

YOUNG FRIENDS GENERAL MEETING (YFGM)

Liverpool Friends Meeting House, 2nd – 5th May 2008

Minutes

Present:

Co-Clerks: **Cáit Gould & Hannah Spiers**
Co-Convenors of Overseers: **Mary Estall & Ellen Marshall**
Co-ordinator: **Hugo Finley**

Area Meeting Representatives:

Ellen Elliott <i>Norwich and Lynn</i>	Michael Eliaz <i>Sutton and Purley</i>
Mary Estall <i>Bournemouth & Swanage</i>	Marie Drouin <i>Notts and Derby</i>
Cáit Gould <i>West Scotland</i>	Maud Grainger <i>South East Anglia</i>
Harriet Hart <i>Norwich and Waveny & Craven and Keighley</i>	
Selina Larsen <i>Mid-Thames</i>	Amy Macpherson <i>Manchester and Warrington</i>
Ellen Marshall <i>Croydon West</i>	Sally Nicholls <i>Tees Valley</i>
Oliver Robertson <i>West Scotland</i>	Mark Russ <i>London West</i>
Ericka Smith <i>South East Scotland</i>	

Adam Boardman, Nicola Bowerman, Paul Dodwell, Hugo Finley, Toby Freeman, Mark Gartside, Toby Gibbons, Nessa Grimes, Christopher Hanning, Tom Harris, Esther Leighton, Jessica Metheringham, Anne Norton, Helen Percy, Andrew Rendle, Nicholas Rendle, Rachel Sewell, Hannah Slater, Huw Still, Majk Stokes, Kris Turner, Edward Ullathorne, Sarah Watmough, Hugh Williams, Ruth Wood, Rachel Xerri, Rebecca Zeroth.

Total: 43

08/16 Opening Minute

We welcome one another YFGM in Liverpool and look forward to spending this extended bank holiday weekend together. We especially welcome Rebecca Zeroth who joins us this weekend from Baltimore Yearly Meeting, USA and Nicola Bowerman who joins us from Ireland Yearly Meeting.

08/17 Planning Weekend Report

Rachel Sewell has reported on our planning weekend held in Hull in March on behalf of Roxanne Green. We thank them for this report.

08/18 Nominations

We appoint Ericka Smith to serve on the nominations committee until May 2010. One post on nominations committee has been carried over and we release from service Ed Blann, thanking him for his work on our behalf. We will carry over one post at this time.

08/19 Overseers Committee

Over recent years it has become evident that there are more overseers than is necessary and it is felt the work could be done more efficiently by a smaller committee. We agree to not reappoint for

the post that ends this YFGM and will initially reduce the number of overseers down to five, equal to that of Quintessential, as each post ends, we will review this if necessary in the future.

08/20 Quaker Peace and Social Witness (QPSW) Representative

At last YFGM in minute 08/09 we appointed Hugh Williams to serve as our QPSW representative. Since then we have learnt that this appointment will not be recognised as such by QPSW. However we are keen to keep our links with QPSW. We have agreed to continue to support Hugh by paying expenses for him to attend some QPSW events and ask him to report back to YFGM.

We understand that QPSW are currently reviewing the form of their correspondence with meetings; when this process is complete we will revisit the role of our QPSW representative.

08/21 'No Longer a Child'

Quintessential have led us in a lively session exploring how we feel about childhood, adulthood and our role as Young Friends. The questions posed have provoked discussions in pairs and small groups. We vary in our feelings and experience but appreciate the opportunity to learn about each other and ourselves.

08/22 Archiving

It has been brought to our attention that our current archiving system in the YFGM office is not ideal. The office has limited space. Friends House have more space and are experienced in archiving materials. Recent copies of documentation will continue to be stored in the YFGM office. We agree for our materials, such as our minutes, committee notes, copies of Young Quaker and other documentation to be archived at Friends House.

08/23 How I tell people about YFGM

Amy Macpherson has led a session on reporting back to Area Meetings as members of YFGM. We have considered alternative and creative ways of reporting back and discussing in small groups what is important to include in a report. We have had the opportunity to try out different ways of reporting back from this YFGM.

We thank Amy for sharing her ideas and enthusiasm with us. This session has been particularly helpful for those of us who are Area Meeting representatives. It has shown us the importance of carrying out this role, and how it is all of our responsibilities to communicate our experiences back to a local level.

08/24 Yearly Meeting Gathering

Maud Grainger and Hugo Finley have given a lively introduction to Yearly Meeting Gathering (YMG) which will take place for the first time in July 2009 at York University. There will be a second YMG in 2011.

We feel it is important to take this exciting opportunity to become more involved and visible to the wider Quaker community within Britain Yearly Meeting and sharing what we do. The opportunity is positive and certainly possible to do. We look to become involved in some of the sessions at YMG in 2009 but would also value our own space in which to share with one another looking to

become more strongly involved in the gathering in 2011. It is a fantastic opportunity for outreach and in-reach within all parts of BYM including the Under 19s programme and Transitional Group.

We ask our clerks to meet with the clerks of the YMG planning committee to discuss the practicalities of this. We will return to explore the theme in coming YFGMs before July 2009. We ask our clerks to send this minute to YMG Planning Committee.

08/25 Godly Play

We have had the pleasure of being joined by Chris Nickolay from the Children and Young People's Staff Team at Friends' House and Jane Nicholls from the Children and Young People's Travelling Team.

The session has been an introduction to Godly Play; a child centred method of story telling. We have heard two stories with the opportunity to discover spiritual truths for ourselves, and share our wondering with each other. We have appreciated the chance to reflect and respond to these stories in our own way.

We look forward to the opportunity of exploring this further including hearing another biblical story in a special interest group later this afternoon. We thank Chris and Jane for creating this space for us to enjoy.

08/26 Rewrite Appeal

For over a year, Rewrite, a charity that brings together young people from different backgrounds to fight prejudice surrounding refugee and asylum through drama and creative writing has been YFGM's appeal.

We are laying down the Rewrite appeal and look forward to adopting a new appeal at the next YFGM. We will no longer actively raise funds for this particular appeal but until we have a new appeal any money received will continue to go to the Rewrite Appeal.

We thank the appeal group for their work and we ask the appeal group to report back on their work at October YFGM.

08/27 Nominations

We appoint the following people to serve in the following posts for the periods mentioned. We release from service those mentioned, warmly thanking them for their work on our behalf.

Position	Released from Service	Appointed	Until
Nominations Committee	Ed Blann	Ericka Smith	May 2010
	1 Carried over	Harriet Hart	May 2010
Young Quaker Editor	Emily Maddison	Toby Gibbons	May 2011
Pardshaw Committee	1 Carried over	Carried Over	~
Living Witness Project Representatives	Joe Anderson	Joe Thwaites	May 2010
	Justine Squire	Ruth Wood	May 2010
Outreach Committee	Alyn Still	Toby Gibbons	May 2011
Convenor of Outreach	Alyn Still	Carried Over	~
International Secretary	Marie Drouin	Edward Ullathorne	May 2011
Special Interest Group Coordinator	Sally Nicholls	Nicola Bowerman	May 2010
Planning Weekend Newcomers	Helen Dring	Mark Gartside	Oct 2008
	Roxanne Green	Toby Freeman	Oct 2008
		Selina Larson	Oct 2008
Co-Clerk	Hannah Spiers	Siobhan Larson	May 2011
Leaveners Management Committee	Rachel Xerri	Carried Over	~
Appeal Group	Jez Smith	Carried Over	~
	Peter Parr	Carried Over	~
	Ben Jarman	Carried Over	~
	Alyn Still	Carried Over	~

08/28 Report from Quaker Life

Nick Rendle, a YFGM Quaker Life Representative reported back on the gathering he attended in March. We heard about the emerging Quaker Life Network and the opportunities to volunteer at Swarthmoor Hall. We thank Nick for his report.

08/29 Past Appeals

We have looked at some of the achievements of the appeals that YFGM has supported and ran for over twenty years. We have heard about many of the innovative things Friends have done in order to raise awareness and funds, and the positive impact that our work has had on people in local meetings and across the world.

We explored the purpose of the appeal and what is important for making a successful one. We feel it is key that the cause is one owned by YFGM as a community.

This session has reaffirmed our belief in the importance of YFGM appeals as a chance to look outwards to society. We deeply thank Hannah Spiers and Nick Rendle for running this dynamic, thought provoking and well organised session.

08/30 Special Interest Groups

This weekend we have enjoyed the following special interests groups:

A talk on the Congo

Hlekweni discussion

Quaker Bolivia Link talk

Knitting

Music and singing

Godly Play – following on from our session

A trip to a Synagogue.
A walk around Liverpool Docks
Bread Making

Board games
Silly games

We thank those who have run our special interest groups for their work, especially those from outside YFGM. We also thank Sally Nicholls who is now finishing as our Small Interest Group coordinator and has enthusiastically brought us a wide range of fascinating speakers and special interest groups over her period of service.

08/31 Minute of Record – Signatories

We authorise the following people to act as signatories for the following accounts with the Co-operative Bank:

General Fund and Deposit Accounts: Eleanor Coss, Cáit Gould and Siobhan Haire.
Employment Fund Account: Andrew Williams, Coss, Cáit Gould and Siobhan Haire.
Employment Fund Petty Cash Account: Andrew Williams, Hugo Finley, Cáit Gould and Siobhan Haire.

08/32 Minute of Record – Trustee

Further to minute 08/27 we appoint Siobhan Haire to serve as an officer and trustee of YFGM for a period of 3 years. We release from service Hannah Spiers as an officer and trustee of YFGM.

08/33 Minute of Record – Accounts

We appoint Peter Ullathorne to examine our consolidated 2007 accounts. We thank him for doing this on our behalf.

08/34 Volunteers

We thank the following people for volunteering to help in the following ways at YFGM in October in Bristol.

Caterers: Mark Gartside
Pan Transport: Ellen Marshall

We hope to find a recycling/composting volunteer and at least one more caterer before the next YFGM and ask our catering coordinator to find these volunteers, alongside the overseers.

08/35 Closing Minute

This YFGM we have enjoyed the longer weekend and the space it has provided to create and be alongside one another in a free and relaxed community.

We have looked at childhood and adulthood in our spirituality session and the theme of childhood has been explored further throughout the weekend. We have experienced a child-centred story-telling method – Godly Play which was interesting and thought provoking, and have of course enjoyed our usual share of silly games too.

This YFGM we are saddened that Hannah Spiers is finishing as an officer and co-clerk of YFGM. She has been a solid rock within our community and served us with great dedication, assertiveness and humour. We deeply thank her for all her hard work on our behalf and look forward to the time we share with her in the future.

We have also explored appeals and considered their meaning for us in YFGM. This weekend we come to the end of our current appeal ReWrite. We appreciate the work the appeal group has put in to sessions at YFGM and in wider society. We have also been looking forwards at what we may wish to support as a future appeal. We hope to be able to come to a new appeal, when the time is right, with more clarity on it's place in our YFGM community.

Our next YFGM will be in Bristol and we look forward to meeting with one another there to continue in our shared journeys.

Signed in and on behalf of YFGM

Cáit Gould
Hannah Spiers