



DRAFT Minutes - WQM
Meeting for worship with attention to business
1pm 19 April 2026
via Zoom - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/92668234836>

Friends present from Centre, Hockessin, Fallowfield, Kennett, London Grove, Mill Creek, New Garden, and West Grove Monthly Meetings.

Opening Worship with sharing of responses to the 2nd query: Deepening our Faith:
Meeting for Business

Mill Creek:

Is our business meeting held in worship in which we seek divine guidance?

Yes, we begin and end each business meeting with silent worship and usually maintain a thoughtful tone throughout the meeting. Although the members of our meeting each have very different perceptions regarding a higher power, those differences usually impact us positively and are not a factor regarding business. Until recently, we have not experienced disagreements during the business portion of our worship, although cracks in that facade are beginning to appear. Our last business meeting ended in discord with a fundamental disagreement over finances, with one member seeking to cash in the endowment, though there is no reason or need to do so. Needless to say, that caused quite a rift that may need divine guidance as well as guidance from the greater Quaker community.

How do we sustain prayerful consideration of all aspects of an issue and address difficult problems with a search for truth that is unhurried by the pressure of time?

The members at Mill Creek consider "problems" as opportunities, which, until recently, rarely arise. We talk slowly and carefully. When issues are at an impasse, we hold those over and revisit them for the following business meeting.

Do we recognize that we speak through our inactions as well as our actions?

Yes, we realize that and are reminded often by one member who feels deeply and speaks encouragingly to us about that. We agree that there are actions we could/should be taking; however, due to our small size (5 attenders), the pressures of our modern lifestyles, commutes, and daily chores, we find that much of our engagement in service work is done on a personal level.



London Grove:

Second month Query: Deepening Our Faith: Meeting for Business

Mid-way through Meeting for Worship, the 2nd Query on Meeting for Business was read. Two Friends spoke with these responses to the query:

The first Friend spoke connecting last month's query on meeting for worship to this month's query on meeting for business. Last month's query tells us to pay attention in a non-judgmental way. This month's query tells us to pay attention prayerfully. The common thread of both is paying attention. In Meeting for Business, the spirit will come through, but it might be a little quieter than in Meeting for Worship. However, if we pay attention, we will feel it. One is less formal and more improvisational, the other is more formal and requiring a different type of attention to catch the spirit.

A second Friend was moved by the last line of the query asking if we remain open to personal transformation or growth as the community arrives at the sense of the meeting. She doesn't often think of the spirit moving through meeting for business because it is more formal. This Friend sometimes thinks during meeting for worship about questions that were before the business meeting months or years ago, and wonders where the meeting would have gone, and how the way would have opened if she had been more open to the spirit. She appreciates when conversations continue after meeting for business in a friendly way between Friends who are in disagreement. We should work to get to know each other and our differing points of view.

Kennett:

A member shared thoughts that inaction can be as consequential as action, and that one may wish they had not remained silent, adding that as long as everyone contributes and listens, we can be in worship. Another member mentioned that one of the tools used by the clerk to keep us on track is to call us back to silence, which has been helpful. Another member expressed that Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business has been an important part of their spiritual experience, adding that the work in our committees contributes to the spiritual nature of the entire meeting. Another member expressed that we should think of transformation as a meeting and the sense of the meeting.

A Friend from Centre Monthly Meeting:

A Friend from Centre shared that they set the framework for business by naming and voicing the importance of meeting for worship with attention to business, worship is essential to the conducting of business.

Newark:

The second query was considered by Aliza Appel, Ginny Bailey, Annemarie Carr, Gavin Ferris, Lily Grosso, Shelley Hastings, Diane Kesler, Maggie Ladd, Ariana Langford, Sally Milbury-Steen, Mike McDowell, Treba Thompson, and Barbara Ward.



In reply to the question of how she speaks through her inaction, a Friend noted that she may be perceived as a hypocrite: "For example, I eat out and feel tremendous guilt. My family says I'm being a masochist."

One Friend doesn't think we need to deliberate about meeting for business while we're having a meeting for business. Since people are usually constrained by time, she wonders if we could move on rather than consider meeting for business in a query.

Another Friend reminded us that meeting for business is how Quakers have accomplished things for decades. She believes that we need to hold meeting for business in holiness. She also shared that meeting for business is one of the ways she makes decisions. She added that we are not just receiving as Quakers, but giving. And this query helps her hold meeting for business in holiness.

A Friend said she was thinking during worship about how blessed she is to have all of the Meeting community. She thanked our Minute Clerk and Query Clerk for being wonderful note takers, especially when she can't attend business meeting. She is thankful for meeting for business. She said that we, as a group, accomplish things that she wished she could accomplish as an individual. She said, "I love you guys."

Reflecting on the previous Friend's comments, another Friend agreed that we are all together greater than the sum of our parts. Regarding the need for a query on meeting for business, she agrees that we need to balance the need for time and addressing the query.

A Friend observed that there is a kind of awe in the outside world at how Quakers do business. She thinks that how we do business makes a tremendous difference, and leads her to join with the community. It also testifies to the strength of Quakers.

A Friend remembered a late Friend from our meeting, who said we have fun at our business meetings, and that Friend always put a smile on her face when answering questions.

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

Introduction - Jim Nelson introduced himself to Friends. Jim is the clerk of Kennett Friends Meeting and is now also the clerk of Western Quarterly Meeting.

Treasurer's Report - Karen Conlan

We received the report with gratitude. The treasurer asked if Friends gathered had a recollection of how we were to refill the \$25,000 historic properties reserve. Past minutes indicated that the initial fund was set up with reserves and no specific fund source was indicated for replenishing the \$25,000 to be set aside for Historic Properties fund.

We did not feel the need to refill the historic fund at the moment but to refill in the next budget cycle.



It was noted that the recent Parkersville Committee property purchase used funds from their checking account.

Report Back on WQM Donations Process - Support Committee

An adhoc committee met in February to discuss a donations process and the quarter's reserve funds. The quarter will continue to address specific needs on a case-by-case basis. We encourage Friends to take funding for specific organizations and needs to their monthly meetings. If we know of expected donations in the form of honoraria we should do our best to account for those in annual budgets. Friends emphasized the importance of being mindful of financial constraints, notably related to potential property expenses, when considering donations.

Minutes of Concern -

[Kennett](#), [Hockessin](#), [London Grove](#)

Friends approved all three minutes of concern. Approval will be noted with Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, Friends Committee on National Legislation, and with regards to the signers of the letter in the Kennett minute, we will communicate with Providence Meeting and Francisco Burgos, letter author.

Coordinator Report - Deb Wood

Deb has arranged to pick up physical copies of titles for Western Quarter's and it's monthly meetings properties from Friends Fiduciary in the coming week. Deb will communicate with the meetings regarding any of their titles and where they'd like them kept.

Yearly Meeting wants to remind monthly meetings they should periodically review their child safety policies.

There is a new PYM collaborative - [Ending Mass Incarceration](#). Check out the yearly meeting website for more information.

Plans are coming together for a one pamphlet-one yearly meeting read. There will be some discussions at PYM's annual sessions.

Western Quarter will gather for a discussion of the pamphlet around Juneteenth.

Friends recalled how much value they took from last year's discussion of readings on Bayard Rustin

Sensitive Locations [signs for meetinghouses regarding lawsuit](#) are good witness of our testimonies to our neighbors. London Grove Meeting had signs made at [compuSIGN and Graphics](#) in Toughkenamon. They have the template on hand and could make more. (Ask for Fran when you call; Fran has the template.)



Friends should share the draft host rotation schedule with their meetings and expect to consider approval at our next meeting for worship with attention to business: [draft for review](#).

Historic Properties update - Deb Wood

Friends from PYM Property Advisory joined the most recent committee meeting. This group provides advice and help as they are able. Discernment and decision-making is left with meetings. We discussed the basic process for establishing a trust with community partners. Trust would take ownership of the property.

New Garden Meeting is considering such a civic trust for the property. Deb will assist them in setting up meeting with lawyers to learn more about such a trust.

Volunteers or temporary paid role may be available for some of this process. New Garden would appreciate support from Friends living in New Garden township or with relevant experience. Please connect with Deb.

Thank you minute - Friends noted appreciation for the committee discussions and hoped we could do that periodically. Friends also appreciated the food and fellowship. Margaret Walton will draft the minute to approve at our next session.

Jim and Deb will work on a schedule for periodic cross quarter committee discussions.

Other/New items- clerk Jim Nelson noted his appreciation for clerk emeritus, Margaret Walton. Friends wholeheartedly voiced their gratitude for Margaret's two or more years of service.

Respectfully submitted, Deb Wood, coordinator

Upcoming Events:

April 23 at 7pm - Program on the game Monopoly at West Grove Meetinghouse

April 26 11am-3pm - Fairville Friends Fun Day, volunteer help needed

WQ Historic Properties - May 17 3pm via Zoom

WQ Support Committee - June 14 3pm via Zoom

Joint Quarter gathering - Concord and Western - July 19 at Wilmington Friends Meeting

PYM Annual Sessions at Cheyney University - July 22-26 - worship, workshops, fun, business