

## **EMEYF Communications Committee Minutes 2022 (ongoing)**

### **Sykpe Video-Call, February 7<sup>th</sup> 2022**

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

#### **CC2022.01 Dates for SG**

We have gathered to hear proposed dates for EMEYF SG 2022 in Bad Pyrmont, Germany based on availability at the Quaker House. Having considered available dates in May and June, guided by the Minute AM2021.04 that asks CC to discern a date for SG 2022, we discerned that a date in June is best, as it does not conflict with other major European Quaker gatherings occurring in May.

The specific date in June will be agreed on with Leonie Glahn. It will then be proposed through an invitation letter from the gatherings coordinator to the community. We will ask Friends to sign up tentatively by the end of February, to check if an in person gathering is feasible in June or if the April date shall remain.

We recognise that the pandemic may cause short notice cancellations, but we are able to be flexible about the size of our group and have heard that participation costs would be able to be held minimal. We are also able to cancel the booking at Bad Pyrmont Quaker House at short notice if needed. We ask our clerks to communicate the dates to our gatherings coordinator, and to check with Leonie Glahn at Bad Pyrmont if there is a minimum or a maximum number of participants who could stay at Quaker House.

### **Skype Video call May 19<sup>th</sup> 2022**

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

#### **CC2022.02 Role holder Emails**

We have revisited the call for having role holder specific emails and have heard strong support for the idea of having a provider where we are able to create roleholder emails which can be accessed from multiple devices to prevent issues of accessibility and device verification with logging in.

The provider posteo.org has been brought forward for consideration. Friends have shared experiences they have had with this provider and we have looked at the pricing structure, which is 1€ /month for two addresses with a further 10ct per additional address. The sense of the Communications Committee is, that EMEYF is able to afford costs connected to an email provider. However we see the need to compare pricing structures. We thank Pete Doubtfire for his willingness to look into further options for EMEYF.

#### **CC2022.03 Bursaries**

We have heard from our Treasurer Pete Doubtfire that there have been four bursary requests for assistance with travel costs and the gathering fees, as well as

sustainable travel. We have heard from our treasurer that our funds can support these costs. We have discerned, that we are in favor of approving the bursaries in full and thank Pete for moving forward in the communication and allocation of funds with these Friends.

#### **CC2022.04 Gathering- Finances and adjusted fees**

We have heard that there are some Friends who are planning to attend our gathering only for the weekend, and who feel that the price is preventing them from attending.

After a period of discernment, we have arrived at a response to this issue. Friends who are attending for only the weekend could pay a reduced fee of 20€. The core cost can be carried by the current number of registrations. We hope to make the gathering more accessible to Friends this way.

#### **CC2022.05 Gathering programming**

We have considered the tentative program of our gathering and made adjustments to timings and content. Our gatherings coordinator Paul Schock has given an update on the status of efforts to make the gathering hybrid accessible. We would like to move forward with a model of assigning designated hosts for each separate hybrid session, to reduce the burden of taking on the role of tech support. Paul will reach out to the Friend from the local Bavarian meeting, Wolfgang Reuther, and the caretaker of the Quaker House Bad Pyrmont, Leonie Glahn, to gather experiences on the technical set up at the meeting house. Other considerations include a reminder for the Friends in person to join hybrid sessions or join online tea break sessions to bring in-person and on-line experiences closer together. We will ask our gathering Elders to make Friends aware of this reminder.

After touching on the topic of covid-safety at the gathering, we have discerned that a separate CC meeting designated to this is called for.

### **Skype Video call May 30<sup>th</sup> 2022**

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

#### **CC2022.06 Gathering preparations**

Pete gave us an update on registrations, that there are currently 16 in-person registrations. He has asked for another Friend to monitor the registration email from Thursday 2nd June to Sunday 5th June. Our clerks have stepped forward, to take on this task and continue the communication with Friends traveling to the gathering from Georgia and Russia. We have discussed list of suggested items for Friends to consider bringing to the gathering and specifics of the programme. As the clerks are working on the documents in advance, this list as well as a current Gathering Schedule will be included with the documents in advance when these are sent out to the community. Our Gatherings Coordinator Paul Schock gave us an update on the technical set up that will be available and we have discussed that we will continue using jitsi as the digital platform for our hybrid sessions.

## **CC2022.07 Covid-safety at the gathering**

We have discerned a response to questions about our policies for Covid safety at the gathering. We have considered the needs for safety and the sense of community. We are aware that an in person gathering carries a certain risk and hope to find ways to mitigate this risk while coming together for the week of our gathering.

We will be asking Friends to self-test before travelling to the gathering and once in the middle of the gathering. In addition to these suggested tests, we will provide one additional rapid test per participant, in case Friends wish to test twice during the gathering. There are also local rapid test centres available. If a Friend tests positive to COVID-19 during the gathering, EMEYF will provide a self-quarantine possibility. We will explore the options of using the office space in Bad Pyrmont Quaker Haus for a Friend to self-isolate until they receive results of a PCR test and ask local hotels if they rent rooms as a means to be able to provide quarantine facilities for anyone who receives a positive PCR test result.

On the topic of wearing PPE/ FFP2 masks during the gathering, we will not make masks mandatory, as we will be sharing the same living spaces for the duration of the entire week. For the indoor session we will ensure that the rooms are well ventilated during and between sessions. If there are Friends who would feel more comfortable wearing masks during indoor sessions we hope that we can create an open culture of honest dialogue that will lead us to finding a session to session consensus on this. As there are Friends arriving at different point throughout the gathering, we will also ask our gathering and standing Elders to check in with the community on Friday and on Sunday about how safe they feel and if there is anything else that we could do to meet our community's needs. We will ensure that there are opportunities to meet privately with Elders if individuals do not feel comfortable discussing their concerns or vulnerabilities as a whole group.

## **CC2022.08 Recording minute**

Our clerks have heard from our Friend Susie Harty. who asks to be released from her role as QCEA representative. We thank Susie for being one of our QCEA representatives and release her from her role. This leaves two representatives, Paula Christophersen and Marcie Winstanley, who are able and willing to continue. We will include this role in the list of roles for nominations to open it up for Friends interested but make it clear that it is not mandatory to have three Friends serve in this role.