



## London Grove Monthly Meeting

~ Begun 1714 ~  
~ Established 1792 ~

May Bulletin

### 5th Month Queries Nurturing Our Community: Religious Education in the Home and Meeting

- How does our meeting prepare its members, attenders and children for worship, for the conduct of its business and for a way of life consistent with the principles of the Religious Society of Friends?
- What opportunities do we provide for all in the meeting to learn about Friends' history, practices and testimonies, the Judeo-Christian tradition, the life and teachings of Jesus, and other religious traditions?
- How does our meeting's religious education program provide experiential learning that enhances the sense of belonging to our worshipping community?
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- *How do I help create a home where all members of the family receive affection and understanding and where visitors are welcome?*
- *How does my manner of living enrich body, mind and spirit; enable all to learn what it means to live a life of Spirit-led commitment; and demonstrate a high regard for family, community and the integrity of creation?*
- *How do I engage with my family and others who are dear to me regarding such sensitive topics as death, faith, money, sex and drugs?*

#### Editor's Note:

The Queries offered above comprise the fifth in a set of twelve from the newly-approved Faith and Practice. These Queries may differ from those seen in previous years.

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.

## May 2018 Calendar

5/3	7:30 PM	<b>Property Committee Meeting</b>
5/6	8:15 AM	Religious Education Committee Meeting
	9:30 AM	Meeting for Worship; Children's First Day School--J Provinski: Using Our <i>Faith and Practice</i> book
	10:30 AM	Monthly Meeting for Business
5/7-12	7 AM to Noon	HELP needed all week to prepare for Plant Sale
5/12	7AM-2PM	<b>PLANT SALE!!</b>
5/13	8:30AM	Peace and Social Justice Committee Meeting
	9:30AM	Meeting for Worship; Children's First Day school-G Delaney: Celebrating Mothers
	10:30AM	No Adult First Day school
5/17	9:30 AM	Library Committee Meeting
	7:00 PM	Care and Membership Committee Meeting
5/20	9:30 AM	Meeting for Worship; Children's first Day School-L. Provinski: Learn To Churn Butter (in kitchen)
	10:30 AM	Adult First Day School-D. LaBranche: Religion and the Human Heart
5/27	9:30 AM	Meeting for Worship; Children's First day School-D. Watkins: Paul and the Early Church
	10:30 AM	Self-guided memory stroll through our Beautiful Burial Ground to celebrate Memorial Day. Refreshments will be served following the stroll.
5/31		Last day to register children age 0 through middle school for FGC Gathering, which will be held 7/1-7/7 in Toledo, Ohio. Those who are older may continue to register.
6/10		CHILDREN'S DAY WITH ICE CREAM SOCIAL--SAVE THE DATE!

### Childcare and Flowers Volunteers

Date	Volunteer bringing Flowers	Childcare Volunteers FIRST HOUR	Childcare Volunteers SECOND HOUR
5/6	Barb Pusey	Doug Myers	Kim Brosnan-Myers
5/13	Barbara Haines	Claire Birney	Karen-Lee Brofee
5/20	Susanna Davison	Chris Hinks	Tammy Brosius
5/27	Alexia Vaughn	Carolyn Muller	Betsy Walker

## 4th Month Meeting for Worship for Business Summary

Following responses to *Queries on Nurturing Our Community: Care for the Meeting*, Friends gathered in Worship with attention to business on 4/8/2018. The minutes of 3/4/2018 were approved, after including the full name of Victoria Anne Brosius. Keeper of the Calendar Anna Myers brought forward a request from those who wish to paint outdoors on our campus on 7/24 and 7/31. Ruth Thompson and Pat Horrocks would provide Friendly Presence. Friends approved.

Treasurer Doug Myers reported that we are 25% through the year and have received 40.6% of budgeted contributions. He has made our 1st Quarter contribution to Philadelphia Yearly Meeting of \$9,175 and covenant Payments to Western Quarterly Meeting of \$2,250. Opening and closing balances were \$116,140.65 and \$115,294.97.

David Watkins presented and Friends approved seven Priorities for the 116th Congress that our Peace and Social Justice Committee will forward to Friends Committee on National Legislation. (The list appears on Page 5 of this Bulletin.)

Charlie Brosius gave the Annual Report of the London Grove Burial Ground Committee. He provided details of their Operating Account's Financial Report for 2017, noting that those funds are not included in the Meeting budget. With two burial grounds to maintain, landscaping is typically the largest expense. Other 2017 expenses included repairs to the Orthodox Burial Ground stone wall and a share of recent walkway repairs and blacktopping between the London Grove meetinghouse and the adjacent burial ground. Income included distributions from the London Grove Trustees; ten Burial Perpetual Care fees (collected at the time of burial); eleven grave openings for burials; and four headstone foundations. Mark Myers noted that the reported levels of burial ground reserves seem prudent, given the ultimate responsibilities and liabilities which go on in perpetuity. The total held in investment accounts at the end of 2017 was \$594,862. The report was received with special thanks expressed to John P. Anderson, Secretary-Treasurer of the committee, who had prepared the report.

Assistant Clerk Peter Weygandt stepped up to clerk the final agenda item, which was Susanna Davison's report from Philadelphia Yearly Meeting's Continuing Sessions held 4/24/2018 in Harrisburg. The date coincided with nationwide demonstrations to encourage increased gun safety measures. Young Friends who attended the sessions made signs and participated in the March for Our Lives to the state Capitol. Meanwhile, Friends heard reports from the Minutes Sprint, recommending a more immediate and simplified form of minute-taking and approval; Nominating Council's additions to and retirements from yearly meeting bodies; and the General Secretary's report of on-going work with the World Council of Churches. The Undoing Racism Group introduced their new co-clerks. The report from Quaker Life Council's Discernment Group indicated they have held many listening sessions and continue to labor with a monthly meeting's release of an African-American Friend from membership. The Steering Committee for the proposed Multicultural Audit reported they expect to recommend hiring a group to conduct the audit for approval at this summer's annual sessions.

Susanna's "take-home message" from Continuing Sessions: A process is now in place for monthly meetings' Minutes of Concern that are endorsed by quarterly meetings to come to the yearly meeting. She has been advised that Western Quarter will renew efforts to deliver London Grove's 2016 "Minute of Appreciation for the Life Among Us of Jane P. Rushmore." Until 11/17/2017, the new structure of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting had no process to receive such communications. Such a process was announced by Quaker Life Council last month and it appears to allow Western Quarterly Meeting to forward our minute.

Summarized by Susanna Davison, Clerk

**The Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL)** establishes new legislative priorities for each incoming Congress. London Grove Monthly Meeting has again participated with other meetings, churches and individuals to determine the priorities that FCNL will pursue for the next two years. Following is a report by the Peace & Social Justice Committee regarding the Meetings involvement in this process.

## **FCNL Priorities for the 116th Congress from London Grove Monthly Meeting**

The Peace and Social Justice Committee has reached out to London Grove Members and Attenders in several ways to solicit suggestions for the 116th Congress Priorities for FCNL.

At our March 4th Meeting for Worship for Business, the P&SJ Committee made a presentation and distributed copies of the Meeting's suggested priorities and the ones actually developed by FCNL for the 115th Congress. We asked for suggestions from London Grove for the 116th Congress and urged Meeting Members and Attenders to contact P&SJ Committee members, either in-person or also by phone or email, which is available in our Meeting Directory. We also offered a Minute to FCNL about gun violence developed by Committee member Bob Frye. It was approved by the Meeting and forwarded to FCNL as the recommended focus for the balance of the 115th Congress.

On Sunday March 18th, after our Meeting for Worship, Emily Temple was a guest speaker from FCNL. She highlighted Priority development and explained the process once Meetings' Priorities were sent to FCNL. It was an interesting and enlightening talk with many questions from the Meeting answered by Emily with grace. After her presentation we received one more suggestion for a Priority from a London Grove Member, which brought our total to seven. The seven Priorities were then sent by email to all London Grove Members and Attenders for a final review and comment. The age range of participants suggesting topics to prioritize was 40's through 80's.

Also, Emily spoke of activities at FCNL, including the Wednesday afternoon programs, which intrigued several LGM Members and Attenders – a trip to DC on a Wednesday is being considered.

### **The Minute to FCNL about gun violence:**

3/4/2018

Diane Randall  
Executive Secretary  
Friends Committee on National Legislation  
245 2nd St. NE  
Washington, DC 20002

Re: LONDON GROVE MINUTE ON FCNL PRIORITIES

The Members and Attenders of London Grove Monthly Meeting of the Society of Friends, located in London Grove Pennsylvania have been directly touched by the epidemic of mass killings that continue to sweep through our nation. Christina Taylor Green, age nine and a former London Grove kindergartener, was a casualty of the senseless mass shooting that occurred at a political constituent meeting in Tucson, AZ in 2011. We recognize with great sadness that our faith community is not alone in this as body counts from escalating occurrences of violence touch more and more regions of the United States. Such tragedies strike at the heart of our Society's Peace testimony, and concerted action by Friends organizations should be viewed as paramount.  
(continued)

We support all efforts that FCNL deems necessary in support of legislative and regulatory reform that address this issue - potentially including availability of semiautomatic weapons, improving the process and implementation of a viable background check system, changes in minimum age requirements, and/or implementation of community firearm Restraining Order regulations. We also recognize that such legislative and regulatory initiatives must be designed to minimize such tragedies at all gatherings of people, not solely designed for the protection of schools. As one example, legislation to arm and train schoolteachers not only has specious value, it also would have no impact on reducing mass murders of moviegoers (Aurora), music fans at concerts (Las Vegas), attendees of nightclubs (Orlando), or even innocent bystanders at the tragic political gathering in Tucson.

The Members and Attenders of London Grove Monthly Meeting rely on the judgment of our representatives at FCNL to determine the best course of action, but urge decision makers to prioritize and resource its upcoming efforts in such a manner as to place Gun Reform as its highest, if not sole, priority for the remainder of the 115th United States Congress.

Sincerely,

Susanna R. Davison  
Clerk  
London Grove Monthly Meeting  
500 West Street Road  
Kennett Square, PA 19348

On April 8<sup>th</sup> the Peace & Social Justice Committee presented the following seven priorities to Meeting for Worship for Business. They were approved and were reported to FCNL on April 9<sup>th</sup>.

### **116th Congressional Priorities for FCNL**

1. Work to end gun violence and fund Alternatives to Violence training in our nation's schools.
2. Promote nuclear non-proliferation through a renewed reliance upon diplomatic means to reduce international tensions.
3. Reduce military spending and armed interventions and other forms of aggression that impede international harmony.
4. Promote fair and humane immigration policies that fully consider the economic and social benefit of so doing.
5. Enact legislation to renew work permits under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program (DACA) and develop a process for eventual citizenship.
6. Address poverty, reduce income inequality and promote economic justice, regardless of race, gender or religion.
7. Support solutions to mitigate and adapt to climate disruption and environmental degradation.

## Upcoming local events from PYM

### "New Comers' Forum"

*FREE!* Saturday, May 5, 10 am-3 pm, Kennett Friends Meeting

Do you consider yourself a newcomer to Quakerism? Have you been attending your meeting for fewer than three years?

**Then join us** in an engaging, experiential facilitation.

We will explore the following queries together:

What keeps you going to meeting?

What questions did you have about Quakerism?

What resources were helpful or would have been helpful in your exploration of Quakerism?

Help us help everyone make Quaker meetings welcoming and encouraging for all new people!

*Free!* A catered lunch will be provided.

Register Now! [www.quakerspeak.com/forum](http://www.quakerspeak.com/forum)

### Are you ready for a Spiritual Challenge: Extended Worship

May 5, 9:15 am - 3:15 pm, Marlborough Friends Meeting

Need a spiritual boost? Feeling drained or weary? Try Extended Worship as way to feel spiritually renewed, and reconnected with the spirit of the Divine. Most newcomers to Extended Worship are surprised at how quickly time passes, and are surprised about how refreshed they feel.

Details: [www.marlboroughmeeting.org/V2/ExtendedWorshipV2.html](http://www.marlboroughmeeting.org/V2/ExtendedWorshipV2.html) or

Lola Georg: [lolageorg@gmail.com](mailto:lolageorg@gmail.com)

## Miscellaneous

Friends wishing to contact our Friend Away, Rebeca Mitchell, can send correspondence to the following address:  
34 Harding Place #8, Woodstock, VT 0591.

**Quaker Earthcare Witness Shawl Project:** Give a hand-knit shawl to a Friend or yourself!

1. You and Friend Mary Jo Klingel pick out the yarn and decide on the design.
2. Mary Jo knits your shawl
3. You write a tax-deductible donation check to Quaker Earthcare Witness.
4. Everyone Benefits!

QEW is a network of Quakers and friends, mostly in North America, working on climate and other earthcare concerns. You will find a quarterly newsletter, *BeFriending Creation* at [www.quakerearthcare.org](http://www.quakerearthcare.org).

## London Grove Monthly Meeting Contact Information

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Burial Grounds - Charles Brosius - [cbromush@aol.com](mailto:cbromush@aol.com) - 610.869.9235

Philadelphia Yearly Meeting - [www.pym.org](http://www.pym.org)

Western Quarterly Meeting - [westernquarterquakers.org](http://westernquarterquakers.org)

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*Bulletin deadline is the third Monday of each month.*