



**Meeting for Worship with Concern for Business
The Agenda for the Meeting on Third Day, Ninth Month, 2013**

1. Report on Life from our Meetings
2. Consideration of Minutes of the Meeting on Ninth Day, Fifth Month, 2013
3. Reports:
 - a. Youth Activities Committee
 - b. Fallowfield Orthodox Burial Ground Committee
 - c. Coordinator
 - d. Treasurer (attached separately)
4. Consideration of Proposed Budget (attached separately)
5. Consideration of Proposed Quarterly Meeting Programming on Twentieth Day Tenth Month, 2013 (attached separately)
6. Consideration of Proposed Policy for Driving Youth
7. Consideration of a Minute of Thanks to Marlborough Monthly Meeting for Hosting Quarterly Meeting on Twenty-First Day, Seventh Month, 2013

We extend our warmest appreciation to Marlborough Monthly Meeting for hosting Western Quarterly Meeting on the Twenty-First of the Seventh Month of the Year 2013. Doug Gwyn, Pendle Hill Quaker Studies Teacher, most expertly facilitated our conversations about the beatitudes. We were blessed by his knowledge and the depths of the spiritual fellowship he helped us to investigate. Our children were encouraged as well by Marlborough's facilities, which allowed us to engage intimately as they played with water balloons, made jumbo bubbles from scratch, and explored Jesus' Sermon on the Mount.

8. CLR Visioning
9. Other Items

Meeting for Worship with Concern for Business
The Minutes of the Meeting on Ninth Day, Fifth Month, 2013

Business Meeting was held at Kennett Friends Meeting. After Meeting for Worship followed by brief introductions, Friends conducted the business of Western Quarterly Meeting in a spirit of worship and fellowship. Present were fifteen representing West Grove, Newark, Kennett, London Grove, Hockessin, and Kendal Meetings. Pamela Leland, of London Grove Meeting and Clerk for Western Quarterly Meeting, presided. Zachary Dutton, of Wilmington Friends Meeting and Coordinator for Western Quarterly Meeting, recorded.

*An asterisk * indicates need for further future follow-up.*

13-11 A Friend shared about a restoration project of Homeville Cemetery Company and presented a plea for donations. Another Friend from Kennett Friends Meeting shared about the renovation in preliminary stages of Old Kennett Meeting. A third Friend from London Grove Monthly Meeting shared about an upcoming Plant Sale, one hundred percent of the proceeds from which go to charities. Another Friend from Hockessin Meeting shared about the renovations of Hockessin, which are in their final stages.

13-12 Friends considered and tentatively approved the minutes from the Western Quarterly Meeting Business Meeting on 13 Eleventh Month 2012, and agreed that any corrections to them could be sent to our Coordinator or our Clerk.

13-13 Friends also considered and approved the minutes from the Western Quarterly Meeting Business Meeting 12 Second Month 2013.

13-14 Our Treasurer, Ariana Langford of Newark Monthly Meeting, gave a report. She asked Friends for input about the CD account that Western Quarterly Meeting holds with Citadel Credit Union. It is time to extend the term, if needed. **Friends approved that the term of the Western Quarterly Meeting CD would be extended for two years.** Our Treasurer also shared that our expenses will exceed our income for Fiscal Year 2013 largely due to expenses from Fiscal Year 2012, the invoices of which were not received until Fiscal Year 2013 began. Also, some of our constituent Monthly Meetings operate on different fiscal years. **We accepted the report from our Treasurer with appreciation.**

13-15* The Clerk of our Budget & Finance Committee, Richard Logan of Hockessin Meeting, presented a draft budget for input from the body and gave an in-depth explanation of it. Our Fiscal Year 2014 budget is likely to incur a deficit. The Clerk, Pamela Leland, clarified that a deficit for Fiscal Year 2014 was anticipated due to the increase in funds from our operating budget devoted to hiring a new Coordinator and Youth Activities Coordinator. It is hoped that the need to draw upon reserve sources of income will be temporary, after we demonstrate with the help of our new staff support the continued importance of a vital Quarterly Meeting. **Friends accepted this report from our Budget and Finance Committee and agreed to consider the Fiscal Year 2014 budget for approval at our Eighth Month Business Meeting so that it would be retroactive from 1 Seventh Month 2013.**

13-16 The Clerk of our Nominating and Organization Committee, Shelley Hastings of Newark Monthly Meeting, gave a report. She noted especially that the Nominating and Organization Committee has struggled over the past few years to fill positions, many of which remain vacant. Some discussion proceeded concerning strategies for finding new people to serve on our committees. **We accepted the report from our Nominating and Organization Committee.**

13-17 The Clerk of our Inactive Meetings of Historic Interest Committee, Mary Sproat of West Grove Meeting, gave a report and presented a calendar of dates on which our Inactive Meetings will be open for special worship opportunities during the summer. These dates will be put on the website. Friends noted the shared appreciation for Mary Sproat's steadfast commitment to the leadership of the care of our Inactive Meetings of Historic Interest. **We accepted the report from our Inactive Meetings of Historic Interest Committee.**

13-18* The Clerk of the London Grove 2014 Tour Committee, Ruth S. Thompson of London Grove Meeting, presented a proposal to organize the theme of the Seventh Month 2014 Quarterly Meeting, which is currently slated to be held at Fallowfield Meeting, around a planned tour of all the Meetinghouses of Western Quarterly Meeting. One Friend encouraged the London Grove 2014 Tour Committee to give visitors to meetings during the tour an experience that is spiritual. After Friends gathered further clarifying information, **we approved the proposal to center the organizing theme of the Quarterly Meeting to be held Seventh Month 2014 on the planned Tour, with one requirement that a Quarterly-Meeting-wide worship at least be held at Fallowfield Meeting. Further programming will be organized by the London Grove 2014 Tour Committee as well as any other interested Friends in coordination with Fallowfield Meeting and Western Quarterly Meeting.**

13-19 **Friends approved the proposed program of Quarterly Meeting to be held Seventh Month 2013.**

13-20 **Friends considered and approved two minutes of appreciation to be included in a thank-you letter for Newark Monthly Meeting for hosting Fourth Month 2013 Quarterly Meeting and to Mill Creek Monthly Meeting for housing Fourth Month 2013 Quarterly Meeting.**

13-21 **Friends considered and approved a minute of appreciation to Wright Horne for his service as Co-Clerk of Western Quarterly Meeting.**

13-22 The Clerk read a set of queries on our committee and leadership structure and we engaged in worship using the queries as a basis of sharing from the silence.

We adjourned our meeting with further worship and hopeful fellowship.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pamela Leland, Clerk

Zachary Dutton, Coordinator

Youth Activities Committee Annual Report

3rd Day, 9th^h Month, 2013

YAC is pleased to welcome and to work with Zac Dutton, who took the position of WQ Coordinator in 11th month, 2012. Since then, he has identified the Religious Education contact people at Meetings within the Quarter and has made progress in identifying the youngsters at the various Meetings who fall within the age category served by the Quarter's youth programs, so as to better communicate with families about events and activities. He has also been in touch with Concord Quarter's Youth Coordinator to explore the possibility of jointly scheduling events for children from both Quarters.

As noted below, it has been a challenge to attract families to youth activities and events beyond the programs at Quarterly Meetings. YAC believes that at a time when Quakers are much concerned about dwindling membership, it is essential that the Society of Friends engage with and nurture its children if we are to retain them as Quakers when they become adults. YAC's primary goal is to promote a sense of community in the Quarter's children while strengthening their Quaker values. We cannot do this alone.

We are aware that a dizzying variety of things in today's world compete for the time and attention of children as well as their parents. For this reason, we plan to invite all Friends involved with Religious Education activities at the Monthly Meetings— whether as R.E. clerks, teachers, or parents—to a gathering to discuss how YAC can best serve the Quarter's youth and how parents and Meetings can support YAC in this work.

Quarterly Meeting Youth Program

Seven children, all from Kennett Monthly Meeting, participated in the Youth Program at Quarterly Meeting in 1st month; one child, from London Grove, participated in the Youth Program at 4th month Quarterly Meeting, and seven children—from Kennett, London Grove, and Pendle Hill—took part in the program at 7th month Quarterly Meeting. YAC member Rose Rupert has assisted Zac during these programs.

Activities and Events

In addition to the youth programs at WQM sessions, five stand-alone events were scheduled during this period, including a sleepover with Concord Quarter, two Movie Nights, and two Roots & Shoots gatherings. We regret that, despite Zac's efforts in publicizing these events, the sleepover and one of the Roots & Shoots sessions were canceled for lack of response.

Looking Forward:

Programs, events, and activities scheduled between now and the end of the year include a Faith & Play Religious Education Visioning Session with M. David Wakeley, on 9/28 at Kennett; a Middle School Sleepover at Hockessin on 10/19; Quarterly Meeting Youth Program at Hockessin on 10/20; Roots & Shoots gatherings at Hockessin on 11/12 and 12/14.

YA Budget:

Please refer to the report submitted tonight by Ariana Langlford, WQ Treasurer.

Jan Rivera

WQ Youth Activities Committee Clerk

Western Quarterly Meeting (WQM) Business Meeting 09.03.13
Fallowfield Orthodox Burial Ground Report
Members: Vicki Chandler
Number of Times Met: 0

Friends:

The Fallowfield Orthodox Burial Ground has hired a new person to mow the lawn. Expenses in Fiscal Year '13 totaled \$630.00, \$364.32 of which came from income from Friends Fiduciary Corporation. There were no burials in Fiscal Year '13.

Sincerely,
Zachary T. Dutton, WQM Coordinator
On Behalf of the Fallowfield Orthodox Burial Ground Committee

Coordinator's Report to Western Quarterly Meeting (WQM) 7.30.13

Introduction

I am led to share with you some of my experiences attending the 2013 Gathering of Friends General Conference (FGC) and the 2013 Annual Sessions of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting (PYM). After this, I will report on some aspects of my work over the past nine months, focusing on adult programming, operations, and communications. Within each of these aspects of the work, I will identify one challenge, one strength, and one promising trend. I have written a separate progress report attached in Appendix A concerning aspects of the youth activities portion of my role, and I hope you will read it.

Annual Sessions and the Gathering

At the Gathering of Friends General Conference, I led a workshop called "Radical Selves, Powerful Self." I explored aspects of theories I developed in my Master's thesis related to the meaning of life. We asked three big questions: What is the purpose of my life? Who am I? Where do I belong? I learned a great deal. I also learned important facts about the history of the role of elders from George Schaefer during the first plenary session of the Gathering. George argued for reviving the "elder" role in Quaker community. He also spoke eloquently to the healing power of a community that struggles to accommodate mental disorder. George is currently the Care & Aging Coordinator at Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. Among his other talents, he gives workshops at Monthly Meetings on eldering and conflict resolution. He will offer a workshop for the Worship & Ministry and Care of Members Committees at my home meeting, Wilmington Friends Meeting.

At Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Annual Sessions, we heard about a controversial Transgender Youth Policy, which was suspended by the Yearly Meeting Clerk preceding sessions. The policy had required that youth sleep in areas according to their biological sex rather than by their gender. The Yearly Meeting Clerk, Jada Jackson, found that this policy prevented us from living fully into our testimony on equality. Find out more on the Western Quarterly Meeting blog: westernquarterquakers.org/events-2. I attended a listening session about this policy on the first day of sessions, for which Friends produced a minute of exercise. I will post the minute on the WQM blog as soon as it is available. Additionally, the PYM Long Range Planning Group produced a report that is available on the pym.org website. The report affirmed the possibility that we might take as our core mission: "...to witness to the transforming power of love and to respond to the leadings of the Spirit with joy in word and deed." Amen!

Western Quarterly Meeting may benefit from considering such a possible core mission as well. If there is one thing I have learned over the past nine months after accepting the position of Coordinator and Youth Activities Coordinator, it is that we have great potential. We just have to be creative. We just have, "to claim our imperfections while reaching for our best selves," as written in the PYM Young Adult Friends Epistle (also available on the pym.org website).

I have written a separate progress report attached in Appendix A concerning aspects of the youth activities portion of my role, and I hope you will read it. For the remainder of this report, I will focus on the aspects of the work I have begun to call adult programming, operations, and communications. Within each of these aspects of the work, I will identify challenges, strengths, and promising trends.

Adult Programming Challenges

We are not as connected as we could be. Our worship could be deeper, and our community more vibrant. There is a tendency to think about this challenge as a numbers challenge, which leads us to argue that we just need to get more people to attend our events. I think differently. Our programs need to be directed by the needs of our constituent Monthly Meetings who build familiar and empowering relationships together. We need to constitute a shared vision that is truly shared, and not just by the folks that show up to Business Meetings.

Adult Programming Strengths

We have a long-standing practice of meeting together. It is called Western Quarterly Meeting. This can remain one great source of community. With added emphasis on deepening our worship, strengthening our connections to Monthly Meetings, and reinvigorating our planning process, Quarterly Meetings can have an even greater impact on the growth and vitality of our community.

Adult Programing Promising Trends

Forty-eight people attended the July 2013 Quarterly Meeting at Marlborough Meeting. I understand traditionally that we tend to attract fewer people at our summer Quarterly Meeting. Instead, we attracted more. Meanwhile, Ginny Green, Clerk of Worship & Ministry at London Grove, is organizing a workshop on bringing spirituality into our everyday lives on 26 October 2013, 9:00am to 4:00pm. I hope many of you will attend; all are invited. London Grove is also organizing a Tour of Meetinghouses in the summer of 2014, and I am working with them to organize this tour.

I am planning a Property Summit with West Grove Meeting in February of 2014. This summit will bring property people together from all our Monthly Meetings alongside Quarterly Meeting property committees to ask one simple question: "How are we led to support each other in growing together?" I hope property committee folks will see the value in sharing wisdom, visioning, and working together on the collective care of our properties. A Religious Education Visioning and Faith & Play event scheduled for Kennett Monthly Meeting 28 September 2013 (soon!) will have similar aims. I am also in preliminary steps to plan an event for Peace & Social Concerns, Worship & Ministry, and Pastoral Care. I have received nothing but positive responses to these sessions, which I have begun to call Wisdom Sharing Sessions. I hope you will attend one or more of them. Finally, I am working with the Coordinator of Bucks Quarterly Meeting, Holly Olson, and the Young Adult Friends Working Group of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting to develop a workshop to offer Monthly Meetings on how to be more welcoming and inviting to Young Adults. There is a path that leads to a community more intimately connected with our neighborhood Monthly Meetings, and we have begun to take steps in this direction.

Communications Challenges

Our Newsletter has been in flux. I have sought an efficient way of collecting information on news from neighborhood Monthly Meetings, and I believe that I have found a system that will work for the future. For any inconvenience, Friends, I offer my apologies. I also struggle to grow our list serve, but I have developed a new way of managing email communication with Constant Contact. I hope that overtime, as we organize community in other ways, our communications venues will concurrently deepen and broaden.

Communications Strengths

Our website could be more interactive and functional, but it has improved tenfold since I arrived. Further work is planned toward integrating the website completely with our other communications venues and making the website more user-friendly. Resources available to local meetings will also increase as time and interest from Friends allows. A new way of managing our mailing list allows Friends only to receive information they are interested to receive.

Communications Promising Trends

There is a great deal of potential, as we move along, for our website and newsletter to serve an outreach role as well. Links to the websites of our constituent Monthly Meetings are only the beginning. Worship times and street addresses are also only the beginning. Pages with pictures, attractive graphics, and news stories that showcase vibrant community across our region are the next step. Of course, our Monthly Meeting communities need actually to be vibrant. We can acknowledge that, for not all but some of our Monthly Meetings, there is still work to be done on this last front.

Operations Challenges

The work that goes into making our adult programming and communications possible needs also to be meaningful. We need to understand our limits, and we need to support any burgeoning life in our midst wherever it may be. A gardener cuts away the dead leaves to make space for new color. When we do our business, the question is never, “does what we are considering sound like a good idea?” The right question has two parts because it also asks: “Would we be willing to commit some of our own time, energy, and/or money?” If the answer is yes, then we are ready to move forward. If the answer is no, then we are not ready.

Many of our committees groan under the weight of work assigned to them on which too few people are able to follow through. We lack a full complement of officers, and we are operating at a deficit in Fiscal Year 2014. This situation is not sustainable. Our daily operations need to become more agile and more able to respond to the Spirit as it moves. Our structure needs to be significantly more focused on our neighborhood Monthly Meetings, on the community that is possible when we seek direction from them. We require a Quarterly Meeting organizational structure that is more intimately connected to its constituent Monthly Meetings.

Operations Strengths

The obvious strength is that we have a few devoted volunteers who remain committed to seeing the Quarterly Meeting through the current ebb. They are committed to engaging a process through which we can come out with a shared vision, mission, and action steps to follow.

We also have a staff person who focuses on community organizing. When people ask me what I do for a living, I tell them that I am a community organizer for a group of Quaker congregations in Pennsylvania and Delaware. I focus on developing a robust, sustainable organization that feeds off of and that feeds into a larger, interconnected community of neighborhood Monthly Meetings.

Operations Promising Trends

Richard Bernard of Hockessin Monthly Meeting has agreed to convene the Committee and Leadership Reevaluation Advisory Group (a.k.a. “The CLR”). The group has met once, and it has held the first of several listening sessions on the future of the Western Quarterly Meeting. Two more listening sessions will be held during the Western Quarterly Meeting Business Meeting in September and the Quarterly Meeting at Hockessin Meeting in October. The process this group is leading will be the first step in cultivating a shared vision throughout our Quarterly Meeting. As I wrote in my progress report on Youth Activities, when we bring people together, when we are attentive to the needs and desires of all our Monthly Meetings, and when we take action steps that reflect a collective vision, the numbers take care of themselves.

Conclusion

Friends can see that I carry a vision for community, and yet I think there is more to such a vision. The rest is up to the entire community. What is Spirit moving us to witness? What sort of religious community do we seek to become? How are we led to support each other as we grow together? I am excited to see what comes next.

Appendix A

Western Quarterly Meeting of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting 30 July 2013 Youth Activities Coordinator’s Progress Report

As I look back upon the nine months that have passed since I accepted the position of Youth Activities Coordinator, I notice some of our challenges. I can also identify some of our strengths and promising trends. I would like to share these with the Youth Activities Committee and with the larger Western Quarterly Meeting community.

The Challenges

We face three challenges. Firstly, we can improve how we communicate. Secondly, we need a shared vision for the future of our programs for youth. Thirdly, we need to broaden our corps of volunteers.

We need to improve lines of communication between the Youth Activities Committee, the larger Western Quarterly Meeting community, and our constituent Monthly Meetings. Any vision and subsequent action steps made by the Youth Activities Committee alone will fall on deaf ears. I am working to involve as many Friends from as many Monthly Meetings in all the Western Quarterly Meeting communications venues, and we could do more to increase this involvement.

We need a shared vision for the future of our programs for youth. This vision requires the direct involvement of members of Religious Education Committees and other interested members from our Monthly Meetings. Such involvement means developing relationships directly with interested people from all the Monthly Meetings, and it means bringing together interested folks repeatedly to answer one simple question: “How are we led to support each other in growing together?”

When we bring people together, when we are attentive to the needs and desires of all our Monthly Meetings, and when we take action steps that reflect a collective vision, the numbers take care of themselves. A broadened volunteer core will emerge if we make our programs relevant to our constituents by seeking direction from them.

The Strengths

Firstly, we subscribe to Constant Contact, we have a new website, and I am increasing my relationships with members of all the Monthly Meetings in Western Quarterly Meeting. Our communications capabilities have certainly improved and continue to strengthen.

A second, obvious strength is that we have hired a staff member whose focus is community organizing for youth and for adults. I focus on developing a robust, sustainable program for our youth that feeds off of and that feeds into a larger, interconnected community of neighborhood Monthly Meetings. The good news is that, wherever I visit, I hear profound yearning for a vital community centered on youth and the families they bring. Building such a community will require all of us, and there is a staff person present to aid us in getting there.

Thirdly, we do have a few devoted volunteers from the Youth Activities Committee, and there are many more who’ve contributed to a lively program at Quarterly Meetings. We are on our way to doing great work. Indeed, we are already making steps toward a vital and growing community.

The Promising Trends

We still hold the aim of developing a reinvigorated program for High School age youth, and I am working with a previous Youth Activities Facilitator towards this goal. I will be participating in a 5K run/walk with The Garage Community and Youth Center. A few of our High School students will be present. We have organized one movie night for parents and their children at Kennett Meeting, and a second is planned. The first involved many families and children. We are in the preliminary stages of planning a sleep over for Middle School age youth at the October Quarterly Meeting at Hockessin Meeting. A Religious Education Visioning Session and Faith & Play event is planned for September. We are also continuing with a reinvigorated Roots & Shoots program for children K through 3rd grade and their parents. It is clear we have a great deal of potential for building a robust program for youth. We have only just begun, as they say.

Western Quarterly Meeting Youth Activities
Child Transportation Policy

To protect the safety of children [under age 18] traveling to and/or from WQ youth activities and events, Youth Activities Committee sets the following policy.

This policy supersedes all other policies related to transporting children, and it applies to carpooling, shuttling, or otherwise transporting children in any vehicle for the purpose of Western Quarterly Meeting youth programs, Western Quarterly Meeting events, and/or events co-sponsored by or officially associated with Western Quarterly Meeting.

1. Any person transporting a child must sign a sign-in/sign-out form. The completed form will be kept on file at the WQ office by the Youth Activities Coordinator.
2. Parents may transport their *own* child(ren) without any additional paperwork.
3. If the child is to be transported by Western Quarter staff person, or a volunteer,

[a] The parent must sign a transportation permission form permitting the volunteer or Western Quarter staff person [“driver”] to transport the child.

[b] All vehicles in which youth are riding must be covered by an insurance policy for liability and damage, and any drivers must be included in this coverage.

[c] No one under the age of 18 is permitted to drive any child in a rented vehicle other than a vehicle rented by Western Quarterly Meeting.

[d] The driver(s) must have previously provided a background check to Western Quarter, which will be securely kept in on file at the Western Quarter office;

[e] The driver(s)' current driver's license number, current vehicle insurance card, name of automobile owner (*even if different from driver*), auto insurance company name, auto insurance policy number, automobile make, automobile model, license plate number, and (if any) cell phone number must be recorded on the background check (see [d]).

[f] When any volunteer or staff person is driving youth in a vehicle—whether owned by the volunteer or staff person or rented by Western Quarterly Meeting—there must be a second person over the age of 18 in the vehicle. The second person needs also to have provided a background check to Western Quarterly Meeting and license number, auto insurance information per letters [d] and [e] above.

Materials for Visioning

5.08.13 Notes from Queries During Business Meeting for CLR

1. A Friend referenced the closing of a Friends' school...the CLR has been much on this Friend's mind. Only two officers are now listed on the website, and she is very concerned. She sees so much value in Western Quarterly Meeting, and she hopes we can improve the vitality in our Quarterly Meeting. She doesn't want to lose another valuable organization.
2. We can't conceptually separate the Quarterly Meeting from Monthly Meetings; there isn't that much distinction between them; we are close in proximity. We are not a different entity, just an extension of our Monthly Meeting community. What are our goals? ...worship, relationship.
3. In thinking about the history of the Quarterly Meeting, it used to be a very big deal. In this day, it has changed. London Grove has held discussions to encourage Friends to attend Quarterly Meeting and bring their kids
4. Unfortunately, most of those at West Grove see no value in Quarterly Meeting and have no interest in it. Getting them to think differently is going to be a hard job.
5. One of the beauties of Friends is the way we conduct our business meetings. It isn't done by voting. Perhaps one of the activities at a meeting house (during London Groves Anniversary Tour of Meetings in 2014) could be a Meeting for Business, and give people support to experience another way of doing business. Our Quarterly Meetings are not well-attended but better attended than Quarterly Meeting Business Meeting! Maybe we have lost something by not holding Business Meeting at Quarterly Meeting gatherings? Should not all participate in the business side of things?
6. I wonder what other Quarterly Meetings are doing to remain vital?

The Queries:

- a. Does our Quarterly Meeting conduct its work with a sense of vitality and hope?
- b. Does our Quarterly Meeting apply Quaker principles in its work to allow for broad participation and efficient attainment of concrete goals?
- c. How might we change the way we organize our decision-making bodies (committees, officers, corporation, etc) to allow for broad participation and efficient attainment of concrete goals?
- d. What relationships should Western Quarterly Meeting establish with the Monthly Meetings associated through it? What role should Western Quarterly Meeting play in the care and support for the Monthly Meetings associated through it?

Notes from Visioning Session Held at July 2013 Quarterly Meeting

Richard Bernard, member of the Committee and Leadership Reevaluation Advisory Group (CLR), facilitated the session.

We silently worshiped and, under the weight of the attached queries, in Appendix A, we spoke out of silent waiting striving to discern responses that may clarify the next steps for Western Quarterly Meeting.

A simple list follows of the messages from Friends as we worshiped:

- Forty years ago, the Quarterly Meeting was vital, families gathered for fellowship and inspiration at Quarterly Meetings. From then to now, demographic changes and increased structured activities outside religious community (sports, instrumental practice, etc.) have created an atmosphere in which we have to compete for the attention of the members of constituent monthly meetings in a way we did not need to do before.
- Perhaps we should be asking another query: What can individual members of the monthly meetings give to the Quarterly Meeting? If the answer is, “not much,” then perhaps we need to lay down all our structures and wait to see what sorts of structures to create given a set of needs that (re)emerge over time. Perhaps we need to “wait in the light” and follow the light.
- Instead of developing programs and pushing them out, so to speak, we need to let programs come from Monthly Meetings and then support them.
- There is too much turnover of Quarterly Meeting staff.
- “I came to Quarterly Meeting to hear good speakers, to meet interesting people, and to have lunch!”
- We need quality speakers. Interesting, strong speakers attract people to Quarterly Meetings.
- Do we need to revise the way we plan Quarterly Meeting?
- Youth Programs need to be more interesting and enticing for children.
- Western Quarterly Meeting could move the property and other assets under its care into trusts, wherein we wouldn’t need to conduct direct oversight but merely appoint people to boards of trustees.
- There needs to be a mechanism through which Friends can offer feedback on their experience of Quarterly Meeting.
- We can enable Monthly Meetings to become more vital especially in terms of First Day School programs (religious education), outreach, and membership development.
- We need to find ways to support/involve our Young Friends and Young Adult Friends.
- We need to structure Quarterly Meetings such that people are encouraged to co-mingle.
- Do we need to find better ways to communicate with a wider array of the constituents?
- The burden of oversight puts a great deal of pressure on our organizational structures, which we haven’t been able to maintain given the declining involvement in Quarterly Meeting structures.
- Is registering for Quarterly Meeting necessary? If we ask folks to register, we should explain why we want them to.

- We need to figure out what our Monthly Meetings need!
- October Quarterly Meeting at Hockessin Meeting is an opportunity to showcase the renovations, and without Quarterly Meeting this wouldn't be possible. Old Kennett Meeting found an architect for its renovations through the connections Western Quarterly Meeting provided between Old Kennett and Hockessin.
- Monthly Meetings don't feel they owe anything to the Quarterly Meeting.
- There has to be a major reason to stay involved in the organizational structure of the Quarterly Meeting.
- Laying down our structures would mean there wouldn't be any support already present, no pre-established network, to be available to support grassroots needs—have people even tried attending a Quarterly Meeting? They might like it.
- A real problem is that we lack a sufficient number of people involved at the Quarterly Meeting level. Perhaps we need to hire staff to help bring in new people.
- We need to convince parents that cultivating spiritual lives is as important as soccer games and piano lessons.
- We need a strong spiritual component/foundation.
- Perhaps we need to ask someone from Philadelphia Yearly Meeting to help us through another round of Quaker Quest.

Appendix A

Queries for Consideration Today

1. What do Friends want and need from Western Quarterly Meeting?
2. How can we support one another and strengthen the life and work of Friends within our Monthly Meetings?
3. How can we strengthen the life and work of Friends while meeting our responsibilities to and for the tangible assets that have been entrusted to us?
4. How do we structure our organization?

Underlying Queries

What are our current strengths and growing edges as a WQM religious community? What are our aspirations and our hesitations as a WQM religious community? Where have we felt the presence of the Spirit within our WQM religious community? What are the current benefits and challenges of how WQM organizes to do our work and build community together? What challenges have we faced in recent years and what has this cultivated in us as a religious community? What do we want to make sure we carry forward? What do we need to let go of in order to move toward the future that wants to emerge? What are the questions that matter most to WQM at this juncture?