

**Young Friends General Meeting
Manchester
Minutes 14-16 February 2014**

Present:

Co-Clerks: Brigid Stoney & Ian Goggin

YFGM Finance Trustee: Alyn Still

Management Trustee: Jenny McCarthy

Coordinator: Niki Karakaris

Those Present:

Angharad Rhys, Lizzie Roper, Emmie Touwen, Holly Alcock, Rose Almond, Sam Barnett-Cormack, Rhian Blades, Marina Blades – Thorpe, Lizzie Caperon, Tas Cooper, Peter Doubtfire, Toby Freeman, Rajit Gholap, Ian Goggin, Catherine Gregory, Siobhan Haire, Thomas Hancock, Rachael Harrison, Niki Karakaris, Catherine Kennedy, Selina Larsen, Sophie Loewendahl, Rici Marshall, Rebecca Mattingly, Jenny McCarthy, Jessica Metheringham, Hereward Mills, Paul Gee, Andrew Rendle, Becky Riddell, Ellen Rignell, Sam Robinson, Keira Roth, Tom Rowlands, Kristin Skarsholt, Elinor Smallman, Ericka Smith, Hannah Spiers, Alyn Still, Brigid Stoney, Rachael Swancott Boon, Nick Watts, Andrew James Williams, Julian Wood, Alice Woodhead

TOTAL: 45

14.01 Nominations Returns

We appoint the following people to the following roles, and release those named. We thank those released for their valuable contributions to YFGM.

ROLE	RELEASED	APPOINTED	UNTIL
Overseer	Selina Larsen	carried forward	-
Overseer Trustee	Selina Larsen	carried forward ¹	-
Quintessential	carried forward	Rachel Harrison	February 2017
Outreach	Siobhan Haire	carried forward	-

¹ See minute 14.02

Rep to Living Witness	carried forward	Carla Denyer	February 2016
Rep to Quaker Life	carried forward	carried forward	-
Planning Weekend Newcomer	Sam Robinson Harriet Brown Kevin Kikaya	Julian Wood Nick Watts Angharad Rhys	May 2014
Catering Coordinator	Tom Rowlands	Andrew Rendle	February 2017
Nominations Committee	Peter Doubtfire	Alice Woodhead	February 2017
Nominations Committee		Kristin Skarsholt	February 2017
Nominations Committee		Sam Barnett-Cormack	February 2015 ²
Convenor of Nominations Committee	Peter Doubtfire	Sam Barnett-Cormack	February 2015
Appeal Committee		Selina Larsen Kristin Skarsholt Edward Ullathorne Abi Rowse	May 2014 ³
Management Trustee	Jessica Metheringham ⁴	-	-

14.02 Overseer Trustee

At this YFGM we have been unable to find a new Overseer Trustee, we will carry over this role in line with policy, and the trustee body will work without an Overseer Trustee until that time. Overseers will for the moment bring matters to trustees via the Convenor of Trustees.

14.03 Appeal

Further to minute 12.42 we formally lay down the Cape Town Peace Centre as the YFGM Appeal. We extend the service of the current appeal committee members until May 2014 to finalise any financial or other details.

14.04 Reports

We heard from Jenny McCarthy about Europe and Middle East Young Friends (EMEYF). She attended their annual meeting in October 2013, where she learnt about the work of Quaker Council for European Affairs. Jenny is looking forward to attending the EMEYF gathering in April

² Term extended to facilitate full term of convenorship (would otherwise finish in October 2014)

³ See minute 14.03

⁴ Released after handover period

2014 in Macedonia, and encouraged other young friends to get involved in the wider Quaker community in Europe.

Sophie Loewendahl gave us an update on the work of the Pollard and Dickson Trust, which provides funding for Friends experiencing hardship and for travelling in the ministry. Sophie informed us that the Pollard and Dickson Trust has recently merged with the Dant Trust, meaning that funding can now be given to attenders as well as members.

We heard from Sam Robinson about his experience as a newcomer to Planning Weekend in January. He told us about the differences attending a smaller gathering, and the insight he has gained into how YFGM weekends are organised. He now also has experience of dealing with a surplus of bananas and vigilance around candles.

Our finance trustee Alyn Still gave us an update on the budget. We were pleased to hear that the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust has agreed to provide funding for a further three years. More information is attached to these minutes.

14.05 Co-options

This weekend the following people have been co-opted to serve on the named committees for the duration of the weekend:

COMMITTEE	CO-OPTED
Quintessential	Rachel Harrison
Quintessential	Jenny McCarthy
Overseers	Andrew Williams
Overseers	Sophie Loewendahl
Nominations	Catherine Gregory

We thank those named for their valuable help this weekend.

14.06 Catering

Thank you to both Keira Roth and Tom Rowlands for catering this weekend.

14.07 Employment Fund Accounts

Further to minutes 12.39 and 13.27, we authorise the closure of the accounts previously managed by the Employment Fund Treasurer, and the transfer of any remaining funds to the General Fund account.

We would like to thank the most recent Employment Fund Treasurer Paul Dodwell as well as previous Employment Fund Treasurers for the diligent work in managing these accounts throughout the years.

14.08 Clerks' Offering

We have gathered in Manchester Meeting House for February YFGM. We have enjoyed being in Manchester and having the opportunity to engage with other groups using the facilities, as well as creating a sense of our own community.

This weekend we have welcomed visiting speakers for our two main sessions.

Philip Austin from Northern Friends Peace Board (NFPB) spoke to us about the history of NFPB. We learnt that the group was formed prior to the start of the First World War, and did not expect to be a long term organisation. However it is encouraging to hear that not only is NFPB still running today, but that they have had a worde influence for a small group through their advertising campaigns and publication.

Imran Tyabji led a spirituality session on the theme of 'Spiritual Journeys'. He led us in exercises in mindful listening and creating a visual representation of our personal spiritual journeys. He encouraged us to consider spiritual seeking and action, and how these two aspects may interact in ourselves and others. The session provoked debate as we explored our different views of ourselves as Quakers.

On Saturday evening we enjoyed a ceilidh, with music by the one night only YFGM band. We were joined by new friends from the group of asylum seekers supported by Manchester Meeting and also from Friends of the Earth.

We have enjoyed a variety of Special Interest Groups, both from visiting speakers and from within YFGM;

- Nick Franklin - Church Action on Poverty
- Rici Marshall - Canterbury Commitment Group
- Sophie Lowendahl - Ceilidh Band Practise
- Rebecca Mattingly - Yearly Meeting Gathering
- Lizzie Roper - Unitarianism
- Imran Tyabji - Spiritual Journeys
- Outreach Committee - Outreach Ideas
- Nominations Committee - Thoughts about nominations
- Elizabeth Coleman - Supporting Asylum Seekers

Through the music we make, the conversations we have and the experiences we share, we create a community of friends. We look forward to seeing friends again at our exciting May YFGM at Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre to further strengthen the ties that bring us together. We encourage members of YFGM to bring ideas for YFGM to Planning Weekend in March at Brentford and Isleworth Meeting House.

Attachment to the Minutes

YFGM Finance Update

Where were we?

In October YFGM agreed a budget for 2014 with expenditure forecast to be much higher than income. This was because the body which provides much of YFGM's funding, the Joseph

Rowntree Charitable Trust (JRCT), were changing their criteria for grants and we did not expect to qualify for funding.

The impact of this was a forecast deficit of £35,960

What's changed?

Our funding bid was considered by the JRCT earlier than initially expected, and before their new criteria took effect. They have agreed a grant of £26,593/year for three years from 2014.

Where are we now?

With the additional income the forecast deficit is greatly reduced to £9,367. This would leave our reserves at £30,633 at year end. This is equivalent to approximately 6 months of expenditure.

Fundraising will continue, both for in-year funding and to investigate options for the longer term.

Original & revised forecasts:

	2014 Budget Forecast (£)	
	Original (Oct '13)	Revised (Feb '14)
Reserves B/fwd	43,548	43,548
Income	28,040	54,633
Expenditure	64,000	64,000
Reserves C/fwd	7,588	34,181