

Zoom Call 18th-19th December 2021

Present: Marcie Winstanley, Pete Doubtfire, Leyna Garretson, Emmie Townen, Daniel Perrett, Anna Hielscher, George Thurley

AM2021.01 Opening Minute and Greetings

Once again, we gather online as a community of individuals throughout Europe and the Middle East. Due to the ongoing pandemic, we are not able to meet as an international group in person, as we would like to and as would be in the spirit of EMEYF. There are plans of local meet ups in January, for Friends in the south of the UK and for Friends in the Region of the Netherlands and Germany, to accompany our online gathering. In advance of our meeting, we have received words of greeting from EMES and the EMES youthgroup, which is meeting this weekend as well, through Michael Eccles and Lena Hoffmaier. Our Friend Kirsten Stuhr sends greetings, as she is unsure if she will be able to attend in person.

AM2021.02 EMEYF Finances

Our treasurer Pete Doubtfire walked us through the current budget and explained our financial situation and the outlook for 2022. Currently EMEYF has had low expenditure in 2021 due to the ongoing coronavirus situation. Further some of our funds are tied up in the final Small Grants Fund (SGF) payment for Living Archives Project(LAP), which will be deferred due to the pandemic. Assuming that the final SGF payment is taken in 2022, this budget would leave us with a small surplus at the end of 2022. Going forward EMEYF will need to find other funding sources. It is good to hear from Pete, that with the presented financial plan, EMEYF will be able to sustain itself financially moving forward. We look at the items in our budget and hope to be able to use items like the "Bursary for sustainable travel" again very soon, as well as finally test the new financing structure for gatherings. We thank Pete for his report and his ongoing work. We accept the proposed budget.

AM2021.03 Trustees

We record that we have received a message from our Trustees:

in which, after this turbulent time, they are hoping that EMEYF can reorganise and reset a bit at SG 2022. Plans for the future will hopefully unfold and Trustees hope to help think about the long-term and making sure EMEYF comes through the pandemic. Trustees encourage EMEYFers to come up with exciting ideas for the Living Archives Project, with the support of the LAP coordinator. Perhaps something documenting this strange time that we're going through and how it's been for Young Friends in our section. We thank our Trustees for their work.

AM2021.04 In-Person Gathering 2022

In regards to moving forward with an EMEYF in-person gathering, we have heard from our clerks, that they have made tentative reservations for an EMEYF in-person gathering at the Bad Pyrmont Quaker House in Germany for the weeks of April 10th and November 14th 2022.

In discernment, we have heard from Friends, hopefulness and support for the idea of meeting in person, but also some nervousness and uncertainty about the ongoing pandemic situation. Friends shared experiences of feeling isolated from our Quaker communities across the Section through the lack of in-person engagements and expressed that an in person meeting is much needed. In light of ongoing uncertainty, the value of having a number of options was highlighted. Plan A reflects the first preference of our meeting today. This would include an in person gathering at Bad Pyrmont with a hybrid component to ensure that Friends unable to travel can participate nonetheless. As the development of the pandemic is uncertain, we ask our clerks to engage with Leonie Glahn from Bad Pyrmont Quaker House, asking them to find a week in May or June that EMEYF might add as a possible date, as the pandemic situation might be more permissible to travel in the early summer than in the spring. We also seek to find Friends who may be willing and able to make plans for hybrid or online arrangements if these are necessary at the time of our 2022 gatherings.

If a new date in May or June is not possible, we will keep the date in April. If the pandemic does not allow an in-person gathering, Plan B will be to move the gathering into the online realm completely, but with options for decentralised meet-ups for Friends in the same region as one another.

The date in November will remain as option for Annual Meeting 2022.

We ask our clerks to determine with Leonie Glahn when the deadline for cancellation at Quaker House Bad Pyrmont will be, and to make cancellation decisions with CC and the Trustees based on this.

AM2021.05 Minute of Record of Meeting for Worship for Remembrance of our Friend Naomi

We have held an online Meeting for Worship for Remembrance of our Friend and community member Naomi Haigh who passed away on September 2nd 2021. We heard a message in remembrance of Naomi from Anna Kristiansson, a Swedish Friend who shared in an email a memory of Naomi lighting up a gathering weekend with her joyous spirit.

Out of the silence Friends shared rich memories of moments with Naomi, her life and her spirit, her musical talent, her love of community, appreciation of nature and warm joyful presence in our lives and in the wider Quaker community. We continue to hold Naomi's family, friends and all those who are grieving in the Light. We remember Naomi fondly and she is and will be missed in our midst.

AM2021.06 EMEYF roles and structure

Our clerks presented a schematic representation and an open conversation about the structure of EMEYF and the roles there are in EMEYF.

We were also reminded of roles that will be open for nominations at the coming spring gathering in 2022: Co-clerk, a member of Willy and Penn editorial team, fundraising treasurer and a Trustee.

In a breakout session we spoke about challenges and joys of taking on roles, working in a supportive community and the idea of roles as an opportunity to take leadership in initiating ideas but not as a burden to take on singular responsibility. We recognised that roles can be a way to understand and assign practical tasks.

We shared a feeling and a recognition that we as EMEYF are all part of the community, and that upholding the community is a collective task that we can contribute to through holding roles and attending gatherings.

Roles can be seen as an opportunity to grow into the EMEYF community. Previous roleholders shared that it is a beautiful way of being involved and close to the heart of EMEYF. We considered some of the challenges of outreach in EMEYFs structure during the time that we have not been able to meet in person through the pandemic. Some questions arose from our discussion about future outreach in a post- pandemic time: how will people know we exist and what we do? How will young people find and join EMEYF? These are questions we will take forward into future sessions.