

EMEYF Communications Committee Minutes 2015

EMEYF Communications Committee, February 6-8, Brussels

Present: Rachael Booth, Esther Köhring, David Mangels, Renke Meuwese, Laurina Pfeiffer, George Thurley, Annie Womack

CC 2015/01 Opening Minute

Once again, Communications Committee meets in person, which means that new members of CC get to meet each other in person for the first time. We are grateful to be able to spend time together, in worship as well as working on our projects and are looking forward to the weekend.

CC 2015/02 Annual Reports 2012 and 2013

Following up with EMEYF AM 2014/03, the consolidated accounts and annual reports for the FYI 2012 and 2013 have been finalised, without major changes to the numbers compared to what was presented at AM 2014. Accounts 2012 and 2013 have been examined by Ian Care (Derby Meeting, UK). Communications Committee accepts the accounts and asks the trustees to distribute the Annual Reports for 2012 and 2013.

CC 2015/03 Annual Report and accounts 2014

Following the minutes AM 2014/06 and AM 2014/07 we are working on a new style Annual Report for 2014. We have received a number of contributions and are in the process of editing the Annual Report. We want to release this before Spring Gathering 2015, so it can be used for fundraising. We would like to include the accounts for 2014 in this report. The consolidated accounts for 2014 still need to be finalized. Communication Committee will come back to them as soon as they are ready.

CC 2015/04 Spring Gathering 2015

Preparations for SG 2015 are under way. A significant number of people have signed up already, and the content of the program is being prepared, including inviting Georgian guest speakers. Invitations have been sent out to Yearly Meetings around Europe. CC and the Planning Committee together will fundraise for the event in the coming weeks. With this fundraising we aim to make attending the event financially possible for all who want to come.

CC 2015/05 New website

Following AM 2012 we started developing a new website (see AM2012/03, CC2013/07, SG2014/09). Since October 2014 Georg Adelman has been working on a test website, which we have now seen. CC members will each send comments and suggestions to Georg in response to this test. CC is also excited to test the virtual meeting services. Other EMEYFers who want to have a look at the test website and give feedback can contact

Georg. We would like to present a version of this test website at SG 2015.

The current website is run on a private server of a former EMEYFer. For a new website we would want to move to a hosting service which would better meet our requirements. There is a range of quality in hosting services and a long-term decision will need to be made before the page can go official. To provide SG with the necessary information and experience, we encourage Georg to test different options – mid-range (virtual private server) and high-end (dedicated server) – by SG. We allocate a budget of up to € 75,00 for this. We thank Georg for the initiative in this project and want to support him to present a solid proposal for SG.

CC 2015/06 EMEYF to QCEA Council Representative Alternate Appointment

To make sure that EMEYF is represented on the QCEA Council in the case of our representative being prevented from attending, EMEYF needs to officially appoint and register an Alternate Representative. At the moment, this role is vacant. At EMEYF AM 2014 it was recommended to fill this role by appointing a member of EMEYF CC (see AM2014/11). We see both the practical needs for a simple solution, and the wish to keep our involvement with QCEA rooted in the wider EMEYF community.

We appoint Renke Meuwese to serve as EMEYF to QCEA Council Representative Alternate until Annual Meeting 2016, which is also when the time of service of our EMEYF to QCEA Council Representative ends. This will give nominations committee at AM 2016 the opportunity to consider different models (like representative/alternate or a shared responsibility) by the time.

CC 2015/07 Wrapping up of our CC Workshop

As a dispersed committee, we are often relying on emails and skypecalls. We enjoyed being together today, having a „CC Workshop“, where we worked on several projects and documents, being able to give each other immediate feedback. It was productive, and it was joyful! The texts and projects we worked on have been adopted by CC:

Together we set up a fundraising letter, to be sent out to Yearly and Area Meetings before Spring Gathering 2015, in the name of EMEYF CC and SG 2015 PC. We hope to be able to distribute the letter together with the Annual Report 2014, which will give additional stories, names, faces and colours to it. For this Annual Report, we wrote a little introduction into what EMEYF is, does and values in a nutshell, as well as introducing committees and roleholders.

To support current and future Planning Committees in their work and to be transparent in our processes, we set up a text documenting our policy and practice regarding bursaries. We are intending to write a similar summary of practices for reimbursement of expenses for roleholders. The trustees used their informal meeting to finalise their report to JRCT about the last funding period.

CC 2015/08 Ex-EMEYFers Support Scheme – Former EMEYFers Community

AM 2014 tasked trustees and CC with looking into ways of asking former EMEYF members for long-term financial support (see AM2014/05).

This concept of an Ex-EMEYFer support scheme is now also strongly focused on the community-building aspect. We want to enhance and maintain the community of Ex- and current EMEYFers. Rather than focusing on receiving donations only, we want to equally

emphasize strengthening the connections between EMEYFers of all ages. We want to ask for donations in an open and transparent way, while sharing how EMEYF is for us with those who experienced EMEYF in the past.

Developing this idea is coinciding with EMEYF's 30th birthday, the making of our new website and the upcoming all-age event 2016. Sharing stories and pictures of EMEYF's past will probably be possible through the new website, and launching it is a good opportunity to start gathering this information.

CC 2015/09 Closing minute

We are grateful for the opportunity to meet, worship, chat and work together in person. Our new website will offer exciting new perspectives, but cooking together and sitting next to each other is something we need, to feel grounded in our service and as committee. We thank QCEA and BLYM for hosting us and warming Quaker House. We agree on a donation of 100 Euros to QCEA for the use of the facilities this weekend. It was so good to meet new roleholders and finally our secretary! We are looking forward to meeting again in Spring in Georgia, reconnecting with the wider EMEYF community, old and new f/Friends.

EMEYF Communications Committee, March 29, Skype

Present: Esther Köhring, Renke Meuwese, Annie Womack, George Thurley, Rachael Booth, David Mangels, Laurina Pfeiffer

CC 2015/10: Secretary attendance at Spring Gathering (agreed by email)

We have heard that our secretary wants to join our community for Spring Gathering, partially during his holidays, and we are happy to facilitate him meeting more EMEYFers. We highly value the role of the secretary and their attendance at our gatherings wherever possible. No travel expenses for our 2014/2015 secretary have been paid by EMEYF yet, as he was unable to attend AM.

We welcome George at SG 2015 and agree on covering his travel costs.

CC 2015/11: Consolidated Accounts 2014

EMEYF's accounts for the FY 2014 have been consolidated, they have been checked and discussed within CC.

We thank Delia Suffling who did an informal examination of the accounts. While the numbers of the accounts have been approved, we have received some recommendations about the way the accounts are presented. We will implement these recommendations in preparing the accounts for FY 2015.

The consolidated accounts 2014 will be distributed with the Annual Report 2014 in the next days.

EMEYF Communications Committee, May 8, Skype

Present: Esther Köhring, Renke Meuwese, Annie Womack, George Thurley, Rachael Booth, David Mangels, Laurina Pfeiffer, Emmie Touwen

CC 2015/12: Fundraising Treasurer

We meet for the first time after Spring Gathering 2015, and welcome our new Fundraising Treasurer Emmie Touwen. (See SG 2015/20: Nominations return)

We note that it is part of the new role of the Fundraising Treasurer to serve on the board of trustees, and therefore appoint Emmie as EMEYF Trustee for the duration of her service as Fundraising Treasurer.

The current Trustees are: Rachael Booth, Emmie Touwen, Annie Womack, Esther Köhring.

CC 2015/13: Trees for Africa

Having a Spring Gathering in Georgia resulted in a lot of necessary travel to bring EMEYFers from all over Europe to Ureki. Following our commitment, we are donating to Trees for Africa, in order to at least partially compensate for the environmental impact of our travel. We had 23 participants using a plane at least for part of their travel, and two travelling by car only, which would equal a donation of 194 € (23x8, 2x5) to Trees for Africa. We are grateful that most of the participants contributed to this donation, directly or indirectly, but still need to check the amounts that were donated for this specific cause.

As soon as the accounts of SG 2015 are finalised, we ask our secretary to transfer 194 €, plus any documented additional donations, to the Dutch Quaker Service Committee.

CC 2015/14: Herzberg fund bursaries for EMEYFers to EMES AM

Three EMEYFers have requested bursaries to travel to and participate in EMES AM 2015. Following SG 2015/18 we want to make it possible for EMEYFers to attend this event, using money from the EMEYF share of the Herzberg fund. We allocate bursaries totalling up to 1250 € for this.

We have heard that more Young Friends are going to attend EMES AM, on open spaces, as Representatives of their Meeting or of other organizations, and are planning to put them in touch with each other for preparation as well as for practical questions, including sleeping arrangements.