

Annual Meeting 2016
Bad Pyrmont (Germany), 16.-18.11.2016
EMEYF Meeting for Worship for Business
Minutes

Present: Emmie Touwen, Annie Womack, Anna Greulich, Marius Kneip, Maren Szelli, Dani Schock, Liam Brighton, Lea Klinghammer, Annette Lutz, Jenny Baines, George Thurley, Evan Welkin, Paul Sladen, Wanda Dahme, Paul Schock, Renke Meuwese, Esther Köhring

Greetings: Hanna Zimmermann, Tamara Gorbenko, Maria Martinez, Saskia Kuhlmann, Mieke van Opheusden, Kirsten Ackermann; EMES, QCEA, Woodbrooke, Netherlands YM

EMEYF AM 2016/01 Opening Minute

EMEYF is meeting for our Annual Meeting in Bad Pyrmont, Germany. We have come together from Belgium, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and the UK to speak about the past and future, and to live for three days as a community of Young Friends. We are grateful to see how the All Age Gathering has encouraged us as community, brought new faces and ideas for this gathering.

We feel connected to EMEYFers who have been prevented from joining, but have sent their greetings, and by the messages of support from EMES, QCEA, Woodbrooke and Netherlands YM.

EMEYF AM 2016/02 Nominations Committee

We appoint Lea, Jenny and Evan, with George as elder, as nominations committee for AM 2016. We are reminded that nominating and appointing role holders is our shared responsibility.

We ask the nominations committee to bring forward names for a clerk, an elder, a gatherings coordinator, an EMEYF to EMES representative and a member of the EMES AM planning committee.

EMEYF AM 2016/03 Living Archives Project

The Living Archive Project has been working for one year now. We have had a lot of positive impulses and results presented at the All-Age Gathering. What is needed now is better coordination and division of tasks on the project. We therefore ask nominations committee to bring forward a name for LAP coordinator for the oversight of the project.

EMEYF AM 2016/04 EMEYF to EMES EC representative report

Paul, the EMEYF to EMES EC representative, gave us a report on the work of EMES and the development of the EC and the communication between EMEYF and EMES in recent years.

EMEYF AM 2016/05 EMES Annual Meeting 2017

EMES Annual Meeting 2017 will take place in Bonn, Germany, May 4-7. EMES EC has asked EMEYF to nominate a member for the planning committee of the event. The theme for the AM is "vibrant meetings, vibrant section", and EMES EC hopes that the committee will be able to make this tangible.

EMEYF AM 2016/06 Quaker Youth Pilgrimage

After the Quaker Youth Pilgrimage to Bolivia and Peru the Pilgrimage has been suspended until there is a new plan. There is a proposal for a QYP 2.0. This would involve 18-25 year old participants from all the sections, and a programme over 4 years, who would then also organize a gathering for 16-18 year olds in their section.

EMES EC sees EMEYF as a leading actor in this process of developing a new QYP. At this point, we are able to offer our support and to put EMES in contact with interested YF, and hope the process will become more concrete. We are looking forward to being a leading actor, as soon as the plans are more concrete.

In the meantime, we encourage EMEYFers to read the proposal and to give feedback to CC or the EMEYF to EMES representative.

We are supportive of the aims and ambitions of QYP 2.0, to be developed in the future. But at the same time, we find it important that the possibilities for international activities for Friends aged 16-18 now within the section will be realized in the short term. We hope that the proposed event for 16/18 year olds in Sweden in 2017 or 2018 (see EMES EC minute 2016/27a) will take place and we will spread the word once the date and theme are confirmed. As young adult Friends we are mindful that this is a time of great personal change, and so the current teenage Friends need something to happen now or the clear prospect of something to happen soon to engage. We are grateful for the thorough work of those thinking about QYP 2.0, but want to remind everyone involved that for Young Friends, a few years without a QYP or similar event is a very long time.

EMEYF AM 2016/07 EMEYF to QCEA Representative Report

Our QCEA rep Wanda reports from the General Assembly Meeting. Most of the structural changes are now in place and the recruitment of staff is in process. We heard about the relief that this process is done and will hopefully lead to a more effective QCEA, as it is needed.

The Brexit Referendum will have an impact on QCEA, especially financially. It is clear that Britain will leave the EU, but hasn't left Europe, and QCEA is a point of contact and shared work between UK and "continental" Quakers. In the work areas, as well, QCEAs work is connected to current development in Europe. These include the work on hate crime, forced migration and the promotion of humanitarian visas.

We are excited to hear that Wanda will also serve as an elder to QCEA.

We ask Wanda to keep the community up to date by sharing the work and concerns of QCEA, eg via the mailing list.

EMEYF AM 2016/08 EMEYF Secretariat

We still currently do not have a secretary provided by QCEA, as there are currently no Programme Assistants employed by QCEA. We understand that QCEA cannot give us a clear timescale on these issues, and in the meantime we will carry on with having a voluntary secretary. This solution is only temporary, and means that the workload within CC needs to be shared, and also that decisions might be necessary at some point outside the usual schedule for business sessions.

EMEYF AM 2016/09 SG 2017 Planning Group Report

At the AAG, a Planning group consisting of 5 EMEYFers was appointed to organise a Spring Gathering in Poland. The Planning Group has been in contact with and supported by Polish Friends. We hope that many Polish YFs will attend the SG and that the week will provide a lot of possibilities for meeting Polish Quakers and learning from and with them.

The SG will take place the week before Easter (10-17 of April) at a farm near Poznan. The venue is accessible via public transport. The venue being a farm might allow for some volunteering work at the farm.

The theme of the gathering is currently being discussed within the planning group. One idea was taking on our discernment on the sustainability minute. We ask the Planning Committee to work on the ideas we developed at the AAG regarding the ecological impact of travel.

The SG will hopefully also provide time and space to continue our sharing about our responses to the refugee crisis and our individual and communal leadings that we started at this AM.

The planning group can be reached directly via springgathering@emeyf.org

EMEYF AM 2016/10 Woodbrooke Young Adult Leadership Programme

Annie and Evan told us about their experience in the Young Adult Leadership Programme. They valued what they learned about spirituality, leadership and Quakerism in the programme, as well as the opportunities to build connections with other participants. Both of them found out about YALP through EMEYF. Evan has been supported financially by EMEYF in his travel costs to the UK. He also sees his participation in the programme as an integral part of forming his identity as a European Quaker and would like to feed his gained knowledge back into the EMEYF community.

We want to continue to offer financial, application and moral support to EMEYFers to participate in YALP. We budget 250 euro for this and will publicize this when the application process for the next cohort begins.

EMEYF AM 2016/11 Woodbrooke online retreat for Young Friends

In the spring of 2017 (27 February – 9 April) Woodbrooke is hosting a six-week online retreat for Young Friends. Young Friends worldwide are explicitly invited to participate. The participation fee is 35 pounds, but Woodbrooke emphasises to contact them should this fee be a problem.

EMEYF AM 2016/12 EMEYF Finances

Our UK treasurer gave us an estimate of our spending for 2016 and the balance. We will end up with about 33,000 euro, about three times the 2015 expense. The expenses and income in 2016 was considerably higher than normal (about 60,000 euro in and 50,000 euro out) due to the All-Age Gathering. A relatively large proportion of our money is currently in the pound account, because the AAG had money coming in to both accounts but only going out of the euro account.

For the AAG about 40,000 euro came in and it cost about 35,000 euro. Many of the risks calculated in the AAG turned out favorably. Because we had such a large, unexpected surplus we offered to pay participants back part of their fee. Of the 7,000 euro we offered to pay back to the participants, we ended up paying back about 1,000 euro. The rest of the surplus has been changed into a gift by the participants to EMEYF.

EMEYF AM 2016/13 Fundraising

EMEYF receives money in various ways. Yearly Meetings and Area Meetings donate money, some yearly, others occasionally. A large part of our income is often dependent on irregular donations. This makes it difficult to budget for the future. In order to receive more regular donations, we developed a plan to ask former EMEYFers for a regular financial contribution. This idea developed into the Friends of EMEYF support scheme, which will also aim to inform and involve former EMEYFers in the life and activities of EMEYF today. There is now a mailing list for Friends of EMEYF. Subscribing to the mailing list and donating to EMEYF are not directly linked: anyone can choose to participate in just one part or the other. The Friends of EMEYF support scheme was presented at the AAG and people were given the opportunity to pledge a contribution. Donors have pledged 768 euro and 210 pound per year.

We remind EMEYFers they can suggest EMEYF as a potential recipient of a local/area meeting's collection. Should you have interesting stories for the Friends of EMEYF mailing list or anyone who would like to join the mailing list, please contact Emmie, our fundraising treasurer at fundraising@emeyf.org

EMEYF AM 2016/14 2017 Budget

As one of our trustees Esther presented the 2017 budget (attached to these minutes) We approve this budget.

EMEYF AM 2016/15 Nomination returns

We appoint Kirsten Ackermann as clerk until Annual Meeting 2019. We note that Esther Köhring's term as co-clerk ends at this AM and release her from service. We thank Esther for her time and effort as a clerk for the last 2 years.

We appoint Marius Kneip as gatherings coordinator from Spring Gathering 2017 until Spring Gathering 2020.

We bring forward the name of Saskia Kuhlmann as EMEYF to EMES representative from EMES Annual Meeting 2017 until EMES Annual Meeting 2020. We ask Paul Sladen to continue to serve as EMEYF to EMES representative until EMES Annual Meeting 2017.

We bring forward Jesus Espinoza as member of the EMES AM 2017 planning committee.

We appoint Esther Köhring as Living Archive Project coordinator until Annual Meeting 2019.

We appoint Evan Welkin as elder until Annual Meeting 2019.

We note that Laurina is abroad at the moment. She will be back and able to serve in Spring 2017, to continue her term as elder until AM 2017.

EMEYF AM 2016/16 Closing Minute

We end our Annual Meeting together with local Friends in Meeting for Worship on Sunday.

As a dispersed community, we are nourished by coming together and experiencing the community of YF, the community of Friends. We are strengthened and tendered.

We are grateful for the time we've shared as a community and the discernment we went through together. On Saturday, YF shared their experiences, their hope and their anger, when we were listening for our responses to the refugee crisis in Europe. What does this mean for us as Friends, and what for us as Young Europeans?

We look forward to seeing each other again in Poland in spring 2017.

Proposed Budget for EMEYF FY 2017

all amounts in Euro, rounded

I) Expenditure

Item/Activity	From main funds	From SGF	Notes
SG Cost (Venue and Food)	3000		(1)
AM Cost (Venue and Food)	150		(1)
SG Planning Cost	900		
Bursaries (SG, AM)	500	750*	(2)

CC Annual Meeting	600	400*	(3)
CC Meeting	600	400*	(3)
Secretariat	700	300*	(3)
Representative to EMES	400		
Representative to QCEA	400		
LAP Research		2500	
LAP Oversight		800	
LAP Communitybuilding outside SG/AM		750	
Communication and Outreach		400	
YALP	250		
EMEYF Commitment to sustainability	500		(4)
Administration, bank fees, other	100		
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	8100	6300	(5)

SUMMARY:

That's a lot of numbers – what does it cost to run EMEYF?

Total Expenditure for EMEYF's Core Cost is 8100 Euros from Main Funds plus 1850 Euros from SGF (marked with *). That means a cost of „running EMEYF“ (e.g. without the extra activities for the LAP of 4450 Euros) of 9950 Euros in 2017. Excluding the gatherings, which are self-sustaining, it can be said that EMEYF has structural costs for its administration, committeework, representatives, bursaries and other standing commitments of **6500 Euros/year**.

II) Income

Activity/Item	To MAIN FUNDS (7)	To SGF
Donations from Yearly/Area/Local Meetings	650	
Donation from Young Friends General Meeting, UK	500	
Donations from Individuals – through Friends of EMEYF	1000	
SGF (JRCT/EMES for LAP): Second installment, 2017		5800
AM Participant Fees (estimate)	150	
SG Participant Fees (estimate)	3000	
Donations from participants towards sustainability (to be forwarded to TFA) (estimate)	300	
TOTAL	5600	5800

III) INCOME - EXPENDITURE

Income – Expenditure: Planned deficit of max. 2500 Euros.

We hope to be able to reduce this through additional fundraising to a deficit of 1000 Euros.

IV) NOTES AND ABBREVIATIONS

Abbreviations:

AM: Annual Meeting

CC: Communications Committee – clerks, elders, gatherings coordinator, treasurers expenses

LAP: EMEYF Living Archives Projects

SG: Spring Gathering

SGF: Small Grants Fund (Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust; run by EMES) – EMEYF receives a grant from the SGF to run the LAP in 2016-2018.

TFA: Trees for Africa, EMEYF commitment to sustainability in regards to the ecological cost of travelling to EMEYF gatherings

YALP: Woodbrooke's Young Adult Leadership Programme, EMEYF financially supports one participant

Notes on Expenditure:

- (1) Gatherings (SG and AM) are expected to cover the cost of venue and food through incoming fees. This does not include planning cost and bursaries.
- (2) Bursaries for participants: partially covered from main funds if not through fundraised donations; partially through the SGF in ensuring a diverse community gathered for the LAP to be worked on at the gathering.
- (3) Cost of administration and oversight of EMEYF partially covered through the SGF to make sure we are able to run the LAP.
- (4) Includes transfer of donations from participants towards our sustainability commitment (Trees for Africa), additional transfers to TFA where not met by donations from participants and possible other costs.
- (6) SGF Expenditure higher than income as we are intending to use of a surplus from the SGF in 2016 (500 Euros). These are not included in the calculation of the planned deficit.

Note on Income:

- (7) These figures only include donations we can expect based on commitments and minutes. To reduce

the deficit, we will fundraise both from YM, AM and LM and from individuals through Friends of EMEYF, with a target of about 1500 Euros.