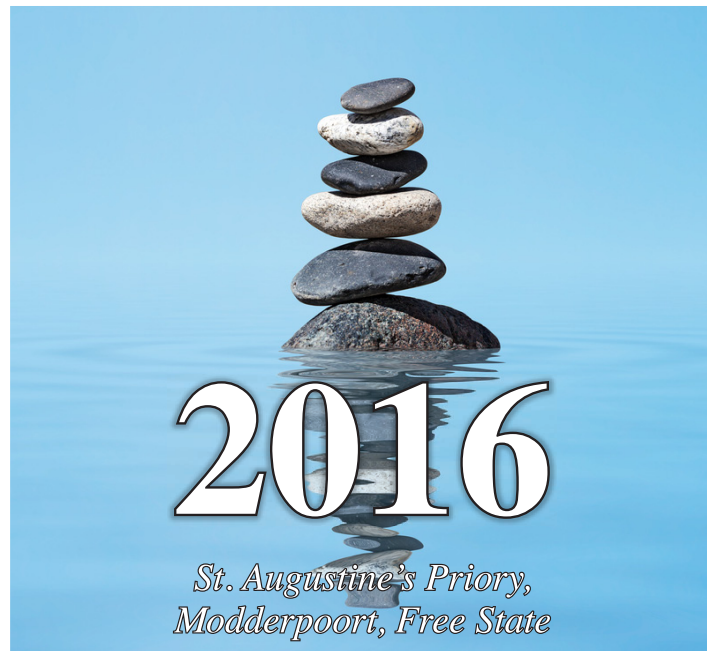


# CENTRAL & SOUTHERN AFRICA YEARLY MEETING



Meeting for worship for business:  
reports and proposals

*27 April - 3 May 2016*

- *Reverence* • *Life* • *Silence* •
- *Transformation* • *Action* •

## Final Minutes

Public Edition

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# **1 Welcome**

## **2 Introductions and attendance**

## **3 Apologies and Greetings**

### **GREETINGS FROM NEW MEXICO**

Dear Friends

We are very conscious of you all preparing and perhaps already starting to travel to Yearly Meeting and are holding you in the Light.

We look back with deep thanks over many Yearly Meetings that we have been part of and know how important it is for Southern African Friends to gather to seek Light and know the presence of the Spirit which gives us life and meaning. May you enjoy the fellowship and find new strength to face the complexities of the challenges of living in what are often dark times.

We are actively involved in Albuquerque Monthly Meeting which is a large Meeting with concern for the homeless of the city, the climate of hate which has blown up in the election campaigns and matters of justice, peace and human rights.

We look forward to reading the proceedings of C&SAYM and especially the Richard Gush Lecture.

With love and prayers,

Richard and Pushpa Knottenbelt

## 2016/1 MINUTE — APOLOGIES AND GREETINGS

### GREETINGS FROM JOHN AND KELITHA SCHMID

23 April 2016

St Augustine's is dear to our hearts. Back in 2000 it was where we attended our first Yearly Meeting in Southern Africa — and we haven't missed one since. So it is with regret that we can't pay a return visit this year and we shall miss not only the venue but so many of our dear Friends.

Earlier this year Kelitha had a very tricky operation on her spine and still needs nursing care, but we hope her mobility will be fully restored in another month or two.

With warm greetings to you all,

John & Kelitha

### GREETINGS FROM OVERSEAS MEETINGS:

Penelope Cummins from Britain Yearly Meeting has sent warm greetings.

#### FWCC

This card brings warm greetings from the FWCC Europe and Middle East Section Executive to friends at Central and Southern Africa Yearly Meeting.  
Lee Taylor, Sue Martin

#### Blue Idol Local Quaker Meeting

Dear Friends,

Greetings from us here in West Sussex!

Our Friend Kim Hope intends to travel in South Africa during April, and plans to attend Central and Southern African Yearly Meeting.

Through Kim we send you our greetings. Though we are separated by a great distance, we are enheartened by your witness which reminds us of our common experience as Friends.

When Kim returns, we shall be eager to learn from her more of your activities and concerns, and to share through them your insights into the living testimonies of Quakers today.

No more, but our love.

In peace,

T. Roger S. Wilson  
Clerk

### West Weald Area Meeting

Dear Friends,

On behalf of West Weald Area Meeting in S.E. England, where Kim Hope is a Member, I send greetings to you in Central and Southern African Yearly Meeting.

It is wonderful to know that there are Friends in so many parts of the world that share so much of our Quaker values.

I hope Kim will be able to tell us all about your concerns and actions upon her return.

Yours in friendship,

Roger Baker

(Clerk WWAM.)

### Luton and Leighton Area Meeting

To Friends in Central and Southern Africa Yearly Meeting

Letter of Greeting

Dear Friends,

This letter comes to you with warm greetings from Luton and Leighton Area Meeting which is part of Britain Yearly Meeting.

It is brought to you by four Friends from Milton Keynes Local Meeting: Colin Bartlett, David Jones, Don Rowe and Lee Taylor. We hope they will benefit from these opportunities to meet, talk and worship with Friends in Central and Southern Africa Yearly Meeting, thereby deepening their spiritual life and that of us all.

We look forward to hearing about their experiences and the life and spirit of your Yearly Meeting on their return.

We commend them to your loving care.

With best wishes,

Helen Osborn

Luton and Leighton Area Meeting Clerk

## APOLOGIES

### Bulawayo MM

Ananias Khupe

### CWMM

Bridget Nomonde Scoble, Graham Thomas

### HMM

Benonia Nyakuwanikwa

### JMM

Duduzile Mtshazo, Emily Mnisi, Wendy Landau, Elizabeth Roper, Thomas Ndayiragije, Jennifer Kinghorn, Alex Kuhn, Tebogo Moteane

### KZN

Dudu Dlamini, Joan Kerchhoff

### PWG

Nancy Fee, Amanda & Jeremy Gibberd and children

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## 4 Testimonies



### 4.1 Shelagh Willet

#### ***Testimony to the Grace of God as shown in the life of Shelagh Marjorie Willet 1931–2015***

In 2013 Shelagh gave the Richard Gush Memorial Lecture at Central and Southern Africa Yearly Meeting (C&SAYM). Her subject was ‘Reverence for life’ and she ended the lecture with the following lines from a poem by the American Quaker, Kenneth Boulding, which she described as a “a thrilling evocation of the beauty of the earth”

*“I plunge, shouting, in the fecund tide  
Of vast creation; lave myself in light.”*



For all who knew her, Shelagh did indeed 'lave' herself in light, a light which illuminated her entire being and which shone through in her unfailing respect and compassion for others. These included not only her many friends, neighbours and colleagues but also all those suffering from oppression in neighbouring regions and especially those forced to flee who sought sanctuary in Botswana.

An only child, Shelagh was born on 1st December 1931 on a family farm near Polokwane. She was profoundly affected by the early death of her father, soon after she left school, confiding later that she felt anxious and alone until she experienced a great sense of certainty and relief that God was with her, bearing her up. Shelagh studied at the University of the Witwatersrand, majoring in Afrikaans and Social Anthropology, followed by a teacher training course. By the late 1950s she had become increasingly disenchanted with white South African society and took an appointment at Morija Girls' School in Basutoland, now Lesotho. There was a brief return to Johannesburg in the early 1960s to take a Diploma in Librarianship, for which her dissertation was *The Bushman: a select bibliography 1652–1962*. In 1965, she returned to Lesotho as Deputy Librarian at the University of Basutoland, Bechuanaland and Swaziland, at its Roma campus.

Shelagh had first become aware of Quakers during this period at a work camp held at the ecumenical and multiracial Wilgespruit Fellowship Centre on the outskirts of Johannesburg. In Lesotho she met three recent arrivals who had been attenders at Quaker meetings. They started meeting regularly for Quaker worship. Their number increased to six when her mother Kathleen and a birthright friend from England arrived. So began what became Lesotho Allowed Meeting. Shelagh's application for membership of the Religious Society of Friends was considered by Transvaal Monthly Meeting and she was admitted into membership around 1967.

At Roma, Shelagh worked on the Boleswa Collection (an acronym from newly independent Botswana, Lesotho, Swaziland). She then spent several years with her fellow academic, David Ambrose, working on a comprehensive annotated bibliography of Lesotho for a World Bibliographic Series. When the University opened new campuses in Botswana and Swaziland, Shelagh moved to become head librarian at what eventually became the University of Botswana (UB). She and Kathleen moved to Gaborone in 1971. Once there, Shelagh started a new Quaker meeting which, in the next decade, benefited from the arrival of several American Quaker families. Botswana was to be her home for the rest of her life and she took citizenship as soon as she could. Shelagh always regarded herself as an ordinary Motswana and refused to use the privileges of a white citizen, for instance when she went to hospital. Sadly, Kathleen succumbed to a prolonged illness and her death in 1974 meant a great loss of family intimacy and emotional support in Shelagh's life.

For Shelagh, the inhumanity of apartheid was never far away, and the way she was affected by it is expressed movingly in one of her poems of the time which begins

*All my life I've heard you singing.  
All my life  
The beauty of your voices  
Has broken my heart*

*All my life  
I have been hearing your voices and crying  
All my life I've been hearing  
Bass voices deep as thunder  
Women's high-pitched sweetness  
Thrilling me to the core. And always, in that moment  
You are naked,  
Defenceless, with the pain revealed,  
The hurt.  
All my life I've been feeling your torment  
The endless burden of indignity  
All there in your singing  
The bitterness of subjection  
Frustration and passionate resentment.*

This compassion for the oppressed found an opportunity which profoundly changed Shelagh's life. By the mid-1970s thousands of refugees were arriving from the surrounding states, being housed in large camps in the north and east of the country. But many needed to be in Gaborone for official and educational purposes. The small Quaker Meeting's concern for their welfare, and especially the shortage of accommodation, prompted Shelagh to contact Quaker Peace and Service (QPS) in London for help in assessing the viability of establishing a small refugee centre. This resulted in a small house shared by Shelagh and eleven refugees, but fairly soon plans were in hand to construct a new centre just outside Gaborone to accommodate an initial thirty refugees. Throughout this period, the willingness of the Botswana Government and people to accept and assist refugees was crucial. Shelagh was adept at negotiating with Botswana officials at all levels, with NGOs, with the Botswana churches and with the UNHCR. Shelagh resigned from her secure University post and was appointed as a QPS volunteer manager with a much-reduced income and a limited term contract.

Shelagh's short book, *Voices of Kagisong*, completed just before her death, illustrates how she endeavoured to ease the passage, in a very personal way, of those whose lives had been disrupted by conflict. Extracts from the numerous letters Shelagh received from grateful refugees show how life-changing her presence and support had been. At Kagisong they received not only physical sustenance and practical help but also Shelagh's sympathetic, patient, non-judgemental, listening friendship, and a warmth of community seldom found in such centres.

Shelagh was not a natural administrator, however, and was succeeded as manager in 1985 by John Schmid. She returned to work at UB but continued to live at Kagisong and to assist John more informally as a friend and counsellor for the refugees. When John's contract ended in 1988, Shelagh returned after a short gap to be manager once more.

These were tense years politically. Shelagh was declared *persona non grata* by South Africa and Kagisong was always under surveillance by the spies of the South African authorities as a potential harbouring centre for ANC members. An attack by South African Defence Forces in Gaborone in 1985, in which 12 people (several quite innocent) were killed, was a particularly worrying and

distressing incident. The Quakers and Mennonites worked together to physically rebuild one of the houses which belonged to a Motswana widow. The general populace gave generously to this project.

Kagisong also became the meeting place for Quakers in Botswana. There were always refugees who attended meeting for worship. In addition to her long-term resident friends, these years introduced Shelagh to a stream of international visitors, voluntary helpers and paid workers, with many of whom she formed deep and long-lasting friendships. She was a good correspondent and when she was eventually allowed entry to South Africa after the downfall of the apartheid regime, she renewed contact with friends from the past in that country.

The Kagisong project expanded and continued until 1996 when the need for this type of short-term accommodation had happily fallen away. Kagisong became a low-budget conference centre. The original founding spirit re-emerged in the form of Botswana's first shelter for victims of domestic violence, funded in part from the conference centre, and in which Shelagh once again became deeply involved. Shelagh had committed 18 years of her life to refugee activities, which represented a major step away from her profession as a librarian. She returned subsequently, however, to her interest in the marginalised Khoe and San group in co-editing an annotated bibliography which was published in 2002. In doing so, Shelagh coped professionally with the digital electronic age, despite an innate propensity to alienate machinery of all descriptions!

Shelagh's deep Quaker faith underpinned her life of service. She was a consistent element in the vicissitudes of Botswana Monthly Meeting, whose attendance fluctuated over the years. In Meetings for Worship her ministries came from a deep, grounded spirituality. Her steady, loving presence and sense of humour at Meeting will be missed. She served as Monthly Meeting clerk, relished the fellowship at the annual gatherings of Central & Southern Africa Yearly Meeting, contributed to Southern Africa Quaker News, attended the FWCC triennial conference in Kenya in 1991, and spent a term at Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre in England. It was said of her well-researched, thoughtful and thought-provoking Richard Gush lecture that it touched the hearts of many Friends in Southern Africa and galvanised the Society to take up issues of climate change and the just, sustainable use of the earth's resources in a more focused and comprehensive manner.

Shelagh was never in robust health, suffering from high blood pressure, but her vegetarianism held her up even in later years when her hearing and general health diminished. Her home from 1995 was a small bungalow outside Gabane where she lived with her dogs, cats and occasionally chickens, and from where she continued to welcome people and provide a home for those in need. She created other families after she lost her own: refugees, colleagues, friends and their children. Finally, a young student whose family came from Zimbabwe whom she called her 'granddaughter' lived with her for her last few years. When it was within her powers, she seldom refused a request for help, including financial help, which occasionally caused exasperation among some friends at the possibility that her generosity was taken advantage of.

Throughout her life, Shelagh was open and welcoming, intelligent, gracious, warm hearted,

cheerful in outlook, eminently approachable and an easy communicator, a woman of great integrity and selfless empathy, who listened, understood, and inspired. As one Friend put it, “Quiet and gentle, yet steadfast”, she made you feel that you were especially important. She will be remembered with gladness by all who met her, with deep affection by those who were her friends, and a deeper love, perhaps, by her closest friends. Her depth of practical compassion and willingness to act out her concerns were an example to all of us.

This testimony began with two lines from a poem used by Shelagh in her Richard Gush Lecture. Let it end with the lines which followed and with which she concluded her lecture:

*Seek first the Kingdom — for thy joys are dim  
Until thou findest all things new in Him.*

The inward Light of the Spirit is the very essence of Quaker belief, and Shelagh, as one Friend wrote, “Was a great light – and I will find she is still with us”. We give thanks for the profound privilege of having known her.

*Chris and Roy Love gave the oral testimony.*

## **4.2 Iain William Grayer**

Iain was born in Southport, England on the 21st September 1936 to John Walter Grayer and Elsie Annie Wright. Iain attended Ackworth School (1947–1954) where his father was a teacher.

For his National Service he worked with the Friends’ Ambulance Service in Sicily as a conscientious objector.

In 1956 he began his apprentice training as a junior engineer at Associated Electrical Industries, in Rugby, England. In 1960 he moved to Scotland to work with Bruce Peebles Engineers where he stayed for eight years.

On 3 August 1968, he married Margaret Elliot Anderson and almost immediately thereafter he took the opportunity to immigrate to South Africa. Here he worked for GEC Machines until 1980. In 1980 he started work with ABB Industry where he remained until his retirement in 2007.



His work as an Electrical Engineer spanned 51 years and was a major part of his life but he hardly ever spoke of it outside of work. He designed the largest synchronous motor ever built in South Africa. He was regarded as a leading expert in the field of large electric motor design, and work colleagues spoke very highly of his knowledge, skills, experience and empathetic helpful nature. They saw him as a very special man with a cheerful personality, optimism and curiosity about life. He was a man of great energy: physically, intellectually and artistically and he was not someone

who let problems build up; he tackled them immediately. Iain had a wide range of interests and his engineering skills stretched well beyond his workplace.

Some of his daughters' happiest memories are of swimming with Iain in their pool after he came home from work.

Iain also loved to walk, hike and climb. In his younger days he did some major mountaineering in the Alps, in the Lake District, in the Cuillin Hills of Skye, in the Scottish Highlands, and in the Drakensberg. In Benoni the family often walked down to the local dam or around the bird sanctuary together to watch the sun set over the water.

Iain's other major passion was classical music which he both played and listened to. On Saturday mornings, at the age of 40+, he started violin lessons. His daughters would hear him practicing his violin after they went to bed. The family regularly attended symphony and chamber orchestra concerts at the State Theatre, Linder Auditorium, or at the Wits Great Hall. He was a member of the Johannesburg Symphony Orchestra for approximately 35 years and the same for the Jewish Guild Orchestra. Whatever Iain did, he did with care, loving devotion and unshakable loyalty.

He could sit for hours outside in the still night air or watch a thunderstorm pass in deep contemplative silence.

He was firmly rooted in his Quaker heritage. His stillness of Spirit, his ability to meditate and to be in the moment gave him great strength, great compassion and great humanity.

He had a profound sense of seeing all he met as equals worthy of respect. He was a pacifist and a peacemaker. He abhorred violence and warfare. In the UK he was a conscientious objector and chose voluntary non-military service as a means of building peace and development, working on ambulances and building roads in Sicily.

He was a highly moral man. He believed that our own security is not ensured by arming ourselves and building high walls with razor wire, but by economic justice and building strong communities. His generosity knew no bounds. He invested in the education of those he came to know who needed assistance. He gave easily and with great love, in service, in time and in money.

His consistent and loyal service to Johannesburg Meeting was invaluable, quiet but as solid as a rock. He was a regular attendee at Meeting for Worship. He rarely if ever ministered and on Sunday mornings, year in and year out, was often the first person to enter Quaker House Meeting Room. He served as Treasurer, where his meticulous recordkeeping was of great value to Friends. He also served with diligence on the Premises Committee where his engineering skills and methodical approach to any problems were greatly prized.

He is survived by his two daughters and three grand-daughters from his marriage to Margaret and by his wife, Saskia, and their two children.

*Rory Short gave the oral testimony.*



### 4.3 Ronald Watts

#### *Thanksgiving for the Grace of God as shown in the life of our Friend, Ronald Watts, 1930–2015*

Edward Ronald Watts was born in Bournville on 15th February 1930, the youngest of three boys. Janet Clark (nee Taylor), his grandmother, was a much-loved sister of Elizabeth Cadbury, and his father, Harold, worked at the Cadbury's factory in personnel. According to Ronald, the policy was to allow workers to take home as much chocolate as they wanted, knowing that they would soon get sick of it. Marjorie, Ronald's mother, loved leaving Cadbury's chocolate under her grandchildren's pillows when they visited. She was consequently known as 'Chocolate Granny'. Ronald enjoyed his Cadbury connections, and from babyhood was a regular at Boxing Day gatherings of relatives at Winds Point, one of the Cadbury's homes in Malvern. He was so familiar with the route that even after a stroke that made him blind, he knew when a wrong turn was taken.

Harold died unexpectedly on holiday in Mentone (Ron would pronounce it in an Italian accent, as it had once belonged to Italy), which was a favourite holiday destination for Elizabeth Cadbury. This was particularly poignant, as Ron had been looking forward to living with him in Reading whilst studying for his undergraduate degree in Agriculture. His mother died suddenly in 1967 when the Watts family were on holiday in Mombasa, and he didn't hear the news until after the funeral.

Marguerite recently told Ronnie about a photo she'd found of him with his brothers and parents, posing informally for the camera in the Bournville house. As his language was limited by the stroke he said rather alarmingly that he was 'bleeding'. When asked if he meant it was a painful memory he said 'yes'. He missed his family when away from home, and consequently kept up a formidable correspondence when working in Africa.

Because of concerns about Birmingham being bombed at the beginning of the War, Ronald joined his brothers Richard and Joshua at Sidcot, a Quaker school in Somerset, at the tender age of nine. Sidcot became a home for him as he sometimes didn't get back to Birmingham for a year at a time. Lifelong friendships were forged there, including Kendall Clark, Kurt Strauss and William Stanton. He was very fond of school, recounting stories of collecting bats whilst caving and letting them go in the subway that connected the girls' and the boys' buildings. He also remembered spotting what he and friends thought was Morse code being flashed across the Bristol Channel at night, and trying in "derring-do" style to decode it. Ronald started school a "Tufa" (a word he wrote on the back of a young photo of himself, possibly meaning midget) and left over 6 foot tall. This was an interesting affair for the rugby team, as Ron was the hooker; something that tickled him. He also loved playing tennis and continued into his 70s. In spite of sounding cheeky, his headmaster described him as being of "good steady character, a great contributor to the life of the



school, and ideally suited to agriculture” in which he was developing an interest.

As part of his National Service as a conscientious objector (CO) Ron worked at Forest Lodge, a sheep farm near Brecon. His family used to holiday in Wales so he developed a deep love of the country from an early age. This love may have prompted his purchase in 1968 of Maes yr Eglwys, a sheep farm in the Swansea Valley. When Ron went on to

study Agriculture at Reading University in 1950, he met a group of Nigerian students being prepared for Independence, which may have piqued his interest in Africa. Whilst training for the Colonial Service in 1953 he also met Victor Ngu, who later became Minister of Health in Cameroon. Ron studied Hausa but was sent to a Yoruba speaking area as Rural Education Officer in Ibadan. This frustration might have contributed to his lacklustre attitude to learning languages! When he turned 28, Ron had a gap year of sorts: hitchhiking, sailing and taking public transport around Cameroon, Ghana, Angola, Tanganyika, Uganda and Kenya after which, he described himself as being “under the spell of Africa”. He followed this with a diploma in Agricultural Economics at St Peter’s College, Oxford. He admitted that at this time he was looking for a wife (or so it says in his book *Eyes on Africa*, published in 2005). He spotted the beautiful, articulate, intelligent and passionate doctor, Theresa Piper, who had just returned from pre-registration work in Uganda. They met at the Africa Interest Group during Quaker Yearly Meeting at Friends House in London in 1958. A shared love of Africa, Quakerism and a desire to be of service sealed their partnership. Ron and Theresa were both idealists and pragmatists, with shared values of living simply (“...that others may simply live”) and sharing their gifts, privileges and knowledge to enable Africa to become independent. It wasn’t a one-way relationship, as Africa and Africans taught them a lot more about community, sustainability, the endurance and beauty of the human spirit, laughter, singing, dancing and African beliefs, cultures and customs. They married at Jordans Friends Meeting house on July 18th 1959.

Ronald’s next job had the exotic title of Tribal Agricultural Officer for the Bamangwato tribe. He and his new wife sailed off together to Cape Town, then travelled by car to Serowe in what was then the Bechuanaland Protectorate. Theresa was guarding the secret of her first child as they motored north to the Kalahari desert. Marguerite was born seven months after they arrived. Seretse Khama, (who became the first president of Botswana) and his wife Ruth were neighbours and became friends. Ron had an interesting time working with the tribe’s cattle, battling the problems of foot and mouth disease and lack of water, and re-starting the local Agricultural Show, another life-long interest.

After the Sharpeville massacre in South Africa, Ron and Theresa found themselves putting up

refugees and helping them escape to Ghana – including Adelaide Tambo, the wife of ANC President Oliver Tambo. Visitors to the house also included the first white national hero of Zimbabwe, Guy Clutton-Brock, and his wife Mollie, who both subsequently advised Ronald on his career. Ronald decided he would always be an expatriate and not a settler, and promoted the need for ‘Africanisation’.

In 1961 when the Pan African Congress adopted armed struggle as part of their policy, Ron and Theresa left Botswana, moving to Kenya in 1962 to work at the Quaker Missionary College and hospital in Kaimosi. Ron was lecturing there, and in turbulent times with students regularly striking he seemed to be a peaceful, diplomatic presence. Kageha, their second child, along with 13 other babies were fostered around this time from the hospital Theresa worked in. When Kageha was later adopted, Ron and Theresa worked hard to have out-dated ideas overturned, for example lobbying for black people to have access to the swimming pool in Kisumu. The Watts family then moved to Embu, where Ronald took up the post of Principal at the Institute of Agriculture. Following this, the family moved to Uganda where Ron taught agricultural extension work at Makerere University.

Around 1967 the Watts family took extended leave in the UK to adopt Jeremy. They stayed in one of the Watts cottages near Henley which had been bought by Harold in 1933. These were the days when primary schools gave out little full-cream milk bottles with straws — a huge novelty to Marguerite and Kageha. Milk was ladled out of farm milk churns at the bottom of the road into jugs for household use.



Returning to Uganda with Jeremy, the children had an exciting life on the agricultural extension campus, Kabanyolo Farm. The family made good use of the tennis and squash courts as well as a swimming pool at the nearby Namulonge Cotton Research Station. Indeed, the Watts family was at the pool the day in 1971 when Idi Amin took over from Obote in a coup. Ron and Theresa loved the BBC World service, and it was the early morning news that had alerted them to the coup just in time to stop the school bus setting off for Kampala. Amin was very popular with the Baganda and initially with the British, and Ron gave him a tour round the Kabanyolo farm campus. Ron felt that Amin was knowledgeable about the problems of the small farmer, and he was delighted when the President announced that agricultural programmes would be aired on the radio daily. Ministers were appointed to their posts by radio too... it often being the first they heard about it.

As things were starting to unravel in 1972, the Watts's left Uganda for the UK, in between the forced departure of the Israeli community and the expulsion of 80,000 Asians. The journey back to UK was an epic one by train and then ship from Mombasa and around the Cape, with challenging moments for the family, and particularly Kageha, as they passed through apartheid South Africa.

A few years on the farm in Wales from 1972 enabled Ronald to progress in his career as a journalist, which had started with “Letters to the editor” back when he was a CO, and was aided by lessons in journalism when in Oxford. He wrote for *Farmers Weekly* and *The Guardian's* foreign





pages, having previously written for African papers like the *Uganda Argus*, *East African Standard* and *Daily Times of Lagos*. Photography was another of Ron's lifelong enthusiasms, and he had many slides in photo libraries for use by the media. His photo of Entebbe airport was used by leading papers and was shown on the television news at the time of the Israeli hostage crisis.

Ron's career in the media reached its peak when he and Theresa lived in Zambia from 1977 to 1986. Whilst Ronald worked with the government teaching agricultural extension, he also presented 'Lima Time', an agricultural TV programme. The President, Kenneth Kaunda, occasionally watched the programme, and in the mid-90's unexpectedly dropped in on Ron and Theresa when they were working in Katete. He introduced Ron to the small crowd that had gathered as the *Lima Time* presenter. Amazingly, children by the side of the road in rural Zambia would recognise Ron's trademark red hat and shout "Mr Wattsss, Mr Wattsss" whilst running alongside the car. It is difficult to imagine where they would have seen a TV.

Throughout his life, Ron was interested in connections, networking, people's work and stories, and all the absurdities of being human. His lopsided grin and humorous, open questions led to him being invited to write a column called "Lighter Look" in *The Herald*, formerly the *Rhodesian Herald*. Whilst in Harare from 1990 to 1993, Ron and Theresa contributed a Quaker view to religious programmes on the radio, some excerpts of which were used at his funeral. Ron continued writing when they lived in South Africa and also started training to become a counsellor, although he was considered unsuitable because he talked too much!

Ronald had a remarkable ability to be flexible, adaptable and imaginative in his career path. He found many ways to communicate his vision of the centrality and importance of agriculture for African independence and to share the values that Quakers hold dear, including stewardship of



the earth and its resources and looking for that of God in everyone. As AIDS swept through Africa, Ron was involved in working with AIDS organisations to give good information and support to affected communities. Population control was also a concern, and Ron tried to spread family planning ideas that would be culturally acceptable. There was a wide array of strands

which ran through Ron's life, leading to consultancies for the International Coffee Organisation, Oxfam and the Food and Agricultural Organisation, lecture tours around South Africa to allay fears over independence, conferences on Land Reform, and numerous Quaker activities. Ron was Clerk for Central & Southern African Yearly Meeting for a number of years and loved attending Quaker Africa Interest Group, and latterly U3A and the Royal Africa Society.

Even after his first stroke Ron and Theresa gave a talk and slide show to a local school in Gilwern, hoping to inspire the children on African issues. Many of Ron's images and memories, which appear to have remained in his visual cortex after he went blind, were to do with committees, filming and conferences.

As a father, Ronald was patient, kind, gentle, curious, humorous, teasing and full of African and Welsh stories and characters. There was a steadiness and openness about him that people were drawn to.

*Helen Vale gave the oral testimony.*

## **4.4 Doreen Dowd, 1941-2015**

Doreen started life in Sandymount which was then a suburb of Dublin and grew through early childhood there, where her father ran a small Market Garden or Nursery and sold the produce mainly through the Municipal Market in the city.

Her father was of Quaker background and her mother had joined some time before their marriage, having grown up in the Church of Ireland (Anglican).

This is where some explanation of Doreen's character and motivation can be found. She was raised in a home where the orthodoxies of Christian belief were predominant. Attendance at Meeting for Worship was a *sine qua non*, with attendance at The Friends' Mission Gospel Meeting on Sunday evening. During her teens she would have attended, and later helped to organise Quaker camps and similar activities. At various times she represented Irish Quakers at conferences in England, Switzerland, America and Kenya.

Her parents had served as missionaries with the Friends' Evangelistic Band in England, sometimes working from a caravan. They had aspirations to become missionaries in Africa but a certain Herr A. Hitler intervened!

Doreen decided at an early age that she wanted to qualify as a doctor and pursued this objective relentlessly, winning scholarships through secondary school and university. Subsequently she specialised as a chest physician and, apart from a few years gaining experience abroad, she spent most of her career in two of the major teaching hospitals in Dublin.

Doreen not only expected the highest standards from other people, but made sure to live up to them herself. She was quite rigid in many of her attitudes, but they were always qualified in

presence of real trouble or suffering. There was not the least tincture of egotism in her and everything she did was focused on the service of her Saviour through her fellow creatures.

Her life was informed by prayer and daily readings of the Bible. She did not attempt to impose her beliefs on anyone but was always ready to “answer for the hope that was in her”, and to take her stand. The central event in her life was the day she gave her life to Jesus.

Following the passing of her parents during the decade of the '80s, she felt the call to serve her Lord in Africa and resigned from her consultant position in 1992. She spent some time vainly searching for the right path to follow and then, when the time was right, the opportunity opened to work in the Salvation Army Hospital in Chikankata, Zambia. She enjoyed the challenge of developing her skills in a multi-disciplinary environment, though the work was at times arduous. During 1997 what seemed like unfortunate circumstances developed there and consequently Doreen returned to Dublin. She was deeply challenged and troubled by these events but still believed that her vocation was to work in Africa. Almost a year passed and, through what some might call just a co-incidence, while sitting in a coffee shop, she met a colleague from early in her career that she had not seen for decades. They compared their respective work experiences. It transpired that he was then working with Irish Aid and he told her of a vacancy with the Lesotho Flying Doctor Service. And so another door opened. When she told her brother Alan that she was going to be flying over the Drakensberg Mountains in a little Cessna aircraft his response was, “I can't believe this! You are a nervous passenger in my car!”

Doreen arrived in Lesotho in early 1998.

She immediately stepped into her job as a practical, hands-on doctor and flew off regularly to remote, inaccessible areas armed with her stethoscope and medicine box and an absolute minimum of case notes. Probably half her time was spent up in the remote, sometimes neglected, clinics.

She worked with the largely American/Canadian-backed Mission Aviation Fellowship where spirit and humanitarian practicality flourished together. One of her more famous achievements was the safe delivery of a baby in a small single-engine aircraft – with a New Zealand sheep farmer passenger acting as midwife.

Despite much time away from Maseru, Doreen quickly became a keen member of LAM and when Carol and Jack Urner met with injury/death in a car accident, the weekly Meeting moved to her home (except when she was away working in the mountains).

She gave enormous support to those less fortunate of the Meeting – sponsoring some for training in SA, paying for ARVs and for nutritional backup. Her contribution must have been way more than the biblical 10% tithe.

After her return to Ireland she made at least two return visits to Lesotho and, right up to the end of her life, continued to give practical and financial support to the Meeting.

Doreen retired to her home in Dublin in 2004 where she enjoyed working in her garden, one of her great loves. She remained committed to the Quaker community in Dublin and for several years worked part-time in their office. Sadly she was diagnosed with cancer and, although she expected full recovery following several surgical procedures, unforeseen complications developed. Throughout her final struggle with the illness over several months, her faith never wavered. She was taken to “the p-lace reserved for her” on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2015.

*Jim McCloy from LAM gave the oral testimony to the life of Doreen Dowd who belonged to LMM and attended meeting between 1998 and 2006.*

*Testimonies for two LAM Friends recently deceased, namely Rose Paradise and Neo Masiloane, and a CWMM Friend recently deceased, John Broom, will be given at the 2018 Yearly Meeting.*

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## **5 Financial Reports**

### **5.1 C&SAYM Treasurer’s Report & Budget**

*FIGURES IN QUAKER RECORDS*

#### **1. Introduction**

The current Treasurer took office in January 2015. Although it was a smooth handover in some respects, the lack of financial records for YM 2015 has made it difficult to fully reconcile all the figures relating to YM. We are still in the process of sorting these out.

#### **2. Some Management Issues**

The management of the Yearly Meeting bank account with Standard Bank had been uneventful, until earlier in 2016, when signatories were needed to authorise access to the account. The first issue was the lack of easily accessible information about who the YM signatories were (even the signatories were uncertain!). Secondly, the tortuous procedures to be followed for what should be simple banking arrangements – of course this problem is well known to us, but it may require a rethink on where and how to keep our funds.

#### **3. Income**

The main source of income for Yearly Meeting is the annual quotas paid by individual members and attenders via their local Meetings. All but two meetings have paid their quotas for the year 2015–2016, though some of the payments were received within the

new financial year.

It would appear that some members are not managing or are not able to pay their quotas, with the result that there is less income for YM. As a reminder, wealthier Friends in a particular Meeting are expected to augment what less well-off members are able to pay towards their quotas, where possible.

#### **4. Expenditure**

The Meeting has largely kept within budget, and this has been helped greatly by the flow of annual quotas into our account. The statement of account is at a draft stage at the time of writing, and we hope to have a more refined version in time for YM.

### **2016/2 MINUTE — C&SAYM TREASURER'S REPORT**

An additional amount of about R8000 to R9000 to be added to the Income figure for registration fees.

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#### **5. Proposed Budget for 2015--2016**

##### *FIGURES IN QUAKER RECORDS*

The motivation for certain aspects of the budget is: firstly to retain the membership fees close to what they were in the previous year. The SACC contribution is under discussion at present. It is suggested that YM consider an increase in the fees paid for administration, as this is such a valuable contribution to the life of YM.

A further consideration for YM is to increase the annual quota to R500 per Member – always with the proviso of ability to pay. The motivation for this may turn out to be quite lengthy, but in essence, it is what we as individuals expect of our relationship with the YM body. Having more funds available will help in many ways, including less dependence on the Trust funds, and will open up the possibility of YM contributing to the PJDF – and others.

*Mark Povall*

*Treasurer*

### **2016/3 MINUTE — C&SAYM PROPOSED BUDGET**

It is proposed to divide the budget into three parts. The next YM budget will be for the 2017–18 year and the numbers are imponderable. However MYRM will happen in 2017 and require a budget; the numbers there will be known. Things that happen outside of YM also need to be

budgeted for, e.g. SACC membership. An increase in quotas is proposed.

#### 1. CSAYM BUDGET FOR 2015/16 - DRAFT

##### *FIGURES IN QUAKER RECORDS*

SAFCEI contribution increased to R1000.

Secretarial assistance R20 500 — R1500pm (Oct-Apr), R2000pm (May-Sept)

#### 2. CSAYM BUDGET FOR 2016/17 - DRAFT

##### *FIGURES IN QUAKER RECORDS*

Note: The quota for the next financial year, Oct 2016/Sept 2017, has been increased to R600 for South African Friends, and R550 for non-South Africans.

This is similar in structure to the 2015–16 budget. The clerks' travel allowance has been increased to allow for the likely extra needs arising from an incoming clerk.

Quotas increase by 20% to R600, but the budgeted/anticipated income makes allowance for Friends who cannot manage this amount.

This budget was approved as a draft budget, subject to corrections.

#### 3. CSAYM BUDGET FOR MYRM (April 2017) - DRAFT

##### *FIGURES IN QUAKER RECORDS*

Note: Attendance estimated:

- 2 YM Clerks
- 1 Secretary,
- 2 Communications Cluster
- 15 from Meetings

In the past when there were longer gaps between YMs, more people attended MYRM and it was longer. The next YM is in January 2018 so more people could be included (20). MYRM could be brought forward to an earlier date, namely April 2017. Attendance at MYRM is 'by invitation' insofar as it involves the clerks and serves the purpose of planning YM.

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## **5.2 ECTF Report for YM May 2016**

Global markets have entered into turbulent times amid much political uncertainty, the low price and glut of oil, the end of quantum easing and the prospect of perpetually low interest rates. Nationally, corruption, lack of leadership, over-dependence on commodity sales to a slowing Chinese market and lack of diversification with the almost inevitable forthcoming junk rating are

all leading to a falling market.

ECTF had a pretty good year in 2014/15 but the current year is likely to see a significant fall in the value of our assets for the reasons stated above. The latest statement (31st December 2015) values the portfolio at R13,555,446 compared to R13,885,398 a year earlier. This is a decrease of R329,552.

During the financial year to date Nokuthula Mbete attended a meeting in Kenya in her role as co-clerk of FWCC Africa section and she, Justine Limpitlaw and Khosi Daniel attended the FWCC meeting in Peru. Two of these places were funded by FWCC and not by ECTF. It has been questioned as to whether we get any value out of our membership of FWCC. The minutes do not seem to reflect what was discussed, are not agreed at the time and there are problems of patriarchy and homophobia.

Whilst there is enough income to meet our requirements this financial year (October 2015 to September 2016), next year our income will almost certainly be reduced and we will need to cut our cloth to fit.

Currently expenditure is split as follows:

YM	60%
MYRM	11%
YF	7% (which is not enough to cover costs and requires top up from CAQT)
FWCC	7%
Clerks admin	5%
Local meeting support	3%
Travel in the ministry	1.5%
Clerks courses	0.5%
Contingency	5%

The trust also agreed to act as the conduit for the Peace, Justice and Development Fund which is divided into Long-Term and Short-Term funds. At the year-end the Long-Term Fund reflected a balance of R200,000.

The trust deed needs updating urgently; currently the trustees on the list held by the High Court are Mark Povall, Rod Woollgar and Caro Atwell. Caro resigned as a Quaker over 13 years ago. Mark wishes to be replaced. Rod has also suggested that due to his age he should also be replaced. In practice Nokuthula Mbete and Julie Suberg also act as trustees and have done for a good while albeit not formally appointed. In addition, Tebogo Moteane is supposed to be a trustee, however, there has never been any correspondence received from Tebogo, which is a problem. As he does not seem to have ready access to email he has been dropped from correspondence.

Going forward there are likely to be more calls on ECTF than can be accommodated and applications for travel and accommodation grants for YM are likely to have to be administered on a first-come first-served principle.

*Kaye Foskett and Colin Glen*

*February 2016*

## **2016/4 MINUTE — ECTF AND PJDF**

Tebogo Moteane's new email address is moteanetebogo@gmail.com.

YF Budget: an amount of R25 000 is available for the current year. If the camp takes place immediately after the end of the financial year there would be R50 000 available. When necessary, top-up is made from CAQT where provision is also made. Materials purchased for the children's activities can come from discretionary money.

The Yearly Meeting wishes to express its very great thanks to Colin Glen and Kaye Foskett for the sterling work that they do on ECTF. Correspondence is always promptly responded to and requests for funding sympathetically considered.

The meeting has received the 2016 ECTF Report.

The meeting has a number of concerns therewith which it would like to minute and requests the Clerks to convey the sentiments expressed in the minute to Colin Glen and to Kaye Foskett reflecting these. These concerns are:

1. The meeting is of the mind that statements regarding the YM's relationship with FWCC ought to be determined by the YM itself. The meeting is of the view that there are numerous benefits to being part of FWCC.
2. The meeting also confirms that it is of the view that Tebogo Moteane has the confidence of the YM to be a trustee.
3. The meeting had questions regarding the detailed accounts, including wanting clarity on the Loans of R49 185.66 referred to in the balance sheet (to whom, for what, etc) and no one at YM was able to shed light on these, which was unfortunate.
4. The meeting wanted to know if there is a way in which the annual accounts can be presented in a simplified form so that they are understandable to people without accounting backgrounds.
5. The meeting is of the view that it is essential that either Kaye Foskett, or Colin Glen, or a



duly authorised Friend (who is fully conversant with the ECTF accounts and who is able to answer questions thereon and to relay the concerns of the meeting back to Kaye and Colin) needs to be in attendance at YM to talk to the ECTF report and accounts and to share in the experience of YM to be able to fully appreciate the direction and concerns of C&SAYM.

6. Friends from Bulawayo expressed some frustration regarding the ECTF funding of local Bulawayo activities as agreed. The Treasurer offered to find a solution to the banking difficulties that exist with a view to solving these expeditiously.

#### Report of the PJDF (Peace, Justice and Development Fund) – Yearly Meeting April 2016

The PJDF was established at the 2015 YM, using the residual value from the sale of Hlekweni as capital to open the fund.

The fund was set up by the KZNMM, initiated by Geoff Harris, to enable Friends to start small projects which align with the values proclaimed in the name of the fund.

Disbursable moneys from the fund may accrue in two ways: (1) annual proceeds from investment of the capital; and (2) new donations whose donors indicate that the money is immediately available for spending on appropriate projects. If a donor does not indicate a preference, that donation will be allocated in equal shares to capital and current funds.

Donors may also earmark part or all of their donations to grow the fund capital.

An anonymous donation of R15 000, available for disbursal, was received during 2015.

Two requests for PJDF grants were received and approved by the Quaker Finances Committee in 2016. One was to finance the purchase of wool for a volunteer knitting project in Durban – Beanies and Blankets for Babies (B+B4B) – which knits garments for poor communities in rural KZN. The other was to finance two AVP workshops in Bulawayo, where experienced facilitators from KZN and Namibia mentored local AVP facilitators to empower them to continue offering and running AVP workshops in the Bulawayo area.

These grants together amounted to R8 100.

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#### *FIGURES IN QUAKER RECORDS*

## 5.3 Compassion Fund report to YM 2016

*FIGURES IN QUAKER RECORDS*

### 2016/5 MINUTE — COMPASSION FUND

The narrative report was presented. Seven Friends were assisted with a total of R11 103, less than what had been budgeted. The balance can be carried forward. The problems were short-term assistance in unemployment, a need for spectacles, and food aid. It was mentioned that some local meetings also distribute their own compassion funds. This has been reported in meeting reports.

#### C&SAYM Compassion Fund Committee Report – Yearly Meeting April 2016

C&SAYM Compassion Committee has worked well together, communicating from Maseru, Johannesburg, Cape Town and Pietermaritzburg as needs have arisen, since last Yearly Meeting held in Hartebeespoort during January 2015.

Seven Friends have been assisted during this period, with grants totalling R11 103. This is less than the amount budgeted to be available for grants. Compassion Committee Funds are reflected in the C&SAYM Financial Statements.

The grants supported a Friend who had been retrenched from his job; a needy Friend in urgent need of spectacles; and five Friends whose families were enduring hunger because of the severe drought.

The process of considering requests has led to some modification of the application form, the latest version of which is on the website, or can be obtained from the YM Secretary.

Warm thanks to Friends who serve on the Compassion Committee, blending sensitivity to the needs of Friends with careful consideration and realism about the limited capacity of the fund. Thanks also to our Treasurer, and to Yearly and Monthly Meeting Clerks who have responded to the needs of members.

Julie Suberg, Dudu Mtshazo, Cecilia Nkesi and John Inglis

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## 5.4 Christine Agar Quaker Trust Fund Report for YM 2016

Global markets have entered into turbulent times amid much political uncertainty, the low price and glut of oil, the end of quantum easing and the prospect of perpetually low interest rates in the developed economies of the world. Nationally, corruption, lack of leadership, over dependence on commodity sales to a slowing Chinese market and lack of diversification with the almost inevitable forthcoming junk rating are all leading to a falling market.

CAQT had a reasonable year in 2014/15 but the current year is likely to see a significant fall in the value of its assets for the reasons stated above. The latest statement (31st January 2016) values the portfolio at R 5,990.014 compared to R6,584,691 a year earlier. This is a decrease R 594,677.

During the financial year the bulk of the grants (R193,740 in total) were made to Johannesburg Monthly Meeting (55%) for Administration Support, Security and Utilities; followed by a grant to the Compassion Fund (31%); Co-operation with others for Xenophobia and AVP (4%); The Ceasefire Campaign (1%); SAQN (1%); Excess of Income over Expenditure reinvested (8%)

Of the total funds available for grants this financial year R200,000 (October 2015 to September 2016), R39,000 has been allocated or spent so far, leaving R161,000 available.

The trust managed the finances of both the Quaker Basic Income Grants (BIG) and the Gervaise Leg Up Trust (GLUT):

BIG – The income of BIG for the year was R11,500 and grants made totalled R13,320 reducing the capital from R29,873 to R28,017.

GLUT – made no grants during the year and received a share on income from CAQT of R5,099.56 taking its capital up from R106,065 at 30 September 2014 to R111,165 at 30 September 2015.

The Trustees are Betsy Coville, Dudu Mtshazo and Rory Short. The clerk and treasurer is Colin Glen

*Colin Glen February 2016*

### *FIGURES IN QUAKER RECORDS*

#### **2016/6 MINUTE — CHRISTINE AGAR QUAKER TRUST**

It was noted that our income has dropped very substantially. It is likely to do so further, especially if SA is given junk status.

It was proposed that if loans are made, no names should be disclosed. Trustees of funds need to be informed of this.

We recognise that it is in the interest of transparency that the CAQT accounts are submitted to YM. We note that there are some inaccuracies in the balance sheet and the 2015/16 Budget. These will be taken up with Trustees and the Administrator. Trustees are reminded of their Quaker

and legal responsibilities.

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## 5.5 Friends Hunger Fund

### 2016/7 MINUTE — FRIENDS' HUNGER FUND

Geoff Harris will write to Meeting clerks to request donations to this fund which will be managed by the CSAYM treasurer.

The proposal is that MM clerks of BQM and LAM should purchase mealie meal and beans as per the approved amounts, to be distributed to the families monthly. It was proposed that the amounts be increased by 10% as food prices will increase. Also provision should be made for costs incurred in purchasing and distributing the food. It was queried why the existing food relief scheme in Bulawayo could not cover this need, instead of another scheme being set up. A letter is to be sent to John and Kelitha in which they can be asked whether they are willing to consider including urban households in their distribution scheme. The Compassion Fund can also contribute to cover the costs of this emergency food relief.

#### MINUTE PREPARED BY GEOFF HARRIS:

1. That C&SAYM establish a hunger relief fund to provide assistance for families associated with local meetings — currently 12 in Bulawayo and five in Lesotho — for a 12-month period.
  2. That a separate account be set up under C&SAYM, to which monthly meetings and individuals contribute. The Compassion Fund and CAQT may also contribute.
  3. That funds be sent to the BQM and LAM clerks who will arrange for the sourcing and distribution of food. For 12 families in Bulawayo: Mealie meal: one bag per family @ \$11 (R165) per bag = R23 760; Beans: 6 kg per family @ \$7 (R105) = R15 120. Total R270 per month per family = R38 880 p.a. For five families in Lesotho (80% of Zimbabwe prices): Mealie meal: 6 kg per family @ R132 per bag = R 7920. Other food (beans are not commonly eaten in Lesotho) @ R84 = R5040. Total R216 per month per family = R12 960 p.a.  
Total amount per annum: R51 840.  
It was proposed that the sum be increased by no more than 10% to accommodate expected increases in the price of these staples in the coming year.
  4. The BMM and LAM clerks will report to the Quaker Funds Committee, copied to the C&SAYM Treasurer, at the end of each three months. These reports will guide funding for the next three months.
  5. Any costs incurred in sourcing and redistributing food will be reimbursed by C&SAYM.
  6. In the case of Bulawayo, this operation is entirely separate from ZFRA.
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## 5.6 Reporting on Finances

### 2016/8 MINUTE — REPORTING ON FINANCES

1. The Meeting acknowledges our weakness in some areas of financial oversight.
  2. The C&SAYM Meeting agrees that the Co-clerks and the Financial Oversight Committee provide basic training in trusteeship and financial oversight for Friends willing to take on the necessary and legally required role of trustees of our funds, and directors of organisations.
  3. We thank the Clerk for her clarity and leadership during an extremely testing time.
  4. Financial statements should be posted timeously on the website, behind a password, for members to study them before YM and MYRM.
  5. Friends were reminded that Financial reports and accounts of all concerns under the care of Yearly Meeting or of a monthly meeting within the YM (such as the Quaker Peace Centre, The Bursary Scheme, ZFRA, Quaker Service Western Cape, etc.) ought to be reported on at Yearly Meeting so as to develop transparency and an ongoing commitment to supporting each other in good corporate governance principles.
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## 6 Reports of local Meetings

### 6.1 BOTSWANA

#### 2016/9 MINUTE — BOTSWANA

No report was received from Botswana Monthly Meeting.

The current clerk, Brigitte van der Casteel, has moved to Cape Town.

The Meeting has requested the Co-clerks to send the following correspondence to the Clerk of Botswana Monthly Meeting.

#### Letter to Brigitte van der Casteel

Dear Brigitte

Warm greetings from YM 2016 on whose behalf we write to voice our sympathy for you and your family, and also to wish you well in your new home in Cape Town.

We also write to ask you, as Clerk of BMM and now that you have relocated to Cape Town, to find out what assistance YM can provide should BMM wish to continue as a Monthly Meeting. If there is a Friend willing and able to take-up the role of Clerk, we would be delighted to welcome him or her into the position.

On the other hand, if after assessing the situation within BMM, it is clear that continuing as a Monthly Meeting would not be feasible, it will become necessary to lay the meeting down in accordance with right ordering.

If BMM does decide to lay down the meeting, Friends in Botswana can continue to be part of CSAYM as Isolated Friends, with the possibility of reviving the Meeting at a future date should the number of Friends in Botswana increase sufficiently.

We look forward to hearing your concerns and considerations about these questions.

In Friendship and love

Helen and John

Co-Clerks C&SAYM

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## 6.2 BULAWAYO

### 6.2.1 Membership

Members	8
Visiting members	1
Attendees	7
Average attendance	8
Absent / Inactive members	5
Young Friends	3
Children	3

### 6.2.2 Intervisitations

6.2.2.1 Meeting had an opportunity for worship and fellowship with these Friends: Nola Nixon from Moyallow, Portadown, North Ireland. She was staying a few metres from the meeting house with a friend. She generously donated \$40 to the meeting account. Richard and Pushpa Knottenbelt were welcome on a farewell visit as they were leaving Zimbabwe for the state of New Mexico in the USA. Georgina Mbambo, a member of CWMM, worships with us each time she visit relatives in Bulawayo. Rosina Sithole from Lincolnshire UK came to worship with the meeting when she visited her relatives here in Bulawayo. Sarah Joy Leitch from Hebden Bridge Meeting, West Yorkshire, UK visited us in February 2016.

From our meeting John and Kelitha Schmid were in Harare for about two months staying with Richard and Pushpa Knottenbelt in the HMM cottage. Ananias and Solomon attended MYRM in August 2015 at Koinonia Catholic Church, Johannesburg.

6.2.2.2 Yearly Meeting Clerks – Justine Limpitlaw and Helen Holleman together with YM Elder, Helen Vale, visited Bulawayo in May 2015. A workshop was held in Burnside. The purpose of the workshop was to heal divisions after the closure of Hlekweni Rural Training Center. The meeting seemed losing spiritual focus and being overtaken by other issues that undermine the spirituality of the meeting. The workshop was well attended by many BQM members/attendees. A detailed report was written and shared with the whole region. The three visitors attended meeting for worship with the group in the meeting house on 7 June 2015.

6.2.2.3 Marieke Clarke from Oxford Quaker Meeting UK, a historian, visited Bulawayo in 2015. We had an opportunity for worship and fellowship with this Britain Yearly Meeting Friend. The meeting shared some archive information with her. She liked the information but was concerned at how our documents were kept in cardboard boxes. Marieke Clarke in UK managed to raise \$120 that she donated to the meeting for a metal filing cabinet.

She contacted a Zimbabwean friend who advised us to visit Kings Auction. We bought a second-hand metal filing cabinet, got it repaired and spray-painted. Earlier on her way going back through South Africa she raised R1,100 that she donated into our local compassion fund.

### **6.2.3 Spiritual Life of the Meeting**

- 6.2.3.1 Meeting for Worship is held every Sunday for an hour from 9.30–10.30 am. Meeting for Worship for Business is scheduled to be held on the second Sunday of every month. John Schmid, when he is around, brings short (5-minute) pieces of classical music which lead straight into silent worship.
- 6.2.3.2 Quaker literature that is shared from all parts of the world: *The Friend* magazine (BYM), *Australian Friend*, *Quaker Voices* (BYM), *Experiment with Light* journals pamphlets books & CD's, Quaker Speak Videos, *Steps Towards Inner Peace* etc.
- 6.2.3.3 The meeting Elders proposed to use 30 minutes of the meeting for worship one Sunday every month to study *Advice and Queries*, *Handbook* etc.

### **6.2.4 Contributions to Service and Social Justice**

Zimbabwe Food Relief Action: John and Kelitha Schmid distribute food on behalf of Yearly Meeting. The report is presented separately.

Zimbabwe Bursary Fund: The report is presented separately.

Sipho Nsimbi is involved in Livelihood Support programs for Widows and Single Parents in the Matebeleland region.

Solomon Makadzange continues with Emakhandeni Community Based Rehabilitation and Advocacy group for people living with disabilities in ward 11 Bulawayo as the chairperson.

Phillemon Chirimambowa is the representative of Meriwether Foundation Trust in the region: South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

### **6.2.5 Matters arising from YM**

Yearly Meeting Treasurer's concern on payment of quotas: Bulawayo Quaker Meeting FY1415 quotas: only nine paid their quotas. It was agreed that the quota per year be \$30 to be split in three parts—\$10 for the meeting expenses, \$10 goes to C&SAYM and \$10 is for the local compassion fund. Fin Yr 15/16 so far only three members have paid their quotas and one has made part payment.



## **6.2.6 Financial Position as on 26 Feb 2016**

### **BULAWAYO QM ACCOUNTS SUMMARY**

*All accounts are in US dollars (USD)*

*FIGURES IN QUAKER RECORDS*

The Bursary Fund is a fund for Zimbabwe Secondary School Bursary Scheme: currently funds are sourced in UK by Friends of Hlekweni Trustees – UK.

The House Fund accumulates from rentals paid by the tenants. Purpose of the fund is for the property maintenance and currently extension work of the main house and an extension to the existing Cottage. Both foundations have been laid down and passed by the City Council inspector.

The Bulawayo Meeting account is a fund from part quota payments for meeting expenses e.g. tea provisions.

The Bulawayo Compassion Fund accumulates from part quota payments and in Fin Yr 14/15 the fund was boosted by donations.

The Eveline Cadbury Fund is funded by ECTF – SA for local travel, YM gatherings accommodation & journeys and ICT subscriptions.

The Suspense & Debtors Account is an account for funds waiting for clarification and loans to members from this money pool.

## **6.2.7 Liaison with other Organization and Institutions**

6.2.7.1 The meeting maintains links with Harare Monthly Meeting.

6.2.7.2 Schools attended by students sponsored by the bursary fund.

6.2.7.3 Liaison with Friends of Hlekweni Trustees. Agnes Ndhlovu is involved in activities run by Friends of Hlekweni.

6.2.7.4 Meriwether Foundation trust through Phillemon Chirimambowa.

## **6.2.8 General: Other Concerns/Matters**

6.2.8.1 The meeting decided to change Bulawayo Monthly Meeting to Bulawayo Quaker Meeting. This decision was prompted by the opening of the bank account. The meeting constitution with the bank carries Bulawayo Quaker Meeting. The main reason was avoiding BMM that could mean Botswana Monthly Meeting.

6.2.8.2 Starvation: some Friends have applied for food assistance to YM Compassion Fund. The local Compassion Fund is currently buying some maize meal for those who applied whilst waiting for a response from YM Compassion Fund Trustees.

6.2.8.3 Loans: The pay-back date of the amount borrowed is causing concern.

*Solomon Makadzange, Clerk*

*27 February 2016*

## **2016/10 MINUTE — BULAWAYO**

Friends of Hlekweni Trust appreciate the ongoing relationship with Bulawayo: Lee & Jessica spent a month with BQM and David Brown also visited. The trust does fundraising that supports the Bursary scheme for needy students.

The details of the loans still owing by friends to BQM were discussed in detail.

Ways in which C&SAYM can assist alleviating hunger among Friends will be explored with the Quaker Funds Committee.

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## **6.3 CAPE EASTERN REGIONAL MEETING**

### **6.3.1 Membership**

Port Elizabeth Members: John Blair, Jennifer Bowler, Wendy Nunn, Kholekile Tshanga, Angus Morton; Attenders: John and Pat Bartels, Lorna Morton and Thalia Eccles (until her return to England in mid-2015).

Grahamstown Members: Rosemary Smith, Adrienne Whisson, Wouter and Helen Holleman, Susan Winters-Cook, Doreen Bekker, Che Roberts, Rommel Roberts, Pauline and Les Mitchell, Rod Woollgar, Rosemary and Talbot Elliott, Gisela Zipp (Isolated Friend in China).

Attenders: Felicity Edwards, Wendy Viljoen, Julia Mann, Liz Gowans, Zukiswa Gobevu, Louise Krueger, Liz Campbell.

Rosemary and Talbot Elliott are in an old age home in Kirkwood and, although they are difficult to contact because Rosemary no longer has a cell phone and it is difficult for the staff to bring the landline to her, we send them a written message every regional meeting and Adrienne keeps in contact with their son, Phillip.

Gisela Zipp paid a fleeting, surprise visit to Grahamstown from China where she is still very

happy teaching English to junior school children.

Meetings in Port Elizabeth are held on the first and third Sunday of every month. The first Sunday is a study group, and the third is a Meeting for Worship.

Meetings in Grahamstown are held every second Sunday; one Sunday is Meeting for Worship, and the following fortnight, Meeting for Worship is shortened and more time given to discussing topics that the group has agreed on. Attendance at Meetings averages seven to eight Friends and attenders.

### **6.3.2 Inter-visitation**

Helen and Wouter Holleman have attended Cape Western Monthly Meeting on several visits to Cape Town. In her capacity as Co-clerk of Yearly Meeting, Helen visited Meetings in Windhoek, Gaborone and Maseru in February 2016.

### **6.3.3 Spiritual Life of the Meeting**

Port Elizabeth Meeting has been working through the Gospels using the commentaries of William Barclay, starting with Matthew, which offers a very good understanding of the context of the life of Jesus. Progress through the material is slow, but the discussions are wonderful at helping to unpack the issues and relate the biblical teaching and context to our own time.

Grahamstown Meeting has explored issues of living the Quaker testimonies: How do we live simply? How do we practice equality in our lives? How do we apply the peace testimony to the xenophobia in Grahamstown? We have watched the disturbing videos, *The end of poverty? Think again*, and *Miners shot down*, and struggled with the role of Quakers in those situations. Sharing ideas and views has been stimulating and enlightening. We have also – on one occasion – done a little circle dancing, which is a wonderful, meditative activity.

The Meeting has a considerable library which is now stored in eight sealable plastic boxes, four of which are housed in Port Elizabeth and four in Grahamstown. They will be exchanged from time to time. A list of the holdings is available to Friends from any other Meetings who want to borrow books.

### **6.3.4 Contributions to Service and Social Justice**

Some Friends find their contribution in the very work they do: Jennifer Bowler lectures in social justice at NMMU, and uses the opportunity to alert her students to the central notion of social justice within capitalism. Wendy Nunn, who is one of the group of supporters of the Children's Feeding Trust in Port Elizabeth, does pro-bono work as part of her psychology practice.

Kholekile Tshanga has a group of people interested in a gardening project in Walmer Township, but has recently struggled to get seeds donated.

Rosemary Smith is the secretary of the Albany Hospital Board, Settlers' Hospital, where she has introduced the Board to the practice of taking minutes Quaker style! She is also a founder member of the Friends of the Library Committee in Grahamstown and for years has driven the fund-raising activities by organising speakers twice a month on a wide variety of topics. The efforts of the Library Committee have raised funds for two rural libraries, a mobile library, and eight libraries in greater Grahamstown.

Adrienne Whisson has been a member of the Grahamstown Feeding Association since its inception and at present is acting Chairperson. The organisation supplies hot soup and bread to about 700 people every Monday to Friday from three bases in Grahamstown. Although she has stepped down as Chairperson, Adrienne continues to serve on the Corner House Committee which runs a group home for people with psychiatric problems whose families are unable to care for them. She was recently appointed Deputy Chairperson of the Albany Hospital Board on which she has served for sixteen years. She is also active in the Grahamstown Training College Fund, the interest on the investments of which is distributed annually to a number of appropriate educational institutions.

Pauline and Les Mitchell have returned to Grahamstown where they continue their work with AVP.

Helen Holleman has been involved with the Water for Dignity group from Joza, capturing the data they collect from interviews with residents in the township in connection with water problems. Their aim is to provide the Municipality with information that the Municipality can then act on. Wouter Holleman is treasurer of CERM as well as Editor of SAQN.

The Meeting supported two GADRA Matric Students who successfully completed their matric exams. The Meeting also contributed food and cooking equipment to the victims of xenophobia in Grahamstown in October 2015.

### **6.3.5 Financial position**

#### **CERM Income and Expenditure for 2014/15**

*\* This amount does not form part of the income, but is held in the bank account, ring-fenced for SAQN.*

We have been blessed with a generous monthly donation to the Rosemary Mullins fund, which to date, has been used to purchase resources for the Meeting.

### **6.3.6 Liaison with other organisations, churches and institutions**

Helen Holleman attended a meeting called by the Ministers Fraternal (Grahamstown East) in connection with concerns about the levels of crime in Grahamstown.

CERM was invited to join SpiritFest 2016, held during the National Arts Festival, but is not in a position to do so this year. We hope the invitation will be repeated next year.

## 6.4 CAPE WESTERN MONTHLY MEETING

Cape Western Monthly Meeting (CWMM) consists of two local meetings; Cape Town Meeting and South Peninsula Meeting. Meetings for Worship for Business are held alternately between these two meetings. The Cape Town Meeting meets on Sundays at 09.30 at Quaker House in Mowbray.

The South Peninsula Meeting meets at 10.00 am in members' homes in the Lakeside /Simon's Town /Scarborough areas every second week for MFW with occasional additional meetings.

### 6.4.1 Membership

#### CAPE TOWN MEETING

Active Members:	23
Attenders:	7
Visiting Members:	2
Absent/inactive members:	0
Children/Junior Members and Young Friends:	1
New Members by name: Sophie Randriamahefasoa	0
Who has left by name: none	0
Weddings, Births and Deaths: John Broom	1
Average Attendance: Meeting for Worship: 20	20
Business Meeting: ( CWMM MWB are joint meetings with South Peninsula)	15

#### SOUTH PENINSULA MEETING

Active Members:	10
Attenders:	2
Visiting Members:	0
Absent/inactive members:	0
Children/Junior Members:	3
New Members by name: Kevin Johansson	1

Who has left by name:	0
Weddings, Births and Deaths: None	0
Average Attendance: Meeting for Worship: , Business Meeting: (as above)	15

### 6.4.2 Intervisitation

Visits by Members/Attendees: Members of our meeting visited meetings in USA.

Visits from other Members/Attendees: We had several visitors from USA, Australia and UK.

### 6.4.3 Spiritual Life of the Meeting

State of the Meeting: Membership remains fairly steady; about 20 people attend worship each week at Mowbray and approx 7 at South Peninsula.

How meeting is encouraging the spiritual life of the members: The prayer group no longer meet as a group but telephone prayer requests to one another (one Quaker and one ex-Quaker) and pray at their respective homes every week.

A small group of Quakers meet in the home of an attendee who is not able to come to meeting at Mowbray.

A discussion group meets at Quaker House on the first Sunday of the month.

A retreat was held at St Raphael's in April attended by 30 adults and young people on the theme "Deepening our Quaker Experience". Felicity Kaal from UK led a session on "Opening to the Light" and other members addressed other relevant themes.

### 6.4.4 Contributions to Service and Social Justice

Members are involved with many activities. Several members of CWMM belong to Quaker Service Cape, others are members of, and on the Board of the Quaker Peace Centre. Members have also been very involved in spiritual counselling at a local hospice, working with users or survivors of psychiatric services as well as environmental, health, human rights and international affairs.

Professionally there are members working with NPO's concerned with early childhood education, post-matric education and early childhood welfare.

Some members who supported a letter to the Cape Times in November 2013 concerning the perceived threat to democracy in the Western Cape are still active in the Concerned Citizens Group that arose out of that concern and are helping to organise workshops dealing with housing and sanitation in the Cape Town region.

#### **6.4.5 Matters Arising from YM Minutes**

Several meetings were held following the concern regarding violence in South Africa. A film about the life of Albie Sachs entitled *Soft Vengeance* was shown at Quaker House on 17 July and Albie Sachs was present to answer questions. Another film about the life of Bayard Rustin—Quaker civil rights organiser and activist—was shown on 28 August.

#### **6.4.6 Financial Position: (as at 13/12/2015)**

*FIGURES IN QUAKER RECORDS*

#### **6.4.7 Liaison with other Organisations, Churches or Institutions**

We are members of the Western Cape Religious Leaders Forum, South African Faith Communities Environmental Institute and Cape Town Interfaith Initiative.

#### **6.4.8 General: other concerns or matters**

We have continued 7-minute talks on various themes at the end of meeting for worship at Cape Town.

We have an increasingly ageing membership that will need more support as time goes on. There are few Young Friends and they attend very irregularly.

Dividing the role of clerk between three people, each serving for four months, proved a good way of spreading the workload. It also provided opportunities for learning for those members who had been less actively involved before. There has been good co-operation and hand-over between the three clerks.

Attendance at MWB is much improved, averaging 15 people. By keeping MWB to approx one hour people are able to attend and structure their time. To manage this it requires Friends to be mindful of the Quaker process and only to address a topic once if possible.

#### **2016/11 MINUTE — CWMM**

CWMM was asked to do a testimony to the life OF John Broom for next Yearly Meeting.

The clerks have offered to support CWMM in strengthening their meeting especially in creating continuity between clerks and the two meetings. The three co-clerks are currently sharing clerking for the year.

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## 6.5 HARARE MONTHLY MEETING

### 6.5.1 Membership

Members	6
Attender	1
Young Adult attender	1

### 6.5.2 Inter-visitation

We have had three people who work for AFSC (American Friends Service Committee) in Kenya for meeting for worship. We also have a visitor, Sarah Joy Leitch, a member of the Hebden Bridge Meeting in Yorkshire in England.

### 6.5.3 Spiritual Life of the Meeting

When we had Quaker wardens, a close-knit family had formed. Few as we always are, we are still bonded to each other, though we feel a gap created by Richard and Pushpa's departure to USA. We still read a segment of *Advices and Queries* the first Sunday of the month in the meeting for worship. When Ian and Ling leave for the UK at the end of March, there will be a further gap in the Meeting for Worship.

### 6.5.4 Contribution to Service and Social Witness

The meeting has donated small amounts to the orphanage that is run under Multi-Help-Trust. The number of children has gone down as some have been relocated by Social Services.

As a meeting, we have been paying school fees for three students whose situations called for help and who are known to members. Margaret Nhembe has been involved in this Bursary fund.

We watch out for local activities that we can participate in, but so far we have not done one.

### 6.5.5 Financial Position

The meeting has its income from renting the cottage on the premises, as well as from two or three other Church groups that use our hall. We also received donations from some Quaker sources.

Dues have remained at 12US\$ per person and we have urged members to commit to paying this despite the financial difficulties. The banking system has not changed and we have not changed either the way we look after our finances.



### **6.5.6 Liaison with Other Organisations**

The financial requirement has still been prohibitive for us to join Zimbabwe Council of Churches.

### **6.5.7 Outreach**

We shall have to think and pray about the way to reach out to people at large in a Quakerly way. Building numbers is good with the dedicated and understanding people.

### **6.5.8 General**

It has not been easy to settle the issue of wardenship. We have resolved to enter into a month's lease agreement at a time until we get a suitable tenant or Quaker warden.

*Benonia Nyakuwanikwa (Clerk Harare Monthly Meeting)*

*28th Feb 2016*

### **2016/12 MINUTE — HARARE**

Jennifer Kavanagh suggested that there could be communication between HMM and Westminster MM about how to support HMM.

The clerks suggested that HMM explore outreach possibilities or Quaker Quest as a way of growing the meeting.

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## **6.6 JOHANNESBURG MONTHLY MEETING**

2015 was a year of significant change for Johannesburg Friends. After meeting for more than 50 years in Quaker House at 3 Gordon Terrace, Doornfontein, it became clear to us all that the time had come for us to move. A series of break-ins coupled with seemingly endless problems regarding maintenance and utilities helped Friends to realize that our continued ownership of the building was no longer feasible.

Several potential buyers came forward, but somehow the sales never carried through. Eventually, a group of young engineers bought Quaker House with the intention of turning it into student accommodation. Following the sale in October, an intense period of organizing and clearing the building followed. The new owners expressed the need to begin work on December 1 in order to be able to accommodate the students who would be arriving in early 2016. Several Friends worked extremely hard throughout November distributing furniture, sorting books, and clearing cupboards.

The dream of the new owners has finally been realized and the old Quaker House is now home to 17 University of Johannesburg students plus our former caretaker who will also remain there.

Other Quaker activities continued to take place throughout this rather tumultuous year.

We were delighted to visit and be visited by our near neighbours in the Pretoria Worship Group this year. A particularly festive occasion was hosted by them last August when we joined together for Meeting followed by fellowship at the Theosophical building in Pretoria. We are happy to learn that Pretoria Friends have now started the process of becoming a Monthly Meeting.

Experiment with Light groups have taken place following Meeting for Worship several times during the year. Friends found it particularly helpful to have these sessions while in the process of discerning the best way forward for the sale of Quaker House.

Children's Meeting has continued to meet on the First Sunday of every month, with a varying number of children attending.

### **6.6.1 Membership**

Attendance at Meeting for Worship has increased since the move to our new venue high above the Wits Art Museum in Braamfontein. The number generally varies from 10 – 20 on a Sunday morning. Three regular attenders have given stalwart support during recent months and our connection with more occasional attenders has been strengthened. Our membership number is now 21.

Two Friends with deep connections to JMM passed away in 2015. Our former warden, Trevor Kerr died in England where he has lived for a number of years. Our long-serving member, Iain Grayer, died after a long illness. We helped his widow Saskia in planning a Quaker memorial service which was held at their home outside Pretoria and attended by many friends, relatives, and former work colleagues.

We continue to communicate with each other by telephone, the Meeting email list, and our WhatsApp group – as well as face-to-face!

### **6.6.2 Fellowship**

Mid-week gatherings have been rather irregular during the past year and our hope is to have them on a more regular basis going forward.

We did, however, have several Thursday morning gatherings. We made a "Prayer Shawl" and brought it to one of our members from Soweto who had been ill and unable to come to Meeting for some time. We enjoyed having Meeting with her in her home.

We also visited the Origins Centre at Wits together following Meeting in May.

Another happy time together was spent at a picnic under the trees at Emmarentia Dam last May.

A weekend retreat was held at St. Benedict's in Rosettenville at the end of October. The theme was "Transitions in Our Lives". Ten Friends attended.

### 6.6.3 Outreach

We have had several “Quaker Quest” sessions throughout the year.

Our “10-minute Talks” held once per month enable us to hear from visitors as well as our own members and have provided insight into the many positive efforts taking place in South Africa.

Several of our members continue to be involved in the “Alternatives to Violence Project” and two attended the national gathering which was held in Port Elizabeth last August.

Several of our members took part in the march held in response to xenophobia last April and also the Anti-Corruption march held in Pretoria last September. One of our Friends even appeared on television!

Johannesburg Friends look forward to another active year of involvement as we find support and friendship together in facing the challenges of our changing society.

*Elizabeth Roper*

*Betsy Coville*

*Co-Clerks, Johannesburg Monthly Meeting*

### 6.6.4 Financial Reports

*FIGURES IN QUAKER RECORDS*

*Colin Glen*

*JMM*

#### **2016/13 MINUTE — JMM**

The flourishing children’s meeting has been a particular gift to the meeting as it builds the meeting and supports parents to attend Meeting for Worship.

Friends appreciated the hospitality of JMM who hosted friends attending MYRM.

The meeting continues to support each other through QBIG which has been running for approximately 10 years and had contributed to a feeling of equality and friendship in the meeting.

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## **6.7 KWAZULU-NATAL MONTHLY MEETING**

The KZNMM consists of two groupings, in Durban and Pietermaritzburg. Each group meets every Sunday, and we have joint meetings two or three times per year. In December Durban Friends hosted the joint meeting at the home of Julie and Mark Povall. Our planned shared retreat had to be postponed.

### **6.7.1 Membership**

Durban: We have a core of five members who attend Meeting for Worship regularly, plus a circle of another ten or so (including those living far from Durban) who attend occasionally. Two friends who were regular attenders in 2014 and 2015 have re-located.

Pietermaritzburg: Three of our members and one attender meet regularly for worship at the home of John Inglis and Marie Odendaal. We are occasionally joined by another attender and one or two young friends. We have once held MfW at the Howick home of an elderly Friend who recently returned after living in Cape Town, and plan to repeat this in 2016.

### **6.7.2 Spiritual life of the meeting**

Durban: MfW is at the centre of our spiritual lives and we continue to find it very meaningful and mutually encouraging. We also have occasional home meetings every few months at which we discuss matters of interest, including watching recent Swarthmore Lectures (the UK equivalent of our Richard Gush lectures) from the Woodbrooke website.

Pietermaritzburg: MfW is our primary space for spiritual renewal and support of each other as we experience personal, family and professional challenges, which have been especially heavy for some of us of late. We cherish the strength that comes from our shared silence, our 'afterwords', and our friendship and Friendship. We were joined in one MfW by visitors from Howick who shared with us their struggles to live an alternative eco-friendly lifestyle. One of our co-clerks participated in the Woodbrooke clerking course.

### **6.7.3 Contributions to service and social justice**

Durban: We continue to be heavily involved in a range of concerns, including the South African Faith Communities Environmental Initiative, Diakonia Council of Churches, Phoenix Zululand, Amnesty International, the Denis Hurley Centre and the International Centre for Nonviolence at Durban University of Technology.

Pietermaritzburg: Members are active in or actively supporting the Alternatives to Violence Project in KZN, southern Africa and Africa Region, and internationally; and the Pietermaritzburg Agency for Community Social Action. AVP-KZN has expanded its work to include running schools peace clubs, with funding and support from the Mennonite Central Committee. PACSA is concerned with empowerment of communities in their struggles for

human rights and social and economic justice. Environmental issues, including proposals to embark on fracking in the KZN Midlands, are a strong concern in our meeting.

Both Durban and Pmb Friends are of service in various capacities in C&SAYM.

#### **6.7.4 Matters arising from YM**

Durban and PMB Friends have operationalised YM's Peace Justice and Development Fund.

#### **6.7.5 Financial position**

Durban. Our dues to C&SAYM are up to date. We do not have a bank account. Pmb also does not have a bank account.

*Geoff Harris & Marie Odendaal*

*Co-clerks*

#### **2016/14 MINUTE — KZN**

One of KZN members, Snoeks Desmond, has started a Beanies and Blankets for Babies project that provides clothing for babies in rural areas with the support of the meeting.

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### **6.8 LESOTHO ALLOWED MEETING**

#### **6.8.1 Membership**

Members:	1
Isolated Friends	0
Attendees	14
YF	8
Children	6
Wedding for Boitumelo Lekaka	1
New born – Tebello Polaki	1
Deaths – Rose Paradise, Doreen Dowd	2

#### **6.8.2 Inter visitation**

Cecilia Nkesi - Attended AVP facilitators' training in Port Elizabeth in August 2015 by invitation from Marie in KZN meeting. Jim and Polaki visited JMM pre-Lesotho general election, some time before 28-02-2015.

Khosi Sekoere and Ntseliseng Sekonyana participated at the Mid-Year Representatives Meeting.

Khosi Sekoere attended the 7th FWCC gathering January 2016 in Peru.

The YM Co-Clerk Helen Holleman visited LAM friends as part of their mission to local meetings within the YM for three days.

### **6.8.3 Spiritual life of the meeting**

We meet twice a month, on the 1st and the 3rd Sunday, at two different places: Kennedy's at Thaba-Bosiu, and Jim's in town.

### **6.8.4 Contributing to service and social justice**

Friends are part of various social services in their communities. The passing on of Mme Rose Paradise who co-ran the Manyeloi a Manyane day care centre (an orphaned kids pre-School) with another friend Ntate Kennedy Matsepe left a great gap on funding to the centre, which brings a great concern and challenge for LAM.

### **6.8.5 Other**

Young Friends tried organizing and coordinating the YF camp in Lesotho for December 2015, Young Friends will like to organize for the camp during the YM event and host it after.

## **2016/15 MINUTE — LAM**

Neo Masiloane died in the past two weeks.

The LAM has continued despite the political tensions in the country as best they could.

Testimonies to Rose Paradise and Neo Masiloane will be given at next Yearly Meeting.

We hold Kennedy Matsepe in the light as he is in hospital.

Any support needed from YM should be requested in a proposal.

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## **6.9 NAMIBIA ALLOWED MEETING**

### **6.9.1 Membership**

Our membership currently stands at four - Helen, Hugh, Enid and Justin and we also have three regular attenders - Ben, Becky and Peter. Our other attender, Roeline, moved to Oshakati in January to start a new branch of the private school at which she has been teaching. Becky brings Nona (aged 12) who brings our average age down considerably and shows us her ballet and karate skills! Meanwhile Hugh is working on his PhD on the use of photography as a developmental tool.

## **6.9.2 Inter-visitation**

January 2015 saw Helen, Justin and Enid at Yearly Meeting held at Good Shepherd Retreat Centre in Hartebeespoort, South Africa. It was Helen's last YM as Co-Clerk.

Enid attended Cape Western Meeting in March 2015 whilst on a visit to the Cape, and Ben and his wife Ester were also able to attend meeting there during their December holiday. In November, whilst on a family visit to Durban, Justin and Enid made contact with Marie and John in Pietermaritzburg and Mark, Geoff and Snoeks in Durban (all from UKZN Meeting)

Helen visited Quaker Meetings in Kirbymoorside, Yorkshire; Watford, Hertfordshire (her old meeting from childhood) and Hereford Meeting, all when in the UK for two months from August 2015. She also met up with Chris and Roy Love (now moved to York) for a full day visiting castles and terraces in Yorkshire. She also had the privilege of getting to know Friends in Zimbabwe better when she went with Justine and Helen (co-Clerk) to offer a healing AVP type workshop in Bulawayo in June 2015. A report of this is in the current edition of SAQN.

Brian and Marie Harlech Jones, previous members of our meeting, now worshipping at Goulbourn near Sydney, were visiting Namibia in 2015 and we were able to meet and catch up on their news.

We were privileged to have a visit from Helen Holleman, Co-Clerk of C&SAYM in February 2016. It was a blest four days which enable us to get to know Helen and her us, to share worship, enjoy some fun and to hold discussions on topics which concerned us.

## **6.9.3 Spiritual life of the Meeting**

We meet bi-monthly in one another's homes for meeting for worship and shared tea and discussion afterwards.

Our annual retreat at Krumhuk holistic farm outside Windhoek took place on 31st October and 1st November. We had follow-up sessions led by Ben on last year's Experiment with the Light which Paul Mooney had introduced to us and a discussion on relationships as seen in the light of the Lord's Prayer was led by Justin. After supper we each shared an item of importance/significance to us personally, and, it being Halloween, the evening ended with telling of scary stories out on the stoep. This was greatly enjoyed by Nona (and her friend Hope.) Peter shared with us his plans to travel overland through Africa in April. We were joined at Sunday morning worship by Lucy Steinitz, a past attender, who had returned to Namibia for work, and enjoyed hearing about her family's new life back in America.

We enjoyed the retreat this year as always and realise that we do not always need outside speakers since we have so many ideas and concerns we can share ourselves. It is a lovely spot in the bush and we enjoy the view of the mountain ranges, the serenity, the walks and the birds.

#### **6.9.4 Contributions to service and social justice**

The meeting continues to hold AVP and Helen and Ben who are active in the AVP circle and workshops, in the Light. Their efforts in this regard are much appreciated by us all. This past year they helped organise six workshops for 61 inmates at the correctional facility outside Rundu over six months. Helen facilitated four of them whilst Ben provided much of the organisational background support. They were a transformative experience for both inmates and facilitators.

Donations have also been made to Sister Namibia and ZFRA during the year.

#### **6.9.5 Matters arising from YM 2015**

None

#### **6.9.6 Financial position**

Namibia Allowed Meeting Statement of Income and Expenditure  
1 January 2015 to 31 December 2015

*FIGURES IN QUAKER RECORDS*

#### **6.9.7 Liaison with other organisations, churches and institutions**

We obviously liaise very closely with AVP since two of us are so closely involved. We improved our outreach this year drastically, reaching an audience of 1000s through utilising the opportunity given by Helen Holleman's visit. Helen and Becky appeared on Good Morning Namibia, an early morning current affairs programme on national TV (NBC1) answering questions on Quakerism. They were brilliant and the interview lasted 11 minutes.

#### **6.9.8 General: other concerns/matters**

We are concerned at the increasing levels of poverty and GBV in our society. We have a new President as from March when Namibia celebrated its 25th anniversary of independence. He is emphasising the harambee spirit, poverty alleviation and low-cost urban housing as part of his strategies and has set up a Ministry for Poverty amongst several new ones. There is so much to be done in Namibia and we are the privileged few. Each of us in our own way is trying to uphold the good and build on the positive, whether it is through training, giving workshops, working in a Ministry or voluntary work.

*Helen Vale, Clerk*

*28 February 2016 (joint effort)*

#### **2016/16 MINUTE — NAM**

NAM valued visit from Friends and would welcome any further visits so please alert them before you arrive, even if it is to meet them at the airport.



## 6.10 PRETORIA WORSHIP GROUP

### 6.10.1 Membership

Visiting members	1
Attendees (excluding children)	3, all from BYM
People of other Faiths/Denominations	5
Children	3
Young Friends	2 Mennonites

### 6.10.2 Inter-visitation

- a. Visit by YM Clerks:** The PWG was visited by the current and previous YM Clerks, Justine Limpitlaw, Helen Holleman, and Helen Vale for the first time in May 2015. This was a very welcome visit. Justine wrote in the YM Letter to Clerks: “On Sunday 31 May, we joined PWG for a Meeting for Worship and Meeting for Business, followed by a wonderful ‘bring-and-share’ lunch in the quiet of the Theosophical Society building.”
- b. Inter-visitation with JMM:** As the two Quaker meetings in Gauteng, the PWG and JMM met a number of times in 2015 and early 2016:
- PWG and JMM held a meeting at 2015 Yearly Meeting, to discuss our relationship.
  - Thirteen members of JMM came to PWG for MfW in August 2015. We had a gathered meeting of 35 people—a great number. And then had the chance to talk over coffee and tea and a shared lunch. We all enjoyed the occasion, and agreed to meet together at least twice a year.
  - PWG members also attended some JMM MfB.
  - PWG members came to a final joint MfW before the Joburg Quaker House was sold.
- c. Other visitors:** We had ten other visitors this year. Most visitors come through the website, which gives the Clerk’s contact details, and the time and location of the MfW. We also have three signs around the Meeting location (Theosophical Society) in the Pretoria CBD. These signs announce our meeting, and welcome people to attend.

### 6.10.3 Spiritual life of the Meeting

The PWG continued to meet weekly over the past year. Meetings for Business are held every two to three months. During 2015, the PWG has been working to establish ourselves as our own Monthly Meeting, including drafting our PMM Constitution. The

PMM Constitution was approved at our 21 February 2016 Meeting for Business, and is being submitted to the C&SAYM in April 2016.

We continued the practice of having coffee and tea after meetings, and often discuss current events, and our expressions of “Letting our Lives Speak”. Children participate in the last part of our Meeting for Worship. One PWG member participated in a Woodbrooke (UK) on-line training course on “Becoming a Quaker Clerk”. We also shared Quaker reading material within the PWG.

We have two new attenders this year. We expect that four attenders will apply for membership once we are established as a Monthly Meeting. And that one JMM Member will transfer to the PMM.

#### **6.10.4 Contributions to service and social justice**

Five families in our group are bringing up children, some of whom are now young adults.

One of our attender families has faced economic hardship, including unemployment. The PWG provided significant financial, university fees, and other support, and held the family in the Light. Two Meetings for Clearness have been held with the family.

One of our attenders regularly gives food to the homeless project, and the PWG supports her in this voluntary work.

One member is employed on the accessibility project of the National Transport Department.

A visiting member and an attender work full time on AIDS policy and care.

Some of the Young Friends undertake youth outreach to children’s shelters.

A MfW was held in August 2015 to commemorate the bombings at Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

The PWG contributed R500 to the organizing of the Anti-xenophobia march in Johannesburg. Three PWG members participated in the Anti-corruption march.

On behalf of the C&SAYM, PWG signed the condolence book at the French Embassy following the “Charlie Hebdo” murders.

Through one member, PWG members are often invited to UN-sponsored films and other events on social justice issues.

#### **6.10.5 Matters arising from YM**

Through the Clerks, the PWG brought two issues up to MYRM:

- a. Having the YM Summer School immediately prior to the YM (rather than mixing the two). This allows people to choose more easily which parts of YM they would

like to attend, especially for those who cannot get leave from work or family responsibilities for the whole period.

- b. Suggesting that C&SAYM adopt a logo (such as the BYM blue “Q”) to make visual identification easier in publications, etc. This suggestion has not yet been acted upon by C&SAYM.

#### **6.10.6 PWG Financial position**

For January-December 2015, the incoming resources of PWG amounted to R14 707, exceeding total resources expended, which was R9 761. Incoming resources comprise quota contributions and interest on the bank account. PWG quotas are paid by both members and attenders (currently eight contributing members/attenders/families). Members and attenders contribute to these quotas, and we exempt one family from contributing. The main expense is rent of R6 000 per year for our venue of worship.

We are building a “Compassion Fund”, kept separate from other PWG funds. The Compassion Fund has received significant contributions from PWG members and attenders.

#### **6.10.7 Liaison with other organisations, churches and institutions**

Our meeting house is on the premises of the Theosophical Society, and one PWG attender interacts significantly with them.

#### **6.10.8 General: other concerns/matters**

**Service to C&SAYM:** a number of PWG members and attenders are providing service to C&SAYM, including:

- assisting the Communications Cluster, and working on the website;
- focal point for the Children’s Programme at YM; focal points for environmental issues, and
- advocacy; organizing the YM Summer School, and a session on “Quaker History”.

One of the members also organized the participation of nine C&SAYM Clerks or co-Clerks in an on-line training. programme by Woodbrooke Study Centre, on “Becoming a Quaker Clerk”.

Report approved by the Pretoria Worship Group at a Meeting for Business on the 21 February 2016.

*Nancy Fee*

*Clerk of the Pretoria Worship Group*

## **2016/17 MINUTE — PWG**

The joint meeting at last meeting Quaker House was most enjoyable.

Adopted a minute to apply for Monthly Meeting status.

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## **2016/18 MINUTE — ALL MEETINGS**

Clerks of all Meetings are requested to send the minutes of their Meetings for Worship for Business to the C&SAYM Google Group. The address is: [csaymclerks@googlegroups.com](mailto:csaymclerks@googlegroups.com)

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## **7 REPORT OF THE CLERKS OF YEARLY MEETING – 2015/2016**

“We’re really all just walking each other home” (attributed variously to Rumi, and to Ram Das) has become a mantra for the Clerks this past year. It speaks of tolerance for others who are not on the same path as you are, but who are walking in the same direction; it speaks of kindness in helping those near you who stumble on their path; it sounds a warning against you being a stumbling block in someone else’s path. And it’s been especially helpful in the travelling that the Clerks have undertaken since our last Yearly Meeting where we have felt so supported, helped, welcomed, guided by Friends travelling the road with us.

Many of the events, travels and activities have been covered in the Clerks’ letters, so what follows is a brief overview ...

2015 started off disastrously for Justine who broke both ankles immediately after our last YM. Recovery was painful and slow. Luckily email and the Internet make communicating from a hospital bed easy. The flowers, cards, emails and calls from Friends all over Southern Africa speeded up the healing process and were real blessings – thank you! We have thoroughly enjoyed working together this year and think that having overlapping Clerks is a good idea as the learnings are passed on. It was also wonderful having the immediate past Clerk, Helen Vale, as a Yearly Meeting elder and we leaned on her heavily, particularly early on.

### **Farewells**

We hear news from afar from Sheldon and Gudren Weeks on the East Coast of USA, and from Richard and Pushpa Knottenbelt in Arizona and invite you to follow them on our Facebook page.

### **Visitations**

In preparation for a healing workshop planned for Bulawayo after the painful process of having largely laid down Hlekweni, Justine Limpitlaw, Helen Holleman and Helen Vale held a preparatory retreat at Good Shepherd at the end of May during which we prepared for the Bulawayo workshop and also planned the agenda for the Mid-Year Rep’s meeting.

We spent three days in Bulawayo in early June and about 18 Friends attended the two-day workshop. We co-facilitated and had four sessions per day of approximately 1.5 hours. We had individual, pair, group and plenary sessions. We lightened the more serious activities/discussions with energisers as necessary. We emphasised participation and were impressed at how open and involved the group was. The age range went from four months to approximately 70 years!

The feedback we received from BQM Friends both during the workshop and at Meeting for Worship on the Sunday was uniformly positive. For us as facilitators, the experience was deeply enriching and gave us insight into the real struggles faced by Meetings in extremely poor

countries. Coming out of the workshop, we have learnt a great deal about what kinds of education, training and general emphasis is needed and so we hope that this Yearly Meeting will assist all Meetings, particularly those with Young Friends, meet the challenge of deepening Quaker faith and practice in the region.

Just before leaving for Bulawayo, we shared worship with the Pretoria Worship Group who have since then gone through the necessary steps to become a Monthly Meeting, and we look forward to finalising the transition at this Yearly Meeting.

Helen Holleman received a warm welcome from Harare Friends when she visited in September 2016. She also had the opportunity to see Richard and Pushpa Knottenbelt before they left to join their family in the United States.

Most recently (14–24 February), Helen visited Windhoek, Gaborone and Maseru. The back-to-back nature of these visits provided an ideal opportunity to see similarities and make comparisons. Sadly, the similarities are dismally familiar to South Africans, too: government corruption, the lack of employment opportunities, poverty. C&SAYM Quakers have raised the question more than once in the recent past: Where is our focus? What comes after apartheid? At the same time, the problems that surround us seem to be so diverse, all-encompassing and universal, it is difficult to find a place to begin. Growing interest in the Alternatives to Violence Programme in the face of violence from the domestic level to an international scale is perhaps opening up a way.

## **Budget restrictions**

C&SAYM activities rely very heavily on the interest and dividends of investments. The financial report at last Yearly Meeting warned that returns on investment had decreased, and in view of what happened in South Africa last November and December, we can certainly expect those returns to diminish even further. This will obviously have an impact on what C&SAYM is able to do, and we may have to consider holding YM once every two years, rather than every year, in addition to other belt-tightening measures.

That said, we felt entirely upheld by the Trustees of ECTF, particularly Colin Glen and Kaye Foskett who managed to never say ‘No’ to requests for money, and who were also prompt in supporting our travel plans to visit Meetings and for Thuli Mbete to attend the FWCC Gathering. Their ongoing support and careful shepherding of our resources is a blessing to the YM and most of us are probably not aware of how much time it takes.

Friends, please do consider leaving something to ECTF in your wills! Some of our bequests are still being used decades after they were made.

## **Mid-year Representatives Meeting**

We held a very productive Mid-year Representatives Meeting in August 2015 at Koinonia, Johannesburg. It gave us a clear direction for Yearly Meeting, and regenerated the Young Friends. Among the initiatives that came out of MYRM were: a number of Friends enrolling for a

correspondence course on clerking, run through Woodbrooke; the decision to look at Quaker history during Yearly Meeting, and familiarise ourselves with our roots; access to and circulation of the inspiring series Quakers Speak which explores a range of Quaker issues in short interviews with Quakers.

## **FWCC Triennial in Peru, January 2016**

Justine, as one of the Clerks of C&SAYM, attended the FWCC Meeting together with Khosi Sekoere (YF Clerk) (both of whom were paid for by the FWCC Head Office) and Thuli Mbete (FWCC Rep). Their full report is in the pack. It was a deeply enriching experience which we hope to be able to feed back into the YM.

## **Secretary to the Clerks**

At YM 2015, Friends agreed to the appointment of a Secretary to the YM Clerks, and Heath White was appointed. I (Helen H) am blessed to have begun my Clerkship at the same time as Heath, and simply cannot imagine how it was possible for the Clerks to hold the threads of C&SAYM together before we had her assistance. We have been able to update the contact database, to establish and maintain the website, to share minutes of the Meetings, and to manage MYRM and the run-up to Yearly Meeting. These are not small things, as anyone who has tried to do it knows, and Yearly Meeting owes Heath a huge debt of gratitude.

## **Communication**

### **Website**

For many of us, the shift from paper to electronic communication is difficult, and getting used to looking for information on the web instead of having it sent to us personally can be a 'bridge too far'. However, the website – which has had over 1000 visits – is beginning to play the part of the village well: a gathering point where we can share ideas and discover interesting features of Quakerism, including getting international news. We hope that visiting the website will become a frequent feature of Friends' online time. Please feel free to suggest items that you would like to share with a wider Quaker readership. The website address is <[www.quakers.co.za](http://www.quakers.co.za)>

### **Facebook**

More familiar, perhaps, is our Facebook page where Justin Ellis and Wendy Landau have kept us updated on more informal, more 'in-house' happenings in C&SAYM. We invite you to 'Like' the page and so make it a part of your regular Facebook browsing. And send us pictures and snippets of information that keep us up to date with each other. You can reach the Facebook page through the webpage or go to it directly at [www.facebook.com/Csaym](http://www.facebook.com/Csaym)

## **Southern African Quaker News**

Wouter Holleman took on the editorship of SAQN after Yearly Meeting 2015 and has produced two editions in a new format, available on the website in colour and in hardcopy in black and white. All Friends are encouraged to contribute articles and items to SAQN, sharing their concerns and interests.

## **Email**

Email is how most meetings communicate with other meetings and, at least in South Africa and Namibia, how MMs communicate with Friends in those meetings. This is not necessarily the case in Lesotho and Zimbabwe given power shortages, telecommunications problems and levels of poverty which make electronic communications a luxury. We need to have a frank talk at this YM about how to make our communication as inclusive as possible.

## **Young Adult Friends**

At MYRM, Young Adult Friends was a significant focus and we are delighted that Khosi Sekoere (LAM) and Gcina Mbete (CWMM) have taken up the roles of YF Clerks for this year as from MYRM. Although it was not possible to organise a Young Friends camp in 2015, we are hopeful that this will happen in the next year and are delighted that a separate YFs programme is being run alongside our YM to facilitate YFs participation and to encourage learning about our Quaker faith, history and practices generally.

## **Overview of Our Impressions of Where we are as a Yearly Meeting**

For Justine, 2015 was a very different year to 2014 which was almost entirely taken up with the crisis at Hlekweni. Although Hlekweni is largely wound down, it is not yet entirely wound up (!) and Justine did have to meet with the attorneys in Bulawayo to move the process of winding up HFRSC along. Fuller details are in Bruce Caddick's report elsewhere in the pack.

2015/16 has been a year of drilling down, as it were, into the needs of the YM rather than focusing on more outward projects such as Hlekweni. We are delighted that PWG wants to become a MM and hope that, in time, LAM and NAM will also take this step. We both feel that having fewer YM offices and duties (down from 80 something to about 20 something!) is working better and feel that the commitment of those that have taken up offices is evidenced in the number of written reports in the back – a significant change from previous years! We are pleased that Friends are feeling more confident about speaking plainly about when an office or task needs to be laid down and are delighted at seeing Friends blossom in getting responsibilities and enjoying them! In particular it seems that the Quaker Funds Committee is working much more smoothly than the plethora of committees that used to be responsible for disbursing monies. We are also very excited at how smoothly running YM nominations through Monthly and Yearly Meetings has



proved to be. We feel that Meetings are taking the process of discernment in this regard seriously and the collective wisdom evident at the last YM and at the MYRM has made what used to be a superficial, stressful, and very difficult job for the erstwhile Nominations Committee, seem almost effortless.

As Clerks we are hugely excited about the learning possibilities that are afforded by online Quaker resources, such as the Quaker Speak video series and the myriad courses and resources that Woodbrooke is making available online, and about their willingness to send course coordinators to countries to allow for courses to take place in-country rather than having to send Friends, at great expense, to Woodbrooke. This is something that we think we ought to investigate for next YM. Again though, the technology divide may make online resources difficult to share and we must be mindful of this.

Coming to the end of a period of Clerkship (for Justine who has been in office since April 2013) allows for a period of wishful thinking ... our main hope for our Quaker community/communities is that we can experience a sense of love, peace, acceptance and spiritual nourishment in our meetings. And by that we mean both Meetings for Worship and Meetings for Worship for Business. We are keenly aware that many monthly meetings often find business meetings stressful and somewhat fractious and difficult; meetings to be rushed through instead of being savoured! We very much hope to help Meetings in the coming year to change that. Being able to tackle the mundane in a mindful and worshipful way, seeking to answer that of God in every situation, is deeply nourishing and is often what attracts people to Friends.

We are deeply grateful to Friends for the very real sense of upholding and caring that we have both felt during our time as Clerks. It has been a life-changing pleasure and a privilege to serve the Central and Southern Africa Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends.

## **2016/19 MINUTE — C&SAYM CLERKS' REPORT**

Clerks have been supported by Friends.

Clerks expressed their appreciation of the work of the secretary to the Clerks and her willingness to continue in that role.

### Overview of impressions — Exit interview

Hlekweni: The Clerk expressed gratitude to the Friends of Hlekweni Trust and Lee Taylor who have been rock solid companions through this heartbreaking process.

Quakers are courageous in tackling power and weak in speaking truth to each other.

Unlike other churches, we have no paid staff (except Secretary), and so have to rely on goodwill, spirit of service, which is what has made things difficult. Quakers don't swear – let your yea be yea and let your nay be nay. Often they say 'yea' and it becomes 'maybe if I have time', 'next week', or 'no'. This puts a lot of stress on the clerks. We have to rely on each other, and it has been

extremely stressful when Friends have not done things that they are accountable for. This can lead to burnout and resentment. Past Clerks have taken quite a bit of time to see their way to drift back.

For Justine's part her time as Clerk has been a growth in Quaker practice nothing short of transforming. 'One of the most significant parts of my entire life. It has been a wonderful gift.' Felt sense of upholding during this time.

Whoever the new Clerk is, upholding him/her in the Light is critical, and it needs to be supported by practical support. Tasks need to be shared.

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## 8 Nominations

### 8.1 Nominations from MYRM + YM nominations

POSITION	NOMINATED	FRIENDS WHO ARE CONTINUING
YM Clerk	John Inglis	Helen Holleman
YM Elder	Justine Limpitlaw	Helen Vale Emily Mnisi Geoffrey Harris
Facebook/ Communications cluster	Jeremy Madlala-Routledge	Justin Ellis
Strengthening Local Meetings and Education	All clerks Justine (Co-ordinator) Nancy Fee Sipho Nsimbi	
Advocacy and Activism	Geoff Harris (Co-ordinator) Rosemary Smith	Polaki Polaki
Financial Oversight	Graham Bishop	Jim McCloy
SACC	Nozizwe Madlala-Routledge	Nozizwe will speak to Dudu Mtshazo and Nomsa Segoe about which of them will be the Johannesburg alternate if necessary
Quaker Funds Committee	Wouter Holleman	Cecilia Nkesi Julie Suberg (Co-ordinator) Dudu Mtshazo
SAFCEI	John Gardiner	Bridget Nomonde Scoble
YM Transport	Wouter Holleman	Local meetings transport person
Young Friends' Elders	John McCormick	Marie Odendaal

## 2016/20 MINUTE — NOMINATIONS

ZFRA: The meeting asked the clerks to write to John and Kelitha Schmid to thank them for carrying on with the administration of the Zimbabwe Food Relief Programme. Friends wish to enquire what help they may need and if they have ideas about how this valuable service will be sustained in years to come.

Eveline Cadbury Trust Fund: The meeting agreed that the ECTF should spend a small amount of money on an attorney to replace formally the Trustees in the Trust Deed. We endorse the appointment as Trustees of Mark Povall (who is continuing), Nokuthula Mbete, Julie Suberg and Tebogo Moteane.

## 8.2 Current Office Holders

CLUSTER	OFFICE TITLE	NUMBER OF PEOPLE	SKILLS/TYPES OF PEOPLE/COMMENTS	FRIENDS WHO ARE CONTINUING
Clerks & Admin	YM Elders	4	With at least 2 former clerks. Particular care for Friends attending YM for the first time; Latecomers (to settle them in); Eldering as well as positive feedback	Justine Limpitlaw Helen Vale Emily Mnisi Geoffrey Harris
Clerks & Admin	YM Co-Clerks	2	NB to have overlap; period of 3 years	Helen Holleman John Inglis
YF & Children	YF Elders	2	To focus on camp and MYRM	Marie Odendaal John McCormick
Clerks & Admin	YF Co-Clerks	2	To focus on camp and MYRM	Khosi Sekoere Gcina Mbete
Clerks & Admin	YM Clerks' Secretary	1	Highly skilled, paid position: secretarial, Isolated Friends, membership details, archives, Clerks' Google Group	Heath White
Financial Oversight	C&SAYM Treasurer	1	Also responsible for property/assets registers	Mark Povall
Financial Oversight	Financial Oversight	2	1 or more Quakers plus one skilled auditor playing a watchdog role	Graham Bishop Jim McCloy (property and assets)
Financial Oversight	Quaker Funds Committee	4	2 finance people and 2 people-oriented people to decide on use of funds by: ECTF, Compassion Fund, Peace, Justice & Development Fund	Julie Suberg (Co-ordinator) Cecilia Nkesi Dudu Mtshazo Wouter Holleman

CLUSTER	OFFICE TITLE	NUMBER OF PEOPLE	SKILLS/TYPES OF PEOPLE/COMMENTS	FRIENDS WHO ARE CONTINUING
Financial Oversight	ECTF Trustees	4	Long-term appointments made by the Master of the High Court	Julie Suberg Mark Povall Nokuthula Mbete* Tebogo Moteane* (*papers to be resubmitted)
Financial Oversight	ECTF Treasurers	2	Day-to-day administration of ECTF	Colin Glen Kaye Foskett
Advocacy & Activism	Cluster Co-ordinators	1 or 2	To co-ordinate Quaker activism activities. Should include SAFCEI co-ordinator, peace work	Geoff Harris (Co-ordinator) Rosemary Smith Polaki Polaki
Strengthening Local Meetings & Education	Strengthening Local Meetings & Education	1 or 2	To focus on outreach, education and strengthening local meetings	Justine Limpitlaw (Co-ordinator) All Clerks Nancy Fee Sipho Nsimbi
Resources & Communication	Handbook	1	Experienced/weighty Quaker with computer literacy	Betsy Coville
Resources & Communication	Resources, i.e. suitcase of books	1		Sam Mugambe
Resources & Communication	Communications	3 or 4	Website, Facebook, SAQN	Nancy Fee (Co-ordinator & Website) Justin Ellis & Jeremy Madlala-Routledge (Facebook & Social Media) Wouter Holleman (SAQN)
Clerks & Admin	FWCC	2		One of the Clerks and Nokuthula Mbete
Advocacy & Activism	Councils of Churches for Southern African (SACC) Co-ordinators	1 or 2	*Nozizwe will speak to Dudu Mtshazo and Nomsa Segoe about which of them will be the Johannesburg alternate if necessary.	Nozizwe Madlala-Routledge for SA. Lesotho and Zimbabwe to appoint people in future
Advocacy & Activism	Southern African Faith Communities Environment Institute (SAFCEI) Co-ordinator	1		Bridget Nomonde Scoble John Gardiner
Advocacy & Activism	Environment	2	Friends prepared to work on environmental issues	Lucille Lückhoff Nozizwe Madlala-Routledge
Advocacy & Activism	ZFRA	2 or 3	Food distribution skills	John & Kelitha Schmid Stephen Hussey
YF & Children	YM Tasks	Various		

CLUSTER	OFFICE TITLE	NUMBER OF PEOPLE	SKILLS/TYPES OF PEOPLE/COMMENTS	FRIENDS WHO ARE CONTINUING
YM Tasks	Transport Co-ordinator	1	Co-ordination skills To liaise with local meetings' transport person	Wouter Holleman
YM Tasks	Bell ringer Cards Celebration Children Epistle Evaluation Excursions Exercises First Aid Minute takers Registration team Resources/suitcase of books 7-minute talks SIGs Staff gratuities Summer School Worship sharing		To be determined at MYRM, but we have to assign tasks of epistle co-ordinator/minute writers, celebration co-ordinator, YM Elders, and Evaluation beforehand	

## 9 Quakers and Current Events in Southern Africa

### **Background**

It seems that all countries (except perhaps Namibia and Botswana) have been through particularly turbulent times since our last YM.

Zimbabwe has wrestled with a worsening economic situation, drought, food shortages, political infighting among ZanuPF leadership and a clear inability to pay civil servants and groups such as pensioners on time, clearly signalling an economic downturn.

Lesotho has been dealing with the aftermath of the coup and is battling to restore public confidence in its governmental institutions.

South Africa seems to have lurched from political crisis to political crisis: Fees Must Fall, Zuma must fall, Penny Sparrow and the racism debate, the Nkandla Judgement and the upcoming local government elections.

It seems that most Southern African countries have experienced a worsening human rights environment, particularly in respect of media freedoms but also in terms of detentions, disappearances and extra-judicial killings. The recent murder of the South African environmental activist, Bazooka Radebe shocked a number in the NGO sector.

A number of Friends have interacted with the Clerks on what an appropriate Quaker response to these ought to be. We think this is sufficiently important to be on the YM agenda for Meeting for Worship for Business.

### **Small group discussions: (Either in MMs or in mixed meeting small groups)**

In 2015 Friends set up an advocacy and activism cluster.

- How is it working?
- Do Friends feel that Quaker activism is more co-ordinated now?
- If not, suggest ways in which this could be improved if Friends feel co-ordination is important.

Responding to Political Crises

- How should Friends respond to immediate calls for action, eg statement on the death of environmental activist Bazooka Radebe; SA churches call for Pres Zuma to resign; ongoing political crises in Zimbabwe, Lesotho.

- Do we want responses to come from monthly meeting(s) or from yearly meeting, even if it concerns only a particular country?
- Who should be responsible for formulating a draft response? YM Clerks? A Friend with a particular involvement in an issue? A particular MM?

#### Involvement in Social Issues

- Should Friends participate in, eg the SA National Action Plan to Combat Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance?
- Should Friends take a stance on the Fees Must Fall Movement? If so what?
- Should Friends take a stance on the late payment of pensions etc in Zimbabwe? If so what?
- Should we be involved at MMs or as a YM?

Besides an outward focus, how do we deal with social issues such as racial discrimination etc within our meetings?

Eg Quaker sessions on Colonialism and White Supremacy at FWCC Meeting and the experience of black Friends in predominantly white meetings.

Do we tackle ourselves on these issues sufficiently?

Are these issues that we have to examine within our own MMs, YM? If so, how best can we do this?

## **2016/21 MINUTE — QUAKERS AND CURRENT EVENTS**

This item resulted from conversations of a number of Friends, especially in Zimbabwe and South Africa, and what can we as Quakers do. Unfortunately, other business prevented this item being considered. We ask local meetings to discuss this guided by the questions above, and submit drafts of their discussions to the co-clerks.

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# **10 Report by Friends of C&SAYM who attended the FWCC Plenary Meeting in Pisac, Peru**

## **Tuesday 19 – Wednesday 27 January 2016**

Justine Limpitlaw (JMM), Nokuthula Mbete (CWMM)  
and Khosi Sekoere (LAM)

We left our homes here on the southern tip of Africa on Saturday 16 January... and via Maseru, Cape Town, Johannesburg, Amsterdam, Lima and Cusco we finally arrived at the venue in Pisac in the Sacred Valley of the Incas four days later on Tuesday 19 January!

Over 320 Quakers (for a silent tribe we sound like a gaggle of geese!) from every continent (except for Antarctica!) and from Japan to California, from Hong Kong to Bolivia, from Kenya to Finland gathered in a Spanish-style hotel complex nestled in the valley with the soaring peaks of the Andes literally encircling us. We came from 37 countries, 77 Yearly Meetings, 8 independent Monthly Meetings, and two worship groups.

Our rooms were simple but comfortable and we shared with Friends from all around the world (in Thuli's and Justine's room were two other women, one from Kenya and one from the Philippines). The theme of the FWCC Plenary Meeting was: "Living the Transformation: Creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God (Romans 8:19)". We were each given a study booklet on the theme in preparation for the meeting and it was heart-warming to see extracts of our own *Quaker Faith and Practice* in the booklet. It made us feel that our contributions were not limited to our rather small Yearly Meeting on the southern end of Africa!

Our meals were simple but nutritious: breakfast was eggs and potatoes. Supper was soup and bread. The main meal of the day was lunch.

It was Khosi and Justine's first experience of an FWCC Plenary and it was initially overwhelming—just so many Quakers!

The meeting took place over nine days; a veritable feast of Quakerism simultaneously translated into English, Spanish and French so that all Friends could understand what was being said and participate.

Perhaps the most exciting aspect of the FWCC meeting was that 97 Young Adult Friends (YAFs) were able to attend. Most Young Adult Friends were fully accommodated in the Tumbo where they had their simple breakfast and worship in this campsite constructed in a line of white caravans, before joining into small groups of two or more for a 15 minute



walk to the main gathering room. Each day gave Young Adult Friends a great challenge to extend time purposely to have a special meeting. These meetings gave space to reflect on the experience, challenges and opportunities that FWCC was offering. It was in this meeting that YAFs were able to form a Quaker Young Friends Committee which was the response to the Consultation on “Ministry and Leadership”.

Late at night in the Tumbo, YAFs had more fun. Some had brought musical instruments to play, they played cards sitting around the fire and Morabaraba (a popular Sesotho board game) was also introduced.

The most noticeable feature of the meeting was the different styles of Quaker worship. In C&SAYM our worship style is unprogrammed – that is we wait silently for the Spirit and if we feel moved to minister then we do. At the meeting we experienced different forms, particularly programmed ministry with a single person ministering in a formal manner and indeed sometimes in a very “charismatic” manner which was completely new for us. One such Minister, a tall patrician Kenyan Friend, wore a purple “dog collar” and introduced himself as a Quaker Bishop! Another couple we met were from the Conservative tradition. The women in that tradition wear plain dresses in blue or green in the style of nuns’ habits, their hair tied back under a white cloth. Conservative Friends speak in the formal “thee” and “thou” manner which we had not encountered before. And yet, as is clear from the attached epilogue, the message from the General Secretary and from the epistle, we all found that of God in each other’s forms of worship.

The mornings started with meeting for worship and you could choose between Bible study or unprogrammed worship. After breakfast there was more worship. This time, each of the different sections (the Americas; Latin America; Asia West Pacific; Europe and the Middle East; East Africa and South and West Africa) led worship in the style of their traditions. The photo at the beginning of this report comes from South and West Africa section’s leading of worship on Tuesday, 26 January and included friends from Cameroon, Ghana, Lesotho, and South Africa.

Only after tea did we break from worship.

Between tea and supper we focused on consultation groups, business meetings and section meetings.

You could choose which of the four consultation groups to attend. The consultation groups focused on the following issues:

- Ministry and Leadership: developing the leaders we need, encouraging living ministry, generating new ideas for a pilgrimage for Quaker youth that spans across all sections and involves larger numbers of Friends.
- Living Ministry Communities: creating Quaker communities that are active and vital and energising, encouraging membership and spiritual growth for Young Friends and seekers; encouraging communities to embrace generational change.

- Sustaining Life on Earth: inspired by the Kabarak Call for Peace and Eco-justice, developing worldwide Quaker collaboration for environmental, economic, and spiritual changes. This consultation resulted in the following concrete calls for action which seem to speak to our concerns as a YM:
  - **Initiate at least two concrete actions** on sustainability within the next 12 months. These may build on existing projects of individuals or monthly meetings or they may be new initiatives. We ask that they encourage Young Friends to play key roles. We ask that meetings minute the progress and results, so as to share them with FWCC and Quaker meetings.
  - This FWCC Plenary Meeting asks individual Friends and groups (such as Monthly Meetings, Worship Groups and ad hoc groups within Meetings) to **Share inspiring experiences of living sustainably** on the new “sustainability webpage” of the Quakers in the World Website (<http://www.quakersintheworld.org/>). This webpage can be used as a source of ideas, inspiration and action.

## **Annexure to the Minute: Possibilities for practical sustainability action from the Pisac consultation**

### *Individuals can:*

1. Dedicate personal time to nature.
2. Reduce consumption and use your consumer buying power to create change.
3. Cut down on meat consumption, be aware of energy costs in production and transport of all foods and methane from ruminant animals, support sustainable agriculture.
4. Travel – cycle, walk, use public transport or alternatives to private cars, keep air travel to a minimum.
5. Grow your own food and plant trees.
6. Be politically active in promoting sustainability concerns.
7. Share environmental concerns through books, publications, conversations, electronic media
8. Reduce energy use.
9. Use less water and harvest water.
10. Make time for spiritual connection with God.

### *Monthly Meetings, Worship Groups and small groups within Meetings can:*

1. Live in a community, share housing, participate in a transition town movement.
2. Educate yourself and others.
3. Share transport and equipment.

4. Develop urban agriculture, community gardens, community supported agriculture, tree planting.
5. Love nature and encourage others to do so: we protect the things we love; get children out in nature; take care of nature around your meeting house (e.g., picking up trash/litter).
6. Invest ethically and divest from fossil fuels.
7. Ensure meeting houses are carbon neutral.
8. Build alliances, seek visibility, approach legislators.
9. Share sustainability skills

*Yearly Meetings can:*

1. Support the sustainability actions of Monthly Meetings.
  2. Build solidarity with local people.
  3. Support Quakers in politics and international work.
  4. Form support networks and alliances to make more impact – we can only do so much on our own.
  5. Invest ethically, including on sustainability issues.
  6. Practice what we preach.
  7. Discern and move concerns to action.
  8. Set targets for increased sustainability.
  9. Connect and share with other YMs, direct or via FWCC Sections and World Office
- Equipping FWCC: serving the worldwide Quaker community, developing flexibility to face challenges while maintaining organisational integrity and sustainability, looking at meeting requirements and governance changes.

There were only four business meetings during the FWCC Meeting! In the main, they focused on the following:

- Receiving and considering the section reports from the different FWCC sections.
- Constitutional Issues: There were a number of these and in summary the following key decisions on the future of FWCC were taken:
  - The CEC (Central Executive Committee) is to be made up of 16 people, eight of whom are appointed by the different sections. There is to be a Clerk of FWCC (assisted by two assistant clerks) who will clerk the CEC and the plenary meetings of the FWCC.
  - Plenary Gatherings are no longer going to happen every three years. They will happen as often as resources allow but must take place at least every 10 years.

- FWCC is carried significantly by Britain Yearly Meeting. This is not sustainable and Friends were asked to take this issue back to Yearly Meetings for discussion.
- Sustainability: this is dealt with in the summary report from the Sustainability Consultation Group.

Besides the Consultation Groups and the Business Meetings, there were also over 30 workshops (like our Special Interest Groups) on a huge range of topics, such as:

- Godly Play (introducing Quakerism to Children)
- Quaker Witness Worldwide
- How Have Colonialism, Racism and White Supremacy Shaped African-Americans' Experience in the Religious Society of Friends
- Organising with the Spirit: Quaker social change ministry with the AFSC – practise restorative justice and companioning communities most impacted by injustice.
- Woodbrooke and the world family of Friends: Introduction to courses, materials etc
- On being a Spirit-filled Church
- Finding the Light in You, Bright Silent Worship
- Quakers in the World Website

A wonderful “constant” of our time there was meeting in our Home Groups which we did four times during our time at the Meeting. These were facilitated by a weighty Friend and groups were asked to consider a number of questions and share our experiences at each Home Group. They were a safe space where you got to know a number of Friends very well (like our Worship Sharing Groups at YM) and felt free to laugh and cry at the ways in which we were being challenged at the meeting.

We also enjoyed a number of once-off activities such as an in-depth look at the workings of QUNO Offices in New York and Geneva which was fascinating. It became clear that without the careful work on its “off-the-record dinner parties” bringing often hostile government representatives together in the run-up to the Climate Change Talks, the Paris Agreement might not have happened!

We were also able to go on an outing to Inca sites nearby or to the local town/market.

There was a talent show in which Thuli “slayed” (to use a social media term) some Zulu dancing and everyone was so enthusiastic it went on until after midnight!

Most evenings ended with an epilogue at 21h30. Justine’s is annexed to this report.

The FWCC Meeting was life-changing for all C&SAYM Friends who were able to attend and we are very grateful to ECTF and to FWCC for providing the funding that enabled us to

travel there. We are all planning on sharing what we learnt with Friends in our Monthly Meetings and in our Yearly Meetings.

In our view there are a number of issues that arose out of our journey to Peru and our attendance at the FWCC Meeting for YM to consider. Some of these include:

Should C&SAYM Quaker funds, e.g. ECTF, CAQT, divest from fossil fuels as FWCC has done?

- Consider the “Facing the Challenge of Peace” document
- Consider the “Standing for Peace and Reconciliation Statement on Burundi, May 2015”
- Using the study booklet on the FWCCC Meeting Theme: “Living the Transformation: Creation waits with the eager longing for the revealing of the children of God” as a basis for discussion, worship sharing in our meetings
- Consider some of the themes of the workshops eg: How Have Colonial, Racism and White Supremacy Shaped African-Americans’ Experience in the Religious Society of Friends, and how these could be useful in Southern Africa, given the new focus on racism in society broadly.
- Making use of the wonderful online resources that are now available.
- Making use of Home Groups at YM.

## **10.1 Epilogue by Justine Limpitlaw given on Monday January 25 as part of the FWCC Plenary Meeting**

*The epilogue is given at the end of the day (that is at about 21:30) and I was one of five different Friends were invited to give one. It was challenging for me as the Epilogue is prepared in advance and I am not used to putting Ministry down on paper first! My epilogue took place on the second-last night of the Plenary Meeting by which time there had been plenty of time for reflection on my experiences of the meeting.*

Dear Friends

We have been together for seven days now, and I want reflect on some things that Friends have helped me see clearly in this past week.

Quakers feel comfortable talking and walking with God and the Spirit ... but it seems to me that we don’t really seem to explore messengers and messages of the spirit ...

We never seem to talk about the angels and saints—and yet many of them appear to be Quaker. Surely St Francis of Assisi was a Quaker Saint even if didn’t know it? Caring for God’s creatures and living simply? A clear prophet of the ecology movement that Friends have embraced.

In this FWCC gathering, and through a particular Friend, I have reconnected with Archangel Michael. I generally don't talk a lot about Archangel Michael with Friends because he doesn't seem a very Quaker archangel ... He is often depicted wearing a sword he hasn't yet been able to lay it down! So he is a warrior angel. But his sword is not made of steel—it is the sword of truth. I imagine Archangel Michael's sword of truth cutting cleanly through lies, excuses, obfuscation, and evasion to reveal and lay bare the truth of our present human condition for all of us to see clearly.

The apocalyptic language of Revelations has never spoken to my condition. I find it alien. This is also true of talk about environmental and social crises that herald the end times.

But there is no doubt that our human society and the earth we inhabit are at a tipping point ... struggling with the dilemmas of growth, development and sustainability. Struggling with wars, cruelty and inequality. Humans and nature are deeply unhappy. There is no doubt that, as our theme for this gathering proclaims, "All creation awaits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God".

So what is our revealing? What can we do? What is our role? Well ... "WE ARE God's hands, he has no hands but ours. We are called to be God's hands."

Such a responsibility. But what does this mean? For me it is both huge and very simple - the revealing of God's children is that we are called to do as the Lord's Prayer commands: "Thy will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven". We are called to create the Kingdom of Heaven right here on Mother Earth.

Impossible no? No, not impossible.

We are not called to be wealthy enough to pay for an end to world poverty. We are not called to be politically powerful enough unilaterally to change whole political and economic systems. So how do we build the Kingdom of Heaven here on earth?

Quite simply we are to do what Jesus told us to do ... to love one another.

Social justice is love in action.

Ecological justice is the spirit of reverence for life in action.

As Friends, we are called to have reverence for life and to love one another and the world.

For us as Quakers we well know how to love each other as Friends ... caring for each other, sharing tears of pain and tears of laughter, supporting each other, translating for each other, helping out when times are tough for Friends, and not taking more than our fair share.

It's the same, just the same, out there in the so-called "real world".

Every contribution of love for another person and for our planet is a spark for social and ecological justice. Some of our contributions seem to be veritable bonfires, such as QUNO's

dinners to help birth the Paris Climate Change Agreement or championing a #BlackLivesMatter chapter. Other contributions are more like little matches ... scraping a plate to make natural compost or inviting a refugee to dinner. We need both kinds of points of warmth (the appropriate Quaker metaphor for me is not between Light and Dark but between Warmth and Cold).

We are all searching for warmth—for human caring for each other and for our home, planet earth.

The good news is that, as we have all experienced right here in Pisac in the arms of the High Andes, cracking open our hearts to share love is not a chore—it is joyful! Giving love feels wonderful, perhaps even better than GETTING love! This we know experientially.

Since I arrived here, for this, my first World Plenary of Friends, I have been surrounded by unexpected love, from individual Friends, from our Quaker community generally and, most importantly, from God, my maker. The indescribable joy that I have felt these past days, and I am sure I am not alone, is because right here ... in this place ... we have come together as equals, our material needs met, caring for each other and marvelling at the majesty of nature. We have glimpsed heaven here on earth and we have helped create it!

It takes just one of us to be a beacon of warmth against the icy coldness of loneliness, poverty, inequality, homophobia, racial prejudice, illness and environmental damage. It takes one person to love and to revere life to start a chain reaction. We can all be points of warmth right where we are ... from Rovaniemi to Kigali, from Hong Kong to El Salvador, from Alaska to Maseru.

## **10.2 General Secretary's Reflection on the World Plenary Meeting in Pisac, Peru, January 19–29, 2016**

To Friends everywhere ...

At the World Plenary Meeting, I had the distinct feeling that we as Friends are evolving. Someone described our time together in Pisac, Peru as 'soft', as an experience of Friends being very open to one another, marked as much by the absence of consternation as by an active longing to simply experience each other. A culture of curiosity superseded our human tendency to judge others, and worship from the four FWCC Sections, each colourful and varied, drew us into the circle of family, as the epistle reads: We are different. We came together as a diverse collection of Friends. We were challenged by our differences. This challenge is not always comfortable but it is one we welcome.

Was it the presence of 90 Young Adult Friends (under age 35) who have experience of diversity and are a generation who teaches the world not to fear difference? Did it have to do with being in the Peruvian Sacred Valley, simple and beautiful? Are we living in a world

which now creates virtual communities of faith, bringing the family of Friends closer as we build relationships across the world? Could it be that God is 'softening' our hearts, even as we find a collective, urgent energy to rail against injustice and indifference?

The epistle goes on to say: We are one. We are one in the spirit of God which does not wash away or hide our differences, but allows us to celebrate them and enables us to move beyond the spiritual boundaries that may separate us. We are able to do this by coming together in worship where, while its form may be unfamiliar, God was present throughout. Through listening deeply and tenderly to each other and to God, we reached a place where we can hear and sense where the words come from even when we may not understand the tongue they are spoken in.

Coming from 37 different countries and 77 yearly meetings plus 10 monthly meetings and worship groups who are not located within a yearly meeting, we spoke many languages. About a third were native Spanish speakers, allowing us to ALL wear headsets. Business meeting was clerked in Spanish and minutes were read back in English. We sang in Kiswahili, Aymaran, Spanish, and English ... and maybe more!

Most importantly, the epistle expresses our joy: We are Friends. In making the choice to come together and be willing to share deeply, pray boldly, and listen lovingly together, we seek to move beyond our differences, see beyond our labels and find ways to connect with each other. The work of FWCC depends on us all. In order to continue it, we encourage Friends, meetings/churches and Yearly Meetings to contribute financially to and participate in building connections between Friends.

Holding hands in a circle, we shared a piece of ribbon to remind us of how we are holding hands in a circle, we shared a piece of ribbon to remind us of how we are connected. We sang "We are Friends forever. We are Friends forever, and our work on Earth has just begun. Through our pain and pleasure we will stand together. We are Friends forever. We are one."

Let it be so.



## 10.3 Epistle from 2016 Friends World Committee for Consultation World Plenary (International Representatives Meeting)



*Se contenta el Corazón ensanchándose de amor; todos a una voz a Dios gracias damos.*

*¡Bienvenidos Amigos!*

To all Friends Everywhere,

We send loving greetings to you from Pisac in the Sacred Valley of the Incas. We were blessed with both sunshine and rain. As we gathered together we lifted our eyes to the mountains and lifted our hearts to God.

From 19 to 27 January over 320 men and women from 37 countries, 77 Yearly Meetings, eight independent Monthly Meetings, and two worship groups, speaking dozens of languages met to consider the theme “Living the transformation: creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God (Romans 8:19).”

Our time together started in sadness at those who were delayed in their journeys or prevented from joining us – we felt a gap in our gathering the shape of God. Later, as we were joined by Friends from Kenya and welcomed local Friends from Peru and Bolivia, we felt the full fellowship among us. We were complete.

Many of the messages shared in our worship, speaking to the theme of transformation, were both moving and uplifting: we were challenged to be transformed in ways leaving us more faithful to God’s purposes individually, as meetings/churches and as a World Family of Friends.

Our speakers emphasised the process of transformation. One spoke of spiritual transformation using the image of a heart transplant and what it means to be given the heart of Jesus. In this transplant of the heart we become agents of change who show the love of Christ in the world. Another image we were given was that of a seed pod. Each pod contains the past, present and future, showing us how we remain connected to our past even as we look to the future, as God gathers us into one grand story.

We heard the message that we must be open and available to God, making space in our hearts, our communities and our churches/meetings. Transformation often finds us when we're not seeking or expecting it. We must be willing to be vulnerable and open our hearts in order to undergo the change we want to see.

As we gathered we not only spoke of transformation, we invited it and created spaces for God to make it happen. Many of us experienced it while we were here. We found ourselves broken open and touched by the Living Spirit of Christ.

We are the children of God. We are who creation has been waiting for. We are called to reveal ourselves in our lives and in the work we do with our hearts and our hands. Although God can fill our hearts, God has no hands but ours to heal this broken world. We can be salt and light shining to the world and declaring the love of God.

As Quakers our faith is inseparable from our concern to care for all life on earth. We are reminded of the Kabarak call for Peace and Eco-Justice and the need to redouble our efforts now. We call on Friends everywhere to take practical actions to sustain life on Earth.

Listening together in our home groups, workshops, and consultations, where two or three languages were spoken, opened up countless opportunities to pray, sing, ask difficult questions, learn, cry and laugh together. We have hurt each other with our words when we have spoken without love but this is a human failing and we have also experienced the healing power of Christ's love.

We learn from each other's ways of connecting with God; each offering of worship held within it the opportunity for the Spirit to move and speak and sing. Sharing worship in this way enables us to recognise that we must both listen to, and speak to God.

The presence of so many young adult Friends among us has been a blessing. We heard their moving testimony and experienced their inspirational leadership. As we go back to our churches and meetings we must allow this ministry and leadership to flourish.

We are different. We came together as a diverse collection of Friends. We were challenged by our differences. This challenge is not always comfortable but it is one we welcome.

We are one. We are one in the spirit of God which does not wash away or hide our differences, but allows us to celebrate them and enables us to move beyond the spiritual boundaries that may separate us. We are able to do this by coming together in worship

where, while its form may be unfamiliar, God was present throughout. Through listening deeply and tenderly to each other and to God, we reached a place where we can hear and sense where the words come from even when we may not understand the tongue they are spoken in.

We are Friends. In making the choice to come together and be willing to share deeply, pray boldly, and listen lovingly together, we seek to move beyond our differences, see beyond our labels and find ways to connect with each other. The work of FWCC depends on us all. In order to continue it, we encourage Friends, meetings/churches and Yearly Meetings to contribute financially to and participate in building connections between Friends.

As we leave here we will carry the love we have received from each other and from God in our hearts.

## **2016/22 MINUTE — FWCC EPISTLE**

### **10.4 Minute of Report from FWCC Africa section secretary Churchill Malimo**

Churchill Malimo is the secretary of FWCC Africa in Kenya.

He outlined aims and work of the FWCC Africa section office he runs. He became Secretary of FWCC Africa Section when Dudu Mtshazo was Clerk of Global FWCC.

The overall aim of the secretariat is to build an institution for future generations of Quakers. For this it is important to support Young Friends as the future. Friends have helped to buy land for a secretariat office and are seeking funds to aid its construction.

The Office fulfils many functions:

- it has a reference and information function for visitors.
- it promotes unity among African Quakers and encourages connections. One measure is to encourage twinning between meetings.
- it seeks common ground among the various Quaker worshipping traditions as experienced at the FWCC recent plenary meeting in Peru.
- it encourages Friends in difficulties.
- it helps promote direct contact between the different states in East Africa and the Great Lakes countries.

Churchill Malimo also mentioned the links between CSAYM and FWCC. CSAYM has participated in FWCC for many years. During the World Conference in 2012, there were 10 delegates from our YM. In 2014 Africa Section triennial, Nokuthula Mbete was nominated as Assistant Clerk. Emily Mnisi served at QUNO as well. There were also delegates who attended the World gathering in Peru this year.

## Upcoming Events

1. World Quaker Day on October 2: This is the third time this event has been held. It aims to reflect on the work of Quakers in the world and give members an opportunity to give a donation to support this.
  2. FWCC Africa Section Triennial 2017: This takes place from 29 March to 2 April in Rwanda.
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# 11 Other Reports

## 11.1 Friends of Hlekweni

### 11.1.1 Work in Zimbabwe

#### **Background**

Many Friends know of the work of the small UK charity, Friends of Hlekweni ([www.friendsofhlekweni.org.uk](http://www.friendsofhlekweni.org.uk)).

Friends in Britain YM helped fund and found Hlekweni Rural Services Training Centre, and over the years many British Friends/friends found their way there to volunteer. When David Jobson became Coordinator in 2003, he asked his home Meeting, Milton Keynes, to channel funds from Britain to Hlekweni, and the trusted link helped during the tough years especially 2007-2009.

In 2008, Milton Keynes Meeting was asked by the Examiner of its financial accounts to find another way for the movement of these funds, and the charity, Friends of Hlekweni (FoH) was set up, as a concern of Milton Keynes Meeting. The charitable accounts can be found on the UK Charity Commission website.

Over the years, FoH primarily funded projects at Hlekweni (including regular semester bursary funds, and one-off funding such as the WiFi mast, the chicken sheds etc), initiated the playscheme, and supported Samathonga school. By the time the Britain YM Quaker Peace and Social Witness legacy funding for the feeding scheme at Samathonga school ended in 2012, FoH had increased its contribution, and taken over the full scheme, together with the funding of the orphan fees and other projects such as infrastructure refurbishment (replacing windows, providing seating for the feeding scheme, better locks etc).

In addition, FoH has supported ZFRA, and provided some funds and equipment for schools in Kezi.

Some FoH Trustees (David Brown, Jessica Bishop and Lee Taylor) and others (Nancy Frankel, Maggie Coats and Hazel Morris) have volunteered at Hlekweni, and been able to join Friends at C&SAYM and worship with Friends in Bulawayo and Harare.

### **Strategic review**

When HFRSC closed in June 2014, FoH undertook a strategy review. Was there enough continued support amongst Trustees, at Milton Keynes Meeting, in Britain YM to sustain future activity? What were the needs? How could we work best with F/fs in southern Africa? A new five-year strategy began in 2015. This is based on our charitable objectives – support for education, peace and stability - and has four strands:

1. Continued support for Samathonga school, including its feeding scheme and the playscheme; support for three other schools in the Bulawayo area (Mgadla Annexe, Emganwini 2 and Lochview); plus limited support for some other schools;
2. Handling the fundraising and communications for the Zimbabwe Secondary Bursary Fund in BYM/Ireland (taken over from Britain YM's Quaker Peace and Social Witness);
3. Supporting peace education programmes in schools;
4. Continuing with hardship relief grants (e.g. via ZFRA) in limited cases.

FoH is a 'listed group' of Britain Yearly Meeting, and regularly provides reports of various kinds, plus communications in *The Friend*, online etc. Our (4+ x p.a.) Trustee and Yearly Business Meetings are held in the spirit of Quaker Meetings.

As a UK charity, we are governed by regulations which we have to meet. These include providing Annual Reports and Examined Financial Accounts; we have to provide evidence of how we fund projects, can assure that the expenditure is spent as planned, and how the projects are evaluated for success.

To help us do this, we have simplified and clarified our procedures, including the following :

Ensuring that each grant clearly falls within one of our strategic aims with no ad hoc support for individuals/families;

Keeping any commitments within our likely resources and five-year time frame;

Naming a lead Trustee who provides Trustees with the grant request, including a project plan, (annual) proposed budget, risk analysis and is responsible for communications with those involved in Matabeleland, and the final report;

Agreements reached with grant recipients on procedures, including regular email communication;

Working with 'agents' in Zimbabwe – Bruce Caddick on financial and other matters, and Agnes Ndlovu on school-related matters;

Partnership work with other NGOs/organisations in UK on ground if appropriate (e.g Tools for Self Reliance);

As clear a communication route for donors, consistent with Quaker values – including the usefulness of photos and stories.

### **How do we see the next phase for the strategy?**

The Trustee visits in 2015 enabled working agreements to be reached with the four schools supported, detailed work on the Zimbabwe Secondary Bursary Fund with Bulawayo Friends, and the start of work on Peace Clubs with the Mennonites. In May 2016, it is planned to consolidate this work. Some Trustees are going on to Bulawayo following C&SAYM.

Support for primary schools includes helping with orphan fees, funding textbooks, and providing other books, furniture, pre-school toys, re-usable sanitary pads and (currently limited) laptops. We recognize that there is a strong need for feeding schemes, and are piloting an Epap feeding scheme in addition to the long-standing Samathonga feeding scheme.

Our intention is to focus support on a few schools to make a difference.

The Zimbabwe Secondary Bursary Fund is a long-standing concern of C&SAYM and Zimbabwe Friends; the selection, support and monitoring of the students is done by Friends in Bulawayo and Harare MMs. Following discussion with BQM and a pledge from FoH in November 2015, twelve students are being supported (in eleven schools). The funding stream for this work dwindled significantly over the last five years; FoH is working hard to increase support to ensure a sound financial foundation for the future.

### **Peace work**

Through discussion with a number of local partners, including Bulawayo Friends and members of the Mennonite Central Committee staff, FoH hopes to support a number of willing teachers in participant schools to introduce and run peace-building activities with pupils and others. The Mennonite model of school Peace Clubs is well established in Zambia and parts of South Africa.

FoH Trustees—like Trustees of all UK charities—have to be prudent about future fundraising potential. Currently, we send out a fundraising leaflet each year: in the past three years this has focused on the feeding scheme at Samathonga, widening support for the new strategy and (2016) establishing a solid funding base for the future of the Zimbabwe Secondary Bursary Fund. FoH issues two newsletters a year; most of the funding

comes from small donations from faithful F/fs (many of whom are getting more elderly), from Meetings and from a number of small Trusts.

To be successful in continuing our support, FoH needs to:

remain as close as practicable to needs and concerns in Matabeleland, maintaining robust relationships with F/fs in C&SAYM especially in Bulawayo;

be clear about the agreements and procedures—including reports—on schemes with headteachers for schools;

similarly, be clear about the procedures in place with Bulawayo Meeting on the Secondary Bursary Fund—including a common understanding of the crucial dates for information to be received by FoH and for agreed payments to be made; given the need for FoH to assure the Charity Commission, we need verified accounts from BQM;

be supplied with 'stories' and photos that encourage donations and other fundraising, particularly from BQM for the ZSBF.

We do not yet know what particular procedures or support may be needed on FoH initiated peace work in schools.

It is worth emphasizing that we are now into the second year of a five-year strategy: the future work beyond 2020 depends on successful succession planning—an issue for all small charities. Our ability to raise funds may be affected by global and national issues: we recognize that it is increasingly difficult to raise significant funds, even in Quaker circles.

### **Friends of Hlekweni and Central and Southern Africa YM**

We are glad to have long-standing relationships of various kinds between Friends in BYM, Milton Keynes MfW and in FoH with Friends in C&SAYM, including with young adults. May intervisitation and other forms of friendship flourish.

FoH Trustees are grateful for the support of many in C&SAYM for the work we undertake.

We hope that it will be possible for us to provide short reports on a regular basis to the YM, and to receive papers so we are in step with C&SAYM policy, procedures and any issues that may be of note.

*Friends of Hlekweni Trustees*

*February 2016*

## **2016/23 MINUTE — FRIENDS OF HLEKWENI**

This Meeting will support, where possible and applicable, the Peace work that Friends of Hlekweni undertake in Bulawayo.

Friends in Bulawayo involved in this Peace work are invited to call on the Clerks of this Meeting for help and advice if required.

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### **11.1.2 Zimbabwe bursary fund / Zimbabwe Secondary School Bursary Scheme**

The Zimbabwe Bursary Fund has been administered by Richard Knottenbelt for over 50 years.

Bulawayo meeting selected a local Bursary Committee in 2010—Solomon Makadzange and Nosisa Choto—that facilitates access to the Bursary Fund by disadvantaged yet capable students of different family histories. Agnes Ndhlovu was coopted last year to work with Solomon when Nosisa is attending a course in Harare.

Last term of 2014, Kingdom/AFRIASIA bank failed to transfer fees to Schools bank accounts. Zimbabwe Reserve bank liquidated this bank early 2015. The account was Harare based. Deposit Protection Corporation released \$500 in April 2015 out of \$14,000. The \$500 was deposited into the Bulawayo meeting account. Up to now the difference has not been recovered.

Richard and Pushpa Knottenbelt had plans to emigrate from Zimbabwe to New Mexico. The two Zimbabwe meetings (BQM & HMM) agreed that the fund administration be handed from Richard Knottenbelt to the Bulawayo bursary committee. This happened when all funds—\$14,000—were held in the bank. 2015 school fees had to be requested termly anticipating the bank could release the funds but that never happened. March 2015. Richard Knottenbelt came to Bulawayo for the orientation exercise. QPSW Grants committee—Britain Yearly Meeting supported this fund since its beginning.

Friends of Hlekweni Trustees got interested in taking up the sourcing of donations for Zimbabwe Secondary School Bursary Scheme from QPSW—Britain Yearly Meeting soon after Richard Knottenbelt dropped administering the fund. Representatives of FoH Trustees: David Brown was here in June; Lee Taylor and Jessica Bishop came in October 2015. Discussions were on sourcing of funds, funding the beneficiaries, reports from the fund committee and sending background stories of beneficiaries. Fees will be sent termly after presentation of required fees as indicated on schools' invoices. This is only possible when students bring these invoices during holidays. Parents/guardians are advised to submit fees invoices and reports soon after schools close to speed up the process of having fees transferred into schools banks before schools' next term opens.



FoH Trustees offered to support 12 students in 2016. Nine students were supported in 2015. Two Harare students were not recommended to benefit in 2016 because their performance was doubtful. Support for two A level students ended in 2015. Fiona Moyo passed her Arts subjects. She achieved 9 points. Precious Musimuko achieved 5 points in her Science subjects. The two students were phased out after advanced level.

O level results were out in February. Sikhuphukile Nare passed. She achieved 5 As and 6 Bs. She started Form 5 lessons on 22 February at the same school – Usher Institute. She is doing science subjects.

Seven new students were selected into the scheme in December 2015. The schools involved have increased to 11 from seven in 2015. 2016 1st term school fees were calculated for the 12 students minus part balance that was on hand from previous funding plus a deposit by Deposit Protection Corporation. Friends of Hlekweni Trustees deposited the requested funds on 28 December 2015 and the funds transfers to the schools banks were done first week of January 2016. The last transfer for a Form 5 student was done in February after the results were out second week of February. Reconciliation of all transactions will be presented to FoH Trustees.

The fund pays school fees only. The rest is the parents/guardians' responsibility. The fund doesn't support tertiary education.

Invoices for 2016 second term fees and 1st term reports will come with students when schools close in March. Families are advised to bring performance reports and fees invoices to the meeting house first Sunday after schools close so that request of the next term fees from Friends of Hlekweni will be done in good time after all reconciliations are completed.

*27 February*

### **11.1.3 Hlekweni 2014 to March 2016**

Once the decision was taken to close the Hlekweni Friend's Rural Service Centre (HFRSC) in April 2014, steps were taken to find an acceptable new owner for the farm and training facilities. This was found in ZIMTA (The Zimbabwe Teachers Association), the country's largest trade union, with a membership of some 42 000.

The agreed purchase price was paid to the account of C&SAYM of the Religious Society of Friends. The funds were received in early January 2015.

In the first instance \$20 000 was used to repay the Friends of Hlekweni ( FOH (UK)) for the loans they generously advanced so that we could ensure that all ex-employees of Hlekweni had some money for Christmas, planting seeds, and starting self-employment projects, completing rural homes etc.

Following this repayment, the work started on settling accounts with former employees, this was a mixture of a simple and pleasant process with people who greatly appreciated

the fact that the C&SAYM, who had no obligation to settle, used the proceeds from the sale of the farm to settle outstanding debts incurred by HFRSC, and a difficult protracted problem with meetings with union officials and ex-employees who believed they were being cheated. Coming from people who could see that this was the end of employment, following a number of years with HFRSC, in an economy dying, this was sheer desperation.

Creditors including the lawyers, electricity, telephone, internet, payroll obligations such as union, employment council, and national pensions were settled; in a couple as an arrangement where they were satisfied with account payment, and write-off of interest and penalties.

One transfer was done to South Africa to a Quaker Relief Fund, the proceeds of which will be used for the aims of the people who started HFRSC all those years ago.

Since ZIMTA completed transfer of ownership of Valindre Farm A, they have altered the name to Ehlekweni ZIMTA Training Institute; they have had a fight with authorities regarding "Gazetting" of the farm, which ended successfully for ZIMTA in the High Court of Zimbabwe. ZIMTA, who are dependent on the government for funding as their 42 000 members are civil servants, government are the employer and deduct union dues from payroll but are slow in paying the money to ZIMTA. The government has suffered greatly due to the country's dying economy, and liquidity squeeze. Plans to develop the farm, restart training and continue the work started by HFRSC have been delayed, but they are determined to get it to work.

People who have been to the farm in the last few months are impressed with the general maintenance, the restarting of the gardens, the fact that food is being grown on the farm, the surplus is being sold in Bulawayo markets, there are plans to reintroduce livestock. I am continually being encouraged to visit and see for myself.

The Hlekweni community is, sadly, pretty much no longer in existence, they were not encouraged to leave or encouraged to remain, however, it was made compulsory that tenants paid rent on time, and electricity on a full recovery basis. Some units were to be converted to a pre-pay electricity system, and that is certainly the case with the school teachers.

The rainy season 2015/2016 has been so poor that extensive crops such as maize are a write-off, thus it is going to be a difficult 12 months with a disastrous harvest, and hunger and possible starvation inevitable without significant food imports and financial support.

The school Samathonga goes on, results near the top of the district, and the feeding scheme funded by FOH (UK) continues, with the next visit from Lee Taylor and team in early May this year.

*P B Caddick*

*14 March 2016*

## 2016/24 MINUTE — HLEKWENI REPORT

The transfer mentioned to South Africa, to a Quaker Relief Fund, went to ECTF where it contributed to the PJDF.

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### 11.2 Quaker Peace Centre (QPC)

*Report presented at the Central & Southern Africa Yearly Meeting, 27 April – 3 May 2016*

The staff complement has stayed the same since the last report. The staff are Avril Knott-Craig (Project Leader: Non-Violent Schools Campaign), Stanford Jarvis (Project Leader: Alternatives to Violence Project), Nokuthula Mbete (Project Leader: Parenting), Athalie Crawford (Project Leader: Gender Training for Young Men), Xoliswa Ntsabo (Office Administrator), and Martin Struthmann as the Manager. We are fortunate to have a stable staff as skills acquired at the Centre are retained and projects develop progressively.

The Annual General Meeting was held on 22 September 2015. Julie Suberg (Chair), Tony Marshall (Vice Chair), Neville Biggs (Treasurer), Moses Standaar (Secretary), Lucille Lückhoff, Khaya Sontsele and Farzaneh Behrooz serve on our board. Four board members are members/attenders of the Cape Western Monthly Meeting. The manager serves on the board in an ex-officio capacity.

We can proudly report that we planned together with the Metro South Education District (Philippi, Mitchell's Plain down to Simon's Town) of the Western Cape Education Department an anti-bullying campaign in 2015 and assisted in its implementation. The highlights were an anti-bullying week for which we provided an anti-bullying toolkit for 206 schools in its District and assisted in developing in a participatory manner with learners and education staff an anti-bullying policy applicable for all 206 schools. The work continues in 2016 with another anti-bullying awareness week and the finalisation of the anti-bullying policy.

We also held training with teachers on behaviour management using our own resource "The 80/20 Discipline Rule". Our approach comprises of three major pillars: Teachers need to build positive relationships with learners, teachers need to make lessons so interesting that learners wish to learn, and the whole school needs to stand together on behaviour issues.

We continued with the Pupils Advisory Forum on Violence (PAFOV) project in the Metro South Education District. QPC staff and interested teaching staff participated in a three-day peer mediation course which we organised and where we trained learners participating in the PAFOV project in peer mediation. This year we will implement peer mediation services in several schools with the help of teachers to accompany the process. Part of our project work is to establish discipline teams at these schools comprising teaching staff, to assist the

peer mediators in their work and to broaden the load of behaviour management across more teaching staff. After 2017, we envisage that other Education Districts encompass such a project of their own. We are sending reports on our work to stakeholders in the education field.

We are fortunate to have the Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen (ifa) in Germany as a funder of our schools-based work. They supported us for a three-year cycle from 2011 to 2013, and started to support us again in 2015. The peer mediation training was kindly funded by Quaker Peace and Social Witness in London and the Rolf-Stephan Nussbaum Foundation in Cape Town gave a substantial financial contribution to the PAFOV project.

We deliver our parenting work now for older parents who have teenagers in their care on Saturday mornings and parenting work with young parents in their teenage years after school in the afternoons. We offer parenting education for teenage parents for young women and young men in separate groups. The intensive community-based family preservation programme is financially supported by the Western Cape Department of Social Development.

We have a committed group of teachers who assist in running AVP workshops with us. Some teachers run AVP workshops with learners in their care independently from us.

We have written a gender comic book for young men 'The Promise of a Man' and a facilitator's manual for gender work with young men 'Going In'. These will be used to train trainers in other community organisations, and in our work with peace clubs in schools. The comic book was financed by Bischöfliches Hilfswerk MISEREOR in Germany, the training manual by The Francis Camfield Trust in the UK and the training is financed by The Robert and Kezia Stanley Chapman Trust in the UK.

We had a strategy planning session which was facilitated by Geoff Harris on 27 February 2016. We discussed a way forward for our work, taking into consideration a changing and challenging funding situation for our Centre.

It was reported at our AGM that our Centre had made a very good financial turn-around since March 2012, when our cash and cash equivalents stood at R694,478. Cash and cash equivalents will stand at R2.5 million, including the sustainability fund, at the end of March 2016.

The Cape Town Quaker Peace Centre Committee of Central England Quakers will lay down its concern at the end of 2016 after raising funds for the Quaker Peace Centre for six years. Much of the funding raised by the Committee paid for administrative costs and particularly the salaries of administrative staff and the manager. We are in the process of seeking alternative ways to cover these costs.

We are considering selling the properties we are occupying. Repeated cable theft has left us for long periods without telephone lines and we now hardly ever have internet access.

At present, we can only achieve the bulk of our work by working from private homes of staff members. If we sell the properties, the proceeds will go into our sustainability fund. For more on our sustainability fund, please refer to our report to C&SAYM in January 2015. The properties are as follows: 1) erf 31474 Cape Town, Religious Society of Friends, 26 Selby Road Mowbray; 2) erf 31475 Cape Town, Quaker Peace Centre, 28 Selby Road Mowbray; 3) erf 32054 Cape Town, Religious Society of Friends Quakers Cape Western Monthly Meeting, 3 Rye Road Mowbray.

We are most grateful for the support given to our work by Quaker sources, namely the Cape Town Quaker Peace Centre Committee of Central England Quakers, Quäker-Hilfe e.V. in Bad Pyrmont in Germany, Quaker Hulpfond in the Netherlands, Switzerland Yearly Meeting, and Quaker Peace and Service Aotearoa / New Zealand, as well as donations and funding from individual Friends in South Africa.

*Martin Struthmann*

*Manager*

## **2016/25 MINUTE — QUAKER PEACE CENTRE**

Fourth paragraph from the end on QPC financial improvements: QPC staff had no increases from 2011 to 2014 to help this. New funding has been secured and the staff received retrospective increases which still fall short of what was due.

Second paragraph from the end: QPC is now renovating part of the properties to increase rental income for support rather than seeking to sell.

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## **11.3 South African Council Of Churches (SACC) Report**

PERIOD 2012 TO 2016

### **1. Introduction:**

Dear Friends, I am certain that you might be surprised by such a long reporting period. SACC is alive and well but has had challenges of staff rotation and turnover that resulted in our contact details and information being lost. So invitations to events and meetings plus invoices went somewhere but not to us.

### **2. Membership:**

The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) is still a member of the SACC and it is hoped that we will continue. My personal experience has been that it is good for us to continue being part of the Ecumenical body, such as the SACC.

### **3. Cost of Membership:**

The Annual Membership fee (for C&SAYM) is R6700-00. From the records, payment was last received in 2012. I was informed that this was due to an error on their side. Our email address got entered as csyym@gmail.com by mistake. What is the correct one?

### **4. Meetings & Events:**

**Church Leaders Forum.** This is a Forum formed in May 2015 and I was able to attend because somebody in Johannesburg Monthly Meeting (JMM) passed the information to me. Archbishop Thabo Mokgoba was appointed as Chairperson. The whole idea behind its formation was to create a space where discussion and general sharing on issues facing the Church and Society could be discussed and responded to. Poverty and Domestic violence were some of the issues of concern.

**Central Committee.** This is the committee where Member Churches and Organisations meet annually, to receive reports and share in Spiritual and Social issues impacting their members and society at large. This meeting was scheduled for November 2015, but it did not happen for various reasons, which I guess could have been financial.

### **5. Conclusion and Recommendation:**

Despite what has happened, like the breakdown in communication and lapse in payment, I pray and hope we can continue our association with the SACC. Their telephone is (011)2417815. Violet Mobe is the person I made contact with and she promised to forward the calendar of events missed and those still to come. Nomsa Segoe and Duduzile Mtshazo were the last C&SAYM Representatives in 2012, Sam Mugambe is on their system as well, maybe as Yearly Meeting Admin & contact. Nomsa and I wish to be formally relieved of this responsibility. Thank you Friends, for the trust and opportunity to engage with the larger Body of Christ, through this Council of Churches.

*Duduzile Joyce Mtshazo: March 2016*

### **SACC WC: South African Council of Churches Western Cape**

Western Cape Friends will be active SACC again this year and bring news to C&SAYM 2016, after SACC Western Cape meetings in March and April.

*Bridget Nomonde Scoble*

## 11.4 SAFCEI: Southern African Faith Communities Environment Institute

[www.SAFCEI.org](http://www.SAFCEI.org)

In spite of financial constraints, SAFCEI continues to promote environmental care and awareness. C&SAYM Friends could consider becoming “an Eco-Congregation”, informed by their website, or by inviting someone from SAFCEI to facilitate this process.

SA is short of water, people are food insecure and powerful people have lost touch with the soil.

“Anti-Fracking” awareness and knowledge of pollution this could cause to land and water, is known.

Anti-Karoo Uranium Mining promotes awareness of harmful radio-active dust affecting workers, neighbouring communities and far reaching ground water.

Anti-Nuclear stands are held @ 7.30am outside parliament, each Wednesday morning.

The Communique drawn up at the 7th Alternate Mining Indaba held in February 2016 is well worth reading. New ways of survival for mining communities; the pressures applied to indigenous people by powerful mining giants and government ministers; and the continuing battle on our Pondoland Wild Coast, can be viewed on their website: [www.altminingindaba.co.za](http://www.altminingindaba.co.za)

We could view the DVD *The Shore Break* at YM 2016.

*Liz Palmer and Bridget Nomonde Scoble*

### 2016/26 MINUTE — SAFCEI

SAFCEI is taking the SA Government to court to challenge government action over nuclear power in conjunction with earth life Africa.

SAFCEI also works with other organisations which include Fossil Free SA and Anti-fracking SA.

Lucille Lückhoff and Nozizwe Madlala-Routledge will establish an environmental cluster to co-ordinate Quaker action, identify and share resources, identify issues and to share with meetings possible ways forward.

Monthly Meetings are requested to educate themselves about the recommendations of the FWCC Sustainability Group (contained in the report above) and of COP 21. These may be found on the SAFCEI website.

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## 11.5 WCRLF: Western Cape Religious Leaders Forum

[www.wcrlf.org.za](http://www.wcrlf.org.za)

Through our various religious and faith traditions, WCRLF members are entrusted to promote healing of people and transforming of our country, in communities in which we serve.

The Forum's patrons are Anglican Archbishop Thabo Makgoba, Catholic Archbishop Steven Brislin and our history and website show that Anglican Archbishop Ndungane was the first Chairperson. At WCRLF recent Strategic Planning Meeting 2016, religious leaders were once again reminded of commonalities in our community experiences, consciousness and concerns, having come through the apartheid experiences. We are also aware of so much pain, Black People's Pain or Black Pain, which is being expressed right now in so many ways, by those who can no longer contain it.

Our challenges as we work with young people now, are to transform our thinking and remember that today's young people were born in post-apartheid, post-colonial South Africa... and now, aware of the generation gap and wounded-ness of so many young people, we need to listen carefully to young people ... as we seek to "Uncover the wound", "Discover and learn", how best to "Serve in the Recovery Stage" ... Thoughts, prayers and suggestions from Friends would be warmly received.

*Graham Thomas and Bridget Nomonde Scoble*

## 11.6 Report on the work of Phoenix Zululand, 2015-16

Phoenix Zululand was set up by Richard Aitken and Jane Argall in Eshowe almost 12 years ago and has worked in most of the eleven prisons in northern KZN.

It draws much inspiration from Quaker principles and practice and is strongly based on restorative justice. Geoff Harris and Mark Povall are members of the Board, along with Richard and Jane, so the Quaker presence is strong.

In particular, Phoenix works on the relationship between prisoners and the indirect victims of their crime – their families. If this relationship is not restored, the chances of released prisoners re-offending is extremely high. Nation-wide, between 75 and 90% of prisoners end up back in prison within two years of release.

We employ a Director and number of facilitators, some of whom are ex-prisoners, who run discussion groups with small groups of prisoners and, just prior to release, a family conference aimed at helping prisoners and their families say what they need to say to each other and receive, hopefully, forgiveness and promises of love and support. This is the core of Phoenix work.



Like most NGOs, the past few years have been difficult in financial terms and there were times when it seemed that we would have to close down altogether. In 2015, we made big economies, including giving up our office, but some significant work continued in a few prisons.

Meanwhile, Jane (the current Director) was busy planning and preparing for 2016 in the hope that funding would arrive. This has included a rewrite of the basic handbook—now called *Phoenix Rising*—and Conversations in families. Then R600 000 came from 32 South (previously BHP Billiton), which basically secures our work for 2016 and 2017. We have taken two major initiatives

Printed 1000 copies of *Phoenix Rising* (just think of that—a thousand prisoners will benefit from its content)

Trained 22 of our facilitators and others in narrative therapy, which provides the foundation of *Phoenix Rising* (officers from all but one the Zululand prisons attended this training and this bodes well for cooperation with the DCS in 2016).

There will be a SIG at YM2016 at which the work of Phoenix Zululand will be discussed.

*Geoff Harris*

## **2016/27 MINUTE — PHOENIX**

Heath will create links between the Phoenix and the CSAYM website.

Any questions on Phoenix should be directed to Geoff Harris.

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## **11.7 Zimbabwe Food Relief Action (ZFRA) update as of late January 2016**

A good harvest in 2014 (the first since 2004) allowed us a complete rest for 12 months, but in 2015 we were once more called to action. From 25 September to 23 October we distributed 63.7 tons of maize meal (20 kg per household) to about 3,200 households in our 16 adopted villages in Matabeleland South.

The good harvest in 2014 proved to us that our subsistence farmers don't have a dependency syndrome. Yes, the rain fell at the right time in January/February, but rain by itself does not grow a harvest. Our farmers have to have enough hope and perseverance to do the ploughing, sowing and weeding long before they know whether in the end the weather will favour them or not, and their good harvest is a testimony to their dogged determination.

This time, during the food distribution, as always supervised by Kelitha, she was saddened by the evidence that many people had died since our last visit - not only elderly ones but also many who were Aids sufferers and who were on ARV tablets which can be fatal if not backed by good nutrition. Many others were just desperately hungry.

The 2015 distribution exhausted our funds and we are now building up our reserves again for further distributions. Can you help us?

Our accounts (which are audited annually) and other statistics can be found on the website [www.zfra.org](http://www.zfra.org), which also includes stories and pictures of our activities. But if you need more details please contact us at <nuru@mweb.co.zw>.

Contributions can be sent to the Christine Agar Quaker Trust, First National Bank, Bryanston branch, branch code 25-00-17, account number 620 562 914 39, SWIFT/BIC code FIRNZAJJ. Payment can be made from any branch of FNB by electronic transfer, or you can do an EFT into the above account. Use ZFRA as reference and notify Colin Glen of your remittance by e-mail to <colin.p.glen@gmail.com> or phone him at 011-706 1997. Contributors outside South Africa should go to our website and click on 'How you can help'.

*By John & Kelitha Schmid, Bulawayo*

### **Update on ZFRA at YM 2016**

Since writing the report which you see in Documents in Advance, we received support from Quaker Service Australia and from Irish Quaker Faith in Action, and our funds have reached USD25,000. It takes about USD32,000 to do a full distribution, but we are keen to do a partial distribution once Kelitha is on her feet again.

Of these amounts, 36% are in US dollars, 19% in British pounds, 6% in rand and 42% in pula, the pula being invested in interest bearing fixed deposits.

When you remember that ZFRA is a project we were mandated to run by Yearly Meeting 2002, and which we have run ever since, it is surprising how little support we actually get from South Africa. It is only CERM which helps us on a regular annual basis, something several UK meetings also do.

We have now added our constitution to the website, although for political reasons it is called "Our operating guidelines". I encourage you to look at it on [www.zfra.org](http://www.zfra.org), clicking on Guidelines. You will see that Stephen Hussey of Dabane Water Trust has kindly agreed to join our management team, something we are very happy about.

*John Schmid*

## **2016/28 MINUTE — ZFRA**

The Meeting agreed to send the following letter to John and Kelitha Schmid on the Zimbabwe Food Relief Action (ZFRA) as a result of its deliberations on the ZFRA report.

Dear John and Kelitha

Thank you both for the ZFRA Report (including the additions which have been incorporated into the minutes of the 2016 Yearly Meeting) and for the impeccable and ongoing work that you have done in this area for so many years.

We note that for some reason ZFRA does not appear on our list of offices for YM and have amended our list to include it. ZFRA now falls under the Activism and Advocacy Cluster. We also note and are grateful for the willingness of you both to continue to run ZFRA especially at this time when hunger stalks Zimbabwe as a result of, among other factors, the terrible drought.

We are delighted with the additional funding that you have received from Australia and New Zealand and do of course take note of your request for funding from South African Friends and suggest that an application be made to our newly-established Peace, Justice and Development Fund which has some resources which may be able to be used to support ZFRA. However, given the experience of hunger of Friends in our meeting in Bulawayo and in Lesotho, we are responding by funding a new Friends Hunger Scheme established at this 2016 YM for our members for a year and this is to amount to tens of thousands of Rands over the coming year.

In any event, the YM has asked us, as Clerks, to write to you about your future plans for ZFRA. We are concerned at the workload that ZFRA entails (responding to the food needs of some 16 villages) and are anxious about your health and do not want you both to feel unduly burdened by ZFRA as the need appears to be ongoing as a result of, among other challenges, climate change. We are asked specifically to ask if you would be able to bring suggestions to the next Yearly Meeting as to how you envision the future of ZFRA and whether or not you might be interested in training others to assist you with the potential of their being handed over responsibilities in future. In this regard we were delighted to see the participation of Steven Hussey to whom we send greetings and hope that perhaps we can form part of these future plans.

We are also asked specifically to raise our concern that the drought situation in Southern Africa is now a permanent feature of our weather given the reality of climate change. We are therefore of the view that

subsistence farmers in the villages supported by ZFRA need to adapt to these new climate realities and be taught how to farm in these altered circumstances otherwise ZFRA will have to be a permanent feature of life which we are of the view is not sustainable in the long run. We wondered if there are any initiatives: community, private or governmental, which would enable small-scale farmers to sustain themselves into the future. In this regard we note that this is a significant project area of the Quaker UN Office (QUNO) and wondered if we might be of assistance in putting you in touch with the QUNO office on this issue?

Lastly, Friends voiced the concern that the ZFRA's area of the concern is in the rural areas yet hunger is now being experienced in the cities too as is evidenced by hunger being experienced by Friends in our YM. The YM would like ZFRA to report back at next yearly meeting with its views on this.

The YM upholds you both in the Light as you work in this area and wishes to offer what assistance it can, as you plan a way forward.

With love,

Helen Holleman and John Inglis

Co Clerks

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## **11.8 Advocacy Report to C&SAYM 2016**

The 2015 Yearly Meeting (YM) appointed two members to explore opportunities to support small projects which build peace, justice and development which have a link to a local meeting. We were asked to look particularly for potential projects in countries within YM but excluding South Africa. The maximum grant was to be R15,000. The intention was that this should support a local initiative but not be the sole funding source of a project

I made some preliminary enquiries with a member of Bulawayo Meeting (BMM) whilst in Bulawayo in June but was unable to identify a project which already had some support from another source. I was particularly looking at reviving the Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP) as 12 facilitators had been trained in 2010 at Hlekweni with the help of Phaphama Initiatives (South Africa).

In September Geoff Harris (Durban Meeting) produced a very helpful information document and application form for a Peace, Justice and Development Fund (PJDF). Local meetings were invited to apply. Meanwhile Marie Odendaal (Pietermaritzburg Allowed Meeting) was in discussion with Bulawayo Meeting regarding setting up some AVP workshops in Bulawayo in April 2016. Funding is currently being sought and PJDF has also

been approached and support agreed. This will be reported on separately by those involved.

I had intended to engage with some AVPers in Gaborone who I had spoken with in December 2014 about reviving AVP and had intended to visit early in 2015. Unfortunately a succession of health mishaps prevented me from pursuing this opportunity and nothing further has been done.

Members have participated in the Anti-corruption March as individuals.

During the course of the year it has been suggested that advocacy co-ordinators identify issues which Southern Africa Quakers should be seen to actively working on. It has also been pointed out that any meeting or individual may raise a 'concern' which a meeting or meetings may work on. Finally, in these days of electronic communication we are inundated with causes to support but which we may sign as individuals. Through websites like [www.change.org](http://www.change.org) we can start petitions as a way of garnering support and 'speaking truth to power'. C&SAYM may wish to consider how to pursue advocacy issues in the future.

*David Jobson (Pretoria Worship Group)*

*February 2016*

## **2016/29 MINUTE — ADVOCACY**

The question of whether C&SAYM Quakers are investing in the fossil fuels and nuclear industries was raised and needs to be clarified with the financial cluster and environment cluster. Meeting asked FOC and the clerks of our local funds to consider criteria for investment, and to review our portfolios to see how to take this discussion forward.

Rob Thomson offered to help the FOC and the clerks of the local funds to develop advice for C&SAYM. Roy Love offered to send the British Yearly Meeting Guidelines on this matter via Rob Thomson for our use. Both offers were gratefully accepted.

A draft of a way forward will be developed to be presented at MYRM.

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## **11.9 Communications Cluster Report to 2016 C&SAYM**

### **11.9.1 Establishment of the C&SAYM Communication Cluster**

The January 2015 C&SAYM meeting brought together the various YM communication activities into a "Communications Cluster". The aim was to effectively communicate within and outside of C&SAYM.

The specific responsibilities within the Cluster were established as:

- SAQN Wouter Holleman, CERM
- C&SAYM Facebook Wendy Landau (JMM) and Justin Ellis (NMM)
- C&SAYM website Nancy Fee (PWG)  
with technical support from Heath White

Some additional communications activities that have been undertaken in the past eighteen months include:

- **the C&SAYM google group address**, which is used to share information to all Clerks in C&SAYM, including minutes of Meetings for Business, and YM preparations.
- **A Friends in C&SAYM group address** has also been established. This is used solely by the secretarial function to send out brief, time-critical information of universal importance to Friends in the C&SAYM region. This profile means it is used very seldom, and only for key communications. Every friend in the region with an email address should be on the list.
- **Sharing of DVD copies of “Quaker Speak”** videos from Friends Journal, USA.
- **Sharing of CD-ROM copies of the C&SAYM website** at the 2015 Mid-year Representatives Meeting. All MM attending the MYRM were given copies of the CD-Rom. This was especially intended for MM who have problems with regular access to the internet, including the website.
- **On-line learning with Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre**, in the UK. Nine Clerks registered for the on-line “Becoming a Quaker Clerk” course in late 2015. Seven Clerks completed the course, which is a very good rate for an on-line course. Woodbrook provided a 50% bursary for all C&SAYM participants. Participants were very positive about the course, and the Woodbrooke tutors were positive about the input from C&SAYM. All the Clerks were able to have good access to the on-line learning system. Even Clerks who were challenged with access (electricity problems in Zimbabwe) were determined, and successfully completed the course. This experience of on-line learning highlights the value of offering other on-line learning opportunities to C&SAYM members and meetings. Woodbrooke is also expanding their on-line courses and retreats.
- **Use of other digital communication approaches:** JMM is active in using google groups and WhatsApp to communicate within the Monthly Meeting, including with PWG. Wendy Landau is especially active in promoting digital communication within the JMM, and C&SAYM. Skype is also used for some communication within C&SAYM, including by the YM Clerks.

## **11.9.2 Access to the Internet**

In nearly all Monthly Meetings, there are challenges to communicating digitally and using the internet. Some MM members have good e-mail and internet access, and others are not much on-line, due to costs, lack of familiarity with the internet, etc. Some meetings seem to be quite active in digital communication, including CWMM, JMM and PWG. Lesotho and Zimbabwe MM Clerks and members rely much more on smart phones for access to the internet, compared to computer and tablet access by other MM members. The lack of regular electricity is also a major problem in some countries. The YM Clerks have sought to assist MM with serious connection problems by providing 3g modems, air time, etc.

## **11.9.3 Southern Africa Quaker News (SAQN) Report**

The portfolio/editorship of SAQN was taken over by Wouter Holleman (CERM) at YM in January 2015. A budget of some R3500.00 was allocated for the year.

It was clear that the publication needed to be reconceived. While it is desirable to publish a quarterly newsletter, both input in terms of copy and finances do not allow this at present.

### **Issue 236, July 2015**

The 'new look' newsletter was modelled on the British journal, in an A4 format, rather than the A5 format used to date. Design and layout was carried out by Liz Gowans, an Attender of CERM.

The content was drawn from YM and writings submitted by both Friends and others, and included a summary of the Richard Gush lecture, a talk at YM, Shelagh Willet's obituary and several book reviews.

With a limited budget it was decided to print SAQN in black only, but to have a full colour version on the website, from where it can be downloaded.

### **Distribution**

Clerks of the various meeting provided mailing addresses and numbers of print copies, and these were despatched to all Meetings by mail. Unfortunately, PWG did not receive their copies sent through the postal system. Eastern Cape copies were delivered by hand. There is a single subscriber, the Guilford College Serial Library in Greensboro, US. Copies were also mailed to copyright libraries.

## **SAQN Finances**

### *FIGURES IN QUAKER RECORDS*

#### **Issue 237**

With corrections to a single article outstanding, Issue 237 has been sent for layout. The issue has been divided into three sections. The first is headed “Quakers at work” and a number of short articles cover the work of ZFRA, healing workshop held in Bulawayo and newly established Peace, Justice and Development Fund. The second is headed “Quakers in thought”, and contains, amongst other thoughts, a couple of poems by Friends, a day’s epilogue by YM Clerk Justine Limpitlaw given at the Pisac FWCC gathering, a sci-fi story and more. And the third section is “Quakers reading”, with a number of book reviews.

It is anticipated that this Issue will go into the mail – and will be on the website – by mid-March.

#### **Issue 238**

This will be compiled immediately after YM.

### **11.9.4 C&SAYM Facebook**

**Purpose of the C&SAYM Facebook Page:** For those Friends who have access to the internet, the C&SAYM Facebook page provides an opportunity to keep in touch with Friends in the vast sub-region between yearly meetings and to build community. The C&SAYM Facebook page also draws attention to discussions and resources in the broader community on Quaker history, faith and practice. A key role of the page is to ensure that information on YM is shared quickly among the C&SAYM community.

The Facebook page is completely public (as are all Facebook pages). It is also a key communication channel for anyone on Facebook wanting to find out more about or make contact with Quakers in this region. This includes enquirers, people of many faiths interested in Quakerism, people seeking current contact details for local meetings or this YM, or Friends from other yearly meetings or FWCC. It complements the website and sends people in the direction of the website. It is therefore a very useful tool both for communication among Quakers in this YM and for broader outreach, and information sharing from Quakers in this YM.

**Establishment and Administration of the C&SAYM Facebook Page:** The YM Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/Csaym](http://www.facebook.com/Csaym)) was set up in late 2012. Wendy Landau set it up at the request of the 2012 MYRM. Meetings were informed in writing of its existence and a sign with the address on it was displayed prominently at 2013 YM. Wendy has



continued to be the administrator of the page, and Justin Ellis joined as co-administrator in January 2015. Wendy is laying down this service at the 2016 YM, but will continue to be available for advice and technical help. Wendy has requested that nominations committee appoint a second page administrator.

CWMM, AVP and C&SAYM Young Friends also have their own Facebook pages.

Since January 2015, Justin Ellis and Wendy have managed the C&SAYM Facebook content, replied to comments and answered messages sent to the page. Several Friends abroad and some local enquirers have been sent to the page, requesting contact details of local meetings. Content for the Facebook page is sourced by the page administrator from the Internet and also from material provided by the cluster convenor, Nancy Fee.

Wendy has recently been highlighting passages from *Living Adventurously* on a regular basis on the FB page. She has also used the Facebook page to announce the publication of new editions of SAQN, and the uploading of the SAQN PDF to the website. Some articles from SAQN have been included on the page. Friends are also encouraged to share posts from the page that they like on their own timeline.

Facebook is a very visual medium, so Wendy and Justin try to ensure an interesting photo or graphic is attached to every post. Wendy has encouraged meetings to take photos of their local events, and to post photos of friends at worship. Visits by YM Clerks to Meetings have also been used on the FB page. Photos of PWG, JMM, NMM, BMM and HMM have been featured.

It took a long time to reach 50 “likes” (people connecting with the page) and only in the last year or so have over 100 people “liked” the page. The page has now reached 160 “likes”. Over the past years, Wendy has encouraged C&SAYM members to “like” the page, and to share it on their own Facebook pages.

Interaction with the majority of posts is low despite the page containing dynamic and inspiring material. It would be good to have more viewing of and interaction with the page by C&SAYM members. This could include comments on posts as well as sending of photos, videos etc. or posts to the page.

**A quick and dirty analysis of posts to the C&SAYM Facebook Page for the past six months (16 August 2015 - 17 February 2016):** In the past six months, there were 88 posts over this period, roughly three to four posts per week. The 88 posts can be roughly classified as follows:

About general Quaker Concerns and Issues	42 (48%)
About Southern African Quakers and Southern African Concerns	37 (42%)
About Friends International bodies	9 (10%)

Of the 88 posts, twenty ‘reached’ over 100 people. By this measure, some of the most

appreciated posts were: Friends at JMM Retreat (493 reached); European Quakers Call for an end to the Cycle of Violence (433 reached); JMM meeting for worship in new venue (334 reached); and Anne Hope, a woman of substance (322 reached).

Of the twenty apparently most appreciated postings, twelve (60%) were about Southern African Quakers and Southern African concerns; six (30%) were about Quaker Concerns and Issues; and two (10%) were about Friends International bodies.

It therefore seems from this very limited analysis that in making postings to the C&SAYM page more effort should go into postings about Southern African Quakers and Southern African Concerns, without neglecting more general Quaker Concerns and International Quaker Bodies. This would mean an adjustment to the balance that has been achieved in the past six months.

**Thoughts for the future:** Better integration between SAQN, the website and the FB page is needed. Articles in SAQN could be published on the website and Facebook, noting that these articles are in SAQN. Similarly, material published on FB and on the website could be used in SAQN. The addition of a block on the website which can “stream” the latest FB posts would also be useful.

### 11.9.5 C&SAYM Website

C&SAYM Website Report — quakers.co.za

The current C&SAYM website ([www.quakers.co.za](http://www.quakers.co.za)) was established in 2014, with the input and support of many members. It built upon important earlier work by Julie Povall and others from 2008–2013.

Overview of website data: This report covers a one year period, from March 2015–February 2016, though statistics were tracked only from July 2015. During this period there were:

- 3,691 visitors to the website, an average of 461 a month. These visitors looked at 6,830 pages. Just under a quarter of visitors connected from computers (desktop or laptop), and twenty percent by mobile devices. A few people connected by tablets.
- 75% left the site after reaching the Home page (Bounce Rate), but those that continued typically accessed 1.8 pages and spent an average of 1:30 minutes on the site.
- 85% of the users had not visited the site before. They visited an average of 1.64 pages, and spent an average of 1.03 minutes on the site.
- 15% were return visitors. They visited an average of 3.06 pages, and spent an average of 4:05 minutes on the site.

The New Visitor/Returning Visitor figures imply that those who have become familiar with the site are finding it useful, and worth spending more time on.

The majority of visitors are from South Africa (including multiple visits by Heath and Nancy as website administrator and website focal point, respectively). However, people from a total of 110 countries have visited the website. Visitors from the US account for 22% of users, and 6% of users were from the UK.

There was considerable variation in the number of visitors per month, with large numbers in July 2015 and January 2016. The increase in access during the latter period may also have resulted from people sourcing YM registration documents.

Popular web pages: The home page has the most visitors, which is normal. Other pages with considerable number of visits in descending order are: Johannesburg Monthly Meeting; Upcoming Events; C&SAYM; Cape Western Monthly Meeting; news; Directory of Quakers in the C&SAYM; and How to Find Us.

This pattern is similar to the popularity of posts on the C&SAYM Facebook page, where the most appreciated postings (those most “liked” and shared) are about Southern African Quakers and Southern African concerns.

Notes on achievements: The website is clearly serving a number of functions and needs. Having nearly four thousand visits in the first full year of operation is a major achievement, with full credit to everyone working on the website. Many C&SAYM members are accessing the website for information on their Monthly Meetings, and are accessing pages related to events, etc.

People wanting to attend local Quaker meetings are also accessing information from the website. For example, the majority of visitors to the PWG have discovered the Meeting through the C&SAYM website. Quakers from other countries travelling to the C&SAYM region have also made use of it to find meetings while on their travels.

For both the website and Facebook pages, C&SAYM members and visitors seem to be most interested in locally generated information and material. Therefore, a more active engagement by more Meetings and members, and contributions to the website and Facebook generate more interest, creating a positive cycle.

Issues and Constraints: It would be useful to have a written statement about the purpose and focus on the C&SAYM website. This could include some basic guidelines for the website, so that there is some clear guidance to the website focal point and administrator about what could/should be posted to the website. This could be an agenda item for the next MYRM.

The website is incomplete: there are a number of pages on the site that are incomplete, and some are repetitive. The reason for this is that the development

process was never actually finished. Items that needed more input were not finalised or expanded upon. This is particularly noticeable on the “Tell me about the Quakers ...” page which is a sub-page of the “Who are the Quakers?” main menu item. As you scroll down the page, there are lots of sections with “Short paragraph on this, with links to any necessary pages or expanded information” as its only content.

Focus the website more on C&SAYM users: The sections of the site that seem to be most used are the locational pages (“How to find us”, and the individual Meetings’ pages) and the happenings pages (Events, C&SAYM, News). Although the Home page receives the most hits, this is largely a function of visitors landing there before they go on to other parts of the site.

The focus of the site could be shifted to make it more of a service to local users, rather than an introductory site for people exploring Quakerism. Quaker history, teachings and beginner basics could be moved to less ‘up front’ positions. Many Quaker websites in other countries are better financed and resourced, and could be used to provide much of this basic information on Quakers through links with C&SAYM (e.g., British Quakers, AFSC, etc).

As a small effort at originating material from C&SAYM, Nancy has encouraged members to write reviews of books that might be of interest to other members. About 10 of these book reviews have been posted on the website, with a photo of the reviewer holding the book.

The Home page itself is static and not something that Quaker visitors would particularly want to interact with repeatedly. It would be of interest to someone who is investigating Quakerism or is new to it. As that does not seem to be the primary usage pattern, it would make sense to make the page more current. It may even make sense for the News page to become the landing page for visitors.

Recommendations for the Website:

1. Develop a brief written statement about the purpose and focus on the C&SAYM website, for discussion at the next MYRM.
2. Make the “news” section the landing (Home) page; make this page more current and ‘active’.
3. Make more use of C&SAYM’s own generated content on the website: e.g., *Living Adventurously*, the Richard Gush Lectures (of which currently only four are on the website).
4. Conflate repetitive sections.
5. Review ‘informational pages’ and perhaps put all of them under an “All About Quakers” heading.
6. Review all pages and provide paragraphs of explanation/content where requested.
7. Get the online C&SAYM Quaker Directory functioning, and find less time

consuming ways of keeping it updated. This directory would list all Quakers currently included in the spreadsheet lists. The information needs to be behind user id/password protection to prevent internet scavengers harvesting the personal information of those listed.

## **2016/30 MINUTE — COMMUNICATIONS CLUSTER**

Meeting thanks Nancy Fee for the work she has done in this cluster.

Issues and constraints recommendations – Meeting accepts all these recommendations and requests Communication Cluster to carry this forward.

Friends who have particular web or computer skills or interests are requested to give or forward their names to Heath at [heathwhite@me.com](mailto:heathwhite@me.com).

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## **11.10 C&SAYM Handbook 2016**

### **Coordinator's Report**

The Handbook has provided practical assistance to Friends this year on several occasions.

We would like to add another section to the Handbook entitled “Quaker Service” with a brief outline which will set out the tradition among Friends of providing practical assistance to others when needed. This will include a brief historical outline, a note about various Quaker-based organizations which were active during the apartheid era, and what is happening currently. A set of suggested guidelines for Friends when they embark on a service project will also be included. We welcome additions and comments for this new section.

Another possible change we think requires further discussion is whether or not it is appropriate to include contact details for Clerks in the Handbook.

New hard copies will be available at YM only for those Friends who have difficulty in accessing the Handbook electronically.

*Jennifer Kinghorn*

*Betsy Coville*

## **2016/31 MINUTE — HANDBOOK**

There are no major changes from 2015 handbook, except for Section 9.

A section on Trustees' duties will be added.

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## 12 Proposals/Minutes from the Meetings

### 12.1 Pretoria Worship Group to become a Monthly Meeting

#### 2016/32 MINUTE — PWG BECOMING PMM

The Yearly Meeting welcomed Pretoria Monthly Meeting.

It was noted that the present constitution is potentially out of date. Friends will re-examine the constitutional issue should another Allowed Meeting start the process of becoming a Monthly Meeting.

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### 12.2 Logo for C&SAYM

#### 2016/33 MINUTE — LOGO

A number of possible logo designs were shown to the Meeting. It was agreed that a selection of these be sent to Local Meetings for their consideration and for their preference to be sent to the Clerks for MYRM. Friends are asked to be sensitive to cultural and equality issues in recommending any changes or alternatives.





A proposal to change the name of the YM to *Quaker Community in Southern Africa* was made. See Section 13.6.

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## 12.3 Next MYRM and YM

### Possible date

2018 — Early January (MYRM April 2017)

### Location

Hartebeespoort (Good Shepherd)

## 2016/34 MINUTE — MYRM AND NEXT YM

MYRM will again be held at Koinonia, Johannesburg, and is scheduled for around Easter 2017.

The next YM will probably be held at The Good Shepherd, Hartebeespoort, and will be held in January 2018 as far after New Year as possible, while still avoiding school terms.

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# 13 Matters Arising from YM

## 13.1 Summer School Report

### REPORT ON SUMMER SCHOOL AT CSAYM 2016 AT ST AUGUSTINE'S

Altogether, summer school consisted of five sessions, spread over the first two days of Yearly Meeting. It started on Wednesday at 19:30 with a session called "Who is scared of the internet?" The secretary gave a clear, detailed explanation on what was on the Quaker.co.za website and

how to find the information on it. The website is intended to be plain, clean, clear and helpful. The secretary sees it as a tool for Quakers.

A Friend spoke about CSAYM Facebook page [www.facebook.com/Csaym](http://www.facebook.com/Csaym).

The three goals of the CSAYM Facebook are:

- Building community by being an instrument to exchange ideas and news
- Building understanding of Quakerism
- Outreach

The Friend then asked each of us at the meeting to write something down on paper on our expectations of this Yearly Meeting which would then be posted on Facebook.

### MfWfB

Summer School resumed on the next day, Thursday, with a session on Meeting for Worship for Business. After an introduction by the Clerk the meeting broke up into groups to discuss their experience of MfWfB, the role of the clerk, and support from meetings for their clerk(s).

### Some points from the report back

During the report-back in plenary on experiences of MfWfB, a Friend coined the word “sludgy” to describe business meetings that were slow, frustrating and did not go anywhere. Sub-groups emphasised the importance of listening, keeping a sense of the flow of opinions and ideas and making space for each other and themselves. Unresolved decisions could be left till later, even later than the next MfWfB.

Other points mentioned during the report back

- “Weighty Friends” are a resource
- A good MfWfB needs good clerking
- Trust the process
- Come with hearts and minds prepared
- Business meetings should be “tender and loving”
- Silence should be kept at least at the start and the end and be minuted

On clerking and support for clerks, the issue of the length of service in the office was raised and some suggested a period of three years.

Elders of the meeting are a source of support. An assistant clerk or co-clerk can be both a source of support and gain experience before becoming a clerk.

Important ways for the meeting to support the clerk:

- Don’t come to meeting and tell the clerk you have to leave by whenever, and put the clerk under pressure to meet a deadline
- Be on time
- Hold the clerk in the Light while they are preparing minute
- Clerking is stressful but also an opportunity for spiritual growth



### Q and A with weighty Friends

After lunch summer school continued with a Question and Answer session with weighty Friends. This session replaced the session originally planned on Quaker History and the Peace Testimony and was a great success. The questions asked:

- Why are you a Quaker?
- Are Quakers Christian?
- How do you react to a psychopath and how do you see that of God in someone really evil?
- Are you in favour of abortion?
- What is your growing edge? (i.e. in which ways do you expect to grow and develop?)

These questions evoked thoughtful, varied and even contradictory replies. It was clear that the session was a great success and the Meeting is grateful to the Friends who agreed to be on the panel at a moment's notice.

The fourth session was a Friendly Bible Study on 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 facilitated by a Friend from CSAYM.

The meeting broke up into smaller groups to study the passage in worship-sharing style.

After a short silence and careful reading of the passage, Friends in each group were asked to answer, if they wanted, five questions:

1. What is the author's main point in this passage?
2. What new Light do I find in this particular reading of this passage?
3. Is this passage true to my experience?
4. What are the implications of this passage for my life?
5. What problems do I have with this passage?

Summer School ended with an introduction to AVP. The pillars of AVP are:

- Affirmation
- Communication
- Co-operation
- Community Building
- Transformative Power

(i.e. ACCCT) was put up and the meeting broke up into smaller groups.

The principles/basics of AVP:

- All teachers, all learners
- Not therapy, can be healing
- Not religious, can be spiritual
- Experiential and experimental

were listed on newsprint and stuck on the wall and AVP trainers led the groups in the adjective name game, concentric circles, body parts and a Light and Lively in order for all to experience a sampling of activities offered during full length AVP courses as well as experience the spirit in which it was done.

Summer School this time was interactive and was a living illustration of the AVP principle that “all are teachers and all are learners”. It was a powerful tool to improve our understanding and communication skills, build our community and deepen our spiritual understanding. The summer school, because it was concentrated in a block at the beginning of Yearly Meeting served as excellent preparation for business meetings at CSAYM 2016. Friends will be able to take their learnings both to their Monthly Meeting and to wider society. On the emotional level, summer school functioned to build our community and sense of togetherness at St Augustine’s .

## ANNEXURE

### Meetings for Worship for Business

The full name of our business meetings, Meetings for Worship for Business gives us a clue as to how Quaker process, Quaker decision-making ought to be.

When we are in a Meeting for Worship, God is found in a gathered silence when we experience that small quiet voice in us that is able to reach the Divine and in which we experience the unity of being at one with the Spirit.

It is what draws us to being Quakers – that experience of having our souls refreshed by God and by each other.

But our business meetings often feel different from our Meetings for Worship and this is often reflected in the minutes. There is often no record of the silences kept, or of the development of the Spiritual life of the meeting; instead, a litany of “tasks” is recorded:

- responsibilities for the meeting house for dealing with rates, electricity, peeling paintwork, leaking roofs etc.
- who will collect the YM quotas
- how a particular scheme is accounted for in the books.

There is even sometimes a feeling of relief when business meetings come to an end – as if the agenda is something to be got through instead of a prism through which to experience the divine.

In this session we want to explore the foundational principles of Meetings for Worship for Business which make up a large part of what we do at YM but is also critical to the flowering of the Spiritual life of our local meetings.

Early Quakers Spoke about a Gospel Order: three aspects

- inward life of worship and discernment
- interior functioning of the church community
- social testimonies of Friends – how we are in society

This summer school session focuses on the second of these.... **interior functioning of the church community** – reflected in our meetings for worship for business.

Two short thought-provoking videos (20 mins) were shown:

Quakers Speak – Meeting for Business

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1KJpF0fzZkI>

<http://www.friendsjournal.org/when-quaker-process-fails-the-interview/>

Small groups discussed the following questions honestly, in order to radically re-appraise our business meetings, and to take risks:

Each group chose a facilitator, a rapporteur.

1. Our experience of Meetings for Worship for Business:
  - What are Meetings for Worship for Business meetings like in my monthly meeting?
  - Does the process feel spiritual?
  - What nourishes me and my meeting?
  - Does anything detract from the experience of the Spirit?
2. The nature of a Quaker decision-making:
  - In our meetings do we strive to reach the weightiest decision? One characterised by:
    - Ethics
    - Expertise
    - Accountability
  - What gets in the way?
  - What can I do in business meeting to improve the spiritual experience for other Friends?
3. The Role of the Clerks
  - Does our clerk feel like the spiritual facilitator of our Meetings for Worship for Business?
  - How can I/we uphold our Clerks to help grow the Spirit in our Meetings for Worship for Business?
  - Am I scared of putting myself forward as a Clerk?
  - Is there something for me to learn as a Clerk?
  - How long should one be a Clerk for?

Key Searchings/Learnings:

The short videos provided some vital things for Friends to consider about our Quaker Process:

- Good Quaker Practice for Finding the Spirit in a Decision: Experience of God, identify the spiritual moving in the meeting, identify the weightiest solution based on ethics, expertise and accountability

Unity – not of votes but of spiritual leanings – to avoid the tyranny of the majority, and take time to mind the oneness, and avoid divisiveness.

The role of the Clerk is that of a spiritual facilitator, and to hear the unspoken.

How to uphold the Clerk? Come with heart and mind prepared; mutual trust and active listening to other Friends is necessary to discern the underlying concern.

How long to clerk for? Six years vs two. How do we see taking up Clerkship? Is it a burden? A “cross to bear”, or is it a joyful journey of discovering our own spiritual gifts as a spiritual facilitator?

Clerkship can take time, and can be a resource some of us feel is in very short supply. Good clerkship requires careful planning of the agenda for a meeting.

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## **13.2 SIG Report**

### **THERE WERE SIX SIGS**

Outreach

Planning and Organising an event

Phoenix Zululand

Money

Living with Integrity in the Digital World

Film on Chasing Extinction

### **2016/35 MINUTE — SIG**

Proposed minute from the Money SIG: The SIG on Ending Money poverty permanently recognises that our money system has a serious flaw and that people, Friends included, are generally ill-informed about the basics of money and its creation by the money system. The group suggests that, in order to be able to come to a common mind at next YM gathering on reform of the money system, Friends in their local Meetings should work to inform themselves about the basics of money and its creation by the money system. We recommend this Minute to Monthly Meetings and ask them to return their comments on whether and how it may be taken forward at local and Yearly Meeting level.

Friends were of the view that this issue ought to be considered. Rory Short has a blog on the issue, and there are many Quaker resources on the global economic and monetary system, which Friends can use to inform themselves about the issues.

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## 13.3 Seven- and 15-minute Talks Report

### 7- AND 15-MINUTE TALKS

Young friends joined hands together to facilitate the seven/15-minute talks for YM 2016.

Fifteen-minute talks were introduced at this Yearly Meeting to hear about the Quaker journeys of our weighty Friends. The two special speakers nominated from midyear representative were:

- Phillemon Chirimambowa who presented on his Quaker experience; and
- Jeremy Madlala Routledge who spoke on the topic Spiritual Activism.

Meeting greatly enjoyed the opportunity to share in these journeys and asked MYRM to nominate people to do the same at next Yearly Meeting.

More Friends were able to take the stage on different interesting topics, as follows:

- Rosemary Smith: Civic activism
- James McCloy: Walk Joyfully
- Betsy Coville: Breakfast with Eugene de Kok
- Liz Palmer: Lessons from the ancestors, particularly based on king Moshoeshoe

### ANNEXURE:

#### PHILLEMONTAKARINDWA CHIRIMAMBOWA

##### My Growth and Experience in Quakerism — 1970–2016

There are five things I learnt in the home of Quakerism; these are:

1. **Growth.** From being a helpless infant one must also be given a chance to grow in a place where it is safe and secure. Once more, the home supplies the protection and parents who will sacrifice so that their children can grow up healthy and strong. God fills their minds with the right feeling towards their children so that this purpose of creating generation after generation may continue (Luke 11:11-13). So the home is the place that God has chosen from the continuing creation of man and must be preserved for his great purpose.
2. **Food.** As the great provider of needs of his earthly children, God also uses the homes on earth for his purpose of feeding all. The rain and the sun and the ground produce food for man, but it still has to be prepared by man in his own home. The home is an important part of God's plan for providing daily bread for his children on earth. Esau could shoot animals in the veld but he had to return home hungry in the end.

Quakers, seeing themselves as part of the creation, recognise their interdependence with the earth and all its creatures, seeking to work with them, and not to dominate or exploit other forms of life. They work for a just sharing of the earth's resources, through this may mean limiting their own use of them. They are opposed to technologies which harm our planet and the lives of its creatures.

3. **Home** – The place of Education To Quakerism is the home:

**Discipline:** It is the will of God that all men should live good lives. By letting people grow up in families and homes, God gives us a chance to learn the love of his will under circumstances where we are surrounded by love, peace and goodness. The home is the place where, by training and discipline, we learn to distinguish good from evil, and truth from lies, and start to love the truth more than all. Through our homes, the laws of goodness are passed from generation to generation. In them we are educated for life.

**Love:** The finest thing revealed in good homes is that God's law of love is the supreme rule of life. To realise that law in conduct is the aim of all education. To practise that law of love continually is to know the presence of God all the time. The home that is the result of human love and peace can become the foundation of the love of God for those living there, and God, who is love, becomes known to a new generation.

**Our compassion:** Given this belief that everyone is equal before God, we need to have compassion for one another, whosoever that other may be. There is a special concern for those disadvantaged, oppressed or marginalised. Our compassion may be shown at a personal, local, national or International level.

4. **The Search for Truth:**

Simplicity and integrity bring us closer to the truth. It is of such importance to us that originally our name was "The Religious Society of the Friends of the Truth". The search for truth was inspired George Fox, one of our founders, who refused to swear in court to tell the truth, in part because of the Biblical admonition against swearing (Matthew 5: 34-37), but also because swearing to tell the truth on one occasion implies that there are other occasions when one would not tell the truth.

5. **The Light:** The light is what enables you to see. The light is what activates the conscience towards God and towards fellow human beings, so long as it loved. As the light illuminates and activates your conscience, it will let you see things that can't be seen by physical eyes but can be seen by the invisible eye within you. As a person you have two invisible eyes.

If one lives by the Quakers values it will bring:

1. Growth in the art of living as community.
2. Love and compassion that will care for other people.
3. Creation, human beings will live within the ecosystem that creates peace with nature.
4. Search for the truth: One should live by the truth because we should worship God in truth because he is God of truth.
5. Light makes us see what is Right and what is wrong.

## 13.4 Young Friends Report, including of the proposed camp

### C&SAYM YOUNG FRIENDS REPORT 2016

Young Quaker Friends met at St Augustine's Conference Centre in Modderpoort during Central & Southern Africa Yearly Meeting, 2016. There were five YF at the start and another two joined later. One of the things that we discussed was inter-visitation. We discussed the purpose of these visits and decided that the visits were to share experiences and build spiritual growth. These visits are confined to active young friends within Central & Southern Africa Monthly Meetings. We hope to have had at least three inter-visitations by next YM.

The visiting friends will notify the monthly meeting and the meeting to visit. A member of the latter will volunteer to host the visitor. Funding for travel can be applied for from ECTF or raised by either meeting.

We believe that these visits will strengthen Young Quakers' understanding of our religion and that interacting with others will help us to grow spiritually.

We decided to have a camp in 2017 during the Easter holidays, and would like KwaZulu-Natal Monthly Meeting to host the camp. We have already started organizing the camp and allocated tasks among ourselves. We will do further research and submit a proposal to the Young Friends' elders.

We nominated John McCormick and Marie Odendaal to be our elders, and would like their support and for them to be part of our decisions.

Khosi Sekoere and Gcina Mbete will continue to be Young Friends clerks.

#### Activities during the YM

As Young Friends we appreciated being part of the worship sharing groups, and having an agenda.

It was good to be part of the summer school where we all learnt about good clerking and business meetings, and also about why Quakers don't vote. It was also wonderful to be part of the Friendly Bible Study summer school because we realized that even though we are all Quakers, we are different.

The AVP summer school was nourishing for all; it motivated Young Friends to join an AVP workshop.

The first session on our agenda was "Me and my meeting". It was about the role of your Meeting and the role Quakers play in your life and role of Young Friends in their Meetings.

We had an opportunity to be part of a special interest group which was about event planning. The SIG was an eye-opener because it showed Young Friends where we were going wrong with planning. We are already implementing those skills in organizing our future camp.

The next workshop was personal development and life skills, which was fun, engaging and taught us about how we view one another.

We would like to be given the chance to choose our own yearly meeting outings.

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## **13.5 Children's Report**

### **CHILDREN'S REPORT TO C&SAYM 2016**

We weren't a big group this year, but we had lots of fun.

Nicole (9), Moorosi (12) and Tabello (1 year) enjoyed having a room dedicated for them and their activities. Their mothers often joined us for crafts and stories. Lerato was a lovely assistant.

We made butterflies, mosaic pictures and beads. We listened to several stories, including one about Moses and the Ten Commandments.

A big project we enjoyed was making cards to send to absent Friends. We made over 50 colourful cards.

We swam, even though it was a bit cold. We went on a walk and discovered a large old Church. We came to the last 15 minutes of Meeting for Worship every day and enjoyed the silence.

*The Meeting expressed thanks to Betsy for providing fun and inspiration for the children.*

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## **13.6 Proposed renaming of C&SAYM**

### **2016/36 PROPOSED MINUTE ON QUAKER NAME CHANGE**

Our name, Central and Southern Africa Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) does not communicate who we really are, and is not an invitation to others who may be seeking a spiritual home.

We are a spiritual community of Quakers in Southern Africa,

- with our roots in Christianity,
- responding to that of God in everyone and welcoming all other seekers,
- guided by the Spirit of God and inspired to action by Quaker Testimony, and
- organized locally for worship, building community and acting together for social justice and peace.

The decision to create a new logo and the new effort to communicate better through Facebook, or the website and other social media, gives us an opportunity to consider the question of our name



and our accessibility to other seekers.

The Yearly Meeting proposes that local meetings consider the following suggestion for a name: -

“Quaker Community in Southern Africa” for the Yearly Meeting; and local meetings adapting their names accordingly, such as Bulawayo Quaker Community, Lesotho Quaker Community, Pretoria Quaker Community.

We ask:

- YM Co-clerks to consult Jennifer Kinghorn for advice on the implications of a name change, including legal, bureaucratic and issues related to bank accounts and Quaker trusts.
- Local meetings to communicate their responses to YM co-clerks who will process the responses for consideration and adoption by Mid-Year Representative Meeting.

Once agreement is reached on the name change, YM would issue a communique. While we sort out the legal and bureaucratic issues related to the name change, Meetings could use the new name/s as the public face while retaining the existing names for internal business.

### **2016/37 MINUTE ON THE ABOVE PROPOSAL**

A proposal was made that the name C&SAYM be changed to Quaker Community in Southern Africa and that local meetings consider styling themselves as Quaker Community in Johannesburg, for example.

The name change(s) could be informal to start with.

We recognise that there would be legal and bureaucratic processes to be followed, and are going to take the proposal further by asking our local meetings to consider it.

Yearly Meeting Clerks to liaise with Jennifer Kinghorn on the legal ramifications of amending constitutions, trust deeds, title deeds etc.

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## **13.7 Epistle**

### **CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN AFRICA YEARLY MEETING ST AUGUSTINES’S PRIORY, MODDERPOORT, SOUTH AFRICA, 27 APRIL – 3 MAY 2016**

We send loving greetings to Friends everywhere. Some sixty Friends came from four African countries to Modderpoort in the Free State. The venue was an old Anglican Mission Station school complex and we looked across to the blue-red Maluti mountains in Lesotho some fifteen kilometres away. We were joined by eight Friends from Britain Yearly Meeting and Churchill Malimo from the FWCC’s Africa Section. For six days, we shared in: meetings for worship, worship sharing, meetings for worship for business, a Summer School, special interest groups, seven- (and some fifteen-) minute talks, excursions (including viewing rock art of the San people), and the Richard Gush Memorial Lecture.

Children and Young Friends enriched our Meeting. Young Friends had their own programme but also spent much time participating in the main programme.

We were inspired by the range and quality of actions for peace and justice on the part of Friends. These include AVP (Alternatives to Violence), Phoenix Zululand (Restorative Justice in prisons), Beanies and Blankets for Babies, Zimbabwe Food Relief Action, the Quaker Peace Centre and the school-based work of the Friends of Hlekweni.

Summer School sessions over one day included Friendly Bible Study, a Q&A session, featuring weighty Quakers, and AVP.

We have always been aware of our diversity but this YM showed up some of the challenges we face, which are:

- Tackling immediate needs (which caused us to set up a hunger relief fund to support families in Bulawayo and Lesotho), and longer-term issues (the facts that climate change means that drought is now the norm across wide sections of southern Africa).
- Building interpersonal peace (via AVP for example) but also living in socio-economic environments characterised by violence, poverty and inequality.

Such challenges were highlighted in the Richard Gush Memorial Lecture, presented by Jennifer Kavanagh and titled *No Other; a journey into one-ness*, which can be found on our website [www.quakers.co.za](http://www.quakers.co.za). It is almost impossible to summarise a lecture so full of rich insights and we point you, as Jennifer did, to one of our own Advices and Queries:

“Do we divide our worlds into spiritual activities, family life, secular pursuits and political action, into good people and bad people, us and them, old ways and new ways? Let’s make them one. Let’s find the goodness in the other, the infinite in the humdrum, the wisdom in the ancestor, the eternal in the here and now.”

We conclude this Epistle with a Haiku written during the meeting:

If you are feeling down  
Or uncertain of how to act  
Try love  
Love never fails

In Peace and Friendship

Justine Limpitlaw

Helen Holleman

Co-Clerks

## 13.8 Other Matters Arising

### 2016/38 MINUTE — OTHER MATTERS ARISING

#### 13.8.1 New Members

George Bebongecheri Nchindia was welcomed into Membership of JMM.

#### 13.8.2 Recognising role of King Moshoeshoe I

Arising from a 7-minute talk, a letter to the King of Lesotho has been drafted advising him that Meeting wishes to honour King Moshoeshoe I by making him an honorary member of C&SAYM. The letter is included in the minutes below, but after Yearly Meeting, a number of Friends wrote to the Clerks asking that the letter not be sent until further historical research has been undertaken by the Clerks regarding King Moshoeshoe I's historical role. This issue will be dealt with further at MYRM 2017.

Motlotlehi Letsie III  
The Royal Palace  
Maseru – Matsieng  
**KINGDOM OF LESOTHO**

?? May 2016

Motlotlehi Letsie III

#### **HONOURING KING MOSHOESHOE I BY THE QUAKER COMMUNITY IN SOUTHERN AFRICA**

1. We are writing to you as the Co-Clerks of the Quaker Community of Southern Africa.
2. We are a religious grouping that works for peace and justice.
3. We have been meeting at St. Augustine's Priory near Ladybrand, within sight of the beautiful Maluti Mountains of your Kingdom.
4. One of our Quaker Communities is from Lesotho.
5. We have been privileged to hear about the leadership of the founding King of the Basotho nation, King Moshoeshoe I.
6. We have been extremely moved and impressed by King Moshoeshoe I's vision and action of forging a nation out of refugees who had lost their homes and lands in the Lifaqane and also in the struggles against the Trek Boers.

7. Significantly, we have been touched by the emphasis on peaceful coexistence that appears to have illuminated his actions and his leadership. This speaks directly to our Quaker Peace Testimony in which we try to see That of God in Every Person and therefore, renounce violence as a way of settling human conflicts.
8. We are of the view that King Moshoeshoe I is insufficiently acknowledged for his leadership and vision in the rest of Southern Africa and in the World.
9. In these turbulent times, where the hardships of displaced people are not being responded to with loving kindness and care, we think that King Moshoeshoe I provides a global role-model.
10. We would like to honour King Moshoeshoe I by bestowing upon him the posthumous title of Honorary Member of the Southern Africa Quaker Community.
11. We would of course be delighted to hear from Your Majesty should this be acceptable to the Basotho Nation.

In love and friendship and holding your nation in the Light in these challenging times,

Helen Holleman and John Inglis

Co-Clerks

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# 14 Evaluation Report — Yearly Meeting 2016

35 participants completed the evaluation sheets.

The evaluation sheets had seven sections and room for further comments. I have noted the main findings.

## 14.1 What I learnt from YM

More about C&SAYM

The value of Worship Sharing and being still.

We are a community.

Trusting the Quaker process

How to listen to others and share with them

The importance of being environmentally friendly.

The need to pay more attention to finances and their importance.

The need to take action in the wider society/community.

That the diversity in the world is an expression of God.

About the ethical dilemmas in using the internet.

That YM is a vital part of being a Quaker.

We need to attract more members.

The beauty of St Augustine's.

The difference between spiritual growth and spiritual transformation.

The value of reconciliation and healing.

## 14.2 What I liked at YM

The home groups.

Worship Sharing was very popular.

The venue and physical environment was very popular.

Summer school was very popular.

The Richard gush lecture was popular.

Friendly Bible Study was popular.

The sense of community.

The Nguni Cow analogy.

The openness and plain speaking.

The spiritual atmosphere

Free time

The YM pack

The well structured programme.

Q & A session

The AVP session

The SIGs

The structure of YM.

The presence of British Friends.

The facilitation.

## **14.3 What I didn't like at YM**

It was cold in the hall.

Lateness and slowness of Friends coming to the sessions.

Friends lacked discipline at times.

Friends not performing their duties.

The silent lunch.

The timing of YM which meant that not all Friends could attend.

Issues around the financial statement.

The SIGs and talks were not very well coordinated.

## **14.4 The Facilitators (Clerks)**

Very good – sensitive and loving, open and clear, well prepared.

## **14.5 The programme could be improved by ...**

Sending out YM documents well in advance or making them available on-line well in advance.

Starting on time.

Choosing a time when more Friends can attend.

Introducing the use of music and having more creative activities.

Learning more from older Friends.

Shorter lunch breaks.

Sticking to realistic boundaries.

Leaving time to allow for change.

Involving Young Friends more.

## **14.6 I still need ...**

A number requested having advanced AVP sessions.

Time to reflect.

More Friendly Bible study.

To look at the Quaker website.

Link Friends from the different age groups.

To follow up on the things learnt at YM.

To get more involved in preparing for YM.

Have more practical assistance for the clerks.

## **14.7 Any further comments**

YM helps personal change to take place.

All have a leadership role to play.

A “How Quakers live” session is needed.



## 14.8 Conclusion

It is to be regretted that according to my figures only 50% of participants submitted evaluation forms. This could have been avoided if Friends were encouraged to hand them in before being “allowed” to go for a meal for example. If they were allowed to take them away to complete that is when opportunities arise to misplace, forget and otherwise fail to complete or hand them in.

From the forms that were completed it can be seen that there was generally a very positive response to all aspects of this year’s YM. Friends particularly welcomed Worship Sharing and Meeting for Worship at the start of the day, the Summer School and the Richard Gush lecture. They also liked the Friendly Bible Study session and presence of British Friends.

The smaller number of Friends allowed for more of a family feeling but it was felt that YM should be held at a time that allowed more Friends to attend.

The venue came in for high praise but quite a few Friends commented on the cold experienced in the meeting hall and others expressed delight at having the luxury of electric blankets!

Other suggestions included:

Dropping CENTRAL (no longer an accurate term) and changing C&SAYM to “The Quaker Community in Southern Africa”

A video could have been made of YM to share with others, especially the Gush lecture.

A few felt that more prominence could have been given to AVP and they would like to have experienced the advanced AVP course.

Friends should consider having a logo and some form of branding.

Graham Thomas