

YOUNG FRIENDS GENERAL MEETING (YFGM)

Lancaster Friends Meeting House

22nd – 25th May 2009

Minutes

Present:

Co-Clerks:	Cáit Gould & Siobhan Haire
YFGM Treasurer:	Andrew Rendle
YFGM Finance Officer:	Eleanor Coss
Co-Convenors of Overseers:	Hugh Williams & Mary Estall
Management Officer:	Tom Rowlands
Coordinator:	Hugo Finley

Area Meeting Representatives:

Marie Drouin - Notts and Derby AM
Cáit Gould - West Scotland
Maud Grainger - Colchester and Coggeshall AM
Harriet Hart - Norwich and Waveny AM and Craven and Keighley AM
Anna Lowden - Sheffield and Balby AM
Jenny McCathy – York
Katharine McIntosh - Cambridge & Peterborough
Mark Russ - London West Area Meeting
Ericka Smith - South East Scotland
Darrel Spence - Cheshire AM
Edward Ullathorne - Central England AM

Those Present:

Sam Barnett-Cormack, Jennifer Brett, Helen Close, Kate Conway, Johanna de Haas, Paul Dodwell, Mary Estall, Ian Goggin, Rosalind Haire, Tom Harris, Ben Jarman, Rebecca Mattingly, Jessica Metheringham, Sally Nicholls, Lailah Peel, Helen Percy, Nick Rendle, Katrina Richter, Oliver Robertson, Majk Stokes, Rachael Swancott, Thomas Taylor, Kris Turner, Andrew Williams

Total 42

09/22 Opening Minute

We welcome one another to Lancaster Meeting House and look forward to our longer YFGM together and some good weather.

09/23 Quaker Peace and Social Witness Report

Hugh Williams has given a report on a Quaker Peace and Social Witness weekend held in Derbyshire in March. He spoke of the ongoing work of this branch of Britain Yearly Meeting in a variety of ways, both nationally and internationally. We thank him for this report and look forward to further collaboration with QPSW.

09/24 Appeals

Hugh Williams has introduced the current situation regarding YFGM Appeal donations being received. Currently we have no appeal, so money being donated for this cause is being returned to the donors. We feel that this is a situation we do not want to continue indefinitely and wish there to be a default cause for this money to go to when there is no YFGM appeal. It is felt that we

should gift such appeal money to Quaker Peace and Social Witness who do a lot of good work which we wish to support and trust that the money will go to a good cause. We will inform our donors that this is now our default policy and will amend it as is seen fit in the future.

09/25 Fairtrade Church Status

Following minutes 06/04 and 08/07, Thomas Rowlands has spoken to us about Fairtrade church status, which we have held for some years and are minuted to review. We fulfil two of the commitments for retaining Fairtrade church status by buying Fairtrade tea, coffee, and sugar, and other ingredients where possible, but have not promoted Fairtrade fortnight, the final commitment, since registration. It is felt by the meeting that we should maintain our status as a Fairtrade church and seek to fulfil our commitment to Fairtrade not simply as committees or representatives but as committed individuals. We should be mindful as well of other less mainstream concerns, such as sourcing our meals locally and ethically.

09/26 Events Co-ordinator – Minute of Record

Oliver Robertson has reported to us on the role-description for the new events co-ordinator and possible committees.

09/27 Volunteers

This YFGM Lexy Long has been unable to volunteer as caterer. We thank Jess Metheringham for working with our catering Co-ordinator at short notice and all others who are helping this weekend.

09/28 Planning Weekend Report

Rebecca Mattingly and Kat Richter have reported on the planning weekend held in Leeds from the 3rd to the 5th of April. It was felt that it helped them to connect with YFGM and see how it all comes together. We thank them for this enjoyable report.

09/29 Special Interest Groups Minute

This weekend we have enjoyed the following Special Interest Groups:

Creative Writing
Tap Dancing
Win £1000 with Oliver
A walk through Lancaster
A talk about appeals
Flapjack cooking and singing
Activism with Aurora

We thank those who have run Special Interest Groups for their work, especially those from outside YFGM.

09/30 Experiment With Light Speaker Session

This weekend we have been joined by Rex Ambler, Katherine King-Ambler, and Hazel Nowell who lead us in a guided experiment with light. We also heard of early friends and how this practice began.

The meditation is designed to facilitate an inner reflection which can be used to work on issues in ones life and to discover ones truth. We spent time in a large group, alone and in creative listening groups.

Some of us felt anxiety about the experiment, however in our plenary it became clear that many of us had gained from the time spent with ourselves and within our community.

We thank Rex, Katherine and Hazel for spending time with us.

09/31 Focus for 2009

We have spent time analysing and reflecting upon who, what, and why YFGM is in a series of sessions co-ordinated by Sam Barnett Cormac, Katherine McIntosh, Rachael Swancott, and Siobhan Haire. We engaged in a focus on community, spirituality, inreach, outreach, events and also creative listening. We enjoyed a group discussion of everyday activism followed by groups on specific activism concerns run by Helen Percy, Helen Close and Rachel Swancott. These explorations have helped to bond us as a community and we are deeply grateful for this opportunity.

09/32 Volunteers

We thank the following people for volunteering in the following ways at YFGM in October in Brighton.

Caterers: Maud Grainger, Edd Ullathorne, Kris Turner and Rebecca Mattingly
Pan Transport: Hugh Williams

09/33 Quintessential Co-option – Minute of Record

Thank you Sally, Thank you Ben, We hope that you will come again, Because your breath is fresh and minty, We're grateful that you were on Quinty, So your expenses will be paid, We thank you with this serenade.

09/34 Nominations

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

POSITION	RELEASED	APPOINTED	UNTIL
Nominations Committee	Julia Binns Marie Drouin	Ian Goggin Jess Metheringham	May 2011
Young Quaker Editor	Carried over	Helen Close	May 2012
Creche Co-ordinator	Helen Percy	Katharine McIntosh	May 2012
Events Co-ordinator	New Position	Jennifer Brett	May 2011
NFPB Representative	Carried over	Racheal Swancott	May 2012
Quintessential	Harriet Hart	Maurice Naggington	May 2012

Planning Weekend Newcomers	Katrina Richter Rebecca Mattingly Maya Williams	Jenny McCarthy Ian Goggin Lailah Peel	Oct 2009
Outreach Committee	Neil Ryan Alison Squires John Nicholls Ian Nicholls	None – committee reduced in size	N/A
YQ Financial Oversight	Jess Metheringham	John Nicholls	May 2011
Convenor of outreach	Carried over	Carried Over	Oct 2009
Overseer	Mary Estall	Tom Taylor	May 2011
Co-Convenor of Overseers	Mary Estall	Carried over	Oct 2009

09/35 Trustees – Minute of Record

Further to minute 09/34 we release from service Mary Estall as an officer and trustee of YFGM.

09/36 Closing Minute

We have had the chance to share a sunny weekend together this May Bank Holiday weekend in Lancaster. We came together hoping that experiments with our agenda, following planning weekend past, would allow us a fresh experience of YFGM and a chance to build community. Having made a concerted effort to only bring essential business to YFGM we have enjoyed the flexibility this has allowed.

This YFGM Mary Estall is being released from service as an officer and overseer. We thank her warmly for her dedicated, good-humoured service and the capability and responsibility with which she has performed her role. We look forward to time spent with her in the future.

Our enjoyment together has been deepened by the spontaneous silence which has grown in times. We have come, through our many large and small-group activities, to a better understanding of the fact that spirituality comes in many forms: in meeting, in business, in eating and in simply spending time together. Through this we are living out our spiritual community, having the opportunity to ask searching questions, but realise that answers aren't always possible or even necessary.

We look forward to October YFGM in Brighton and the chance for some of us to be together in July at Yearly Meeting Gathering. We leave this YFGM sad to part, but enriched and uplifted in the knowledge that our community is strong.

Signed in and on behalf of YFGM,

Cáit Gould, and Siobhan Haire Co-clerks