

EMEYF Annual Meeting (AM)
Quäkerhaus, Bad Pyrmont, Germany
12-14 November 2010

Present: Vivian Barty-Taylor (Recording Clerk), Peggy Brett, Esther Koehring, John Nicholls, Marielke Nieuwerth, Jonathan Riddell, Calum Shaw (Clerk), Kristin Skarsholt, Paul Sladen, Nora Sufiar, Emmie Touwen, Leo Vincent, and [arriving on Saturday] Anneke Spreij.

We have received greetings from: Ian Goggin, David Mangels, Theo Wieldraaijer, Jonny Poole, Liz Seume, Karl Seume, Johanna Buchmann and Rob Johnson who were unable to be present.

AM10/01 Opening minute

We are gathered here in Bad Pyrmont and have already experienced the joy of our fellowship together. We were reminded of the Quaker Business method by Calum, our clerk. We look forward to a fruitful time spent together this weekend.

AM10/02 Nominations required and appointment of Nominations Committee

We were reminded of the nominations required for this year, and nominated Paul Sladen, Marielke Nieuwerth, Emmie Touwen and Nora Sufiar to serve on our nominations committee for the duration of this Annual Meeting.

AM10/03 QCEA representative report - Leo

Leo has attended a number of events as our QCEA representative this year. These included the QCEA study tour, QCEA council meeting and a joint QCEA/QPSW conference. QCEA is anxious for the involvement of younger Friends. This would include the engagement of EMEYF in the section-wide discernment of whether there should be a unified Quaker response to the ongoing situation in Israel/Palestine. We have also been asked to consider how we would go about this discernment process. We thank Leo for his work. A written report is attached to these minutes.

AM10/04 EMES representative report - Leo

Leo attended the EMES Executive Committee meeting as our interim representative following the decision by Liz Seume that she could not continue in the role. He informed us of a number of initiatives which are being discussed within EMES at the present time. The Global Change Group has been set up as part of the FWCC initiative to examine how global issues affect the lives of Friends over the whole globe. One element of this has been the construction of twelve queries to Friends. EMEYF was asked if we could

also give a response to these queries as a group. Other initiatives include a new outreach programme to support isolated Friends within the section. Woodbrooke is also involved in this project, and it was wondered if EMEYF could also play a role. This could be a way of engaging with EMES and would be a valuable outreach activity.

Our post of EMES representative is vacant until Spring Gathering 2011 (p.d. see AM10/17) For this reason, we ask our Clerk with the support of Communications Committee to follow up what EMEYF's contribution could be to these initiatives. We thank Leo for attending on this occasion. His report is attached to these minutes.

AM10/05 Elders report - Marielke and Vivian

Our Elders presented a report on the spiritual life of EMEYF this year. We were reminded of Advices and Queries 28:

“Each stage of our lives offers fresh opportunities. Responding to divine guidance, try to discern the right time to undertake or relinquish responsibilities without undue pride or guilt. Attend to what love requires of you, which may not be great busyness.”

Friends can read Vivian and Marielke's report in our Annual Report 2010. We thank our Elders for their report, their dedication, hard work and guidance.

AM10/06 Secretary's report - John

John reported on his first weeks as EMEYF secretary having received a good handover from Joe Casey.

The donations to Trees for Africa have been made as agreed in AM07/14 to offset carbon emissions. Letters related to fundraising were sent out. (p.d. see AM10/09)

John feels he is settling into the role well, and will begin compiling the Annual Report from the start of 2011. Office bearers were encouraged to think about writing their contributions.

We thank John for his report which is attached to these minutes.

AM10/07 2009 accounts

Our consolidating Treasurer, Jonathan Riddell presented the 2009 accounts. Unfortunately, the accounts show a deficit of €3,594.01. Financial support from EMES, which has been gratefully received in previous years and for which we budgeted, was not available for us. This mostly represents the difference in income and expenditure. High costs of the gathering in Syria were largely offset by specific fundraising efforts for the gathering. Our closing balance for the year was €6,033.94. The accounts were examined by Xavier Verhaeghe,

Office Manager at QCEA, Brussels. Annual Meeting has reviewed and approved the accounts. These are attached to the minutes and have also been published in the Annual Report 2009.

AM10/08 2010 accounts

We thank Jonathan for presenting the accounts for this year thus far.

We have had no income from EMES this year. Our grant from JRCT expired in 2009 and we did not reapply in time. Together, this represents a major decrease in our income.

Our charitable committee treasurer Mair Allen-Williams laid down her tasks in August. Jonathan Riddell has taken over the role as an interim measure until AM 2010. Due to administrative difficulties, Jonathan reported that he has no access to the Sterling account at the present time. He hopes that this will be rectified in the coming weeks. This adds to the margin of error which must be considered in these accounts.

We are grateful to Rob Johnson for his fundraising efforts as Treasurer of the Spring Gathering committee 2010. The money received from the Chapman Trust was donated for bursary support for that gathering. There is a surplus in the Spring Gathering account. It is as yet unclear if the surplus is composed of earmarked grant money which may need to be returned.

CC will be informed of the Chapman Trust's decision in order to discern the right actions to be taken.

AM10/09 Sources of funding

EMES, formally our largest funder, have had to restructure their finances and no longer fund us directly as they used to. They have supported us in approaching Meetings within the section to ask for funding. This process is ongoing. Following the restructuring a joint letter drafted by our Secretary, Joe Casey, and EMES Executive Secretary Marisa Johnson was sent out to Meetings in the Section asking for direct support for EMEYF. We ask the Secretary to carry this work forward as set out in CC2010/09. We are optimistic that this venture will bear fruit. We have heard from Jonathan about the meeting with a representative of JRCT. The application we have made is for our core funding for three years. We will hear back from them in the near future regarding our application. We ask all friends to be mindful of the financial situation within EMEYF, and to be on the look out for funding opportunities in the future.

AM10/10 EMEYF Homestay

The EMEYF Homestay project (AM09/12) has been put on hold until Friends feel strongly about moving it forward.

AM10/11 Gatherings coordinator report

Kristin our Gatherings Coordinator reported back to AM on EMEYF gatherings over the past year. Spring Gathering 2010 in the Moyallon Centre was a successful gathering which strengthened our community as EMEYF. Kristin also gave a progress report on preparations for the joint gathering with EMES in 2011 which will have the theme "Bring and Share". Fundraising for this gathering is well on the way to hitting the target of £8000. We thank Kristin for her hard work as gatherings coordinator and Leo Vincent and Edward Brett as members of the gathering committee in their representation of EMEYF within the planning process. A copy of the report is attached to these minutes.

AM10/12 EMEYF Budget 2011

Jonathan our treasurer presented us with four potential budgets for 2011. Each budget reflects a different outcome of our application to JRCT. Budget (a) would be the most optimistic scenario, with our core costs fully covered for the next three years. Budget (b) anticipates an unsuccessful application with EMEYF receiving no funding from JRCT. Budget (c) anticipates a situation where JRCT agrees to fund part of our application request. Budget (d) is the most pessimistic scenario which contemplates the dissolution of EMEYF. We are mindful that this fourth option is a real possibility which we will work to avoid. AM stressed that Spring Gathering is our utmost priority. The value of having a secretary was also expressed. We entrust the adoption of the budget to CC dependent on the outcome of the JRCT application.

AM10/13 2014 EMEYF 30th anniversary

Our Elder, Marielke, reminded us that 2014 will be the thirtieth anniversary of EMEYF. Two suggestions were made of ways in which we could mark this event. An anthology of experiences of EMEYFers through the years would be a wonderful document and could also be used to present ourselves to the wider Quaker community. Our secretary has been tasked with co-ordinating the production of this anthology. Ben Pink-Dandelion, one of the founding members of EMEYF, would be an ideal speaker at a celebratory event which we will endeavour to organise. We should investigate what form this event would take, and approach him on time to ensure he is available. Calum has been tasked with approaching him regarding his potential involvement. We ask CC to look at what progress has been made and to actively take this initiative forward.

AM10/14 Communication within EMEYF

Our Clerk asked the Communications Committee members to keep all other members in copy regarding EMEYF business. Jonathan offered to set up a

separate mailing list for the members of CC which can be administered by both him and the Secretary.

AM10/15 Location of Spring Gathering 2012

We discussed the country in which Spring Gathering will be held in 2012, and felt that Germany would be a good location. We are excited by the prospect and look forward to the gathering.

AM10/16 Date and location of Annual Meeting 2011

We provisionally set the date of our next Annual Meeting to 11-13 November 2011 to take place in Quaker House, Brussels (subject to availability).

AM10/17 Nominations returns

We nominate the following people for the following roles:

- Clerk - Paul Sladen (until AM2012)
- Elder - Leo Vincent (until AM2013)
- Representative to EMES - Rotating from within planning group SG 2011 until SG 2011
- Representative to QCEA - Matt Loffman (until 2013)
- SG2012 Planning Committee - Esther Koehring, Wanda Dahme and David Mangels (s.t.c.)
- Recording clerk AM2011 - Jonny Poole
- CC contact to Secretary (formerly Line Manager, to be reviewed at CC 2011) - Marielke Nieuwerth

AM10/18 Closing minute

Once again, we have enjoyed the warm hospitality of Quaker House, Bad Pyrmont and our fellowship. We thank John Nicholls and Vivian Barty-Taylor for their hard work as secretary and recording clerk throughout our meeting.

Annual Meeting would like to thank Vivian Barty-Taylor, Joe Casey, Liz Seume, Tobias Buchmann, and Calum Shaw for their excellent work and enthusiasm in their roles as Elder, Secretary, EMEYF Representative to EMES, EMEYF Representative to QCEA and Clerk (respectively), come to an end. We are grateful to have been served by such capable individuals. We would also like to thank Mair Allen-Williams and Jonathan Riddell for being willing to step in as Charitable Committee treasurer and Line Manager/CC contact to Secretary (respectively).

We are pleased to have completed this year's business and look forward to seeing each other in the spring.