

Minutes of Western Quarterly Meeting 7th month 18th, 2021

Bob Frye, Western Quarterly Meeting clerk, welcomed Friends. Twenty-seven Friends attended all or part of the meeting. Regrets were shared from Tonya Thames Taylor, keynote speaker at Philadelphia Quarter's gathering, Ariana Langford, and Emma Parker Miller.

The clerk shared the **6th Query and Friends received the following responses:**

Mill Creek Monthly Meeting is frugal in its use of resources; for example, we have a composting toilet and a propane gas heater that is only used when we are present. All of our members help with seasonal cleaning and upkeep of the meetinghouse and its grounds, although some members are more consistent in their care of the outside maintenance of the property. Our community work currently includes support of the local Food Bank through cash and food donations. The meeting as a whole supports WQ and PYM through its quarterly covenant. We also support the Friends Journal with an annual subscription. About 50% of our income is from our members and the rest is from our investments in Friends Fiduciary.

London Grove Monthly Meeting - Friend Susanna Davison read aloud the sixth query from Faith and Practice- Nurturing Our Community-Stewardship of Resources. Friends continued in silent worship in considering the query. The first response came from a Friend who, having considered the ecological, economic and social justice aspects of the query, remarked about how consequences arise from the way those concerns play against one another. When society doesn't move to limit the impacts of climate change resulting from individual, as well as corporate decisions that affect conservation, it is the underprivileged strata of our society who end up shouldering the consequences. Within our Meeting, a working group on climate change continues to gather for the purpose of holding the concerns of climate change put forth by PYM. As that group continues to meet, they will be visiting ways the Meeting can respond locally as well as at a broader level in addressing the continued rise of Co2 on the planet. A second Friend had come to meeting this morning anticipating the query about Peace and Non-violence that actually will be the Seventh Month's query. This Friend recently has been reading a book titled *Apeirogon*, by Colum McCann, that is centered around a conflict versus peace theme told through a story of two families effected by tragedy resulting from the ongoing Israeli/Palestinian conflict. The insights the book has triggered for this Friend would have been right in line for a response to Seventh Month's query. Nevertheless, after some thought and having an ability to redirect, this Friend realized that those insights gained through reading this book, also could apply to the concerns addressed in Sixth Month's query. The word apeirogon- the title of the book- relates to a geometric

shape that has a countably infinite number of sides; the word is from the Greek language and means to be boundless. An apeirogon looks like a circle but its parts are straight lines. This Friend surmised that certainly, that same thing could be said about the issues surrounding the concern of climate change. With regards to climate change, all of us are complicit, all of us are responsible even for what has not yet been imagined. This Friend conjectured that the Meeting's informal, working group on Climate Change is certainly on a journey and may well find something it has not yet considered.

Updates from MMs

Centre will host a concert by Hoss/Boggs on August 14 Saturday at 6pm. The duo plays a wide range of music. Bring friends and a picnic to Centre Meeting!

Crosslands is now meeting in person for meeting for worship from 10-11am.

Hockessin has more and more friends meeting in person. Some attend via Zoom. Hockessin Friends are engaged in a process to come to a decision regarding the caretaker house. The process is formulated to bring in more objectivity rather than subjectivity in decision making. We will take up the Aging Concerns in August.

Newark is meeting during the summer at the London Britain Meeting House. We decided to meadowize part of the London Britain property to be more ecologically/environmentally responsible. Newark Friends will gather on August 13 at 5:30 for a picnic at Shelley Hastings. Friends across the quarter are welcome to join. Shelley's address is 270 Elbow Lane, Elkton, Maryland.

London Grove has engaged in the 21 day Racial Equity Challenge over 21 weeks to foster discussion and growth for Friends and the Meeting. The Climate Change Working Group is open to all those who are concerned about climate change and interested in discussing how, as a Meeting, we can respond to the challenges it presents us. Their efforts include education, leading by example, and advocacy. London Grove has installed a more environmentally-oriented heating, cooling, and air filtration system for the meeting house.

Mill Creek Meeting Friends are now vaccinated so all have returned to worship in the meeting house. Mask wearing is optional but encouraged especially with the appearance of COVID variants.

New Garden Meeting will meet the 1st Sunday in August!

Kennett Friends are meeting in person and with a hybrid option. Masks are not required and many are vaccinated. During the summer Kennett Friends worship at Old Kennett Meeting House on the final Sundays of the month.

Aging Concerns Initiative - The initiative to gather resources and focus on programing for a year on aging related needs, which the group has often noted may be relevant at any age, was presented at our 4th month meeting. Since then we have heard or

received support for the initiative from Newark, Fallowfield, West Grove, Kendal, and London Grove Monthly Meetings.

Crosslands has an interest in the initiative. An attender at Crosslands has agreed to serve on the Aging Committee. She has experience working in a county office for the aging, and is very familiar with the issues. She could participate via zoom, but not in in-person meetings.

Mill Creek Friends see the need but at the moment no volunteer for service on the committee. They are very much in support of the initiative.

The clerk reminded us that members of the committee would liaise with multiple meetings and not just their own.

Centre Friends will take up the initiative at their next meeting for worship with attention to business in September. There does seem to be interest in and support of the initiative.

Hockessin will also consider the initiative as their business agenda opens.

Kennett Meeting supports the initiative and Elaine Amoss and Debby Brumbaugh will serve as contacts for Kennett Meeting.

The coordinator will organize a meeting of the Aging Concerns group probably for mid-August after meeting with Hockessin Friends, the host of the 10th month gathering of Western Quarter. Friends suggested having an in-person meeting at the Friends Home, and tapping into the expertise of the staff there as an additional way to connect Western Quarter Friends to the work of Friends Home. There are also resources and expertise available through PYM.

Friends Home Report - Christine McDonald, Director of Friends Home

Friends received the report. The full report is attached. Christine highlighted that the COVID close down was longer than initially expected. Friends Home did well until Dec. 10 when they had their first case. Now all residents are vaccinated as are 80-85% of staff. Friends Home did some indoor and outdoor programs and trips; construction to update areas will restart soon and provide greater ADA accessibility; and they hope to get more CNAs to support patients with physical needs; the Montessori program continues; they have a health and wellness initiative; a music program is up and running; staffing is the biggest challenge for Friends Home as it is for many other similar organizations. The staff level is safe for residents, but more staff would be ideal. In response to questions, Christine shared that she is on the board of the Senior Center of Kennett and they hope to reopen soon. Friends Home aims to strengthen and expand their connection to the Kennett Area Senior Center.

The residents assistance program, the ability to provide financial aid to residents, provides peace of mind and comfort to the residents and so is immensely important. Most at Friends Home are of modest means.

Christine and Friends Home would love to connect with the Quarter's Aging Concerns committee, and have the Quarter visit and have a gathering there.

Friends expressed their appreciation of the report, the work of Friends Home, Christine's work, and her presence with us today.

Budget

The proposed budget is attached. Bob Frye shared that work began on the budget a few months ago and has been reviewed by a gathering of Meeting treasurers and Support Committee. Bob directed our attention to the last four lines of the budget to note that it is essentially the same budget as for the past year. Much of our reduction in expenses is due to covid and some the change in insurance coverage. We reviewed the rest of the budget.

Friends approved the budget with much thanks to Ariana for her work.

The question of whether late covenants were the cause of the budget deficit arose. The answer is no.

Treasurer's Report

Stan Glowiak opened his report with a brief explanation that the deficits in the budget are covered by funds in the checking account. With the wisdom of Linell McCurry, PYM's Associate Secretary of Business and Finance, Western Quarter maintains 6 months of reserves in the checking account.

The Income and Expenses report for the 4th quarter is available upon request.

SUMMARY: All ten Monthly Meetings of Western Quarter have given 100% financially of what they budgeted for PYM and WQM Covenant during WQM's fiscal year 2020-2021 (FY2021).

Thank you!

Nine of ten Meetings gave this fiscal year what they gave last fiscal year despite the difficulties presented by the Covid-19 pandemic and despite missing in-person Meetings for Worship and other activities.

\$124,648 was given and passed on to PYM. \$33,659 was given and used for WQM expenses.

No money was spent from Section 700 Quarterly Meeting Sessions and Section 826 Youth Programs this past fiscal year.

We did however have child and intergenerational activities via Zoom thanks to Claire Taylor's efforts and presentations before she resigned in April.

Deb Wood has been indispensable as Office coordinator scheduling and hosting Zoom meetings.

Also, Payroll Expense finished almost \$1,300 below budget.

Newsletter and Office Expenses were significantly below budget despite increases in areas such as Telephone and Internet, Website and Domain hosting.

As a result, instead of an expected \$7,795 hit on our cash reserves in checking and/or other assets, WQM's net revenue was only \$870.50 short of balancing the fiscal year's budget.

Regarding Line 998 Fallowfield Orthodox Burial Ground Maintenance:

Line 998 includes the \$650 expense incurred for 13 mowings through last summer, fall, and this spring.

The Friends Fiduciary December 2020 and June 2021 distributions for its account with FFC are included in line 360 Distributions Restricted.

When subtracting the \$207.90 in December and the \$211.86 in June from \$650 paid by WQM , only \$230.24 was used from the \$500 in the WQM budget.

$650 - 207.90 = 442.10 - 211.86 = 230.24$ from WQM's budget

A Fiscal Year 2021 Final Year End Report will be presented along with a Balance Sheet/Statement of Financial Position from Quickbooks showing our financial responsibility at the October Quarterly Meeting.

Unfortunately, The official Friends Fiduciary Quarterly Statement for June 30 did not arrive by US mail until yesterday, July 17. This has been happening often in recent years.

While Friends Fiduciary online is available with information, when using FFC's system and looking at an account with eight sub-accounts it can be time consuming and difficult transferring the information on the internet to others, namely bookkeepers, who may not be Quakers, are not aware of, or familiar with, Quaker organization and process and do not have access to Friends Fiduciary on line.

Finally, Quarterly Meeting comes very close to the 4th of July holiday especially in years when the 4th is at the end or the beginning of the week and people take extra days away from work.

The slower summer months can give perspective to the fiscal picture of the past fiscal year. We'll finish this in October.

Friends received the report and thanked Stan for his work.

Nominating Committee

Shelley Hastings gave the report for Nominating Committee. Other members of the committee are Karen Halstead, Margaret Walton, Bob Frye, Sarah Kastriner, Carol Bernard, and the coordinator.

Nominating Committee brings forth **Margaret Walton to begin at the close of this meeting a year's service as assistant clerk, and two years as clerk from the 7th month 2022 meeting of the quarter.**

For the treasurer role, **Stan Glowiak has agreed to continue in the role of treasurer until 10th month 2021. Ariana Langford has agreed to serve as treasurer from**

10th month, 2021 to third month 2022. Starting in third month 2022, Bob Frye will begin working with Ariana as co-treasurers. They will also begin to work on ways and structures to simplify the quarter's finances and the role of the treasurer.

Friends approved these nominations with gratitude, excitement, and blessings for the service these Friends provide.

Quarterly Meeting Hosting Schedule and Format

The coordinator shared a draft schedule for hosting Quarterly Meetings from 1st month 2023 - 1st month 2025. The draft schedule is attached. Feedback is welcome.

Do note that a host Meeting could host at an alternate location such as Friends Home.

What format(s) should we utilize going forward to meet our community needs?

Friends have found the virtual format for committee meetings to be very positive, noting the savings on travel time, and the more positive impact of virtual meetings on the environment. **We will continue with committee meetings online.**

Quarterly gatherings should be left to host Meetings abilities. Friends hoped that meeting for worship and meeting for worship with attention to business can be in-person, and that we make all decisions with a concern for the health of our membership.

The meeting closed with a period of worship.

Respectfully submitted,
Deb Wood, coordinator

DRAFT Hosting Cycle - Host Meeting could host at a location other than their Meeting House

2019	10 th month	Kendal
2020	1 st month	Mill Creek
2020	4 th month* joint postponed	Kennett - virtual in 7th month
2020	7 th month* (Joint)	Fallowfield – virtual KT
2020	10 th month	West Grove – virtual KT
2021	1 st month	Centre
2021	4 th month	Kendal
2021	7 th month* (Joint)	Newark
2021	10 th month	Hockessin
2022	1 st month	London Grove
2022	4 th month	West Grove
2022	7 th month* (Joint)	Fallowfield
2022	10 th month	Kennett
2023	1 st month	Centre
2023	4 th month	Mill Creek
2023	7 th month* (Joint)	London Grove
2023	10 th month	Newark
2024	1 st month	Hockessin
2024	4 th month	West Grove
2024	7 th month* (Joint)	Kennett
2024	10 th month	Kendal
2025	1 st month	Fallowfield