

**EMEYF Annual Meeting  
October 30 – November 1, 2015, Brussels/Belgium  
Meeting for Worship for Business – Minutes**

**Present:** Annie Womack, Emmie Touwen, Esther Köhring, George Thurley, Hannah Slater, Laurina Pfeiffer, Rachael Booth, Renke Meuwese, Paul Sladen, Silja Pfeiffer  
We were joined for some agenda items via Skype by: Georg Adelmann (EMEYF AM 2015/8), Hanan Odeh (EMEYF AM 2015/4)

**W O R K S H O P : Q C E A**

**EMEYF AM 2015/1            QCEA Workshop (Minute of Record)**

Our EMEYF representative to the QCEA Council, Hannah Slater, facilitated a workshop with us, in which we looked at the relationship between EMEYF and QCEA at three different levels: Our business relationship (regarding the secretariat), our relationship as being part of the same spiritual community, and the way we are working in similar areas and on similar concerns. We are asking both QCEA and ourselves how we can join forces especially in this third area.

Hannah will bring our ideas and questions forward to the council Meeting next weekend. We continue to support QCEA in their transition process and hold all Friends involved in the light.

**C O M M U N I T Y – B U I L D I N G**

**EMEYF AM 2015/2            Small Grants Fund Envisioning**

Over the last years (and longer), we have used the opportunity of being together at Gatherings for asking ourselves how we EMEYF want to be, and what we have to do to provide community for YF in the section. Going through the minutes documenting this process in the last years, we are now discerning our priorities for the next year(s), also as part of preparing an application to the SGF. There are two threads that we follow through the minutes: A wish to reach out farther, to Friends of other traditions and in areas where we do not have established contacts yet; and a wish to connect deeper, in between our gatherings, and with our history as a community, with those who have experienced being a Young Friend before us.

Just before the start of this Annual Meeting, some of us gathered over the recently rediscovered EMEYF Archive, stored in the basement of Quaker House Brussels. Looking through the minutes and letters from those who started EMEYF 30 years ago, we feel connected and part of a bigger story.

With the launch of the new website, the all age gathering coming up, and the archive rediscovered, we feel we have the infrastructure to explore how we can build and deepen community.

We ask our fundraising treasurer and trustees and the rest of CC to transform this idea into a project and apply for funding from the SGF.

We hope that the infrastructure involved in this project, like the new website, and our deepened connections, will also help us to reach out farther.

### **EMEYF AM 2015/3          Project scoping exercise**

We want to transform our recently refound EMEYF archive into a living archive and hope that we can get funding to do so over the coming years. However, we do not want to wait for funding. We want to start the project now, to get a general overview, but especially to collect names and stories that might be useful in the preparation of the All Age Gathering. We hope this will also feed into our on-going work on the All Age Community/Ex-EMEYFers Support scheme.

Therefore, we allocate up to 500 Euros, to be used for travel costs to Brussels and accommodation if needed, for two weekend stays of EMEYFers working with the archive. We ask Friends who are interested in undertaking this scoping exercise to contact Communications Committee, and Communications Committee to discern names for the task.

## **G A T H E R I N G S**

### **EMEYF AM 2015/4          All Age Gathering Planning Progress (Minute of Record)**

We hear a report from the All Age Gathering Planning Group. The event will take place in Bonn-Venusberg to celebrate EMEYF's 30th birthday.

The theme will be „the adventures of life“ and cover all the moments in life from birth and childhood to adult life and beyond. We encourage the Planning Group to look for speakers, preferably with ties to EMEYF who might attract potential participants, and budget for their expenses.

We are glad to have received funding from the EMES SGF (4500 Euros) and German YM (2500 Euros) and more fundraising is in progress. The fundraising treasurer and the secretary will finalise an official fundraising letter soon. CC will support the Planning Group in their efforts to make the event more accessible.

The planning group, as appointed at Spring Gathering 2015, has grown and now includes Friends of various ages and backgrounds, from Germany and the UK.

The German Familienfreizeit is going to happen the week before the All Age Gathering. The All Age Gathering Planning Group is looking into ways to make it easier to attend both events, like having the welcome session on the second day or providing washing facilities.

Next steps will be sending out the programme, invitation and application form, and following up on this to make sure it reaches Friends all over Europe.

### **EMEYF AM 2015/5          Dietary Policy at the All Age Gathering**

The All Age Gathering Planning Group brings forward a question that they tried to discern, but did not reach unity on. The proposal had been put forward to make the Gathering a „meat free zone“. Apart from aspects of ethics and sustainability, we are also aware that there are cultural differences as well as specific needs of a family event to keep in mind. We want to meet different needs – we want to follow our conscience in the way we celebrate this gathering, but we also want to give each other the space to make these choices ourselves. We do not have a clear policy on this, and although the last EMEYF gatherings have been mostly vegetarian, flexibility was always possible, and needed.

We suggest the application forms to state „EMEYF Gatherings are usually vegetarian, with flexibility where needed. We would like this event to be the same. Please state any dietary requirements below.“

We hope that this will encourage everyone to consider their choices, while we are striving to meet all needs, as stated.

## FINANCES

### **EMEYF AM 2015/6          Spendings to date**

Our treasurer, Rachael Booth, gave us a report on the incomes and expenditures of this year so far. We are running a slight deficit as expected, and still have a healthy reserve while we are restructuring our fundraising.

### **EMEYF AM 2015/7          Trustees' report**

We have heard a report from the trustees about their work in the past year.

#### ***ChC 2015/06 Report of incidents***

*We are sorry to report that there were three incidents in the past year where money was lost:*

*In May, 9.95 Euros were taken from the Euro accounts for a monthly subscription to a babysitting services. Future withdrawals from this company have been blocked and we advised the secretary to have a close supervision over the transfers from our Euro account since then.*

*49.99 GBP were taken from the UK account in October, to EE&T mobile company. Future withdrawals from this company have been blocked and we are still hoping to gather more information about this incident and ways to prevent unwanted withdrawals.*

*295.00 GBP in cash was lost on the way back from Georgia, when members of the Planning Committee were intending to bring leftover funds back to the UK, due to the location and difficulties with opening a bank account. The Planning Committee members have searched thoroughly, but in the end had to report the money as lost to the trustees.*

*The three incidents are, as far as we can see, not related. Having considered the guidelines of the Charitable Commission, we feel that these incidents are not serious enough for a formal report to be needed.*

*For the future, we will take the following steps:*

*We ask the secretary and the UK treasurer to research the legal framework for dealing with unwanted withdrawals from the accounts and prepare information sheets for roleholders in the future.*

*If Gathering Planning Committees are in a situation where large amounts of cash need to be transported, we advise to not carry it on one person, if possible.*

We are thankful for the trustees' work and appreciate their practical recommendations to avoid being victims of debit fraud, or losing cash in the future.

## COMMUNICATIONS

### **EMEYF AM 2015/8          New Website**

We've looked at the new website and heard about its features from Georg Adelman, via Skype. We're enthusiastic about the new opportunities this provides for exchanging information within the community as a whole and in smaller groups. We ask Georg and

CC to launch this new webpage, making it available to the community at [www.emeyf.org](http://www.emeyf.org). This includes signing a contract with a service provider for server space and transfer of the domain. We allocate a budget of 150 Euros per year for this.

To maintain the website, we need the community to use it, and we need two or three people willing to work as administrators. Workload will probably be less than a hour a week, and can be shared in this team. Georg is willing to serve on this team for the next year. We ask EMEYFers interested to contact CC, and will review whether nominations are required at our next gathering.

We thank those who brought EMEYF to the internet when it was still new and maintained the website since then, and we thank Georg for his work in renewing this.

## **EMEYF AM 2015/9          Annual Report 2015**

For 2014, we had a new style Annual report, based on the ideas we gathered at AM 2014. We want to continue this route and ask our secretary to prepare an open call to EMEYFers who want to share their stories, pictures and concerns in our Annual Report 2015.