



Draft Minutes for Meeting for worship with attention to business
21 April, 2024 at West Grove Monthly Meeting

We opened with a period of worship during which Friends were encouraged to share meeting responses to the 3rd Query:

New Garden - The Third Query was read on Spiritual Nurture.

We recognize that the light within each of us is the Divine power within each of us. This power that lies within cannot be overcome by the darkness of fear, or hatred, or a lust for money. We simply cannot be "forced" to worship from the outside. Only the power within us can move or motivate us to it. Jesus no longer walks & talks on this earth but his messages remain within each of us if only we will sit quietly & listen. It is up to each of us!

Mill Creek - we are small and have a diversity of spiritual beliefs, we also have active vocal ministry and support each other in our own understanding of the spirit. We do monthly worship sharing of faith and practice. We feel grateful to have this place of worship. our historic meetinghouse has its own spirit of magic and spirituality. Our diversity of belief deepens our faith and we embrace those differences. We encourage sharing and we try to listen to each other and respect what is shared.

West Grove West Grove Monthly Meeting Query Answer for Second Quarter 2024

The Third Query on Spiritual Nurture was read. Sometimes messages create a ripple of interest in others and lead to other messages or discussion after Meeting. One Friend expressed thanks for the feeling of community in the Meeting. We help where we can when someone voices a problem.

Kennett - One responder replied that during the KMM Spiritual Retreat, we supported each other in our spiritual journeys and encouraged the use of spiritual practices that deepen our faith. She also noted the diversity of Spirituality practices in KMM which nurtures a richer spiritual experience.

Another replied that in KMM Adult discussions, we support each other in our spiritual journeys. Last month, discussion focused on verbal ministry.

The Clerk replied that in our meetings for worship there is a shared experience of Divine in which we nurture our collective spiritual growth.

One responder stated that today's letter from Jean Tennent illustrated the care and support that members experience as part of our Spiritual community.

Newark - The third query was considered by Aliza Appel, Ginny Bailey, Annemarie Carr, Lily Grosso, Shelley Hastings, Maggie Ladd, Treba Thompson, Ariana Langford, Diane Kesler, Trebs Thompson, Wayne Thompson, and Mike McDowell

Most of us faithfully attend meeting for worship, where we find that both the silence and spoken words appeal to us.

When our clerk asks us to hold a person in the light, because the person's health or another concern, this is deepening our spiritual practices. A Friend agrees that she finds that thinking of a person is a means of spiritual nurture.

Spiritual practices that another Friend finds helpful are:

1. Making a prayer list, because writing down the name down helps her bring that person to her consciousness, helping her to hold them close. Also, saying the person's name helps her bring power to this practice.
2. Walking her dog, for being outside in the earth and the nurture it provides is beneficial,
3. Connecting on the internet with QuakerSpeak and Friends Journal.

One way we support each other and nourish our spirituality is with our Opportunity Fund. The fund provides financial assistance for participation in various opportunities for spiritual growth.

Part C asks about our relationship with life on earth, but a Friend notes that humanity is part of life on earth. She believes that the wording of this part of the query could be better, and that the words of the song "Simple Gifts" could help us "come down where we ought to be" by helping us include ourselves as a part of nature.

We support each other, and we accept each other's beliefs. We accept traditional Christians, people of the Jewish faith, Muslims, or individuals with no religious beliefs. Accepting everyone is part of allowing others their religious search. A Jewish Friend remarked that she always feels supported in our meeting. Another Friend has found that at any point of a difficult situation, she can call on someone from meeting who may have knowledge of that issue, and even if they don't have it, it's enough for her to know they will listen.

She also treasures the bluntness of one of our members, while appreciating all of us. She observes that we have no arguments, but some discussions. And for her, it's all good. She feels that's the divine.

On behalf of Newark Monthly Meeting,
respectfully submitted,
Mike McDowell

Treasurer's Report - Karen Conlan

We are three quarters of the way through WQ's fiscal year. Much of what we receive and pay is as a passthrough for PYM covenants and FFC disbursements. 62% of budgeted income is in. 69% of budgeted expenses paid.

Karen will email treasurers with reminders.

A friend asked if there is a difference in what operating and reserve funds can be used for? *There is not difference.*

Reserve funds are just from years when there was a surplus.

We received the report with appreciation for the work of our treasurer.

Western Quarter, Inc Meeting - clerk called meeting of WQ Inc to open.

Parkersville Meetinghouse Annual Report, attached at close of minutes.

London Britain Meetinghouse Annual Report, attached at close of minutes.

Reports were received with gratitude.

The clerk closed the meeting of Western Quarter, Inc.

Honorarium for speaker – \$200 was suggested to cover travel from northern Virginia for today's speaker.

Friends approved that \$200 and approved \$200 more.

Friends approved the following minute for Hockessin Monthly Meeting.

Western Quarter minutes its appreciation for the Worship and Ministry and Hospitality committees at Hockessin Monthly Meeting for the programming and fellowship at our January 21 gathering. Hockessin Friends provided a warm welcome on a very cold winter day. Close to two dozen came from around the quarter for program and worship focused around the peace testimony. Queries included: How am I successful in living out the peace testimony? What are we doing as a Friends meeting in our communities to recognize and correct the causes of violence? The children had a program on the peace testimony and joined part of meeting for worship. All enjoyed a hearty potluck.

Additional business:

Several Friends asked for news on New West Grove Meetinghouse. Termite damage has made the interior unsafe. Some of the floor and benches have collapsed. Termite treatment is still in progress but it is likely that the meetinghouse will need to come down. A deepened silence settled amongst friends.

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

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

Updates and discussions on New West Grove are expected to be on the agenda of the May 19 Historic Properties Committee Meeting. These are held via Zoom. Contact the coordinator to get connection details.

Friends asked that details on the Friends Historical Association program at Pennsbury Manor be shared. Worship at Fallsington Meeting, brown bag lunch and tour of Pennsbury Manor. Contact the coordinator if you are interested in carpooling.

Friends also shared the unique opportunity of having the annual Friends General Conference Meeting so close at Haverford College this summer, with PYM's Annual Sessions immediately following also at Haverford.

Kennett Meeting hosted Friends Fiduciary in March to learn more of what they do. Friends Fiduciary handles funds for Friends meetings and organizations along Quaker values and are receptive to activist shareholding with meetings and organizations.

We settled into a period of worship.

Respectfully submitted,
Deb Wood, coordinator

Upcoming Schedule:

21 July, 2024—Kennett - 6th Query — Joint Quarter at West Chester Meeting
19-20 October, 2024—Kendal - 9th Query
19 January, 2025—Fallowfield, 10th query

It is time for a new host meeting rotation! The coordinator will reach out to current host meetings to begin drafting the schedule.

*Support Committee typically meets 2nd Sunday in month prior to Western Quarterly Meeting

**Historic Properties typically meets 3rd Sunday when there is not Western Quarterly Meeting

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Parkersville Finances as of 12/31/2023

INCOME

Friends Fiduciary Corp.	\$ 1,789.01	\$ 1,789.01
Property	\$1,044.31	
Bequest	\$ 744.70	
Payments for grave spaces		\$ 2,000.00
Donations		\$ 1,600.00
Total Income		\$ 5,389.01

EXPENSES

Tree work		\$ 2,265.50
Painting		2,900.00
Mowing		<u>1,530.00</u>
Total Expenses		\$ 6,695.50

Account balances	a/o 12/31/2023	
Checking account		\$ 23,345.01
Money Market		<u>\$ 32,336.43</u>
		\$ 55,681.44

Financial report indicates we are in good shape.

Tree work by Rickerman Tree Service included removing two trees in bad condition from the property.

All of the exterior wood was painted.

One of the posts holding up the gate needs to be repaired but is on the list of Matthew Roberson to do.

Annual Meeting held.

Only one payment from Friends Fiduciary was received in 2023.

London Britain Meetinghouse
Annual Report for 2023

February, 2024

Friends held meetings for worship at the London Britain Meetinghouse this summer and early fall, with the exception of the Zoom monthly business meetings of Newark Monthly Meeting. The wearing of masks during meeting for worship was optional this year, although most Newark Friends continued to wear a mask during meeting. Weekly meetings for worship were held on Sundays from 10:30 to 11:30 am. The Wednesday evening meetings for worship held in previous years were not active in 2023.

An art show was held again at the London Britain Meetinghouse on August 13, 2023, in honor of Ruth Thompson of London Grove Meeting, since the show had been inactive for several years.

The business of the London Britain Property Committee was conducted by email in 2023, with the exception of one in-person meeting in November. The primary issues addressed were as follows:

Maintenance and repair:

- Chris Horrocks completed the repair of the sash windows, and an east window frame this year. He also replaced gutter hangers and adjusted the front gutter so it would function properly.
- Trish Norton constructed a new frame for the permanent sign at the London Britain Meetinghouse, because the previous sign frame had deteriorated.
- Lily Grosso redid the lettering on the permanent sign.
- The grass was well maintained during the year.
- Limited grounds work, such as weeding and tree pruning, was done by Friends and the mowing crew last year. We still don't have anyone engaged to provide this service.
- Rickerman Tree Service removed a dead spruce tree in the NE corner of the property, and the dead tops of two trees near the north fence.
- Few Spotted lanternflies were seen on the property this year, so Lanternfly traps were not placed on the three red maples in front of the meetinghouse.
- Tri State Pest Management, Inc. inspected the meetinghouse for insect pests, and found no problems.
- A rented portable toilet was used instead of the composting toilet.

Graveyard:

- No plots in the London Britain Graveyard were purchased in 2023.
- The digital plot plan of the London Britain Graveyard was updated and corrected, following an inspection of the markers in the London Britain Graveyard, and some of the old images of headstones available in <https://www.findagrave.com/cemetery/2244049/london-britain-friends-burial-ground>, in the winter of 2022. This updated plot plan was provided to The Friends Historical Library in Swarthmore.

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We remain very careful in the management of the funds available for the graveyard and meetinghouse

Mike McDowell
London Britain Property Committee

ADDENDUM - plaster work will begin again as recent heavy rains made clear there was a leak.

London Britain financial report for 2023

Beginning Balance		\$4,807.12
Income:		
Fiduciary	December 2022 (deposited Jan. 2023)	2,933.84
Fiduciary	July	<u>2,941.85</u>
		5,875.69
Expenses:		
Mondragon	(grass mowing)	2,146.50
Rickerman Tree Service		1,195.00
Trish Norton	(permanent sign, frame construction)	750.00
Chris Horrocks	(window sashes, window frame, gutter repair)	1,350.00
Tri-State Pest Management	(termite inspection)	175.00
Total expenses:		\$5,616.50
Ending Balance:		\$5,066.31

The Last statement I have was from 9/30/21, and the London Britain Burial Fund had a market value of \$162,788.08. S.H.

Western Quarterly Meeting
Treasurer's Report
April 21, 2024
Submitted by Karen Conlan, WQ Treasurer

Q3 REPORT FY2024 (January 1, 2024 – March 31, 2024)

Summary Quarter 3 Income and Expense vs. Budget:

	<u>Actual Q3</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>YTD % of Budget</u>
Total Income	\$34,669.75	\$106,347.91		
Less PYM Covenant Collected	(\$26,780.75)	(\$74,092.25)		
Less Restricted/ Pass Through Funds*	(0)	(\$9,332.26)		
Net WQM Operating Income	\$7,889.00	\$22,923.40	\$37,270	62%
Total Expenses	\$44,171.15	\$123,487.89		
Less PYM Covenant Paid Out	(\$28,280.75)	(\$47,311.50)		
Less PYM Covenant Paid (Prior FY)	(\$0)	(\$34,155.75)		
Less Restricted / Pass Through Funds*	(\$6,334.77)	(\$14,352.97)		
Net WQM Operating Expenses	\$9,555.63	\$27,667.67	\$40,081	69%
Net Operating Income	\$(1,666.63)	(\$4,744.27)	(\$2,811)	

* Includes FFC distributions, except Fallowfield burial ground maintenance, which is paid out of WQ operating expense, and the WQM unrestricted, which is also used for operating expenses.

Detailed Activity - Western Quarter - Q3

	<u>Q3 Activity</u>
WQ Income	
Income for WQ Covenant	\$ 7,708.75
Investment Income (Bank Interest)	\$ 65.11
Other Income (Insurance Dividend)	\$ 115.14
Total Income	\$ 7,889.00
WQ Expenses	
Payroll Expense	\$ 7,044.70
Office (Telephone, Internet, Insurance, Website)	\$ 2,510.93
Total Expenses	\$ 9,555.63
WQ Net	(\$ 1,666.63)

Highlights:

1. We are three quarters (75%) through our fiscal year, and our income is at 62% of budget, and our expenses are at 69% of budget.
 - a. We are doing well with our expenses (under budget)
 - b. Our income (WQM contributions from Monthly Meetings) needs to catch up over the next 2 months - by June 30 - in order to meet our FY2024 budget

Balance Sheet

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Q3 Ending Balance</u>	<u>Q3 Activity</u>
Western Quarter Operating Account	\$39,722.34	See details on previous page
William Jackson Educational Fund	\$9,433.29	\$2400 awarded [\$800 each to 3 children], not yet posted - will be deducted in Q4
John Woolman Traveling Ministers	\$3,462.20	No Activity
Historic Properties Reserve	\$25,074.88	No Activity
Western Quarterly Meeting Reserve	\$27,876.14	No Activity