

Young Friends

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business Spring Gathering

March 38, 2015

Clerks: Emi Inskeep, Hannah Blossom (recording)

Adult Young Friends Clerk: Robert Rosenthal

The group opened with Meeting for Worship. Emi introduced MFBWAB for anyone who was newer to this process. Emi introduced our Agenda. Friends approved this agenda.

Minute one: Emi asked the community if she could record parts of the Business Meeting and the gathering for a scholarship video. Friends Approved.

Minute two: Clerk Hannah clerked the next item. Are Young Friends willing to write worship sharing questions at Annual Sessions of PYM. Clerk Hannah introduced the item. Hannah said that feedback from last year was positive, and provided an opportunity to connect across generations. A Friend asked who would be preparing the questions. Hannah said that nurturing committee could do that, and others interested could be involved. Friends approved. Hannah Mayer will communicate this decision to the appropriate persons planning Annual Sessions. Cleo, Ella, Sarah, Hayden, Dana, Tenaja, Zoe, and Ellie agreed to participate in writing worship sharing questions.

Minute three: Emi introduced the next agenda item on how at the last gathering some non consent happened that made the place unsafe for some individuals. Emi explains how we may want to come up with a way to have sleeping spaces that we are happy with, but that won't create an unsafe environment. Hannah M. gave us some history about how sleeping spaces have worked in the past. Hannah explains how there have been bunk beds that were non-gendered and things happened therefore, they felt as if they had to segregate the sleeping spaces. Two years ago we started identifying the sleeping spaces as if you identify as female or male. A few gathering back we introduced a non-gender sleeping space that was open to anyone. Emi asked if there were any needs we might need to meet for the YF sleeping spaces.

- One friend brought up that gender spaces tend to be quieter.
- Another friend brought up that we need to allow a more lax system, but bring more attention to the rules and consequences for those in the non-gender sleeping area.

Emi asked if friends thought that non-gender sleeping spaces had to do with the rules being broken more.

- One friend thought that because the rules have been changing therefore it leaves the impression that the rules do not need to be as respected.
- Another friend feels as if a non-gender sleeping space is critical in feeling more safe for peoples identity

- If people are going to always break the rules we need to build a sense of trust within Young Friends.
- Most people do not need to go into a non-gender sleeping space, but do it because their friends are there. The non-gender sleeping space becomes more of a social thing than a need for the majority of Young Friends.
- One friend suggested that the idea of requesting a non-gender sleeping area ahead of time could possibly work in the future as it did for this gathering.
- People do not sleep as well in the non-gender sleeping area.
- One friend brought up a concern. The friend was concerned that requesting a non-gender sleeping area would be isolating. Another friend added to that by saying that sleeping is not a social activity and that sleeping space are for sleeping, Even though it would be nice to have non-gender sleeping spaces.
- An Idea: Limiting the space of the non-gender sleeping area. Different meeting houses has different size rooms. (Keep it in mind)
- A friend said that the problems we are addressing do not only happen when we are falling asleep. Changing the sleeping spaces will not solve the full problem we are trying to get at and has much more serious consequences outside of our community (involving the legal system). It puts a lot of stress on the community when this happens. Adding to this point that we have to remember how serious it is.
- Context about what decisions by the coordinators were made: An email went out saying that at this gathering they would be going back to the default identified gender sleeping spaces. People could contact Hannah M. before hand to request a non-gender sleeping space with a few support people in the space with the person who requested it. A response to requesting non-gender sleeping space is similar to the dietary needs on registration and the community will try to meet those needs. Is it reasonable to ask friends who would like non-gender sleeping space to ask for it? Requesting was not in registration, but by email at this gathering. This gathering a FAP walked around the sleeping space at night.
- Idea: A room divided into three ways. Ask before hand where people will be sleeping instead of spontaneously deciding. Make it clear from the beginning to avoid the awkwardness that could occur later on.
- We need to make a point if the non-gender space is for people who feel as if they need it or they don't identify as a gender rather than wanting to spend time with other genders / friends.
- Safety vs. comfort, which is more important to us? Some people may have to be uncomfortable in order for everybody's safety to be guaranteed.
- At some previous gathering specific pathways were marked out for walking space between sleeping bags. This also helped with identifying the gender-sleeping spaces.

Emi asked if friends would feel ok with creating a sub committee that would be willing to rewrite the sleeping spaces. People who were interested: Ellie, Ella, Hayden, Moxie, Kat, Zoe, Raven, Evan. Friends approved these minutes.

Minute Four: Hannah M speaks on the YF program mission and evaluation working group explanation and volunteers. At the last gathering Zac came and explained to us a reevaluating process that is going on for the Young Friends community. A survey was conducted too. Hannah M explains how we now need a working group to look at survey results. Any people who would be interested in working to look at the surveys and what we want the YF group to look like now and the future. This working group could go a few ways. A possibility is that the group works really intensely over the summer and is complete within 6 months or the work is more spread out and is complete in about a year. Another piece is that the whole Yearly Meeting is implementing a plan to how the Yearly Meeting program and structure will be. Long ranging planning group. Working group idea of having YF, parent(s), Former YF on it.

- One friend thinks that it is important to get everybody's perspective.
- A mixed group, but the majority should be active young friends. Concern of YF being able to speak up within a mostly adult group. Being over powered.

YF approved this committee will exist with a group that has some background with the YF community.

- A concern about the time frame. A friend wants to participate, but has no clue on what they will be doing 6 months from now. Perhaps to compromise for this YF could do an evaluation in six months on where we are.

Interested people: Kat, Raven, Ellie, Jessica, Kyle

Minute Five: Tenaja reports on the Called Meeting about racism. A lot of people attended. Tenaja tells us that the meeting started by getting the group to think about privileges. They would go into more depth about this in smaller groups. Tenaja bring up how the meetings focus was to get people thinking more deeply about it in PYM and within there own monthly meetings. A lot of different views were present. The decision was to move forward and continue with work on racism. Tenaja read the minute about the Called Meeting. Tenaja stresses the importance of this because we are the future of PYM. As young people we want to get involved and have a connection with Yearly Meeting as a whole. The meeting acted as a way to get thoughts and concerns out, but as a yearly meeting the community has decided to put more effort into addressing the "Isms" (racism).

Emi explains to YF that we are trying to think of a list of actions and or a way to receive this minute from the Called Meeting. Emi explains some possible approaches. Emi clears our understanding by asking Hannah M what exactly we are trying to accomplish. Hannah M explains how when a minute is presented there are different ways to receive the minute and if we want to do anything about it.

- One friend thinks it's a good idea to have a separate committee that works with program committee.
- One friend thinks it would be good to endorse the minute.
- Epistle Committee piece is explained. The Committee works throughout the gathering to create an Epistle to say something that is in the hearts of the community about the work that they

have done and would like to communicate. One approach we could use was create to an Epistle Committee this gathering and ask that they create a response to the Called meeting and how the YF hears it and can incorporate the Called meeting minute into the YF community. Tenaja and Ella agreed to work on an Epistle.

- One friend this taking action would be beneficial. A concern came up about not knowing what action that would be.
- Addressing that the YF is more diverse in race then even the greater PYM as a whole. Coordinators take into account racism when planning gatherings (like when putting together worship sharing groups)
- YF could take this minute on a lot of different levels (like actions and involvement)
- Idea: a gathering designed to look at the issue of race. Have a fishbowl about race.

YF has decided that we will endorse the minute. Emi asks if YF is in consensus with beginning conversations about how to address race within the community. Friends were interested in having program about race. Friends approved writing an Epistle, but this will happen at a later gathering after we have explored programing about racism.

Minute Six: Discernment Committee (Ellie and James) reported. They explained the different Clerk and Liaison roles within YF. A box is set up that will be used for nominations. Ellie and James reviewed the criteria for nominations and the importance of putting thought into any nominations.

Friends Approved all minutes. Closed with some silence.