSTIN

LEVI COFFIN

JUDI DENCH

ALICE PAUL

IRVING STOWE

Brought to us by our Youth Coordinator, Claire Brandenburg Taylor!

E-mail Deb or Claire for the answer sheet and/or a brief introduction sheet to the Friends in the search.

coordinator@westernquarterquakers.org

highestpotential@icloud.com

Coordinator's notes of PYM Continuing Session Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business 2020-12-08

Opening worship included a land acknowledgement. Queries were shared to help us discern our presence: why did I choose to come to these business sessions; what am I bringing to serve the community? how do I hope to be served by being here; what do I expect to take away with me?

Christie Duncan-Tessmer, the General Secretary, reported that financially the YM is okay, and that is a great thing in a year very unlike the usual. We exceeded the Annual Fund goal and covenants are soft. The Arch Street Meeting House executive direction is off to a great start with programs planned and happening, and grants received. Christie shared the following metaphor about the Yearly Meeting community: we are like the neurons in a nervous system- through our meetings, e-mails, event invitations, mindfulness sessions, Instagram posts, we receive, send, relay, and transport messages that keep us connected. This is our shared experience of God and is nourishment for ourselves and all those we connect with us even outside our faith community.

Terri Whiteford gave a **Nominating** report. There were four appointments and one release. We approved Cathy Toner of Downingtown MM/Calm Quarter to Administrative Council; Robert Greene of Princeton MM/Burlington for Quaker Life Council; Keith Barch Schulykill/Calm as PYM Rep to FGC; Margery Rubin Medford/Haddonfield as PYM Rep to AFSC; Julia Carrigan of Mickleton/Salem Quarter was released from Admin Council.

Anthony Stover gave a report from **Quaker Life Council**.

Anthony lifted up the charge of the council: to tend to the health and integrity of our community, cultivate and deepen relationships, nurture our Meetings, and support work for corporate peace and justice. There are to be 15 appointed members (there are now 12; we like to have 2 be Young Friends.) QLC helps steward 9 collaboratives: Abolition of Nuclear Weapons; Anti-racism; First Contact; Eco-justice, India Friends; FWCC; Legislative Policy; Middle East; and Spiritual Formation. WE have received more state of the society reports in recent years from 16 to 60. We will start this process again soon. They help to connect us and to and know the involvement of Friends. The Ministry and Care subcommittee tends to our anti-racism work.

Jim Waddingtown reported for **Administrative Council**.

Recent work has included orienting five new members. Property committee has expanded. We are reviewing committee charges. There are Sprints on Governance and Strategic Direction from the reorganization of the YM with Roy Zatcoff as clerk; the Membership and Belonging Sprint includes all councils from YM. Finance committee has discussed what type of impact investing the YM should do (Reinvestment Fund). A joint orientation of new members of both councils led to valuing and wanting more joint-council meetings-- sees it as broadening impact and increasing spiritual depth; Admin Council appoints at large seats on Nominating Council. There are 5 vacancies and we are feeling the weight of these vacancies.

Our clerks, Jean-Marie and Frank Barch, reported on the **three concerns** shared out to Meetings in September, 2020. They heard from 18 Monthly Meetings and 2 Quarters on membership, ecojustice and the climate crisis, and anti-racism. Meetings and Collaboratives and the Yearly Meeting has engaged with these three issues for many years. Discerning our spiritual work on these moving forward needs more discernment. For Membership, many are unclear about the recent history of the concern and why some feel a need for an additional way to be a Friend. Several Meetings shared ideas for climate action. Actionable specifics beyond a minute are needed. With regards to Anti-racism concern, Meetings shared witness against racism, but it is not yet clear if there is support for PYM and Fellowship of Friends of African Descent minutes. Ministry and Care committee of Quaker Life Council is working to create a process to heal from racism within PYM, and to help us move towards being an anti-racist community. There will be Sprints formed for each concern. Please share names with the clerks of those you recommend to serve on any of the Sprints. These three concerns will be on the Yearly Meeting agenda in March and will be informed by the work of the Sprints.

Growing the Meeting- Wisdom from Three Growing Meetings – Caln Quarter Membership Development Series Part 4, Nov. 21, 2020

The Caln Quarter Membership Development Team asked three panelists, each from a different Monthly Meeting to share their experiences and learnings of growing their meeting. Their reflections were organized around the following five queries:

How does your Meeting make itself known in the community?

How does your meeting help new attenders get connected to the meeting?

How do you convert a curious visitor to a returning attender?

How would you describe the meeting's assets relative to youth and adult offerings, both activities and spiritual programs?

The three panelists were Brad Sheeks of Newtown MM, a suburban meeting; Arlene Johnson of Chatham-Summit MM, a suburban meeting in New Jersey; and Vicki Smith of Old Chatham MM, a rural meeting in upstate New York.

The three Meetings did not do exactly the same things, but it was clear there were similar approaches. Meetings need to find the ways in which Friends worship and the activities and expression of the Meeting's spiritual life resonate with the local communities. Outreach actions must all fall in the comfort zone of meeting members. Here are some of the common elements to their outreach:

- It entails a thoughtful assessment and intentional, consistent efforts aimed at being as inclusive as possible.
- The Meeting supports this work in multiple ways: religious education programs nurture all, not just seekers and visitors. The appeal of the meeting house impacts all who are present.
- There are frequent connections to the local community whether through open invitations to meeting programs or articles in the paper or on the web about meeting events. Events may be clearly Quaker - a sustainability program for World Quaker Day or a blood drive for the Red Cross.
- Newcomers see evidence of vitality, expressed in the adult and youth activities and by the physical appearance of the property. Orientation materials are on hand, discussion groups are lifted up.
- Someone follows up with each newcomer, offering specific avenues to plugin.
- These meetings started by focusing on a couple of initiatives and built their "system" brick by brick, as opposed to implementing a master plan at the outset.
- Ways keeping connected during covid may well continue after the pandemic, such as featuring updates from particular members in the newsletter, and online discussions.

Notes about the three Meetings and from each presenter are available, as is a link to a recording of the session. If you are interested in receiving these, please e-mail Deb at coordinator@westernquarterquakers.org.

The next program in Caln Quarter's Membership Development will likely be on a Saturday in February. Stay tuned for e-mail notice. A participant asked about material for newcomers who want to get acquainted with Quakerism. Here are a few suggestions.

Letters to a Fellow Seeker: A Short Introduction to the Quaker Way by Steve Chase (available from FGC)

Milestones on the Path by Alex Miller (available from Amazon)

What to Expect in Quaker Meeting for Worship, a QuakerSpeak DVD

The Caln Quarter Membership Development Series working team is John Hayden, Janet Lamborn, Larry MacKenzie, and Irene Oleksiw.

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, and 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

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, 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