

2018 QUIP Annual Meeting

Writing at the Edge

Glenthorne Quaker conference Centre, Lake District, UK, April 26-29, 2018

Minutes

Present at one or more sessions: Jennifer Kavanagh, Vanessa Julye, Nancy Haines, Gabe Ehri, Rausie Hobson, Chris Skidmore, Gil Skidmore, David Haines, Kristna Evans, Maggie Alder, Rex Ambler, Philip Austin, Trish Carn, John Coffin, Tina Coffin, Emma Condori, Stephen Cox, Alison Creed, Peter Daniels, Anne de Gruchy, Geoffrey Durham, Geoff Fielding, Linda Fielding, Daniel Flynn, Iris Graville, Jonathan Griffith, Philip Gross, Zelig Gross, Joe Jones, John Lampen, Kerstin Mangels, Marie Melling, Laurie Michaelis, Lyn Myers, Julia Ryberg, Lesley Seeger, Michael Sessions, Natasha Zhuravenkova.

Thursday, April 26, 2018

18-1. **Welcome and introductions.** We gathered after dinner at Glenthorne Quaker Centre. Co-clerks Vanessa Julye and Jennifer Kavanagh opened the meeting with worship, followed by a lively session of introductions.

18-2. **Press Release.** Trish Carn will prepare a press release from this meeting for the website and to be used in publicity, including sending the announcement to *The Friend* in the UK and *Friends Journal* in the US. The release will also go to Kerstin Mangels so that it can be part of the newsletter.

18-3. Epilogue.

In the Epilogue, Philip Gross invited us to meditate on ways to define silence and peace without reference to the absence of opposites. He then read his poem, "Another Silence."

Friday, April 27, 2018

Following worship, Jennifer Kavanagh, co-clerk, opened the meeting.

18-4. **Newsletter/press release.** Kerstin Mangels is responsible for publishing the QUIP newsletter. Other members need to get content to Kerstin, but she has not received any response from her request for brief articles and announcements. The general feeling is that we would like a newsletter. Liz Yeats will be asked to send copies of old newsletters to Kerstin.

18-5. **Show and Tell.** Rausie Hobson presented the last publication of the North Carolina Yearly Meeting Board of Publications, *The Underground Railroad in Guilford County* by Gertrude Beall.

18-6. **Quaker Works Update.** Rausie Hobson wrote a column for the first *Friends Journal* column "Quaker Works" of the year. Gabe Ehri said this is a good way to promote the

organization with a brief summary (about 200 words) of the highlights of QUIP's work. The deadline for the October issue is in August and Rausie agreed to write a column for this issue.

18-7. **Regards and Regrets.** Liz Yeats, Tony Stoller, Craig Barnett, Beth Saunders, Harvey Gillman, Lyn Cope, and Eric Muhr sent regrets. Betsy Muench and Ava Sessions send their regards.

18-8. **Review of the Administrative Process.** Rausie Hobson reported that correspondence is being forwarded to officers and others who want to be on the list.

Jennifer reviewed the list of administrative tasks and asked if others can let the clerks know if they are able to help. Lyn Cope asked to be relieved of the task of sending out mass emails. The current volunteers seem to work well for organizing the annual conference, but some things fall through the cracks in between.

Rausie reported that Eric Muhr is unable to add the old books database onto the website, so it is no longer functional as a bibliographic tool. We should find out what the need really is and then determine if we can develop the capability in a cost-effective manner. Rausie is willing to work on data entry. Kristna Evans will work on parameter definition.

18-9. **Quaker Recognized Body.** We discussed whether QUIP should apply to be a Quaker Recognized Body by Britain Yearly Meeting. This is a process for recognizing organizations not run by BYM but serving Friends in the yearly meeting. Friends approved applying for recognition. Jennifer Kavanagh and Trish Carn will take responsibility for completing the application.

18-10. **Website update.** Vanessa Julye reported for Eric Muhr on the new website. He included information about posting books written or published by members and other updating information in other sections of the website. His report is attached.

18-11. **2017 Penn Center Conference Report.** Vanessa Julye reported on last year's annual meeting. The theme was "Are Quakers Still Publishers of Truth?" We enjoyed workshops, plenaries, business, and free time for writing and fellowship. The minutes of last year's meeting are posted on the QUIP website.

18-12. **2017 Mid-year Meeting Report.** Jennifer Kavanagh reported on the 2017 midyear meeting, held by conference call on October 14, 2017. Most of the time was spent on the details of the 2018 Annual Conference and in thinking about the theme. The 2019 Annual Conference will be held in Oregon. We agreed to continue our pay-as-led dues policy. The minutes of last year's midyear meeting are posted on the QUIP website.

18-13. **Nominating Committee.** Rausie Hobson reported that the following terms end with the close of Annual Meeting: Recording Clerk-Nancy Haines; Treasurer-Gabe Ehri; Assistant Treasurer-Chris Skidmore. All three agreed to continue for another term. Friends approved with gratitude.

18-14. **Table Display Report.** Nancy Haines reported that she brought a tri-fold QUIP display, rack cards, and display copies of *Spirit Rising* in English and in Spanish to the 2017 FGC Gathering and the 2017 FUM Triennial. Many people stopped by to learn about QUIP. At the FGC Gathering, QUIP also held an interest group on Quaker publishing.

Trish Carn will bring leaflets to BYM to hand out. Once QUIP is recognized by BYM, the organization can get display space. Eric will be asked to post the pdf for the leaflets on the website for Friends to download; Nancy has the American version and Trish has the British version.

18-15. **Treasurer's Report.** Gabe Ehri presented the Treasurer's report. [Attached] The balance sheet is also attached. QUIP is in sound financial condition. Most expenses apply to the annual meeting and our other expenses are low.

Income from membership dues was lower than last year; we have not made a strong appeal for membership or dues this past year. Since 10% of the dues are deposited into the Tacey Sowle fund, less money is going to this philanthropic endeavor.

Chris Skidmore reported that the bank accounts in the UK are in good order; all officers, including Americans, are providing the necessary forms required by the banks. QUIP is not a registered charity in the UK.

18-16. **2019 Budget.** Gabe asked that approval of budget be done at mid-year. He will present a draft budget on Sunday morning.

18-17. **Show and Tell.**

Kristna Evans, owner of Vintage Quaker Books, is now managing editor of Friends United Meeting Press and its online bookstore which is being built. Let her know about any Quaker books that they could consider selling on website. She is also looking for books to publish, particularly curricula. Quaker Life has not been reviewing books because they need reviewers.

John Lampen talked about two publications: *Quaker Roots and Branches*, about the testimonies and *The One Thing Needful* about Shakespeare, George Fox, and Walt Whitman.

Emma Condori talked about her book, *Quakers in Bolivia*. She tells the story of how Quakers started in Bolivia one hundred years ago and includes her memoir about growing up in a Quaker community.

Geoff Fielding summarized his book in progress about trying to understand the world and why it is the way it is. He would like help getting it published.

We closed the meeting for business with a brief period of worship.

18-18. **Keynote speaker.** In his plenary talk, "Building the Bridge," Geoffrey Durham talked about his introduction to Quakers through the books he read and the importance of being a reader in his spiritual development. He talked about using Quaker writings in outreach and in educating

newcomers by not relying on jargon. He reminded us to know who you are talking to, where you are, and where you are going.

18-19. **Workshop session 1.** Three workshops were offered:

Joe Jones: Canards in the coalmine: how publishing is changing... and how it isn't.

Gil Skidmore: Fact or fiction – approaches to Quaker historical writing.

Stephen Cox: Fiction on the edge - where are we on our journey?

18-20. **Evening Panel.** Three activist authors presented their experiences writing on the political and social edge. Philip Austin has served twenty years with the Northern Friends Peace Board and talked about the group's more than one hundred years of trying to create change in the world. Vanessa Julye talked about her work on confronting racism within the Society of Friends and writing the difficult book, *Fit for Freedom, Not for Friendship*, with Donna McDaniel showing the less than perfect history of Friends and racism. Laurie Michaelis talked about his work among Friends and others on climate change and sustainability. He asked how we as a community can be a crucible for change.

18-21. **Epilogue.** Michael Sessions shared his love of the Lakes District, listing the mountains and lakes, and the walks he and his family have taken in the area. We sang “Nada te turbe” (“Nothing can trouble”) and he closed by reading Corinthians 1:13.

Saturday, April 28, 2018

Vanessa Julye opened with a brief period of worship.

18-22. **2018 Mid-year Meeting.** Mid-year meeting is by conference call, and all are welcome to join in the meeting. This year the meeting will be held on September 29, 2018. Nancy Haines will send out the announcement including times for each zone. She will also check out ways that British and European members can join at low or no cost.

18-23. **2018 Annual Conference Theme & Location.** Vanessa Julye announced that the 2019 Annual Conference will be held at Tilikum Conference Center near Newberg, Oregon, USA on March 28-31, 2019. Eric Muhr will serve as clerk of the conference committee. Iris Graville, Daniel Flynn, and Charles Martin will also serve.

The planning committee will set the theme which will be finalized at the midyear meeting. Ideas offered include:

- How can QUIP be a worldwide body
- Connections (social, geographic, genres, etc.)
- Building bridges
- Feed my sheep – materials for Quakers around the world; feeding a hungry world
- Bridges not walls (or bridges and walls)

We talked about reaching out to Friends in Australia, Japan, and other countries. One suggestion was to invite them to participate by Skype

18-24. Advertising in Quaker Periodicals. Friends approved advertising the 2019 Annual Meeting in *The Friend*, *Friends Journal*, *Among Friends*, FUM's *Connections*, *Canadian Friend*, and *Western Friend*. The American ads will have the same image as the British ads, modified for US audiences. Kersten will provide a list of other European journals and newsletters. Tina can provide a list of other journals that she has been in contact with such as the Australian Friend. Friends approved including funds in the budget for advertising. Beth Saunders will also post the ad on the QUIP Facebook page. Joe Jones will design the advertisement when plans are firmed.

18-25. Spirit Rising Spanish Translation (*El Espiritu Se Levant*) Update. Rausie Hobson reported. She reviewed the history of the Tacey Sowle Fund set up in the late 1990s, which led to the publication of *Spirit Rising*, a collection of articles by young Friends from all over the world. QUIP then funded translating the book into Spanish. Last meeting, QUIP funded additional printing of copies of *El Espiritu* which were printed by FGC and handed out for free at the FWCC Section of the Americas meeting in March, 2017. 28 copies remain from this order.

Kristna Evans from FUM can store the books and offer them for sale on consignment. The cost to QUIP was \$8.84 for printing. The price should be set at \$17.50, similar to *Spirit Rising*. Nancy Haines will deliver the books to FUM in Richmond, IN. Friends approved.

18-26. Tacey Sowle Fund Request & Report. Rausie Hobson presented a proposed application for Tacey Sowle Fund requests. Friends suggested adding that applicants should fill in as much as they can and that they should indicate information about copyright. Friends approved posting the modified form on the website, and the administrators may further amend this form.

Emma Condori talked about the request from the Quaker Religious Education Collaborative (QREC) and the experience of Bolivian Friends. They requested \$500 to more fully realize our shared Quaker religious education ministry across the Americas. These funds will be used to contract with a software developer to extend QREC's new online interactive resource platform and make Quaker religious education materials easily available to Friends who worship and teach in Spanish. Approved.

An application is in process for a Polish translation of English materials.

The full report, including a summary of their activities over the past year is attached.

18-27. Friendly Woman Legacy. Gabe Ehri reported that there has been no progress to date on getting the funds transferred.

18-28. Draft policy on presenter compensation and attendee scholarships. Nancy Haines presented the following recommendation:

The QUIP annual conference budget shall include funds for up to five speakers and workshop leaders. Each speaker or workshop leader shall be offered a stipend to be applied toward registration, room and board, and/or travel. Each year's stipend amount will be set based on

conference costs and location. A speaker or workshop leader may request additional money from the scholarship/bursary fund, if needed. The conference coordinating committee may request additional funds from the operating budget at the mid-year meeting, if additional speakers or leaders are included.

Friends approved.

18-29. Scholarships/bursaries for attendees. Nancy Haines presented the following recommendation:

The QUIP operating budget shall have a new line item for scholarships/bursaries, up to \$2000 per year. The officers will set a deadline for requests based on the early registration date. Priority will be given to first time and overseas attendees. A simple application form will be included with the registration. No statement of financial need shall be required. Most scholarships will be for up to \$400 toward registration and room and board or travel. Requesters should be reminded to ask their meetings or organizations for additional support. If there are remaining funds, the officers may, at their discernment, increase the amount awarded to an applicant or awards to late applicants.

Friends approved.

18-30. Dues/Membership. Friends agreed to continue the dues policy of asking individual members to give as led and able in a spirit of generosity and abundance. Emails will be sent out reminding Friends of their dues and invoices will be sent for institutional members with the following suggestions:

Individuals - \$45 per year per person will meet budget, but pay as led

Institutions – no paid employees in publishing - \$75 (for up to two members)

With paid staff in publishing - \$150 (for up to two members)

QUIP will be more diligent about sending out dues reminders. Eric Muhr maintains the list of members and Gabe Ehri tracks payments.

18-31. Workshops Session 2. Three workshops were offered:

Gabe Ehri: The business and practice of producing a Quaker magazine today.

Joe Jones: Canards in the coalmine: how publishing is changing... and how it isn't.[REPEAT]

John Lampen: The joy and challenge of writing for Quaker children.

18-32. Panel. Four Friends, Daniel Flynn, Kirsten Mangels, Emma Condori, and Julia Ryberg presented a panel on “Crossing the chasm.” Each talked about Quaker publishing in their countries. While much of the early publications were translations of the works of British and American Quakers, more and more original material is available in native languages. As Julia Ryberg said, “People should not need to know English to be a Quaker.” A rich discussion followed about how language and words shape and explain our experiences. We need to have more of these Quaker voices translated into English.

18-33. **Evening speaker.** In his plenary, *Finding a Poet*, Peter Daniels talked about and read from his translations of the Russian poet Vladislav Khodasevich.

18-34. **Epilogue.** Zelig Gross read from “The Listening Walk,” by Linda Saunders.

Sunday, April 29, 2018

Vanessa Julye opened with a brief period of worship.

18-35. **Reports from European organizations/publishers/etc.** Next year, QUIP will hold its annual conference in the United States. Friends approved QUIP hosting a one-day gathering for European Friends in conjunction with Britain Yearly Meeting on Thursday, 23 May 2019 at Westminster Meeting. Jennifer Kavanagh will coordinate the meeting; Trish Carn will assist.

Jennifer reported that the “Twelve Quakers and…” series is up to eleven titles. The plan is that there be one more title but the subject is not yet set. There are now thirteen titles in the series of Quaker books published by The Kindlers.

Trish Carn reported on the weekly publication, *The Friend*, now in full color. Press day is now Monday, saving postage. They also commissioned a series of booklets selling for 5 GBP.

18-36. **Reports from US organizations/publishers/etc.** Rausie Hobson reported for Beth Saunders; she is now at the Friends Historical Collection at Guilford College and running Tannery Books. Beth serves as the administrator for QUIP’s presence on Facebook and social media.

Gabe Ehri, Executive Director of the *Friends Journal*, asked that attendees consider writing for journal; the issue topics are online and also suggested sending books for review consideration. The *Journal* is at its highest circulation in four years. “Quaker Speak,” the *Journal*’s podcast, reaches over one million different viewers each week.

Kristna Evans reported for Charles Martin that Inner Light Books has published three new titles this year.

18-37. **Quaker Series Report.** Jennifer Kavanagh reported that John Hunt is publishing a series called *Quaker Quicks* under the Christian Alternative imprint and is looking for writers and topics. So far, there are six titles in the series. www.Johnhuntpublishing.com.

18-38. **Draft Budget and Accounts.** Gabe Ehri presented a balanced draft budget for 2019. Since our fiscal year is the calendar year, we agreed to review and approve the budget at the midyear meeting when things are clearer.

18-39. **Minute of Appreciation for Glenthorne Quaker Centre.** We are grateful for the work of the staff of the Glenthorne Quaker Centre who made our stay comfortable and kept our rooms cleaned and stocked. We enjoyed sipping tea in the sunroom and lounge, looking over the lovely grounds, walking the footpaths, and watching the newborn sheep.

We especially appreciate the staff of the dining hall. They were unfailingly cheerful, particularly responsive to the various needs of our participants, and gracious in their care of us. The meals were beautifully presented and the food was delicious.

18-40. **Minute of Appreciation for Local Friends.** We are most grateful for the work of the planning committee, especially the coordinators Jennifer Kavanagh and Chris Skidmore who worked to coordinate with Glenthorne, organize the program, invite Friends who would share their ministry in workshops and plenaries, and deal with registration and housing. This conference was particularly well planned with both spaciousness and diversity of activities. Thanks also to local Friends who arranged transportation for visiting Friends.

18-41. **Show and Tell**

Natasha Zhuravenkova presented the publications of Moscow Friends House and talked about the work of Friends House. They have translated several titles into Russian and printed their Faith and Practice. Many of their publications are available for free and some are sold at Russian bookstores. This year, they published four books including books by Rex Ambler, Harvey Gilman, a book about Quaker work in mental health in York, and *Experiment with Light*.

Vanessa Julye read a letter from Charles Martin (attached). He sent greetings and talked about the beginnings of the Society of Friends as publishers of truth. Inner Light Books recently released two books by Paul Buckley and David Johnson and now has thirteen titles in print.

A piece by Jonathan Griffith, "Space and Time" was read. Friends suggested that he submit it to *The Friend*.

Michael Sessions reported on Quacks Books. Sessions and Quacks have a back list of 650 books (about 500 of them Quaker) over 50 years. *Great Lives* will be coming out in the next week. His wife, Lesley Seeger, wrote a book about her artwork, *Coming Home*. A forthcoming book is about the Friends Ambulance Unit and he would like to publish more Quaker books.

Stephen Cox is talking to Hollywood about his first novel.

Trish Carn said that she edited *Peace Camping: A History* by Michael H. M. Waugh. 1930 - 1986. She brought out three books this past year.

Nancy Haines talked about her two books: *Approved! a Story about Quaker Meeting for Business*, and *We Answered with Love: Pacifist Service in World War I*. *Approved!* has been translated into Spanish.

Gil Skidmore, editor of the Friends Historical Society Journal, is now catching up and the latest issue is now available. She invited Friends to join the Society.

Iris Graville showed a copy of her earlier book, *Hands at Work*, a collaboration of photographs of hands at work with short profiles. Her memoir, *Hiking Naked: A Quaker Woman's Search for Balance*, focuses on the two years that she and her family lived in a remote community in Pacific northwest.

Maggie Alder has published three novels: *Courting Rendition*, *A Vision Softly Creeping*, and *Living with the Leopard*; the first was a prescient dystopian story considering what if Britain left EU.

Joe Jones, publisher for Britain Yearly Meeting, reported that the yearly meeting is looking at the process of updating their Faith and Practice.

Jennifer Kavanagh showed her latest book, *Heart of Oneness*, based on her lecture to Southern Africa yearly meeting. She explores the connection among and between people and the rest of creation. She added that it is time to remember that we are one and to do what love requires of us.

The meeting adjourned, and the conference ended with meeting for worship.