

The Western Quarter Support Committee met on Zoom on **March 8, 2026**. Present were Clerk Margaret Walton (London Grove), Co-ordinator Deb Wood, Jim Nelson (Kennett), Shelley Hastings (Newark), Dick Logan (Hockessin), David Park (Kennett), Carol Lorah Bland (Kennett), Karen Halstead (New Garden), Pownall Jones (New Garden), Stan Glowiak (Centre), and Mary Sproat (West Grove).

The meeting opened with a period of worship.

Updates from Meetings: Kennett - Jim voiced a resurgence of action in Kennett Meeting. Community Rising is meeting monthly, there is a presence on the corner of State and Union Streets weekly on Saturdays, and a vigil Thursdays at the Meetinghouse. The Meeting hosted a Dinner to Welcome the Stranger organized by SILO, where some immigrants told what some others are experiencing.

Hockessin - Dick noted that Hockessin is trying to limit its carbon footprint. One such project is "Sacred Grounds" a National Wildlife Fund project (<https://www.nwf.org/SacredGrounds>), the setting aside of part of the property for natural purposes. They are also exploring the best way for Meetings to be laid down and have established title to their properties. They are studying the establishment of a permanent trust for the burying ground.

London Grove - Margaret reported that they are discussing having a Quakerism 101 course. Chris Stern, author of Who Turned Out the Light?, will be their guest on May 17.

Centre - Stan reported Centre has a new Clerk and Treasurer. They held their corporation meeting today. Peace and Social Concerns is discussing how best to use their funds. Threshing sessions are planned for further discussion about these issues as well as the Hockessin Meeting minute on current US foreign policy. Plans for their annual retreat are underway.

Newark - Shelley discussed Hockessin and Providence Meetings' minutes. Their question about Hockessin's was as to where it is going. (see further discussion below.) The Meeting will hold Meeting for Worship at 8:30 AM at London Britain on Easter and then move to NCCL for further activities.

West Grove - Mary noted that the Day Care Center lease was part of the discussion at Monthly Meeting today. It will not be changed for the coming year. A local resident has been invited to share her talk on the game Monopoly on April 23 at 7PM. All Meetings are invited to hear about the Quaker connection to this popular game.

Friends Fiduciary Title Updates: Meetings will probably need more information about this request from Friends Fiduciary. Deb will continue to gather information useful to Meetings.

Donations Process: Dick gave a history of the Quarter's action in the past about keeping 50% of the operating budget in reserve plus \$25,000 for property assessment for the historic Meetinghouses but not for regular maintenance. Deb will make sure our current Quarter Treasurer Karen Conlan knows both of these and notes them to the body when giving reports. The committee decided to continue the current practice of giving honoraria to organizations that provide programs and will budget for it but are not opposed to suggestions from the floor, although these must be addressed with care. Extract from the ad hoc committee minutes: "The committee approved setting the following practices for budgeting and reporting on budgets and funds:

- inclusion of the 2018 operating reserve guideline
- inclusion of the \$25,000 reserve to be kept for assessment needs at historic properties
- earmark any other committed reserves”

These reserve funds need to be scribed more accurately, so this should be on the agenda for Quarterly Meeting in April.

The group would be willing to reconvene if necessary.

Historic Properties Update: Deb gave a history of the reason for the Committee’s being founded, going back to West Grove’s request for the Quarter to take over responsibility for the property at Colora, Maryland, which illustrated the Quarter’s lack of knowledge about such actions. Deb has invited members of the PYM Property Advisory Committee to next week’s meeting of the Historic Properties Committee at 3 PM on 3/15 and supplied them with some of the questions that have arisen about the process.

Hosting Schedule: Because some Meetings do not have manpower to host by themselves or facilities that allow hosting in cold or bad weather, the hosting schedule is being reconsidered. Deb will have a draft list for April Quarter taking into account such issues as access to parking, manpower, AC in Summer, Saturday or Sunday scheduling. The suggestion was made that in cases of limited parking access, other Meetings could carpool to shuttle attendees.

April Quarterly Meeting: Schedule: 9:30 intergenerational Meeting for Worship with a story and activities for all ages; 10:30-11:30 program themed committee discussions for such committees as Social Concerns, Property, Religious Education, etc., discussing what your Meeting is doing in these committees or what does your Meeting need help with. Deb would like to hear from anyone willing to facilitate one of these; 11:45 lunch - Create a taco. Attendees are invited to bring their favorite taco toppings or dessert. Business meeting will begin at 1 PM on Zoom.

Hockessin Meeting Minute: In answer to Newark’s query about where the minute is going, Dick responded that they are aware that it will not change government action but they forwarded it to FCNL as well as to PYM in the hope of generating a common position for them as well as AFSC. Shelley felt that Newark members would approve of the minute with that knowledge. The minute originally came to Hockessin from SCYM through Abington Monthly Meeting. Deb had spoken with an Iowa Meeting that said that they use such minutes to open discussion with other religious groups. With regard to how such a minute moves through Friends levels, Jim clarified that both monthly and quarterly meetings can move on it if they desire; there is no prescribed path.

To conclude the meeting, Margaret announced the “wonderful news” that Jim Nelson of Kennett Meeting has agreed to step into the Clerk’s position. Many thanks were offered to Margaret for her years of ably clerking this committee, and welcome to Jim as the new Clerk.

Margaret I. Walton, Clerk
Mary M. Sproat, Recording Clerk