



Support Committee of Western Quarterly Meeting

DRAFT Minutes of March 13, 2022 meeting held via Zoom at 3:00pm

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Present: Mary Sproat (WG), Shelley Hastings and Ariana Langford (N), Deb Wood (coordinator), Terry Anderson, Bob Frye, and Margaret Walton (LG), Pownall Jones (NG, Crosslands), Stan Glowiak (C), Dave Elder (Kendal), Dick Logan and Emma Parker Miller (H)

Regrets - Karen Halstead, tonya thames taylor

Opening Worship

Updates from Monthly Meetings -

Newark - Friends have given individually to support Ukraine, as a meeting we will contribute to World Central Kitchen; There will be Easter worship at London Britain and we will pass the hat for contributions in support of a group; We have also contacted a Jewish group in Wilmington that houses refugees to offer housing; We also continue to contact our legislators in keeping with our consciences.

Centre - We will no longer require a COVID vaccination for attendance in the meeting house; Ukraine has been prominent in worship; Earlier today we approved holding our usual Easter egg hunt.

London Grove - approved a \$10,000 contribution to the Mennonite Central Committee to support people in Ukraine; in the 1930s MCC helped to get Jewish refugees into Great Britain with Quaker families; MCC's focus is humanitarian relief; We've also completed a state of the meeting report and shared it with the Quarter; Recently we adopted a masks optional policy as long as people are vaccinated or have a recent negative pcr test.

West Grove - The Ace Hardware in Kennett Square has a Ukrainian manager so they are accepting donations to support Ukrainian refugees. We continue to worship in person and without masks required as we can safely distance.

Kendal - continues to worship on Zoom so we can include more in the community

during worship; we are investigating technology options for hybrid worship; we recently engaged in FCNL priority setting; We are looking at the overall pattern of our giving.

Hockessin- We are meeting in-person and hybrid and will transition to more in-person including meeting for business; we are mask optional as of today with mask use pegged to local infection rates; we will share news from Newark and London Grove on Ukraine; in our budget process upcoming we will likely include a review of processes of our giving and who we give to; hopefully we will resolve the status of the caretaker house soon; Emma Parker Miller will step off of Support Committee upon her upcoming graduation from Swarthmore.

New Garden - did not meet this past month.

Crosslands - is now meeting in-person; masks are required indoors; we recently did our FCNL priority setting.

Aging Concerns Committee – Update Shelley

We started the fall of 2020 when Fallowfield needed some immediate help with an older member. Tonya thames-taylor put out an email one Sunday morning when many of us were at Zoom Worship. The people not paying attention at Worship started answering and we could not stop.

The first actual committee meeting was in February of 2021 (I think).

The committee started meeting regularly and compiling ideas and resources. The WQ web site has a wonderful list of resources for aging that must number in the millions by now. Please check it. Deb Wood has done an incredible job compiling the list.

In October of 2021 Christine McDonald, Director of Kennett Friends Home, did a talk titled, Providing Community: Being part of something greater than themselves. This was well attended and generated many questions. As part of the program tonya thames-taylor showed a wonderful interview she had conducted with Dr. Monica Smith about her journey with a family member passing. Again tons of questions generated.

In January of 2022 Peter Temple and Emily Temple Abels, two Quaker lawyers, talked about wills, probate, passing along money to relatives and making sure survivors can pay bills for the deceased. The talk was again wonderful and no shocker, more questions. This time tonya provided an interview with a woman

who had no plans for the end of life and was uncomfortable with the topic. This gave those in attendance, via Zoom, more things to think about.

In April of 2022 Sara Matas, a social worker at Kendal, will talk about having conversations with the family about end of life plans, aging, and working through the sticking points. I hope tonya has another video for us.

In July of 2022 we will meet jointly with Concord Quarter and may invite Dr. Mary Ann Ost, medical person at Kennett Friends home, to talk about brain health, fitness and nutrition.

Future topics for programs: Friends Life Care, Hospice, caretaker care, health care proxies, aging in place and any other topics suggested.

The committee's goal is to keep going as long as folks are interested and to try to get more young people to join the Aging Committee. The committee has provided valuable information and for a topic that people usually want to avoid the committee has had fun.

*How do we get people to follow through with document preparation, etc.
We will share this concern when the group next meets.*

We meet on the 4th Mondays via Zoom at 7:30pm. All are welcome to join.

Fallowfield Orthodox Burial Ground –Bob Frye reported back on an issue raised at 1st month meeting for business about tree maintenance needed at the Orthodox burial ground at Fallowfield. The Fallowfield and quarter clerks have not been able to reach the church whose property surrounds the burial ground, and someone has since cleaned up part of the area of concern. West Grove actually has oversight of Orthodox historical properties and records seem to indicate that property may no longer be owned by West Grove. Mary Sproat will check records at Friends Historical Library. We do have a reasonable quote of \$4500 for the tree work.

Designated Funds update –Our treasurer transferred \$25,000 from checking into a designated savings account for use of the Historic Properties committee as they undertake their work.

Historic Properties –The coordinator shared that the group is focusing on the three properties under direct care of the Quarter - Pennsgrove, Parkersville, and London Britain. The other three historic properties are under the care of West Grove and Kennett meetings. While we will focus on the three properties in our care, we should also stay abreast of the other three - Colora, New West Grove,

and Old Kennett- since properties under a monthly meeting's care may become the concern of a quarter's.

The coordinator attended a program hosted by Merion Monthly Meeting titled Preserving Sacred Spaces. In both urban and rural areas religious buildings may provide an important social and cultural benefit to their communities. Many provide space for needed services or as an arts venue.

There was interest across the quarter in this group's work; the committee welcomes direct or relayed suggestions, questions, and concerns. None were shared at this time.

State of the Meeting Reports -Two suggestions were made regarding the draft state of the meeting report for the quarter.

1) Mention of youth programming and 2) a brief financial report focusing on where money comes from, where it goes, and whether we are in a sound financial position.

Quarterly Meeting at West Grove –We hope to have some technology available to support hybrid programming for 4th month, but it is not certain at this point. Meeting for worship will be in person at West Grove at 10am. The best time for a program is 8:30 but we are waiting for confirmation from the presenter and West Grove. Meeting for worship with attention to business will be at 1:00pm and via Zoom. The presentation will follow up on the programming on estate and life care documents from first month. Sarah Matas, staff at the Kendal communities, will present on how to talk with loved ones about health care and estate decisions. She is an experienced presenter and again, the quarter encourages Friends to invite friends and family to the event.

Coordinator Report –Deb did submit a proposal for Shoemaker Grants to support hybrid programming needs or outreach efforts. We were awarded one but have not yet received those monies. To date we have received education grant requests from one family in the quarter. The coordinator attended the Preserving Sacred Spaces program and the Feb. 5 Thread Gathering Restorative Racial Justice: From the Personal to the Systemic.

The fall Support Committee Meeting date will be Sept. 18, third Sunday instead of the usual 2nd Sunday.

P.O. Box 693
Kennett Square, PA 19348
www.westernquarterquakers.org

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

We closed with a period of worship.

Respectfully submitted, Deb Wood, coordinator

Upcoming Events

Sunday, March 20, 3:00pm via Zoom – Historic Properties

Friday-Sunday, March 25-27 PYM Annual Sessions – in person and via Zoom

Monday, March 28 7:30pm via Zoom – Aging Concerns

Sunday, April 24 – Western Quarterly Meeting hosted by West Grove