



DRAFT MINUTES Western Quarterly Meeting  
meeting for worship with attention to business  
20 July, 2025 8:30 am Centre Meetinghouse and via [Zoom](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/92668234836)  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/92668234836>

We opened with worship.

### **Query Responses**

#### Mill Creek

*Do we help each other to live with integrity and contribute that integrity to the life of our meeting?*

We support each other in living in accordance with our testimonies. We consider the history of our faith and the testimonies. We don't judge each other and trust the Spirit to lead us.

*How does our meeting learn of members' needs and offer its assistance?*

We are such a small meeting that we do keep each other informed of members' needs, and we ask if anyone is aware of members in need of assistance at each business meeting and what type of support they may need.

*How does our meeting nurture members in all stages of life?*

Most of our members are older adults, but we are welcoming to visitors of all ages.

*How does our meeting welcome those new to Friends and integrate them into our community?*

We offer literature about our manner of worship, we have them sign our guest book, and we try to make them feel welcome.

*When a member's conduct or manner of living gives cause for concern, how does the meeting respond?*

We have not encountered this at our small meeting but if we did, we would lovingly talk to them about our beliefs and manner of worship.

#### New Garden

The 4th query was read on nurturing our community; care for the Meeting.

We do believe that we help each other to live with integrity & that the life of the Meeting is dependent upon being vigilant regarding protecting our values whenever an issue comes to our attention.

We are not good when it comes to integrating those new to our meeting into our community. Remembering the importance of honesty & integrity, we tend to advise them of other Meetings that we know will answer their needs better than we can.



When a member's conduct or manner of living gives cause for concern, we usually respond by holding that member in the light, either verbally in meeting or quietly, in silent prayer.

We do not confront those with whom we disagree.

### Newark

The fourth query was considered by Aliza Appel, Ginny Bailey, Annemarie Carr, Gavin Ferris, Lily Grosso, Shelley Hastings, Maggie Ladd, Richard Ladd, Ariana Langford, Mike McDowell, Sophia Sigel, Treba Thompson, and Wayne Thompson.

We have been blessed with having several visitors recently; a Friend appreciates how welcoming our meeting has been with them. Some of our visitors also came to celebrate Seder at a member's house. Another Friend commented that we welcome visitors with one word: "food."

A Friend suggested that maybe it's time to start having in-person meetings for business so new-comers can experience them.

There are many advantages to Newark MM's being such a small meeting. We're well known to each other: we know if members' words are different than their actions; and we know what members do outside of our meeting. One Friend said she can't think of a time when any members didn't comport themselves with integrity.

A lot of the questions in this query speak to the work of our Care Committee. The Care Committee members ask, to the best of their ability, how everyone in the meeting is doing during each of their meetings. The committee finds out what the individual needs are and offers assistance. Many Friends in our meeting recently helped a member who had knee surgery.

A Friend noted a report in the New York Times about child raising which said that the Quakers have had it right all along. It is our nature to give to our children as we give to each other.

In response to the question concerning integrity, a Friend said there was a man from another meeting who she couldn't believe was a Quaker. He took an ax to his TV one time. She said he was loved, but he was irascible. He also gave his partner a black eye. Yet he believed that violence in the context of war was wrong. She also recalled that Quakers owned slaves at one time. She said that some people can shock you.



She added, "I appreciate all of you. I'm a better person for attending Newark Friends Meeting, and a happier one."

respectfully submitted,

On behalf of Newark Monthly Meeting,

Mike McDowell

### West Grove Query answer for 7th mo. Quarter 2025

The Fourth Query on Care for the Meeting was read. Members do various jobs for the Meeting

without a need for publicity about it. We show concern for members by cards and phone calls.

### London Grove Query Response

Our community is the glue that holds us together. Parents ask for help from the community when dealing with issues they face with their children. They ask how can I nurture my children? We learn from the children in our community just as they learn from us.

Anna Myers was the kind of person who holds our community together, always a kind, unassuming and welcoming presence among us. We will miss her. Our meeting is nurtured by the shared grace of all of our members as well as members who are no longer present but have brought us to where we are today.

### Kennett Monthly Meeting Query Response

One person replied that he thinks KMM members help each other to live with integrity but sometimes we stumble and have to start again. We want to always do better in the future

Another person appreciated that members of Care & Counsel provide her with a ride to Meeting for Worship and she feels blessed

Another replied that KMM welcomes and supports members with an active Care & Counsel committee for advice and pastoral care.

Another replied that he found that during a community meeting, non-Friends were curious about his Quaker membership which led to other conversations about needing community and how KMM Friends are integrated into the broader community.

*One person replied that he thinks KMM members help each other to live with integrity but sometimes we stumble and have to start again. We want to always do better in the future*

*Another person appreciated that members of Care & Counsel provide her with a ride to Meeting for Worship and she feels blessed*



*Another replied that KMM welcomes and supports members with an active Care & Counsel committee for advice and pastoral care.*

*Another replied that he found that during a community meeting, non-Friends were curious about his Quaker membership which led to other conversations about needing community and how KMM Friends are integrated into the broader community.*

**Introduction of Visitor** - Joe Kirkener, (York, PA Monthly Meeting) PYM's Director of Development and his partner were present for meeting for business. He looks forward to seeing Friends at Annual Sessions.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Deb Wood presented the report prepared by WQ treasurer, Karen Conlan. Friends received the report with gratitude, and approved having surplus be set aside for Historic Properties Reserve.

### **FY 2026 Budget for approval**

*Friends approved the budget as presented. With appreciation for the treasurer's work.*

### **Hockessin Monthly Meeting Minute on U.S. attack on Iran**

To Western Quarterly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends:

The members of Hockessin Friends Meeting feel compelled to express our deep concern over the action willfully taken by the leaders of our country that may be the first step toward another virtually endless war, despite having only recently extricated ourselves from another. As a religious community historically committed to peaceful settlement of global differences **we are obligated to object.** We urge the other Meetings of the Quarter to join us in communicating our repudiation of this military action to Philadelphia Yearly Meeting in the interest of creating a broadened advocacy for peaceful resolution of this still resolvable conflict and in endorsing the vigorous actions of the Friends Committee on National Legislation condemning the government's choice to join, rather than abstain, from combat.

*Friends endorsed this minute and approved the adaptation of it to forward on to Philadelphia Yearly Meeting at Annual Sessions.*



### **Minute of appreciation for tonya thames taylor**

Western Quarter minutes its sincere appreciation for tonya thames taylor's vision, extensive preparation and expert facilitation of the Juneteenth event held at Kendal Crosslands on 22 Sixth Month 2025. She encouraged everyone in the Quarter to read the book ***Bayard Rustin: A Legacy of Protest and Politics***, edited by Michael G. Long. She then designed and prepared all the elements for the event--the flyer, discussion questions, the list of outside articles and videos accompanying the reading guide--which contributed to a large turnout and lively discussion. The book discussion attracted more than 30 people not only from Western Quarter, but also Caln Quarter and Salem Quarter. Friends were enriched by and indebted to tonya for this ministry to our community.

**Friends Home Annual Report** - Teal Rickerman shared the report. Friends received the report with gratitude. We continue to be grateful that Friends Home continues to be an option for senior housing in our community, and that Friends continue to have a presence on the board. We are grateful for their service and commitment.

### **Updates from last quarterly meeting:**

West Grove Area Day Care - they have a new member of the board and the board has agreed to explore training in how to be a non-profit board. The daycare has signed a new lease with West Grove Meeting. The daycare continues to be well-utilised by the community. There is a fundraiser coming up at the Hangry Bear in Kennett Square.

Department of Homeland Security lawsuit - there were recent updates in the weekly PYM News emails. If meetings experience the absence of members or attenders due to concerns about ICE presence, please let PYM staff know. It would be helpful for the lawsuit.

### Upcoming Events:

#### Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Annual Sessions:

#### **Wednesday, July 23 - 1-4pm Spiritual Formation**

*Enabling the Presence of Spirit at Meetings for Business*

#### **Wednesday, July 23 - 6:30-9:00pm Keynote speaker- Ayesha Imani**

**Founder of Ujima Friends Peace Center and Ujima Friends Meeting**

*How can we sing God's song in a strange land ... in such a time as this?*

#### **Friday, July 25 - 6:30pm Keynote Speakers - Joyce Ajlouny**

P.O. Box 693  
Kennett Square, PA 19348  
[www.westernquarterquakers.org](http://www.westernquarterquakers.org)



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

*How American Friends Service Committee works globally to challenge unjust systems and build peace*

**Saturday, July 26 6:30-8:30pm - Quaker Fun Night!**

Western Quarter:

July 24 - West Grove Area Day Care Fundraiser at Hangry Bear 5-8pm in Kennett Square

July 27 - meeting for worship at Old Kennett Meetinghouse

August 17 3pm - Historic Properties

August 31 - meeting for worship at Old Kennett Meetinghouse

*September 14 2pm- Parkersville Meetinghouse open for worship*

September 21 3pm - Support Committee and Historic Properties

October 19 - Quarterly Meeting at London Grove

Respectfully submitted,  
Deb Wood, coordinator