

**ЕМЕУФ Весеннее Собрание 2019
Апрель 24 - Май 1, 2019 Пески, Россия**

**ЕМЕУФ Spring Gathering 2019
24 April to 1 May in Peski, Russia**

**Meeting for Worship for Business
Minutes**

Present: Lisa Specht, David Mangels, George Thurley, Liam Brighton, Aino Vesanen, Tamara Gorbenko, Peter Doubtfire, Kirsten Stuhr, Dave Stuhr, Rose Almond, Lynda Berry, Emmie Touwen, Silja Pfeiffer, Anastastia Roschina, Carina Popova, Dani Schock, Paul Schock, Uli Knörnschild, Helen Nikol, Esther Köhring, Paul Sladen, Aleksandr Lipatov, Irina Levina, Roisin Brennan, Andrey Leonenko, Ronja Schock, Noah Schock, Frieda Schock, Piotr Gorbenko, Lisa Gorbenko, Arsenii Roschin, Ella Stuhr, Roman Popova, Valerya Levina, Alesya Levina.

SG 2019/01 Opening Minute

We are gathered together in Peski, Russia, a lively community of 25 adults and 10 children, looking forward to building bridges between us, as well as the opportunity to maintain them. We are meeting and worshipping together a stone's throw from the gulf of Finland, the water stretching off into the horizon. The language barriers are overcome most easily by the children, but we're all learning new words daily. Grateful to be in peaceful and beautiful surroundings, we are open to what awaits us.

We are blessed to have received greetings from our wider Quaker community, who we know are upholding us as we meet. We have received greetings from Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) World Office, and the European and Middle East Section (FWCC-EMES), Quaker Council for European Affairs (QCEA), Andrew Lane, Tim Rouse and Rachael Booth, Tobias Buchmann, Wanda Dahme, Freiburg meeting, Anna Kristiansson, Finland Yearly Meeting, Ellie Harding, and Annie Womack.

SG 2019/02 Elders

We appoint Aino, Roisin, Esther and Liam to serve as elders for our Spring Gathering 2019.

SG 2019/03 Nominations committee

For our Nominations committee during this Spring Gathering, we appoint Dani, Emmie, Tamara and Rose, with Lisa as elder, in support.

SG 2019/04 Epistle committee

We appoint Pete, Paul Schock, and Irina and Ronja (both subject to consent) to our Epistle committee for this gathering. We can all contribute to expressing the spirit of our gathering and thank these friends for finding a form to share it with all Friends everywhere.

SG 2019/05 SG location 2020

We feel called to organise our 2020 Spring Gathering in Sweden or Finland. We ask our planning committee to find a location in this region suited to the needs of our community.

We have also heard of an invitation for EMEYF to go to Slovenia/the region of the Quaker Central European Gathering and ask Communications Committee to remain in contact with Friends in the region in order to explore this possibility for a following year.

Regardless of where our Spring Gathering takes place in a given year, we will make an effort to remain in touch with Quakers across the section and continue to look for ways to include Young Friends from as many diverse places as possible, in our gatherings.

SG 2019/06 EMES representative

We've heard an update on the relations between EMES and EMEYF and the contacts between the two organisations.

One proposal has been for EMEYF to appoint a representative to the EMES Annual Meeting (AM), in the same way that yearly meetings do, on top of EMEYF being able to put forward a name to join the EMES executive committee (EC).

We see this as a positive step forward, and are glad to accept this invitation from EMES to have a representative to EMES AM. We aim to nominate for this new role once the details have been clarified with EMES, in writing. Our intention is to appoint a representative for three years and encourage other EMEYFers to attend EMES meetings as they feel led.

Being able to bring a name to the EMES EC is a special privilege for EMEYF. However, being a part of EMES EC, having been nominated by EMEYF can create tension for those in this role, as their relations and accountability to each organisation are not always clear.

By having an additional representative to EMES AM to make the concerns of the EMEYF community heard at that gathering, it is our hope that the EMEYF-appointed member of EMES EC will be relieved of the tension of feeling accountable to EMEYF while being in the EC. We hope that these two roleholders can help to support each other and emphasise the necessity for EMEYF to uphold them in their service.

We look forward to the strengthening and deepening this new arrangement can bring, helping us all to better understand what it means for EMEYF to be part of EMES.

SG 2019/07 Trustees report – 2018 finances

We heard a report from our treasurer, presenting our groovy finances for 2018. We spent some time considering EMEYF's main areas of activity and the associated expenditure and income in 2018, across nine categories. The summarised and rounded finances prepared by our treasurer for this gathering are attached. The full 2018 accounts will be published in the annual report.

We are grateful to have received around €4000 in donations across 2018, 40% of which came from Friends of EMEYF. Despite this, EMEYF ran at a deficit in 2018, though a smaller one than was planned by Annual Meeting, and both expenditure and income are lower than was budgeted.

Our 2018 income was lower than expected, as we received no new money for our Living Archives Project (LAP) during the year. This was because EMEYF asked EMES to delay payment, as we had not yet spent the previous instalments.

SG 2019/08 Trustees report - Fundraising

Esther, one of our trustees, presented the bigger picture of EMEYF's income and fundraising. In recent years, EMEYF has emphasised building connections with the wider Quaker community alongside fundraising, and tried to diversify the forms of support, aiming to have many small regular donors, rather than being dependent on one-off payments, or one larger donor. As well as this, EMEYF has continued to send fundraising letters to ask for donations for specific events and bursaries.

We value the work done by trustees and the fundraising treasurer on this strategy, and have been encouraged by the level of donations in 2018. We ask the trustees to continue working on developing this strategy, including building contacts with various Quaker groups across EMES, and understanding their donation processes.

An additional approach could be to encourage participants at EMEYF gatherings to find ways of reporting back to their local, area or yearly Meetings (as applicable). This would help to build links between EMEYF and these bodies, potentially also contributing to fundraising. It may also be worthwhile to explore ways of communicating with non-Quaker groups and bodies.

SG 2019/09 Epistle

At the start of our final business session we have spent some time all together puzzling together our epistle, despite missing pieces. The puzzle pieces form a river, crossed by a bridge, bearing the written part of our epistle, which we heard read in Russian and English.

We thank the epistle committee for their work, especially in helping us to make a colourful, varied and inclusive epistle, which is truly reflective of our community. The epistle is attached to these minutes.

SG 2019/10 Skyping with Section of America YAFs (recording minute)

We skyped with two young adult Friends (YAFs) travelling in the ministry from the Section of the Americas, as they were not able to be at our gathering in person. They were supported in their travel by EMES and funded by the YAF development fund. The virtual visit was joyful and interesting, and we learned a bit about structures and gatherings in their home meetings, while giving an overview of EMEYF, and our own experiences.

If more young adult Friends travel in the ministry in Europe, we sincerely hope that it will be possible for us to share our gatherings with them in person. We ask CC to remain in touch with EMES on this point.

SG 2019/11 Safeguarding

During our time together we held a workshop to explore various aspects of safeguarding, looking at what makes us feel safe and unsafe at gatherings, as well as practical elements. The discussion was broad-ranging, and we considered how we could work to make all participants feel safer at gatherings.

We are clear that we do not want a safeguarding policy for the sake of having a policy, but rather that we want to actively work to ensure the well-being of our community at our gatherings. We acknowledge also that the term safeguarding can sound rather narrow and technical, while in reality what we are interested in is prioritising the well-being of participants.

We ask CC to ensure the document for planning committees and registration form are updated in order to reflect more of these issues. Secondly, we ask CC to work on broadening the existing questions for serious consideration. Thirdly, we ask our elders, with support from trustees, to look into setting up a more formal safeguarding procedure, appropriate to EMEYF's needs, and bring a proposal to Annual Meeting. This can include seeking professional help, should the elders and trustees feel this is necessary.

Note: See also minutes ChC 2018/03, SG 2018/06, CC 2018/19, AM 2018/11.

SG 2019/12 Nominations return

For the Planning committee of Spring Gathering 2020 in Sweden/Finland (see minute SG 2019/5) we appoint Karen Sofie Sennels, Aino Vesanen, Anna Kristiansson, Hugh O'Farrell-Walsh and Brylie Christopher Oxley.

For the EMEYF representative to QCEA we appoint Mieke van Opheusden for the duration of three years, from Spring Gathering 2019, until SG 2022.

We appoint Lena Garrettson to be co-clerk of EMEYF from SG 2019 until SG 2022, with a fluid handover period until AM 2019.

We thank the nominations committee for their work.

Attachments:

Gathering Epistle, p5

Summarised 2018 Accounts, p7

EMEYF Spring Gathering 2019 Epistle - EMEYF Весеннее Собрание 2019 эпистола



As part of our SG Epistle, all participants decorated a puzzle piece, and we completed the puzzle together in our final business session. It formed a river, crossed by a bridge, bearing the below text.

Всем друзьям на всём свете

Все здесь из разных мест. Нас 25 взрослых и 10 детей из России, Британии, Германии, Украины, Голландии, Финляндии. Мы собрались в маленьком посёлке Пески, на берегу моря, недалеко от Санкт Петербурга.

Представим себе, мы стоим на берегу Балтийского моря, смотрим на океан, ритм волн отражает ритм жизни нашей группы. Волна приходит и уходит, как и мы эту неделю: между приключенческими путешествиями и жадностью нашей группы, между суетливым городом Санкт Петербург и тихим посёлком, между разговорами друзей на родном языке и разговорами на других языках с другим алфавитом, между желанием тишины и желанием весёлых игр. Этот ритм нашей группы вдохновляет нас на новые пути. И даже если мы сталкивались на проблемами - мы пробуем найти связь со Светом в каждом человеке. Наша тема на этой неделе была построить мост, это не всегда легко, но мы рады были испробовать это. Нас пригласили на празднование Пасхи в православной церкви, с ритуалами и традициями, которые очень отличаются от традиций квакеров, и это помогает нам задуматься о нашей квакерской вере.

Мы надеемся, нам удалось взять от нашего собрания готовность перенести молитвенное собрание из закрытой комнаты в доме на берег моря, где можно удобно посидеть в тишине и спокойствии рядом с детским восторженным лепетом.

To all Friends everywhere,

We have gathered, 25 adults and 10 children from Russia, Britain, the Netherlands, Finland, Germany and Ukraine, in the small village of Peski at the coast near St Petersburg. Standing on the shore of the Baltic Sea, looking to the ocean, the rhythm of the waves reflects the rhythm of our community life. Waves come in and out as we did this week: between adventurous journeys and the safety of a loving community; between the bustling city of St Petersburg and the quiet village of Peski; between speaking to friends in familiar languages and sounding out words in unfamiliar alphabets; between the need for silence and the need for play and laughter. This rhythm of community life inspired us in many ways, even as we struggled with challenges - trying to connect with the light in each person.

Our theme for the week was 'building bridges' - not always easy, but we are glad to be trying together. Being invited to share in the celebration of Easter in the Russian Orthodox church - with rituals and customs very different to our own - has helped us to reflect on our own Quaker faith. We hope we can take from this gathering a willingness to carry our worship out of the closed room of the meeting house onto the beach, where silence and stillness can sit comfortably alongside the excited babble of children exploring.

Accounts summary (all figures rounded)

Activity 2018	Expenditure €	Income €
Communications Committee (face to face in Berlin, training)	750 + 450 (training)	-
Spring Gathering, Ireland	5500	4500 + 300 (donations to sustainable travel)
Planning Committee for Russia	1500 (meeting in Ukraine) + 500 (venue deposit)	-
Annual Meeting	350 + 350 (roleholders' travel)	350
Living Archives Project	2000 (trip to EMES AM to present archives)	0
2017	200	300
Other	80	-
Donations	-	4000
Bursaries (both AM + SG)	1000	-
Total	12000	9000
Budgeted/Planned	15500	11700