

## **EMEYF Communications Committee Minutes 2021 (ongoing)**

### **Sykpe Video-Call, Jan. 31<sup>st</sup> 2021**

**Present:** Leyna Garrettson, Marcie Winstanley, Peter Doubtfire, Paul Schock, Thea Thorek, Lena Hofmaier, George Thurley

#### **CC 2021.01 Reflections on AM**

We meet for our first gathering as Communication Committee using Skype. Annual Meeting has passed and in our reflections we look back on our experiences with the regular jitsi meetings and communication that followed Annual Meeting. We have heard that some members of our community are not yet aware of the new role holders' names, and will send a communication to all, introducing ourselves as the new CC. We also heard that jitsi meetings have been diverse and varied, offering a space that has helped Friends to reconnect after AM, which now feels far away to those who attended. Jitsi meetings may benefit from a little more organisation, and we will search for someone willing to take up an informal organiser role.

#### **CC 2021.02 Domain compensation**

We heard from George Thurley that the domain transfer has already happened and is being hosted jointly with QCEA's domain, with the EMEYF secretary helping to manage this. The transfer of the domain moved from an account hosted by Georg Adelmann, to the QCEA domain after a period of non communication between CC and Georg, as he wished to close his domain, and asked to be reimbursed for the costs.

Georg had indicated that a partial reimbursement would be possible. CC had asked George (minute CC 2020/17) to clarify the amount of Georg's costs and options for a partial reimbursement, that would acknowledge shared responsibility. The proposed amount that Georg has calculated to be reimbursed by CC is approximately 414.59 euros, so the what proportion of this we should pay, is still a question before our meeting today. The suggestion for a 50% reimbursement was proposed by Georg originally. We have reached a sense that the meeting feels our best option would be to reimburse Georg in full, suggesting an optional donation to EMEYF, in the interests of fairness and finding a conclusion to the questions to which CC is discerning answers today.

We thank George for his involvement and giving us an overview of the context for our discernment, and thank Georg for hosting our website for so many years. We ask Pete Doubtfire to communicate our discernment to Georg.

#### **CC 2021.03 EMEYF list moderator and QCEA Secretary contact**

We discussed the possibility of adding a moderator for the EMEYF mailing list, who would approve incoming emails before they are sent out to the wider community. This would allow other members of CC as well as the clerking team to be involved in communications. We thank Pete Doubtfire for joining as an additional moderator.

For the communication with the QCEA Secretary, we thank Lena Hofmaier for taking the role of contact person for EMEYF, and also note that there will be a new EMEYF Secretary at QCEA in the coming months. Lena will replace George Thurley and Lisa Specht, who have asked to be released from their roles as contact people for the EMEYF Secretary.

#### **CC 2021.04 Appointing Trustees**

With the closing of Annual Meeting, Lisette Nijboer and Esther Köhring have asked to be released from service as Trustees. We remind ourselves of the meaning of Trusteeship, and discern how to move forward together. We thank Leyna Garrettson and Paul Schock for joining our existing Trustees as new members.

#### **Sykpe Video-Call, Feb 13th 2021**

**Present:** Leyna Garrettson, Marcie Winstanley, Peter Doubtfire, Paul Schock, Thea Thorek, Lena Hofmaier, Liam Brighton

#### **CC 2021.05 A Quaker Podcast**

We heard from our clerks that Hugh O'Farrell Walsh has reaffirmed his proposal to start a Podcast with Quaker Themes. Our discernment brought forward to reach out to the wider community as well as the Willy and Penn Editorial team to seek individuals who feel called to form a team to move this idea forward with Hugh. We thank Lena Hofmaier for moving forward with this.

#### **CC 2021.06 SG Planning Committee report**

We heard from Paul Schock that the Summer Gathering Planning Committee had their first meeting and have decided to move forward with planning the gathering as it has stood, keeping an awareness for the Covid situation and taking into consideration that the current covid situation might result in travel plans changing at short notice.

With the switch of the domain, the planning committee has lost access to the springgathering@emeyf.org email address. Paul Schock will clarify if there has been a loss of documents through this. We will ask the planning committee if they require any older files on the email server or just need access for registration purposes.

In regard to the possibility of setting up a new email address, we have heard that it may be possible to set this up a new email address with the QCEA domain, but we will need to discern if this is something we want to do.

#### **CC 2021.07 Role-holder specific email addresses**

We invited thoughts, concerns and questions in relation to the possibility of creating emails that could be used by role-holders and passed forward during handovers, to help us discern the right way forward. We considered the advantages and disadvantages of creating such email addresses, especially as we have heard today that it is easy to lose access to email addresses due to domain changes or personal reasons. Having considered many concerns and comments, the sense of the meeting was that the pros outweighed the cons. We then moved forward to discuss the practical arrangements for which provider to use. We have also considered following the example of other Quaker organisations using freemail providers to unify their communications systems or using an affordable email provider that might give us better data security. If possible, we would prefer remaining within the QCEA domain structure. We thank Pete Doubtfire for moving forward with clarifying if there is a possibility of setting up role-holder specific emails through the QCEA domain.

## **Skype Video Call March 21<sup>st</sup> 2021**

**Present: Marcie Winstanley, Leyna Kreutner, Liam Brighton., Lena Hofmaier, Pete Doubtfire**

### **CC 2021.08 Attending QCEA General Assembly**

Marcie informed us, that the EMEYF representative to QCEA will not be able to attend the upcoming General Assembly. She gave us a brief reminder of what QCEA is working on and what to expect at the General Assembly and some insights to the upcoming event. We will reach out to Mieke van Opheusden to ask for the information to attend the General Assembly to circulate within Communication Committee and plan on sending a roleholder to attend.

### **CC 2021.09 EMES Annual Meeting**

We have heard from Leyna about the opportunity for members of EMEYF to attend this years online Annual Meeting as well present an update about EMEYF as part of the programme. We reflect on this and what EMEYF could contribute to the wider European community. Communications Committee will circulate the EMES Invitation with the wider EMEYF community using the Email List. We thank Lena Hofmaier, Liam Brighton and Leyna Garrettson who have stepped forward to prepare a contribution to the EMES program on the experiences of building online community.

### **CC 2021.10 Podcast Project**

We heard about a recent call our co-clerks had with Hugh O'Farrell Walsh on the project of starting a podcast. We support the idea of the kind of online engagement that having a podcast could bring.

Following the last CC meeting, Lena Hofmaier was in touch with Hugh and Willy & Penn about building a team. We have heard that it will be important to have the entire community involved and that Willy & Penn may not be able to organize and create content, but could take on a publishing role. We ask our co-clerks to reach out to Willy & Penn, and then to the wider community to ask anyone with skills and capacity to take the idea forward to get in touch to form a committee. We also discussed the idea of holding a Tuesday meeting on jitsi as a means to reach out to the wider community in order to collect ideas about possible topics or speakers. May 1st has been suggested as a provisional date by Hugh for a conversation with Willy & Penn and other members of the community interested in this project to discuss how to move forward with these ideas.

## **Skype Video Call, April 29<sup>th</sup> 2021**

**Present: Lena Hofmaier, Pete Doubtfire, Leyna Kreutner, Marcie Winstanley, Paul Schock, Liam Brighton**

### **CC 2021.11 EMEFY Domain and Email**

We have heard that there is a general need to find a sustainable solution for planning committee to communicate about registration for Spring Gathering and to have the possibility for roleholder emails. Our Gatherings Coordinator brought back a report from the Planning Committee meeting, that this year, the planning committee will be able to find a

solution themselves. We ask Communications Committee to explore options of creating an emeyf domain as well as other options such as emails being hosted on the domain of another Quaker organisation. We seek to create sustainable email addresses for the EMEYF gatherings as well as roleholder email addresses.

#### **CC 2021.12 Concerns with the Postorius Email List Provider**

Lena Hofmaier has brought to our attention that the postorius email list provider has a function of archiving emails on a publicly accessible page. We have discovered the archive setting and have changed this to prevent emails from being archived publicly in future. We ask our clerks to move forward to pursue a way towards a resolution and determine a way to delete the already publicly archived emails. Our clerks will also raise awareness of this public archive function among other Quaker organisations using this list provider, who might also not have known of it previously.

#### **CC 2021.13 Releasing Fundraising Treasurer from Service**

We have heard from Thea Torek, our fundraising treasurer, that she would like to be released from service. The role will be brought forward to nominations committee to appoint a new roleholder at Summer Gathering. Our Treasurer Pete Doubtfire has stepped forward to monitor emails as necessary in the interim. We thank Thea for her service and thank Pete for his support.

### **Skype Call, June 20<sup>th</sup> 2021**

**Present: Marcie Winstanley, Leyna Garrettson, Lena Hofmaier, Pete Doubtfire, Paul Schock.**

#### **CC2021.14 Moving forward after the cancellation of the in-person SG 2021**

We have received the trustee minutes which inform us of trustees' discernment to cancel the in-person gathering due to be held in Finland between 17th and 24th July 2021. After considering the role of CC in the programming of the SG gatherings in general and the infrastructure established through the experiences of online gatherings in 2020, we have discerned to send an email to the wider community asking for Friends to join the jitsi Tuesday meeting on June 22nd to collaborate and collect ideas for a possible ad hoc online gathering. We ask our clerks to send this email as soon as is possible so that Friends have enough time to see the invitation and attend the Tuesday session to discuss our gathering together. Questions of possible content and logistics shall be discerned through this channel. We further ask our clerks to update the information about changes concerning the Summer Gathering on the EMEYF website and the EMEYF Facebook group.

#### **CC2021.15 Ask to be released from service by EMEYF's QCEA Representative**

We have heard, from our clerks, that Mieke van Opheusden has asked to be released from her role as QCEA Representative. We thank Mieke for her service and will seek to appoint a Friend to serve as QCEA Representative at Summer Gathering 2021.

## **October 15th 2021**

**Present: Leyna Garrettsen, Marcie Winstanley, Peter Doubtfire, Lena Hofmaier, Susie Harty, Paula Christophersen**

### **CC2021.16 QCEA GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

We heard from our Co-Clerk Marcie, that the General Assembly of Quaker Council on European Affairs (QCEA) will take place on the 12th and 13th of November. The three nominated altering QCEA representatives Marcie Winstanley, Paula Christophersen and Susie Harty are attending this CC meeting to exchange hopes and notions on attending the gathering in person or virtually. Information and appreciation of Quaker House Brussels was shared. Paula is looking forward to attending in person. Marcie is planning to attend virtually. Marcie will move forward with staying in touch with QCEA and the other representatives. We thank our representatives for representing EMEYF at the upcoming QCEA General Assembly.

### **CC2021.17 ANNUAL MEETING 2021**

With heavy hearts we discerned the effect the current pandemic situation has on this years Annual Meeting, which would traditionally take place in November. We shared hopes, concerns and our sense of what the community currently needs. Weighing the elements of a traditional AM against the current times, we find that although important, business is not as crucial as the strong need to come together in person to strengthen the sense of community. We have decided to move forward with the idea of a decentralized AM and will put out a call to the wider community by this coming Monday (October 18th) to collect ideas and input for an AM in Mid-November. The scope and specific date shall be determined by the community.

### **CC2021.18 CLERKS UPDATE**

We heard updates from our Co-Clerks on a possibility to share the SG epistle in the Quaker Publication 'Among Friends', an upcoming opportunity for a young friend from the EMES section to participate in an FWCC Young Quaker sharing event for COP26, as well as a reminder of the discount for Young Adult Friends to attend any Woodbrook course at a 50% reduced price with the Code "YA21". Further, we heard of the meeting our clerks had with Saskia Basa as our new secretary. We thank our Co-Clerks for their work in sustaining EMEYF contacts with other Quaker bodies.

### **CC2021.19 REMEMBERING NAOMI HAIGH**

It is with great sadness, that we have heard of the passing of our Friend Naomi Haigh. In worship we remember her life and spirit together, and discern how to offer space and comfort to those in our community grieving. Our Co-Clerks will move forward by reaching out to Friends who knew Naomi closely to plan an EMEYF internal memorial in connection with our upcoming AM.