

**EMEYF Spring Gathering**  
**25 March to 2 April 2018 in Moyallon, Northern Ireland**  
**Meeting for Worship for Business**  
**Minutes**

**Present:** Wanda Dahme, Tas Cooper, George Thurley, Emmie Touwen, Tim Rouse, Rachael Booth, Lisette Nijboer, Silja Pfeiffer, Rose Almond, Dani Schock, Paul Schock, Finn Chapman, Esther Köhring, Paul Sladen, Iwona Luszowicz, Thea Luckock, Emily Jesson-Smith, Lena Garrettson, Anna Dellow, Ella Otomewo, Emily Dellow, Liam Brighton, Alex Collins, Lynda Berry, Judith Poole, Lucas Braun, Hugh O'Farrell-Walsh, Hannah Brock, Annie Womack, Rose Oliver, Peter Ramsey, Annie Matejkova, Jess Beck, Naomi Haigh, Freya Blyth, Lisa Specht, Toby Freeman

**SG 2018/01 Opening Minute**

In our first business session, thirty of us, from across Europe, are gathered at the Moyallon Centre on the island of Ireland. We are glad to be together, looking forward to the week ahead and the arrival of more f/Friends. We have received greetings from Andrew Lane, David Mangels, Kirsten Stuhr, Claire Goode, Irina and Alex Lipatov, María Garcia, Renke Meuwese and Ireland Yearly Meeting and heard read the letter of greeting from Marisa Johnson on behalf of EMES. We are thankful to feel upheld by our wider community.

**SG 2018/02 Gathering Nominations**

We appoint Lena Garrettson, Hugh O'Farrell-Walsh, Lucas Braun and Alex Collins to serve as elders for the duration of this gathering. Further, we appoint Anna Dellow, Esther Köhring and Emily Jesson-Smith with Lisa Specht as Elder, as Nominations committee for the week. Lastly, we appoint Tas Cooper, Freya Blyth, Rose Oliver, Alex Collins, Paul Sladen and Thea Luckock (subject to consent) to draft the epistle from our gathering.

**SG 2018/03 SG Russia**

We have heard a report from our gatherings coordinator and about the progress of the planning for an SG in Russia. At Annual Meeting 2017, the intention had been to have a Russian-based committee, which we still believe is important, but some tasks need to be done in English (registration forms, communication with participants etc.) Therefore, we ask our nominations committee to find three extra members of a Planning Committee for Spring Gathering Russia to provide a link between the existing (Russian-based) members (see minute AM 2017/13) and the rest of Europe and the Middle East. We want Russian Friends to feel ownership of the gathering in Russia, and we hope that the new members of the planning committee can support them in this.

We are moved to reflect on the experience of planning this gathering, in Ireland, and communication with Irish Young Friends. Irish Young Friends were perhaps unclear of what was expected of them, and so it is important to establish this in advance. In-person meetings were also helpful for the planning process, so it would be important for the Planning committee for Russia to meet early on in person, and perhaps more than once. We have also heard that it might be useful for the planning committee to have a clearer internal structure (such as a nominated convenor), and ask our nominations committee and gatherings coordinator to take this into account for PC Russia.

In terms of whether it would be viable to hold a Spring Gathering in Russia in 2019 or 2020, the feeling is that it would be possible to organise Spring gathering in Russia next

year, and so our intention is to go ahead with this. We recognise that there will be challenges, but we do not feel these are due to timing. The gathering may be difficult to organise, yet we feel that it will strengthen our community. Therefore we ask the planning committee to plan a Spring Gathering for spring 2019 in Russia.

### **SG 2018/04 EMEYF Quilt**

We have heard about the creation of the EMEYF quilt, and reaffirmed the value of having a travelling quilt that can provide such a tangible way of reaching out and providing comfort to f/Friends who are, for one reason or another, unable to be with us at this gathering. The exercise of considering together which Friends in our wider community might appreciate, or be in need of, the quilt, also helps to deepen that community, and we value this discernment. We are also reminded of the importance of reaching out to Friends individually by other means, in order to strengthen the ties between us all.

We have discerned the name of the next Friend to receive the quilt and ask CC to arrange this.

### **SG 2018/05 Roleholders' expenses**

We have heard CC's proposal for dealing with bursaries for roleholders to attend gatherings for which their expenses are not paid according to role descriptions (CC 2018/14). We note that this minute only addresses Communications Committee, but that it should also apply for Planning Committee members, trustees and EMEYF representatives to other organisations. The policy should also include clear encouragement to roleholders (especially those on multi-year terms) to apply for bursaries should they need them.

We note that the EMEYF bursary policy is an important document not just for those discerning bursary support, including any objective advisors, but also the whole community. As an extra reminder of this, we attach the existing bursary policy to these minutes.

We accept the proposal with these amendments and ask CC to implement this. We thank all current and former members of CC for their work on this.

### **SG 2018/06 Trustees report**

We heard a report from our trustees on their work over the past six months, in three parts. Our treasurer presented a few "fun numbers", along with some interactive dance, giving us an update on EMEYF's accounts for 2017, including our expenses and income for the year. We received another instalment from EMES for the Living Archive Project, and note with gratitude that EMES has agreed to extend the time period in which we can spend it, to match the natural development of the project.

We were encouraged to hear that a third of our donations for the year came from individuals, alongside support from meetings across the section. We thank all our donors for their support. We also heard about EMEYF's financial commitment to sustainability in 2017, both from participants and from EMEYF's funds, over 50% of which came from individuals.

Our fundraising treasurer explained about the new data regulation that is coming into force across the EU at the end of May this year, and how it could affect EMEYF. In order to be compliant with the new regulation, and to clarify EMEYF's policy on the data it handles, she is drafting a data policy. Input from members of the community to the

development of the policy would be very welcome. This process could also provide the opportunity to review the membership of EMEYF's two main mailing lists.

We heard about EMEYF's existing safeguarding policy for under 18s. EMEYF gatherings include children, as families sometimes attend with children, and some participants attend on their own while still being under 18. We looked at the policy, which poses a number of queries for the community. We wish to highlight this document to the whole community, and especially make sure that it is available to gathering planning committees. As an extra reminder, the policy is attached to these minutes.

However, more legal issues around safeguarding (e.g. designated safeguarding officers and first aiders) are not covered by the policy. As EMEYF spans many countries, it is necessary to consider the issue of multiple jurisdictions and attitudes, along with different legal requirements for the safeguarding of children. The intention is to include advice around these issues in the documents for planning gatherings. We also recognise that it is not only children who require safeguarding, and therefore it would be important to also address procedures for adults, including for disclosure. Trustees would equally welcome input from the community for this process. We thank the trustees for all their work.

#### **SG 2018/07 Website suggestion and future development (recording minute)**

We have been using an older version of the EMEYF website since before the last SG (see minute SG 2017/07). Communications committee has heard the suggestion of outsourcing the maintenance, updates and backing up of the website to an external company, in order to avoid the technical problems that affected the previous updated website, and allow EMEYFers to focus on content, and how the website can serve our community. Any EMEYFers interested in working on or designing a new website, without being responsible for the technical upkeep are encouraged to get in touch with CC. ([emeyf.org/contact](mailto:emeyf.org/contact))

#### **SG 2018/08 Willy & Penn revival (recording minute)**

We are pleased to record that since our Annual Meeting in November 2017, EMEYF's newsletter Willy & Penn, which we rediscovered when looking through the archives as part of the LAP, has been brought into the 21<sup>st</sup> century as an online blog. At this gathering we have heard from the editor, Emmie Touwen, that the site has been active since the start of 2018, and there have been nine posts in that time. She would welcome any member of the community interested in contributing to contact her ([willyandpenn@gmail.com](mailto:willyandpenn@gmail.com)). We thank her for her initiative, and all those who have contributed so far.

#### **SG 2018/09 EMES AM (recording minute)**

This year's Europe and Middle East Section (FWCC-EMES) Annual Meeting, taking place from the 21-24 June in Bergen Norway, will be a larger gathering than usual, and organisers are keen for young adult Friends to be well-represented there. They would welcome registration from EMEYFers and we encourage anyone interested to join the gathering. More details can be found at [www.fwccemes.org](http://www.fwccemes.org)

#### **SG 2018/10 LAP @ EMES AM (recording minute)**

Further to the previous minute, Esther Köhring, our Living Archives Project coordinator has told us about the plans to bring the LAP to the EMES AM and engage the wider EMES community in our project. EMEYF can offer partial bursaries for three current or former EMEYFers (€1000 in total to be distributed between them) to prepare, present

and facilitate the presentation of the LAP at EMES, alongside our LAPC. Any Friends interested should contact Esther (esther.koehring@gmail.com ) before the 15<sup>th</sup> April, letting her know how much bursary support they would need, and what they want to offer.

### **SG 2018/11 Fundraising and outreach (recording minute)**

Lisette Nijboer, our fundraising treasurer invited us to share our experience at EMEYF with our local, monthly and yearly meetings and to talk to them about the possible and varied ways they could support us. We can also encourage individual Young Adult Friends in our meetings to attend EMEYF events, and invite those interested in hearing from EMEYF and being part of our wider support community to join the Friends of EMEYF list/scheme.

### **SG 2018/12 QCEA (recording minute)**

This week, Wanda Dahme, our representative to the Quaker Council for European Affairs, updated us on their work. Their report, Building Peace Together, was recently published and QCEA is undertaking a project on safe humanitarian corridors for refugees to travel to Europe, in cooperation with the Irish government. EMEYFers are also invited to get involved with Stop Fuelling War, which is witnessing against the arms trade fair in Paris (Eurosatory), from the 11-15 June, 2018. Bursaries and accommodations are available, for those interested in joining, through Stop Fuelling War. Anyone interested in more details about QCEA or Stop Fuelling War should contact Wanda ([wanda.dahme@web.de](mailto:wanda.dahme@web.de)).

### **SG 2018/13 Nominations return**

We appoint Lucas Braun, David Mangels, Britta Greulich and Ella Otomewo to join Eduard Shiukashvili, Aleksandr Lipatov and Yulia Dvoretzkaya (AM 2017/13) on the Spring gathering planning committee for SG in Russia, 2019.

We thank the nominations committee for their work. Further, we thank Esther for her role in supporting the committee until now, and release her from this role.

### **SG 2018/14 Epistle**

The gathering epistle is attached to these minutes. We thank the epistle group for their work.

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# EMEYF Spring Gathering 2018

Moyallon, Northern Ireland

To all Friends everywhere,

This Easter, 37 adult Young Friends and 2 mini EMEYF members, aged 2 and 5, have gathered in Moyallon Centre, Northern Ireland (25th March to 2nd April) to recharge our Quaker batteries.

Our concerns of a rise in nationalism and closing borders in Europe encouraged us to meet in a place where we could be physically close to other young Friends in order to explore the theme of Community.

We heard from local Friend Simon Lamb about how Ireland Yearly Meeting, so theologically diverse, has never divided. This has been a powerful reminder of the possibility of continued unity amongst Friends in our section and worldwide.

Our week has held spaces for friendship and deep worship; the silence holding together our busy, interesting, inspirational programme.

We heard from David Morton of Quaker Service N. Ireland about Friends' reputation for offering a neutral helping hand which allows us to carry out our service in the world. After installing a portacabin in Long Kesh (the Maze Prison) during the Troubles, Quakers offered visiting wives of people in prison a non-judgemental space. Catholics and Protestants were, and are, able to sit side by side whilst their children play together. Quaker service continues today at Quaker cottage, high on the mountains of Belfast. Two roads lead up to this small white cottage from the north and west of Belfast, bringing mothers from both sides of the Peace Walls together.



*Our walk along the Belfast Peace Walls*

## **How do we create intentional community?**

Back in Moyallon, our own Quaker service involved laying new gravel in the grounds of the meeting house. Viele Hände, schnelles Ende!

In Drogheda, Ireland Junior Yearly Meeting welcomed us with hearts and minds prepared for a warming lunch and windswept wander. We explored their theme of integrity, with one Young Friend making the connection between this and our theme of community:

“To me, integrity is about recognising internal conflict with(in) me, and realising how good I am at deceiving myself. Part of this path towards integrity involves making myself vulnerable to others, which leads me to acknowledging my own failings. This vulnerability is simultaneously a key ingredient of building relationships and deeper community”.

We are inspired by the trust that people have had in our integrity as Quakers in the past. We can't rest on this. It's our shared joy and responsibility to continue this as the next generation.

Exploring the EMEYF archives, we are touched by how our own experiences are echoed in the letters we have read. They are so familiar; they could have been our own.

After our week together we are recharged, ready, and freshly inspired. We look forward to reforming our intentional community again at our annual meeting and Spring Gathering in Russia 2019.



*Easter Sunday sunrise*

## **Bursaries for EMEYF Gatherings – Notes on Policy and Practice**

### **Why/What/Who for?**

EMEYF supports Friends to attend EMEYF gathering with travel bursaries, enabling everyone to attend regardless of their financial situation or the financial situation in their country and/or (Yearly) Meeting. Bursaries are handed out on the grounds of needs and are open for application for experienced EMEYFers as well as newcomers; for members, long-time attenders and people who are new to Quakerism alike. The money that we are handing out is given to us by Yearly, Area and local meetings, individuals and Quaker organisations. As long as there are no specified funds, it is meant to enable Young Friends (18-35ish) from the Europe and Middle East Section to attend EMEYF gatherings.

### **How to apply for bursaries?**

- EMEYFers (that includes newcomers!) should apply for the bursary when applying for the event, giving details about the cost of their travel, how much funding they have been able to get from other sources and how much they need. Bursaries can cover (parts) of travel costs and/or participant fees.
- EMEYFers are asked to try to get funding from other sources as well from e.g. their local, area or yearly Meetings and Young Friends groups like YFGM (Young Friends General Meeting); and they are expected to cover the bit of their expenses that they can afford.

### **Budget – what is (in) the bursary fund?**

- Spring Gathering: Bursaries are not part of the budget of the gathering. The budgeting for the gathering should aim at breaking even (participants fees vs accommodation, food etc.); both the planning cost and the bursary fund are separate grants.
- EMEYF trustees or CC will budget and/or minute an amount for bursaries a few months before the event. In the past, this has been 1000-1500 Euros for a Spring Gathering. Depending on fundraising and needs, this can be increased.

### **Discernment – how to decide about bursary requests?**

- Spring Gathering Planning Committee discerns on the use of the money in the bursary fund. It is helpful if an EMEYF elder joins to uphold the process, and an EMEYF treasurer for discussing financial impact and practicalities.
- Discernment about bursaries can be difficult, as we know that every Friend attending will be a gift for our community. Remember that you are not discussing who has earned a bursary! The numbers of Friends and the finances of the different meetings vary a lot throughout Europe, as well as the economic situation; but every situation is unique.
- EMEYF does not have a policy about how to act when there is not enough money in the fund to support all those who need the support – but we are aware that EMEYF gatherings are especially important for isolated Young Friends. Funders have often voiced the wish that YFs from the Middle East

should be supported.

### **Documentation – for the (treasurer of the) SG Planning Committee**

- For consolidating the accounts and being transparent towards our funders, it is important that bursaries are well documented. Every transaction needs to be matched by a paper trail. This could be done by a minute from the Planning Committee; or a documents that is written and kept up to date by the SG treasurer.
- Accounts given to EMEYF treasurers should clearly state who has been paid how much money, allowing them to trace each transaction. Of course, names will be removed before accounts are published.
- If people receive a bursary towards their travel costs, please ask for a copy of their tickets/expenses for your accounts. If people receive a bursary towards their fee, please account both the (virtually) incoming fee and the outgoing bursary. (Amounts might even out, but this makes consolidating and examining the accounts easier).

### **Practicalities – helpful tips for the planning committee**

- Ideally, Friends would be refunded for their expenses after the event when handing in their tickets. In reality, it might be necessary for them to get a lump sum beforehand, so that they can afford to book their travel. (If the awarded bursary is smaller or the same amount as the fee, bursaries towards fees are easier to handle than bursaries towards travel costs. But remember to document them properly!)
- Unless the SG Planning Committee have their own bank account, bursaries will probably be transferred from EMEYF's main accounts (EURO or GBP). Also if the SG committee has a bank account in another currency, bursary transfers in Euro or GBP via the main accounts saves currency exchange fees.
- In some cases, it might be necessary and/or easier to book and pay travel for participants. This should only be done by or together with EMEYF CC.
- In some cases it might be necessary to quickly and informally check the identity of applicants, who have neither been to EMEYF events before nor are known to members of PC or CC, before sending out moneys. This is not asking for references(!), just a quick check against fraud, which has been targeted against Quaker organisations in the past. Are there other (EME)YFers who know them? (Facebook is quite useful for this!) If not, ask e.g. YFGM, their (Yearly) Meeting or Marisa Johnson/Julia Ryberg of EMES.

Written down and distributed by EMEYF CC (2/2015)

## **EMEYF Under 18s Policy**

- 1) Joining a group for the first time can be an intimidating experience, especially if you are away from home for the first time, or going to a foreign country, or you don't know any other participants. Can you remember a similar time when you may have felt threatened or frightened? This could have been because you didn't understand how others were behaving, because you were in a new situation, or because you were being asked to participate in an activity with which you did not feel comfortable. In light of this experience, what can you learn about how you can behave to prevent another young person experiencing it?
  
- 2) What importance do you give to naivety and innocence, the childlike trusting which we often lose later in life? Many European legislations consider young people to become an adult only when they turn 18. What can you do to ensure that young people can enjoy being adolescent and innocent until they are ready to become an adult? Remember that not everyone will be comfortable with aspects of your beliefs, assumptions, and topics of conversation. How do you share your deepest beliefs with them, while leaving them free to develop as the spirit of God may lead them?
  
- 3) Are there some things that you find easier to tell friends at Quaker events than to tell friends and family at home? Sometimes a safe and friendly environment, and a thought provoking programme can lead participants to share secrets. Are you ready for others to share secrets with you, even if they are difficult to tell and painful? How can you help to comfort them and support them, and take any action which is needed to deal with the situation?
  
- 4) What would you do if an accident happened at an EMEYF gathering? Would you feel comfortable making any decisions about hospital treatment, if the casualty was not able to themselves? How can you help to keep everyone safe?
  
- 5) Though young people may still have a lot to learn, remember that we are all teachers and all pupils in some ways. There are many ways to learn: being told you are wrong, being shown the correct way, being left to discover things yourself, taking part in activities with people who have more experience than you, learning from your own mistakes, reading books, conversations, getting encouragement, by accident, etc. Think about the different ways you have learnt things during your life, including at school, at home, and at youth events. Remember that learning encompasses both by good example and from bad habits. Some things are difficult to learn as you grow up. Did you find some ways of learning easy, and others difficult? Was this different at different stages in your life? Were there any learning experiences that were frightening, insulting, ineffective, or even counterproductive? Are there some things that you would rather not have learnt? How can you help other young people, who may have different personal characteristics, to have a fulfilling learning experience?
  
- 6) Have you experienced an adult having power over a child, or over a more vulnerable adult? Are you alert to make sure that such power relationships are not abused at EMEYF events?

Adopted at EMEYF Annual Meeting, 17-19 November 2006