

Young Friends General Meeting

19 February - 20 February 2022

Held online via Zoom

Minutes

Those Present (32):

Abigail Hughes, Becky Cutts, Becky Shirley, Ceridwen Jenkins, Chloe Scaling, Ellie Harding, Finn Longman, Freddie Brasher, Grace Roberts, Gray Wood, Gwenllian Shippies, Hannah Cook, Jacob Webb, Jaz Higgs, Jennie Atherton, Jenny Herbert, Jimmy Maghrabi, Juliette Chandler, Kim Edwards, Leilani Rabemananjara, Liam Brighton, Lucy Licious, Rachael Booth, Rebecca Morgan, Ro Bashforth, Sam Cooper, Sasha Lawson-Frost, Tas Cooper, Tim Hall Farthing, Tim Rouse, Tom Bell, Will Reed

Co-Clerks:	Tim Rouse and Zoe Marquis Sam Cooper (appointed for the duration of the meeting)
Trustees	Alexandra Boliver-Brown, James Davies, Liam Brighton, Sasha Lawson-Frost, Tim Rouse, Zoe Marquis, Tim Hall Farthing, Jenny Herbert

2022.02.1 Appointment of clerk

Our co-clerk Zoe Marquis is prevented from clerking during this weekend. In accordance with our constitution, section 11.2, a substitute may be appointed for the duration of the meeting.

We appoint Sam Cooper to serve as co-clerk for the duration of this YFGM.

2022.02.2 Trustees Report

Jenny Herbert, our Convenor of Trustees, provided a report on the work of trustees since the last General Meeting. This has included the annual reports and accounts for 2019 and 2020 and developing our declarations of interest policy for trustees.

2022.02.3 Consideration of the 2019 accounts

Further to minute 2020.05.04 and 2021.10.01, YFGM's accounts for the year ended 31 December 2019 have now been reprepared on a receipts & payments basis, and trustees are in the process of arranging for an independent examination to be carried out, as required by charity law and our constitution.

Jenny, our Convenor of Trustees, has presented the 2019 restated accounts. We approve the restated accounts which will be attached to these minutes.

2022.02.4 Reunion Style Event

Further to minutes 2021.05.07 and 2021.10.3, Tom Bell and Sam Cooper have reported that little progress has been made towards planning an event for people approaching the upper age limit for YFGM and those beyond it.

We are keen that this should be a simple event; we see the need for such a space, one that is spiritually nurturing where YFGMers past and present can maintain connections.

We ask Sam and Tom to find a suitable location for such an event and consider when it might happen. We agree to promote the event within and beyond our current community, and commit to uphold the efforts of those organising it.

2022.02.5 Social justice: Taking forward our work

We have held a session to consider ways in which we could take forward our ministry on social justice, including conversations about trans rights, anti-racism, peace and climate justice.

2022.02.6 Report From Planning Weekend Newcomers

Will Reed, one of our Planning Weekend Newcomers, has given a report about Planning Weekend, which was held online from 8-9 January 2022.

He spoke about getting a behind the scenes look of 'how the sausage is made', with the results of the planning being visible at this gathering.

2022.02.7 Future meetings

We plan to gather for our next meeting from 29 April to 2 May 2022, a bank holiday weekend. We will set our agenda at the planning weekend for this which will take place online from 19-20 March 2022.

In accordance with Trustee Minute 2022.01.09.03, our October gathering will take place from 28-30 October 2022, and the planning weekend for this will take place online from 10-11 September.

2022.02.8 Special Interest Groups

Special interest groups this weekend were:

- The historical place of the Bible in Quakerism - Grace Roberts and Rebecca Morgan
- A sustainable and inclusive Quakerism - Ellie Harding
- To-Do list accountability - Jaz Higgs

We thank all of them for their work.

2022.02.9 Nominations

We have heard a report from our nominations committee, who bring forward three nominations. For over a dozen vacancies, including Clerk and Finance Trustee, they have been unable to find Friends to nominate to these roles. We thank Nominations for their diligent work on our behalf.

We have reflected on our continued struggle to fill the roles that make up our structures. Nominations can only work with the people and energy that the community has. Just as many of us are burned out and in need of rest after years of global pandemics and online meetings, YFGM itself is burned out, and needs to rest just as dearly.

A call to simplify, to strip down YFGM to its basics, has come around before; but when push comes to shove we have never really taken this path. The heart of YFGM, what we most love, are often the bits that are most simple - the joy we find in being with one another in the most everyday parts of our meetings. But at the same time, we don't want to 'turn inward' and stop engaging with the world. By recognising that we need to rest, we're not giving up on that.

We face a severe shortfall in the time and energy needed to make our next gathering in May happen at all. With so many vacancies, each of us, role-holder or not, is called to offer what we can. As we make plans for May, and as we work out what to prioritise, we may need to make some changes immediately, keeping rest and simplicity at the forefront of our minds.

In the longer term, when we are together in person again, we can take the time as a worshipping, discerning community to consider the future. This will involve radical thinking - we expect to do things by committee, and we package up the work that needs doing into defined roles. Is this the right way? At present some of the roles most needed are some of the most daunting to take up, and support for those roles is often at a low ebb. Through communication, perhaps we can distribute the work so that heavy burdens are shared, rather than falling on any one person or role. We have failed if, when we come to YFGM from the exhausting world outside, we find it a source of exhaustion in itself, rather than a source of nourishment.

We are clear that we face a challenge as we work towards simplifying in a way that leaves us with time to prioritise what is essential about YFGM. However, we see an opportunity within the challenge; for outreach, for growth, and for strengthening the bonds of our community.

2022.02.9.ii Nominations

We appoint the Friends named in the below table to the roles specified. We release Friends as indicated in the table and thank them for their service.

Role	Released	Appointed	Until
Co-clerk	Zoe Marquis	None - vacancy carried forward	-
Finance Trustee	None - handover period	None - vacancy carried forward	-
Convenor of Trustees	Alexandra Boliver-Brown	None - end of handover period	-
Planning Weekend Newcomer	Becky Shirley Bird Taylor Will Reed	None - three vacancies carried forward	-

Logistics	Liam Brighton Ceridwen Jenkins	Liam Brighton (role extended) Becky Shirley	May 2022 February 2024
Logistics Trustee	Liam Brighton	Liam Brighton (role extended)	May 2022
Elder	Hannah Cook	None - two vacancies carried forward	-
Media	Tim Hall Farthing Cathy Hall	None - three vacancies carried forward	-
Communications Trustee	None - vacancy	Leilani Rabemananjara	May 2025
MfS Rep	Rachael Booth	None - vacancy carried forward	-
NFPB Rep	None - vacancy	None - two vacancies carried forward	-
Quaker Life Rep	None - vacancy	None - two vacancies carried forward	-
Fundraiser	None - vacancy	None - vacancy carried forward	-
Nominations	Hannah Davies Simon Crane	Chloe Scaling Two vacancies carried forward	February 2025
Outreach	Leilani Rabemananjara	None - vacancy carried forward	-

2022.02.10 Change of Signatory

Alexandra Boliver-Brown has now completed her term as Convenor of Trustees and we therefore remove her as a signatory to YFGM's bank accounts.

The current signatories to the bank account are:

- James Davies, Finance Trustee
- Tom Bell, Treasurer
- Jenny Herbert, Convenor of Trustees

2022.02.11 Clerks' Offering

We didn't expect to be back here, meeting online once again. We're tired, and in need of rest, and we are keenly feeling the disappointment of not being with one another in person, but even as the storm rages outside, we are together. Ours is a fellowship of love, and care, and we are grateful to each other for all of it.

We have faced challenges in getting here and we know that we continue to face more in the future. Ours is a vision of the Kingdom of Heaven made here and now; in the community we make amongst ourselves and in striving to realise our visions of a peaceful, just, and equal world.

The essentials are still here - attenuated but here. We look forward so much to summer & washing dishes with everyone again.

Signed, in and on behalf of Young Friends General Meeting,

Tim Rouse & Sam Cooper
Co-clerks

Appendices & Further Information

- A: Accounts 2019

Receipts and payments				
	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
Receipts				
Grants	9,984	8,500	18,484	18,158
Donations from meetings	11,911	-	11,911	20,100
Donations from Young Friends	9,035	-	9,035	5,376
Donations from trustees	170	-	170	552
Interest	140	-	140	10
Other	-	100	100	643
Sub total	31,240	8,600	39,840	44,839
Total receipts	31,240	8,600	39,840	44,839
Payments				
Support of meetings - YFGMs & Planning Weekends	6,746	-	6,746	10,789
Support of meetings - Other events	606	-	606	1,910
Staff and office costs	857	-	857	808
Outreach	-	5,208	5,208	3,680
Accessibility and bursaries	170	1,581	1,751	3,335
Legal support	-	-	-	3,000
Firefly appeal	-	-	-	5,656
Raising funds	697	-	697	-
Grant-making	1,000	-	1,000	-
Trustee expenses	2,453	949	3,402	1,330
Other	1,279	-	1,279	631
Sub total	13,808	7,739	21,547	31,139
Total payments	13,808	7,739	21,547	31,139
Net of receipts/(payments)	17,432	861	18,293	13,700
Cash funds last year end	78,303	6,268	84,571	-
Cash funds this year end	95,735	7,129	102,864	13,700

Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds
		to nearest £	to nearest £
Cash funds	General Fund	62,858	7,129
	General Fund Deposit Account	32,877	-
		-	-
	Total cash funds	95,735	7,129

Categories	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)
Liabilities	Office costs	Unrestricted funds	32,183
	Bookkeeping	Unrestricted funds	1,440
	Website development, unrestricted	Unrestricted funds	396
	Costs of gatherings and planning weekends, including venue hire	Unrestricted funds	1,470
	<i>Subtotal</i>		35,489
	Website development, restricted	Restricted funds	1,980
	Office costs	Restricted funds	215
	Bursaries	Restricted funds	110
	<i>Subtotal</i>		2,305

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval