



DRAFT Minutes - Western Quarterly Meeting 16 October, 2022
at Kennett Friends Meeting
1:00 pm - hybrid

Present: Ariana Langford and Shelley Hastings (N), Dave Nuttall (E-everywhere!), Nancy Pratt and Karen Halstead (NG), Doug Myers, Mark Myers, Bob Frye, Leona Provinski, and Margaret Walton (LG), Terry Cannon (MC), Stan Glowiak (C), Birgette Alexander (Cr), and Deb Wood, coordinator

Regrets: Mary Sproat (WG), Dick Logan (H)

Responses to the 7th query: Grounding for Transformed Lives: Peace and Alternatives to Violence

New Garden - We are a small and close knit meeting. We care for and about each and every one of us. Therefore, we tend to ignore our differences and focus on that with which we agree. Patience and time often help those with whom we disagree to see greater truth and understanding. Honesty and integrity are two qualities with which we all agree. The times that we are presently living in give us all pause, and we are hopeful that honesty and integrity will prevail.

West Grove - Constructive use of authority seems to be missing in our country presently, as the government is not adhering to the will of the people. Trying to get back to a sense of normalcy after COVID has been difficult; businesses are closing. We are becoming a "me" society - what is in it for me? People are not asking what they can do for the country, to paraphrase John F. Kennedy's famous speech. For sustainability, people don't know where food comes from and depend too much on imports from other countries.

Mill Creek - We communicate about our differences and try to show love and understanding.

We show tolerance for our differences and enjoy and appreciate those differences as they challenge us to grow and understand different points of view and spiritual beliefs. Although we are a small meeting, our members do have diverse spiritual beliefs.

We try to educate and support each other and share our individual leadings, but we recognize that we could do more to address the root causes of violence. We proposed that each of us identify a program or non-profit organization, consistent with our Quaker testimonies, for our meeting to consider for additional support, participation, and/or action.

London Grove - shared aloud and am waiting for text copy

Monthly Meeting (MM) updates

Centre - is having a retreat at Pendle Hill first weekend in Dec; donation to Habitat for Humanity in Wilmington which we sent especially to support for older members of the community

Mill Creek - busy in personal/family lives with healing and work

London Grove - has decided to lay down the plant sale; they will restart their simple meal at the end of the month; there was a wonderful program by Ben James "Climate Change: Some Good News" and they highly recommend it.

Crosslands Worship Group - steadfast worshippers and the time together always provides sustenance

Newark -it is likely they will move back to Newark Center for Creative Learning for Sunday worship this coming first day; we do an instant collection in response to human and natural disasters to help meet needs when its most urgent, for the recent hurricane we sent money to a special food kitchen

West Grove - needs someone to audit books - *check Shelley*

Blackburn family reunion - Bob Frye invites Friends to be in touch with him if they are connected to the Blackburn family. There are plans for a reunion.

Update on Youth Applicant – coordinator

We have a three person hiring committee in addition to the coordinator. Shelley Hastings, Karen Halstead, and Teal Rickerman. We've reviewed the cover letter and resume and need to discuss and plan together moving forward with an interview.

Philadelphia Yearly Meeting (PhYM) will continue to offer the services of Youth Staff to support quarterly and monthly meetings. We could continue to use that when a host meeting does not have a children's program.

Friends saw potential advantages to having a coordinator if we find a good match. Suggestions included using PhYM at quarterly meetings and having a youth coordinator do monthly or bi-weekly gatherings with youth in the evening.

It was suggested to ask about travel reimbursement needs if the candidate comes from a distance.

Financial Report - fiscal year 2022

Our treasurer, Ariana Langford, provided us with a report on FY 2022. Ariana took us through the summary and highlights for the year. There were no questions on the reports.

Friends did have a few questions about the deficit budgets. For many years Western Quarter has had deficit budgets with the actual end of year deficit being lower than expected. The deficits exist due to covenant income from monthly meetings staying the same or decreasing while costs go up. It is important to note there are two unrestricted reserve funds, one with Friends Fiduciary and one with Citadel, so Western Quarter is not in fear of running short on funds in the near future.

Friends affirmed that the key question is how much does Western Quarter need to keep in reserve from monthly meeting covenants.

Auditing update - Bob Frye is working on forming this group. Nancy Pratt is willing to be involved. Friends suggested a few more names and Bob planned to reach out to these Friends. Ariana will also reach out to a possible auditor.

A Friend lifted up that education grants may be one way to support and attract families.

Friends expressed gratitude and appreciation for the work of our treasurer.

Nominating -

Margaret Walton noted that we are in search of several positions for Western Quarter. Names for people to serve on Nominating Committee and the following roles are welcome: assistant clerk/clerk, and treasurer.

Shelley Hastings, Karen Halstead, and Wayne Thompson have agreed to serve.

Friends suggested an email to clerks seeking names of young and active members of meetings be sent.

Historic Properties -

Deb Wood shared that the group has begun to focus on burial grounds at the historic meetings. The report from the Property Committee focused on historic meeting houses and their conditions, and noted the number of burial grounds.

Our burial grounds questions include the location of burials in the grounds, financial reserves for maintaining the grounds, whether plot maps exist, if grounds are still actively having burials or sales, and if still active are sales restricted in any way, for example, there is a family connection to the meeting.

We will likely need to go through minutes and records at Friends Historical Library to find some of the information.

There is interest in this group for information on green burials and a workshop for property clerks and committees. Deb has begun some research on this for the upcoming newsletter. Perhaps it could be an upcoming Quarterly Meeting program. Lars Farmer of Kennett Meeting is someone we hope can be a resource for green burials.

Agging Concerns/Healthy Habits-

Shelley Hastings reported that feedback for Dr. Ost's program at the last quarterly meeting was positive.

The next program opportunity may be at Centre Meeting in January 2023. Friend tonya thames taylor has made four videos. We have shown two and they have generated fruitful conversation and sharings. We could use these in a worship sharing format as a program. Two other presentation ideas of interest to the committee are a reprise of estate planning, and green burials which could overlap with property committee interests.

We could generate interest by presenting some of the topics as ways to be more inclusive for friends with temporary or changing physical needs. We brainstormed the following topics: healthy aging, balance, physical exercise, fall prevention, maintaining physical and spiritual fitness, a discussion and sharing on the experience of aging.

We can also lift up queries from Kennett (or Kendal) MM on aging in an upcoming newsletter.

Since the committee meeting in 9th month, Centre has formed a committee to work on plans for quarterly meeting on 15 January, and an Aging Concerns/Healthy Habits topic may be a program topic.

Respectfully submitted,
Deb Wood, coordinator

Upcoming Events

Nov. 5 PYM Continuing Sessions - Lots of children's and parent's programs!

December 11 Support Committee 3:00 pm via WQ Zoom

January 15 Centre hosts WQ

Historic Properties - meets Nov. 20 7:00pm via WQ Zoom NOTE THE TIME CHANGE via WQ Zoom

Aging Concerns/Healthy Habits - Nov. 28 7:30pm via WQ Zoom