



London Grove Monthly Meeting

~ Begun 1714 ~
~ Established 1792 ~

November Bulletin

11th Month Queries on Stewardship of Resources

Does our Meeting serve social and economic justice in its uses of property and money?
How does our Meeting engage its members in the support of the Meeting's work, its ministry, and the upkeep of its property?
How does our Meeting engage its members in the support of the quarterly and yearly meetings and other Quaker organizations?
To what extent does our Meeting rely on current members for financial support, and what role does endowment income serve? Does the Meeting consider carefully the appropriate role of invested funds?

Am I clear that I am the steward, not the owner, of property in my care?

Do I simplify my needs, making choices that balance self-sufficiency (to avoid unnecessary dependence on others) and fair sharing of resources? Do I make choices as a consumer that support the equitable distribution of income?

Do my employment and other activities allow for use of time and energy in spiritual growth and in service to the Religious Society of Friends?

Do I contribute generously within my means to the funding of the work of Friends in my Meeting, in the yearly meeting, and in the wider world of Friends?

Editor's Note:

The Queries offered above comprise the eleventh in the set of twelve which London Grove Meeting has addressed monthly during 2017. However, it differs from the one now appearing as Number 11 in the newly-approved Faith and Practice.*

Philadelphia Yearly Meeting's Faith and Practice is the source of Queries used by our Monthly Meeting. During last summer's PYM Annual Sessions, a revised version of Faith and Practice was approved.

Queries have been regrouped under broad headings (Deepening Our Faith; Nurturing Our Community; Grounding for Transformed Lives; Witnessing in the World). In some (but not all) cases, Queries have been renumbered. Each Query now has sub-letters.

The London Grove Bulletin Production Team plans to finish out 2017 with the set of Queries we have been running since First Month. In 2018 we will use those from the new Faith and Practice. Some will be essentially the same; others will differ.

*Both sets are currently on line at the PYM website, if anyone wants to compare them!

November 2017 Calendar

11/2	7:30 PM	Property Committee
11/5	8:15 AM	Religious Education Committee
	9:30 AM	Meeting for Worship, Children's First Day School--"What Would Jesus Eat?"
	10:30 AM	Meeting for Worship for Business
	1:00 PM	Memorial Service for Clair Karpov*
11/9	7:00 PM	Care and Membership Committee
11/12	8:30 AM	Peace and Social Justice Committee
	9:30 AM	Meeting for Worship, Children's First Day School--D. Watkins--"Kingdom of Heaven"
	10:30 AM	Adult First Day School--D. La Branche, "The Open Life" by Douglas Steere
11/16	9:30 AM	Library Committee
11/19	9:30 am	Meeting for Worship, Children's First Day School--C. Hinks--"Parable of Builders"
	10:30AM	Worship and Ministry--Welcome New Members Celebration
11/26	9:30 AM	Meeting for Worship, Children's First Day School--M Walton--"How Jesus Picked His Team"
	10:30AM	Adult First Day School--M.Myers, "Quaker Relationships To Native People"

*Dear Friends,

Please join us in honoring the life of Clair Karpov. We will have refreshments at noon for those who just want to stay after Meeting. The Memorial Service will begin at one, followed by another offering of food and beverage around 2PM for Friends arriving at a later time.

We hope you will join us in saying farewell to our dear and unique Friend.

Georgia Delaney
Ginny Green

Childcare and Flowers Volunteers

Date	Volunteer bringing Flowers	Childcare Volunteers FIRST HOUR	Childcare Volunteers SECOND HOUR
11/5	Leona Provinski	Betsy Walker	Grace Pfeifer
11/12	Jill Benjamin	Cecelia Tang	Cecelia Tang
11/19	Sam Cypressi	Terry Anderson	Sam Cypressi
11/26	Jane Brosius	Karen Conlan	Claire Birney

Heather Hayes

10th Month Meeting for Worship for Business Summary

Robert Frye reported on behalf of the committee of wedding overseers that the marriage of Kimberly Lloyd and Jeffrey Russell was accomplished under the care of London Grove Monthly Meeting here on 9/30/2017. The marriage license will be delivered to the county clerk's office during the coming week.

Treasurer Doug Myers reviewed the financial report for 9th Month. Total income was \$6,605, against total monthly expense of \$20,267. Expenses reflected our 3rd Quarter Covenant contributions to Western Quarter and Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. We are 75% through the fiscal year, and have received 58% of budgeted contributions.

The Newbold family—Denis, Gail and Erica—shared their experiences at the Friends General Conference (FGC) Gathering held this past summer at Niagara University. It was an enjoyable occasion for community and reunions. Denis and Gail encountered Friends whom they had met years ago in a Marriage Enrichment workshop at a Gathering. Erica was pleased to be in the Soulful Singing workshop with Barb Draper. Denis shared information about his Fair Trade workshop. Gail reported that FGC is undertaking an institutional cultural assessment of structural racism in its organizational structure and operations. She was pleased to report that funding to hire Crossroads, an external non-profit consulting firm, was readily raised for that purpose. Marvin Barnes of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting serves on FGC Central Committee and can provide details about the timeline for the assessment. Gail also reported on the Plenary session with Kenneth Deer, a Seneca of the Iroquois Confederacy—which was founded around 1600! After a 25-year campaign (1982-2007), the United Nations passed a Declaration of Indigenous Rights. When the vote was held, all UN member states voted for it except: Russia abstained; and Canada, the US, Australia and New Zealand voted against the Declaration.

Susanna Davison read a Minute of Appreciation for the Service of former Clerk Robert (Bob) Frye. Friends approved the minute, slightly modified to reflect the current criteria for the Helen Corson Awards.

Clerk's Announcements included the news that the Meeting has received a letter from the Distributing Trustees of the Shoemaker Foundation, offering a grant of \$5,000 to support the work of our Kindergarten. Karen Conlan will submit evidence of the Kindergarten's non-profit status; and she will, as requested, in the future advise the Foundation about how their money is being used.

Summarized by Susanna Davison, Clerk, London Grove Monthly Meeting

The Knife Hand of Father Abraham

Murderers are easy to understand.
-Rilke, the Fourth Elegy

On the news tonight history unfolds again
and again over meatloaf and sweet potatoes,
the same story of another child of god,

another divine being in a heap
on the hard ground, life's breath
an inert pool spread across the concrete

and the murderer's heinous thoughts
the twisted ideas that rattle like marbles in his head
clog up the cogs and the wheels

the ten thousand things are alien, the murderer thinks
this is a place where I won't live,
he discerns the noisy spiral for himself alone
decides what is and what isn't
who deserves and who doesn't

the story is predictable in its tiresome pattern
it gouges out a well-worn path across the garden
like Abraham he can hear the secret voice
from the angel's mouth to his ear as

the dark icy lines take shape around his eyes—
the cold stare across the lawn—
he sits still as a corpse, for days on the porch
he grows dark on the veranda,

he rocks and watches, rocks and watches
with barren thoughts and hard hearts

murderers read but miss the fable's ending,
impatient with the last quarter-page of the tale
in which the stern and faceless angel

the dark voice that set it all in motion
stays the knife-hand of Father Abraham,

they never hear that at the end of the story
even Abraham's crazy god repents of all his choices

From Gail Newbold, with gratitude:

October Quarterly Meeting's Program Invited Each of Us to be Renewed and Active

The program at Western Quarterly Meeting on October 15 was built to let Friends to discover what Non-Violence means for them, personally. In the last two paragraphs, you will see the heart of one Friend's message, calling us to be inspired by PEACE (The double-negative word Non-Violence may seem less inspiring or more technical).

Tonya Thames Taylor (Fallowfield Meeting) gave a brief overview of concepts of Peace and noted that while some definitions picture Peace as "passive", there are deeper definitions in which we see concepts of mutual communication and support, reconciliation where there was conflict, and sharing of resources within the human community and with ALL, including a sharing that allows other species and habitats to survive or thrive.

Friend Tonya concluded with parts of a video from QuakerSpeak (Google will get you to QuakerSpeak) in which Friend George Lakey (Central Philadelphia Meeting) suggests that perhaps we are in a paradigm shift, like the time when people shifted from being convinced that the earth was flat, to being convinced that the earth is round. Perhaps people are seeing that non-violence is more effective than violence. Erica Chenoweth's study, written in an award winning book: *Why Civil Resistance Works: The Strategic Logic of Non-Violent Conflict* found 26% of violent campaigns for social changes were successful (and more of those promoting tyranny), while 53% of non-violent campaigns were successful (and more of those were promoting democracy).

Then came the real heart of our program: Friends were directed toward studying our personal stories, shared in specific for all to ponder. With the personal stories and with other personal experiences unspoken, Friends began to feel that Peace is a verb, and that Love is the main action. Our deep fears will prevent us from connecting in a Light or Loving way and fears will create a violent response until we search our fears, and until we listen with deep attention to the lives and emotions of others.

Each of us is invited to do HOMEWORK for next Quarterly Meeting in mid-January at Kennett Meetinghouse: Set an intention of creating some Peace. Try the experiment in a way new for you, and see where this experiment leads. We should all bring our results to Kennett in January!

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