

MINUTES

Meeting for worship with attention to business WQM
19 July, 2026 about 1:30pm - via Zoom
And at Wilmington Monthly Meeting

Twenty-two Friends were present representing Newark, Centre, Fallowfield, Mill Creek, London Grove, West Grove, Kennett, Hockessin, and New Garden Monthly Meetings.

Opening Worship with responses to 5th query

New Garden - The 5th Query was read on Religious Education in the home & Meeting.

At one time we had an active First Day School for our children with dedicated teachers but we no longer have young children in our Meeting.

When we did have young children they had good teachers & their lessons were reinforced in homes that practiced a way of life consistent with the principles & teachings of the religious Society of Friends. The homes that they lived in on a daily basis thru the ups & downs of daily life resulted in the young adults that we can now be proud of. The “lives that we live” are the lessons that we teach.

Newark - Query Minutes - 05/10/2026 - QUERY FIVE

NOURISHING OUR COMMUNITY: RELIGIOUS EDUCATION IN THE HOME AND MEETING

The fifth query was considered by Aliza Appel, Ginny Bailey, Annemarie Carr, Gavin Ferris, Diane Kesler, Ariana Langford, Sally Millbury-Steen, and Mike McDowell.

We don't have a formal adult First Day program, commented one Friend, due to our small size. She thinks that we prepare for worship by how we greet each other as we enter, and just by coming to meeting. We help each other in this way, rather than with a formal education program.

A Friend agreed with this view. She remarked that our meeting provides much experiential learning, such as seeing how members deal with physical challenges and other difficulties. She believes that this is an education unto itself.

Another Friend also agreed, but she is not sure that she doesn't want to strive to do more, as we have in the past. For example, we read the book *The Giver* by Lois Lowry, and we have provided other opportunities for adult education.

We're struggling with how to support each other now. A Friend suggested that maybe we could have a sharing time, learning what others are dealing with. She doesn't know how to do that, but she wants the meeting to strive towards it. Noting the value of learning experiences, she emphasized that she still remembers what she learned as a child.

Reading the queries on a monthly basis is an education. Reading a query is a reminder of what is important, and how we can improve on what we've been doing all along.

All of us respond with pleasure when we hear of significant things that Quakers have done; not so much by reading, but by sharing and talking about the things that Friends have done.

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

Mill Creek

Query Response for WQM from Mill Creek Monthly Meeting

Submitted by Teal Rickerman - Treasurer

July 19th 2026

5th Query: Nurturing our Community - Religious Education in the Home and Meeting

Most of our religious education at Mill Creek Monthly Meeting takes the form of shared reading among the adults, as we have no children in our meeting family. We have been reading, studying, and discussing the 2018 edition of the "Faith and Practice" book. We have gone page by page on the first First Day of each month. After several years, we have only gotten to page 59. We've carefully reviewed each page to discern meaning and intent and how our group functions within those parameters. That is one of many ways that we prepare ourselves. We conduct our MFW and MFWFB according to protocols outlined in Faith and Practice. In addition, our meeting house window sills and shelves are full of pamphlets and Quaker

library materials, and we also take time to discuss our group's varying points of view regarding "that of God" during vocal ministry and worship sharing. We do not have a religious education committee, nor do we offer educational programs.

West Grove Monthly Meeting Query Answer for the Second Quarter 2026

Some of our history programs have had ties to Quakerism and West Grove Meeting.

Quakerism is a self-study religion that we learn more about as we go through life. Various studies that we have done have not always included the Bible.

London Grove

Fifth Month 3, 2026

Fifth month Query: Nurturing Our Community: Religious Education in the Home and Meeting

Mid-way through Meeting for Worship, with 31 attending in the meetinghouse, and 11 joining via Zoom, the Fifth Query on Religious Education in the Home and Meeting was read. Several Friends spoke with these responses to the query:

A Friend who is a leader of the children's First Day program spoke on how the teachers spend a lot of time discussing Quaker beliefs and Quaker practices as well as Jesus's teachings with the children. The topics for May include stewardship and community. She said it is fun to watch the children making their own community in the classroom and making a connection with the adults in the meeting.

A second Friend delivered a message on what brings her back to Quakerism, and that it is how we answer the queries, and how we respect each other and respond to each other and ourselves. Her ministry was that Quaker teachings emphasize that of God in all of us, and finding answers in how we serve each other, instead of emphasizing serving God or repenting for our sins. We make decisions in the moment based on the respect we have for each other, instead of repenting our mistakes later. Of course, we all make mistakes, but it is so helpful in daily life decisions to consider that of God in everyone and how our actions impact others.

A third Friend spoke with a very personal example, reflecting on the messages from the two prior speakers about letting our actions speak and serving each other. He has an adult disabled daughter, and her experiences in the world can sometimes be very difficult. One of the few

places she goes each week is London Grove Meeting on Sunday. He is very thankful that this meeting accepts her and has always loved her. The final Friend stood to say that this meeting is always grateful for the prior speaker's daughter. He recounted a time years ago when she reflected the sense of the meeting by having a strong vocal reaction to a visitor's message of doom and gloom. She was called "our canary in the coal mine" by a longtime London Grove Friend.

Minute of Appreciation for Hockessin Friends Meeting - Friends Approved

WQM minutes its gratitude and appreciation to all members and attenders of Hockessin Friends meeting who helped host the April 2026 Quarterly meeting. QM visitors enjoyed Hockessin's pre-worship fellowship coffee. The all-ages worship included a dynamic reading of Dr. Seuss' *Horton Hears a Who*. The children then had a program about finding God in nature while the adults participated in communal committee discussions. WQM visitors found the small group discussions very valuable, enjoyable, helpful and enlightening. The discussions produced a lot of information sharing and cooperation. The extensive and delicious luncheon buffet, including a build-your-own taco bar with visiting meeting members contributing side dishes and desserts, ensured that everyone was satisfied and ready to take on the business of the Quarter after the meal.

Minute of Appreciation for Margaret Walton - Friends Approved

Western Quarter minutes their appreciation for the service of Margaret Walton. Margaret formally began her clerkship of Western Quarter in the spring of 2023. She was serving on the nominating committee for the quarter, and heard Support Committee's assessment that she had the skills and character needed by the quarter. Margaret opened our meetings with an invitation to join with Spirit as we engaged in work for and in support of Western Quarter Meetings and Friends. She managed our time, our agenda, and our discernment astutely and with humor, love, and laughter. For three years, she served as clerk while frequently having a hand in the children's programming as well. Her personal outreach and invitations to Friends to come to quarterly meeting, brought many to our gatherings, and her handwritten thank you cards made all feel treasured. Thank thee, Friend Margaret, for this care of the quarter.

Treasurer's Report Quarter 4 FY 2026 - Karen Conlan (LG), treasurer

We received the attached report with gratitude.

Karen Conlan noted that we finished the year well with no deficit as projected a year ago. Thanks everyone for the covenants to make it possible.

The asterisks represent pass-through funds, see note 2 on page 1.

In addition we distributed \$3,900 for six grants from the William Jackson Education Fund.

A friend asked if the amount of the Friends Fiduciary account is holding steady, going up or going down. We could not recall with certainty.

The treasurer can track this for future year-end reports.

FY 2027 Budget - for approval-Karen Conlan (LG), treasurer

We approved the attached budget with the following change:

Raise the Quarterly Meetings program line from \$200 to \$500 and know that we can use the cushion of the \$2,000 surplus from FY 2026 to help supplement programs or potential honoraria.

Friends Home Report - prepared by Teal Rickerman (MC), clerk of Board of Trustees, and Samantha Roos-Meiser, Interim Executive Director given by Teal Rickerman

The attached report was received with gratitude.

The following were of particular note for Friends:

The Willow Wing is majorly supported by the Longwood Foundation, and expects to welcome new residents this fall. The Willow Wing has a waitlist!

The board is working with legal counsel to change name legally to Friends Home in Kennett.

Historic Properties and Coordinator Report - Deb Wood, coordinator

How do we tend to the futures of our people and our properties?

Two main items were the focus of Deb's work in addition to the regular duties. One was assisting New Garden Meeting in meeting with legal representation, New Garden township staff, representative from the township historic commission, and an area resident interested in the property. These meetings were to help New Garden lay the groundwork for the future care of the property when the meeting is laid down.

The second main focus of the work was following up with Western Quarter's Historic Properties Committee on the result of the title search on the Colora Meetinghouse and burial ground.

Brief recap: West Grove Monthly Meeting asked Western Quarterly Meeting to take over the care of the Colora Meetinghouse and property. Western Quarter wanted to ensure the property had a clear title before taking on its care. The property has a centrally located burial ground and meetinghouse in the usable area. It is a triangular shape with woods and wetlands. There are a few neighboring residential properties. The caretaker house and school house are no longer there.

A property search indicated the title is held by Friends Fiduciary. (In the past year, Friends Fiduciary decided it needs to turn over property titles they hold to monthly meetings, quarterly meetings or the appropriate LLC. They have begun this process, but they have many records to sort through, and it will take some time to get Colora's title transferred.)

The Colora property is not on the usual paths Friends in Western Quarter travel. It is difficult for Western Quarter to envision itself being able to be an observant and proactive owner/caretaker of the property. Communications with Cecil County historic and civic groups over the years have not yielded interest in acquiring the property, and communications with Baltimore Yearly Meeting and individual Friends we believe to be affiliated with BYM have also not resulted in sustained communications.

Western Quarterly Meeting is very grateful for Steve Balderston's and his father's care for the property over the decades. We hope such devoted care continues for the property whether with the Balderston family or not.

Western Quarter's Historic Properties committee recommends arranging the transfer of the Colora Meetinghouse and property to Western Quarter and then into a LLC created specifically to care for the property.

Friends approved.

In addition, the Historic Properties Committee recommends that Western Quarter actively seek a new owner for the property.

Friends approved.

Legal and real estate costs may draw upon the Historic Properties reserves. Any fees generated would replenish the Historic Properties reserves.

A Friend noted that in the Newark area faith communities have invited

Community Development Corporations to bid for laid down properties. If the burial ground could be expanded, it may also be of interest to the two area funeral directors.

Host Rotation (attached) was approved.

It does not mean we can't make adjustments as needed.

Respectfully submitted,
Deb Wood, coordinator

Upcoming Events

- ❖ Philadelphia Yearly Meeting - July 22-26 at Cheyney University
- ❖ July 26 and August 30 - Old Kennett Meetinghouse open for worship 9am - with tours afterward
- ❖ August 6 - ***Through Japanese Eyes: Thirty Years of Studying Aging in America*** - Thursday, August 6, from 7-8:30 p.m - Quaker anthropologist, ethnographer, and author Yohko Tsuji (Ithaca Monthly Meeting). On Thursday, August 6, from 7-8:30 p.m., live via Zoom, Yohko will present her research and book '*Through Japanese Eyes: Thirty Years of Studying Aging in America*'. This presentation and Q&A is open for all; registration is required. More information is available [here](#). Please share widely with your Meetings and F/friends. — Judy Hinds is arranging a broadcast in a room at Kendal if you'd like to join others to watch. jhinds1690@gmail.com
- ❖ August 16 - Historic Properties 3pm via Zoom
- ❖ August 17 - 7pm WQ and Patterns of Racial Wounding and Racial Justice
- ❖ August 29 - Concert in the Graveyard - Centre Meeting 6-6:30 pm start - more details to come
- ❖ August 30 2pm - Homeville Meetinghouse open for worship
- ❖ September 20 2pm - Parkersville Meetinghouse open for worship
- ❖ 3rd Saturdays 1pm Silent Witness for Peace will resume in September at Kennett Meetinghouse along route 82/N. Union Street

Quakerism 101 - Anne Williams, facilitator

Time: Aug 4, 2026 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Every week on Tue, until Sep 8, 2026, 6 occurrence(s)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87476968572?pwd=Veb3aOB6w90qlq8bXL1aI75asbr28k.1>

Meeting ID: 874 7696 8572

Passcode: 773069

Please have anyone interested in taking the course to contact Anne via email: blodeuwedd64@gmail.com.

She will set up a class list and correspond with them directly. Each person taking the course will need to purchase the “Exploring Quakerism” course through the FGC bookstore. It is \$6.50 for the download of the PDF. Each individual can choose to print it, or read it on a computer, etc.

Anne strongly suggests that each person read the assigned pages for each class but we will read the text aloud where each person can take a paragraph or two until we finish the chapter. Any one can opt out of the reading aloud. The group will discuss, talk about vocabulary, and do lots of worship sharing.

Background:

Anne is a member of Nashville Friends Meeting, who currently attends Wilmington Monthly Meeting after moving back to the area. She grew up in Wilmington. She has been a Quaker for more than 20 years and has taught Quakerism 101 at least ten times previously.