

Monday August 19, 2013

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

We gathered for the first meeting for worship with attention to business (later referred to as mfw/ab) at about 2pm on 8-19-13. Co-Clerk Emma Leibman reviewed some basics of Friends' decision-making process and the importance of mfw/ab as a space where Young Friends can express their hopes and intentions for the community.

1. Minutes

The Clerk updated Friends on a change in process: from taking notes to recording minutes that are approved by the body.

2. New Committee Structure

The clerk presented the proposed additions of several new committees to the YF community. This proposal comes from the concern that too much of the work of the Young Friends community has fallen to clerks and the Young Friends Coordinator up to now. In order to relieve some of that stress and invite more Young Friends to be active in the work of the community, clerks suggest that the (below outlined) committees be formed for our time at Onas.

We will review how well these committees have functioned at mfw/ab on Friday.

The clerk reviewed the list of proposed committees and offered descriptions of the work each committee would be tasked with:

- The epistle committee will be responsible for writing a letter informing PYM and other Friends of what is happening in our community.
- Graduation committee will be responsible for making sure graduating seniors get afghans.
- Outreach committee will help plan and implement ways of inviting more people - from our circles of friends and from other MMs - to YF events.
- Program committee's work will involve the brainstorming and planning of content - workshops, speakers, and themes - for Young Friend events.
- Nominating helps make sure committees and other community leadership roles are adequately supported and Young Friend's gifts are seen and used. Nominating also makes decisions about who will fill leadership roles in the community.
- Nurture committee is already in place to care for the community and make sure things are running smoothly.

We have a small gathering this year, so it may not be possible to have all of these committees functioning at Onas. **Friends approved trying the proposed structure this year.**

The Clerk circulated a notepad for Young Friends to suggest names for potential permanent Nurturers.

The Clerk reviewed the committees in terms of low interest expressed in some for the new committees. Graduation and Nominating are most immediately necessary to the running of the community at this gathering. The clerk asked whether YFs think the Outreach or Program committee should be of higher priority at this gathering. Friends expressed a great deal of support and enthusiasm for outreach work, but affirmed the importance of both areas. The Young Friends Program Coordinator suggested that all committees could meet if at least 2 people could commit to each. **Because of limited energy for Nominating Committee, Friends approved two interested Friends meeting with Nurture Committee to work jointly on discernment of new permanent nurturers.** An epistle committee will not be formed because there were not enough Friends to serve. **Other committees will be convened** by:

- Outreach – Amelia and Kyle
- Program – Ben and Carrie
- Graduation – Nathan and Jane

3. New Adult Clerk

The Adult Clerk is a role for an adult who supports the work and function of the YF community and serves as a resource for YF Clerks. Zan Lombardo, who has been serving in the position for several years, is no longer able to serve. The clerk reviewed progress on the discernment of a new adult clerk. **There is no name ready to bring forward for approval at this time. Suggestions are welcome and can be brought to Emma Leibman.**

4. Gatherings Update

The Clerk offered an update on the Peace Fair and Swatara gatherings. It's unclear that the Peace Fair will continue, so this will be the last year of that gathering. There are also changes in progress around the Swatara gathering. While uncertain, this may be the last year YFs attend Swatara. **Decisions about how to replace these gatherings will be made with input from Young Friends.**

5. Agenda for Friday

The clerk presented some of the agenda items coming up at mfwf/ab on Friday. Agenda items are expected to include a report from the ad hoc committee working on transgender policy, reports from committees that have met during Onas and a review of how well the committee structure has functioned.

Minutes were reviewed and approved.