

# **Young Friends General Meeting Lancaster Friends Meeting House 21<sup>st</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2011**

## **Present:**

Co-Clerks: Sally Nicholls & Ian Goggin  
YFGM Treasurer: Andrew Rendle  
YFGM Finance Officer: Bryony Elias  
Co-Convener of Overseers: Kris Turner  
Management Officer: Jessica Metheringham-Owlett  
Coordinator: Hugo Finley

## **Area Meeting and Yearly Meeting Representatives:**

Jen Batten – North Somerset and Wilts  
Thomas Hancock – East Scotland  
Harriet Hart – Norwich and Waveny & Craven and Keighley  
Selina Larsen – Mid-Thames  
Jenny McCarthy – York  
Hereward Mills – Luton and Leighton  
Ian Nicholls – Darlington  
Darrel Spence – Cheshire  
Alyn Still – Witney  
Edward Ullathorne – Central England

## **Those Present:**

Sam Barnett-Cormack, Lynda Berry, Rhian Blades, Freya Blyth, Benjamin Bowman, Jennifer Brett, Hannah Brock, Carla Denyer, Andrew Dimond, Paul Dodwell, Peter Doubtfire, Kim Edwards, Matt Godwin, Siobhan Haire, Amy Kind-Smith, Allen Leach, Rebecca Mattingly, Katherine McIntosh, Becky Moylett, Jessica Murray, Maurice Nagington, Amy Naumann, Helen Percy, Becky Riddell, Oliver Robertson, Tom Rowlands, Abigail Rowse, Kristin Ethel Skarsholt, Hannah Spires, Chris Stapenhurst, Brigid Stoney, Rachael Swancott Boon, Thomas Taylor, Harriet Trevor-Allen, Phoebe Wales, Andrew Williams, Hugh Williams.

Total: **54**

## **11.25 Opening Minute**

We are gathered here in Lancaster for our October YFGM. We welcome you all, particularly Paul Parker, our yearly meeting recording clerk, who is visiting us for the first time. We hope to spend an interesting and supportive weekend together.

## **11.26 Links to Student Christian Movement**

Sally Nicholls has suggested that we forge stronger links with the SCM by funding 2 representatives from YFGM to go to the SCM annual conference and inviting them to send 2 representatives to YFGM in February. We support her idea and hope it will enable us to enter into new conversations and share our Quakerism with others. We ask our representatives to report back at February YFGM, and we will review how we want to fund and develop this relationship at May YFGM.

## **11.27 Database and Website**

We have heard from Hugo Finley, Jessica Metheringham-Owlett and Siobhan Haire about plans to commission an integrated database and website, with potential costs given. While we support the

principle of a database and website which are well-designed and fit for purpose, we feel that this project needs a clearer proposal, and a clearer idea of costs. We feel that simplicity and cost-effectiveness are also important. We ask Outreach and Finance committee to consider a potential budget for the project. We also ask that Hugo and Outreach committee continue to solicit tenders, and to bring back a firmer proposal for consideration at February YFGM. We thank Hugo, Jess and Outreach Committee for their hard work on this project.

### 11.28 YFGM Strategic Plan

We have heard from Jessica Metheringham-Owlett about the proposed Strategic Plan for YFGM. We agree to adopt the document as it stands, and attach a copy. We recognise that this represents the current concerns of YFGM, which will change. We trust that trustees, management group and YFGM as a whole will take responsibility for this document and recognise that it needs to be amended in the future. We are excited about what this document may represent and thank Jessica and all those who have contributed to this plan for their input.

### 11.29 YFGM Strategic Plan Short-term goals

Jessica Metheringham-Owlett has presented us with some suggested methods of achieving our short-term goals listed in the Strategic Plan. We thank all involved for their work and encourage YFGM as a whole to engage in its modification and realisation.

### 11.30 Discretionary Expenses

We have heard a proposal from Bryony Elias suggesting that trustees as a body be allowed to approve discretionary expenses up to £500 per instance between YFGMs. We support Bryony's proposal and ask finance committee to make the necessary changes to finance policy. We thank all involved for their hard work.

### 11.31 Nominations Returns

Position	Released	Appointed	Until
Overseer	Kristin Skarsholt	Brigid Stoney	Oct '13
Nominations Committee	Ericka Smith	Sam Barnett-Cormack Alyn Still Jess Murray	Oct '14
Living Witness Project Link	Helen Percy Jenny McCarthy	Carla Denyer Helen Percy	Oct '13
Planning Weekend Newcomer	Lynda Berry Brigid Stoney Thomas Hancock	Jen Batten Becky Riddell Abigail Rowse	Feb '12
Co-ordinator Support Group	Cait Gould	Chris Wood	Oct '12
Student Christian Movement Rep	N/A	Chris Stapenhurst Holly Spencer	May '12
YMG Agenda Committee Rep	N/A	Ian Goggin	Feb '12
YMG 2012 Rep	Siobhan Haire	N/A	N/A
QCCIR Rep	Katharine McIntosh	Andrew Williams	Oct '14
Transitional Group Co-ordinator	Lailah Peel	N/A (Carried over)	N/A
Website Co-ordinator	Sam Barnett-Cormack	N/A (Carried over)	N/A

### 11.32 Nominations Committee Extension

We extend the period of service for the following positions as a result of Minute 11.12 from May YFGM:

<b>Role</b>	<b>Role Holder</b>	<b>Extended Until</b>
Nominations Committee	Jenny McCarthy	Feb '13
Nominations Committee	Sophie Loewendahl	May '13
Nominations Committee	Peter Doubtfire	Feb '14
Nominations Committee	Rajit Gholap	May '13

### **11.33 Reports**

We have heard a report from Helen Percy and Jenny McCarthy on the ongoing work of the Living Witness Project and their sadness that their roles are coming to an end, we heard from Kim Edwards about the recent success of the Leavener's Youth Summer theatre project and the major upcoming singing and panto events. We also heard from Peter Doubtfire about the recent interesting discussion on the dominance of the red poppy in society and the negative aspects of making soldiers heroes, and we heard from our Planning Weekend Newcomers Thomas Hancock and Brigid Stoney about their time at planning weekend in September. We thank all those who gave reports for their service and their presentations.

### **11.34 Appeals Account**

We authorise finance committee to open a new bank account for the appeal finances. We authorise the general fund signatories to act as signatories on this account.

### **11.35 Closing Minute**

We gathered at Lancaster on the weekend of the 21<sup>st</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> October for our Autumn YFGM.

We enjoyed a session from the 2011 Swathmore Lecturer Pam Lunn on issues of sustainability. Pam urged us to develop our spiritual resilience, in preparation for the hardships which may be before us as climate change increases.

Paul Parker discussed with us what YFGM and Britain Yearly Meeting can do for each other and challenged us to think not just about what can be done, but also what we as individuals can take responsibility for doing. He asked us to prepare for the great "Whoosh!" of revitalisation that he believes is coming in Quakerism.

At this YFGM we have enjoyed special interest groups (SIGs) on a variety of topics, including fun activities like preparing for evening entertainment and treasure trails around Lancaster.

Special interest groups also explored further the theme of sustainability from Yearly Meeting Gathering 2011, with Pam Lunn delving further into the topics from her session, Caroline Jackson telling us about the Transition Lancaster movement, and Helen Percy presenting some environmental games.

We also heard more about issues important to Quakers in a SIG on disability and welfare issues, and discussed more from Paul Parker about how his idea of a Quaker "Whoosh!" could revitalise Quakers.

We hope all those who have attended can leave with a greater sense of connectedness. We look forward to meeting again in Nottingham in February 2012.



# Young Friends General Meeting

YOUNG ADULT QUAKERS IN BRITAIN

## YFGM Strategic Plan: September 2011

### Vision

Young Friends General Meeting seeks to explore, support and nurture a spiritual community through faith and action as young adult Quakers in Britain.

### Mission

We are a diverse and welcoming community, supporting young adult Quakers to live their faith adventurously, both individually and collectively through the Quaker testimonies.

### Aims and Objectives

- To support young adult Quakers in acting on their concerns.
- To engage with the wider Quaker community.
- To support young Adult Quakers in living faithfully in the wider world.
- To promote YFGM and the Society of Friends through outreach activities.
- To provide a spiritual, creative and supportive community for young adult Quakers.
- To be inclusive and accessible.

### Long Term Goals

1. To grow and develop as an organisation.
2. To engage in social and political activism around YFGM concerns.
3. To strengthen our links with organisations with common values.

### Short Term Goals

1. To support local young Quaker groups and help area meetings support their young adult members and attenders.
2. To use our resources for effective outreach, promoting Young Friends General Meeting and its members.
3. To help young adult Quakers move into and progress beyond YFGM.
4. To strengthen our decision-making, governing and budgeting processes, and improve organisational communication within YFGM.
5. To support members in running related events.