

## Draft Minutes

### Support Committee of Western Quarterly Meeting 12 September 2021 3:00pm via Zoom

Present: Ruth Thompson, Bob Frye, Mark Myers, Margaret Walton (LG), Larry Flood (Cr), Karen Halstead (NG), David Elder (KD), Stan GLowiak (C), Carol Bernard, Dick Logan, Emma Parker-Miller, David Kee (H), Shelley Hastings (N)  
Regrets: Ariana Langford (N), tonya thames taylor (F), and Mary Sproat (WG)

We opened with a period of worship.

#### **Updates from Monthly Meetings**

*Crosslands* - has met in person for a few months; a few returned with in person worship and a few prefer Zoom. They had a partial COVID closure recently. They will have meeting for business next week.

*Hockessin*-is meeting outside for in-person worship and has worship available over Zoom. They had a wonderful memorial meeting for long-time member Steve Spangler and have a memorial for another Friend on Oct 3. They are laboring over next steps for the caretaker property next to the meeting house, and are soliciting bids for renovation work. They have a ZOOM event as part of Delaware Peace Week - Creating Peace through Climate Action: Empowering Conversations 10am on Oct 2. Friends are welcome! They also have a bazaar on October 9.

*London Grove* -meets alternately indoors and outdoors and always with a Zoom option. There is a mask mandate indoors. The meeting is adjusting to life without Ed Paschall who recently passed. We just completed installation of a heating and air system to lower the meeting's carbon footprint. The Climate Change group is researching a solar system.

*Kendal* - Continues to worship and meet over Zoom in order to maintain a way to join with those in COVID closures. In August we had two meetings for sharing concerns and feelings regarding climate crises and refugee crises.

*New Garden*- met for worship in August. Our next meeting for business is October 3rd. We are a small group.

*Newark* - We are meeting at London Britain for as long as the weather makes it possible. We meet there on Wednesday evenings as well. There is some concern for AFSC not giving equal treatment to Israel, and so the Meeting is reading *Son of Hamas*.

*Centre*- had a successful pork roast for the Bryant Foundation in Haiti and their work with special needs children. We are continuing with hybrid meetings. We

did hold the outdoor concert, and have started discussion of the Aging Concerns proposal.

### **Property Committee Preview of Report on Historic Properties – Mark Myers**

There are 10 active meetings and not all have meetinghouses - Kendal, Crosslands, and Newark. There are 6 historical meeting houses, 5 associated buildings, and 18 burial grounds. Mary Sproat is on a lot of the oversight committees for these properties.

Our process was to meet the local committees, view the property, and discuss needed work on the building(s) and grounds, immediate capital needs, and endowments to care for the property.

See the attached draft report for a summary of the committee's work at each site.

We were reminded that the charge to this committee was to determine if the properties create a growing unfunded responsibility on the Quarter's finances. There is not an immediate demand for funds and only one property was in dire need of repair. The committee recommends that there be a Quarter fund for emergencies and/or repurposing some of the meeting properties and active committees to assess the properties. Our monthly meetings have 8 active houses of worship to maintain, and the health and growth of our active meetings should be a top priority.

### *Discussion and Questions*

Friends thanked the committee for their work.

There seem to be 4-5 things to take up to be pro-active, for example formalizing that New West Grove should not have any activities. West Grove needs to be part of that conversation.

Newark should consider taking up ownership of London Britain.

The ultimate financial needs may be on Western Quarter even if a monthly meeting has a relationship with one of the historic properties.

The committee clerk and Quarter clerk plan to talk prior to our 10th month meeting.

What would happen if we stepped away from Colora? Would Deer Creek or Oxford take it up? Oxford is closer but Deer Creek is more active.

### **Treasurer's Report – Stan Glowiak**

- 1) Summer months are the slow time of the fiscal year. Only two Covenant check deposits were made in August (as usual during July and August months). Thanks again Kendal and Hockessin! 2) No expenditures were made out of the ordinary.
- 3) If any Monthly Meetings have made changes over the summer months to their Covenant amounts budgeted for WQM and/or PYM please have the treasurer or clerk let the Quarter know as soon as you can so we can update our bookkeeping files.
- 4) We have begun work on transition to new treasurer with Ariana; Stan will give yearly report FY 2021 and 1st quarter of FY 2022
- 5) At 10th month meeting we should approve a minute for signatory agreement on the Citadel account and one for Friends Fiduciary. There should be three names. Four possibilities were discussed: treasurer, assistant treasurer, someone from finance committee, and the clerk.

#### **Aging Concerns Committee – Update – Deb Wood**

Centre supports the recommendations brought forth in 4th and 7th month and would like to be sure we are not duplicating resources that already exist at the Yearly Meeting and government agencies. They do not yet have a representative but do have someone who may be interested.

The committee met in August to review accumulated resources and generate more topics of interest. The group also began to plan for the program at October's quarterly gathering. Christine McDonald will present. The committee is interested in hearing from Friends what needs and resources they think the Quarter is best able to provide, such as being a keeper of documents such as the Last Wishes form used by Newark MM.

George Schaefer, PYM Care and Aging Coordinator, will retire the end of December. Concord Quarter's Aging Concerns Committee is planning a session with him in November and Western Quarter Friends will be invited.

We will meet again on September 23 at 7:30pm. Friends are welcome to join.

#### **Quarterly Meeting at Hockessin – Deb Wood**

Program Details - Christine McDonald of Friends Home in Kennett will give a presentation titled "Providing Community: Being Part of Something Greater than Themselves." That will be at 9:30am. This is the first program that the Aging

Concerns Committee will organize for quarterly gatherings. Christine is comfortable presenting in-person or virtually.

Our Friends from Hockessin shared the current parameters for gatherings at Hockessin Meeting and noted that either everything should be in-person or all virtual. There are not the logistics for a hybrid gathering if there are 40-50 people present as in past Quarterly Meetings.

*Noting that not all are comfortable with in-person gatherings, we found unity on having a fully virtual event for the 19th month gathering.*

Tentative Agenda for meeting for worship with attention to business-  
Aging Concerns - update from our Sept. 23 gathering; sharing resources  
Property report and next steps  
Annual financial report and first quarter 2022 report  
There may be annual reports for Parkersville and Fallowfield Orthodox burial ground.

Next meeting of Support Committee will be on 14 November, 2021 at 3:00 pm with the expectation that we will focus on actions to follow up on the historic properties report.

We may need 12 December as well.

The Next Quarterly Meeting will be 16 January, 2022 at London Grove with focus on the 10<sup>th</sup> Query.

We closed with a period of worship.

Respectfully submitted,

Deb Wood, coordinator, for tonya thame taylor, WQ Recording Clerk