



2022-12-11 WQM Support Committee Minutes  
3:00 pm via Zoom

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/92668234836>

Present: Mary Sproat(WG), Bob Frye (LG), Stan Glowiak (C), Susanna Davison (LG), Nancy Pratt (NG), Margaret Walton (LG), David Elder (KD), Kim Brosnan-Myers (LG), Shelley Hastings (N)

Regrets: Ariana Langford

Opening Worship

Updates from monthly meetings

*West Grove* - nothing new or additional for the holidays happening

*London Grove* - will likely have a response to the minute from Lancaster MM on the growing danger of Christian Nationalism; we are doing a health of the meeting assessment focusing on fellowship and worship; we are looking for ways to do charitable giving to generate funds previously generated from the plant sale; we continue to grow our interfaith relationship with Allen AME African Fellowship and some are looking to re-establish Kennett's interfaith council; we have regular participation of families with young children.

*Kendal* - focusing on annual budget, and committee and clerk assignments; we had Lark Worth's memorial yesterday; her parents helped found Kendal-Crosslands and she helped rekindle Kendal MM.

*Centre* - we had 22 members and attenders for our recent retreat at Pendle Hill; through the retreat we deepened our connection to each other, Centre meeting, and our outreach to the broader community; we are working on having a new website.

*Newark* - we held our holiday party today with a goodies swap and a white elephant; today's collection went to World Central Kitchen.

*New Garden* - held their Christmas social today with 22 people!

Friends noted their deep appreciation for David Elder's presence and work with Support Committee the past several years. We invited him to continue coming as Judy Hinds takes on the role as the incoming Kendal MM clerk.

### **Audit Report** - Bob Frye

Bob, Sam Cypressi and Nancy Pratt conducted the audits of fiscal years 2021 and 2022. We had several years to review due to COVID. The audits bridge two treasurers. COVID and two different treasurers presented some challenges to record keeping. Our recommendations have been shared with our current treasurer and coordinator, and incorporate suggestions from the current treasurer.

Friends received the report.

### **January Quarterly Meeting at Centre-** Stan and Deb

Crystal Hershey and Kristin Simmons of PhYM will provide on-site children's programming.

The morning adult program focuses on family awareness of need for parental medical directives. They have handouts on health and directives for Delaware residents. There is a video from tonya thames taylor of Fallowfield and Sheila Sorkin of yearly meeting will also present.

Only worship will be in the meeting house. Children's and adult programs, lunch, and meeting for business will be in the school house.

Meeting for business will be from 1:30-3:00.

### **Historic Properties** - Deb

Friends reviewed the draft survey questions on burial grounds in the quarter. Suggestions included asking what types of burials friends offered, for example, were green burials possible. It was also suggested that we share how the quarter will record and use this information.

P.O. Box 693  
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[www.westernquarterquakers.org](http://www.westernquarterquakers.org)

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

**Nominating committee** - We are looking to fill the roles of treasurer and clerk. Friends were asked to share suggestions with Margaret Walton, Shelley Hastings, Karen Halstead, or Deb Wood.

### **Coordinator's Report**

We did receive a \$1000 grant from the Shoemaker Fund for technology or outreach. One possible outreach expense would be to update the brochure of meetings in the Brandywine Valley. We should explore having it in Spanish and English and explore a trifold vs. a rack card.

We could also apply some of the grant money to a projector and screen for improved hybrid meeting visuals.

We had an offer of a Quaker history program centered on the history of Darby Meeting, Friends, and slavery. The program may also be of interest to do in conjunctions with Kennett Underground Railroad or with area historical societies.

Deb will explore whether it may be of interest as a program for a joint quarter.

**Next Support Committee date - March 12, 2023 at 3:00 pm**

From Historic Properties - We are preparing a survey of monthly meetings regarding burial grounds in their care similar to the survey of historic meeting house properties in 2018. We are still preparing and refining our questions.

Questions to ask - WE NEED TO REFINE AND PRIORITIZE THESE:

- 1) What burial grounds are under your care?
- 2) How big – acres and plots;
- 3) how full; an estimate is fine.
- 4) How long has the burial ground been active?
- 5) Is there a plot map that includes areas where there may be unmarked graves?
- 6) Are all burial grounds under your care still making plot sales? Is there a requirement for a connection to the meeting?
- 7) Current state -
  - a) Financial resources
  - b) human resources to tend
  - c) physical condition including headstones, boundary markers, plantings, walls, fences
- 8) What history or memories do meeting members have about the burial grounds? For example are there burials of enslaved people, of individuals of significance beyond the meeting community?
- 9) NEW - has the meeting had any discussions of how else the space might be used, for example as green space with an arboretum or native plant garden?

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## Invitation for Program

Dear Friend:

My name is Harold Finigan and I am the Historian at the Darby Friends Meeting. For the past 4+ years I have been researching our members and the 340 year history of our meeting. This has led me to research on the Jackson family. As you may know, Halliday Jackson transferred to our Meeting in 1803. His son John Jackson started the first Female Preparatory School in Chester County (Sharon Female Academy) and his daughter Mary was a travelling minister who preached on the topics of Abolition & Womens rights. Her daughter, Martha Schofield, would go to South Carolina after the Civil War and teach the newly freed peoples. Despite immense pushback from the white nationalists, Martha build an amazing school which still survives today.

I have been invited by the Schofield Alumni Association of Aiken SC to come and present my findings, which I will do in February. Since I will have the presentation fine tuned by that time, I am writing to offer to present it to your Meeting, if their is interst. This presentation has grown out of larger research into the Anti Slavery efforts of the Darby Quakers which goes back to at least 1693, a time when 70% of the Quakers were slaveholders. Working through the Chester Quarterly, these early Quakers - John Blunston, Nicholas Fairlamb & Caleb Pusey strove to convince PYM that slaveholding was inconsistent with Q values. At present, I have identified at least 30 members of our meeting which were "Stationmasters" or "Conductors" on the UGRR. Family names that may be familiar, Garretts, Sellers, Pennock, Price, Gibbons, Rhoads, Bonsall, Bartrams & Buntings. The two most famous members were Thomas Garrett jr, who later moved to Wilmington & Isaac T Hopper, who moved to NY.

I recently gave the presentation as a seminar to the Social Studies teachers of our local School District. It was well received.

It was done in two parts, each 120' in duration: about 90' presentation + 30 ' discussion--with lunch in-between. The first part covers a brief intro to the founding's of the Quaker religion in England, Penn and the Holy Experiment, and the speaking truth concerning slaveholding; efforts of Quakers in Government; and ends with the Declaration of Independence (for some).

Part 2: Q petition on abolition to Congress, the UGRR, efforts to undermine the business of slavery; US Constitutional Convention; Slave breeding; various abolitionist societies: The Hicksite split; the other Civil War, Reconstruction and Freedmen's Schools; White Supremacy; Martha Schofield & her school; Womens rights; and where all this fits in with us today...

I could present one or both parts, if there is interst. I thank you for your time.

With kind regards

Harold Finigan  
(610) 583-4246