

DRAFT Minutes Western Quarterly Meeting  
meeting for worship with attention to business

April 27, 2025 1:00pm via [Zoom](#)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/92668234836?pwd=6FXcTpVK7pObpnEVn8KCEnk4NaOagZ.1>

Present - friends from West Grove, London Grove, Hockessin, Centre, Kennett, Kendal, Fallowfield, Newark, and New Garden: Heather Mickelson, Becky Scotland, Bob Frye, Margaret Walton, tonya thames taylor, Judy Hinds, Shelley Hastings, Stan Glowiak, Dick Logan, Dave Nuttall, Carol Bland, Jim Nelson, Selina Toedtter, Karen Halstead

### **Query Responses**

*New Garden Monthly Meeting* - The first query was read on Meeting for Worship.

We hold our Meeting For Worship in stilled expectant waiting upon God. We are a small group & are easily drawn together. This form of worship can be nurturing but we are not able to know if everyone is feeling nurtured because this is a personal thing.

Our members agree that when we come together we do feel that we are one. Our building feels very safe not only to our members, but also to outside groups such as “The Men of New Garden”. Vocal ministry is never discouraged.

*West Grove Monthly Meeting*

We often have silent meeting for worship, but when there is ministry it is powerful. Worship provides an opportunity to perceive answers to problems or questions that arise during the week.

*Newark Monthly Meeting, March 9, 2025*

### **QUERY THREE DEEPENING OUR FAITH: SPIRITUAL NURTURE**

The third query was considered by Aliza Appel, Annemarie Carr, Lily Grosso, Shelley Hastings, Maggie Ladd, Treba Thompson, Ariana Langford, Diane Kesler, Sally Milbury-Steen, David Nuttall, Wayne Thompson, and Mike McDowell

A Friend remarked that Part c., which asks in what ways we support each other in our efforts to increase our understanding of humanity’s relationship to life on earth, spoke to her. She replied, “How do I compare my right hand to my left hand?” Our relationship to earth is clear: that’s why we compost, work for clean air, clean water, and engage in various environmental concerns. However, the word “other,” as it should specify life other than our own, is missing from Part c. Our humanity and “other” life are the same thing. The earth can live without us. This is a basic understanding.

In response to Part f, another Friend thinks that it’s ironic that her spiritual life has integrated an understanding of a well-ordered relationship with the earth in her. Yet,

her reverence for the interconnectedness of all life has made her against what other people are doing.

Part d., about recognizing, developing and nurturing the spiritual gifts of all in our meeting, is one of our highlights. The Friend who provides child care for our meeting does this very well; it's her gift. Part d. can be summed up as the question, "are we holding each other up?" And the answer is yes! A Friend thinks that it's the world that is the problem.

A Friend commented that Friends accept her as she is, warts and all. She also commented that her faith is very mutable, what she gets comes from other people. She thinks that if there's a God, God cares for us through each other. When we care for each other, we're providing spiritual nurture. And that's what deepens her faith.

A Friend thought it was great when another Friend talked about hearing the Serenity Prayer reframed and reworded to a prayer to "change the things I cannot accept." The Friend added that she never did like the word "serenity." She says that making fun of everything is her way of coping. However, she said she's learning how to not put her foot in her mouth. She agrees with John Lewis, who talked about "good trouble," saying there have been little plots that have changed history for the better.

A visiting Friend asked "How our meeting can welcome those who are oppressed." He said "At London Grove we're considering the Yeats poem "The Second Coming." He feels that the "ceremony of innocence," which is "drowned" in the poem, is alive in Friends' meetings, and that everything based on fear is illusory. Love is all encompassing, helping us set aside fear.

A Friend shared her daily spiritual practice, which is to: 1. Make a prayer list of people to pray for. 2. Go out in the world, whatever the weather, to accept the now. 3. Add a new app on her phone to make calls to let people know how hurtful their actions are right now. 4. Print out our rights concerning protesting. 5. View the George Lakey movie, *Our Fear*. 6. Think about Friends that have been doing things that are spiritual, and practicing it. She believes that there is certainly a need for holiness.

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

### **WQM Inc meeting was called into session at 1:11pm**

Bob Frye gave a report on Pennsgrove Meetinghouse. We received the report with appreciation. We noted the rise in insurance costs and asked Bob to see if Pennsgrove can go under PYM's insurance umbrella.

Education Fund Report - the coordinator shared the balance and noted that 6 grants for \$5,400 will be given in the 4th fiscal quarter.

Colora Meetinghouse - our first title search was done with an incorrect address even though the name of the listing was Colora Meetinghouse. The law firm is in the midst of a second title search with the Corn Cake Row, Colora, MD address.

The meeting of WQM Inc was closed and the meeting for worship with attention to business of Western Quarterly Meeting resumed at 1:21pm.

### **West Grove Meeting Concern - Heather Mickelson**

WGMM has rented space to a day care since the late 1960s. Initially it was to help support nurses at Jennersville Hospital. The daycare has continued to exist and provide needed low-cost daycare to area families.

The day care is not under official care of West Grove Monthly Meeting; it leases space from WGMM. A member of West Grove Monthly Meeting is the current board president and is looking for a few community members to join the board. Board members do not have to be Pennsylvania residents. The day care provides child care support for about 50 families.

*Shelley Hastings agreed to attend the upcoming board meeting.*

Friends suggested that legal counsel be consulted about governance concerns to determine if there is liability for West Grove Monthly Meeting and the board officers.

Friends also suggested checking the status of the malpractice insurance coverage.

### **Minutes from the Quarter – on PYM v. DHS**

At least four monthly meetings shared minutes in support of PYM joining others in a lawsuit against the Department of Homeland Security's policy change empowering ICE to enter houses of worship. West Grove shared that it also expressed support and made a financial contribution to support the legal case.

Fallowfield would appreciate a quarter minute as it is a small meeting that is helped by action taken by the corporate body.

**Western Quarterly Meeting minutes support for PYM's lawsuit against DHS.**

### **Joint Quarter working group - Stan Glowiak, Deb Wood**

We do have a planning group that includes four friends from Centre Meeting to work with the coordinator, clerk, and friends from Concord Quarter. Several of us will meet May 4 with Concord Quarterly Meeting's Planning Committee.

The previous schedule was: 9:30am program 11:00 worship, followed by lunch, and meeting for business after lunch.

Judy Hinds of Kendal Meeting has agreed to do a program on Warner Mifflin.

With two meetings for business to hold at once, we may need to move one of the meetings for business to another day and hold it online or keep meeting for business brief.

Delaware fire police assistance for pedestrian traffic would likely be \$500-600 for the day.

### **WQM Read - Bayard Rustin book working group**

tonya thames taylor, Stan Glowiak, and Margaret Walton volunteered to be a steering committee to find a date and plan the discussion of *Bayard Rustin: A Legacy of Protest and Politics*.

**Coordinator updates** - I've been attending PYM joint council meetings and nominating committee meetings. There are openings on all committees. Friends should be in touch with Deb if they have an interest in serving Friends.

From PYM - if there are monthly meetings seeing a change in participation of members in the life of their meeting because of the move to do ICE arrests at places of worship, please communicate that change to yearly meeting clerk, Nikki Mosgrove at [nmosgrove@pym.org](mailto:nmosgrove@pym.org) or general secretary Christie Duncan-Tessmer at [cduncan-tessmer@pym.org](mailto:cduncan-tessmer@pym.org).

Western Quarter Nominating - John Voss, Centre Meetings, is willing to serve the quarter as assistant treasurer.

*Friends approved the nomination of John Voss as assistant treasurer.*

Margaret Walton has served us faithfully and well as clerk. We do need to begin to find our next quarter clerk.

The Delaware branch of Churches for Middle East Peace is willing to give a presentation for Friends and the public if Friends would like to host them on the current situation facing Gazans, Palestinians, and Israelis.

### **Treasurer's Report** - read by Deb

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

### **Upcoming Events and Announcements** -

Every other Thursday - there is a protest at Old Kennett Meetinghouse along route 1 organized by Kendal residents and open to all from 4-5:30pm. They will be out this Thursday, May 1.

David Gray, Principal and Head of School gave a very moving presentation on Brumanna School, the Friends school in Lebanon and its key role in the community. Kendal Meeting and Western Quarter's coordinator helped organize the event.

Kendal Meeting also noted that they made a special contribution to Pendle Hill to help them recover from recent severe storm damage.

Every Friday 10:30 Kendal holds a gun safety, violence reduction vigil.

Every Saturday in Kennett from 4:00-5:30pm there is a protest at State and Union Streets in Kennett Square.

Wednesday, May 7 Hangry Bear Creamery will have a fundraiser for the West Grove Area Day Care at West Grove Meeting if you mentioned the daycare. They are at 660 East Cypress St and have sandwiches and burgers as well as ice cream.

May 14 4pm - 5pm arrival for Quaker Walk 2025 - <https://www.quakerwalk2025.org/> at London Grove Meeting. Please come and welcome the walkers. Potluck at 5pm. Feel free to join them for their walk.

Sunday, June 15 - combined Support Committee Historic Properties Meeting via Zoom - contact Deb for the link [coordinator@westernquarterquakers.org](mailto:coordinator@westernquarterquakers.org)

Sunday, July 20 Joint Quarterly Meeting at Centre Meeting

Wednesday July 23-Sunday July 27 Annual Sessions of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting at Cheyney University <https://www.pym.org/sessions/> - schedule and registration to come

Respectfully submitted,  
Deb Wood, coordinator