

# Young Friends General Meeting

## Liverpool Quaker Meeting House

3<sup>rd</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> May 2019

### Minutes

#### Those Present:

Rose Almond, Matt Alton, Jennie Atherton, Yulieed Alvia Itube (visiting friend from Mexico), Haird B, Lucas Bain-Lefevre, Jenny Baines, Jessica Beck, Faith Biddle, Alexandra Boliver-Brown, Jane Booth, Liam Brighton, E.B, Oliver Burrows, Florence Butterfield, Rosie Clarke, Hannah Cook, Samuel Cooper, Megan Curtis, Becky Cutts, Hannah Davies, James Davies, Billie-Jo Dearden, Teala Derden, Jane Ditchfield, Michelle Dumont, Cara Edwards, T.F, Eleanor Fuller, Joseph Fuller, Catherine Gibbons, Cáit Gould, Jaz Higgs, Chris H, Jules Irengé, Ceridwen Jenkins, Isabelle Jones, Lily Kroese, Hannah Larn, Sasha Lawson-Frost, Alice Laycock, Catherine Leggett, Finn Lognman, J. Longmore, Thea Luckcock, Naomi Major, Frances Manning, Rici Marshall Cross, Elizabeth Martin, Laura McQuillan, Yenni Millar, Kylie Noble, Anne Norton, Jennifer Orme, Bianca Rawlinson, Grace Roberts, Tim Rouse, Chloe Scaling, A. Seilly, Beverly Smith (staff from Friends House joining the mental health session) Jacob Webb, Christopher Webster.

Total: 70

Co-Clerks	Sam Cooper & Rici Marshall Cross
Trustees	Jane Booth, Sam Cooper, James Davies, Cáit Gould, Jaz Higgs, Rici Marshall Cross, Grace Roberts, Tim Rouse
Coordinator	Faith Biddle

#### 2019.5.1 Trans and non-binary inclusion

Further to minute 2019.2.3 'Trans and non-binary inclusion'

We have heard from Rici Marshall-Cross about the progress of the meeting in answering the commitments we took on with our minute in February accepting our statement on inclusion. We have published our statement and publicized it online and in the Friend, and sent it to meeting for sufferings. We will also have a stall at Britain Yearly Meeting group fair at the end of May at which members of the community will share the statement and talk to Friends about its contents and the spirit behind it.

We have heard testimony of how the release of the statement has been positive for Friends, especially those new to YFGM. We hope that the time for YFGM to be actively vocal about this will pass but acknowledge that YFGM is likely to have a role to play, by standing with simplicity against injustice where we come upon it and by speaking about it in our own meetings, in our day-to-day witness, so that Friends become more familiar with the diversity of gender.

We agree to nominate a short-term working group to tie up the loose ends remaining from the commitments we took on in February, either to plan these actions (in particular, seeking ways to engage other Friends, and, if they discern it to be appropriate, other groups; and writing guidance for our co-ordinator and overseers) or to undertake these actions themselves if they feel able.

We will set aside time on Monday morning to nominate the committee giving them the full backing of YFGM, including financial support where necessary.

We would expect to hear back from the group in October, and to lay the group down in October or February.

## **2019.5.2 Roles restructure update and next steps**

Further to minute 2019.2.7, we have heard an update from Tim Rouse about the roles restructure and updates to the constitution.

Since February, Trustees have spoken to members in the community, especially those holding roles, and at Planning Weekend in May we have made some changes to the proposed restructure (details in the appendix).

We still do not have clarity about the following issues

- length of terms,
- financial oversight of committees
- planning weekend and the role of planning weekend newcomers
- whether catering co-ordinator should become part of the logistics committee
- how we organise representatives, including how they are nominated

Tim Rouse has repeated the request for all Friends to continue to proactively feed in to this process.

We agree to give responsibility to a gathering to discern the main outstanding issues in our role review over the summer, and to take forward progress in writing the new roles descriptions. We ask Trustees to organise this gathering and make the necessary preparations including facilitating input from those who cannot attend the gathering. We ask finance committee to agree a budget for the gathering.

We hope that at our YFGM in October we will be able to put the new structure and a revised constitution before the meeting.

We take this work forward joyfully in hope that we will see a renewal of our community and less pressure being felt by role holders.

## **2019.5.3 Accounts**

We agree to appoint Robin Fishwick as external examiner for our accounts.

We thank the Finance Committee for their hard work in putting together and presenting in a clear way YFGM's accounts for 2018. We approve these accounts subject to examination, and attach the accounts to these minutes.

## **2019.5.4 Trans and Non-Binary Inclusion Working Group**

Further to minute 2019.5.1, we approve the terms of reference for the working group attached in the appendix to these minutes.

We appoint the following names to the working group:

Joanna Longmore  
Florence Butterfield  
Yenni Millar  
Zoe Marquis  
Jane Ditchfield  
Sally Wrenwood  
Finn Longman

The two clerks will also be considered nominal, ex-officio members.

We ask the group to appoint a convenor from within their number.

### **2019.5.5 Reports**

We heard from Chloe Scaling who was one of our planning weekend newcomers in March. She told us that she found the weekend really interesting. Everyone at planning weekend was involved in agenda setting and she was pleased to see that anyone who wants to can feed items into the agenda. She told us of the process of hearing feedback and how it feeds into planning for the next event and reminded all Friends to give feedback.

### **2019.5.6 Nominations Returns**

<b>Role</b>	<b>Released</b>	<b>Appointed</b>	<b>Until</b>
Planning Weekend Newcomer	Cathy Hall	Zoe Marquis Kylie Noble Bianca Rawlinson (carried forward).	October 2019
Overseers	Tom Eddington Rachael Booth	Hannah Larn Yenni Millar Chloe Scaling	May 2021
Overseers	n/a	Jazz Higgs (carried over)	October 2019
Outreach	Amanda Veale (one opening carried over)	Hirad Babakhani Lawrence Hall	May 2022
Finance Trustee	Cait Gould	n/a (end of handover period)	n/a

We thank Nominations Committee for their work in bringing names forward. We thank Friends who have been released for their service.

### **2019.5.7 Co-options to committees**

Chloe Scaling was co-opted to planning weekend newcomer in March 2019.

Ellie Harding and Thea Lovecock were co-opted on to the Overseers Committee and Outreach Committee respectively.

We thank these Friends for their service.

### **2019.5.8 Catering**

We thank Hannah Larn, Billie-Jo Dearden, Teala Dearden and Liam Brighton for volunteering to cater this weekend. We are grateful to our community for the contribution that all YFGMers play in preparing, cooking and clearing up meals.

### **2019.5.9 Special Interest Groups**

The following Special Interest Groups were held this weekend:

<b>Special Interest Group</b>	<b>Led by</b>
Opportunities for Quaker Volunteering & Service	Naomi Major
Learn the Lindyhop	Chris Webster
Discerning our Social Action	Peter Rivers (QSA)
Iranian Cooking	Hirad Babakhani (sp.)
Activism and Chronic Illness	Alexandra Boliver-Brown and Jennie Atherton
Discussion on taking forward our work on Trans and Non-Binary inclusion	Rici Marshall Cross
Veganism as Quaker Witness	Sasha Lawson-Frost and Chloe Scaling
Forgotten Quaker Radicals: Sam Hobson and the Birth of Modern Quakerism	Laurence Hall

We thank Friends who have led sessions for their contribution.

## **Clerks Offering Liverpool May 2019**

We gathered in Liverpool for a weekend of focusing on our community with friends new and old.

In our business sessions we took the next steps of our commitments to trans and non-binary inclusion, and of our ongoing roles review. Business was conducted with a note of joy, and we heard ministry expressing positivity and even gratitude on what YFGM has so far discerned and achieved, and optimism about the future.

In a Mental Health in Meetings workshop, we considered how we can improve support for Friends within YFGM who are facing mental health challenges, and highlighted the need for good guidance for our role-holders in knowing where boundaries are. Our Mental Wellbeing Concern, which we discerned in February still lived and worked amongst our community, continues to underpin our work and witness, and particularly our consideration of how roles are undertaken, which will continue in June and October.

We enjoyed meeting with local friends, and a plethora of SIGs from Quaker service to Lindyhop were met with enthusiasm, and a treasure hunt around the meeting house which brought out our competitive side. Our Sunday was filled with space and light; an afternoon of unstructured time allowed us to worship and play. We explored Liverpool, visited museums and made a Quaker coat of arms, played board games, talked and talked, and brought our Meeting for Worship out into the city, while families played, people passed by and the birds sang in Chavasse Park.

In spirituality sessions we explored what it meant to hold someone in the light, and in a long session that ran into our epilogue we held in the light our living and our dead, and we held one another.

And throughout the weekend we cooked and cleaned together, working side by side on the day-to-day tasks that allow our community to run.

We began our weekend by considering what living in community means to us, and return to the words of Quaker Faith and Practice 12.01; that "Speaking the unspeakable... to someone who can be trusted and who will accept you in love as you are, is enormously helpful... without the conventions of flattery and half-truths, we particularly need to make clear the steadfast love we have for one another... Often it is what we are rather than anything we do which is of help." In both the openness of

vulnerability and the openness of friendship, frankness and unselfconscious silliness we were shown again and anew what love can do once we lay down our defences.

## **Appendix**

- Terms of reference for trans and non-binary working group
- YFGM Accounts for 2018

### **Terms of reference for trans and non-binary working group:**

We ask the working group to consider the ways in which our community can continue to work towards trans and non-binary inclusion, both internally and externally, and to produce the following resources:

- Written guidance for YFGMers on how to start conversations, run workshops and engage with their local meetings about trans and non-binary inclusion.
- Content for an accessible information page about trans and non-binary inclusion for the YFGM website with links to relevant resources.
- Written guidance on trans and non-binary inclusion for YFGM role holders, particularly Coordinator and Overseers.
- Suggestions of other actions that YFGM might want to take to work towards trans and non-binary inclusion.

We do not expect the group to need to meet in person, or incur any expenses. However, any requests for expenditure will go through the Clerks who will have financial oversight as ex-officio members of the working group.

We ask the group to report back to Planning Weekend in September, with the expectation that the group will be laid down in October or February.

## YFGM Accounts for 2018

		Allocation of Funds	Anticipated use	Forecast	Spend to date	Predicted end 2018		Remaining vs forecast	
<b>Income</b>									
BYM Grant		0	100%	0	£0	550	#DIV/0!	0	
BYM Outreach Grant	1	10,800	100%	10,800	£10,800	9455	100%	0	
JRCT Grant	1	0	100%	0	£0		0%	0	
Sir James Reckitt Charitable Trust William		1,500	100%	1,500	£1,500	5000	100%	0	
Cadbury Trust		13,000	0%	0	£0		0%	0	
Other Grants YFGM		5,000	100%	5,000	£5,858	5324	117%	-858	
Contributions	1	6,000	100%	6,000	£5,928	5800	99%	72	
Meetings & Friends	1	15,000	100%	15,000	£20,100	14500	134%	-5,100	
YFGM Appeal in The Friend Appeal for another charity	3	3,000	100%	3,000	£0		0%	3,000	
Interest		0	100%	0	0		0%	0	
Events	2	40	100%	40	£10		26%	30	
Other Income	4	1,500	100%	1,500	£0		0%	1,500	
		0	0%	0	£643	1800	6434500%	-643	
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>55,840</b>		<b>42,840</b>	£44,839 £44,839 OK	£42,429 £0	80%	-1,999	£32,974
<b>Expenditure</b>									
<b>Running costs</b>									
YFGMs	5	7,200	100%	7,200	£8,045	£12,067	112%	-845	
Planning									
Weekends	5	4,500	100%	4,500	£4,074	£4,074	91%	426	
Office costs	6	17,000	95%	16,150	£808	17000	5%	15,342	
Events	2	2,000	75%	1,500	£0	£0	0%	1,500	
<b>Additional</b>									
Accessibility		3,000	90%	2,700	£2,100	1400	70%	600	
Bursarys Young Adult	7	1,000	50%	500	£1,235	200	123%	-735	
Leaders	8	4,000	75%	3,000	£1,019	£1,019	25%	1,981	
Representatives		750	70%	525	£60	500	8%	466	
Training	9	1,500	80%	1,200	£831	200	55%	369	
EMEYF grant	10	0	100%	0	£0	0	0%	0	
Concerns	11	1,000	75%	750	£0	50	0%	750	
Non-YFGM charity appeal	12	0	100%	0	£5,656	0	56560000%	-5,656	
Fundraising		500	100%	500	£492	£492	98%	8	
Contingency / other		2,000	50%	1,000	£3,139	100	157%	-2,139	
<b>Outreach</b>									
General		1,290	90%	1,161	£1,396	1000	108%	-235	
Enquirers		2,925	50%	1,463	£1,360	2000	47%	102	

Website / Young Quaker	1,715	100%	1,715	£924	£1,137	54%	791	
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>50,380</b>		<b>43,864</b>	£31,140	£41,240	62%	12,724	£35,703
				£31,140	£10,100			
				OK				
<b>Surplus / (deficit)</b>	<b>5,460</b>		<b>-1,024</b>	£13,700	£1,189			-£2,729
Balance				£84,573				
				£64,080				
Brought forward start 2017					£70,872.96			
Estimate balance end 2017					£72,062.45			