



London Grove Monthly Meeting Bulletin

~ Begun 1714 ~

~ Established 1792 ~

December 2013

Query for December: Integrity and Simplicity

What does our Meeting understand to be the meaning and implication of our testimonies on simplicity and integrity?

How do our Meeting's actions demonstrate this understanding?

As a Meeting, what are we doing to encourage members to embody integrity and simplicity in their everyday lives?

How do I strive to maintain the integrity of my inner and outer lives—in my spiritual journey, my work, and my family responsibilities? How do I manage my commitments so that overcommitment, worry, and stress do not diminish my integrity?

Am I temperate in all things? Am I open to counsel and advice on overindulgence and addictive behavior, such as gambling? Do I take seriously the hazards associated with addictive and mood-altering substances?

Am I careful to speak truth as I know it and am I open to truth spoken to me? Am I mindful that judicial oaths imply a double standard of truth?

Do I refrain from membership in organizations whose purposes and methods compromise our testimonies?

Food: Please Continue to Donate!

All of us at Meeting began putting nutritious foods in our new Food Donation boxes at Meeting, on 11/17. In the first week, we made *two* trips to deliver 7-8 boxes of food donations to the Kennett Food Cupboard at 136 W. Cedar St., Kennett Square. While some households experience abundance, hunger is a weight on many families here, every day. The *Ministry of Food* ministers to the *giver*, and to the *receiver*.

December 2013 Calendar



Sunday 12/01	9:30 am Meeting for Worship Children's First Day School 10:30 am Meeting for Worship for Business
Saturday 12/07	6 pm Potluck and music - See page 3 for details!
Sunday 12/08	8:30 am Peace & Social Justice Committee 9:30 am Meeting for Worship Children's First Day School 10:30 am Bible Study 7 pm Worship & Ministry Committee
Monday 12/9	7 pm Religious Education Committee
Thursday 12/12	7 pm Care & Membership Committee
Saturday 12/14	10 am 300th Anniversary Committee
Sunday 12/15	9:30 am Meeting for Worship Children's First Day School 10:30 am Intergenerational ornament-making: Visit craft tables to create decorations for the Meetinghouse's Christmas Tree! 6 pm Adult Supper - See page 3 for details!
Thursday 12/19	9:30 am Library Committee
Sunday 12/22	9:30 am Meeting for Worship Children's First Day School (shortened) NOTE: Children will join families for worship, Christmas story, music 7 pm Traditional Christmas Pageant, singing, refreshments NOTE: Children dress for Pageant beginning at 6:15 pm
Tuesday 12/24	10 pm Christmas Eve Worship (shortened)
Sunday 12/29	9:30 am Family Meeting for Worship (shortened) with singing



LOOKING AHEAD

London Grove Meeting is hosting Western Quarterly Meeting on Sunday, January 19th, 2014. We have informative, interesting programs in the making for adults and children, and an exceptionally delicious lunch planned. Mark your calendar and plan to attend!

Child Care for December

Date	First Hour	Second Hour
December 1	Susanna Davison	Matos family
December 8	Margaret Walton	Jim Brofee, Karen-Lee Brofee
December 15	Mary Jo Ciganek	Sam Cypressi, Lisa Cypressi
December 22	Pat Horrocks	Brenda Macaluso, Dawn Thompson
December 29	Barb Pusey	Betsy Walker, Karen Conlan

From Worship and Ministry

Come join us for an evening of food, fellowship and music! The Worship and Ministry Committee is hosting a gathering on Saturday December 7 beginning at 6:00 pm. We'll start with a potluck supper, followed by music. Please bring your favorite dish, your singing voice and musical instruments!



From Georgia Delaney:

I will once more be hosting the Adult Dinner on December 15 at 6:00 pm. My home is at 316 S. Union Street, Kennett Square. It's a potluck so please bring a side dish or salad to share.

Please RSVP. Call [610-444-0650](tel:610-444-0650) or just let me know at Meeting. Come share the Christmas Joy !!!!

Christmas Traditions at London Grove Friends Meeting

For those who have grown up in the Meeting, December's events will seem familiar. The Religious Education, Hospitality and Worship & Ministry Committees will recreate the ornament-making, decorating, Christmas music and stories, evening Nativity pageant and treats--even a likely visit from St. Nicholas. Shortened Christmas Eve and Fifth First Day worship with singing will round out the festive calendar. Parents are reminded that costuming the little animals and children in the evening Nativity program commences at 6:15 pm on 12/22, so that all will be in their places when the curtain goes up (figuratively) at 7 pm. The set-building crew will welcome help that day in setting up, following the rise of worship; and also in taking down, and stowing away, the stage set until next year.

Clerk's Report November 3, 2013

Dear Friends,

Gathered Friends continued worship on the 3rd day of the 11th month by moving into the business of London Grove Monthly Meeting. Announcements included a note by Clerk **Karen-Lee Brofee** of a question posed by General Secretary **Arthur Larrabee**, "Is it time for Foundational Minutes?" raised in *PYM On Line*. Endorsement of a "Foundational Minutes" process would enable all Monthly Meetings to participate in discernment over PYM Minutes rather than risk the passing of yearly meeting minutes based upon the passionate concern of a few present in voice. Perhaps we should tune our ears to learning more about this concept to prepare for future discussion. Recording Clerk **Becky Matos** read the minutes of 10th Month business which were **approved** as read.

In response to the Eleventh Query, "Stewardship of Resources," Property Committee Clerk, **Mark Myers** presented the Property Committee's Annual Report which was accepted with appreciation. Significant work has been done this past year on our Meetinghouse to meet the needs of its extensive use and in preparation for our 300th anniversary celebration this coming year. We were amazed to realize that our Meetinghouse had 428 scheduled events this year, including meetings for worship, community events, committee meetings, and school days!

Treasurer **Doug Myers** reported an opening balance of \$28,188.34 as of October 1, 2013 and a closing balance of \$19,509.14. October expenses included operating expenses of lawn care, committees, and overhead (\$1332), repairs (\$2028), and PYM and WQM contributions (\$14,748). **We are 83% through the fiscal year and have received 51% of our contributions.** The Finance Committee is developing the 2014 budget, which will be presented as a proposal next month.

Sandy Reber, Clerk of the 300th Anniversary Committee, presented the schedule and projected costs for a full 2014 calendar of monthly events. Events include lectures, performances, tours, and a dinner as well as a published book of London Grove Monthly Meeting. The BIG DAY of the celebration year is October 18, 2014 which is the dinner and a full day of on-going activities and presentations. The report included a request for \$1500 from the Outreach Fund. The report was **approved with appreciation** for the enormous amount of work completed by the committee and that which is yet to come.

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Claire Birney, Clerk of Community Outreach Committee, presented the committee's proposal for addressing the growing technology needs of the Meeting. With the much appreciated help of **Martin Reber**, the past Clerk of Meeting, research was completed and proposals developed for procuring website services and an email system that could serve all committees and clerks consistently as well as provide on-line ticketing and registration especially needed for Community Outreach and 300th Anniversary Committee's work on the website.

This information, including the financial costs for 2014, were also presented to the Committee of Clerks this past month. The sense of the Meeting was a recognition of the need to move forward in this area with assurance of technical support and continuing research and consideration. The proposals are included in the bulletin and

Peggy Sue Fernandes, Clerk of the Kindergarten Committee, sought the approval of Meeting for the addition of a Summer Camp to the Kindergarten Program. The camp would run for 3 hours per day, **9 am-12 noon**, weekday mornings, the weeks of **June 9-13 and 16-20**. The camp would not only serve as continuing outreach to the community, current and former students, but would enable incoming students to spend time with their new teacher. The program is structured to pay for itself. Meeting **approved** the addition of a Summer Camp Program as described.

The final item of the morning was a request to move the upcoming January Western Quarterly Meeting from Saturday the 18th to Sunday the 19th. The request came from Zachary Dutton, Western Quarter Coordinator. Written responses of support for this change were read from Susanna Davison, clerk of Religious Education Committee and Ginny Green, clerk of Worship and Ministry. Immediate concern was expressed regarding the amount of time allotted to worship and its placement on the agenda at typical Western Quarter Meetings. Questions were posed: How would members and attenders coming to worship the morning of the 19th react to finding there would be no worship until 11:30 and that it would be limited to 30 minutes? Why would one need to "register" coming into worship? Couldn't that be done later? Why shouldn't London Grove maintain its worship time, inviting Quarter (possibly modeling???) to join and then commence with the Quarter's program? Meeting approved the change of day to Sunday the 19th for January's Western Quarterly Meeting to be held at London Grove on the condition that Meeting for Worship is held at 9:30 am in the customarily practiced manner of gathering and closing. This approval will be passed on to the November 6th planning session for the January Western Quarterly Meeting. The morning concluded with a gentle settling into silent worship.

Karen-Lee N. Brofee, Clerk

Preliminary Agenda – Meeting for Business – December 1, 2013

- Minutes of November 3, 2013 Meeting for Business
- Response to the Twelfth Query – Integrity and Simplicity
- Treasurer’s Report
- Finance Committee – 2014 Budget Proposal
- Reports Regarding:
 - 1) Western Quarter Plans for January
 - 2) Committee of Clerks: Question on Queries and Annual Reports
 - 3) Religious Education Committee: Activities for December

Budget Request for 2014: \$250 for ConstantContact

This request is for \$250, to use ConstantContact for outreach & publicity for London Grove events and programs. We suggest this be included as an overhead item in “telephone & internet.”

Background & Needs

As we approach our 300th Anniversary we have a heightened need for appropriate and manageable electronic communications with more people than ever, and especially people who are not current members or attenders of London Grove. So far, we have been using personal email accounts and the basic email provided by Verizon as part of our FiOS phone & internet service. Some recent incidents have pointed out the weaknesses of using these “free” services – weaknesses that could become trouble if we continue to use them for outreach to the general public.

Last spring, meeting members who use technology met to review who is using what kinds of software and services and to assess needs and risks as we grow in our use of technology in support of our meeting. For outreach we have identified the following needs:

- Ability to easily design electronic publications that look good
- Ability to easily set up special-purpose mailing lists
- Electronic communications whose format & design is consistent regardless of the electronic device on which they are viewed (computer monitors, laptops, smart phones, iPads, tablets, etc.)
- Enable people to self-subscribe, change their contact information, or opt-out at any time
- Maintain the privacy of people’s email addresses and other contact information
- Ability for multiple people to manage communications and grow as needed (i.e, more than one person or committee)
- Ability to schedule communications in advance
- Understand delivery and readership of the communications we send
- Protect ourselves and our constituents from spam, viruses and malware
- Protect ourselves from the risks associated with using personal email accounts for meeting business

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These needs are not fulfilled in our present situation, and it is not desirable to continue to “do email” for outreach using personal email accounts or the basic Verizon email.

Recommended Solution

After consultation with Western Quarter and Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, we wish to use a service called ConstantContact to manage our outreach and publicity for the 300th Anniversary and other London Grove activities. Both the quarter and yearly meeting use this service and have recommended it to us. To the extent other London Grove committees may wish to use the service also, it would be available at any time - this could include the Plant Sale, Kindergarten, forums, meeting announcements, bulletins and other needs.

ConstantContact is a well-established, professional email service designed for outreach, publicity and marketing. Many non-profit and religious institutions use it and it is a highly regarded service.

Their services meet our requirements and enable us to grow our use as needed in the future. The pricing is inexpensive as far as these services go, and in many respects less costly than some alternative services. Pricing is based on the number of contacts (email addresses) in our database, not on the number or volume of emails we send.

Non-Profit, Pre-pay Pricing As of 10/14/2013	0 - 500 contacts	500-2500 contacts
Pre-pay 6 months	\$12.00 per month	\$24.00 per month
Pre-pay 12 months	\$10.50 per month	\$21.00 per month

The first month is no-cost; thereafter we recommend pre-paying 12 months in order to obtain the best price of \$10.50/month or \$126.00 per year.

Between our “general public” and “meeting” mailing lists we currently have under 500 contacts. We plan to grow our contact list over the next year, so there is a possibility we may exceed 500 contacts sometime in 2014. We would only step up to the higher price level at the time we have more than 500 contacts (email addresses). For this reason we suggest budgeting \$250 although we may or may not actually use that amount in 2014.

In closing, we believe we can only do effective outreach and publicity for the 300th Anniversary and other London Grove events where we want to bring new people to London Grove, by using ConstantContact or a similar email service. It provides for our needs and mitigates the significant risks we face with our current methods of doing email.

Claire Birney Clerk, Outreach Committee

Martin Reber, Advisor to the Outreach Committee

Budget Request for 2014: \$500 for the LGMM Website

Request

The \$500 request for the LGMM website covers the migration, support and operation of the London Grove website on our own host service. We suggest this be included as the budget overhead item "Telephone and Internet"

Background

For the past 3–4 years London Grove has had a small website hosted free of charge by Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. In October 2012 the yearly meeting notified us that it could no longer host monthly or quarterly meeting websites and asked us to move our website to our own host provider by February 2013. Almost one year has passed since we received this request and it is time we move our website to our own host provider.

Our website is a primary source of information that is available 24/7 to anyone who may want to find out about London Grove. This includes information about our worship, history and location so seekers can find us and discover reasons and opportunities to visit and worship; directions; LGMM monthly bulletins; forms and documents; news of upcoming events; some history; etc. It is also a gateway to the London Grove Kindergarten. We envision expanding the website to include the Plant Sale and all of the 300th Anniversary activities.

A website host is an online service that is the physical home of a website. The host service provides all the hardware, software, communications, maintenance and operational support to keep the website running. Last year we purchased a domain name (www.londongrovemeeting.org) in order to have a permanent, identifiable internet name for London Grove and as a precursor to moving our website to our own host provider. Currently we use WordPress software for our website; it meets all of our current and foreseeable needs.

Requirements

In this era of electronic communications is it virtually a necessity for our meeting to have a website. A website gives us a permanent (24/7) presence for anyone to find us and obtain information about London Grove. It is a primary means of outreach to individuals and the community.

Our needs include the following:

- Well–designed but simple website; easy to design, modify and grow
- Ability for two or more meeting members to manage the website
- Guaranteed speed, uptime and backup

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- Security against hackers, spam, viruses and malware
- WordPress expertise and support by a professional organization
- Assistance moving our website from its current host
- Possible addition of calendar and news functions

Recommended Solution

After consultation with Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, two choices have emerged:

- 1) the FGC Quaker Cloud, and
- 2) the services of WP Engine.com.

After considering the FGC Quaker Cloud, we do not recommend it. It has a rigid design that is overwhelmingly text-based and there is little capability for modification or better graphic design. We would have to abandon our current website and re-design from scratch under the FGC's single design (all Quaker Cloud meeting websites look identical and must remain within the constraints imposed by FGC). The cost is \$240 per year. This is not a particularly attractive scenario.

WP engine.com is a well-established, professional WordPress hosting service. It is used by many organizations large & small. Philadelphia Yearly Meeting itself selected WP Engine.com for its own website based on their reputation for support & service. They have come highly recommended. Their services meet our requirements and we will be able to move our current website with little or no disruption to our existing design and pages. We would not be limited by another organization's one-size-fits-all design. The "sticker price" is \$290 per year and we are seeking a discount that appears to be available to non-profit organizations. We recommend this solution.

Budget Request

We are requesting a budget of \$500 in expectation of some limited startup and advisory costs in conjunction with moving our current website from Philadelphia Yearly Meeting to WP Engine.com plus the annual operating costs associated with WP Engine.com.

In closing

We believe that a well-maintained website is essential to London Grove's presence, availability and outreach to members, attenders, seekers and the community. People seek information on the web first in preference to nearly all other sources. The website is a source of information that is available 24/7 to anyone who may want to find out about London Grove Meeting. We also need this presence to do effective outreach and publicity for the 300th Anniversary, Plant Sale, Kindergarten and other London Grove outreach activities.

Claire Birney Clerk, Outreach Committee

Martin Reber, Advisor to the Outreach Committee

Peace-Making and Justice, among Friends and around the World

Shared by Gail Newbold

London Grove Friends have been generously showered with gifts of PEACE! **David Zarembka** opened the 11/13 Forum on the African Great Lakes Initiative quoting Jesus (*Matthew 5:44-48*): “I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.”

David’s talk focused on the **Trauma Healing** work in AGLI. The group healing is effective especially because each group includes all “sides:” victims, perpetrators, witnesses. Until each person is seen as a full human, going past the labels, we are “stuck” and healing is prevented by the roles and labels. Across the world, each of us is in the same boat – no one person’s trauma or hurt can be defined as more serious than another’s. For us in the U.S., our cultures tend to emphasize the relative isolation of each individual. If we can turn to see the community nature of our lives, we take down our walls and see that healing for one is a piece of the healing for all. In another boat metaphor, a rise in the water lifts all boats. In AGLI, after healing begins, cooperative activities have grown up: raising goats and gardening together, micro-lending, women’s and children’s health clinic, ceramic water filters, election peace teams, and more.

George Lakey was quoted in our 11/10 Adult RE class, explaining how ***Pacifism***, a *faith* in the Peace Process, adds a special dimension: (when peaceful methods have been used, and the objective has not yet been reached) “...A Pacifist might say, ‘well we do not see a practical way but we are going to keep looking for a practical way.’ There are faith commitments that we will keep; we will never give up looking for a practical, peaceful way...The pacifism in me keeps me searching and inventing new ways of being nonviolent.”

This brings us to recent good news from the **Power Shift** conference in Pittsburgh, in October. **Earth Quaker Action Team** participants (including this writer) were at that gathering of 8000 young people dedicated to shifting the earth toward sustainable energy sources and away from looming Climate Change. The EQATers saw many transformations: as conference-goers, one by one, learned in workshops about the powers of nonviolent direct action; learned by preparing to do nonviolent direct action in role-plays; and learned by being in the 15+ actions at PNC Bank locations. One EQATER saw a regional bank official moved to silence and tears while in a Quakerly one-to-one meeting at the largest bank. Many participants were visibly moved when dozens of by-standers, in addition to the 20-30 activists in a lobby, all went into a period of silence, together, to consider and honor the many Mountain families affected by Mountaintop Removal Coal Mining. Step by step, **Non-Violence is on the Move**, and so is the MTR campaign.

An Idea To Make One Think

“A small body of determined spirits fired by an unquenchable faith in their mission can alter the course of history.” - Mahatma Gandhi