

Minutes for NPYM YF business meeting July 30, 2004

The meeting opened with a moment of silence.

Approved Helen Dart as “liaison” to greater Yearly Meeting (rather than an “advisor”).

We read the agenda for the meeting.

Helen mentioned the new Young Friends email list. A sheet of paper was passed around to add/change listings.

We then moved to initiate our visioning process for the current state and future of Young Friends, in the manner of worship discussion. Co-Clerk Vena Rainwater read several queries to the group on the subject. Briefly, what does Young Friends currently mean to us and what would we like it to mean in the future?

One Friend spoke of her great desire that YF become a vibrant group in the larger meeting, and in her belief that the current population of the group could make that happen.

Another Friend expressed her desire that YF remain a stable group even over great distances and time periods, and that YF be a group ready and able to help in discernment.

Another Friend spoke of his desire that YF be a bridge between the Junior Friends and the Adult meeting, retaining the community of peers aspect so valuable in JF, while allowing and encouraging YFs to grow and become more participatory members of the greater Quaker community.

This sentiment was echoed, and a Friend added that she felt a strong sense of connection to the Yearly Meeting, but that she still felt the need for a support group of peers to help in the transition to the adult Meeting.

A Friend expressed her sentiment that YF represented a fresh start, and a hope that YF could be a spiritual home for old JFs who felt distanced from the JF program because of their age and have since ceased coming to Quaker functions. She expressed a desire that YF events exist without conflicting with activities of the greater Yearly Meeting so that the transition might more easily be made.

A Friend expressed a desire that the YF group could be a place rich in discussion on a multitude of topics, and that the simple existence of a continuous group of peers would be valuable to meet and discuss topics in all our lives.

A Friend new to Quakerism expressed her joy that a group such as YF existed, since new exposure to Quakerism usually takes the form of exposure to the adult Meeting, and that as someone of YF age she was happy to see others in her same position.

Another Friend recently out of high school expressed her joy in seeing older YFs, and her hope that the YF group could provide both a community of peers for discussion of topics as previously mentioned, and especially a place to discuss things with those older than oneself who might be able to share some wisdom and advice.

A Friend expressed her sense of comfort that the YFs have come into being, since previously our age group has not had the community that so many of us would like to see.

In response, a Friend questioned how we might best communicate to other peers and the greater Yearly Meeting about who we are, and how we might best reach out to those who haven't heard about us yet.

A Friend agreed that the listserv was a great idea, but that it was important also to reach out to old JFs and parents of YF-age Quakers who might benefit from the group. She added that earlier in the year a mailing was worked on but never actually sent, and expressed a hope that a mailing of that sort be a reality.

A Friend wished to acknowledge that many YF-age Friends wanted to come to this year's Yearly Meeting, but for one reason or another could not make it. She also encouraged that YFs have patience for these scheduling conflicts and recognize that they are unavoidable in some situations, which are prevalent in this age group.

Vena Rainwater volunteered to be on the ad-hoc youth outreach fund committee.

Chris Willard, the NPYM Treasurer, presented the group with a summary of how YF funds are appropriated.

The group discussed how to use our funds and how to regulate and establish a process to do so. We agreed that appointing a treasure was not feasible and agreed to continue approving funds use by the group.

We discussed the schedule for the rest of yearly.

The group discussed how best to nominate co-clerks for the following year. Multiple options were considered, including having the Steering Committee's nom. com. find our co-clerks, and nominating them ourselves. There were concerns about the various processes and a hope that nom com might be able to bring the group a diversity we ourselves could not. The group considered the option of having a representative on nom com; however, it seemed unlikely this option would work for this year, considering the time constraints.

It was proposed that Vena Rainwater be approved for another year as co-clerk and that the NPYM nom com be asked to find the other co-clerk, with Vena present at the Steering Committee to approve the other nomination. This possibility was discussed and it was agreed that we would hold a second business meeting in the morning to allow time for seasoning.

Mari Petzing and Meghann Willard agreed to come up with the guidelines for NPYM YF co-clerk to be given to Steering Committee.

Johann Johnson and Christian Dietrich were approved for the YF epistle committee.

The meeting closed with a moment of silence.

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We opened with a moment of silence, then went over the agenda.

We approved the process by which our co-clerks will be nominated. The process being: the gathered group will nominate one of the co-clerks from within the group present and then ask Steering Committee to approve the nomination. For the second co-clerk, we will ask that nominating committee to find someone who fits within our guidelines that Meghann Willard and Mari Petzing have laid out.

Meghann read the guidelines for our second co-clerk that will be presented to nominating committee and they were approved.

We discussed the potential need for an events coordinator, for the NPYM annual session and a possible winter event.

Meghann Willard and Megan Perry were approved as Steering Committee reps.

The YF group has felt led to approved Vena Rainwater as our continuing co-clerk, and ask for the approval of Steering Committee for Vena to continue, and have come up with guidelines for NPYM's nom. com. to find a 2nd co-clerk.

We decided that at the present time we felt that the co-clerks could be responsible for the planning of next NPYM, but would need a coordinator for a winter gathering.

Christian Dietrich was approved as our winter gathering coordinator.

Vena Rainwater and Mari Petzing were approved to construct a mailing including a cover letter and epistle.

We approved a budget including twenty dollars to Helen Dart for phone calls, fifty dollars for Vena's travel and whatever is needed for mailings. Leftover funds were approved to be used by Christian for planning for a winter gathering before the end of the fiscal year.

We discussed our desire to attend FGC in 2006 and to have an NPYM annual session as well, and discussed how that would be difficult. We agreed that a shortened yearly would

be OK, and raised the possibility of a separate YF gathering. We were most concerned about the financial issue of attending FGC.

Minutes taken by Christian Dietrich