

Young Friends General Meeting Online 27th-28th February 2021 Minutes

Those Present:

Jennie Atherton, Rowan Barrett, Rowena Bashforth, Alexandra Boliver-Brown, Rachael Booth, Liam Brighton, Juliette Chandler, Hannah Cook, Sam Cooper, Tas Cooper, Charlotte Copeman, Lola Fayokun, Toby Freeman, Laurence Hall, Tim Hall Farthing, Eleanor Harding, Miriam Harrold, Jennifer Herbert, Jaz Higgs, Victoria Hodkinson, Ceridwen Jenkins, Hannah Larn, Sasha Lawson-Frost, Lucy Licious, Zoe Marquis, Angus Morrice, Katie Muller, Leilani Rabemananjara, Grace Roberts, John Robinson, Tim Rouse, Alexander Sakulin, Chloe Scaling, Anne Seilly, Gwenllian Shipsides, Lyra Shires, Hannah Stranex, Sabrina Ulysses, Amanda Veale, Jacob Webb, Gray Wood, Sally Wrenwood

Total: 43

Co-Clerks	Samuel Cooper and Zoe Marquis
Trustees	Alexandra Boliver-Brown, Liam Brighton, Sam Cooper, James Davies, Zoe Marquis, Tim Hall-Farthing, Sasha Lawson-Frost
Coordinator	None

2021.2.1 Trans & Non-Binary Inclusion

In October the meeting resolved to produce a simple statement to send to meeting houses as part of our procedure for booking them for our gatherings, intended to set out YFGMs principles on transgender and non-binary inclusion and saying that due to these principles we would not visit meeting houses which freely host groups out of feeling with these principles; and, supporting this, a guide helping meeting houses to spot gender critical groups to be sent out upon request. These were put before the meeting, and the statement of principles read out.

Today's ministry has highlighted the need for our coordinator (who will be the person managing bookings in the first instance) to be properly supported in their role in engaging with meeting houses. The meeting has acknowledged that no matter how diverse the potential resources we give to the coordinator in charge of YFGM booking, there will always be more questions to answer. We trust that role-holders will be able to provide help here or to offer direction to other Quaker resources, and that members of the wider YFGM community will be able to offer support where needed.

We agree to adopt these documents for their suggested use in sending out to meeting houses in which we hope to gather.

We adopt them with good hopes for the wider process within the Quaker community of which this is a part, believing that there is that of God within all who are involved in this dialogue, and trusting in the Spirit.

2021.2.2 Roles Review

As asked for in minute 2019.10.2, we have considered how the changes to our roles structure, implemented in 2019, have worked out.

The last year has contained many challenges which could not have been anticipated at the time our new structure of roles was being drawn up. Though this has put an unexpected burden on some roles, such as the Pastoral committee, we feel that, overall, the changes made in the roles review have made us more flexible, and more capable of dealing with the disruptions of Covid. Having had so few meetings in person, it is not yet known how well the structure will do in the long term. The need for ongoing conversations on how committees are functioning, for example by ensuring that representatives of every committee meet in the January planning weekend, has been highlighted.

The largest outstanding question is the issue of representatives. YFGM would like to reach outwards and make sure that our perspectives and principles are

heard in the wider Quaker world; but neither the General Meeting nor our Nominations process can sustain as many representatives as are routinely asked for. We recognise a need for further questioning and discernment on what YFGM is for, and the place it should have in the wider Quaker world.

2021.2.3 Budget Amendment

We have heard from James, our finance trustee regarding the YFGM budget. We have received a grant from North East Thames Quaker Trust (NETQT), as restricted funds. In order to distribute this fund, we are amending our budget in line with the appendix attached to these minutes [thing in docs in advance]. Distribution of the funds will follow our Bursary policy with the inclusion of Friends applying for grants for financial hardship.

2021.2.4 Nominations Returns

Role	Released	Appointed	Until
Elder	Miriam Harold	Grey Wood	February 2024
Pastoral	Matt Alton	Grace Roberts	February 2024
Planning Weekend Newcomers	Gwenllian Shipsides	Katie Muller	May 2021
	Gray Wood	Bel Ingham	May 2021
		Anna Karlsson	May 2021
Outreach	n/a	Sabrina Jones	February 2024
Logistics	Laura McQuillan	n/a	n/a

2021.2.5 Co-options to committees

There were no co-options to committees this YFGM.

2021.2.6 Special Interest Groups

Special interest groups were:

'In Parenthesis' Discussion Group with Sasha Lawson-Frost

Movement Break with James Davies

The Power of Poetry with Sabrina Jones

Accountability Catch Up with Ceridwen Jenkins

Solidarity and Connection During Covid with Lawrence Hall

We thank all of these Friends for their contributions to this gathering.

2021.2.7 Clerks' Offering

The last few months - still strange for all of us - have continued to remind us that YFGM is not the events, but the people. We have kept in touch, supporting each other, where we can, through difficult times. We look back with gratitude at the work our Friends have done to connect us all through distance and time. Our pastoral committee has been running meet-ups, and care packages from our elders, full of stickers, postcards and colouring pencils have made their way around the country.

At this our third online gathering, we greet each other once again with love, peace and tenderness. Our numbers this time have been smaller, but this has not diminished the joy and openness with which we have approached our gathering.

This weekend has been relaxed and comforting. We've spent time together in SIGs, drawn zen tangles, and explored gift-giving in our spirituality session. We've welcomed a vibrant set of newcomers, who have by time in quarantine been made immune to the awkwardness of zoom calls. We were able to visit with Swansea meeting, who were all incredibly welcoming to each and every one of us. We've chatted in spare spaces, and played some excellent rounds of pictionary.

Even our business items have felt peaceful and even laid-back (once we even finished ahead of time!). The main items were focused around our responsibilities to one another. Our commitment towards our trans and non-binary Friends has been reaffirmed: our policy of trans and non-binary inclusion is central to our running as

part of our testimony of Equality. We've looked again at our roles, not trying for perfection, but weighing whether our structures could better serve our role-holders and our community.

We all look forward to the distant, hoped-for return of in-person gatherings, with all their challenges, and all their joys. But in the meantime we find ourselves reassured, that neither height nor depth, nor anything in all creation, can separate us from the love of God.