

September 2015

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## London Grove Monthly Meeting



~ Begun 1714 ~  
~ Established 1792 ~

### September 2015 Bulletin

#### **Ninth Month Queries about our Ministry of Outreach**

##### **Outreach**

What are we doing as a Meeting to communicate our presence and our principles to the community around us? Does our Meeting's ministry of outreach lead Friends to share their spiritual experiences with others? What are we doing to invite persons not in membership to attend our meetings for worship and to encourage their continued attendance? How does the Meeting welcome visitors? Are we sensitive to the needs and hesitations of each visitor?

Are we tender to the needs of isolated Friends and Meetings, and to nearby Meetings seeking support?

*How do I ground myself in the understandings of my faith? Am I clear about my beliefs? How do I prepare myself to share my faith and beliefs with others?*

*Does my manner of life as a Friend attract others to our religious society?*

*Do I seize opportunities to tell others about the Religious Society of Friends and invite them to worship with us?*

*Is my manner with visitors and attenders to our Meeting one of welcome?*

##### **Collaboration**

In what ways does our Meeting respond to opportunities to join with other faiths in worship, in social action, and in spiritual dialogue?

How does our Meeting encourage its members to seek opportunities to meet and work with Friends world wide?

*What opportunities have I taken to know people from different religious and cultural backgrounds, to worship with them, and to work with them on common concerns?*

*What opportunities have I taken to know, to work, and to worship with Friends outside of my own Meeting?*

## September 2015

Thursday	9/3	7:30 pm	Property Committee
Sunday	9/6	9:30 am 10:45 am	Meeting for Worship Meeting for Worship for Business
Thursday	9/10	7 pm	Care & Membership Committee
Sunday	9/13	8:30 am 9:30 am 10:45 am Noon	Peace & Social Justice Committee Meeting for Worship and Children's First Day School Opening Exercises and Adult Religious Education: Bible Study Worship & Ministry Committee
Tuesday	9/15	7 pm	Kindergarten Committee
Thursday	9/17	9:30 am	Library Committee
Sunday	9/20	9:30 am 10:45 am Noon	Meeting for Worship and Children's First Day School Opening Exercises and Adult Religious Education "One Book One Yearly Meeting" Family picnic at Kennett Meeting (p.5)
Sunday	9/27	9:30 am 10:45 am	Meeting for Worship and Children's FDS: "Faith & Play" Opening Exercises and Adult Religious Education: Quakerism

### Volunteers for Childcare and Flowers

Date	Childcare	2nd Hour Childcare	Flowers
9/6	Doug Myers	Kim Brosnan-Myers Margaret Walton	Anna Myers
9/13	Baz Powell	Chris Hinks Karen Conlan	Barbara Haines
9/20	Anna Myers	Rebecca Mitchell	Jane Brosius
9/27	Jane Brosius	Chris Manning Sarah Manning	Georgia Delaney

**Clerk's Summary of Eighth Month Second Day 2015  
Meeting for Business**

While continuing worship on the second day of the Eighth Month and singing Happy Birthday to Tom Macaluso, the following business was conducted with Karen-Lee Brofee serving as Clerk, Bob Frye as Assistant Clerk and Gail Newbold as Recording Clerk.

- **MINUTES:** Minutes of the Seventh Month business were read, corrections and clarifications made and APPROVED with appreciation for the recorder's thoughtful attention to detail and clarity.
- **STANDING REPORTS:** The Treasurer's Report, presented by Doug Myers, showed a closing balance of \$96,642. We are 58% of the way through the year and have received 54% of our budgeted contributions. Ordinary Income totaled \$1,350 and expenses were \$29,547. Expenses included replacing the windows in the Caretaker's House, sealing the driveway and parking lot, and the Plant Sale distributions of \$17,706. The report was ACCEPTED as presented with appreciation. At this time, Bob Frye presented the Leadership Fund Application Form for Meeting's information and noted that two grants have already been made this year. The form may be accessed on the London Grove Friends Meeting website, is included in this bulletin (*Page 8*), and will be emailed to all members and attenders. Keeper of the Calendar Anna Myers requested Meeting's approval of the use of the Meetinghouse for the Paschall Reunion on August 23rd which was given. (APPROVED) Anna also noted that Sally Rickerman's Memorial Service has been scheduled for August 15th here at London Grove.
- **COMMITTEE REQUESTS AND ANNUAL REPORTS:** Clerk of Care and Membership Committee Jill Benjamin came forward with the reading of attender Winden Statham Rowe's letter seeking membership. Winden's seeking of membership was announced at June's Meeting for Business and members were encouraged to come to know her more fully. Care and Membership delegated a Clearness for Membership Committee who met with Winden and added comments to Jill's reading of the letter. The Care and Membership Committee recommends Winden's membership which Meeting joyfully APPROVED. A Welcoming Committee was named. Meeting ACCEPTED Susanna Davison's presentation of the Religious Education Committee's annual report which was thorough, informative, and worthy of on-going consideration by Meeting regarding the committee's struggles and areas of opportunity. We are reminded of the

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(continued from page 3) crucial work this committee undertakes in its offering “... opportunities for children and adults to be spiritually nurtured, to experience multigenerational social life in a religious community, and to learn Quakerism’s ‘common core’ of knowledge....”

- **COMMITTEE AND OFFICER NOMINATIONS FOR 2015-2016:** Sam Cypressi, Clerk of Nominating Committee, presented the committee’s 2015-2016 nominations noting that Assistant Clerk Bob Frye will assume Meeting Clerkship and Susanna Davison has accepted the nomination for Assistant Clerk with the understanding that she will assume the role of Meeting Clerk in 2017-2018 for two years. Sam also noted each of the additions of Friends to committees and requested Meeting’s consideration of the offered nominations over the next month. Approval will be sought at Ninth Month’s Meeting for Business. The committee was thanked for this important and challenging work.
- **WESTERN QUARTER REPORT:** Mark Myers updated Meeting on the Quarter’s recent business: the continuing collection of Western Quarter Meetings’ contributions to Western Quarter and PYM and the release of Marlborough Meeting from the Quarter. Discussion followed with a sense that LGMM should consider direct payment to PYM in the coming budget year.
- **OTHER:** Proposed Dukes of Destiny Concert: The clerk shared information that discussion with West Grove has been initiated with the expectation that West Grove will physically host the January 30th event but it will become a collaborative event managed by the two meetings. Rebecca Mitchell will bring a proposal to London Grove next month. Western Quarter’s Request for Annual Reports from Monthly Meetings: The clerk is continuing to seek guidelines for such a report. Proposed Photo Book: Anna Myers was thanked for bringing forth the 2006 booklet. Such a project does not appear necessary at this time.
- With the business completed, Meeting closed in silent worship and members convened to refreshments and visiting.

Summarized by Karen-Lee Brofee, Clerk



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### AGENDA FOR 9th MONTH MEETING FOR BUSINESS

- Minutes of 8th Month's Meeting with a Concern for Business
- Response to the Query: Ministry of Outreach
- Standing Reports: Treasurer's Report; Recorder's Report; Keeper of the Calendar Report
- Care and Membership Offering of "Maintaining Love and Unity Among Us" (NOTE: *Please read this statement on Pages 6-7*)
- Nominating Committee Proposed Meeting Committee and Officer Placements for 2015-2016
- Proposed Outreach Event: Dukes of Destiny Concert
- Annual Reports: Outreach Committee; In Reach Committee
- Minutes of Appreciation
- Clerk's Items

### **Preview of Fall First Day School, Adult Religious Education**

Members of the Religious Education Committee met several times over the summer to plan the upcoming First Day School year for adults and children. A welcoming letter went out to families with prospective First Day Scholars, announcing the resumption of classes based on what children told us they would enjoy. On 9/13 Greta Rech will engage the group in "Building Community." On 9/20, Convergent First Day School (our wider community of Western Quarter) will enjoy a family picnic at noon, hosted by Kennett Meeting. The theme will be "Celebrating Peace Day." During the fall, children's FDS classes will feature stories from the "Faith and Play" curriculum, the chance to write and perform a play about a Quaker heroine, and the ever-popular activities outdoors. Adult First Day School also resumes 9/13, with Donald LaBranche's first Bible Study of the year, "A Brief History and Overview of the Bible." Mark Myers will continue to coordinate the Quaker Studies series. Other committees are warmly welcomed to let us know of programs they would like to share during the Second Hour Adult RE time!

### **Reminders from the Worship & Ministry Committee:**

Dear Friends,

Please speak loudly when you share messages in meeting.

It also helps to turn and face as many people as you can.

Everyone is invited and encouraged to sit on the facing benches, which gives the best opportunity to see each other and to hear each other better.

**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.

**Maintaining Love and Unity Among Us**

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(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](http://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.

**From the Clerk of Worship & Ministry Committee: Spirit is at Work**

A few weeks ago I attended Meeting for Worship and experienced a very deep, profound Silence. In reflecting about why this one felt particularly deep to me, I came to see two things that were perhaps contributing to this experience. One was an ever deepening openness to Spirit, which can occur individually or as a group. This certainly happens as we go through times of turmoil, change, and loss, as we have as a spiritual community over the last year; and as we go through every day as we watch the daily events in the world. The second feels to me like an ever increasing Presence of Spirit among us. The Light feels stronger and brighter, even as old structures are falling apart, and becoming impossible to sustain.

I was reminded of a dream I had many years ago: I was working in a garden, next to an old brick building. As I worked, the building started to fall apart - a shutter fell off, then a window fell out, and a door. I felt concerned. But there were angels around me, and they said, "Just keep working in the garden, keep working in the garden."

So that is my mission, as I proceed through these tumultuous and uncertain times: To keep working in the garden, to stay connected to the Light, and to have Faith as I follow my leadings.

Shared by Ginny Green

# London Grove Leadership Fund Grant Request

Name of person requesting funds  Phone

Address  Email

Scholastic Support Materials (Lifetime limit of \$5,000 per student)

- Electronic hardware (computer, tablet, etc.) or software
- Musical Instrument
- Art Supplies
- Textbooks
- Other supplies or fees necessary for participation in relevant course/ programs (Please describe)

Student's name

Name of accredited school

Grade attending  Amount requested (not to exceed \$1,000, subject to availability)

Description of conference or seminar and relevance to the life of London Grove

Description of conference or seminar.

Amount requested

Service project or opportunity to offer Friendly witness (these projects can take many forms and the committee will have discretion in determining whether requests should be grant-eligible)

Describe project, your participation and the geographic region

Amount requested

**Receipt or proof of payment required before grant will be issued unless approved in advance**

To be completed by Committee

Approved by

Date

Lifetime grants