

## QUIP 2020 Mid-Year Meeting

October 17, 2020, by Zoom

**Present:** Natasha Zhuravenkova, co-clerk; Iris Graville, co-clerk; Nancy Haines, recording clerk; Gabe Ehri, treasurer; Chris Skidmore, assistant treasurer; Rausie Hobson; Zélie Gross; Philip Gross; Trish Carn; Liz Yeats; Daniel Flynn; Jennifer Kavanaugh; Gertrude Beal; Sarah Katreen Hoggatt; Charles Martin;

**Regrets:** Brent Bill, Beth Saunders, Mary Klein, Joan Broadfield, Tina Coffin, Eric Muhr, Vanessa Julye.

Iris Graville, co-clerk, opened with silent worship, followed by introductions.

20-26. **In Memoriam.** We remembered Barbara Mays who worked in publishing and bookselling for Friends United Meeting (FUM) and Friends General Conference (FGC). She was a wonderful recruiter for QUIP and active for many years. She was a musician who worked on the Friends Hymnal among many other things.

20-27. **Newsletter report.** Iris Graville reported that she, Joan Broadfield, and Mary Klein sent out one newsletter.

20-28. **Treasurer's report.** Gabe Ehri presented the treasurer's report. There has been little activity since spring. We have approximately \$24,000 in US accounts and about 1,600 pounds sterling. The Tacey Sowle Fund has \$5,200. Gabe had paid honoraria for speakers and outstanding bills.

20-29. **Dues/Membership.** Gabe Ehri reported that we got a few new members over the summer. We have not had a membership drive. We will send out reminders for renewals around turn of 2021 in conjunction with registration for the 2021 Annual Meeting.

20-30. **Final approval of budget.** Gabe Ehri reviewed the budget which was approved at the 2020 annual meeting. He said that we are not ready to adjust the budget until we know the costs of the 2021 Annual Meeting.

20-31. **Website report.** Eric Muhr sent his report about the QUIP website. The report is attached. There is concern that not enough contact information is on the website. Chris Skidmore will discuss this with Eric. We appreciate all the work Eric has done in developing and maintaining the website; and we are pleased with the good news that many are using the website.

20-32. **Report on 2020 European QUIP.** Chris Skidmore reported that the European QUIP, planned in conjunction with Britain Yearly Meeting (BYM), did not occur due to Covid 19. They might gather in 2021 if BYM meets.

20-33. **Report from 2021 Annual Meeting Planning Committee.** The planning committee consists of Trish Carn (convenor), Chris Skidmore (2021 annual meeting administration), Natasha Zhuravenkova, Jennifer Kavanaugh, Rausie Hobson, Daniel

Flynn, Iris Graville. Trish reported that the committee recommends that the theme for the 2021 Annual Meeting be *Publishing Quaker Truths in an Upside Down World*. Friends approved.

The committee is still in planning stages. They do not know yet if QUIP will be able to meet at Woodbrooke. The meeting may be either totally virtual or may be a blended meeting with some Friends at Woodbrooke and others joining by Zoom. Woodbrooke is opening for small courses in November.

They are working on schedule for business, speakers, and workshops. Possibilities include workshops on blogging, poetry, and how to get spiritual books published at this time. Other suggestions were workshops on making videos and on writing. Hoping for a blended meeting, in person and zoom.

We united with the suggestion that the planning committee should be freed from the planned date and consider spreading the online portions over several weeks as we did with the 2020 Annual Meeting.

The next meeting of the planning committee will be on October 31.

**20-34. Discussion on Virtual vs. In-person Meetings.** Rausie Hobson and Chris Skidmore raised the following: “Perhaps we are being prompted to look again at the pattern of our annual meetings. Given the climate emergency it has become harder in the last few years to justify transatlantic travel on Quaker business. Is now the time to look and plan for a different way forward?”

Friends supported the ideal that our annual meetings should be blended to the extent possible. Online meetings attract attendees who may never be able to be on site, including Friends from Africa, Latin America, and other countries, and this may help us grow as an organization. The cost of transatlantic travel for meetings has both a financial cost as well as a negative impact on the environment. As we have learned as a result of the pandemic, there are many positives to holding virtual meetings and some things are even more effective on Zoom.

On the other hand, much of the value of our annual meetings don’t happen over the formal parts of the schedule but in dining together, talking walks, chatting about books, and other casual opportunities. We would miss seeing Friends in person, at least sometimes, and often Friends only become active in QUIP once they attend a conference. And our use of Quaker retreat centers such as Woodbrooke, helps keep those important facilities open.

Zélie and Philip Gross talked of their experiences in creating spaces for interpersonal serendipity and accidental moments online. They will work with the planning committee to build-in small side spaces, virtual coffees, break out groups, time to chat with each other, as well as purposeful agendas.

We appreciate that Chris and Rausie raised this concern. International connections are very important, and we look forward to occasions to meet face to face when possible even if online meetings are the future.

A question was raised about adding to our website our concerns about the environmental impact of international travel. This was deferred to a later date.

20-35. **Budget for 2021 Annual Meeting.** The planning committee has not yet worked on a budget and will not be able to do so until they get more information from Woodbrooke. Gabe Ehri reminded them that in the spring, we paid honoraria to plenary speakers of \$250 each plus travel expenses. The committee will bring their proposed budget to the clerks for approval.

After a break, Natasha Zhuravenkova, co-clerk, opened the rest of the meeting.

20-36. **Report on participation in 2020 Britain Yearly Meeting Sessions as a Quaker Recognized Body.** Trish Carn and Jennifer Kavanaugh set up a display table at the group fair. They talked to a lot of interested people, most had not heard of QUIP. They will do this again when the yearly meeting meets in person.

20-37. **Annual Meeting registration arrangements.** Eric Muhr offered to handle online registration.

Costs for the conference includes technology and Woodbrooke costs if we use their facilities. Several options were offered for fees for attending the conference including free online attendance or a voluntary payment, paying dues and making a donation if possible, offering the conference free for QUIP members and a nominal price for non-members to encourage joining.

We suggested that recordings of the plenaries could be offered for free online as we did in the spring.

A Friends suggested that more people in Africa and Latin America may join us if we offer them telephone money so they can connect virtually. We might, in the future, want to think about offering translations for non-English speakers.

The planning committee will present their recommendations to officers for approval.

20-38. **Table Display Report.** Nancy Haines reported that table displays were not used this year in the US as most conferences were held virtually. A display was set up at Britain Yearly Meeting in 2019, but BYM was also virtual this year. She and Rausie Hobson discussed having a virtual table display, but we felt that the website filled this function. In the future, we hope to put elements of displays online that others can download to make a physical display.

New England Yearly Meeting did an online newsletter and included organizational displays; we might want to think about connecting with yearly meetings to include QUIP. FWCC will have virtual displays at meeting in March; Rausie will bring the QUIP display to that meeting.

20-39. **Tacey Sowle Fund requests.** Rausie Hobson reported that Manurakoze Pacifique of Kwibuka Yearly Meeting/Christian Action in Burundi, is requesting funds

for a publication with three objectives:

- 1) Communicate the Quaker experience in order to connect and deepen the spiritual life and the impact of Quaker activities in the Burundian, East African and African community.
- 2) Supervise talented young people in the field of writing, poetry, publication, creation, art.
- 3) Encourage writers and serve as documentation.

He anticipates needing 15,000,000 Burundian Francs (approximately \$7,760). Friends Publishing made a small grant to Manurakoze Pacifique for equipment (computer, printer, etc.) to start his publication. While we can't meet his remaining need, we recommend that QUIP award him a Tacey Sowle grant of \$2,000. Gabe Ehri will let him know that he is now a member of QUIP and urge him to stay in touch.

A few years ago, Dancan Sawba told us of his desire to publish series of books on Bible stories. They were printed in Kenya and he sold out several thousand copies; he is continuing to publish.

There is now a Quaker African archive in Kenya. Friends Historical Association contributed as well as the Shoemaker Fund. They are collecting oral histories and documents.

20-40. **Spirit Rising e-book report.** Sarah Katreen Hoggatt reported. At the annual meeting, we approved adding \$500 in this year's budget for Sarah to complete the e-book version of *Spirit Rising*. She has finished both the English and the Spanish versions. FGC will distribute the English version at a price to be set. QUIP owns the rights to the Spanish version and will distribute it for free. QUIP needs to do promotion in conjunction with FGC's efforts. We are grateful to Sarah for her work on the project and to Emma Condori and others who reviewed the e-book.

20-41. **Administrative Task Assignments.** Nancy Haines reviewed the list of administrative volunteers for the current year and asked for volunteers. The current list is attached.

20-42. **Nominating Committee Report.** Liz Yeats reported for the Nominating Committee consisting of Trish Carn, Liz Yeats, Jennifer Kavanagh, and Joan Broadfield. The following Nominations were approved:

Treasurer – Nancy Haines  
Co-treasurer – Mike Brooks

They are still looking for a recording clerk, although several are considering. Contact the Nominating Committee with suggestions.

20-43. **Advertising in Quaker periodicals.** At the Annual Meeting, the question of advertising was deferred to the 2021 Planning Committee. The budget includes \$500. The planning committee should decide how to promote the meeting and can coordinate with the QUIP clerks for approval.

We discussed advertising the *Spirit Rising* e-books. Both online and print ads are recommended. Sarah will talk with FGC about coordinating with their advertising efforts.

Liz Yeats will work with Sarah to figure how to advertise the e-books. There is no money in the budget for advertising the books. They will coordinate with the clerks to determine how much to spend and how they plan the advertising campaign.

20-44. **Gratitude.** We thanked Gabe Ehri for providing us with Zoom access from Friends Journal.

The meeting ended with a period of silent worship.

Natasha Zhuravenkova, co-clerk, and Iris Graville, co-clerk.  
Nancy Haines, recording clerk.

**Website Report, October 17, 2020**  
**Submitted by Eric Muhr**

1. The website garnered an average of 286 views per month over the last 12 months, an increase over the last year of roughly 14 percent. There are 26 subscribers to the blog (up from 19 a year ago), and this is where I'm posting new releases by Quaker writers, editors, and publishers. Any member can have a book added to the blog by sending me a blurb, a cover image, and any relevant information (such as where and how to purchase). I added nineteen titles this year. The blog is titled New & Recent Books in the main menu. The site continues to be an important place to identify Quaker publishers and Quaker books and sharing information about past and upcoming meetings.

2. We have a Writers page for writers and editors. Please check this page - <http://www.quakerquip.com/writers/> - and let me know if your information should be updated. If you aren't listed on this page and would like to be, please send a short bio, a link to your website (if you have one), and a digital photo.

We have additional pages for

2a. publishers - <http://www.quakerquip.com/publishers/>

2b. bookstores - <http://www.quakerquip.com/bookstores/>

2c. journals and periodicals - <http://www.quakerquip.com/journals-periodicals/>

3. This group asked me two years ago to set up a page for blogs. Any QUIP member with a blog or blogs can have them listed and linked on this page - <http://www.quakerquip.com/blogs/>

4. I've received valuable feedback from three of you regarding website content, placement, and design. Please feel free to email me any time you notice anything that could be improved or that should be changed. I really appreciate the help!

5. I was asked two years ago if we clearly listed on the website what benefits people receive from membership. That information is now available on the Join QUIP page and has been updated this year - <http://www.quakerquip.com/join-quip/>. I'd be glad to make any additional changes suggested by this group.

6. Once again this year, I would be happy to do the online registration form, make it accessible through the website and manage the registrations for the 2021 annual meeting.

**Administrative Volunteers**  
**2020-2021**

*Membership* (data base, mailing lists): Gabe Ehri, Chris Skidmore, Eric Muhr

*Website*: Maintenance and update: Eric Muhr

*Correspondence* (inquiries from website and other correspondence): Iris Graville, Natasha Zhuravenkova, Nancy Haines

*Newsletter*: Joan Broadfield, Mary Klein, Iris Graville

*Social Media (Facebook and Twitter)*: Beth Saunders

*Coordinating annual meetings*: planning committee for 2021 – Jennifer Kavanagh, Daniel Flynn, Rausie Hobson, Trish Carn, Natasha Zhuravenkova, and Iris Graville. Chris Skidmore will handle administration.

*Promotions* (displays, advertising, marketing materials): *Friends Journal* articles October and May – Rausie Hobson; displays – Nancy Haines

*Administrative coordinator* to keep things running smoothly: Rausie Hobson

*Email database*: Eric Muhr, Gabe Ehri, and Chris Skidmore

*Development*: to be appointed as needed

*Grants and special projects*: to be appointed as needed

Other functions not yet identified: the administrative coordinator and clerks will appoint someone as needed and may be discussed at the mid-year meeting

**Officers and their terms:**

Co-clerks	Iris Graville	2023
	Natasha Zhuravenkova	2022
Recording Clerk	Nancy Haines	2021
Treasurer	Gabe Ehri	2021
Assistant Treasurer	Chris Skidmore	2021