

Young Friends Winter Gathering Meeting for Worship for Business

February 16, 2013, 9:35am

Clerk: Will Bryer

Recording Clerk: Susannah Perkins

1. Review of Agenda
 - a. Agenda approved
2. Young Friends Leadership at Annual Sessions 2013, presented by Hollister Knowlton & Ken Park
 - a. Hollister asked Young Friends to write queries for worship sharing at Annual Sessions this summer.
 - i. The following volunteered: Raven, Tenaja, Ananda, Isa, Corwin, Susannah, Zoe, Erin.
 - ii. Clarifying question: would the query-writing sub-committee be under the care of Young Friends or of Sessions Planning Group? This remains to be seen.
 - b. Ken spoke about what Annual Sessions is and the intergenerational theme. Offered that Young Friends might take on more leadership at Annual Sessions in general, however they are led (co-lead worship sharing groups, lead multi-generational workshops, be the welcoming team, etc.)
 - i. Corwin spoke to his experience of co-leading workshops in the past, offering himself as a resource to anyone interested in doing that.
 - ii. Friend expressed concern that Annual Sessions/RYM doesn't feel very accessible to Young Friends, both financially and because it seems family oriented, so it's hard to go without family – is it even okay?
 1. Hannah clarified that Annual Sessions/RYM is **both** a Young Friends gathering and a gathering of all of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. Everyone who comes to Young Friends gatherings is welcome at Annual Sessions, and it's also a time to be with a bigger community too. There is scholarship available like at normal gatherings, and Young Friends are under the care of the Young Friends program while at Annual Sessions, so don't need an adult sponsor (different from Middle School Friends that way).
3. One Night Gatherings, presented by Hannah.
 - a. Hannah presented the possibility that Young Friends could gather for one-night events with specific focus for business of the Working Group or for recruitment of new Young Friends. Asked about Friends thoughts and interest in this possibility.
 - b. Friends shared some thoughts, including: travel could still be hard for far away people, but they would move around, so could be closer than Philly; if we are doing these as additions to the gatherings we already have, then it's great; Even if only 10 people come, it will be better than the numbers we get for Working Group meetings; small working group meetings have their advantages as well; could do the work of the Working Group at a gathering; We could use one-nighters just for Working Group business.

- i. Friends approved trying Working Group meetings as one-night events.
 - 4. Gathering Locations and Themes Brainstorm, presented by Hannah
 - a. Hannah talked about the upcoming gatherings that already have locations and/or themes arranged
 - i. March Urban Life Skills gathering at Germantown Meeting (22nd-24th): Do a service project, go around Philly on public transportation, and see the William Penn lecture by Michael Gagne.
 - ii. Swatara is May 3rd-5th at Camp Swatara in Bethel, PA, and the theme is about Joyful Noise.
 - iii. Heard about Annual Sessions, above, taking place July 24th-28th
 - iv. Camp Onas is happening! August 18th-24th! There are some things still up in the air about it, but it will happen!
 - b. Friends brainstormed other good locations for a gathering that would have the following qualities: good big kitchen, lots of good high functioning bathrooms/toilets, showers a plus, lots of smaller break-out spaces.
 - i. Birmingham Friends Meeting, Newtown F M, George School (for Christmas, while the students are gone), Westtown School, Downingtown (not great kitchen or break out spaces), Swarthmore, Haddonfield Meeting, Gunpowder Meeting, Tenaja's Grandma's house.
 - c. Friends brainstormed themes of interest for future gatherings
 - i. Service and stewardship, peace and justice tool building, Quaker roots, Peace movement – John Woolman Walk, Climate Change, How our actions affect the poor and marginalized, sex & sexuality is always appropriate, Quaker careers and professions, love your body/self-esteem (could go nicely with sex/uality), Outdoor life skills at Onas, Quakerism with a twist.
- 5. Clerk Discernment
 - a. Will described the current situation – we could do Clerk Discernment as we did last year, but there wasn't enough time. Has been talk of doing it at the Swatara gathering, or directly after. What shall we do this year?
 - i. Friends approved trying the one-nighter for Clerk Discernment to happen in between the March gathering and Swatara. If this doesn't end up being administratively possible we'll go with the afternoon working group meeting and finish at Swatara if necessary.
- 6. Announcements/ Reports/ Updates
 - a. Hannah announced that Education Standing Committee is continuing to work on a policy about including transgender and gender-non-conforming Friends. Their next step is to collect parent perspectives, solely for the purpose of information gathering, not necessarily to set the policy. There will be a gathering for Young Friends parents to attend on either April 6th or 7th to contribute to this process.
 - b. Corwin announced that he would like to do worship-sharing online between gatherings. Invited interested Friends to talk with him.