

YOUNG FRIENDS GENERAL MEETING (YFGM)

Norwich Friends Meeting House, 28th April – 1st May 2006

Minutes

Present:

Co-Clerks:	Nessa Grimes & Guy Milner
YFGM Treasurer:	Huw Still
Co-Convenors of Overseers:	Majk Stokes & Tom Rowlands
Management Officer:	Ruth Wood
Co-ordinator:	Ellie Colyer

Monthly Meeting Representatives:

Bangor:	Bethan Harris	Colchester & Coggeshall:	Jez Smith
Darlington:	Anna Rachel James	Dundee:	Paul Dodwell
	Emzy Wisker	Hampstead:	Jonathan Doering
Hardshaw East:	Sarah Donaldson	Kingston & Wandsworth:	Annabella Krol
Norwich & Lynn:	Ellen Elliott	Notts & Derbys:	Marie Drouin
Reading:	Rob Osborne	South East Scotland:	Ericka Smith
Southwark, Lewisham & Bromley:	John Bacon	Warwickshire:	Maud Grainger
Westminster:	Ellen Marshall		Rachel Wake
Witney:	Alyn Still	York:	Hannah Spiers

Northwest Yearly Meeting (USA): Jon Kershner
Josh Kaiser

Adam Boardman, Andrew Rendle, Ben Jarman, Chris Hanning, Dawn Filtness, Ed Blann, Edd Ullathorne, Emily Maddison, Graham Hayward, Hannah Leavett, Helen Percy, Hilary Topp, Hugh Williams, Hugo Finley, Iain Alexander, James Barnard, Jen Batten, Jessica Metheringham, Kris Turner, Lani Parker, Laurel Townhead, Luke Spiers, Mark Russ, Peter Parr, Rachel Xerri, Sally Nicholls, Sam Barnett-Cormack, Simon Best, Symon Hill, Siobhan Haire, Tamsin Baker, Tom Harris

Total: 59

06/14 Opening Minute

We welcome one another to our May YFGM in Norwich, and extend a particular welcome to Jon Kershner and Josh Kaiser from Northwest Yearly Meeting in the United States of America. We hope that the longer time we can spend together over the Bank Holiday, and the smaller group that are gathered here, will mean that we are able to form a closer community in the light.

06/15 Recycling/Composting Volunteer

We agree to create a new volunteer post, Recycling/Composting Volunteer, to ensure that our waste is recycled or composted where possible at each YFGM.

06/16 Children's Meeting

We agree to amend the Crèche Co-ordinator's job description to include liaising with the local Meeting where YFGM is held to organise, where appropriate, helping with children's meeting. We ask them to follow the local Meeting's child protection policy in facilitating this.

06/17 Report from Planning Weekend

Jess Metheringham and Mark Russ have given us a report from the March Planning Weekend at Selly Oak Meeting House in Birmingham.

06/18 Quakerism – the Programmed Tradition

After an introduction about Northwest Yearly Meeting, covering what it means to be an Evangelical Programmed Friend, Jon Kershner and Josh Kaiser led us in a programmed Meeting for Worship. Here we were encouraged to think about our faith in an often dark, confusing and chaotic world, where God, although often hidden, shows Himself through moments of Grace. We thank Jon and Josh warmly for travelling so far to be with us and lead us in this experience.

06/19 Carbon Pledges

Ruth Wood and Maud Grainger have introduced a session looking at how we can have a positive impact working against climate change through both political action and lifestyle changes. We have explored ways in which we can live more sustainably in our own lives, encouraging our stewardship of the world. We have written pledges to reduce our impact on climate change individually. We have written these on postcards, which will be sent to us after YFGM to remind us of them.

We thank Ruth and Maud for leading us in such an informative and inspiring session and for allowing us to share ideas.

06/20 Report from Management Group

Ben Jarman has given us a report from Management Group about the progress we have made with our new database and about the new features available to us with its introduction. We thank Management Group, our Co-ordinator, and Simon and Bettina Gray for their continuing work on this.

06/21 Interfaith-Interchurch Report

We have heard from Mark Russ about his time as Interfaith-Interchurch Secretary. He has shared with us how his faith has been challenged and enriched by his encounters with those of other churches and faiths. We thank him for the work he has done over the last two years to encourage YFGM to enter into interfaith dialogue.

06/22 Sharing our Spiritual Journeys

We have been led in considering our spiritual journeys by Mark Russ and Sally Nicholls. We explored our spiritual journeys individually using paper and pens, then shared our words and pictures in small groups using creative listening. The session concluded with a period of worship sharing.

Our spiritual journeys can often seem uncertain and messy, and talking about them can help us to make sense of them. We thank Sally and Mark for giving us a chance to do this.

06/23 YFGM 2005 Accounts

Huw Still, our YFGM treasurer, has presented the 2005 accounts. We thank all those who have been involved in preparing our accounts, and ask our trustees to check and approve them once they have been examined.

06/24 Akany Avoko Appeal

Maud Grainger has given us an introduction, with slides, to the Akany Avoko centre in Madagascar, which we are supporting as our appeal.

Our Appeal Group has raised around £4,000 so far since the start of the appeal in October, through a range of fundraising activities. We have learned from our appeal group about some of the projects our money may support, including a new minibus for the centre.

06/25 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 all their work on our behalf.

Position	Length of Service	Person Appointed	Released from Service
Co-Clerk	3 years	Hannah Spiers	Nessa Grimes
Interchurch-Interfaith Secretary	3 years	Symon Hill	-
Crèche Co-ordinator	3 years	Helen Percy	Ruth Todhunter
Overseer	2 years	Rachel Xerri	Hannah Spiers
Pardshaw Committee member	-	-	Darrel Spence
Pardshaw Financial Overseer	Until Feb 2009	Andrew Rendle	Darrel Spence
Outreach Convener	Until Oct 2006	Tom Harris	Mark Russ (released from convening)
Nominations Convener	2 years	Hannah Leavett	John Bacon
Planning Weekend newcomers	Until Oct 2006	Graham Hayward Chris Hanning Anna James	
Nominations Committee	2 years	Dawn Filtness Ed Blann	John Bacon Darrel Spence

06/26 Special Interest Groups

This weekend we have enjoyed the following Special Interest Groups:

A trip to the shrine of Julian of Norwich

A trip to a swimming pool

Baking

QUNO – Laurel Townhead

Women and children in prison – Laurel Townhead

Story Telling – Nigel Peckett

Young Quaker

Malagasy Cooking

Programmed Quakerism – Jon Kershner and Josh Kaiser

Peace Brigades International – Lani Parker

Relaxation

We thank those who have run our Special Interest Groups for their work.

06/27 Epistle

The epistle of the Leaveners' Exploring Arts Project: Sexuality and Spirituality has been read. We thank the project for sending us this epistle.

06/28 Pardshaw Open Meeting

Further to minute 06/05, Pardshaw Committee plan to hold an open meeting in July at Lancaster FMH to explore how Pardshaw Young Friends Centre could be managed in the future. We support them in this and encourage interested parties to attend.

06/29 Recruitment of a new Co-ordinator

We authorise Management Group to recruit a new Co-ordinator for YFGM to start in July 2006, and to enter into a contract with the successful candidate which will run to December 2007. This will be extended to December 2009, if further funding is received.

06/30 Minute of Record – Trustee

Further to minute 06/25 we appoint Hannah Spiers as an Officer and Trustee of YFGM for a period of 3 years.

06/31 Minute of Record – Signatories

We authorize the following people to act as signatories for the following accounts:

General Fund Current and Deposit accounts: Huw Still

Guy Milner

Hannah Spiers

Employment Fund Current account: Ben Jarman

Guy Milner

Hannah Spiers

Employment Fund Petty Cash account: Ben Jarman

Guy Milner

Hannah Spiers

Ellie Colyer

06/32 Volunteers

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

Caterers: Sam Barnett-Cormack

Jennifer Brett

Pan Transport: Helen Percy

Recycling/Composting: Rachel Xerri

06/33 Closing Minute

We thank each other for the fellowship and friendships we have had a chance to build this weekend in Norwich. We have had time to reflect on our different spiritual journeys, and to share them in our community. Our gathering was enriched by the visit of Jon Kershner and Josh Kaiser, and the programmed session that they led. In these sessions we have been inspired by our similarities, and challenged to grow through our diversity, as we walk our own paths in the light.

We were pleased to hear more about our appeal, and the differences we are hoping to make to the Akany Avoko centre. The session on Carbon pledges reminded us of our shared responsibility for care of the Earth and its resources.

Nessa Grimes has come to the end of her time as Co-clerk at this YFGM. We will miss not only her hard work, enthusiasm and spiritual directness, but also her sense of fun and good humour.

We leave tired, many of us, after this long weekend, but can take with us the strength our community has given us. It is a powerful thing to be part of such a community, and to realise that we do not have to walk our paths alone.

Signed in and on behalf of YFGM,

Guy Milner
Co-clerks

Nessa Grimes