

# Young Friends General Meeting

## Liverpool

YFGM 19<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> October

**Present:**

**Co-Clerks:** Sally Nicholls & Ian Goggin

**YFGM Treasurer:** Edward Ullathorne

**YFGM Finance Officer:** Bryony Elias

**Management Officer:** Jessica Metheringham

**Coordinator:** Hugo Finley

**Those Present:** Mustafa Alachkar, Holly Alcock, John Bacon, Tamsin Baker, Sam Barnett-Cormack, Rhian Blades, Hannah Brock, Kate Conway, Carla Denyer, Paul Dodwell, Peter Doubtfire, Kim Chiara Edwards, Ellen Elliott, Mary Estall, Owen Everett, Rajit Gholap, Siobhan Haire, Thomas Hancock, Rachael Harrison, Alissa Anna Hitzemann, Tom Hoskins, Elizabeth (Beth) Howard, Owen Jennings, Selina Larsen, Sophie Loewendahl, Rici Marshall, Rebecca Mattingly, Jenny McCarthy, Katharine McIntosh, Hereward Mills, Jessica Murray, Ian Nicholls, Livia Oldland, Paul Ong, Lauren Amy Parkes, Lailah Peel, Rhiannon Redpath, Oliver Robertson, Tim Rouse, Tom Rowlands, Abigail Rowse, Tim Searle-Barnes, Kristin Ethel Skarsholt, Ericka Smith, Hannah Spiers, Alyn Still, Brigid Stoney, Rachael Swancott Boon, Christopher Tedd, Kris Turner, Sylvia Wilkinson

**Total: 57**

### Minutes October 2012

#### 2012.37 Opening Minute

We are delighted to be once again beginning our October YFGM. We welcome you all, and look forward to a busy and exciting weekend here together in Liverpool.

#### 2012.38 Nominations to Representative Positions

We have heard from Hannah Spiers a proposal that nominations committee to be given the power to discern whether YFGM is willing to send a representative to conferences or committees suggested by members of YFGM.

We think it is exciting that nominations committee will have more say in making those decisions and that it will be easier for our members to bring opportunities to YFGM. However, we also recognise that some suggestions will be more controversial and that YFGM has an important role to play in decisions such as how long the rep will be appointed for and what their responsibilities will be.

We agree to allow nominations committee the power to appoint representatives without the need for these to be brought before YFGM, although we ask that they do this in conjunction with finance committee and trustees. We ask that they consider as a committee how best to ensure that these names are discerned and to review this process to make sure that they feel happy with how it is working. However, we ask that this not be the default position for more complicated, controversial or long-term appointments, and that nominations committee work with trustees, planning weekend and then YFGM as a whole to discern those decisions.

### **2012.39 Employment Options**

We have heard from Hannah Brock, Jessica Metheringham and Hannah Spires about possible employment options. A redacted version of these options are attached.

We are excited by the options presented to us, particularly the option to outsource our employment to Britain Yearly Meeting. We feel strongly that BYM's proposal provides a gift both to YFGM and to the person employed, and that their suggestion of a full-time position allows us room to pursue exciting work in line with our strategic plan. We are mindful, however, that our identity as a separate body is important to us, and any change needs to reflect that.

All change is difficult, and we are all very aware of the consequences this will have for YFGM and our current employee. We hope that YFGM will support and uphold all involved in this period of transition. We empower our management trustee to liaise with Britain Yearly Meeting to set this process in motion, and to explore the details with the recording clerk and trustees. We ask her to bring us an update on this in February 2013. We agree to begin the process of restructuring, moving to a full-time paid internship, employed on a ten-month contract and managed by BYM, with support from a YFGM management trustee. We thank all involved for their work on this issue.

### **2012.40 Budget**

Our general fund treasurer, Ed Ullathorne, has presented us with the 2013 budget, which includes a deficit of up to £25,128 in the hope of reducing our reserves in line with our financial policy. We are excited by this bold spending plan, and the opportunities it gives us to invest in ourselves, although we are aware that this spending policy is only appropriate in our current financial situation. We attach the budget, and thank Ed for his clear and comprehensible explanation of our accounts, as well as our trustees for their work on this issue.

### **2012.41 YFGM at Woodbrooke**

We are excited about Rachael Swancott's bold idea of holding a YFGM at Woodbrooke over a long-weekend in May 2014. We anticipate that this event will be larger than usual, and will feature speakers from Woodbrooke and speakers from around the world. There will also be invitations to representatives from other Yearly Meetings and BYM. We hope to engage other international participants who are unable to attend through video conferencing.

We are aware that inviting participants and speakers from overseas has an impact on our carbon footprint. We will allow space in the budget from the start for more sustainable modes of travel. We will also explore other activities that the participants and speakers who attend from abroad, in order to make their time in the UK more productive.

We agree to spend up to £8500 from YFGM reserves. We will also nominate organisers to assist Rachael in the planning of this event, and will give the organisers the support of our employee and other committees who ordinarily facilitate the planning of a YFGM.

We are thrilled to be involved in such an exciting project, and look forward to engaging the whole of YFGM, and the wider Quaker community in the UK and abroad with this event.

### **2012.42 Appeal**

We have heard from Ed Ullathorne and Selina Larsen about the Cape Town Peace Centre and their work promoting peace in South Africa. This includes promoting peace in schools, the alternatives to violence project, workshops, peace clubs and radio plays. We have heard how they are currently struggling to find funds, particularly for core costs.

This YFGM we have been reminded about how we are all peaceworkers, and we are excited by this

opportunity to act on this aspect of our Quakerism in the wider world. We agree to adopt Cape Town Peace Centre as our appeal until October 2013. We co-opt Ed Ullathorne and Selina Larsen to serve on appeal group until February 2013, when we ask nominations committee to discern names for a full appeal group in the usual fashion. We ask our general fund treasurer, Ed Ullathorne, to take responsibility for financial oversight in this period. We ask interested parties to approach Ed, Selina or the office if they want to get involved in the interim.

#### **2012.43 Nominations Returns**

The following names have been appointed to the following positions:

<b>Position</b>	<b>Released</b>	<b>Appointed</b>	<b>Until</b>
Overseer	Kris Turner	Kris Turner	February 2013
Quintessential	Rebecca Mattingley	Ericka Smith	October 2015
Co-ordinator's Support Group	Chris Wood	Jess Murray	October 2013
Planning Weekend Newcomer	Rachel Harrison Tim Rowse Anna Philbrick	Owen Jennings Owen Everett Livia Oldland	February 2013
Convenor of Trustees	Hannah Spires	Rachael Swancott	February 2015
YQ Editor	LILI Bright	Tim Rowse	October 2015
Outreach		Holly Alcock	October 2015
Whoosh! Conference Representative	Rachael Swancott Katherine McIntosh Abigail Rouse Sam Barnett-Cormack		

#### **2012.44 Reports**

We have heard a number of reports this weekend. Jessica Metheringham has told us about our exciting YF(GM free) politically engaged young Friends conference in London, run with the aid of funding from the JRRT, and the actions coming out of it, including a concern for where and how we invest our money.

Lauren Parkes, Beth Howard and Rachel Harrison have shared their excitement about our Spirituality and the Arts Weekend, run in conjunction with the Leaveners. The weekend asked participants to complete the sentences “I am spiritual because” and “I am creative because” and explored spirituality through mediums which included quilting, film, dancing, storytelling and journalling. They also thanked Kim Edwards for her support in her role as our Leaveners Rep.

Tim Rowse gave a clear and informative account of his experience as a planning weekend newcomer in September. He talked about the important work done at planning weekend, and the close community which developed over the weekend.

We thank these people for their work on behalf of YFGM.

#### **2012.45 Caterers and Pan Transport**

We are grateful that Rebecca Mattingley and Rachael Swancott have agreed to volunteer as caterers for our February YFGM. We thank Mary Estell, Katherine McIntosh and Tom Hoskins for their fantastic catering this weekend and Lauren Parkes for providing pan transport.

#### **2012.46 Co-options**

We thank Kristin Skarsholt for her work this weekend as an overseer.

#### **2012.47 WHOOSH Conference**

We asked our representatives from the WHOOSH conference to feed back to us at this YFGM. They will instead feed back to us in February 2013.

#### **2012.48 International Visitors**

We welcome Oliver Robertson from Switzerland Yearly Meeting. We hope he has enjoyed his time at YFGM and send our greetings back to Swiss Friends.

#### **2012.49 Clerks' Offering**

This weekend in Liverpool has been a busy and important one, with YFGM committing to several big pieces of work. We have made large and difficult decisions about our finances and employment, as well as committing to several exciting new projects, including a new appeal and a larger YFGM conference in Woodbrooke. It is inspiring to be part of a community so full of ideas and energy.

Hannah Brock and Sarah Rowe have lead us in a session about their work with the Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel and monitoring human rights abuses in the West Bank. They talked about protecting people through their presence, supporting peace activists and undertaking advocacy work in the UK and Ireland. They told us about walking the difficult line between remaining apolitical whilst living in a region where one side is predominantly the victim of abuses.

We have also looked inward, in a moving and personal session on our experience of meeting for worship. We have enjoyed special interest groups in letter-writing to conscientious objectors, crochet, Britain Yearly Meeting's investment practices, the Quaker Peacework Programme and our own work as peacemakers, a walk in Liverpool and a visit to an art gallery.

This weekend Hannah Spires is handing over her responsibilities as convenor of trustees. Trustees have been blessed with Hannah's organisational skills, the breadth of her knowledge, her calmness and capability and her work on the sometimes difficult task of keeping us all on track. Hannah addresses all aspects of her job – even the difficult parts – with a dedication we are all grateful to witness. We will miss her good humour and her big smile.

As ever, the process of building our community again has been a rich and powerful one. We are grateful for the friendships we have here, the worship we have shared and the support we are able to give each other. We look forward to meeting again in February 2013.