



## London Grove Monthly Meeting

~ Begun 1714 ~  
~ Established 1792 ~

**August Bulletin**

### **8th Month Queries** **Grounding for Transformed Lives :** **Integrity and Simplicity**

- What is the interplay between simplicity and integrity in the life of our meeting?
- How does our meeting embody simplicity and integrity in its structures and practices?
- How has our meeting considered humanity's impact on the earth's ecological integrity and the ways in which violence and injustice exacerbate this impact?
  
- *How do I strive to achieve harmony between my inner and outer commitments in my spiritual journey, my work, my family and my other responsibilities?*
- *Am I temperate in all things?*
- *Am I open to counsel regarding addictive behavior?*
- *Am I involved only with those organizations and activities whose purposes and methods complement my integrity?*
- *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?*

"QuakerSpeak", a project of Friends Journal, puts engaging 5 minute videos about Quaker topics online. To visit QuakerSpeak, go to [www.quakerspeak.com](http://www.quakerspeak.com)

## August 2020 Calendar

<b>8/2</b>	9:30 AM	Meeting for Worship on Zoom
	10:45 AM	Meeting for Business for Worship on Zoom
<b>8/4</b>	4:00 PM	Care and Membership Committee meeting on Zoom
<b>8/6</b>	7:30 PM	Property Committee meeting on Zoom
<b>8/8</b>	10:00 AM	Saturday Morning "Coffee" Gathering on Zoom. All are welcome.
<b>8/9</b>	9:30 AM	Outdoor Meeting for Worship at London Grove--Under the Oak
<b>8/16</b>	9:30 AM	Meeting for Worship on Zoom
	10:30 AM	Adult First Day School: Donald LaBranche--"The Saints Before George Fox" (St Augustine) A look at the ground from which arose the religious impulses of the 17th century.
<b>8/22</b>	10:00 AM	Saturday Morning "Coffee" Gathering on Zoom. All are welcome.
<b>8/23</b>	9:30 AM	Outdoor Meeting for Worship at London Grove-- Under the Oak.
<b>8/30</b>	9:30 AM	Meeting for Worship on Zoom
	10:30 AM	Adult First Day School: "London Grove Monthly Meeting in 10 Years"--A visioning discussion led by the Ad Hoc Task Force on Membership Growth

It might be helpful to remind people of the procedures for outdoor worship as established by the Ad Hoc Committee in a minute approved by Meeting: Please remember to bring your chair, wear a mask, and be prepared to socially distance. The working group on reopening set the following guidelines that were approved by Meeting during business last week:

- Friends should screen their own health in the morning before coming to the Meeting and exclude themselves if their temperature is 100.4 F or over, or if they had any symptoms of illness (any fever in the past 48 hours, cough, shortness of breath, vomiting, nausea, diarrhea, etc)
- Friends over the age of 2 should wear masks at all times.
- Friends should practice social distancing of 6 feet at all times.
- Friends should wash hands prior to and after attending Meeting for Worship. Hand sanitizer will be available for this purpose.
- Friends should bring and set up their own chair for their own use.
- Friends may gather in a circle leaving 6 feet between chairs.
- Friends who are moved to speak should move to the center of the circle so that all can hear. It is best practice that masks will continue to be worn while speaking.
- Entrance to the meetinghouse is prohibited with the exception of the use of the outdoor restroom or the map room bathroom via the outside door to the porch.
- Singing is currently not recommended by the CDC in group settings.
- Friends who have been exposed to COVID-19 or who have traveled outside of their home area to any areas of endemic concern should quarantine themselves from Meeting attendance for 14 days from their time of exposure.

## SEVENTH MONTH MEETING FOR WORSHIP FOR BUSINESS-- SUMMARY

Friend Tom Brosius, Clerk of the Trustees, gave his report for the Ad Hoc Committee on reopening the Meeting which was created by the Trustees in June. The committee met on the Zoom format on July 1, 2020. The report is attached to these minutes. Some Friends have spoken to a keen need to return to gathering physically at the meetinghouse on first day. The committee proposes that a physical Meeting for Worship be held under the oak tree, as weather allows, twice monthly: with use of the guidelines of social distancing and mask wearing to protect each other during this time of pandemic. The proposal is to begin on July 12, 2020. Start time to be at 9:30. A Zoom meeting for worship will be provided if outdoor gatherings cannot be held because of weather, and in alternating first days with outdoor gatherings for worship.

Clerk Peter Weygandt then read a draft Minute of Appreciation to Karen-Lee Brofee, Clerk of Care & Membership, for her caring work over the past months to guide the Meeting during this pandemic (Please see page 7 to view this minute). She has tirelessly embraced new technologies to move past this time of Friends isolation and to offer Meetings for Worship, Saturday morning coffee hour, and virtual access to each other since March of this year, hosting "Zoom" gatherings. The Meeting heartily approved this Minute.

Peter Weygandt, Clerk

## **LONDON GROVE FRIENDS' RESPONSE TO 5th MONTH QUERY AT WQM BUSINESS 7/20**

The 2018 Revised Fifth Month Query, "Religious Education in the home and meeting," challenges the meeting and the family to provide a wide-ranging program of religious education and to offer the experience of belonging to a worshipping community.

In response to having this query (much changed since the 2002 Faith & Practice) read during worship on 5/3/2020, a London Grove Friend noted the query leans more toward action than to words. *"In these times,"* the Friend noted, *"we are led to kindness. To respond to messages we hear during the week, it is better to be kind than to disagree, remembering that Christ's message is of love."*

Preparing this response, I had occasion to review what was recorded a year ago when London Grove Friends considered the same query—the week before our annual Plant Sale and near the end of London Grove Friends Kindergarten's successful year. That day several Friends spoke with joy of how those vital events strengthened our religious community.

In contrast, this year's pandemic led to early cancellation of the Plant Sale, Kindergarten sessions, and in-person Adult Religious Education. Over the past months, worship has evolved through experience using Zoom, although not all members and attenders have adapted to that method. Week to week, we now alternate carefully distanced outdoor worship in masks with Zoom worship from our homes, seeing each other's faces.

It has been a special joy this year to greet Friends living away (in Vermont, Pittsburgh, Washington DC and North Carolina). Screen-sharing has enabled occasional First Day School classes; and summer refreshments on the porch have been replaced by Zoom virtual coffee hour socials. We have adapted and found new ways to Nurture our Community.

Shared by Susanna Davison with help from Recording Clerk Tammy Brosius

## **“Braver Angels”—A Way to Converse with People of Differing Views**

Thanks to the planners of the 7th Month joint meeting of Concord and Western Quarters, the summer program held Wednesday July 22nd via Zoom was a training from the organization “Braver Angels.” The training’s goal is to enable people who differ in their beliefs to listen and speak with one another in respectful and mutually helpful ways. Those who registered to attend spent about 40 minutes a few days before the program learning about its techniques and preparing to gain “Skills for Bridging the Divide.”

Two days later, London Grove participants held a Zoom meeting to discuss our experiences and hopes for making use of our new learning. We identified some issues hampering the evening’s work: some of us had not printed out the summary materials to guide us through the workshop; wasting precious time with a few Zoom concerns; and needing more practice time to truly master the skills and use them fluently. We questioned whether the techniques would be helpful in the most severe disagreements, “where the gulf may be too great” but agreed that there were circumstances and situations where the skills could be very helpful.

The method used in the training involved two excellent and highly skilled facilitators, who explained and modeled a shared discussion of a controversial topic. After watching demonstration of listening skills, taking turns exchanging points of view, speaking plainly but respectfully about why we believe as we do, we practiced in pairs in Zoom breakout rooms. The suggested techniques seemed to work well, but this was just a bare bones beginning. Telling one’s own story seemed to be one of the most engaging parts of the program.

We embraced the conclusion that “Braver Angels” study and practice can lead to an important understanding: Friends can agree to disagree and still be Friends. It appears that offering an introduction to the concept and tools would be valuable to London Grove Friends and is a worthy idea to explore. We will recommend to Religious Education Committee that one or more classes be devoted to learning about the concepts that underlie the program, presenting the techniques, modeling the speaking and listening skills, and pairing off to practice them.

Attendees from London Grove included Karen-Lee Brofee, Kim Brosnan-Myers, Edna Collins, Susanna Davison, Mark Myers, David Nuttall, Martin Parker, Margaret Walton, David Williamson, and Peter Weygandt.



## MINUTE OF APPRECIATION

KAREN-LEE BROFEE

7th Month 5, 2020

The Members and Attenders of London Grove Monthly Meeting, Religious Society of Friends, would like to voice our thanks to Karen-Lee Brofee for her steadfast commitment to all of us these past four months. Her tireless work on our behalf borne of her desire to prevent disconnection from one-another during this period of complete physical isolation has been a blessing to all of us.

Karen-Lee successfully guided the meeting in the adoption of new technology to continue regular worship and maintain our sense of community during the Covid-19 pandemic. She has initiated, hosted and conducted many, many virtual "Zoom" meetings, including all meetings for worship and meetings for business in the last three months, the Saturday morning coffee hour bringing members together online socially, and facilitated committee meetings (even for committees on which she does not serve!).

Karen-Lee has willingly and patiently worked individually with anyone to ensure their access to all worship and meeting opportunities. And she has been a steady presence in just about every activity held since March, communicating with every Member and Attender, and through reviewing and sending of the monthly Bulletin.

Her selfless care, dedication, and commitment of her own valuable time to the London Grove family is greatly appreciated by all. We could not have done it without you!

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