



# Western Quarterly News

*of the Religious Society Of Friends*

Western Quarterly Meeting Newsletter

Fall 2024

## ***From Our Yearly Meeting***

Please attend our virtual threshing session on 29 October at 7:00pm. [Register →](#)

A proposed benchmark for our witness to address climate change will be on the agenda at Fall Continuing Sessions in November.

### **Benchmark for reducing our carbon footprint:**

1. Measure the carbon footprint of Yearly Meeting operations, gatherings, and facilities.
2. Identify how the Yearly Meeting could be carbon net zero by 2030
3. Invite monthly meetings to strive to reach 50% carbon reduction for members and meetings by 2030.

Friends are invited to a threshing session to consider the benchmark prior to Sessions. The session will be held via Zoom on October 29 at 7:00 PM.

We will be guided by these queries:

- How is my Meeting addressing Climate Witness?
- How is my Meeting educating itself about climate issues?
- Does my Meeting know how climate change affects communities of color in our region/state/country?
- How does measuring our carbon footprint impact the world around us?

**Explanation of Threshing Session:** A threshing session is defined as “a meeting at which a variety of different, and sometimes controversial, opinions can be openly, and sometimes forcefully, expressed,.. [It] can be arranged in order to share factual information, air one’s views about a controversial subject, express our preferences, or ask questions... The aim is simply to move towards clarity and a greater understanding of an issue and to separate the ‘grain of truth from the chaff’.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Presiding Clerk Nikki Mosgrove at [nmosgrove@pym.org](mailto:nmosgrove@pym.org).



### **In this Issue:**

- ◆ From our YM—Climate benchmark
- ◆ 9th Query
- ◆ A Tender Time
- ◆ 10th Month QM!
- ◆ Retrospective Justice: FWCC Plenary Presentation
- ◆ Minutes, including Query Responses

### ***10th Month Quarterly Meeting***

***SATURDAY, October 19, 2024***

***At Kendal —9th Query***

***January 19, 2025—Host and location—10th Query***

***April 20, 2025 — Mill Creek—1st Query***

***July 20, 2025— Centre—4th Query***

***July is a Joint Quarter Gathering with Concord Quarter.***

***October 19, 2025 — London Grove—7th Query***

## 9th Query— Grounding for Transformed Lives: Equality and Justice

### For the Meeting:

- How does our meeting benefit from established patterns of prejudice, exploitation and economic convenience? What are we doing to change this?
- How and how often does our meeting engage in a self-examination of its attitudes and actions regarding race, ability, gender, sexual orientation or class?
- What steps are we taking as a meeting to inform ourselves about social injustice and ecological violence embedded in our political and economic systems?
- What steps are we taking as a meeting to assure that our meeting and the committees and institutions under our care are respectful of the earth and its people?

### For the Individual:

- *Do I regularly examine myself for attitudes and behavior that indicate any hidden prejudice regarding race, gender, sexual orientation, disability or class?*
- *How do my lifestyle choices affect—positively or negatively—the causes of justice and peace in our nation, the community of nations and the whole of creation?*
- *How do I demonstrate in my way of living, and in what I teach my children, that love of God entails acknowledging “that of God in every person”?*

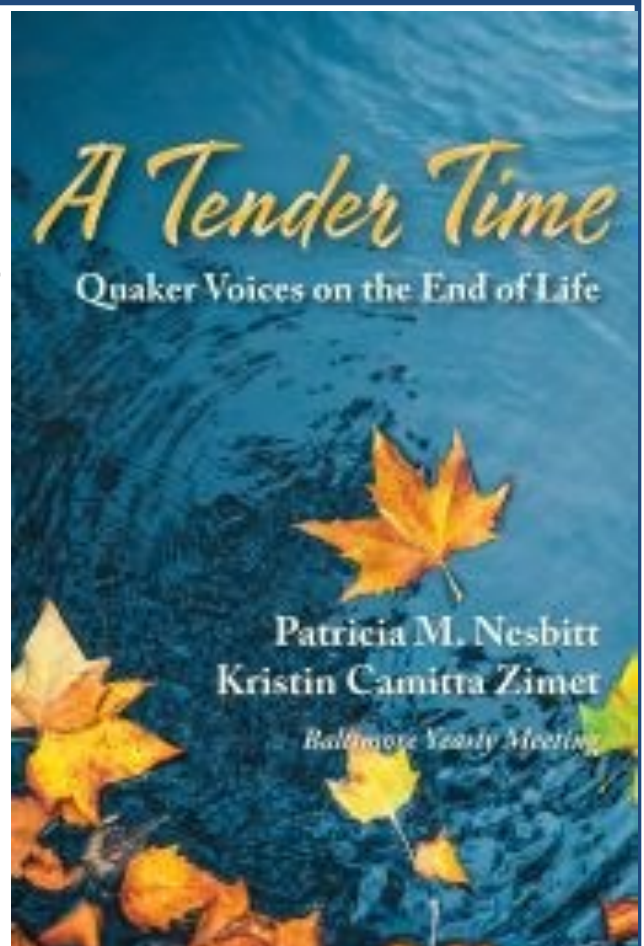
*General Queries* are taken from the newest version of PYM’s *Faith and Practice*, available online.

### A Tender Time: Quaker Voices on the End of Life

Recently Pendle Hill hosted a series of discussions on *A Tender Time*. Friends found it quite powerful, moving, and a very useful experience both in practical and spiritual terms. **If Friends are interested in a discussion group with others in Western Quarter, please let Deb know, [coordinator@westernquarterquakers.org](mailto:coordinator@westernquarterquakers.org)**

From the Baltimore Yearly Meeting’s End of Life Working Group, *A Tender Time* is a unique collection of Quaker voices, historical and contemporary, that explores practical, emotional, and spiritual aspects of aging and dying well. It moves in widening circles, from aging to dying, and from primary caregiver to friends to the whole faith community. It illustrates how individual Friends make end of life decisions guided by the Spirit and Quaker values.

*To order — <https://pendlehill.org/product/a-tender-time-quaker-voices-on-the-end-of-life/>*



# Kendal Monthly Meeting welcomes Western Quarter Saturday, October 19

at

Kendal, 1109 E. Baltimore Pike, Kennett Square  
Please park in LOT #6

**Kendal Auditorium**

**9:30am coffee**

**10:00 meeting for worship**

**10:30am - George Fox, new studies,  
and record keeping**

For Zoom link - [email wqmfriends@gmail.com](mailto:wqmfriends@gmail.com)

**10:30-noon Children enjoy the pool!**

**11:30 buffet lunch**

**12:00pm meeting for worship with  
attention to business**

**Zoom for business meeting—**

<https://us02.web.zoom.us/j/92668234836>



*George Fox, new studies, and record  
keeping*

*A Talk by Jordan Landes, Curator,  
Friends Historical Library*



## **FWCC World Plenary Meeting Presentation Retrospective Justice: A Quaker Model for Healing Historical Injustice?**

*This presentation by Friends Hal Weaver and Nozizwe Madlala-Routledge was sent to Western Quarter by over half a dozen Quaker organizations we receive mailings from. I took it as a leading to share it with everyone.*

Greetings to Friends from Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Europe and the Middle East, and the Americas. My name is Harold D. Weaver, Jr., of the BlackQuaker Project, an outreach and in-reach ministry of Wellesley Friends Meeting of New England Yearly Meeting of Friends (Quakers). I come to you on behalf of both my ministry and Friend Nozizwe Madlala-Routledge, who co-developed the presentation you will hear today. I will now share with you three queries addressing our major topics for discussion:

1. What is Retrospective Justice?

2. How can we, as Quakers, use Retrospective Justice to address historical injustices?

3. Why should Quakers take action NOW to implement Retrospective Justice?

### Query No. 1 – What is Retrospective Justice?

Drawing on the strong ethical foundation of the 2006 Brown University report, Slavery and Justice, we define retrospective justice as “an attempt to administer justice years after the commission of a severe injustice or series of injustices against persons, communities, or racial and ethnic groups.” We note the following three steps as necessary for the successful implementation of Retrospective Justice.

**STEP 1: Acknowledge an Offense** – Friends need to publicly acknowledge that Quakers were slave owners, and, though many were abolitionists, many other Quakers supported the transatlantic slave trade, as well as chattel slavery, white supremacy, and economic exploitation.

**STEP 2: Commit to truth-telling** – We must “create a clear historical record of events” and properly institutionalize our history so that we do not forget. Our ministry praises several examples of institutionalized truth-telling worldwide, including the Apartheid Museum in Johannesburg, South Africa, the Museum of Black Civilizations in Dakar, Senegal, the International Slavery Museum in Liverpool, UK, and the African American History Museum in Washington, D.C.

**STEP 3: Make amends in the present** – We must go beyond just financial reparations and offer social, psychological, cultural, spiritual, and political rehabilitation and healing. African American Friend Bayard Rustin sums it up: “...I fail to see how [the Negro freedom] movement can be victorious in the absence of RADICAL PROGRAMS for full employment, abolition of slums, the reconstruction of our educational system, new definitions of work and leisure. Adding up the cost of such programs, we can only conclude that we are talking about a refashioning of our political economy.” *How might this look in the 21st century? For inspiration let us turn to a plan of “reparative justice” first proposed by the states of the Caribbean Community, or CARICOM, in 2013. This 10-point plan challenges Western nations to make amends for chattel slavery by not only paying reparations, but by committing to programs addressing public health and education, repatriating stolen art and cultural artifacts, and canceling national debt.*

**We conclude that any effort to make amends must center the voices of the victims and their descendants;** because too often, it is those with financial resources who get to define what atonement means.

### Query No. 2. How can we use Retrospective Justice to address historical injustices?

To answer this question, we will cite examples of past injustice from Kenya, South Africa,

and the United States of America that have shaped the experiences of people of African descent, both Friends and non-Friends, across the past three centuries.

Though Kenya is now home to over 100,000 indigenous Kenyan Quakers, how many are aware of the British military's massacre of over 11,000 indigenous Kenyans during the Mau Mau Rebellion (1952-1960)? The roots of this mass murder can be traced back to vicious British settler colonialism, which used a strategy of "Divide and Rule" to subjugate the African people and conquer. British settlers razed pre-colonial societies to seize and partition Kenyan land, splitting apart indigenous communities and creating inter-ethnic tensions that still prevail today.

The colonization of South Africa by the Dutch in 1652, followed by the British in the 1920's, saw the same massive repression, deprivation, and dispossession of land and rights of indigenous people. From the 1960s to the early 1980s, the Apartheid Government forcibly relocated over 3.5 million indigenous South Africans to Bantustans, ethnically segregated, impoverished reserves policed by autocratic puppet leaders.

Since the end of USA chattel slavery in 1865, African Americans have continued to endure various forms of exploitation, degradation, and humiliation.

Quakers who are looking to implement development programs must first understand the nature of the past injustices they are trying to address. This is necessary in order to clearly distinguish ordinary development from what we mean, when we talk about Retrospective Justice.

Query No. 3 – Why should Quakers take action NOW in using Retrospective Justice to heal historical injustice?

Our ministry offers three reasons why Quakers should not only take action now but do so with urgency.

**Reason #1: JUSTICE** – To define the Quaker testi-

mony of justice, we turn to British Friend Adam Curle, who describes justice as having a dual meaning: "one, spiritual—righteousness, the observance of the divine law; the other temporal—fairness, righteous dealing. ... " Our ministry challenges Friends to place the Justice testimony not only on the front-burner but front-and-center within Quakerism by engaging in this important work.

**Reason #2: TRUTH** – Like justice, truth and integrity are at the root of Quakerism, so much so that an early name for Quakers was the Friends of Truth. We must work to correct misinformation and disinformation so that we might gain a more accurate understanding of the roots of the issues that we want to resolve.

**Reason #3: REPUTATION, INFLUENCE, AND EXPECTATIONS** – Since the publication of Uncle Tom's Cabin in 1852, USA Quakers have been counted among history's most dedicated abolitionists. I question whether we fully deserve this reputation, but it is one that has endured. In fact, in 1947, the Friends Service Council in the UK and the American Friends Service Committee, were jointly awarded the Nobel Peace prize ON BEHALF OF ALL QUAKERS for post World War II peace, reconstruction, and recovery efforts. It is this reputation that we are expected to maintain and which I recommend we live up to. This is the time for concrete and urgent action to make reparation for the past and to atone.

Conclusion

Thank you to the Friends World Committee for Consultation for inviting us to contribute to the songbook, study guide, and programming of this 2024 World Plenary Meeting. Thank you to my talented BlackQuaker Project Team whose work behind the scenes made this presentation possible, and many thanks to all of you, for giving us your attention today.

Peace and blessings.

## Two Paragraphs I noted from the *Epistle to All Friends from Intermountain Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, Durango, CO June 2024*

The great poet Wendell Berry invites us to “practice resurrection” and perhaps that notion describes the process of bringing new life to our monthly and yearly meetings. Such a process begins with our life in the Spirit and, as Barry Crossno told us, that entails a willingness to surrender, to let go of old ideas as well as our egos. As much as we are able to do that, we can make room for the motion of love to heal and strengthen us. At our gathering this year, we set aside more time and space to worship together and, as

always, we found connection and regeneration in that stillness and in our worship sharing circles.

May we also find joy, as our children always do at yearly meeting, in playing together. This year, inspired by the final words of the Palestinian poet Refaat Alareer who was killed in a Gaza missile attack, some of us made and launched white kites into a very blue Colorado sky. We made and flew these kites holding the children of Gaza in our hearts as Refaat Alareer did in his final poem. In 1667, Isaac Penington imagined a peaceful and loving world in which we would help “*one another up with a tender hand.*”  
*May it be so.*

With Love and Gratitude,  
The Friends of Intermountain Yearly Meeting

## Western Quarterly Meeting Minutes

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 Sixth 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 ele-

vator.

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 [online]. We deferred for 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.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Anna Medeiros, Centre MM

To read past Minutes of Western Quarter, and the Minutes from the WQM Support Committee Meetings, please visit our Business Resources page online: <http://westernquarterquakers.org/business-meeting-info/>