

London Grove Monthly Meeting



~ Begun 1714 ~
~ Established 1792 ~

January 2016 Bulletin

First Month Queries on Meeting for Worship

Are our meetings for worship held in stilled, expectant waiting upon God?
As we worship is there a living silence in which we are drawn together by
the power of God in our midst?

Is the spirit of our worship together one that nurtures all worshipers?
How does our Meeting respond when the vocal ministry seems
inappropriate, or when the meeting for worship is consistently not
gathered?

*Do I faithfully attend meeting with heart and mind prepared for worship,
clear of any predetermination to speak or not to speak, and expecting that
worship will be a source of strength and guidance?*

*Does worship deepen my relationship with God, increase my faithfulness,
and refresh and renew my daily life, both inwardly and in my relationship
with others?*

*Have I experienced in worship that direct leading to listen or to speak, and
have I been faithful to my own experience?*



January 2016 Calendar

Sunday 1/3	8:15 am	Religious Education Committee
	9.30 am	Meeting for Worship; Childrens First Day School
	10.45 am	Meeting for Worship for Business
Thursday 1/7	9:30 am	Library Committee
	7.30 pm	Property Committee
Sunday 1/10	8:30 am	Peace & Social Justice Committee
	9.30 am	Meeting for Worship; Childrens First Day School
	10.45 am	Opening Exercises and Adult Religious Education/Bible Study
	12 noon	Worship & Ministry Committee
Tuesday 1/12	7 pm	Kindergarten Committee
Thursday 1/14	7 pm	Care & Membership Committee
Sunday 1/17	9.30 am	Meeting for Worship; Childrens First Day School
	10.45 am	Opening Exercises and Adult Religious Education - Our Meeting's library and how to use it
Sunday 1/24	9.30 am	Meeting for Worship; Childrens First Day School
	10.45 am	Opening Exercises and Adult Religious Education/Quaker Studies
Sunday 1/31	9.30 am	Meeting for Worship; Childrens First Day School
	10.45 am	Opening Exercises and Adult Religious Education - Communication and support in our community -- Jari Santana Wynn

Childcare and Flowers Volunteers

Date	First Hour	Second Hour	Flowers
1/3	Kelli Trice	Alexia Vaughan, Carolyn Muller	Leona Provinski
1/10	Karen-Lee Brofee	Pat & Doug Mooberry	Tammy Brosius
1/17	Rebecca Mitchell	Margaret Walton, Karen Conlan	Susanna Davison
1/24	Terry Anderson	Tammy Brosius, Betsy Walker	Anna Myers
1/31	Jill Benjamin	Anna Myers, Susanna Davison	Rana Carnes

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 12TH MONTH MEETING FOR WORSHIP WITH ATTENTION TO BUSINESS

The engagement of BRITTA BENSON and BEN MARSDEN, both Friends, and their request for marriage under the care of the Meeting was announced. The Care & Membership committee will appoint a Clearness Committee to consider this request by Britta and Ben and report back to us soon.

DOUG MYERS provided a summary of London Grove finances as of December 1. We had \$9,735 in contributions and approximately \$650 in expenses for the month. Of great concern is that with only one month remaining London Grove has received only 73% of budgeted contributions - a significant deficit.

DOUG also presented the proposed 2016 Budget developed by our Finance Committee. Income and Expenses are basically flat compared to the 2015 Budget with income of \$111,150 vs. \$111,085 budgeted in 2015. Line item details are available for member review and input, and the proposal will come up for approval at First Month Meeting for Worship for Business.

BARBARA WALKER, on behalf of the Peace & Social Justice committee, gave us an update on the committee's consideration of the opportunity to support Kennett Monthly Meeting's involvement with the Family Promise program. After discussion with Kennett Friends, a recommendation was made that we not formally commit London Grove at this time. It was reported that more needs to be learned about this new homelessness initiative. The meeting Accepted the recommendation from P&SJ.

A review of PYM's recent Interim Meeting event was offered by BRENDA MACALUSO, MARK MYERS, DAVID WATKINS, DONALD LABRANCH, and BARBARA WALKER (all of whom attended). Impressions on execution of the agenda and program content were mixed. It seems that PYM needs to further refine this new meeting format.

REBECCA MITCHELL, clerk of the Outreach committee, gave that committee's Annual Report. Per Rebecca: "The Outreach Committee has the purpose of making our Meeting's presence known in the community, by offering forums for education, family activities to involve children, and musical events for wholesome fun for all ages". Efforts to this end were made in 2015 and included programs such as sponsored forums on *The positive use of Drones* by Jessie Mooberry, and *Post Traumatic Stress Disorder* by Winden Rowe (both Friends). Plans for 2016 include co-hosting an R&B concert in January, a community forum on *Alternatives to Violence* in March, and a family fun night at Halloween.

Lastly, those present Approved an idea for a Christmas Special, offering our 300th Anniversary books 'on sale' for \$10 each. (*Ed. note: Please see page 6 for details of the special offer.*)

Next Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business: 1st Month 3, 2016.

ROBERT FRYE, Clerk



Elder and Younger Friends worked together preparing corn muffins “from scratch” to serve during a social hour on Eleventh Month’s Fifth First Day

Maintaining Love and Unity Among Us

Care & Membership Committee, London Grove Monthly Meeting

Approved August, 2015

Our Meeting strives to be a safe and loving place for each of its members and attenders. There are nonetheless occasions when an individual member experiences a challenge, setback, or offense to which the community fails to respond with safe and loving support. Of particular concern are slights, hurt feelings, or conflicts that may arise between meeting members. The Care and Membership Committee offers its support to every meeting member or attender. Initial contact may be made through the clerk of the committee or any other committee member. All information will be kept in complete confidence. Even within the committee, information will travel only as far as approved by the requesting member. Once contact has been made, various ways open. Possibilities include:

(1) Listening Session. It may be helpful to start simply by having one's concerns heard in confidence by two trusted and supportive Friends or "Listeners." Listeners offer love, understanding, and support in a spiritually guided manner without judgment. There is no attempt to "solve" the problem; this is a listening session. If requested, listeners may offer helpful thoughts and provide perspective. Listeners may also suggest further steps, such as formation of a clearness committee or counseling. Listeners may be named by the requesting member (or attender) in consultation with the Clerk (or other contacted member) of the Care & Membership Committee. Full confidentiality will be maintained.

(2) Clearness Committee. **Faith and Practice** recognizes committees for clearness as a powerful means for guiding and supporting "members facing a crisis in their lives, sensing a leading towards a personal witness or considering a change in life's direction." As in a Listening Session, a clearness committee will hear the member's concerns in a loving and non-judgmental way, but it will then move on to work with the member, providing support in finding a path forward.

(3) Mediation. Friends may find themselves in conflict, unable to individually discern "way opening" and wish to pursue help. Care and Membership Committee offers support to Friends and attenders seeking clarity, agreement, resolution, and reconciliation. One or more trusted Friends will serve as mediators providing neutrality, confidentiality, and the stillness of worship in the Light. Mediators will impartially guide communication, focus listening, and help Friends to understand one another's perspectives. Care and Membership mediators are not professional counselors but listeners who assist in the problem solving process. Such listeners stand in testimony to a faith in people's own capacities to determine the source of their conflict and to reach an agreed resolution.

(4) Professional counseling. Some issues, for whatever reason, may call for skilled professional assistance. Philadelphia Yearly Meeting (PYM) sponsors Friends Counseling Service, which offers psychological support to members and regular attenders of PYM's monthly meetings and their families. Therapists in the Counseling Service are licensed mental health practitioners. All are active members of PYM. Fees are affordable, based on a sliding scale of income. LGMM financially supports this service. Friends Counseling Service can be contacted directly and confidentially through its coordinator Kenneth Brick (215.241.7019) or by visiting www.pym.org/friends-counseling-service.

Care and Membership offers the above suggestions as those that are currently available and can be immediately implemented. The Care and Membership Committee continues to seek ways to supportively nurture love and unity among all London Grove Monthly Meeting members and attenders.



Christmas Gift Special:

The Meeting is happy to announce the Sale of the 300th Anniversary Books for \$10 each (plus shipping for mailed copies).

Please pick up your copy in the Meeting Library from Grace Pfeifer or e-mail Provinskileona@hotmail.com with your order.

London Grove Monthly Meeting Contact Information

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Bulletin deadline is usually the third Monday of each month. We make exceptions, though. Just ask.