



Minutes - October 19, 2025 at London Grove Friends Meeting  
Zoom Link: via London Grove

1) Query Responses to the 7th Query - Grounding for Transformed  
Lives: Peace and Alternatives to Violence

**West Grove** Monthly Meeting Query Answer for the Third Quarter 2025  
The Seventh Query on Peace and Alternatives to Violence was read. It is human nature to avoid conflict. We try to see the other side of issues but in today's world that is more difficult.

Those who question the authority of the administration seem to disappear. We may soon be tested on our stance for non-violence.

**Mill Creek** -7th Month Query—How do we help each other face conflicts with patience, forbearance and openness to healing:

We try to be peaceful within ourselves, not be reactive, and to season our responses to others. One member said she works to soften her heart, and another said she tries not to get defensive and consider the other person with whom they are in conflict with love. We also help each other deal with the violence in the outside world.

To what extent does our meeting ignore differences in order to avoid possible conflicts?

We don't ignore differences, we celebrate them, as we have diverse beliefs. Different beliefs encourage us to see different perspectives.

What are we doing as a Friends meeting within our communities:

-To recognize and correct the causes of violence?

We practice the testimonies (SPICES,) we welcome people who visit, and we act with integrity when we interact with the community (eg, with the public when we held the fair.) One member uses the conflict resolution approach of "I to I's" in her classroom.



-To understand the impact of the global military-industrial complex on all aspects of life?

As a community we do understand and have concerns about this.

-To increase the understanding and use of alternatives to violence? And also,

-To work towards overcoming separations and restoring wholeness?

As a meeting we don't find opportunities to address these things, but personally we try to.

-To support the constructive use of authority?

We respect the authority of the clerk to guide us and ask to hold things over when we haven't reached unity.

-To promote the sustainability of the earth?

As a small meeting, we have a very small environmental footprint, but we do wish we had more people at our meeting even if it meant using more resources. :-)

## **Newark**

The seventh query was considered by Aliza Appel, Kasia Bennett, Ginny Bailey, Anniemarie Carr, Laura Deschere, Lilli Grosso, Maggie Ladd, Richard Ladd, Ariana Langford, Mike McDowell, Sally Millbury-Steen, Treba Thompson, and Wayne Thompson.

A Friend said the topic of this query is an area where she continues to try to grow and learn. She struggles with conflict, as do others. She also said that the current world is pushing us to learn in this area lest we will be facing increasing violence. This query speaks to a large concern of hers.

Another Friend commented that as she reads this query, she feels the most important thing she can do is live and act correctly. She doesn't want to argue with others, but sometimes feels a need to express her opinion. She



believes that she needs to walk through the world as a good person, and to share what she has learned from spirituality.

A Friend recalled that the previous week, after meeting, she had expressed how angry she felt over something that had happened recently. She thinks that sometimes we need to step back from anger, but it's very important not to just be silent. We should profess what we do feel without trying to cut off interchange, and should find a way of maintaining interchange.

One of the things that helps one Friend face conflicts with patience and forbearance is the understanding that whatever angers or makes her uncomfortable is that aspect about herself. She says that others give her the gift of seeing these things in herself, and this has helped her become more patient. Bringing the issue to meeting helps her cope. In Meeting, she feels loved, regardless of what she says.

Another Friend agreed that while sometimes with anger it's something about ourselves that bothers us, but sometimes it's an old wound we are working on dealing with.

A Friend said that when she goes shopping and elsewhere, people sometimes apologize to her for some accidental thing they do. The Friend said she will then explain that they don't need to apologize, and that seems to relieve their stress.

A Friend said that meeting has really helped her in the past year not to be reactionary, and to embody being an agent of peace. Meeting helps her to be working on the things she can change. Another Friends said "I'm taking the silent approach, and smiling." She finds that there's something helpful about being silent and still. She also mentioned that she had heard that the progressive movement and organization Indivisible has ideas for things to do to address war and violence.

One Friend finds the idea that peace doesn't mean the absence of conflict to be an interesting concept. When violence is used as a tool, she wonders what she could do to provide other, non-violent, tools.

In response to part (c), which asks what we are doing to address war and violence, a Friend shared that she is trying to do something in a number of



directions. She also suggested that at some point we might share what we've been doing with each other, and what we're finding rewarding. Another Friend thinks that's a good idea, adding that we should think about non-violent leaders like Gandhi and Martin Luther King, Jr. She donates to help people who have been wrongly convicted of crimes.

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

### **London Grove**

Alternatives to violence begins with listening. That is the beginning of solving the issues of violence. It is apparent the military-industrial complex is growing. There are growing wars world-wide. A federal budget bill was passed expanding the defense budget and decreasing spending for the needs of many people who are in need of services for medical care and food.

### **Hockessin**

I hope our actions today during Meeting for Business will reflect a satisfactory response to at least a portion of the queries today. [Approval of Minute on the U.S. Attack on Iran]

I've been honing in on the query about ignoring differences to avoid conflict and it's bothering me because I don't think it's about ignoring differences, but about understanding differences. More conflict comes from ignoring differences. I think that rather than saying, oh okay there's not that big of a difference between us if we took more time to understand we could come closer together to maybe finding a long-term solution. What are ways we can seek understanding between groups rather than ignoring the ways in which we are different?

#### 2) Treasurer's Report

- a) Karen Conlan shared the [Quarterly update](#). Friends received the report with gratitude and asked questions to confirm all the



accounts and general amounts making up Western Quarter's funds. The treasurer will review all of these for next session.

- b) John Woolman - no grants were awarded from this fund in the past year.
- c) [Covenant thank you](#) was received from yearly meeting. Friends appreciated the acknowledgement.

*A friend suggested making a contribution to groups working to support immigrants, migrants, and others in light of the morning's presentations by KACS and SILO. A small group of Karen Conlan, Jim Nelson, and Deb Wood will consult and bring a proposal to Support Committee's next meeting.*

### 3) Historic Properties Update

Dave Nuttall and Margaret Walton visited Chester County Archives, and Deb Wood and Margaret Walton visited Friends Historical Library at Swarthmore to search for deeds and related records. We found a deed or property document for Centre, Hockessin, Mill Creek, New Garden, London Grove, West Grove, Parkersville, London Britain, and for several properties connected to Fallowfield Meeting.

Deeds are important as we make any steps to repurposing or selling properties. We were reminded that titles are even more crucial.

Dick Logan shared that Hockessin Meeting is undergoing deed and title research, and discernment about shaping the legacy of Hockessin Meeting in the eventuality a decision is made to lay the meeting down at some point.

We were also reminded that Pennsylvania law recently changed and non-profit organizations need to refile annually with the state. The WQ coordinator and PYM staff may be able to assist meetings with this process.

### 4) PYM Related - share with your meetings and communities!



- a) Please consider how your meeting can provide safety for immigrants and migrants in your community. If there are things you are doing to provide support, share those with the quarterly and yearly meetings to provide examples for others.
  - b) [Sharing](#) supports for LGBTQIA community - this past annual sessions Philadelphia Yearly Meeting passed a minute noting our support for LGBTQIA+ members of our many communities. The minute asks us to publicly show our support and provides some examples of things we may do:
    - Use the resources on the PYM website to learn about the life experiences of some LGBTQIA+ individuals
    - Inform FCNL that LGBTQIA+ rights is one of our legislative priorities
    - Advocate for the full protection of civil rights for all
    - Encourage individual meetings or Quarters to host LGBTQIA+ speakers to open a dialogue and get to know them
    - Open a dialogue with other churches on LGBTQIA+ issues.
- Meetings can also list themselves on vetted websites as LBTQIA+ welcoming spaces for worship: [Gaychurch.org](http://Gaychurch.org) and [Churchclarity.org](http://Churchclarity.org). Please contact Deb, WQ coordinator if your meeting would like help doing this.
- c) New General Secretary - Chris Mohr, Green St. Monthly Meeting, will be the next General Secretary of our yearly meeting. His first day will be November 8, 2025, the midst of fall continuing sessions.
  - d) [Listening Session](#) Monday, October 20 on the current draft of PYM's [Lobbying & Advocacy Guidelines](#)
  - e) Grants - [Aging Grants](#) due Nov. 1. Please share with Friends.
- 5) Coordinator's Report. In addition to research for historic properties, office work to support the quarter, and attending to work for Joint Councils, I continue to transition to a new publishing system for the WQ newsletter.
  - 6) Sharing Upcoming Programs and Events



- a) [PYM calendar](#) - of note are the October 25 Climate Witness Thread and Fall Continuing Sessions.
- b) [WQM calendar](#) - December 14 Support Committee may be byemail or need to have the time adjusted. Deb will be speaking at Salem Quarter that day.
- c) **Kennett Meeting Retreat will be the weekend of January 24-25 at Pendle Hill. Western Quarter Friends are invited to join. Financial assistance is available.**
- d) [Friends Peace Teams calendar](#) - Regional reports are being shared, these online meetings are open to all.
- e) [FCNL events](#)
- f) [AFSC events](#)
- g) [Pendle Hill events](#)
- h) [Quaker Religious Education Collaborative](#)

We closed with worship.  
Respectfully submitted,  
Deb Wood