



## London Grove Monthly Meeting

~ Begun 1714 ~  
~ Established 1792 ~

**February Bulletin**

### **2nd Month Queries Deepening Our Faith: Meeting for Business**

- Is our meeting for business held in worship in which we seek divine guidance?
- How do we sustain prayerful consideration of all aspects of an issue and address difficult problems with a search for truth that is unhurried by the pressures of time?
- Do we recognize that we speak through our inaction as well as our action?
- *Do I regularly attend meeting for business? If unable to attend, how do I fulfill the responsibility to understand and embrace the decisions made?*
- *How do I affirm and support God's presence in the process of discernment and reaching a decision?*
- *Do I remain open to personal transformation as the community arrives at the sense of the meeting?*

"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)

## February 2021 Calendar

<b>2/2</b>	4:00 PM	Care & Membership Committee via Zoom
<b>2/4</b>	7:30 PM	Property Committee
<b>2/7</b>	9:30 AM	Meeting for Worship via Zoom
	10:30 AM	Meeting for Worship for Business via Zoom
<b>2/8</b>	6:30 PM	Ad Hoc Task Force on Membership & Outreach via Zoom
<b>2/10</b>	4:00 PM	One hour book discussion on essays via Zoom: <i>A Quaker Reader</i> --edited by Jessamyn West
<b>2/13</b>	10:00 AM	All Friends invited to visit together via Zoom
<b>2/14</b>	8:30 AM	Peace & and Social Justice Committee
	9:30 AM	Meeting for Worship via Zoom
	10:30 AM	Bible Study with Donald La Branche--The Gospel of Mark
<b>2/16</b>	6:00 PM	Worship & Ministry Committee via Zoom
<b>2/18</b>	9:30 AM	Library Committee
<b>2/21</b>	9:30 AM	Meeting for Worship via Zoom
<b>2/24</b>	4:00 PM	One hour discussion on book of essays via Zoom: <i>A Quaker Reader</i> --edited by Jessamyn West
<b>2/27</b>	10:00 AM	All Friends invited to visit together via Zoom
<b>2/28</b>	9:30 AM	Meeting for worship via Zoom
	10:30 AM	Plan to stay for Small Group Worship Sharing

## FIRST MONTH 2021 MEETING FOR WORSHIP FOR BUSINESS—SUMMARY

On January 3, 2021, following worship with reading of the Queries, the Meeting continued in worship with attention to the business of London Grove Monthly Meeting.

Minutes from the Twelfth Month's meeting were read and approved by the Meeting.

Recorder, Elisabeth Y. Walker, delivered her end of year report for 2020. The total membership at year end was 277-- 269 adults and 8 children. There were two deaths of members, one outgoing transfer of membership, five resignations, and no new members.

Doug Myers presented the Treasurer's report. At 2020 year's end 96.9% of budgeted contributions have been received, but there will be a few more contributions arriving by mail, so the final budget for 2021 cannot be accurately presented for Meeting approval. This will be done at our February meeting for business.

Terry Anderson, for Worship and Ministry, presented the annual report of that Committee. Terry and Chris Manning are Co-Clerks, and the Committee's responsibility is to foster the spirituality of our Meeting. This has been a challenge in this year of the pandemic, with most meetings for worship being conducted virtually, but the Committee has been committed to sustaining our spirituality through outdoor worship, when possible, and making all virtual meetings as gathered as possible. The Meeting is grateful for the work of this Committee.

Edna Collins, Clerk of the Ad Hoc Task Force on Membership Growth/Outreach, reported on steps that are being taken for digital outreach by our Meeting. With Linda Currie's expertise, work has begun on updating the Meeting's website. Also, our Facebook has been re-started and so far 60-90 views of our posts have occurred. Items are reviewed by Heidi, Edna, and if they wish, Clerk of Meeting, before being posted. In-house events as well as links to other Quaker-related resources have been posted. Friends are encouraged to engage in the Facebook page and a reminder to all will be included in February's Bulletin. Further, Heidi is planning to activate an Instagram account for Meeting this coming month. There are questions yet to be considered by Meeting on what information should be included, and whether a password should be required for retrieving certain items.

Peter Weygandt, Clerk

## London Grove Meeting Facebook Page

Update from Heidi Benson, Administrator, and the Ad Hoc Task Force on Membership Growth

Friends who are active on Facebook may have noticed that our London Grove Monthly Meeting page, [www.facebook.com/LondonGroveMeeting](http://www.facebook.com/LondonGroveMeeting), has been reactivated with the goal of utilizing Social Media for increased outreach and as a tool for unique communication opportunities! The FB page is currently administered by Heidi Benson, with Edna Collins.

Our social outreach goal of increasing participation in new and unique ways is already happening! Recently, an average of 62 people, most of whom are not regular meeting attenders, viewed just a single LGM post and our Facebook outreach has increased by 95%! The page is adding new “likes” by Facebook virtual visitors regularly. Extending our community virtually supports new and renewed connections with hopes to meet at London Grove when we are able to gather physically once again!

Information about LGM events, links to posts by other Quaker organizations, virtual gathering invitations, and inspirational readings are among the types of posts published weekly. Committee clerks can specifically support LGM’s informational outreach by sending information themselves, or designating a volunteer committee member, to share messages related to their committees. EVERYONE is personally invited to send an informative post, Friendly news, or a link that you feel led to share benefitting Friends. ALL posts will be considered and should be sent to Heidi Benson at [hla3benson@gmail.com](mailto:hla3benson@gmail.com) to be published.

Note: If you attempt to publish a post by yourself it will not be visible on the main page. Only the Administrator can create visible posts successfully due to FB’s formatting. Announcements should be sent at least two weeks in advance of any scheduled date for timely publishing. Posts may be edited, graphics or photos added, hashtags suggested and may be published in deference to announcements that are date sensitive. Feel free to contact Heidi with any questions or suggestions before or after publishing.

We encourage all members and attenders who participate in Facebook to “like” and “follow” the page so you see the subsequent posts more easily. Your frequent “likes” on our weekly posts promote London Grove Meeting in the algorithm of FB so that more new folks may “meet” our page! Thank You! To increase our page’s vitality and visibility, please share thoughts with other Friends, react to (emotions-faces), or publicly comment on LGM posts! When we click on “share” we can place LGM posts to our personal Facebook page.

You may have also noticed hashtags like #foodforthesoul and #QuakerStrong on some posts. For those not familiar with hashtags, these are social media “shortcuts” that connect our posts/ information with other posts globally with the same hashtags. Thus, hashtags are an outreach tool as well. Hashtags are user-domain-popularized, and Heidi works to try to ensure that they are not used by non-related or negative associated themes. One example is #quakers cannot be used because it is dominated by a popular social media figure -a parrot! Luckily for us, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting has established some strong hashtags already, as well as other active Friends related organizations and groups in social media.

Facebook, as a venue of public outreach within Social Media is an effective tool for increasing our visibility in the wider community and the world. Personal activity on your own FB account is not a requirement and has varied interest by individuals. Your Facebook account helps support London Grove and our covenant by your participatory responses on our page. Thank you for your support!

## POETRY CORNER

*"There is no First or Last / Only equality."* —Mina Loy.

Not one among us is Bach. In this, we are surely equal.

No one in a crowded room knows how these others manage to survive. In this, we are equal.

Every one of us has a distinct flare to their handwriting or their speech and in this we are equal.

All of us remember a moment with a Grandmother whom we have conjured. In this we are equal.

Without exception, we bleed, laugh, cry, cringe, love as did Shylock. And are we not equal?

All of us believe we are equal with the First and the Last. And so we share in equality.

No one wants to die a meaningless, torturous death. In this, we are equal.

We want justice and we want its stroke to feel fair when it falls. In this we are equal.

Each of us can locate ourself in Shakespeare or August Wilson which makes us equal.

We think we know Jesus: The first shall be last and the last, first. In this error, we are equal.

We are more than we know, and less than we believe. And in this, one of us is equal to the next.

There is in us an inherited trait to run toward a child crying, which makes us equal.

There is in us the power to kill the desire to run to a child crying, which also makes us equal.

And in that no two of us believes all of this from one day to another, we are equal.

- - Donald LaBranche

When day comes we ask ourselves,  
where can we find light in this never-ending shade?  
The loss we carry,  
a sea we must wade  
We've braved the belly of the beast  
We've learned that quiet isn't always peace  
And the norms and notions  
of what just is  
Isn't always just-ice  
And yet the dawn is ours  
before we knew it  
Somehow we do it  
Somehow we've weathered and witnessed  
a nation that isn't broken  
but simply unfinished  
We the successors of a country and a time  
Where a skinny Black girl  
descended from slaves and raised by a single mother  
can dream of becoming president  
only to find herself reciting for one  
And yes we are far from polished  
far from pristine  
but that doesn't mean we are  
striving to form a union that is perfect  
We are striving to forge a union with purpose  
To compose a country committed to all cultures, colors, characters and  
conditions of man  
And so we lift our gazes not to what stands between us  
but what stands before us  
We close the divide because we know, to put our future first,  
we must first put our differences aside  
We lay down our arms  
so we can reach out our arms  
to one another  
We seek harm to none and harmony for all  
Let the globe, if nothing else, say this is true:  
That even as we grieved, we grew  
That even as we hurt, we hoped  
That even as we tired, we tried  
That we'll forever be tied together, victorious  
Not because we will never again know defeat  
but because we will never again sow division

Scripture tells us to envision  
that everyone shall sit under their own vine and fig tree  
And no one shall make them afraid  
If we're to live up to our own time  
Then victory won't lie in the blade  
But in all the bridges we've made  
That is the promised glade  
The hill we climb  
If only we dare  
It's because being American is more than a pride we inherit,  
it's the past we step into  
and how we repair it  
We've seen a force that would shatter our nation  
rather than share it  
Would destroy our country if it meant delaying democracy  
And this effort very nearly succeeded  
But while democracy can be periodically delayed  
it can never be permanently defeated  
In this truth  
in this faith we trust  
For while we have our eyes on the future  
history has its eyes on us  
This is the era of just redemption  
We feared at its inception  
We did not feel prepared to be the heirs  
of such a terrifying hour  
but within it we found the power  
to author a new chapter  
To offer hope and laughter to ourselves  
So while once we asked,  
how could we possibly prevail over catastrophe?  
Now we assert  
How could catastrophe possibly prevail over us?  
We will not march back to what was  
but move to what shall be  
A country that is bruised but whole,  
benevolent but bold,  
fierce and free  
We will not be turned around  
or interrupted by intimidation  
because we know our inaction and inertia  
will be the inheritance of the next generation

Our blunders become their burdens  
 But one thing is certain:  
 If we merge mercy with might,  
 and might with right,  
 then love becomes our legacy  
 and change our children's birthright  
 So let us leave behind a country  
 better than the one we were left with  
 Every breath from my bronze-pounded chest,  
 we will raise this wounded world into a wondrous one  
 We will rise from the gold-limbed hills of the west,  
 we will rise from the windswept northeast  
 where our forefathers first realized revolution  
 We will rise from the lake-rimmed cities of the midwestern states,  
 we will rise from the sunbaked south  
 We will rebuild, reconcile and recover  
 and every known nook of our nation and  
 every corner called our country,  
 our people diverse and beautiful will emerge,  
 battered and beautiful  
 When day comes we step out of the shade,  
 aflame and unafraid  
 The new dawn blooms as we free it  
 For there is always light,  
 if only we're brave enough to see it  
 If only we're brave enough to be it

“The Hill We Climb” Inaugural Poem by Amanda Gorman

### London Grove Monthly Meeting Contact Information

Clerk of Meeting -	Peter Weygandt -	<a href="mailto:maria@weygandtmetzler.com">maria@weygandtmetzler.com</a> -	610.486.0165
Assistant Clerk -	Edna Collins -	<a href="mailto:egncollins@gmail.com">egncollins@gmail.com</a> -	910.232.8708
Care & Membership -	Karen-Lee Brofee	<a href="mailto:klbrofee@gmail.com">klbrofee@gmail.com</a> -	443.754.1051
Meeting Calendar -	Linda Currie -	<a href="mailto:dtcurrie@verizon.net">dtcurrie@verizon.net</a> -	610-585-8575
Worship & Ministry -	Terry Anderson and Chris Manning	<a href="mailto:tanderson@uplandeds.org">tanderson@uplandeds.org</a> - <a href="mailto:smanning@epix.net">smanning@epix.net</a> -	610-201-0967 - 610-593-6990
Burial Grounds -	Charles Brosius -	<a href="mailto:cbromush@aol.com">cbromush@aol.com</a>	610.869.9235
Bulletin Editor -	Jack Hinks -	<a href="mailto:hinksfam@yahoo.com">hinksfam@yahoo.com</a> -	610.715.1200
Associate Editor -	Jesse Davison -	<a href="mailto:jessedavison@me.com">jessedavison@me.com</a>	
Calendar Editor -	Jane Brosius -	<a href="mailto:jbro70@aol.com">jbro70@aol.com</a>	
Facebook Page -	Heidi Benson -	<a href="mailto:hla3benson@gmail.com">hla3benson@gmail.com</a> -	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/LondonGroveMeeting">www.facebook.com/LondonGroveMeeting</a>
London Grove Meeting House -		<a href="http://londongrovemeeting.org">londongrovemeeting.org</a> -	610.268.8466
Philadelphia Yearly Meeting -		<a href="http://www.pym.org">www.pym.org</a>	
Western Quarterly Meeting -		<a href="http://westernquarterquakers.org">westernquarterquakers.org</a>	

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