

EMEYF Communications Committee (CC) Meeting (via Skype)

Tuesday 8th February 2011

Present: John Nicholls, Marielke Nieuwerth, Jonathan Riddell, Leo Vincent, Kristin Skarsholt

CC 11/01 Budget

We approve 'Budget A' prepared by our Treasurer Jonathan Riddell, in light of the success of our grant application to the JRCT. We will review our Trees for Africa donation at our Annual Meeting in Brussels in October and decide whether to include such donations for the 2011 period. We thank Jonathan for his hard work towards this.

Note

Budget A can be found on page 4 of 'Accounts 2010', shown under Annual Meeting Minutes on the Documents page of the website.

EMEYF Communications Committee (CC) Meeting

Forest Hill Meeting House, London

2-3 April 2011

Present: Jonathan Riddell, John Nicholls, Paul Sladen, Leo Vincent, Kristin Skarsholt, Matt Loffman (in attendance as acting Clerk for Spring Gathering), Anya Whiteside (in attendance as former Secretary)

Apologies: Marielke Nieuwerth

CC11/01 [Included from previous meeting by way of reference above]

CC11/02 Opening Minute

We meet for Communications Committee here in Forest Hill Meeting House, London surrounded by the harmonies of yoga vocalisations and the joy of an octagonal meeting room offering a different perspective in each direction. We are grateful for the news shared of friends of Friends and those who have not been able to join us this weekend.

CC11/03 Annual Report 2010

John Nicholls has presented the draft of the Annual Report, prepared following hard work in collating the reports and figures from its many contributors. The Annual Report is EMEYF's principle communication to Fundraisers, Friends and Quaker Meetings across the section. John will incorporate useful suggestions from members of CC following fruitful discussion to finalise the report and the wording of the covering letter.

Paper copies will be sent to our funders including the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust and meetings within Continental Europe. Electronic copies are continuing to be sent wherever possible as part of our on-going commitment to sustainability. Our treasurer will submit an electronic copy to the Charities Commission as part of our yearly submissions.

Preparation of the Annual Report is an important outreach opportunity for EMEYF, giving a chance to communicate and we thank John for his work in making this happen. We will proactively investigate how we can better use the report as vehicle for outreach, encouraging Young Friends to "get up and go". The suggestion of including a small poster with dates for the next year ahead is strongly supported and we will further discuss this at Spring Gathering 2011.

CC11/04 Communications Committee/Secretary contact

Marielke Nieuwerth, in addition to her role as elder, has been acting as CC's point of contact with the Secretary. Both Marielke and John have noted that their monthly catch-ups provide structure, ensuring that the Secretary is pastorally comfortable in undertaking activities on behalf of EMEYF and any problems are swiftly communicated. At Annual Meeting 2010 we expressed our intent to review the role and its value at this CC meeting.

Going forward we ask the clerk and elders to share the secretary's communication role and will review the requirement again at Communications Committee 2012. John will draft a job description of the CC contact role to be approved by Communications Committee as soon as possible.

CC11/05 QCEA/EMEYF Secretary contract

The paid EMEYF Secretary position acts as a point of contact for Young Friends and EMEYF, something that EMEYF continues to value and ensure funding is provided for. The role is currently provided via an agreed 10% time designation from one of QCEA's existing Programme Assistant posts.

Leo and Anya have introduced the current status of the contract in discussion between EMEYF and QCEA. The service contract attempts to document the status quo of the EMEYF secretary role. In doing so, the agreement seeks to clarify two areas: (1) the secretary's attendance at EMEYF Spring Gathering as part of their role in facilitating the work of EMEYF; (2) in the event that QCEA are prevented from providing the service, the case of pro-rata remuneration for non-availability of the secretarial service is covered.

Many Young Friends and former secretaries have highlighted that Spring Gathering represents the synopsis of what EMEYF stands for and attendance has been a very positive experience for them. Through establishing the status quo contract we hope to remove any barriers for attendance at EMEYF Spring Gathering by the EMEYF Secretary.

CC is happy with the state of the contract, particularly in relation to the above two areas and Leo will forward the latest iteration back to QCEA for review and confirmation.

CC11/06 Young Adult Leadership Programme

John has introduced an enquiry from Mike Eccles, a former Clerk of EMEYF and now a tutor at Woodbrooke, the Quaker Study Centre.

Mike conveys that he is currently working on developing a year-long part-time course covering skills for young adult leaders and how these link with Quaker values and principles. The course would be between August 2012 to 2013 and be aimed at 18-28 year olds. Because of the overlap in the age ranges and focus, we look forward to hearing more from Michael and encourage him to contact members of EMEYF via EMEYF's existing communication channels. In addition, we ask our Secretary to field suggestions from Michael as to whether a workshop on the topic would fit with one of EMEYF's existing planned meetings or would suit Michael's proposed timeline.

CC11/07 EMES Companionship Programme

Europe and Middle East Section (EMES) are currently in the process of kicking-off a new programme to support Friends in Eastern-European and Middle-East countries with very low numbers of Quakers, or those in isolated areas without a regular or local meeting to meet their spiritual needs. Leo has introduced EMES' desire to engage with friends and their development of an online "Moodle" site in conjunction with Woodbrooke to support this aim.

Julia Ryberg of EMES is facilitating the introduction of the programme and we ask our secretary to keep abreast of the development of the topic. There will

likely also be an opportunity for Young Friends at the joint gathering in Herzberg to ask further questions and satisfy any curiosities in how EMEYF and Young Friends can uphold the work undertaken by the programme.

CC11/08 Outreach

In addition to CC11/03 we have briefly discussed the topic of outreach. EMEYF is currently experiencing an influx of new people experiencing the EMEYF community for the first time and we wish to continue to maximise the network effects from the refreshed enthusiasm that continues to come with it. We look forward to Young Friends' fuller discernment on the subject at Spring Gathering 2011.

CC11/09 Finance

To improve the consistency of our practice of finance management we would like to accept the accounts of the previous year and review the accounts of the current year to date at each CC meeting. At annual meeting we should aim to review the accounts for the current year to date and accept the budget for the following year.

CC11/10 Review of the 2010 Accounts

Last year our grant from the Chapman Trust was not fully used in our Northern Ireland Spring Gathering. We have not received the information from the Trust that will allow us to return the surplus from their grant, which will endeavour to do this in the near future after communicating with them. Our Trees for Africa payment reflects a payment to cover our commitment to this for the last three years and therefore does not accurately reflect what an estimation of how big this payment may be in future years should we continue the practice.

Our balance at the end of 2010 was 5762.91 Euro and this reflects an accurate consolidation of funds received and funds spent throughout the year 2010. CC accept these accounts as a true representation of our financial situation, subject to the UK account being examined, and they are included in our Annual Report along with our Treasurer's Report. We thank all those involved in producing our accounts.

CC11/11 Review of the 2011 Accounts

Since our Annual Meeting in November 2010 we have heard a successful response from JRCT which pays our core costs for the next three years. We are

grateful for the support of JRCT in helping us to undertake our activities and allow Young Friends to be active within Quaker communities in Europe and Middle East. Jonathan will ask QCEA for an invoice for secretary services in 2010.

In 2011 we were grateful to receive a donation of 1000 Euros from Sweden Yearly Meeting towards the cost of our activities. Furthermore we have a promise of a donation from German Yearly Meeting. John Nicholls is still communicating with other Yearly Meetings to see where else we might receive funding from and will continue to work with the Treasurer on fundraising opportunities.

CC11/12 Reunion and Anthology

2014 is the 30th anniversary of EMEYF and a great opportunity to celebrate our community. This anniversary allows us to inspire people by telling the story of EMEYF and inspiring people to engage with Young Friends across the section. EMEYF has become a family to many people and provides a spiritual and nourishing community that has formed firm bonds of friendship. We would like to explore our history and develop a way to tell the story of EMEYF in a creative medium; perhaps by a video and interviews. In doing so we could draw on the memories and experiences of the people who have helped to shape EMEYF through the years. It is clear that we are moved enthusiastically to find a way to mark this celebration and we are open to different ways of doing this. We continue to explore our path forward and would welcome input from all those who have had some involvement in EMEYF through its time.

CC11/13 Spring Gathering 2011 update

Leo and Kristin have updated us with the progress from the organisation of the joint gathering and particularly the preparation for Young Friends' attendance. Leo and Kristin have run us through the programme for the event and we have heard about Young Friend's involvement with the epilogue, business sessions and evening activities.

Accommodation is now fully booked and those from the waiting list have been accommodated. A significant number have not been to an EMEYF event before (see CC11/08).

The Young Friends part of the gathering will start one day earlier to allow space and a chance to bond for Young Friends. There will also be a small amount of separate Young Friends' time at the end too. Communications Committee considers the plan to be excellent. The activities and timetable are continuing to be fine-tuned during the last month until the event.

CC11/14 Spring Gathering 2011 organisation

The Spring Gathering Planning Committee will arrive one day before other Young Friends do, to allow time for practical preparation, arranging of equipment and rooms, and to be ready for welcoming Friends. Spring Gathering Planning Committee hope that Young Friends may be able to co-arrange their arrival and departure times to ease practicalities and hope to encourage this with their final mailing.

We have heard that the budget has been met and the costs so far have been entirely matched through attendance fees and fundraising. The Planning Committee have highlighted that they have not needed to request the preparatory travelling cost amount that EMEYF normally contributes towards.

We are very grateful for the Spring Gathering Planning Committee's fundraising efforts, and the high-level of organisation which the members of the Planning Committee have demonstrated. We hope that members of the committee will feel able to record their experiences and share the expertise gathered with future Spring Gathering planning committees.

We encourage all friends that need financial support to contact the committee. Pre-agreed bursary-covered travel to the Spring Gathering is being booked directly or via Marisa at EMES, once processed by the committee.

CC11/15 Spring Gathering participation

We note that one Young Friend who applied will not have reached their eighteenth birthday by the start of the event. We note that eighteen is not a universal age of legal emancipation (being considering an adult).

After careful consideration and in conjunction with the minutes from EMEYF Annual Meeting 2006 on the subject, Spring Gathering Planning Committee has agreed to accept the application. We note further that the individual is attending with the full support, backing and written agreement of their parents.

Spring Gathering Planning Committee has continued to discuss the situation with the participant, their family, and those who know them. With that background in mind Spring Gathering Committee has then taken the decision that the Young Friend is ready to attend. Through our further consideration this weekend, we affirm Communications Committee's support for the Committee in reaching the decision to work to include the individual.

See also: EMEYF Under 18s Policy - Questions for Serious Consideration - on the Documents section of website under the 'Policy' heading

CC11/16 Spring Gathering 2011 business items

We ask those facilitating Spring Gathering to find time for considering:

- * Outreach activities (CC11/03)
- * EMES Executive Committee Representative (CC11/17)
- * Appointment of Recording Clerk during Spring Gathering 2011
- * Appointment of two remaining members of Spring Gathering 2012 Planning Committee (Germany)

CC11/17 Any Other Business

We have briefly discussed the role of the Gatherings Coordinator and remind ourselves that the role is to provide continuity between planning committees who might otherwise not have met and are unsure where to start. The Gatherings Coordinator exists to provide support and pointers, with the organisation being done by the individual planning groups.

For the last decade EMEYF has alternated between two default locations for its Annual Meeting. We ask the Gatherings Coordinator to bring the topic to Annual Meeting 2011, so that we can continue to consider venues that are accessible, that we have a connection to and which assist with outreach where possible.

In addition to the Secretary's work plan, we ask that they collate and distribute the participants' addresses and contact details at the end of each EMEYF gathering.

We ask that the Secretary looks into the progress of adding electronic donation methods to the EMEYF website.

EMES Executive Committee has their next meeting on the same day that EMEYF are having our gathering at Herzberg. We feel that it is impractical to ask a representative from EMEYF to attend the meeting instead of the being present at the EMEYF gathering and taking part in the EMEYF community. Unfortunately we note that this means there won't be a representative from EMEYF at the next EMES Executive Committee meeting, but we would welcome feedback on

those topics that have been discussed and ask that the papers are sent to the next appointee to the role.

We hope that once a nomination has been appointed there will be an opportunity to meet other members of the EMES Executive Committee during the joint gathering.

We are reassured to hear that people are already thinking ahead to organisation for EMEYF Annual Meeting 2011 and the new contributors to EMEYF who will be present. We hope to ensure comfortable continuity for EMEYF, a positive handover process and continue to care for the pastoral needs of all those involved in EMEYF.

CC11/18 Closing Minute

We have received an entertaining, happy and close weekend thanks to the hospitality afforded by Forest Hill Friends and their wonderful Meeting House. The weather has been Quakerly, affording us the chance to eat together in the sunshine; surrounded by bird chorus in the day and stars in the sky above by night. We thank Leo for the extensive prior preparation of soups, both cucumber---and more traditional---and the surprise supply of cakes by two local friendly Friends. We wish everyone safe travels and look forward to meeting again in Switzerland at Easter and in Brussels towards the end of the year.

In Friendship,

Signed in and behalf of EMEYF CC