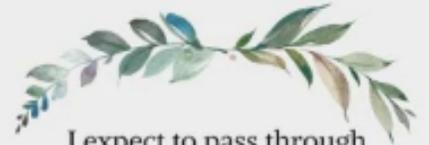




Western Quarterly News  
the newsletter of Western Quarterly  
Meeting of the Religious Society of  
Friends  
Winter 2026

*from William Penn*

If we would mend the World,  
we should mend Ourselves;  
and teach our Children to be,  
not what we are,  
but what they should be.



I expect to pass through  
life but once. If therefore, there  
be any kindness I can show,  
or any good thing I can do  
to any fellow being,  
let me do it now, and not  
defer or neglect it, as I shall  
not pass this way again.

*William Penn*

I expect to pass through life but once.  
If therefore, there be any **kindness**  
**I can show**, or any **good thing**  
**I can do** to any fellow being,  
**let me do it now**, and not defer  
or neglect it, as I shall not  
pass this way again.

*– William Penn*



True Godliness doesn't turn people out of this world but enables them to live better in it and excites their endeavors to mend it.

In this issue..

11<sup>th</sup> Query

7th Query

Responses

New from Faith &

Play

Minutes -

October WQM;

December

Support Cmte.

WQM flyer

### Quarterly Meeting Schedule

**January 18, 2026 - at Kennett and hosted by**

**Newark - 11<sup>th</sup> Query**

**April 19, 2026 - Hockessin - 2<sup>nd</sup> Query**

**July 19, 2026 - Kendal - 5<sup>th</sup> Query**

*July is held jointly with Concord Quarter.*

**October 18, 2026 - West Grove - 8<sup>th</sup> Query**

**January 17, 2027 - Kennett - 12<sup>th</sup> Query**

**April 18, 2027 - Fallowfield - 3<sup>rd</sup> Query**

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*11th Query - Witnessing in the World: Education*

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For the meeting:

- What does our meeting do to support and improve public education?
- What help do we provide for the children and adults in our meeting to pursue their educational goals?
- What is our meeting's role in support for Friends' education? If our meeting is connected to a Friends school or schools, does this relationship nurture spiritual life and the manifestation of Friends principles?
- Do we enable children in our meeting to attend a Friends school? Does our meeting work with the family to consider all available means of support?

For the individual:

- *How do I show my concern for the improvement of public education in my community?*
- *Do I demonstrate my encouragement and support for Friends education through awareness and service?*

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

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

*Hockessin*

I hope our actions today during Meeting for Business will reflect a satisfactory response to at least a portion of the queries today with our 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?

*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.

*West Grove*

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.

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

### *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

Query responses cont'd next page

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

### *Mill Creek*

—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. :-)

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*Memories from quarterly meeting  
at London Grove, October 2025.*



*Three new stories have been added to the Faith & Play Stories collection!*

[You can download and print the stories here.](#)

They are their own PDF publication at this time, and will be added to the current published stories in a future third edition publication.



### **Bayard Rustin Speaks Truth to Power**

– A story about being your whole self

### **Four Doors to Meeting for Worship**

– A story about experiencing meeting for worship and feeling close to God (with permission from Pendle Hill pamphlets)



### **Sarah Mapps Douglass and the Truth of the Back Bench**

– A story about making choices for yourself and for change

These new stories represent years of writing, testing, revision, and collaboration between the Faith & Play creators and the Friends who were originating authors.

[Descriptions of all the published stories in the collection can be found here on the website.](#)

These are helpful if you're leading a program and want to describe the story you're sharing!

More stories are on the way . . .

info@quakerfaithplay.org <https://quakerfaithplay.org>

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## Minutes - October 19, 2025 at London Grove Friends Meeting

### Zoom Link: via London Grove

We opened with worship during which Friends shared query responses from our monthly meetings.

#### Treasurer's Report

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.

John Woolman - no grants were awarded from this fund in the past year.

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.

#### 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.

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

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.

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 LGBTQIA+ 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.

#### 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.

#### Listening Session

Monday, October 20 on the current draft of PYM's Lobbying & Advocacy Guidelines

#### Grants -

Aging Grants due Nov. 1. Please share with Friends.

#### 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.

We closed with worship.

Respectfully submitted, Deb Wood, coordinator

**Minutes - 14, December 2025 - Support Committee of Western Quarterly Meeting, convened via Zoom at 3:00pm**

Next meeting 2nd Sunday in March at 3:00pm unless otherwise notified

Representatives present from London Grove Monthly Meeting, West Grove Monthly Meeting, Kennett Monthly Meeting, Fallowfield Monthly Meeting, Mill Creek Monthly Meeting, Centre Monthly Meeting, Hockessin Monthly Meeting, and Western Quarterly Meeting coordinator

We opened with a period of worship.

We reviewed and approved the minutes from our 21 September 2025 meeting.

Parkersville Property Committee requests that Western Quarterly Meeting purchase the lot to the south of the Parkersville property, Parcel #64-3-22.2, address 1220 Parkersville Road, Chadds Ford, PA 19317. The lot provides a buffer and potential resource for the meetinghouse and burial ground. Funds will be provided from accounts under the oversight of the Parkersville Committee.

**Friends approved the recommendation of the Parkersville Meetinghouse Committee to purchase the property adjacent to the meetinghouse on its southern side. Margaret Walton, as current clerk of Western Quarterly Meeting will sign the documents.**

Friends reviewed the WQM handbook listing on Friends Boarding Home Corporation.

Discussion in our July 2025 meeting for business session arose about the extent of Western Quarterly Meeting's care relationship to Friends Boarding Home. We reviewed the history of Friends Boarding Home gleaned from records held by Western Quarter and PA state listing of corporations. Friends shared items from the Friends Boarding Home Handbook.

It was clear to those gathered that Western Quarterly Meeting has a pastoral care relationship with Friends Boarding Home. Western Quarter values the service that Friends Home provides the community and its role in its founding in 1898, incorporation in 1901-1902, and the service of members of Western Quarter's monthly meetings on the Friends Home Board for over 100 years. We hope that we are able to support Friends Boarding Home in its efforts to provide quality care for decades to come as we continue to provide pastoral support for the Friends Home Board.

*Members of the Friends Home Board will review their incorporation and handbook materials to be sure that liability for Friends Boarding Home's actions lie with Friends Boarding Home.*

**Updates from monthly meetings:**

Mill Creek had worship this morning on this lovely snowy day.

Fallowfield - our attenders list is growing. We will host "Dare to Declare" from 1-2pm on December 20th at People's Hall, 810 Doe Run Road for a reading of the Declaration of Independence, followed by a sing along of carols and refreshments.

Centre – Andrea Taylor, Carmelina Darrow, and Freeman Miller are rotating clerking responsibilities. This morning Friends at Centre considered what Delaware entities Centre could give monies to.

Kennett - is continuing to discern a new relationship with the East Linden neighborhood and Project.

They have had study buddies and a holiday drive over the years, and now are discerning a more spiritual connection beyond annual holiday support.

And Kennett will be the location of the 18 January 2026 gathering of Western Quarterly Meeting!

Newark Meeting has arranged for two programs, a storyteller and new Philadelphia Yearly Meeting General Secretary, Chris Mohr. We will have Friend tonya thames taylor on storytelling backup.

Friends appreciated the role of Kennett Meeting for hosting rapid response team training for Southern Chester County.

Hockessin- discussion continues on how the meeting can help eliminate or lessen the impacts of homelessness in Delaware. Friends suggested attending local meetings with state government representatives

We closed with a period of worship.

Respectfully submitted, Deb Wood, coordinator



Sunday, January 18,  
2026  
at Kennett Friends  
Meetinghouse  
hosted by Newark  
Friends



**9:15 AM Welcome and Morning Fellowship**  
Coffee, Cider, and Baked Goods

**9:45 AM Altogether (all ages) Worship**

10:00am worship continues and children go to  
program with Clem Bowen, storyteller;  
followed by arts & crafts with Friend Lily of  
Newark Friends Meeting

**10:45 AM Program with Chris Mohr,**  
Philadelphia Yearly Meeting's General Secretary

**12:00 - 1:00 Lunch**

**1:00pm - meeting for worship with attention to  
business**

**Zoom Link:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/92668234836>

Clem Bowen, storyteller

Chris Mohr on right  
with PYM Rising Clerk Selden Smith,  
and PYM Presiding Clerk Nikki  
Mosgrove



**Kennett Meetinghouse - 125 West Sickle Street, Kennett Square**  
Accessibility details: Kennett Meetinghouse has a chair lift for access  
between floors. There is a ramp from the front sidewalk along to the  
upper level entrance. Parking lot entrance provides access to the  
lower level.