

10:03 Clerk Emi introduces Meeting for Business

Agenda overview

1. Announcement from Christie Duncan-Tessmer
2. Decision Item About Bedtimes & Late Night(s)
3. Nominating and Discernment
4. Committee Structure???
5. Liaison position between YF & other groups (committees)
6. Talking about themes
7. Schedule for future gatherings

Agenda approved.

1. 10:05 –Christie’s announcement and request for feedback

Hannah introduced Christie and then exited.

Christie supervises all staff in YM who run programs, including Hannah. Her boss is the General Secretary, who does the hiring for the whole yearly meeting, sometimes with Christie’s help. The GS is currently making a decision and Christie wants feedback.

The decision before the GS: Hannah is the Interim YF Coordinator. Cookie, previous Coordinator, had been in position for 34 years. It’s generally a good practice to have an Interim/trial period rather than immediately putting someone new in (like YF is doing with the new Adult Clerk after Zan). So, should PYM search for a new Coordinator or do we want Hannah to stay? YF feedback is requested.

Young Friends expressed approval for the idea of Hannah staying on as Coordinator.

2. 10:12 Bedtimes and Late Nights

At Onas we approved that we would give later bedtimes a try “on a gathering by gathering basis...pending YF interest and FAP willingness.” Hannah proposes that we change it to “Young Friends can request more than one Late Night.” The stipulations around late night (enclosed space, 2+ FAPs, total commitment for the full time, the next day program as usual, no skipping/interrupting it because you stayed up the night before) would hold true for additional Late Nights. Hannah wants Late Night request in by lunch time the day of, so there wouldn’t be time at weekend gatherings, and this later bedtime proposal will only effect longer gatherings.

Young Friends discussed several questions and possibilities, including the necessity of individuals to keep in mind their own needs and comfort in deciding whether or not to go to one or both Late Nights.

Young Friends affirmed the importance of the timing – 1am gives the perfect amount of time for those who don’t go to Late Night to fall asleep enough that returning Late Nighters won’t easily wake one up.

Young Friends approved the change that they may ask for multiple Late Nights by lunchtime the day of. The Late Night will be granted or not depending on the factors that influence that decision now – two or more FAPs, appropriate space, etc.

One Young Friend pointed out that this change only affects three gatherings, and therefore alters the intent of the original policy approved at Onas of making bedtimes generally later all around. If Friday night bedtime were later on weekend gatherings, that original intent would be restored.

Hannah suggests that we go with the experiment we just approved (multiple late nights, at request, at longer gatherings), and anyone interested can bring another proposal to another business meeting.

Minutes thus far approved at 10:39.

3. 10:40 Nominating and Discernment

Hannah introduced the item with a recent history of how YF has done nominating and discerning of Clerks: Passing around a pad and pen and writing names down on the list; current Clerks approach the nominees; All YFs who weren't being discerned would be welcome to come to Friends Center and decide who would be Clerks. The past two years YF failed to wrap up discernment in time and had to finish at the Swatara gathering.

Hannah proposes that we alter our process and do what some other Quaker groups do: a Nominating Committee to receive nominations for different positions, discern a nominee, check in with the nominee to see if that person would accept, and bring that name forward to the entire community. If you're on the NC you can't be discerned. This would be an evolving, volunteer group of people who want to do the work and are clear that they themselves would not accept a role that is up for nomination. Being on the committee once wouldn't mean you'd have to do it for ever more, however it is a multi-month commitment, at least through the Spring for this round of nominations.

The community discussed the change. Nominating Committees are also about using a heart-sense and Spirit guidance to listen for the person who can help move the community right now, which may cause names which wouldn't be the first thought to come forward.

The proposal shifts the public-ness of the nomination process as it happens now, such that the general population of Young Friends would not know those who do not get picked (including those people themselves) which could prevent a lot of hurt.

Several Young Friends expressed that a clearer name would be the Discernment Committee, as Nominating Committee makes it sound like they are the only people who can nominate someone for a role. Young Friends emphasized the importance of accessibility and anonymity in nominating someone for a position, proposing that slips of paper could be made and put in a prominent place with a box or envelope to put nominations in.

Young Friends approved making a Discernment Committee who will work to discern nominees for our Clerking positions this winter and spring and asked the committee to make a nominations box in which people could submit names anonymously.

The following people volunteered to serve on the Discernment Committee and received approval from the community: Spencer, James, Zoe, Ellie, Bob, Kendra, Hayden.

5. 11:02 Committee Structure

We introduced a new Committee Structure at Onas. We were thinking of continuing Outreach and Program committees in addition to Discernment (and Nurturing).

The community approved the following people to serve on the following committees, encouraging them to meet in the next 24 hours so they can report at tomorrow's business meeting:

Program: Lily, Raven, and Dana.

Outreach: Leigh along with those who served previously.

6. 11:05 Decision Item: Create a position of PYM Liaison?

The Clerks team brought the proposal that the community adopt a new YF leadership position of a PYM Liaison to attend meetings of the larger body of PYM, specifically Education Standing Committee and Interim Meeting (though liaising with other committees and bodies of the yearly meeting is not out of the question).

Clerk asked if Young Friends have energy behind creating such a position? Young Friends discussed. In many ways this position overlaps with the purpose of the Adult Clerk of connecting Young Friends to the larger yearly meeting. It would be helpful to have a young person, an actual Young Friend, doing that work too. There was some discussion as to whether this role would be best to be rolled in with the responsibilities of the Young Friends clerks. One Friend offered that the role is not mutually exclusive with other roles in the community, like clerking, but it's most important that the person be interested in the work of connecting Young Friends to the larger PYM body, regardless of whether they already have a role in the community or not. Friends felt that a YF Liaison could prevent miscommunication and make the "disembodied faces" of "they decided this" humans with whom we share personal connection. Some Friends expressed the benefit of having more than one PYM Liaison, since the time commitment could be quite high – then the two people could switch off meetings or offer multiple perspectives at the same meeting.

Christie offered more information about what the PYM Liaison's role would be like at Interim Meeting: There are "representatives" at IM, who represent their whole meeting, and there are "visitors," anyone else from the yearly meeting who wants to come. The YF Liaison would be a visitor and get to introduce themselves at each meeting, raising awareness of the YF community among the adult community of PYM Quakers. Interested Young Friends could talk to the rep from their local meetings, and even carpool to IM with their meeting's representative.

Hannah and Robert are ready to support the PYM Liaison in getting connected with the appropriate PYM bodies and committees.

Young Friends approved having a position of PYM Liaison and gave Discernment Committee the task of discerning a nominee.

6. 11:19 Announcement—Year-Long Themes / Leading

Young Friends leadership is thinking about the possibility of discerning a year-long theme or leading for Young Friends, following the model of Junior Interim meeting (elementary age kids). At Annual Sessions every year they discern "God's big idea for us." Some examples of their priority (the result of their discernment) have been: going to a homeless shelter to play with other homeless children, and packing boxes of food for families in need. For them it's about figuring out how their community feels called to be the hands of God in the world for the coming year. Junior Interim Meeting does two years, but we were thinking one year, and that Onas could be a great time to do that discernment. We're planting the seed now so people can start thinking about it, especially the Outreach Committee, but no decision is being made right now.

MINUTES APPROVED at 11:26