



Minutes of Western Quarterly Meeting the 21<sup>st</sup> of 7<sup>th</sup> month 2024 9:00am  
Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business  
Held at West Chester Friends Meeting and via Zoom

Clerk Margaret Walton opened worship. Eight Friends were present via Zoom and 15 present in person.

**Responses to the 6<sup>th</sup> Query**

*Kennett Monthly Meeting (KMM) Sixth Query responses to: Nurturing Our Community: Stewardship of Resources*

One member commented that KMM uses its property for economic and social justice discussions, and ecological issues are discussed.

Another member stated that KMM does depend on the generous support of members in order to support our values as a community.

One member added that KMM supports Friends Home with time, energy, and finances on operations and special projects such as the Elevator project which improved safety, dignity and the perpetuity of the physical facility.

Another member added that many members personally support local Quaker organizations such as Pendle Hill, FCNL, and AFSC.

Another member described how upkeep of KMM property adds to our ability to support local community groups who meet here.

*New Garden Monthly Meeting*

Our meeting deals with property and money very seriously with awareness that we are entrusted with the responsibility of acting to advance peace, simple living, justice, and a healthy ecosystem.

Good stewardship requires attention to the needs of those who will advance Friend's values and those of our own Meeting.

We are fortunate that previous members have entrusted us with funds that can be used to make the right decisions for now and in the future. We are forever aware of our responsibility to them.

It all comes down to relationships with each other and the earth.

*Mill Creek Monthly Meeting*

We are economical and ecological because we don't use many resources at our meeting. By donating to the local Food Bank and to others in need who ask for help, we

try to help the community. We had a recent yard sale, and instead of charging for items we asked for a “love offering.” The yard sale was also part of an outreach effort, as we want the local community to be aware of our presence and that we are an active meeting.

Our members do a lot of the work needed themselves to care for the building and property. We have also commissioned or hired professional help to perform repairs (when outside our skill-set/expertise) including having capped the chimneys, inspected and treated for termites, and repaired windows.

Our meeting pays its covenant to the quarterly and yearly meeting out of member contributions. We also gave individually and as a group to the Friends Home for needed renovations to the elevator.

Our meeting relies 50/50 on member contributions and income from Friends Fiduciary endowment.

### *Newark*

The sixth query was considered by Aliza Appel, Ginny Bailey, Annemarie Carr, Gavin Ferris, Lily Grosso, Shelley Hastings, Ariana Langford, Mike McDowell, Pascale Mwavaga, David Nuttall, Treba Thompson and Wayne Thompson.

We’re such a small group that we must engage our members and attenders in supporting our meeting’s work. Most of us have at least one committee position.

A Friend remarked that she looks forward to attending our Care Committee meetings. She thinks our enthusiasm for the art show planned for August 18 is one of the ways our meeting is pulling members into a positive activity.

The ecological condition of the London Britain Meetinghouse property, with its plantings of native trees, snakes in the basement, and minimal use of resources, shows great ecological justice in the property.

A Friend recalled that years ago, when she made choices about investing for retirement, she went for socially responsible funds, and she paid a financial price for doing that. Nevertheless, she believes these were very positive things for her. She thinks it’s time for her to look into the ethics of investment again, saying “We have to ask who is benefiting from our investments.”

Another Friend added that reports about where we’re investing are available, and commented that it’s wise to see where we’re investing.

Our meeting relies solely on our current members and attenders for our financial support. A Friend noted that one of the things she likes about our meeting is that we don’t have an endowment. We just have a small amount in the bank, which she believes is a good thing. She also thanked our meeting for contributing to Right Sharing of Resources. Another Friend thanked everyone who is taking care of the meeting’s finances.

A Friend who is a musician spoke of her beloved professional viola, which she didn’t consider as her own, but as in her care for a time. She shared that it has now been sold, in pristine condition. She is excited for the next owner, and hopes someday to know who has it.

Another Friend finds that balancing her work-life and other activities with the time and energy needed for her spiritual growth and service increasingly challenging. It's something she says she hasn't figured out yet.

### *West Grove Monthly Meeting*

The Sixth Query on Stewardship of Resources was read. Income from all sources covers our expenses. We support the Quarter, Friends Home, and local Friends organizations. The Meeting House is being used more for community activities.

### *London Grove Monthly Meeting*

London Grove is and has been a community which values sound financial stewardship with its resources. Spending is considered in thoughtful ways embracing worthy causes and new needs from current needs. It is our responsibility to live frugally so we have resources to care for our community. As needs arise we can assist others in need of our resources. We have always been able to support worthy causes generously.

One friend commented that the practice of the honor system used at Haverford College speaks to trusting that community. Both in the academic world at Haverford and in the social life of the college, all are looked upon as adults who can be trusted to behave honorably in all aspects of life. The honor system has changed over the years and this friend has found the practice a basis for framing his life.

Another friend commented that there should be an app with a Quaker elevator speech that can be activated when others ask about our Quaker faith.

### **Treasurer's Report Fiscal Year 2024**

Treasurer Karen Conlan reviewed the 4th Quarter Report and 2024 Fiscal Year Reports. The reports note the Friends Fiduciary funds and disbursements from funds. Of particular note was the opening of a high yield savings account to generate more income. Friends accepted the reports with appreciation for the work of the treasurer and the clear and well-organized presentation of information.

### **2025 FY Budget - for approval**

The treasurer presented the budget noting it had been shared with monthly meeting treasurers, clerks, and Support Committee for review. Assistant treasurer, Bob Frye, and coordinator, Deb Wood, helped in its preparation. Of note is the projected deficit, something we have run but need to start balancing either through cutting expenses or increasing income. Quarterly Meeting reserves cover the shortfalls, so we are not accruing debts. Expenses are pretty trim. Staff, insurance, and office rent are the highest expenses as the "rent" includes the phone and internet service for Kennett MM as part of . It was noted that WQ pays rent to Kennett MM in two ways, one, the annual rent, and two, WQ and KMM share phone and internet and WQ pays the bill. We have cut some expenses. Bookkeeping is in house, and we can apply for PYM grants when new office equipment is needed. Deb has acquired a number of donated office supply needs.

Support Committee has considered asking monthly meetings to increase covenants if able. Several noted that monthly meetings may not be able to increase contributions.

Others noted the importance of being able to pay staff they value and keep Deb “cheerful.”

A Friend asked about the plan to hire a youth coordinator. We have used PYM staff to support children and youth program at quarterly meeting gatherings. London Grove MM is our largest children’s program at the moment and they have often come with staffing to aid the host meeting.

A friend asked how much would be needed to not cut staff hours at all. About \$3,000. Friends suggested a letter to monthly meetings with a listing of services provided by the quarter and noting that not all meetings would be able to increase covenants.

Even though our membership may not be increasing, our need for a coordinator is not shrinking.

We should explore additional ways to increase revenue and visibility or some sort of annual fundraiser, perhaps a Sprint or Support Committee can look into this.

**Friends approved the FY2025 budget as presented.**

**Report from PYM Annual Sessions** - Deb shared highlights from the attached report. Friend tonya thames-taylor shared that she was not able to attend Annual Sessions this year. She was leading a group of West Chester University students on a Civil Rights tour in the US South. Friends were interested and suggested perhaps it could be a future program.

### **Friends Home in Kennett Report**

Dave Park of Kennett Meeting and Friends Home Board shared the attached report from Executive Director, Christine McDonald. Dave highlighted that the elevator project is well underway in both construction and funding. The next big projects in terms of property will be catching up on deferred maintenance and upgrading the HVAC system to in-room units. The latter would enable Friends Home to take in friends on Medicare. Friends Home is active in the community in many ways. The House and Property Committee would benefit from an additional member or two. If interested please be in touch.

**Coordinator Report** - see attached. We deferred to discussions of the minutes from monthly meetings.

### **Minutes from Monthly Meetings**

London Grove – [A Minute Concerning Gaza and the Broader Middle East](#)

**Friends approved the minute. The coordinator will forward it on to yearly meeting.**

Newark – [California Heritage: Indigenous Research Program](#)

Friends reviewed background information about the land available for purchase. A former Friends school and conference center (John Woolman) is no longer in business and is available for purchase. Fundraising goals so far have been reached with support of individuals, meetings, and organizations from across the country. Friends role in land acquisition, culture and language loss through the Indian Boarding School program were shared. American Friends Service Committee has several grants for Native American groups. For many this has been a way to engage in one form of reparations.

**Friends approved the minute. The coordinator will forward it on to yearly meeting.**

**Proposed Rotation of Host Meetings** - Please share feedback with the coordinator.

2025	1 <sup>st</sup> month	Fallowfield
2025	4 <sup>th</sup> month	Mill Creek
2025	7 <sup>th</sup> month*	Centre
2025	10th month	London Grove
2026	1 <sup>st</sup> month	Newark
2026	4 <sup>th</sup> month	Hockessin
2026	7 <sup>th</sup> month*	Kendal
2026	10th month	West Grove
2027	1 <sup>st</sup> month	Kennett
2027	4 <sup>th</sup> month	Fallowfield

**Announcements** – London Britain Art Show - August 18

Worship at Historic Meetinghouses - last Sundays at Old Kennett  
July 28 and August 25; Homeville August 25; Parkersville 8 Sept; Pennsgrove Sept. 15

WQM at Kendal on SATURDAY, Oct 19 (9<sup>th</sup> query)

PYM Continuing Sessions, Nov. 8, 9, 10

WQM at Fallowfield on Sunday, January 19 (10<sup>th</sup> query)

Historic Properties - August 18 3pm (3rd Sundays when there is not  
quarterly meeting)

Respectfully submitted,  
Anna Medeiros, Centre MM