

2017 QUIP Annual Meeting
Are Quakers Still Publishers of Truth?
Penn Center, St Helena, SC, USA, March 9-12, 2017

Minutes

Present at one or more sessions: Jennifer Kavanagh, Brent Bill, Joan Broadfield, Tina Coffin, Nancy Haines, Rausie Hobson, Vanessa Julye, Charles Martin, Eric Muhr, Elizabeth Saunders, Elizabeth Yeats, Samantha Wilson, Hye Sung Gehring, Barbara Andrew, Becky BIRTHA, John Coffin, and Wess Daniels.

Thursday, March 9

17-1. **Welcome and introductions.** We gathered after dinner at Penn Center. Co-clerk Vanessa Julye opened the meeting with worship, and all attendees introduced themselves.

17-2. **Games.** The co-clerks presented several options for games. Some played *Unwilling, Unable*, a Quaker card game with the goal of avoiding being nominated. Jennifer Kavanagh brought a game which she developed, called *Journey Home*, which encourages dialog and cooperation. Another option was *Earthopoly*, a conservation game based on *Monopoly* but without the greed.

In the Epilogue, Rausie Hobson talked about the root of the word Epilogue and read several excerpts about closing out the day. The first was number 21 from *A Little Journal of Devotions Out of Quaker Worship* by Francis D. Hole and Ellie Shacter, published by Quaker Press of Friends General Conference. The second was “7: Moving On” from *100 Years of Women’s Wisdom: Timeless Insights from Great Women of the 20th Century* by Angela Peasley Freemam published by Walnut Grove Press.

Friday, March 10, 2017

17-3. **Welcome and introductions.** Following worship, Vanessa Julye, co-clerk, opened with introductions. Beth Saunders announced that we are posting meeting news on both Twitter and Instagram, using the hashtag #quip2017.

17-4. **Nominating Committee.** At the 2016 Midyear Meeting, Liz Yeats and Charles Martin agreed to serve on the Nominating Committee. Vanessa Julye is ending her first term as clerk.

Officers and their terms:

Co-clerks	Vanessa Julye	2017
	Jennifer Kavanagh	2019

Recording Clerk	Nancy Haines	2018
Treasurer	Gabe Ehri	2018
Assistant Treasurer	Chris Skidmore	2018

17-5. **Newsletter/press release.** Jennifer reported that Kerstin Mangels will be responsible for publishing the QUIP newsletter twice a year. 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. Charles Martin, Rausie Hobson, and Beth Saunders will prepare a list of questions that Kerstin can use to solicit input. Kerstin is also thinking about doing interviews of members for the newsletter. At a later point in the meeting, Tina Coffin volunteered to help Kerstin solicit and edit content.

Beth Saunders 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 *Among Friends* in Europe. The release will also go to Kerstin and Tina so that it can be part of the newsletter.

17-6. **Quaker Works Update.** Vanessa asked for members to write a short piece (about 225 words) for the Friends Journal column “Quaker Works.” This is a good way to promote the organization. Rausie Hobson volunteered to write the entry for the October issue, due in August, as well as for future columns this coming year.

17-7. **Regards and Regrets.** Lyn Cope, Chris and Gil Skidmore, Trish Carn, Mary Klein, and Gabe Ehri sent regrets.

17-8. **Review of the New Administrative Process.** Vanessa led a discussion about the status of the volunteers who took on the tasks formerly done by Liz Yeats, the administrative facilitator, who resigned from that position after many years of faithful service.

Correspondence is being sent to officers and others who want to be on the list. Some inquiries have fallen through the cracks. Rausie has been reviewing inquiries to make sure that someone has replied and will continue in this role. Officers need to “reply all” to make sure everyone knows a message has received a response or that they are not the person to respond.

Other computer work needs to be done other than website such as maintaining our presence on emails and administering our domain.

Mass emails – Lyn Cope and Annie Glen had agreed to take on the task of sending out emails. Annie has left her position at FUM and QUIP and Lyn was not familiar with the Vertical Response mailing system. Liz stepped up to send out the one email that went out this year. The content for the emails need to come from the clerks. We agreed to combine this responsibility with the job of publishing the newsletter. Tina Coffin will assist Kerstin Mangels in editing and collecting content for both the newsletter and the emails. Vanessa will contact Lyn to determine how she would like to be involved.

Membership administrative task is responsible for maintaining the data base, but this has not functioned this year. The data base is stored in an Excel file, but this does not have any flexibility. Liz will download the current data base for whoever is maintaining the data base.

We agreed that we should not keep the data base with contact and personal information on the new website. The information needs to be available to clerks and others who need to answer questions, but preferably some of the information should be accessible by all members. Liz Yeats, Eric Muhr, Samantha Wilson, and Charles Martin will meet today to discuss the data base and report back tomorrow.

Coordinating annual meeting was done by the committee who coordinated our annual meeting at Penn Center. We are grateful to Gabe Ehri who did a substantial amount of work with Penn Center, handled the finances, and coordinated transportation, although he was not able to attend this year. Our thanks also go to Liz Yeats for stepping in and helping with registration. For next year, Jennifer Kavanagh will assemble a coordinating committee.

Promotions. Rausie Hobson, Beth Saunders, and Marcelle Martin volunteered to handle promotions and did so over the past year. We don't need a promotions coordinator unless we have special projects. Beth agreed to do the annual report.

Administrative coordination was done very capably by Rausie Hobson and she agreed to continue in this role.

Development and Grants and special projects will be appointed when needed.

Having individual volunteers take on parts of the work of the administrative facilitator is a work in progress – sometimes going smoothly and sometimes the work did not get done.

17-9. **Website update.** Eric Muhr reported that he has redone the website in Wordpress. The design is done and has a new look. Currently, both www.quakerquip.org (the old website) and www.quakerquip.com (the updated website) are still active. He is waiting about three more weeks to make sure that this conference information is not lost, and then the old website will no longer be available.

Liz Yeats and Eric will talk later to ensure that the most important parts of the old website have been replicated including lists of books, old newsletters, and forums. The public should be able to access book list, and the data base of functions (editors, publishers, etc.) should be available for officers to answer questions. The membership list will not be on the website; the treasurer needs a list of current members. The newsletter should go to former members and non-member requestors.

Eric volunteered to take on responsibility for updating content.

17-10. **2016 Quaker Hill Conference Report.** Vanessa reported on last year's annual meeting. The theme was *Getting Our Words Out There: Publishing in the Digital Age*. About thirty friends attended. A report and the minutes of last year's meeting are posted on the QUIP website.

17-11. **2016 Mid-year Meeting Report.** Vanessa reported on the 2016 midyear meeting, held by conference call on October 8, 2016. A report and the minutes of last year's midyear meeting are posted on the QUIP website.

17-12. **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 2016 FGC Gathering. Many people stopped by to learn about QUIP. Nancy and Lyn Cope also staffed the display during the Organization Fair. Trish Carn had designed the colorful information cards (rack cards). At the FGC Gathering, QUIP also held an interest group on Quaker publishing. The display also was set up at New England Yearly Meeting. Nancy will take the display to the FGC Gathering and the FUM Triennial this summer. Nancy will update the information and prepare a display to be delivered to Rausie for the FWCC Section of the Americas meeting in March. Nancy will also send information to Jennifer so that she can set up a display at Britain Yearly Meeting.

17-13. **Show and Tell,** Nancy Haines asked that members who are willing, please vote for her children's book about meeting for business for Christian Small Publisher Children's Book of the Year. *Approved!* has also been translated into Spanish by Cuban pastor, Kenya Cassanova; *Aprobado!* is being proofed and will be available later this year. Two hundred copies will be sent free of charge to Spanish speaking Friends in Latin America as well as in the US. Nancy's new book, *We Answered With Love: Pacifist Service in World War I*, tells the story of the first project of the American Friends Service Committee's work in France and the activities of pacifists and radicals in Massachusetts through the letters of a young couple, Leslie Hotson and Mary Peabody.

Liz Yeats talked about the project of the Quaker Religious Education Collaborative (QREC) They have received a grant from the Shoemaker Foundation to translate the British publication, *Quaker Meeting and Me*, into Spanish. They will print ten thousand copies to be given out to children. The illustrator, Rebecca Price, changed the illustrations to include a more diverse group of children. Two versions were produced to be more representative of American meetings: one for programmed and Christ centered children and one to be used by unprogrammed meetings. Each version has the Spanish and English text.

Jennifer closed the meeting with a brief period of worship.

17-14. **Penn Center Self-Guided Tour.** Participants went to the museum at Penn Center to learn about the history and current projects of the Center. The museum included an excellent film as well as displays from Gullah history.

17-15. **Afternoon Workshop.** Jennifer Kavanagh challenged us in her workshop *Putting pen to paper*. We had lots of fun and laughter creating stories in which we wrote a line in the story and covered it up, leaving two words for the next person to add a line. We wrote a poem using one word prompts for each line. We wrote a description about something we were looking at. We also enjoyed brainstorming the plot of a novel which we were invited to work on during the free writing period.

17-16. **Evening Plenary.** Wess Daniels talked about *Revisioning the Nursery of Truth* considering what it might mean for Western Quakers to embody truth as "a community of praxis" and how as a faith tradition part of what it means to be truthful is to be responsive within emergent contexts of our particular time.

In the Epilogue, Charles Martin read an excerpt from *Friends Intelligencer*, April 16, 1898. A series of letters included memories of the Underground Railroad in Bucks County, Pennsylvania.

Saturday, March 11, 2017

17-17. **Workshops.** In Becky Birtha's workshop, *Truth to Tell: How Much Belongs in a Children's Book?* she led a discussion of difficult issues that touch the lives of contemporary children and their families – incarceration, racism, refugees, transgender, death.

In his workshop, *No Time to Manage a Blog Site? Try Facebook!* Oskar Castro discussed the advantages and limitations of using Facebook to re-publish news, frame personal opinions, and engage in online discussions. He also led a discussion of the ups and downs of managing a blog site.

Meeting for Business

Co-clerk Jennifer Kavanagh opened the meeting after a brief period of worship.

17-18. **Treasurer's Report.** Gabe Ehri forwarded the Treasurer's report. [Attached] The balance sheet is also attached. Dues income is down because of the lack of communications during the past year.

Nancy Haines and Eric Muhr volunteered to develop a draft budget for consideration at Sunday morning's meeting.

17-19. **2017 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 October 14, 2017.

17-20. **European QUIP Update.** Jennifer reported on the first full-day European QUIP conference, held May 26, 2016 at Westminster Quaker Meeting House, London. About twenty people attended including writers, publishers, and the editor and production editor of *The Friend*. Vanessa Julye also attended and talked about QUIP.

Friends expressed concern that QUIP needs more representation from the UK and Europe. They recommended that QUIP meet in the UK every third year, rather than every fourth year. This was approved at the 2016 Midyear meeting. They are slowly building up membership as more Friends become aware of QUIP, but so far do not accurately track membership

The Friend continues to be produced. Trish Carn retired after more than eleven years. They are beginning to publish books, beginning with Harvey Gilman's book *Words*. Quaker Quest is the most active publisher of Quaker books in UK and has completed eleven in the *Twelve Quakers*

and... series. Number 12 will be out later this year and will probably be the last. Jennifer collected the first seven in the book *New Light* and will probably collect the other five in a new book. The Kindlers have also published thirteen booklets to help meetings be more welcoming; the latest is “What does Love require of us?” Swarthmore Lectures are published by Quaker Books of Britain Yearly Meeting.

Friends suggested inviting the editors of Quaker journals in the Netherlands, Sweden, and other countries. Jennifer did invite bloggers but was unable to interest any in participating. Perhaps we need to evaluate what we have to offer bloggers and others who write for social media.

17-21. **2018 Annual Conference Theme & Location.** Jennifer Kavanagh announced that the 2018 Annual Conference will be held at Glenthorne Conference Centre in the Lake District of UK, 26-29 April, 2018. Britain YM will be May 4-7, and some QUIP members may wish to attend.

For 2017, QUIP will have a special interest group at Britain Yearly Meeting. They will organize a planning committee for the 2018 conference at that time.

The planning committee will set the theme which will be finalized at the midyear meeting. Some suggestions are to build on this year’s theme, “Are Quakers Still Publishers of Truth?” Another related idea is strengthening accountability and community as writers and publishers.

17-22. **Quaker Series.** John Hunt, a commercial publisher operating in both the UK and the US, currently publishes Quaker books by Jennifer Kavanagh and Rex Ambler’s *The Quaker Way*. In the current climate, the publisher feels that Quakers have a voice that should be heard. He is interested in publishing a series of Quaker books (about twenty thousand words each) and Jennifer is soliciting writers and topics, perhaps two from the UK and two from the US to begin with. Possible subjects include practical mystics, faith in action, dissent, peace, activism, priesthood of all believers, community, and other things that Quakers specifically have to offer. www.johnhuntpublishing.com

17-23. **Advertising in Quaker Periodicals.** Friends approved advertising the 2018 Annual Meeting in *The Friend*, *Friends Journal*, *Among Friends*, FUM’s *Connections*, and *Western Friend*. The American ads will have the same image as the British ads, but modified for US audiences.

17-24. ***Spirit Rising* Spanish Translation (*El Espiritu Se Levant*) Update.** Rausie Hobson asked if we want to reprint *El Espiritu Se Levant* in order to give away the books. The book is print on demand. This could possibly be done under the line item for Possible Projects and Outreach or using unrestricted funds outside of the budget. One hundred will cost \$778 including postage to a US location. The unit cost is \$6.56 plus handling and shipping. There are several hundred copies of *Spirit Rising* at the FGC Bookstore.

17-25. **Tacey Sowle Fund Request & Report** – Liz Yeats for the Quaker Religious Education Collaborative (QREC) expressed their gratitude for the grant from the Tacey Sowle Fund. Their report is attached. European Friends have also translated *Quaker Meeting and Me* into Dutch, German, and French.

17-26. **Friendly Woman Legacy Update.** Gabe Ehri sent a report that there has been no progress in transferring funds from the discontinued Friendly Woman periodical to QUIP.

17-27. **Show and Tell**

Beth Saunders announced that today is the sixth year anniversary of her antiquarian bookstore, Tannery Books.

Brent Bill announced that Quaker Press of FGC is starting to publish again. Their first project is an ebook with four stories from Faith and Play. In January, 2018, they will publish an additional sixteen stories as an ebook and in a print edition.

Samantha Wilson, manager, said that FGC QuakerBooks is now QuakerBooks and More.

Jennifer Kavanagh showed a copy of *Twelve Quakers and Death*. She also had the cover of her new book *Heart of Oneness, a Little Book of Connection*, (not specifically about Quakers – human beings, animals, and the earth) coming out at the end of the year, published by John Hunt.

The meeting closed with worship.

17-28. **Afternoon workshop.** Brent Bill, Charles Martin, and Rausie Hobson served on a panel, entitled *You Have a Manuscript in Hand. Now What?* The discussion focused on tips from editors, publishers, and writers and included both traditional publishing and self-publishing.

17-29. **Evening Plenary.** In a panel on *New Pamphleteering: Blogging and Social Media*, Oskar Castro, Hye Sung Gehring, and Wess Daniels shared their experiences with blogging as a tool for building community, connecting with other Quakers, processing their faith, inviting people into asking questions, and seeing Quakerism from a new perspective. Oskar joined the panel by video conference.

In the Epilogue, Joan Broadfield read an excerpt from the 1966 publication, *Quakerism: A View From the Back Benches*, on the concept of the social order and the disconnect with reality. The concern is still very much relevant. She then led us in singing “Deep Peace of the Running Wave to You.”

Sunday, May 12, 2017

Co-clerk Jennifer Kavanagh opened the meeting with worship.

17-30. **International Picture Book.** Jennifer Kavanagh reported that Gretchen Castle and Kerstin Mangels are interested in having a children’s storybook with colorful pictures of real people, illustrating Quakerism around the world. Melinda Wenner-Bradley might be interested in writing it; we would need a good illustrator and David Botwinik could be able to do the design work. Perhaps funding could come from FWCC or QUIP. Rausie Hobson is also interested in being involved in the project. Liz Yeats suggested that this request be forwarded to QREC for seasoning. Friends approved.

17-31. **Nominating Committee Report.** Vanessa Julye has agreed to serve a second three-year term as co-clerk. We approved with great joy. At the Annual Meeting in 2018, the recording clerk, treasurer, and assistant treasurer will complete their terms. At the midyear meeting, a nominating committee should be appointed.

17-32. **2018 Budget.** Nancy Haines and Eric Muhr presented the proposed budget for 2018 in US dollars. QUIP's fiscal year is the calendar year.

Income

Memberships	3,800 (based on what it required to balance expenses)
Donations	0 (rarely receive donations unless for special project)
Annual Meeting Fees	6,000
Total Income	9,800

Expenses

Annual Meeting	6,000
Operating costs	100 (phone, conference calls, etc.)
Advertising	350
Office Costs	100 (reduced from \$250 – postage and miscellaneous)
Other costs	100 (web hosting and other fees)
Officer Travel	2,400 (may be higher because of UK travel)
NEW - Possible projects and outreach	500 (place holder)
NEW - Transfer to Tacey Sowle Fund	250 (one time because of low dues in 2016)
Total	9,800

Friends approved this budget but noted that that one hundred members would have to contribute an average of almost \$40 each. This is optimistic but achievable.

17-33. **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 - \$40 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)

Accompanying letter should give the background on why we suggest these numbers to meet the budget. Proposal was approved.

17-34. **Data Base Report.** Eric Muhr reported that QUIP has several data bases. Eric will determine how to capture these and move them to the new site. Continuing the work of Sally Rickerman, Rausie Hobson has been maintaining a books data base on a separate site by reviewing Friends Journal and publisher catalogs. The information includes links to purchase the books, but sales have not been tracked. She will continue until the catalogue is moved to the new site. There is also a Books in Print data base of books published by Quaker presses or Quaker

authors on server belonging to Russ Nelson; this may no longer be accessible but has been backed up and the information is available to QUIP. Authors and publishers of new books should send information to Rausie.

QUIP has three membership data bases – one edited down to 63 entries which is approximately the membership but not complete, one that includes Quaker institutions, and a listing of over 400 individuals including members, past members, and inquirers. Eric will verify entries and link an online sign up or registration to data base. Then the data base will have to be maintained – Eric agreed to maintain it for the next year.

An additional data base includes coding for the website and every action that has been done on the website (about 1000 pages.)

The email list on Vertical Response has significant overlap. Eric will do a line by line comparison with the data base.

Rausie maintains the Books in Print data base. Eric maintains the books on website. Beth Saunders said she is familiar with book data bases and email systems and could be called on to help.

Eric plans to do an emailing to test the data base including the budget, dues request, encouraging membership, and describing his intention to clean up data bases. He will coordinate with Gabe Ehri and Chris Skidmore.

We would like to say Wow for all Eric has agreed to take on. It really is time to modernize and we are lucky that he has agreed to take this on.

17-35. ***El Espiritu Se Levant.*** We agreed to order one hundred copies expedited to have them for FWCC Sections of the Americas, March 23-26. They will be shipped to Rausie; she and Vanessa will take back any remainders. We approved using \$856 from unrestricted funds.

17-36. **Minute of Appreciation for Penn Center.** We are grateful for the work of the staff of the Penn Center who made our stay comfortable. We learned of the history and culture of the Gullah-Geechee people and the work of the Penn Center in preserving this culture. We enjoyed the lovely grounds, the comfortable accommodations, and the facilities at Benezet House.

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. We enjoyed the nourishing and delicious foods, including some of the local specialties, and good, hot coffee in the morning.

17-37. **Minute of Appreciation for Savannah Meeting.** We are grateful for the Friends of Savannah Monthly Meeting who assisted with transportation and logistics and especially for Liz Dykes, Doug Hahn, and Jessica and Doug Binkley who hosted our co-clerks before and after the meeting.

17-38. **Minute of Appreciation for the Planning Committee.** We are most grateful for the work of the planning committee, especially the coordinators Vanessa Julye, Rausie Hobson, and

Beth Saunders, who worked from a distance to coordinate with the Penn Center, organize the program, invite Friends who would share their ministry in workshops and plenaries, and deal with registration and housing. Gabe Ehri, who was not able to attend, handled the finances, negotiated the contract with Penn Center, and maintained the attendee data base. Liz Yeats stepped up to produce the online registration system. Their diligent work contributed to the smooth running of the gathering. This conference was particularly well planned with both spaciousness and diversity of activities.

17-39. **Suggestions for 2018 Annual Meeting.** We ask that the planning committee consider organizing a tour of the 1652 Country before or after the conference and possibly arranging for other activities around the QUIP meeting.

17-40. **Data Base.** The concern about the availability of member information was revisited. The lists of authors, editors, publishers, etc. should be available to the public, but a decision has not been made. This will be discussed at the midyear meeting. Perhaps Facebook could be used to capture this information. Beth and Eric will talk and report back at the midyear.

17-41. **Clerk's Travel.** Vanessa Julye requested a contribution for the clerk or other officer attending the 2017 European QUIP meeting at Britain Yearly Meeting. We approved authorizing \$500 from the 2017 clerk's travel line.

17-42. **Show and Tell**

Brent Bill passed out a trivia list from QuakerBooks and More. He then announced the QUIP discount of 20% if you use the code QUIP.

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

Report to QUIP about Spanish Translation Work for Resource Platform 2016-17

Dear Quakers Uniting in Publications Friends,

The Quaker Religious Education Collaborative (QREC) would like to thank QUIP for its generous gift of \$800 toward funding Emma Condori Mamani and others from "Friends" International Bilingual Center (Centro Bilingüe Internacional "Amigos") to translate appropriate Quaker religious education materials into Spanish.

The resources were chosen by Friends in Bolivia for their appropriateness to the various cultures and theologies of Friends in Latin America. All are for children and young Friends. We will be placing these resources on a Spanish resource platform presently under construction for our website, where they will be accessible to Friends internationally. We hope that the resource platform will go public by fall of 2017.

Translation work continues. Emma is assisted by a team of young women Friends. QREC has expended \$1,000 dollars, \$800 of it from the QUIP grant, toward this work so far. We are presently seeking more funds for this translation project and would be happy if QUIP would entertain another grant from the Tacey Soule Fund for this purpose when it becomes possible.

Below a list of some of the materials that have been translated:

- ~ *Nurturing Children's Spiritual Lives: A Journey of Spirit and Wonder* by Melinda Wenner Bradley
- ~ Selections from *Famous Friends* by Dana Kester-McCabe posted on KidsQuake.
- ~ *Quaker Plays for First Days, Scripts of Plays Written, Produced, and Performed by Children of the First Day Program of Southern Illinois Society of Friends*, Carbondale, IL 1997-2005.
- ~ *You Are Welcome Here! A Booklet of Learnings from QuakerQuest about Inviting Newcomers into the Life of Our Meetings*. Page 11. "Add Water and Stir First Day School." By Friends General Conference.
- ~ The "John Woolman Curriculum" and "The Peaceable Kingdom: Lessons for All Ages to Assist in Exploring the Friends Peace Testimony". Philadelphia Yearly Meeting.

Thank you again for the donation that has made much of this work possible.

Respectfully submitted by the Steering Circle of Quaker Religious Education Collaborative,

Beth Collea, New England Yearly Meeting

Joy Duncan, Illinois Yearly Meeting/Western Yearly Meeting

Marsha Holliday, Baltimore Yearly Meeting

Melinda Wenner Bradley, New York Yearly Meeting

Liz Yeats, South Central Yearly Meeting