

EMEYF Annual Meeting 2012
Bad Pyrmont, Germany, November 16-18 2012

Present attendees:

In alphabetical order:

Bethany Squire, Chris Hanning, Esther Köhring, Georg Adelman, Kirsten Ackermann, Kristin Skarsholt, Leo Vincent, Mieke van Opheusden, Paul Sladen, Vivian Barty-Taylor, Wanda Dahme

Minutes

AM2012/01 Opening Minute

We welcome each other as Young Friends to Quakerhaus, Bad Pyrmont. We last gathered here at the invitation of German Friends two years ago, when our finances were at a critical point. This time we meet again, looking to renew our community. In the process we've started we see the need for honesty about what we feel is going well and how the emotions, whether frightening or joyful, are guiding us. We open our minds and hearts to the spirit and where we are lead.

AM2012/02 Annual Meeting Nominations Committee

We have heard from our elders about how we seek nominations within EMEYF through our nominations committee. We ask Mieke, Kirsten, Esther and Leo to serve for this weekend only and offer them our support in finding suitable names for the positions within EMEYF that we ask them to do so.

AM2012/03 Visions for EMEYF

Over the weekend we've been considering the future purpose and activities of EMEYF. In shared worship we considered the following questions:

- What should EMEYF feel like?
- What should EMEYF look like?
- What should EMEYF do?

Small groups and worship-sharing produced enthusiastic ideas about our visions for Young Friends with the Section and how to live them both outside and in the meeting.

The following points give a sense of what was spoken about:

- community building between East and West, and North and South within the Section.
- community building at gatherings and between the time we spend face-to-face.
- contact with other Young Friends groups and other Quaker groups
- creating an interactive website
- engaging with local communities where our gatherings are held, including reaching out to non-Quaker groups

AM2012/04 Visions for EMEYF follow-up

We ask Communications Committee to expand on these ideas, investigate the practicalities of the proposals and suggestions, and bring these forward to Spring Gathering 2013.

We ask our secretary to summarise more fully what came out from our idea-sharing and put these in a format that can be presented to the wider EMEYF community. We encourage those who have been here this weekend to actively reach out to those in their local communities and the wider world and share the visions and excitement that we have shared about the future of Young Friends in the section.

AM2012/05

We heard reports about events that Young Friends have experienced over the last year: from our own Spring Gathering in Wehlen, Germany; from German Young Friends; and from the World Conference of Friends in Kenya during 2012.

AM2012/06 Nominations Returns

We have received the following minute from our nominations committee and thank them for their careful discernment over the weekend.

EMEYF Annual Meeting 2012 Nominations Committee Report

Nominations committee met over the weekend to discern the roles that are vacant or are becoming vacant at Annual Meeting. Our task

has not been an easy one and we are grateful for the love and support of Annual Meeting as we have tried to do our task. We have struggled to find the balance between making sure we have the right people, the right number of people, and the right roles filled without being restricted by the structures that surround EMEYF. We are aware of the changes that may become us and we are mindful of the desire for that change. Throughout the weekend we have been constantly reinvigorated by the sessions of Annual Meeting and the ideas and visions which have come forward during our time together.

During our discernment we have felt the need to recommend some actions to Annual Meeting to be further discerned by Communications Committee and Spring Gathering 2013. These might be a little crazy or radical, but we hope that Annual Meeting and Communications Committee consider them as only recommendations. We do this in the hope that those who are moving into new roles feel supported and nurtured by the EMEYF community at a time which could prove difficult.

We have considered the following roles:

Spring Gathering Committee 2014 - We bring forward the names of Georg Adelman and Lena Garrison (STC)

Trustees for the UK Charity - We have not looked at this role. A nomination would be to replace a trustee who has recently moved to the USA. We trust that we will still have enough trustees to fulfil our legal obligations and hope the trustees will work with Communications Committee over the next few months to help reshape EMEYF.

UK Charitable Committee Treasurer - We bring forward the name of Paul Sladen for this role. We bring this name forward for the period between now and the end of Spring Gathering 2013. At this stage in EMEYF's process, begun at Annual Meeting 2012 we feel unable to discern if this nomination should be longer than this time due to not knowing what form EMEYF will take in the future or what the work levels of this role will be as we assess our finances and any possible organisational changes. We ask Spring Gathering 2013 to also consider this role in light of any developments for EMEYF and nominate again for this role if it is needed with an awareness that this Nominations Committee would have nominated Paul Sladen for a longer period if we had felt that was possible. We hope that Paul will be supported and feel supported in this role and EMEYF should consider how best to support Paul.

Consolidating Treasurer - We have discerned not to nominate anyone for this role. Whilst we were led to understand the

importance of this role we felt unable to bring a name forward. We were mindful of not asking people to do too much. We therefore recommend to Annual Meeting a working arrangement instead of an individual. We would like to suggest that the UK Charity Commission Treasurer and the Secretary work together to fulfil this role. We ask the Secretary and their CC contact person to look at how this will fit into the Secretary's work plan.

QCEA Representative and Alternate - We did not consider or nominate for this role.

Elder - we bring forward the name of Mieke van Opheusden to serve for a period of no more than 3 years.

Clerk - we bring forward the name of Leo Vincent to serve for a period of no more than three years. The nomination committee feel strongly that CC should look further at the role of Clerk and consider if in the future a situation with co-clerks or clerks and assistant clerks will be a more supportive atmosphere to enable this role and those in this role to flourish.

Recording Clerk to Spring Gathering 2013 - we did not consider or nominate to this role. We hope the Clerk will be able to clerk this Gathering's business but ask the Clerk to consider with the Elders if an assistant clerk or recording clerk is needed at the time. We trust they will find a suitable solution that will deepen the business sessions.

Other roles have not been considered by name. We accept that our discernment has led to a situation that is less than perfect for EMEYF in its current format. We are aware that this is likely to change and hope we have filled the right roles needed with the right people. We ask that EMEYF uphold these people and that the people in roles and those supporting them hold the structure of, and the roles themselves lightly.

AM2012/07 Thank outgoing roles

We thank the outgoing clerk, elder and UK Charitable Commission Treasurer, Consolidating Treasurer, UK Charitable Commission Trustee and QCEA Representatives for their service to our community.

AM2012/08 Closing minute

We have eleven Friends here from Belgium, Britain, Denmark, Germany and the Netherlands, considering the now and the future of EMEYF.

Even though this has been only a start to a process of change that EMEYF is going through, we are grateful to have had this challenging weekend together. We send our greetings to those who have not been here at Bad Pyrmont and look forward to meeting again in Britain in April for Spring Gathering 2013 (April 6-12th, 2013) and hope that Friends from near and far can join us for a crazy and radical gathering.