

EMEYF Communications Committee Minutes 2020

Sykpe Video-Call 12/02/2020

Present: George Thurley, Leyna Garrettson, Silja Pfeiffer, Lisa Specht, Lisette Nijboer, Jenny McCarthy, Peter Doubtfire

CC 2020/01 Reflection on AM and nominations

We've spent some time at the beginning of the call, thinking back to our Annual Meeting last Autumn. We also heard that a Friend raised the issue of how the way we do nominations (particularly at AM) can lead to personal discernment being rushed. We agree to return to this at our face to face meeting.

CC 2020/02 EMEYF Representative Member to EMES Executive Committee (EC) (recording minute)

CC has consulted with EMES and found that the ideal option would be for Saskia Kuhlmann to continue as trustee until EMEYF is able to make a new appointment at the SG in July. Saskia is able and willing to do this.

Both Saskia and the new appointee will therefore be able to attend the September 2020 EC meeting, as part of the handover. We are happy that Saskia is willing and able to continue her role for the additional time, and thank her for this.

Virtual "face-to-face" 30/05/2020

Present: George Thurley, Leyna Garrettson, Silja Hampel (formerly Pfeiffer), Lisa Specht, Lisette Nijboer, Rose Almond, Peter Doubtfire

CC 2020/03: Opening minute

Amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic we gather in an online space for our "Face-to-face" meeting rather than in the UK as initially planned. Our experiences of the pandemic vary widely as we reside in different countries, yet fortunately we are all safe, enjoying the sunny weather and are managing these times best we can. We are grateful that we are able to stay in touch with our community through online communication channels, and look forward to discussing this further today.

CC 2020/04: SG 2020 cancellation

We have received the minute ChC 2020/06 from EMEYF Trustees, which recommends cancelling the summer gathering in summer 2020 and supports the suggestion, put forward by SG planning committee (PC 2020/01), to postpone the gathering until summer 2021.

Finland would remain the location and the summer timing would also be kept. We are glad to hear that all three current members of PC, Aino Vesanen, Johanna Buchmann and Silja Hampel, would be willing to continue until the SG in summer 2021, and accept their offer.

We are thankful to the Trustees and Planning Committee and confirm the decision to postpone the Finland SG2020 to the summer of 2021 with heavy hearts, though we look forward to discussing how to move forward and find other ways to stay in touch, during these times, with the wider community.

CC 2020/05: Summer 2020 essential business

We have considered the essential business that will need to take place in absence of an in-person gathering this summer, which consists of two nominations (Gatherings coordinator and EMEYF

member of EMES executive committee). As we will not be meeting in person our normal nominations process may be hard to implement, but it may also make it possible for us to give our nominations group more time and space to do their work. We ask the clerks together with Lisa as an elder to come up with a way for these nominations to take place this summer, and bring this back to CC's next meeting.

CC 2020/06: Alternative community contact Summer 2020

Trustees asked us to consider how our community might gather and be in contact this summer, as an alternative to the summer gathering. There are many options for activities (virtual and otherwise) and we ask Lisa to get in touch with Esther in order to get the ball rolling, including reaching out to the wider community to gather ideas and find a way to move forward.

CC 2020/07: Online worship – update, and continuation

The first EMEYF online MfW was attended well (about 14 people) and there seemed to be wider interest to repeat this experience in a bimonthly rhythm. There were requests to move the meeting time to midweek so that the EMEYF MfW does not clash with other MfWs which often take place on Sundays. The jitsi room is available and can be used for a regular MfW without administrators. George will initiate one on Tuesday 9 June at 8 CET, and we hope to organise it regularly thereafter. We will review this at our next CC meeting.

CC 2020/08: Objective advisors

Following minute AM 2019/13, we accept the following names of those willing to serve our community as objective advisors until AM 2020: David Mangels, Paul Sladen, Annie Brock-Womack and Leo Wieldraaijer-Vincent. We are grateful for their service.

To balance business with some social time, we reconvened virtually after preparing dinners to chat and play games on the online platform "skribbl.io".

Skype Video-Call 22/06/2020

Present: George Thurley, Leyna Garrettson, Silja Hampel (formerly Pfeiffer), Lisa Specht, Lisette Nijboer, Rose Almond, Peter Doubtfire

CC 2020/09 Nominations committee

Following minute CC 2020/05, George, Leyna and Lisa discerned an approach to nominations for this year, as part of our online special gathering. Names to serve on the nominations committee were sought from the wider community via the email list, and Friends were invited to join this CC meeting at which we intended to appoint Friends to the committee.

We appoint Emmie Touwen together with Lisa Specht as elder, to join the committee. We have heard a number of other suggestions to join this committee. We will follow up with them in order to form a full nominations committee by the end of June. We will minute those appointed at our next meeting.

CC 2020/10 SG Planning Document update

Following Annual Meeting 2019 (AM 2019/12), Lisa has included feedback and revised the SG Planning Document. It has been updated to include the suggestions received at AM. We see this as a living document and encourage future planning committees to continue updating the document as they see fit.

We approve the update and thank Lisa for her work.

CC 2020/11 2019 Finances

Our treasurers have updated us about the approved EMEYF 2019 financial report (ChC 2020/08), and answered our questions. We heard about some details, discussing generous donations, outreach ideas and the outlook for next year due to the extraordinary circumstances with COVID-19. In this context, we note the possibility to make use of our funds this year to support the EMEYF and wider Quaker communities, in the absence of our usual SG expenditure.

We are pleased to see that EMEYF's financial situation remains healthy, having made a surplus in 2019, and thank the treasurers for their work.

CC2020/12 Annual Report 2019

The Annual Report 2018 has been completed, including some contributions from Willy& Penn. We thank Lisette for her work and thank Peter for joining Lisette in working on the AR 2019.

CC 2020/13 EMES AM update

George updated us on EMEYF's contribution to the EMES Annual Meeting, held online at the start of May.

Saskia, the EMEYF member of EMES Exco, clerked the business session, as she is currently the acting clerk of EMES. Liam (EMEYF rep to EMES) and George were able to give an update about EMEYF over the last year in one session, which was well-received, with notably positive feedback for Willy & Penn.

The experience of this meeting will also be helpful when thinking about preparing and running our own online meetings.

CC 2020/14 Virtual nominations committee

Further to minute CC 2020/09 we appoint Liam Brighton and Fee Grabow to join this summer's nominations committee, alongside Emmie and Lisa, and look forward to their report to the Special Gathering's closing session.

Skype Video-Call 26/08/2020

Present: George Thurley, Leyna Garrettson, Silja Hampel (formerly Pfeiffer), Lisa Specht, Peter Doubtfire, Paul Schock

CC 2020/15 SG Nominations Review

We revisited the new approach tested to find a nominations committee in advance of the gathering (CC 2020/01 Reflection on AM and nominations, CC 2020/05: Summer 2020 essential business, CC 2020/09 Nominations committee) and heard from Lisa about the experience. The challenges the Nominations Committee faced in regular gatherings remained similar in the virtual Special Gathering. The additional time was helpful, but did not alter the process or experience substantially. Despite the gathering being virtual, it felt valuable to be looking for names during the gathering. We will try a similar approach for AM this autumn, based on the form of the AM itself.

CC 2020/16 Concerning AM

We have spent some time considering the form of our AM this autumn. We have heard about some attempts to run hybrid events and meetings, and the challenges involved in this. COVID-19 still limits travel for many, and would affect how we could interact at Quaker Haus in Bad Pyrmont. Making sure our AM – in whatever form – is inclusive for our community is key. We are clear that it will not be possible to have an AM as we normally would. Instead we feel an online gathering over a longer period than a usual AM would be preferable, while suggesting that small groups of

EMEYFers may gather to join the virtual gathering, as they feel comfortable. We ask our clerks to take this forward and bring back a draft program to our next meeting.

Skype Video-Call 28/09/2020

Present: George Thurley, Leyna Garrettson, Lisa Specht, Peter Doubtfire, Lisette Nijboer

CC 2020/16 Appointing new trustees

George revisited the call we had between CC and trustees on August 19th, reminding us of the structures and handover processes that have been/ are in place, and how these have developed over time. There was a specific focus on the appointment and relevance of non-CC Trustees. We considered the terms of EMEYF trustees, and three years was regarded as a good rule of thumb, while flexibility may be required, and CC-Trustees will step down at the end of their CC term. It was good to consider the respective roles and interactions of the two committees.

The non-CC Trustee role will be included in the nomination process we have at SG and AM, beginning at AM 2020 in order to enhance the ownership of the wider community. Esther, who has been serving as a non-CC trustee since 2013 has asked to step down once a new non-CC trustee is appointed at AM 2020. In light of the upcoming changes in CC's membership at AM, we ask CC roleholders staying on CC to consider taking on the role of CC-Trustee in the time leading up to AM. CC will then appoint CC-Trustee(s) after AM.

CC 2020/17 Website domain transfer and reimbursement

We were reminded of the history of the EMEYF.org website and the rise of the efforts to transfer the domain to that of QCEA. The domain had been hosted on Georg Adelman's account since 2015, for which he has been paying 6,90€ / month. After a long period of no communication, Georg contacted CC in July 2020 asking for the domain to be taken to a different account. George has been taking this process forward and arranged to link the domain to the EMEYF secretariat (but under George's name), and host the domain on the QCEA hosting contract. The question before CC is to which degree Georg shall be reimbursed for the website and domain costs. We ask George to clarify the circumstances that led to the delay in the request of reimbursement, before moving forward with this question.

CC 2020/18 AM draft invitation and programme

We've considered the plans for Annual meeting and the draft invitation and agenda. We ask our clerks and gatherings coordinator to send this out in the next week.

CC 2020/19 Annual Meeting Nominations committee

Following minute CC 2020/15, we appoint Lena Hofmaier, Saskia Zijerveld, Vitek Springorum and Hugh O'Farrell-Walsh, with George Thurley as 'elder' as a virtual Nominations committee for Annual Meeting 2020, and ask them to bring names for the relevant roles to our final business session on the 22nd November.