

**Documents in Advance for  
CANADIAN YEARLY MEETING  
of the  
RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS**

**and Minutes of  
Representative Meeting (June and November 2017)  
2018**

**Documents in Advance for  
Canadian Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends**

composed of\*

Canada Yearly Meeting  
(Five Years Meeting)

Genesee Yearly Meeting  
(General Conference)

Canada Yearly Meeting  
(Conservative)

**and Minutes of**

**Representative Meeting**

**2018**

\* Since 1955 many new Meetings and individual members have joined Canadian Yearly Meeting. The designation on the previous page was approved in 1955 for inclusion in all published reports and minutes to indicate the pre-existing legal entities now incorporated in Canadian Yearly Meeting.

These *Documents in Advance* are the first part of the Minutes of Canadian Yearly Meeting, 2018. As this material will not be included with the *Minutes and Late Reports* (second part), both volumes will be required for a complete record. *Minutes and Late Reports* will be available in October 2018.

These documents are published on-line and are available for download from our website.

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Thank you,

Kerry MacAdam  
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July 2018

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## **MINUTES OF REPRESENTATIVE MEETING**

### **Minutes of Representative Meeting held to consider business in lieu of CYM-in-Session 2017 Toronto, Ontario, June 28 – 30, 2017**

**Present: \***

**Wednesday evening, June 28, 2017**

**Clerk: Elaine Bishop**

**Recording Clerk: Seán Hennessey**

**also supporting the clerks' table: Barbara Horvath**

**17-06-1 Opening worship:** We opened with worship, during which the Clerk read from the Pendle Hill Pamphlet, *Beyond Consensus: Salvaging Sense of the Meeting*.

Through the process by which Quakers attain the sense of the meeting, transformation occurs. We are changed. We feel, in a literal way, the loving Presence which hovers over us. It manifests in the love we have for one another. We form invisible bonds among ourselves which transcend the petty and make the next sense of the meeting more desirable and more readily attainable. We are participants in each other's well-being. Later we may stop to wonder whose idea evolved into the sense of the meeting. But we can't remember. Often the person through whom the idea came cannot remember. We sense that the sense of the meeting came through us and for us, but not from us. We are amazed that it works – exactly as it's supposed to. Over and over we are amazed; it is appropriate that awe and transformation coexist.

- Barry Morley

**17-06-2 Regrets: \***

**17-06-3 Reports – Consent Agenda:** We receive the following reports to Representative Meeting. These reports contain no items for discernment at this meeting, and are attached to these minutes in appendices\*\*.

In Appendix A:

- Archives Committee
- Canadian Council of Churches, Commission on Justice and Peace
- Canadian Council of Churches - Faith and Life Sciences Committee
- Canadian Friends Service Committee Annual Report
- Education and Outreach Committee
- Epistle Summarizing Committee
- Friends World Committee for Consultation
- Personnel Policy Committee
- Program Committee

Quaker Book Service  
State of Society Reports received to May 29, 2017  
Statistical Secretary  
Trustees  
World Council of Churches  
World Council of Churches Central Committee

In Appendix B -- Memorial minutes:

Helen Brink  
Fred Franklin  
Ursula Franklin  
Florence Mae Ham  
Jean Margaret Loy Johnson  
John Edward Milton  
Norman Taylor

**17-06-4 Reporter for *The Canadian Friend* and quaker.ca:** Elizabeth MacInnis volunteered to write a report on this meeting for *The Canadian Friend* and quaker.ca . We accept with thanks.

**17-06-5 Clerks' Report:** Mentoring Clerk Elaine Bishop presented the Canadian Yearly Meeting (CYM) Clerks' Committee report; it is included after this minute.\*\*

It was noted at our meeting that the Clerks' letter on the Boycott Divestment Sanctions movement included significant input by Canadian Friends Service Committee (CFSC).

The Clerk, who is doing the work of two, asked for gentle support!

We expressed our thanks to Elaine Bishop for continuing her role as Mentoring Clerk beyond her ordinary term of duty. We also express our sincere thanks to Nancy McInnes for her service as CYM Clerk. As well, we acknowledge and thank Barbara Horvath for her supportive presence at the Clerks' table.

**17-06-6 Canadian Young Friends and Young Adult Friends** are gathering concurrently at Camp NeeKauNis. We ask the Clerk to email our greetings, and we ask Cameron Fraser to carry our written greetings to them.

**17-06-7 Sharing news from Meetings and Committees:** Some Friends tonight shared recent events, joys and concerns from our Meetings and committees. A summary appears in Appendix C.\*\*

**17-06-8 Closing Worship:** The session closed with silent worship.

**Thursday morning, June 29, 2017**

**Clerk: Elaine Bishop**

**Recording Clerk: Eric Kristensen**

**Also supporting the clerks' table: Barbara Horvath**

**17-06-9 Opening worship:** The Clerk read a passage from *Quaker Faith and Practice*, section 2.12:

In silence which is active, the Inner Light begins to glow – a tiny spark. For the flame to be kindled and to grow, subtle argument and the clamour of our emotions must be stilled. It is by an attention full of love that we enable the Inner Light to blaze and illuminate our dwelling and to make of our whole being a source from which this Light may shine out.

- Pierre Lacout, 1969

### **Business arising from Representative Meeting, November 2016**

**17-06-10 Correction to our minute RM16-11-13 - Summary of reports from Meetings and committees** (in the section regarding **Camp NeeKauNis**): Camp NeeKauNis co-clerk Kris Wilson-Yang is not the sole director for the season: NeeKauNis has a rota of trained directors who are responsible for running camp sessions through the season, as well as interim directors to provide oversight for other events at Camp, including the Canadian Young Friends Gathering at the end of June 2017.

**17-06-11 Evangelical Friends in Quebec City** (re minute RM16-11-8): Friends approved setting up an ad hoc committee to begin to address the concerns raised in the report (which is attached at the end of this minute)\*\*. We named Eric Kristensen, Nathalie Brunet and David Millar to serve on this committee, along with Mylène DiPenta and Judith Brown, subject to their consent. These five members will serve until the 2018 Yearly Meeting in session. Recommended tasks are contained in the report.

The Clerk proposed that she visit the Quebec City Friends along with Colin Saxton, General Secretary of Friends United Meeting. Friends approved this travel.

**17-06-12 Canadian Multi-Faith Federation – Is this the right way for Canadian Yearly Meeting (CYM) to engage in ecumenical inter-faith relations?** (re minutes RM16-11-14 and 15): Friends questioned whether or not working with the Canadian Multi-Faith Federation is the right way to move forward with these concerns. Friends approve establishing a clearness committee to discern a way forward with multi-faith work in the future, and to address questions raised in the report (which is attached after this minute)\*\*. There will be a Parliament of World Religions in Toronto in 2018 and there are many other multi-faith organizations in Canada to which CYM might relate. We carry a concern that Indigenous spirituality be recognized in the multi-faith work that we do. Friends asked the clearness committee to document any work currently under way in Meetings across Canada. We lay over the naming of this committee until later in this session. We look forward to hearing a report at the next Representative Meeting in November and a final report at the 2018 CYM Sessions.



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**17-06-13 Hiring of Canadian Yearly Meeting Secretary** (cf. RM16-11-21): The Clerk introduced the new Canadian Yearly Meeting Secretary: Cameron Fraser, a member of Vancouver Island Monthly Meeting. He lives in Victoria BC with his family and has a strong professional background in education. He starts his duties on August 1, 2017. We are delighted to welcome him to this new role. We are starting a new phase in the Yearly Meeting by having an office in Victoria as well as Ottawa and we ask Friends to hold the Yearly Meeting in the light during our journey forward. Friends are encouraged to financially support this work if it is to continue beyond the three years currently funded.

**17-06-14 Evaluation of the Fallow Year for Canadian Yearly Meeting-in-Session:** Barbara Horvath reported on the work of Clerks' Committee to prepare to evaluate Canadian Yearly Meeting's fallow year, as outlined in previous minutes (CYM 2014-08-57 and Representative Meeting 14-11-13).

A series of online surveys will be used to collect information. This method allows responses to be anonymous and also collates the responses. The surveys will include space for comments. Hard copies will be made available on request. The survey links will be sent to the various groups shortly after Labour Day, with a November 1 deadline for responses. This will allow for a report on the results to be submitted to the fall Representative Meeting.

Specific surveys are being designed to address the following groups of Friends:

- 
- Monthly Meetings and worship groups
  - individual Friends
  - standing committees of Canadian Yearly Meeting
  - Half-Yearly Meetings
  - Young Friends
  - Canadian Yearly Meeting staff

The consideration about holding Yearly Meeting sessions in 2019 will be on the November agenda, when we will have the results of this survey and a summary of our discernment regarding the concern from Saanich Peninsula Monthly Meeting to divide Canadian Yearly Meeting.

If needed, a follow up survey will be conducted in the spring, with results brought to the Yearly Meeting 2018 session.

**17-06-15 Report of Contributions Committee:** Friends heard a report (attached below)\*\* from the Contributions Committee Clerk.

**17-06-16 Discipline Review Committee – new section in the Discipline** (re minute RM16.11.27): Friends heard the first reading of a new section of *Organization and Procedure* regarding Contributions Committee (section 6.13, attached below this minute). Several suggestions were heard and Heidi Dick will share them with Discipline Review Committee. We approve this text for first reading:

### **6.13 Contributions Committee**

Contributions from individuals are both necessary and in right order for our Society. Contributions Committee is responsible for developing and implementing strategies to request financial support from members and attenders. The Committee's role, in conjunction with Finance Committee, is to establish procedures and approaches that will place and maintain CYM on solid financial footing.

Contributions Committee will meet and conduct business primarily by telephone or other electronic means. The Committee's mandate is to:

- Help Friends recognize how their contributions support and strengthen links throughout CYM to create a stronger sense of community and family;
- Ensure donation practices that are convenient and respectful of the needs of members and their varying abilities to contribute;
- Propose, implement, and publicize new strategies for making approaches for donations, maintaining relevance as technology and membership change;
- Work with the CYM Clerks and other Friends serving Canadian Yearly Meeting to develop fund-raising strategies and produce supporting educational materials;
- Ensure that contributors are appropriately thanked on a regular basis;
- Report to Representative and Yearly Meeting as required.

[The complete Discipline Review Committee report is included after minute 45]\*\*

### **Business arising from 2016 CYM in Session**

**17-06-17 Follow-up to a Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) minute regarding sustainability and their request for Yearly Meetings to take actions** (reported in CYM minute 16-08-46):

The Light of Christ has inspired Quakers throughout the generations. As we gather together in Pisac, Peru in 2016, we feel this light stronger than ever in our calling to care for the Earth on which we live. It is calling us from all traditions: programmed, unprogrammed, liberal, and evangelical. It calls us to preserve this Earth for our children, our grandchildren and all future generations to come, working as though life

were to continue for 10,000 years to come. Be ready for action with your robes hitched up and your lamps alight. (Luke 12:35, Revised English Bible)

One response for Canadian Yearly Meeting (CYM) will be to ask Monthly Meetings to report any sustainability or climate actions they have taken. We will include the initial FWCC call with our request, to guide responses, as needed. We will report these initiatives back to FWCC as our actions in response to this request and share them within CYM in the hopes of inspiring further actions.

At Yearly Meeting in 2016, we decided to appoint a carbon co-ordinator to co-ordinate a CYM-wide carbon audit. As of today, we have not yet found a carbon co-ordinator. We are seeking a person who has sufficient background to implement this task using the experience of Winnipeg Monthly Meeting and other sources.

The work to be done may seem overwhelming, but as we know from our history, small actions can achieve great results over time.

### **Fallow year activities**

**17-06-18 Report on the Sunderland P. Gardner Lecture from Western Half-Yearly Meeting:** Heidi Dick reported. Steve Fick of Ottawa Monthly Meeting gave the 2017 lecture. The title was “Falling Into Grace: a coming to peace with our impermanence”. The Western Half -early Meeting epistle mentioned that “[w]e were honoured to host the Sunderland P. Gardner lecturer Steve Fick from Ottawa MM. Steve’s lecture, entitled ‘Falling Into Grace’, invited us to awaken to a deeper aliveness, a falling into grace that turns our mortality into a spiritual companion. We were brought closer together with tears shed and stories shared.”

**17-06-19 Plans for Quaker education in Ottawa:** Anne-Marie Zilliacus described Ottawa Monthly Meeting’s plans for hosting Canadian Yearly Meeting’s Quaker Studies program. The title of the program is “Palestine, Israel, Nonviolence and F/friends”; it will be led by Maxine Kaufman-Lacusta of Vancouver Monthly Meeting. The study program will be held from Friday evening, October 13 through Sunday evening, October 15, 2017. The program will be video-recorded and posted on quaker.ca. Friends planning to attend are asked to register by September 30.

**17-06-20 Outreach cards from Education and Outreach Committee:** Education and Outreach Committee distributed, to those present at Representative Meeting, sample business-size cards that can be used by Meetings for outreach. The samples have Canadian Yearly Meeting contact info on them, but any Meeting can substitute its own contact information. The other side of the card has a quotation from a Quaker. Education and Outreach Committee plans to put a template for these cards on quaker.ca so that Meetings can download them and substitute their own contact information before sending them to a printer. If a Meeting wishes Education and Outreach Committee to assist with arranging printing or with the cost of printing, contact [e-and-o-clerk@quaker.ca](mailto:e-and-o-clerk@quaker.ca). Education and Outreach Committee is open to facilitating a bulk order if there is substantial interest in the outreach cards, and if this is deemed financially prudent. Please contact the Education and Outreach Committee Clerk if your Meeting is interested in exploring a bulk order.

**17-06-21:** The session ended with a period of worship.

**Thursday afternoon, June 29, 2017**

**Clerk: Elaine Bishop**

**Recording Clerk: Seán Hennessey**

**Also supporting the clerks' table: Barbara Horvath**

**17-06-22 Acknowledging the land on which we gather:** We begin by acknowledging that the land on which we gather is the traditional territory of the Haudenosaunee, the Métis, and most recently, the territory of the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation. The territory was the subject of the Dish With One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant, an agreement between the Iroquois Confederacy and the Ojibwe and allied nations to peaceably share and care for the resources around the Great Lakes.

This territory is also covered by the Upper Canada Treaties. Today, the meeting place of Toronto (from the Haudenosaunee word Tkaronto) is still home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island. We are grateful to have the opportunity to work in this territory.

**17-06-23 Formation of an Atlantic Half-Yearly Meeting:** We received the report of the ad hoc Canadian Yearly Meeting (CYM) committee on forming an Atlantic Half-Yearly Meeting. It is included after this minute.\*\*

We affirm the steps that were proposed by the committee in its report.

Annapolis Valley Monthly Meeting has requested additional steps:

- After steps 1 and 2, we recommend a process to enable us to move to step 3:
- a) that each Meeting articulate its vision of what the Atlantic Half Yearly Meeting would be;
  - b) that these vision statements be circulated to the other Meetings;
  - c) that the three Meetings come together to discern common ground, perhaps using a threshing session;
  - d) that any discerned common ground return to the Monthly Meetings for review;
  - e) that each Monthly Meeting submit a sense of their leading on the matter to the proposed Clerk, who could use them to draft the letter indicating Friends' readiness to proceed.

Friends present from the other Atlantic Monthly Meetings supported the inclusion of these additions. We approve the addition of these steps.

Appreciation was expressed for the care shown by CYM and by the CYM ad hoc committee. We look forward to hearing reports as this process goes ahead, and continue holding Atlantic Friends in our thoughts and prayers as they continue this process.

Friends received and circulated delightful cards of discernment, sent forward to us by Celia Cheatley, Clerk of the ad hoc committee. The cards were created and provided by David Cheatley.

**17-06-24 Reporting and clearness:** “Reporting and clearness” is a process that looks, once every five years in a rota, at each Canadian Yearly Meeting (CYM) body, CYM committee or CYM representative to another body.

About twenty years ago, the inter-church coalitions were welded together into Kairos. On our rota, therefore, we will replace the “interchurch coalitions” in the rotation schedule with a single item: “Kairos and its program committees”.

The bodies scheduled for this meeting’s reporting and clearness session were: Quaker Earthcare Witness, Canadian Friends Service Committee, Kairos and its program committees, and Canadian Friends Foreign Mission Board.

**17-06-25 Reporting and Clearness for Project Ploughshares:** Project Ploughshares, though, did not join Kairos. We move the Reporting and Clearness session for Project Ploughshares to the November Representative Meeting. Meanwhile, the Clerks will consult with representatives of Canadian Friends Service Committee (CFSC) and our Project Ploughshares representative, to determine whether it would be better or more effective for our work with Project Ploughshares to be under the care of CFSC.

**17-06-26 Reporting and Clearness for Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW) :** We have not had a response from our representative to Quaker Earthcare Witness. We particularly missed her in this morning’s discussion on the carbon audit. We asked our Clerk to contact her in order to clarify if she is able to continue in this work.

There will be a meeting at Pendle Hill (Wallingford, Pennsylvania, USA) in October to celebrate thirty years of QEW work. Everyone is welcome to attend. Details can be found on the QEW website, [quakerearthcare.org](http://quakerearthcare.org).

**17-06-27 Section needed in *Organization and Procedure*:** We ask Discipline Review Committee to draft a section in our Discipline addressing ways to respond when a named person or committee is unable to fulfill the role that we have asked them to do.

**17-06-28 Reporting and clearness with Canadian Friends Service Committee:** Pete Cross, of Hamilton Monthly Meeting, introduced the Canadian Friends Service Committee (CFSC) report (included at the end of this minute)\*\*. He explained that Service Committee has downsized and restructured from 45 members, at one point, to 15 members. When searching for new members of CFSC, Service Committee is working with Monthly Meetings and CYM Nominating Committee to find Friends with a specific CFSC subcommittee in mind; they are thus following a deeper process of discernment in order to achieve a more effective match between nominees and the work to be done.

We recognize that almost a third of Friends at today's meeting are connected with CFSC in some way.

During the discussion today, CFSC personnel took their own complete notes. Discussion particularly covered the roles and expectations of Monthly Meeting liaison people.

CFSC has asked Monthly Meetings to tell CFSC about the work they are doing on the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action. Today, we received a report on this work; it is the second report included after this minute.

We thank CFSC for their reports and their important work.

**17-06-29 Reporting and clearness with Kairos and its program committees:** Anne Mitchell and Penni Burrell spoke to the reports, which are included after this minute.\*\*

After a Canada Revenue Agency audit of the United Church (which issues tax receipts for Kairos), (1) Kairos has had to negotiate a new agreement with its member churches and (2) the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops decided to resign from Kairos. Catholic religious orders, however, have remained.

The Kairos Justice Fund, built from loans to Kairos, has been producing interest that has been used to fund Kairos programs. Two religious orders have recently converted the last two of these large loans into donations.

Kairos has undertaken a review of the role of its three circles, so they can better help the entire organization to work on its strategic plan. The three circles are the Indigenous Rights Circle; the Partnerships and Rights Circle (formerly the Global Partnership Circle) and the Ecological Justice Circle (formerly the Sustainability Circle).

We received the report of Ruth Walmsley, our representative to the Kairos Ecological Justice Circle, for inclusion in the minutes. It is the second report following this minute.

The questions Ruth brought to us today were: Are there questions or concerns to take back to the Kairos steering committee? And, how can we get information about Kairos out to Friends?

A Friend suggested that our Kairos representatives could try using the CFSC model of communication with monthly meetings.

Kairos has noticed that the Blanket Exercise, originated by Kairos and its predecessors, has been used by corporate and government groups. In response, Kairos has decided to form a social enterprise around the Blanket Exercise and ask for fees for service from corporate and government users. (No fees, though, for grassroots users of the exercise.)

Some Friends were disturbed that the Blanket Exercise is being "branded" and used for corporate strategy, or that misuse can have negative effects on participants.

In our discussion, Friends made these remarks and suggestions:

- the exercise be referred to as “the Kairos Blanket Exercise”;
- we encourage Kairos to carefully train facilitators;
- continued emphasis be paid to the participation and voice of Indigenous peoples in the Blanket Exercise process;
- the key element is the discussion that develops after the exercise is completed.

We ask our representatives to take the concerns expressed on the floor forward to the Kairos steering committee and the Indigenous Rights Circle.

We expressed our sincere thanks to our Kairos representatives for their work.

### **17-06-30 Reporting and Cleanness with Canadian Friends Foreign Mission Board (CFFMB):**

George Webb presented the report\*\*. He noted that they have about \$15,000 available at the moment.

Coldstream Monthly Meeting has accepted responsibility for the CFFMB for three years. Friends were reminded that the name has changed from “Missionary” to “Mission”, with the intention of suggesting that Friends are ready to help where help is needed. The Board is working on discernment of its mission, and will bring a report back to the next Representative Meeting.

We expressed our appreciation to Coldstream Meeting for undertaking this work on our behalf.

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### **17-06-31 Canadian Yearly Meeting Online Directory:** We received the report of John Dixon, our Privacy Officer.\*\*

The Privacy Officer has advised us that a .pdf document, even when made available behind a password, is vulnerable to privacy violations. His concern is that such a document, once downloaded, might be shared or distributed beyond the original intention. Once this has happened, we would be unable to correct it.

After considering the options, it has now been recommended that we go back to a paper directory, at least as an interim solution.

We decided to instruct Clerks’ Committee to:

- see to the production of a paper directory;
- ensure that the information Friends submit is used only for this paper directory; and
- decide on and implement a distribution strategy.

We ask Publications and Communications Committee to continue working with the Privacy Officer as way opens, seeking a long term solution to this problem. We ask them to report back to Representative Meeting when they have made progress.

**17-06-32 Rick Juliusson** shared his interesting, comical and musical report on today's meeting, to a response of cheers and offers of further glory in *The Canadian Friend*. Copies of his lyrics are available from the Recording Clerk at [sean.hennessey.argenta@gmail.com](mailto:sean.hennessey.argenta@gmail.com)

**17-06-33** We ended the session with worship.

**Thursday evening, June 30, 2017**

**Clerk: Elaine Bishop**

**Also supporting the clerks' table: Barbara Horvath**

**17-06-34 The Saanich Peninsula Monthly Meeting proposal: Dividing the Yearly Meeting?**

After a period of worship, Friends considered several documents: Saanich Peninsula Monthly Meeting's concern that Canadian Yearly Meeting divide into more than one Yearly Meeting, the Clerks' Committee's invitation that Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups engage in a simulation exercise, and reports from Meetings and Worship Groups in response. We used a worship-sharing format. Two recorders, Eric Kristenssen and Cameron Fraser, took notes and will prepare a report in time for Representative Meeting in November.

The Clerks' invitation for the simulation exercise, and all written reports received from Monthly Meetings, are attached to these minutes as Appendix D.\*\*

**Friday morning, June 30, 2017**

**Clerk: Elaine Bishop**

**Recording Clerk: Seán Hennessey**

**Also supporting the clerks' table: Barbara Horvath**

**17-06-35 Opening worship:** During the opening worship, the Clerk read from *This we can say: Australian Quaker life, faith and thought*:

The spirituality that is real to us finds its inner strength in the mystical experience of connectedness with each other and with the whole of creation. This is the deep, still and vibrant centre that transcends time. From that dynamic place it is possible to turn outwards and work in one's own available and chosen action spaces to help make manifest the harmony that is already known. This radical mysticism is the mainstream of Quaker tradition.

- David James and Jillian Wychel

A Friend spoke:

... I wonder if there's a way we can send those intentional messages . . . We need to name and be intentional about the shadow of those who aren't in the room.



### **17-06-36 Remembering absent members:**

We remembered the Monthly Meetings that, for whatever good reason, have not sent a representative to this meeting, and send them greetings:

Interior BC  
Kitchener Area  
Peterborough  
Prairie  
Wooler  
Yarmouth

**17-06-37 Report on request for recognition of chaplaincy:** Bev Shepherd spoke to this report, regarding the application of June-Etta Chenard to become a recognised Quaker chaplain. The report is included after this minute.\*\*

June Etta Chenard left the room during the consideration of this item.

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**17-06-38 Minute of call:** We have heard that the clearness committee agrees “that June-Etta embodies the testimonies of the Religious Society of Friends and can rightly wear the mantle of Quaker chaplain . . . . We recommend without reservation that June-Etta Chenard be affirmed as a Quaker chaplain”.

Under chapter 9.1 of *Organization and Procedure*, Canadian Yearly Meeting recognizes her calling, and records with great joy that June-Etta Chenard is a Quaker chaplain with special concern for end of life care.

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**17-06-39** We ask the Chaplaincy Elders to review *Organization and Procedure* and the chaplaincy policy, and bring recommendations for changes forward to Representative Meeting as they feel led.

**17-06-40 Publications and Communications Committee (P&C): Quaker Learning Series:** Chris Hitchcock spoke to the P&C report, which is included after this minute.\*\*

Publications and Communications Committee is again looking for people to oversee the publication of the Canadian Quaker Learning series. Based on P&C’s experience, it would be most effective if a group of people who live near each other (not necessarily in the same Meeting) took this on. We ask representatives to take this back to their Meetings.

We encourage Friends to contact the Clerk of P&C or the Yearly Meeting office as soon as possible if they notice problems with the quaker.ca website. (Kerry MacAdam, at the Yearly Meeting office, now serves with Publications and Communications Committee, so contacting her is an easy route for Friends to pass on problems.)

**17-06-41 Treasurer's report, and proposal to lay down the office of Treasurer:** Anne-Marie Zilliacus spoke to her report and the audit. (These reports are included after this minute.)\*\*

We note the clean audit. The Audit is found in Appendix E.

Except for a single, significant donation, our donations have been going down. Our expenses have been down, too, but only because we are doing less this year.

Our Treasurer feels that, with the new position of Yearly Meeting Secretary and a quite capable bookkeeper, the position of Treasurer is redundant.

We considered laying down the position of Treasurer and will consider this again at Representative Meeting in November. We ask Anne-Marie to provide a job description for her work to the November meeting. We ask all affected committees to review their policies and procedures, including *Organization and Procedure*, to find places where the Treasurer has responsibilities, make sure all of these can be covered, and report in time for the November meeting.

In the meantime, we will focus on finding effective clerkship for the Finance Committee.

We minute our tremendous gratitude to Anne-Marie Zilliacus for her years of faithful and effective service.

**17-06-42 New CYM Bookkeeper:** We extend a warm welcome our new Bookkeeper, Lorraine Burke.

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**17-06-43 Signing officer:** Effective August 1, 2017, we approve adding Cameron Fraser (our new Canadian Yearly Meeting Secretary) as a signing officer on all Canadian Yearly Meeting bank accounts.

**18-06-44 Nominating Committee:** Heidi Dick spoke to the Nominating Committee report, which is included after this minute.\*\*

We particularly need:

- two new Incoming Yearly Meeting Clerks (one with a term ending in 2021, the other in 2022),
- a Youth Program Coordinator,
- a Carbon Coordinator, and
- members of Finance Committee.

The complete list of vacancies follows this minute.

We ask Clerks' Committee to find two people who will act as a naming committee; this naming committee will have the task of finding two people to serve on the CYM Nominating Committee.

Continuing Meeting of Ministry and Counsel will name its own new member. They ask for suggestions: a western Friend would be particularly appropriate.

We approved the nominations presented by the Nominating Committee. The complete, current list of Friends serving YM follows this minute.

We minute our sincere thanks to Nominating Committee for their work.

**17-06-45 Discipline Review Committee:** Carol Leigh Wehking presented the report, which is included after this minute.\*\*

We lay over consideration of the Naming Committee section to our November Representative Meeting.

We approve for first reading the section presented on Program Committee. Please send suggestions for improvement to the Discipline Review Committee.

We thank the Discipline Review Committee for their hard and detailed work.

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**17-06-46 Some organizational details for Representative Meeting:** We heard expressions of gratitude for the clerking and recording, and thought about how we could lessen our tendency to assign extra little jobs to the Clerks' Committee.

We discussed details of the presentation of minutes, particularly whether reports will be inserted within the appropriate minute, or in an appendix. We will revisit this question in our November meeting.

We ask Kerry MacAdam, the CYM Office Administrator, to send hard copies of our reports and minutes to the Quaker Archives.

**17-06-47 Thanks:** We minute our gratitude to Toronto Monthly Meeting for hosting us with fine food, good beds and such a friendly reception!

**17-06-48** We ended Representative Meeting with worship.

**Date and place of next Representative Meetings**

November 24 and 25, **2017** in Ottawa

November 23 and 24, **2018** place to be confirmed.

\*Attendance list can be obtained by request from the YM Office.

\*\*Reports can be obtained from [www.quaker.ca](http://www.quaker.ca) or by request from the YM Office.

## Canadian Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

### Minutes of Representative Meeting Ottawa, Ontario 24 – 25 November 2017

**Present:** \*

**Friday evening 24 November 2017**

**Clerk: Elaine Bishop**

**Recording Clerk: Eric Kristensen**

**also supporting the clerks' table: Barbara Horvath**

**17-11-1 Opening worship:** We opened with worship, during which the Clerk read from CYM *Organization and Procedure* 8.2 "Discernment and Clearness":

Some individuals are blessed with a gift for discernment – they seem to know what to do. Others must come by this skill with more effort. The key to this in the religious area is prayer. In doing this we bring ourselves into the Light; we also bring our understandings and our confusions; we bring our hopes and fears, our ambitions and desires. With Divine help we may lay them all down, and be left with clarity and thanksgiving.

**17-11-2 Regrets:** We received regrets from:

Sean Hennessey: Co-Recording Clerk, Argenta MM Representative

Peter Kevan, Kitchener Area MM Representative

**17-11-3 Acknowledgement of Traditional Lands:** The Clerk acknowledged that we are meeting on the unceded traditional lands of the Algonquin Nation. We also acknowledge the work that Canadian Friends are doing to implement Bill C262 developed by Cree MP Romeo Saganash.

**17-11-4 Reports – Consent Agenda:** We receive the following reports and memorial minutes to Representative Meeting. They contain no items for discernment at this meeting, and are attached to these minutes in appendices.\*\* Friends approved.

In Appendix A:

Ad hoc Committee for Liaison with Evangelical Francophone Friends

Archives Committee

Board of Trustees

Camp NeeKauNis Committee

Canadian Friends Service Committee

Canadian Yearly Meeting Committee on Forming an Atlantic Half-Yearly Meeting

Continuing Meeting on Ministry and Counsel

Education and Outreach Committee

Friends General Conference Representative Report

Friends United Meeting Representative to the 2017 Triennial

Program Committee

Publications and Communications Committee  
Sustainability and Earth Care  
World Council of Churches  
In Appendix B -- Memorial minutes:  
Angela Baird Graham, Coldstream MM  
Anthony Richmond, Yonge Street

**17-11-5 Discipline Review Committee Report:** There are two items requesting approval: a first reading of Camp NeeKauNis Committee terms of reference, and a request to Nominating Committee to name new members to help them re-write *Organization and Procedure*. As there was no agreement to approve the report as a consent item, Friends were comfortable referring it to our 2018 CYM Sessions.

**17-11-6 Reporter for *The Canadian Friend* and quaker.ca:** Michael Pedruski, Montreal MM, volunteered to write a report on this meeting for *The Canadian Friend* and quaker.ca . We accept with thanks.

**17-11-7 Clerks' Report:** Mentoring Clerk Elaine Bishop presented the Canadian Yearly Meeting (CYM) Clerk's report.\*\* The clerk made two recommendations:

- Change the clerk's term of service: reduce the term to three years, renewable once.
- Separate the role of CYM Clerk and Representative Meeting Clerk, as has been the practice in the recent past.

Friends asked a number of questions and seemed comfortable with a three year term of service for CYM Clerk. We leave further discussion on the nature of a separation of clerking roles to Clerks Committee and Nominating Committee for seasoning.

**17-11-8 News from Meetings, Committees, Young Friends and Young Adult Friends:** Friends shared recent events, joys and concerns from their Meetings and committees. A summary appears in Appendix C.

**17-11-9 Closing Worship:** The session closed with silent worship.

**Saturday morning, 25 November 2017**

**Clerk: Elaine Bishop**

**Recording Clerk: Eric Kristensen**

**Also supporting the clerks' table: Barbara Horvath**

**17-11-10 Opening worship:** The Clerk read a passage from *Canadian Yearly Meeting Faith and Practice*, section 3.28:

Community reminds us that we are called to love, for community is a product of love in action and not of simple self-interest. Community can break our egos open to the experience of a God who cannot be contained by our conceptions. Community will teach us that our grip on truth is fragile and incomplete, that we need many ears to hear the fullness of God's word for our lives. And the disappointments of community life can be transformed by our discovery that the only dependable power for life lies

beyond all human structures and relationships.

- Parker J. Palmer, 1977

**17-11-11 News from Meetings, Committees, Young Friends and Young Adult Friends (continued):** Friends continued to share recent events, joys and concerns from their Meetings and committees. A summary appears in Appendix C.

**17-11-12 CYM Secretary Reflections:** Cameron Fraser made a presentation describing his first months on the job and took questions and comments about his written report.\*\* He feels supported by the clerks and fellow staff and releases stress by surfing when he can. As a professional educator, he is interested in breaking the silos of contemporary work life to create a shared vision of work and community. Quaker practice offers a different cultural context for work and he is excited to realise his values in this role. Collaboration, building relationships and cross-fertilisation are particularly relevant to CYM today. His work with Young Adult Friends and Young Friends is a good example of this approach. We can learn to effectively share our local solutions to build a stronger Quaker movement in Canada.

### **Business arising from Representative Meeting Minutes**

**17-11-13 Correction to our sharing notes from November 2016:** Vancouver MM (VaMM) submitted a minute to the Clerks expressing concern about the way in which its audit by the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) had been described in the notes of activities across the country in the November 2016 RM minutes. This information arrived too late to be included in the June Representative Meeting. Some in VaMM experienced the RM note wording as inaccurate and judgmental. VaMM approved a revision of the wording (minute VaMM Minute 4 February 2017) and asks Representative Meeting to replace the original wording with their approved alternate.

*The Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) performed a random audit of Vancouver Monthly Meeting in which they found errors in how the Meeting's information returns were submitted and in how the Meeting supported overseas projects. The Friends who worked with the CRA during the audit were clear that the CRA was co-operative and was not trying to revoke Vancouver Monthly Meeting's charitable status. Vancouver Monthly Meeting is now working to create more effective oversight of its overseas projects.*

We approve this change and apologize to VaMM for the distress that the original wording created.

**17-11-14 Evaluation of the CYM-in-Session Fallow Year:** Barbara Horvath presented survey results regarding the 2017 fallow year for Yearly Meeting Sessions.\*\* In June, Representative Meeting approved online surveys of Meetings and Worship Groups, standing committees, individuals and Young Friends. The fallow year affected people differently – many commented on the loss of presence and relationship and others felt they were freed up to pursue other activities. Those who regularly attended missed Yearly Meeting Session most acutely. Committees felt a lack of continuity and opportunities to effectively pursue their mandate and build relationships (especially Nominating Committee). Friends received this report with thanks for the substantial work it entailed.

**17-11-15 Summary Report – Simulation Exercise Responses:** The Yearly Meeting Secretary and the Recording Clerk presented their Summary Report of our Simulation Exercise.\*\* The report is based on feedback from Monthly Meetings as well as the discernment in June.

Marilyn Manzer spoke to the response from Annapolis Valley MM, regarding their perceptions of this exercise and the recommendations.

Deep, worshipful discernment followed in which the following concerns were raised: the challenges of our geography, ecological concerns, the needs of Young Friends, of isolated Friends and remote, small Meetings, and the busyness and competing priorities of Monthly Meetings.

We were reminded that Friends don't change current practice until we consciously come to unity on a change. So, CYM in Session will continue to meet annually, and the four-year rotation of location will continue. At this time there is no unity to divide the Yearly Meeting; consequently this matter will not be discerned further unless raised in the future by a Monthly Meeting.

Friends' commitment to continuous revelation offers Friends an opportunity. It requires all parts of the community to participate. Yearly Meeting allows this to happen, often in new ways. Travelling in the ministry is a practice we can encourage and support, to strengthen inter-connections and offer support and encouragement. In the work of the CYM Secretary and the sharing from Meetings and committees, there are many green shoots springing up amongst us; herein lies a tangible form of the renewal for which we have been so passionately seeking. We want these shoots to be nourished. Clarity on the work we are led to do will illuminate how CYM needs to be structured to be most effective.

Spirit can work through conflict. We are called to engage in processes that honour dissent and help resolve conflict

At this time, we lay this report aside to season. We ask committees to seek in these materials that which speaks to them, and to find ways of integrating it into their work. We ask for discernment for ways we may respond to the needs of isolated Friends and Meetings, and the unique needs of Young Friends, recognizing there may be links between these issues. We ask that these be shared with Continuing Meeting of Ministry and Counsel which already has this concern under its care. We ask Friends whether there is one or more amongst us who is led to travel in the ministry and to season these ideas among Friends as they travel.

We recognize we have spent much time in the last decade looking inward. We want to be able to spend more energy on how we live out our Quakerism in the world. We ask the Clerks Committee to receive communications from Meetings and committees about further work that may be needed in response to these questions and to discern whether, and if so, how this should be brought to CYM 2018.

**Saturday afternoon, 25 November 2017**

**Clerk: Elaine Bishop**

**Recording Clerk: Eric Kristensen**

**Also supporting the clerks' table: Barbara Horvath**

**17-11-16 Reporting and Clearness: Project Ploughshares:** Bob Clarke, CYM's Representative to Project Ploughshares, reported on his work with the Project. It is an operating agency of the Canadian Council of Churches focused on research and policy options to support arms reduction and control, nuclear disarmament, space security, refugees and forced migration and peacebuilding efforts around the world. CYM is a founding church for this project. The organization provides an important support of our peace testimony as Friends. 2016 marked forty years since the founding of the Project in 1976 by Mennonites and Quakers. Much of the fundraising for the project relies on individual donations. Friends expressed appreciation and affirmation for the report and news of the current work and priorities of the project. Bob met with Canadian Friends Service Committee's Peace Committee recently and they are now collaborating on strategies and communications. The new efforts regarding refugees and forced migration arise out of concerns about human security and its implications for peacebuilding efforts in today's world. Friends affirm the work that Bob is doing on CYM's behalf and look forward to CYM's continued involvement in the Project.

**17-11-17 Reporting and Clearness: Canadian Friends Foreign Mission Board (CFFMB):** George Webb spoke to the work that Coldstream Monthly Meeting is doing to care for and administer the program. They are exploring with other Quaker bodies to develop Agency Agreements for overseas work that satisfy Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) requirements. Applicants need their Monthly Meeting's support and must account for their expenditures in a report to the Foreign Mission Board, a standing committee of CYM. In the past, funds have supported projects abroad or the work of a Canadian Friend overseas. Documentation of expenses needs to be detailed and extensive per CRA guidelines for charitable work abroad.

Friends approved the CFFMB's agency agreement and funding application as outlined in their report.\*\* We look forward to hearing about future work and projects of the Board.

**17-11-18 Nominating Committee Report:** Heidi Dick reported that the committee has had a challenging time recruiting members for CYM committees. Without the ability to meet at CYM Sessions, the work of identifying and nominating Friends is much more difficult. Some Toronto nominations have yet to be considered at the Monthly Meeting; we ask that Clerk's Committee approve those names should the minute from Toronto MM arrive. Friends approved the names contained in the report appended below.\*\* We thank the Nominating Committee for their hard work.

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**17-11-19 Naming Committee Report:** Barbara Horvath reported for the Naming Committee. Stephanie Deakin Ricketts and Carol Bradley present the following names and terms to serve on the CYM Nominating Committee.

Sara avMaat, Halifax MM, Antigonish WG (to 2020)

Pauline McKenzie, Wooler MM (to 2018)

We ask the Naming Committee to continue working until CYM 2018.



**17-11-20 Finance Committee Report – 2018 Budget:** Anne-Marie Zilliacus, CYM Treasurer, reported on results to-date from our 2017 fiscal year and a draft budget for 2018 (Appendix D). \*\* Donations are budgeted conservatively and the YM gathering budget is based on 150 participants. The difference between income and expenses for CYM is the cost of holding Yearly Meeting Sessions. Extra funds were allocated to renew furniture and equipment to improve the Ottawa office, which was set up decades ago, to meet current ergonomic and technology standards. Overall revenue is projected to reflect a \$95,000 shortfall, covered by the anonymous \$250,000 donation to CYM and is a planned expenditure. Education and Outreach Committee has a number of funds to support projects; Trustees also have funds to support Friends' work. The overall balance to start the year is an unusually large \$653,500 (due to the large anonymous donation and a reduction of activities). We have budgeted for increased monies to support family attendance at CYM Sessions. Young Friends Community Building is budgeted at \$6,000 to support initiatives identified by Young Friends. Another \$17,000 is budgeted for a youth gathering at Camp NeeKauNis for the three days before 2018 CYM Sessions. Funds for four healing workshops in French at four locations for African Evangelical Friends who have settled in Canada total \$8,200, \$6,000 of which will come from our CYM General Fund. They have experienced much trauma leading up to their settlement in Canada, they come from different countries and cultures and have experienced the effects of racism since their settlement. Healing and Rebuilding Our Communities (HROC) workshops were proposed to the Ad Hoc Committee for Liaison with Evangelical Francophone Friends; the model was initiated by African Friends based on Alternative to Violence workshops. Friends approved the budget as amended.

**17-11-21 Contributions Committee and Its Mandate:** Ro Fife of Finance Committee outlined the current work of the Contributions Committee and the challenges of change. Penni Burrell, clerk of Contributions Committee, noted that the committee is focused on encouraging bequests and asks Friends with experience in that area to contact her. \*\* We are reminded that fundraising for CYM is a shared responsibility for us all. Both Finance and Contributions committees are looking for Friends to serve; please scout your home Meetings for talent and let Nominating Committee know.

**17-11-22 Treasurer's Proposal to Extend Term by One Year:** Anne-Marie Zilliacus proposed an extension of her term by one year. Friends were delighted. This will allow her to adjust the role of the Treasurer to fit the new circumstances provided by our new CYM Staff Accountant. She will propose how the Treasurer's position might evolve, continue or not to fit these circumstances. **Minute 2017.06.41** outlines the task for committees to review the roles of the Treasurer that affect them and to report to the Treasurer in good time before the 2018 CYM in Session.

**17-11-23 Date and Place for Next Representative Meeting:** The clerk proposed that we meet in Victoria in November 2018. In the service of CYM unity and fellowship with western Canadians, Friends resolved to meet in Victoria in November 2018. Victoria Meeting is pleased to welcome us, subject to their discernment. The dates for the meeting will be 23 -24 November 2018.

Representative Meeting 2019 will be held 29 – 30 November, thus avoiding the U.S. Thanksgiving holiday. Location will be selected at our next Representative Meeting.

**17-11-24: Thanks to Ottawa Meeting for Hosting:** Friends extended thanks and gratitude for the welcome they received in Ottawa Monthly Meeting. Food and fellowship were a warm embrace after hours and days of travel.

**17-11-25 State of Society Report 2016:** Beverly Shepard read the report\*\*, a summary of reports received from Meetings and Worship Groups Canada-wide, written by Continuing Meeting of Ministry and Counsel. After a period of deep worship, Friends received the report with gratitude.

\*Attendance list can be obtained by request from the YM Office

\*\*Reports can be obtained from [www.quaker.ca](http://www.quaker.ca) or by request from the YM Office

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## **COMMITTEE and ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

### **AD HOC COMMITTEE ON FORMING AN ATLANTIC HALF-YEARLY MEETING**

It is with great joy that we support the letter sent by Ellen Helmuth (dated 20 May 2018) to request Canadian Yearly Meeting approve the formation of Atlantic Half-Yearly Meeting.

We deeply valued our time working with Friends in Atlantic Canada and thank the Yearly Meeting for the financial support to do this. While we will continue to feel connected to Friends there, and glad to offer our support, we feel that our Ad Hoc committee can now be laid down.

Committee on Forming an Atlantic Half Yearly Meeting  
Celia Cheatley, Clerk, Carol Leigh Wehking, Marilyn Thomas and Fran McQuail

### **ARCHIVES COMMITTEE**

The Archives Committee continues to operate the Archives and Library on behalf of CYM. One of our employees is on medical leave. This has prompted our working group to become more involved in the details and galvanized us to come to terms with the changes we are facing.

CYM has been fortunate to have the volunteer services of a trained librarian/archivist in the establishment and maintenance of the Archives. The Archives is located, free of charge, in a beautiful, climate-controlled facility at Pickering College in Newmarket, ON. The cost of the Archives service has been minimal as a result.

Running the Archives requires specialized training. We are recommending that we increase the Archivist's time from 10 hr/mth to 15 hr/wk. Currently our Committee has been providing about the equivalent of a full-time employee. However the core group is at the end of our ability to continue. As a result our budget will increase from \$11,000/yr to \$32,000/yr. We are also proposing that the Archivist report to the CYM Secretary so that s/he is more integrated with the staff of CYM. "Friends of the Archives" will still be valuable in providing volunteer support to the Archives under the direction of the Archivist. These changes will help us keep up with the work, be more available to researchers and make better use of volunteers.

We are pleased to report that Susan Armstrong Reid has written a book entitled *China Gadabouts* which discusses the experience of nurses who were part of the Friends Ambulance Unit. Heather Kirk will be present at Yearly Meeting session for a book signing of her *Keeping Peace – The Quakers*. Support from the Archives was helpful in writing these books. Copies of these will be available for sale at CYM.

We continue to share with the Canadian Friends Historical Association (CFHA) and appreciate the role it plays in researching Quaker history and making it public. The transcription project, with leadership provided by Randy Saylor has incorporated several more transcriptions to its website. Volunteers throughout Canada can assist by typing pages of the original documents and records. The transcriptions will then be posted to CFHA.info with a link from quaker.ca.

There is an index on the website ([quaker.ca/archives/collection](http://quaker.ca/archives/collection)) of material in our Archives. Items can be scanned and sent to you electronically upon request. We have a rich history and our archives help that history be an inspiration for ongoing service.

Pelham Half-Yearly Meeting has agreed to cover the cost of shipping duplicate copies of books in our possession to the Theological College in Kenya. Books remaining will be available to Friends at CYM.

Submitted by Joyce Holwerda, Clerk [joyceholwerda@hotmail.com](mailto:joyceholwerda@hotmail.com)  
Committee: Jane Zavitz-Bond, Bev Jackson, Sylvia Powers and Norman Smith

## CAMP NEEKAUNIS COMMITTEE

This year we approved a Detailed Territorial Acknowledgement that is excerpted for the opening of our Camps and Meetings. The finalized version of the Territorial Acknowledgement reads as follows:

*We acknowledge that Camp NeeKauNis is situated on the ancestral lands of the Wendat and Anishnaabeg and, more recently, Haudenosaunee peoples, in Upper Canada treaties territory that has seen thousands of years of rich Indigenous history, and is home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island today. We honour the covenants of the Dish with One Spoon and Two Row Wampum Belts. As we gather, we remind ourselves to respect and nurture our sacred relationship to this land as well as to its First Peoples, both past and present.*

The full version will be posted in Nelson-Hall (the dining hall), along with supplementary information about the covenants mentioned. We have reported to CFSC about this acknowledgement and other ways we have engaged with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action.

This year, we have had to cancel Teen Camp due to a lack of Directors. This is a blow to our bottom line, and as in most years, we need to increase the number of our full-fee Campers. We have had two very junior people interested to be directors for Teen Camp who would like to work with mentors/experienced adult staff, perhaps for next season. We need more interest in general in helping with our programming. ***We clarify and affirm that Directors of Camp NeeKauNis programs, while expected to deliver appropriate Quaker programming during their sessions, are not required to be members of Monthly Meetings or of the Camp NeeKauNis committee (CNC), provided that they are officially approved and supported by CNC.*** We have a wealth of knowledge about our structure and function that we share with Directors and staff and have a Committee Handbook which we give to all new committee members. We are continuing to revise this document.

An ad-hoc Strategic Planning Committee struck at the February Camp Committee meeting (consisting of Becca Ivanoff, Ravi Joshi, and Ben Bootsma) presented their three-year Strategic Plan to Committee and other volunteers, including accumulated research, identification of processes and priorities, and restructuring of the Camp NeeKauNis Committee (CNC). The Camp Committee has approved this new Strategic Plan in principle, acknowledging the need for further refinement, feedback, and testing. The Co-clerks will solicit and pass along feedback and test scenarios to facilitate this process. Work will continue through the fall meeting and the ad-hoc

committee will present the new version for approval at that time, which will include converting their presentation to document form. We are grateful for this work.

In other news, we have purchased an Automated External Defibrillator and it will be brought back and forth to the beach for swim period and kept in a locked cabinet either at the boat house or in Swan (the First Aid Cabin). We have had a changing of the guard in our maintenance and physical development subcommittee with the departure of one of our maintenance volunteers and one of our seasoned committee members. We continue to welcome any helpers at our Work Camps and work weekends; no need to be a member of the Committee to help. There is always a bed and good meals available should you wish to join us. As a further inducement, we have an overstock of earth-tone clothing merchandise. We are offering our old stock at 50% off. We will also encourage campers to bring used/outgrown NKN clothing to be taken on a free-will donation basis.

We acknowledge and appreciate the work of our Committee members rotating off as of the rise of YM 2018.

Kris Wilson-Yang

## **CANADIAN FRIENDS FOREIGN MISSION BOARD**

Since Representative Meeting in November 2017, Canadian Friends Foreign Mission Board has had two expressions of interest in grants. The first one was withdrawn by the person making the inquiry.

The second one has only recently come up and Friends are working on the proposal.

George Webb

## **CANADIAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE**

### **Clerk's Report**

The last year has been one of change, leading us to both mourn and celebrate.

We've acknowledged with great sadness that Jane Orion Smith is unable to return to her duties as General Secretary. She has dedicated herself to CFSC faithfully since 1998, providing inspiration and leadership for many committee members and staff and winning love and respect from us all. We are going to miss her more than these words can tell.

We have had other transitions as well. Last summer Lana Robinson stepped down as Clerk of CFSC following the end of her second term on the committee, although she volunteered to serve an additional year as Clerk of Personnel Committee. We are grateful to Trevor Chandler for his service as Clerk of Quaker Peace Committee and Lesley Robertson as Nominating Clerk. They worked hard for us and also lit up our meetings with their humour and insights.

Over the last year we have introduced a new staffing model. Jennifer Preston now wears three hats: General Secretary, Finance Administrator and Indigenous Rights Coordinator. Matthew Legge is now Communications Coordinator and Peace Program Coordinator; Tasmin Rajotte has

taken on the responsibilities of CFSC Administrator; and Megan Shaw is Office Coordinator. We have also welcomed Verena Tan and Keira Mann. Verena joins us as Coordinator for our Quakers Fostering Justice Committee and Keira fills a new one-year assignment as Program Assistant. We are grateful for all they are all doing on our behalf. They are enthusiastic about their work, infecting us all with their passion.

We continue to transition to our new Strategic Plan, which has led to a more focused approach to our work, with clear responsibilities and objectives for us all. This has led both the Executive Committee and Personnel Committee to focus on reviewing, updating and rewriting CFSC's policies and procedures.

To ensure future sustainability, we have also increased our focus on fundraising. We're grateful for the support we receive from both Friends and the wider community through donations and bequests.

Derek Nice, Clerk

### **Administrative reports:**

#### **Treasurer's Report**

This report will not be available until the audit of CFSC's financial statements for 2017-2018 is completed (July 2018).

Peter Cross, Treasurer

#### **Partnerships**

CFSC's work wouldn't be possible without work with our partners. CFSC either funds, is a members of, partners with or facilitates Friends involvement with organizations through which we undertake work of common concern. A list of these partners can be found on our website at: <http://quakerservice.ca/about-cfsc/our-partners/>.

*CFSC's Board members are Derek Nice (Clerk), Stephen Bishop (Associate Clerk), Pete Cross (Treasurer), Graeme Hope (Recording Clerk), Carol Dixon (Nominating Clerk), Lana Robinson (Personnel Clerk), David Summehays (QFJ Clerk), Rob Hughes (QIRC Clerk), and Bertha Small (QPC Clerk). Associates assisting CFSC's Personnel and Finance Committees are Margaret McCaffrey, Ginny Walsh, Don Alexander, and Jeff Little.*

#### **Communications**

We continue to keep our online presence up-to-date so that Friends and members of the general public can readily find out about CFSC's work and witness. We've been pleased to see the growth in engagement with our posts on social media. In particular many African Friends are now following CFSC's work via our Facebook account. We have received positive feedback on our redesigned website <http://quakerservice.ca>. We got rid of the drop-down menus and removed many pages to simplify the site.

We continue to offer an eight page newsletter about our work, *Quaker Concern*, three times a year. It has its own website <http://quakerconcern.ca>. Anyone can sign up for emails to be notified when a new issue is online. *Quaker Concern* is also available in print form. We mail it free of charge to all members and regular attenders of Quaker meetings who wish to receive it. Please contact our office to be added to the list. We also send out emails once a month to our E-News list, and we have a network of Friends who volunteer to serve in the role of CFSC Liaisons, sharing

one or two brief updates with their Meetings each month.  
Matthew Legge, Communications Coordinator

### **Quaker Peace Committee (QPC)**

The main goal of CFSC's peace work is to contribute to creating a culture of peacebuilding to identify, engage constructively with, and transform conflict. To that end, the Peace Committee helped Friends in Kinshasa Meeting in DR Congo, including assisting them to attend Healing and Rebuilding our Communities training in Rwanda and bring these skills back to strengthen grassroots peacebuilding efforts in Kinshasa. We strengthened our partnership with Friends Women's Association in Burundi, supporting them to work against gender-based violence and, with thanks to donations from Vancouver Island Friends, in providing HIV diagnosis and care. We supported Toronto Monthly Meetings' Quaker Committee for Refugees free services to new comers to Toronto.

This year we've begun supporting Jewish and Druze conscientious objectors (Cos) to service in the Israeli military. This work has been full of successes and challenges for our partners, who operate in a difficult context but help COs access the information and legal resources they need to make the tough choice to stand up for what they believe in.

When led, we help raise up Friends voices on peace issues. Often this takes the form of blog posts or open letters to government. Topics have included:

- Chelsea Manning being denied entry to Canada;
- International Day of Peace;
- the Nuclear Weapons Ban Treaty;
- Canada's massively increased military budget;
- famines in Yemen, South Sudan, Somalia, and Nigeria; and
- Israel/Palestine concerns - nonviolent joint action taken in the Sumud freedom camp, and the No Way to Treat a Child campaign.

We've been active in our partnership with the Canadian Peace Initiative (CPI) and in promoting the creation of a Department of Peace within the federal government. For instance, we helped CPI update their website and develop the short animated video *Syria: Imagine Another Way*.

We've also been hard at work on a new book, *The Peace Virus*, and have had the chance to visit several Meetings and discuss some of the topics covered. Moving forward, using content from the book to offer practical hands-on workshops will be a significant part of our work.

We helped to plan and participated in a successful conference held at Friends House in Toronto on faith and synthetic biology. We also released a new paper, *Synthetic biology: Major Issues of Concern to Quakers*, outlining our thinking about the key social, ethical, and spiritual questions, and released another news update highlighting stories in synthetic biology as the field continues to expand and take shape.

*QPC members are Paul Dekar, Bertha Small (Clerk), and Linda Taffs. QPC Associates are Elizabeth Block (civil liberties); Gianne Broughton, Janine Gagnier, Sheila Havard, Eric Schiller (Africa peace issues); Fred Bass, Anne Mitchell (synthetic biology); Barbara Heather.*

*CFSC working group on Israel/Palestine: David Greenfield, Sara avMaat, Elizabeth Block, Paul*

*Dekar, Maxine Kaufman-Lacusta, Margaret Slavin, Colin Stewart, Linda Taffs, Brigitte Wellershausen.*

### **Quaker Indigenous Rights Committee (QIRC)**

The main goals of CFSC's Indigenous rights work is the implementation of the *UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* and enhanced understanding and engagement in the activities recommended in the report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC). QIRC experienced significant breakthroughs and new challenges in its work this past year. QIRC continued to work in collaboration with our partners in the Coalition on Human Rights for Indigenous Peoples on advancing the use of the Declaration as the "framework for reconciliation" as well as supporting Friends and others in working on reconciliation. Our efforts are bearing fruit in the increased use of the Declaration by Indigenous partners and growing engagement by Friends in reconciliation work throughout the Yearly Meeting.

#### *Coalition Projects*

- Reception for UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) and Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in Ottawa;
- Advancing government legislation on the Declaration and building on Bill C-262 (an act to ensure that the laws of Canada are in harmony with the Declaration); and
- Significant time and resources were dedicated to events marking the 10th anniversary of the Declaration that included: an international celebration for the 375th anniversary of Montreal on September 13, 2017; Anniversary Statement for the Declaration; and a two-day symposium in Gatineau on the Declaration with academics, government representatives, preparation for publication of symposium presentations, networking and dialoguing between experts and attendees. Jody Wilson-Raybould, Minister of Justice, chose this forum to make a surprise announcement of the Government's support for Bill C-262 during her speech at the symposium.

#### *International Meetings*

- Attending the UNPFII Expert Group meeting on sustainable development in January in preparation for the Permanent Forum sessions and attending the Permanent Forum in New York on April 16-25, 2018; and
- Attending the UN Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

#### *Program Coordinator's support for and work with Partners*

- Advisory group for the Walk for Reconciliation;
- Advisory committee to National Executive of the Assembly of First Nations on the Declaration;
- Secured letter from the UN Secretary General for the World Indigenous Games;
- Supporting Steve Heinrich at Mennonite Church Canada on grassroots actions for Bill C-262;
- Advisory group for Union of BC Indian Chiefs project on the Declaration and law review;
- Academic conference on Free, Prior and Informed Consent at the University of Waterloo, April 5, 2017; and
- Present on the Declaration at Indigenous political assemblies.



### *Friends and Reconciliation*

- Second QIRC Reconciliation Kit published and distributed to MMs and WGs;
- Supporting MMs and CYM committees with language for territorial acknowledgments;
- Established Reconciliation Fund with donation from private donor. Ideas for the reconciliation fund were gathered from our Indigenous partners who have agreed to sit on a Grant Approval Committee for this fund; and
- Coordinating the Quaker Study 2018 at CYM and presenting with presentations from QIRC members and Associates.

### *Educational Presentations*

- Cranberry Commons (North Burnaby Worship Group) February 25, 2018; Ottawa KAIROS event; Hillsburgh Presbyterian Church; Hamilton MM; and Toronto MM; and
- The Office of the Wet'suwet'en, Kispiox Seniors Association, Gitwilgyoots Tribe, and The Gitanyow Hereditary Chiefs sponsored a tour of rural northern BC Feb. 5th-8th 2018 that included seven presentations to the public and to Indigenous leadership. The presentations were an introduction to the Declaration, with a focus on free, prior and informed consent.

*QIRC members are Rob Hughes (Clerk), Heather Neun, and Rachel Singleton-Polster. QIRC Associates are: Paul Joffe, Elaine Bishop, Don Alexander, Monica Walters-Field, Phyllis Fischer, Penni Burrell, Dick Preston, and Manuela Popovici*

### **Quakers Fostering Justice (QFJ)**

The main goal of CFSC's justice work is to eliminate the punitive mindset that pervades society and justice systems by transforming harmful approaches to ones that are healing.

In the early part of this year, we put significant effort toward preparing for and completing a hire. We're pleased to announce that we have hired a new staff member, Verena Tan, who began work in April. We've been able to accomplish much this year, despite the lack of staff and the energy we have focused on this transition.

Through our active participation in the Church Council on Justice and Corrections, we assisted with planning for the hugely successful National Restorative Justice Symposium. We also provided funding for a special workshop on forgiveness called "the F-word" and also funded two Friends to attend. Committee members facilitated a significant number of penal abolition workshops for Friends across the country this year: in Annapolis Valley (NS), Sackville (NB), Edmonton (AB), Peterborough (ON), and Toronto. Attendance at these workshops ranged from about 10 to about 40. These events provide opportunities for Friends to learn about penal abolition and become more engaged in concrete action, and connected Friends with other people in the community who are interested or engaged in this work. We have plans underway for more workshops in the coming year.

Keith Maddock, a long-time Quaker prison chaplain, wrote a CYM pamphlet this year about his experiences in that role. We are in the process of creating and editing a videotaped interview with Keith about this work, as a complement to the pamphlet.

Some of our recent work has involved shining a light on the effects the criminal justice system has on children whose caregivers come into conflict with the law. Considering children's rights

provides a way to address some of our many concerns with the current system. Quakers internationally have studied this issue, but little work on this is specific to the Canadian context. We had previously commissioned research on the extent to which children's rights are considered in Canada when caregivers are sentenced, and in the past year we have come close to completing the preparation of our analysis of this research for public release. Our next step is to use this analysis as the basis for a policy dialogue with stakeholders. The goal of this dialogue is to produce the basis for a guidance document that judges could use, advising them on how to appropriately take into account the "best interests of the child" during sentencing of caregivers.

In conjunction with some of the partners we work with, we provided feedback on a number of government consultations; continued to raise awareness around the problematic use of solitary confinement, and applauded court victories on this topic; wrote in support of Senate Bill S-206 to fulfil one of the TRC Calls to Action about justice; and were delighted to see the reinstatement of the prison farms programs in the Kingston area whose closing we had opposed.

This year our grants went to support: AVP work in Ontario (Georgian Region, led by Sandra and Steve Duckworth, and supported formerly by Muskoka Monthly Meeting and now by Yonge Street Monthly Meeting); Yonge Street Monthly Meeting's Helping Hands project (providing basic necessities for people when they are released directly from a court house far from where their own possessions have been confiscated), which has recently expanded to another, much larger court house; the reprinting of *Jeffrey's Out of Jail* (a UN-recognized resource for connecting incarcerated parents with their children); and an interactive multimedia project intended to bring experiences of mental health problems in prisons to the public eye.

*QFJ members are David Summerhays (Clerk), Dick Cotterill, and Joy Morris (supervising clerk). QFJ Associates are Elaine Bishop, Marianne Ostopovich-Freeman, Sarah Chandler, Sharon Wright, and Linda Foy.*

## **CLERKS REPORT**

### **for the period June 2017 through May 2018**

2017-2018 has been a year of energy and change for Canadian Yearly Meeting. The Fallow Year during which there was no gathering of Canadian Yearly Meeting in Session and the appointment of a CYM Secretary created both opportunities and challenges for the Clerks. When Yearly Meeting changes, the Clerks need the flexibility and patience to change as well. The two present Clerks are grateful to have been able to work together during much of the past year, Elaine Bishop having extended her service in the face of an unexpected resignation of the Mentoring Clerk and Beverly Shepard accepting the appointment, at Representative Meeting in November 2017, as Presiding Clerk less than a decade after her previous 5-year term.

**Clerking challenges:** Beverly Shepard's experience mirrored in some ways that of Elaine Bishop in her first year as Clerk. The role of Clerk of Canadian Yearly Meeting has grown! The extent of the responsibilities make balancing service to CYM and other parts of life a challenge. Yet we are encouraged with the developments that we see through the service of Cameron Fraser in his first year as CYM Secretary! We look forward to changes coming that will reduce the work and stress of serving CYM as its Clerks.

### **Human resource/personnel responsibilities of the Clerks**

The Committee of Clerks, made up of the Clerks of Yearly Meeting and the Clerk of Trustees, serves as the **employing committee for the CYM Secretary**. This is a new role for the Committee, bringing both excitement and increased work. The Presiding Clerk serves as Clerk of the Committee of Clerks.

- Canadian Yearly Meeting Secretary Cameron Fraser started his role as CYM Secretary on August 1, 2017. The following has been accomplished:
  - Orientation with the Secretary after the start of the role on August 1, 2017, taking place in Winnipeg and Ottawa.
  - Successful completion by the Secretary of the probationary period for the position with the end of probation review held in Ottawa on October 24. Cameron Fraser is now a full-time permanent staff person of Canadian Yearly Meeting.
  - Regular support and oversight of the Secretary, including ensuring that the CYM Personnel Policy is fully implemented with respect to the Secretary's employment. This has required adjusting the policy as necessary in those situations in which British Columbia employment standards exceed those of Ontario, as the Secretary's office is in Victoria.

An ongoing challenge is to balance the needs of CYM work with the number of hours of work for the position. CYM's full-time work week is 35 hours. The demands of work for the Secretary ebb and flow over the year. This has enabled the Secretary, working with Clerks, to identify times of reduced work that can be used to compensate for times of increased work, such as Committee or CYM and Representative Meeting gatherings. An averaging agreement that is compliant with BC employment standards and CYM personnel policy has been put in place.

Clerks serve on the **Office Management Committee (OMC)** which is the employing committee for the Ottawa office staff. The OMC meets every 4-6 weeks. Currently the Mentoring Clerk is serving as Clerk of the OMC. The OMC ensures that the Ottawa staff receive appropriate support and supervision and that CYM's Personnel Policy is implemented with respect to the employment of the Office Administrator and the CYM Accountant. The role and structure of the OMC has changed this year. The Treasurer, formerly a member of the OMC, laid down that role effective January 1, 2018. This has led to discussions with the CYM Secretary and the Accountant about effective ways to support and manage the work of the Accountant. During the fallow year arrangements were made for the Office Administrator to become the Representative Meeting administrator, to support the work of Contributions Committee, and to liaise with Publications and Communications Committee. The OMC is delighted to no longer need to initiate CYM staff meetings, formerly part of its work, as staff has taken on this role, building a supportive working relationship and ensuring that the Clerks receive the information that we need about the work of the CYM offices. Included in this year's work was recognizing that Kerry MacAdam, CYM's Office Administrator, has served CYM for twenty years! Our warm thanks, Kerry, for the work that you do for and with us!

Other personnel related work:

- Signing all contracts or employment agreements arranged by most CYM Committees, the exception being Camp NeeKauNis Committee.

- o Approving and implementing the process for annual approval of the consumer price index (CPI) increase to staff salaries.

**Committee of Clerks' Meetings:** Since the specially-called Representative Meeting held in June 2017, Clerks' Committee has met ten times. A supplementary report will be available at Canadian Yearly Meeting in Session reporting on activities between June and August 2018.

Below are the highlights of the Clerks' year.

- o Both a joy and a challenge in this work is receiving the reports of the CYM Secretary! The joy is hearing about the work being accomplished; a challenge is needing more time to respond to the greater amount of work being done within CYM, and providing the support and reflection needed to support the work of the Secretary.
- o The job description that was approved for the CYM Secretary identified two key areas of work: (1) **working collaboratively to support and enhance the work of CYM** through resourcing the Clerks and working with Clerks' Committee; enhancing information flow; supporting Canadian Young Friends; working with Education and Outreach Committee; undertaking some travel amongst Friends; and supporting and attending CYM-in-Session and Representative Meeting; and (2) **supporting the infrastructure of CYM** by maintaining effective financial information and attending Finance Committee, and undertaking some limited human resource management. As with any new position adjustments have been made after consultation with the Clerks' Committee. Of particular importance has been the work being done by the Secretary with Personnel Committee to develop effective implementation of CYM's personnel policy.

Much of the work of Clerks' Committee is ensuring that work continues between meetings of CYM-in-Session or Representative Meeting. This year this has included:

- o Preparing for Representative Meeting. Clerks' Committee member Barbara Horvath, Clerk of Trustees, sat at the table in support of Clerk Elaine Bishop.
- Approving freeing the CYM Secretary to support the work of Personnel Committee as it seeks more effective ways of CYM serving as an employer. This included members of Personnel Committee attending parts of a number of Clerks' Committee meetings.
- Supporting Archives Committee as it assessed its needs, including consulting with the Board of Trustees, and sought effective ways forward for caring for CYM archives.
- Receiving post-audit reports from the CYM Treasurer assisting with problem solving items raised, including the effects on CYM of laying down the Treasurer's role.
- Arranging for the signing of some ecumenical letters, after consultation with Canadian Friends Service Committee.
- Working with Penni Burrell, Clerk of Contributions Committee, drafting the annual Christmas appeal letter.
- Exploring creation of a simple graphic of Canadian Yearly Meeting, its components and working parts, to be posted on the CYM website.
- Supporting the Clerk of Publications and Communications Committee in its work.

- Following up with items that seemed to get lost including the appointment of a CYM Carbon Coordinator as indicated in Yearly Meeting minute 2016.08.47, and expressing concern to Canadian Council of Churches about its billing practices for General Board meetings in which all churches, regardless of size, are billed the same amount.
- Agreeing that Canadian Young Friends who are not active in a Monthly Meeting, to access funds through CYM to attend CYM-in-Session, may receive their letter of support from someone associated with Friends.

#### **Other Clerks' Work:**

- o **United Church of Canada** concern to address the damage done to Indigenous peoples and communities by mission work: as part of the ecumenical and Kairos communities, CYM and Canadian Friends Service Committee (CFSC) received invitations to accompany the United Church and other Canadian churches as they address harms done by missionary work to Indigenous individuals and communities. This work needs to be done with great sensitivity given the numbers of Indigenous individuals who have become and remain committed Christians and the diversity of expressions of spirituality amongst Indigenous communities. Jenn Preston of CFSC has asked Elaine Bishop to be the CYM representative to respond to this request. Elaine has attended telephone meetings and a day-long meeting in June in Winnipeg.

#### **Travel:**

Ad Hoc Committee for Liaison with Evangelical Francophone Friends: In August 2017 Elaine Bishop travelled for three days with Colin Saxton, General Secretary of Friends United Meeting (FUM), visiting with Evangelical French-speaking African Friends in Montreal, Trois Rivières and Quebec City. We were warmly welcomed. This work has been followed up by the Ad Hoc Committee that Representative Meeting appointed in June 2017.

- **Program Committee:** Elaine Bishop attended Program Committee meetings in Toronto in October 2017. She has been following up with arrangements for the Sunderland P Gardner Lecturer and Bible Studies leader for CYM-in-Session 2019.
- **Friends General Conference (FGC) Gathering:** Although Elaine Bishop did not attend the 2017 FGC Gathering as Clerk of CYM, she was asked to act in that capacity, sitting on the platform during the evening presentation by Kenneth Deer, a world-recognized Mohawk Elder who has been active with the development of the United Nations Declaration on Indigenous Peoples. Kenneth Deer was introduced by Jennifer Preston of CFSC.
- **FGC Central Committee:** Elaine Bishop attended the FGC Central Committee meeting outside Baltimore in October 2017 with our representative, Anne-Marie Zilliacus. This was partly as a result of her having participated at the Gathering and partly because FGC, facing financial struggles which, without significant change, could see FGC being laid down in four to five years, asked Clerks of FGC Yearly Meetings to attend. On a panel about what Yearly Meetings are looking for from FGC, she spoke about some challenges that had been relayed to her of being Canadian in a substantially US organization. This was well received. Many FGC Friends are very appreciative of and inspired by the work being done in Canada, including by Friends, on Indigenous rights.
- **FGC institutional racism audit training:** One of the significant initiatives of FGC, following incidents of racism towards FGC Members of Colour at Gatherings, is an institutional audit on racism within FGC. Elaine Bishop attended a training on institutional racism for those in leadership of FGC and its Yearly Meetings. The focus of the work being done by FGC is on People of Colour, given that many USA Meetings have Friends of Colour who are members, with little inclusion of work in Canada or on Indigenous Rights and the struggles against genocide of Indigenous Peoples in USA and Canada and to decolonize from that oppression despite the parallels of the two oppressions.

Also of note:

- **An invitation was extended to** Barry Crossno, General Secretary of FGC, to attend CYM-in-Session 2019, and we were delighted to receive his acceptance of this invitation.

Beverly Shepard, Presiding Clerk and Elaine Bishop, Mentoring Clerk

## **CONTINUING MEETING OF MINISTRY AND COUNSEL**

Since Representative Meeting in November 2017, Continuing Meeting of Ministry and Counsel (CMM&C) has continued to send out letters each month or two to increase awareness among Friends of the issues that were raised in our Reporting and Clearness session at Yearly Meeting in 2016. So far the letters have addressed these matters:

- \* being mindful of the life of the Spirit in venues where we are considering social justice issues
- \* personal boundaries and how we relate as a community when we come together
- \* loss, grief, and mourning
- \* resources regarding mental health issues among Friends in our Meetings
- \* caring for Isolated Friends in our Meetings
- \* the nature of worship – petition, prayer, and ministry

As of this writing, mid-April 2018, there is one more concern to be addressed, that of members and attenders who appear to have become estranged from our Meetings.

CMM&C was asked for help in a situation involving a Friend and that Friend's Meeting, in which serious and damaging differences had arisen. Although our offer to provide a listening ministry for the Meeting was not accepted, we did so for the troubled Friend, with apparently positive results. The Friend no longer attends that Meeting but is able and welcome to attend a different one occasionally and appears to have charted a path away from anger towards forgiveness, if not full reconciliation.

Much of our work in any year that YM sessions occur is preparing for CYM. Though the acceptance of various tasks by our members did not take up a great deal of time in our meetings, the tasks themselves have occupied our members outside of meeting times. The pre-Yearly Meeting retreat will be presented by Ellen Helmuth and will offer Friends a time to explore and share their personal spiritual journeys.

CMM&C has undertaken a review of the chaplaincy policy. We have concluded that, although the process of affirming the call of several chaplains across CYM has proceeded in good order, there are several areas where the policy is not being well followed. Our sense is that some of these areas need modifications to the requirements, and in others there needs to be a greater degree of commitment and compliance. The furtherance of this review has been passed to the three Elders with a Concern for Chaplaincy, who are appointed by CMM&C. One of these Elders completes his term at the rise of YM 2018, and we have appointed a new Elder to replace him. The terms have been adjusted so that there is one Elder's term ending each year.

We decided to maintain the schedule of a single face-to-face meeting (shortly preceding Representative Meeting) and to conduct business by conference call approximately each six weeks. This has worked well, especially given the already-busy schedules of all our members.

Our clerk was unable to attend the Program Committee meeting but has been in close touch with that committee via e-mail and an occasional phone call. Those matters of YM programme that are the responsibility of CMM&C are well in-hand, including the preparation of the YM State of Society report.

Beverly Shepard, Clerk

for CMM&C: Charles Brown, Erika Koenig-Sheridan, Jeffrey Dudiak, Lesley Read, and Linda Foy

## **CONTRIBUTIONS COMMITTEE**

Contributions Committee has been working on an updated Bequests brochure. It will be distributed at CYM in Session, and available for download from [www.quaker.ca](http://www.quaker.ca) following CYM.

We have a small but engaged committee, and have consulted with other similar organizations to produce a spirit-led, respectful piece of literature. We hope it is helpful for Friends considering including CYM in their legacy plans.

We submitted an article in *The Canadian Friend*, using quotes from interviews obtained from Friends who shared their experiences to encourage others to donate regularly to CYM. Long-standing donors continue to be thanked on a timely basis.

We look forward to members recognizing the importance of regular donations as the impact of the generous donation that enables our CYM Secretary to have a significant impact on our organization.

We continue to recognize the importance of informing CYM Friends of the importance of our broader connections, and look forward to developing more educational materials.

I very much appreciate the caring dedication of the members and staff's active participation in our committee. As we regroup after our fallow year, we recognize the importance of our supporting CYM in developing future plans. We would appreciate more members following a leading to being named!

Penni Burrell, Clerk

Members: George Webb, Fran McQuail serving by virtue of position with Finance Committee, and Kerry MacAdam CYM staff

## **EPISTLE SUMMARIZING COMMITTEE**

### **Australia Yearly Meeting**

We were welcomed to the beautiful lands of the Kaurna people in a moving dialogue between Kaurna elders and Friends, urging us to make spiritual connections with nature, with one another and with local first peoples. We were reminded that for Australia's First Nations peoples, the connection to the land goes back tens of thousands of years. Our children hosted us in meeting for worship, asking, "How do we care for the earth and all people?" We celebrated the adoption by 120 countries of the U.N. treaty to ban nuclear weapons, but are called to action by Australia's missing signature on the treaty. Our State of Society address said that "we need in every community a group of angelic trouble makers."

### **Cuba Yearly Meeting**

We fixed our gaze on the message of the Lord: “The harvest is abundant and the labourers are few. Therefore pray to the Master to send out labourers into his harvest. Onward!” Luke 10:2. We are living in times in which the planet Earth is deteriorating. We are all on that planet’s surface, some to the north and others to the south; but we are created as the human species, developed and transformed by the love of the Father for everyone. We hear today the voice of the Caroline Fox (1841): “Live up to the light thou has and more will be granted thee.”

### **Evangelical Friends of Kenya**

The conference was officially opened by Bishop Dr. Kennedy Wakoli, who reminded the delegates from a variety of local meetings and regions, that they are followers of Jesus Christ and that they should leave the conference as good Disciples of Christ. Our speaker further explored the theme that there should be love, faithfulness, kindness and patience among all church members and leaders; and that those who walk in righteousness have peace, joy, hope, faith and love.

### **Southeastern Yearly Meeting (USA)**

Story-teller, Bible scholar, performance artist Peterson Toscano delivered the annual Walton Lecture titled, “Discerning our collective calling: love, hope, and climate justice.” This unique three-act lecture/performance brought to us an understanding that climate change is not only a reason for being paralyzed by despair. We can see ourselves as honoured to be living in this time and being a part of the movement for climate justice. Friends described experiencing powerful worship-sharing sessions. We feel renewed in our call to be faithful. Guided by Spirit we can look forward to walking cheerfully over the world, answering that of God in everyone, sharing what we have learned and being a blessing to all.

### **Intermountain Yearly Meeting (USA)**

We were enchanted by our surroundings at Ghost Ranch this year: canyon walls changing colour throughout the day, cottonwood leaves rustling in the breeze, vultures spiralling up into clear summer skies. Our theme was “About Money: A Call to Integrity, Community, and Stewardship.” We were reminded how fear, guilt, defensiveness, secrecy, resentment, denial, worry, and pain can be disabling, and we felt the liberation of sharing these feelings. How do our traditional testimonies guide us in making money decisions, individually and collectively? In this light, we are preparing to adopt a pay-as-led system for our 2018 gathering. We actively explored the arts—including mural-making, dancing, story-telling and comedy—as a relaxed and contemplative way to both go inward, and to deepen fellowship with each other. As an outward expression of our faith, we passed a minute endorsing the 2017 Border Convergence sponsored by the School of the Americas Watch as a nonviolent means of opposing the militarization of the border and the mistreatment of those who cross it.

### **Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative)**

Peter Clay with guests—Christine Nobiss, Plains Cree-Salteaux of the George Gordon First Nation and founder of Indigenous Iowa, and Donnielle Wanatee Bi-we-ni-wa, Thunder & Eagle clan from the Meskwaki Nation, an advocate for Iowa and its people—led a panel on building bridges with Native Americans. José Woss of the Friends Committee on National Legislation spoke about race and mass incarceration. We gave tender consideration to Scattergood Friends School, and stand openheartedly with the school community as it faces the challenges ahead. Sharing and laughter at the talent show coordinated the last night by the Junior Yearly Meeting and Young Friends brought us a gathered sense of Light and Love.



### **New England Yearly Meeting**

Many of us arrived burdened by grief, fear, and worry about the multiple crises threatening the world. This year's theme, "Living into Transformation," spoke to our troubled condition. We were helped to understand more clearly why the promised coming of God's blessed community of peace and justice on Earth calls for nothing less than a radical makeover of our racist, classist, economically unjust, and violence-driven culture. Looking at the example of Jesus, we see the need to correct the spiritual malformations behind white supremacy, climate change, and the culture of empire and violent domination. This can occur only when we allow the Spirit to break open our hearts, illuminate our shortcomings, and galvanize us into life-changing action. Our good news is that we have in fact witnessed many instances of such movement of the Spirit within our yearly meeting over the past year, all emerging from deep waiting worship and corporate discernment of God's will. Corporately, we see the movement of the Spirit within our Yearly Meeting through gains in attendance, financial health, dedicated leadership, and the development of new programs.

### **Alaska Friends Conference**

Our theme was "Embracing Diversity: Accompaniment and Witness." We worshiped and explored with members of the National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People (NAACP) how climate change poses an even greater threat to minority communities. We shared our hopes and dreams for what our community might look like in 50 years if we successfully address the threat of climate disruption. Friends and NAACP leaders described a wide range of practical local actions underway as part of the solution. Alaska Friends have been very active in wider Quaker organizations for many years, relishing the opportunity to worship and share experiences with Friends from around the world. As a series of isolated monthly meetings, our yearly gathering renews our joy in community, our spiritual connections and our hope in sharing our vision of a diverse and welcoming community, in right relation to the world.

### **Ireland Yearly Meeting**

The theme of our Yearly Meeting was a quotation from Mahatma Gandhi "Live simply, so that others may simply live." We turned our attention to sustainability, ethical investment, tax justice, peace witness and the need for an inclusive society. We commenced each day with 30 minutes of silent worship in plenary session. We also met in small groups at the end of each day to reflect on the day's proceedings. We facilitated worship sharing and Bible study groups in the early mornings, and candlelit worship in the evenings. In our Ministry and Oversight session, the topic was "Feeling Alone". We heard about the important work being done on our behalf internationally by the Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO) and by the Ecumenical Accompaniers in Palestine and Israel (EAPPI). Our Welcoming Refugees Group organized an information and discussion session on "A new life – an inclusive society – insights into enforced migration," which included speakers from Syria and Afghanistan.

### **Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting**

Our theme was "Moving Together with the Spirit." We approved a program of intervisitation among Monthly Meetings to bring life and nourishment to all parts of our body. Older Friends were challenged to listen to younger voices and to reconsider some traditional practices. We heard the enthusiasm of young Friends to support the work of newer organizations where the life of the Spirit is breaking through. We greatly simplified the queries in our *Faith and Practice*. Lynn Newsom presented a powerful plenary session on the work of Quaker House, work that bridges the divide between the largest military base on the planet and a little house in Fayetteville, North Carolina. This work includes support for veterans with PTSD and moral injury, support for conscientious objectors, and raising awareness about torture, sexual abuse, suicide, and domestic violence in the military. Benigno Sánchez-Eppler of FWCC shared his ministry of crossing languages, cultures and theologies. We were asked, when we walk away from the traditional Christian language of early Friends, do we risk losing the treasure of their wisdom? He urged us to cross

borders, recreate relationships, and heal the injuries that caused our separations, so that we can learn to live as the body of Christ.

Submitted by Steve Fick

### **Ramallah Friends Meeting**

This second month of the year in Palestine is a time when the cold of winter begins to break. Between the hard stones which scatter the hillsides, life once dormant emerges once again. Within a few days, beautiful red poppies will carpet the surrounding fields as if to remind us that life abundant is always close by.

In this 2017 year, the wider Palestinian community will mark 50 years of military occupation and nearly 70 years since the beginning of the tragic displacement of the Palestinian people known as the *Nakhba*. Meanwhile, the people of Gaza, largely a refugee community themselves, are going on 10 plus years of an incapacitating and inhumane siege. As a consequence, four generations of Palestinians have now experienced displacement, daily hardship, the de-development of their society, and the denial of their basic rights.

The Ramallah Friends Meeting, formed in the early 1900's, has borne witness to this historical reality, sharing faithfully throughout the years both its sufferings and joys, by consistently offering an inclusive space for both spiritual nourishment and physical refuge.

First Day Meeting for Worship continues at 10:30 in the morning in the historic Meetinghouse. The tradition of Mid-Week Meeting for Worship has been revived, fostering fellowship and offering additional opportunities for worship. The Meeting's gardens offer an oasis of greenery and solitude in a bustling city and chaotic world. The witness to the daily living of a theology of nonviolence continues to be faithfully shared with travelers, far and wide. In addition, essays, meditations and queries are regularly made available on our new website; and frequent updates may be found on our Facebook page.

Throughout the coming days and years, we seek to remain both steadfast and forward thinking as we affirm abundant life in the midst of a tumultuous reality; and thereby be reminded that the business of our lives is, "...to turn all treasures we possess into the channel of Universal love..." (John Woolman).

### **Uganda Yearly Meeting**

To Friends everywhere,

**We send greetings from the Uganda Yearly Meeting (UYM).** We (more than 250 Quakers from Uganda, Kenya & Rwanda) have come together from August 30 to September 3, 2017 as a Yearly Meeting at Sibuse Friends Church. The UYM Presiding Clerk Paul Kuloba welcomed the delegates to the conference. This is the 31st Session.

It is a very historic conference because Quakerism spread into Uganda from Sibuse. By 1945, there were Quaker churches in Sibuse and Nabiswa to the East, Kigumba to the West and Nang'oma and Kampala to the Central by 1948.

The venue, the newly constructed Church, a 500-seater is set in the lush foothills of the Mt. Elgon. It is 5km from the Uganda/Kenya Lwakhakha border and 37km to Mbale, Uganda's Eastern regional capital. Politically, it is located in Bubutu Sub-County, Namisindwa District.

Our theme has been **"I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."** (Isaiah 41:10).

The main speaker, the UYM General Superintendent Samuel Wefafa has urged the congregants to live righteous lives so that God can “uphold you with my righteous right hand”.

We have listened to and discussed other topics including Stress Management, Quakerism, HIV/AIDS/Hepatitis, Gifts of the Holy Spirit, Armour of God, Church Planting and others. We have engaged in informative group discussions on Missions, Evangelism, Discipleship, Africans are religiously notorious, God as a commodity of Trade, Cult/Occult and others.

We have conducted an open air crusade in the nearby Muslim dominated and alcoholic bar infested Munamba Trading Centre. We have received tens of miraculous responses from “converts” who gave their lives to Jesus Christ.

We have been blessed with international visitors including a team from Kakamega Yearly Meeting led by Eileen Malova, Lugulu Yearly Meeting represented by Evelyn Cheroh Nyongesa, Rwanda Yearly Meeting represented by Emmanuel Ndazimenyera.

We also hosted the new FWCC (Friends World Committee for Consultation) Africa Section Clerk, Bainito Khayongo Wamalwa who introduced the new FWCC Africa Section Chairperson for Publications & Literature, Alfred Wasike (also UYM General Secretary). Both were nominated into those positions by the FWCC Africa Section Triennial, April 2017, Kigali, Rwanda.

We have also hosted the Principal of the Friends Theological College, Dr. Robert Wafula, his wife Nancy and their Friends from Chwele Yearly Meeting.

We prayed for the “delicate” political situation in East Africa especially in Kenya, the ever rising refugee crisis in South Sudan, the terror from Somalia, Burundi, other parts of Africa and the rest of the world.

We have decided that the 32nd UYM Annual Conference is to be held in the same venue from August 29 – September 2, 2018.

The USFW UG Clerk Sylvia Wopicho announced that the 21st USFW UG Conference is to be held from December 13 – 17, 2017 at Butuwa Friends Church, Manafwa District under the theme OBEDIENCE from 1st Samuel 12:14.

We agreed to hold the annual Youth Conference at Semuto in central Uganda from January 10 – 14, 2018. The theme is drawn from Titus 2:6. The text is to encourage self-control among young people.

We also enjoyed fellowship through well cooked food and games of football and netball with teams from a local media network.

We enjoyed creative music by different choirs, Sunday Schools, teenage, adult, and elderly from various churches and groups in East Africa.

We come away from our Yearly Meeting refreshed and convinced of the truth that an unwavering faith can withstand the test of time.

**We have learnt a new and practical aspect of faith through listening to the moving testimony of the oldest Quaker in the Uganda Yearly Meeting (UYM), 97-year old Kerenuka Kakai (right).**

The barefoot nonagenarian (person 90 to 99 years) generated a mixture of emotions in us. We were moved to tears when she said she has to walk for 5km from her home at Lwakhakha to the Sibuse Friends Church for prayer daily.

She triggered cheers when she recalled that she was part of a team of Quakers returning from an event in the Kampala Friends Church who survived death in 1972.

**Below is part of her historic testimony of faith in action:**

*“Ese Kerenuka Kakai. OmuQuaker omwene walwana ne Amin* (In local Lumasaba dialect: I am Kerenuka Kakai. The real Quaker who fought with Amin). We were stopped by Idi Amin’s heavily armed soldiers on the bridge across River Nile (Jinja). They harshly demanded to know which religious group we belonged to? I confidently answered that we are Quakers. I continued singing and praising loudly. Some of the soldiers realized that we belong to one of the churches that their boss (Amin) had banned. So the soldiers demanded that we get out of the vehicle. We did that. I continued worshipping my God. They then ordered us to march towards the side of the bridge and start climbing the steel bars. They then set their guns ready to start shooting us so that our dead bodies would drop into the River Nile. I continued singing and praying. One of them shouted at his colleagues: ‘Shoot them. Shoot the one who is singing first’. I just raised my arms to the sky and thanked God for our lives. I asked God to forgive the soldiers for they did not know what they were doing. I did it the way Jesus did it. I shut my eyes. Then I heard one of them shout in Kiswahili: ‘Leave those fools. Let them go’. We returned here (Sibuse Friends Church) to praise and thank God for the grace, triumph and power of faith over evil. We defeated Amin!”

(On January 26, 1971, Idi Amin started his rule of terror that turned the “Pearl of Africa” (Uganda) into a killing field and a blood bath. The Friends Church in Uganda was banned by "His Excellency President for Life, Field Marshal Alhaji Dr. Idi Amin Dada, VC, DSO, MC, and CBE" Idi Amin in 1973, to the end of his leadership in 1979.

Quakers retreated into silent meetings in nine houses in Sibuse & Buwamingwa. But they attended the EAYM Annual Conferences. It is reported that at least 300,000 opponents were killed from 1971 to 1979. Many victims were fed to the crocodiles in the River Nile.

When he was disposed in 1979 some freedom of worship was restored and the remaining 200 Friends gathered to rebuild broken dreams and churches.

After this the Uganda Yearly Meeting (UYM) was formed, separate from EAYM. After 1986, the freedom of worship was more pronounced.)

**Japan Yearly Meeting**

To Friends Worldwide,

The Annual General Conference of Japan Yearly Meeting was held on November 18-19, 2017. Our theme was "Let Our Lives Speak," the words of George Fox inspired by James 2:14-18. The conference was hosted by Tokyo Monthly Meeting, with 34 in attendance.

In the first symposium, “The Legacy We Leave to the Next Generation, Visible and Invisible,” representatives of each Monthly Meeting shared the following observations:

--the hope that we may cherish what we have learned from the models set by our elders and fulfill our responsibilities as members;

--the desire for recognition of the value of mutual respect for diversity and our tradition of openness and generosity;

--the hope that the children of the Meeting will grow up with an awareness of the presence of God in their lives and the joy of working with them;  
--the importance of letting the younger generation feel free to choose from the models they witness rather than feeling compelled to accept advice; and  
--the hope that intergenerational relations among Friends will be as peers rather than hierarchical, and that we share a global vision of our place in the world.

We felt a common sense of what we want to convey in these experiential testimonies from representatives of various age groups, and hope to continue to sojourn in this spirit.

In the second symposium, "Journeys to Membership in the Religious Society of Friends and How We Welcome Visitors," four new members spoke about how they were drawn to join. In one case, it was related to her daughter entering Friends Girls School.

In another case, the journey began with attendance at a Christian church during a period of study abroad. For a third, the opportunity was occasioned by a child enrolling in a Friends kindergarten. For another, it was through the introduction of an acquaintance who was a member. We feel a ray of hope in all these encounters. Attenders were also inspired by the witness of the Clerks of our Monthly Meetings who shared their local traditions of welcoming all visitors as friends, of active outreach, and of respect for individuality.

The Meeting for Business approved the following items: the 2016 Yearly Meeting report; the plan and budget for 2017; the plan for the timely demolition of Friends Center Annex; the laying down of the Shimotsuma Meetinghouse Working Group and the Friends Center Planning Committee; and nominations of new executive committee members.

After the General Meeting, we had the opportunity to deepen our acquaintance with representatives of the following affiliated organizations: Aiyuen, Japan Friends Service Committee, Shoutomo Gakuen Kindergarten, Shouyuu Gakuen Kindergarten, and Friends Girls School.

Submitted by Clive Doucet

## **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

At the April 2018 meeting of Finance Committee, the Committee reviewed the draft audited financial statements for 2017 before submitting to the CYM Trustees the recommendation that the audit be accepted and approved. The results for 2017 were better than expected and enabled the committee to recommend to Yearly Meeting that CYM extend the contract for the CYM Secretary for an extra year, taking it to four years rather than three. This recommendation was forwarded to the Clerks Committee for consideration.

The present Treasurer of Yearly Meeting finishes her term on December 31, 2018. Finance Committee has been concerned that at the end of 2018 there will be no Treasurer of Yearly Meeting and wishes to ensure that the Staff Accountant has sufficient support and oversight in her position. The Committee recognizes that we need to clarify the role of Finance Committee in supporting the Staff Accountant and asked Anne-Marie Ziliacus (presently Treasurer of CYM), Ro Fife (member of Finance Committee) and Cameron Fraser (CYM Secretary) to prepare a document which will delineate the roles of Accountant, Secretary and Finance Committee, to ensure financial and legal responsibilities are taken care of appropriately when we no longer have a Treasurer. In addition to this, Anne-Marie has been named to

Trustees and will sit on the Finance Committee on their behalf. This should provide some continuity and support for the Staff Accountant.

Finance Committee meets twice a year, by phone in the spring when the audit is reviewed and in person in the fall when the budget is presented.

## **NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

We held our Spring Meeting during the ice storm in Toronto. This made for an exciting distraction from our business. We welcomed two new members and had all five members in attendance and that was wonderful.

We appreciate all the work that Meetings do to find Friends to serve on Yearly Meeting committees. However, we are continuing to find that we are receiving fewer nominations from Meetings. The Fallow Year may have focused Friends interests elsewhere and we realize that we are all busy in many ways. But we hope that Friends will consider the opportunities to serve our Quaker community by joining one of the committees and experience the satisfaction and joy of that service.

We would like to encourage Friends to consult the nominating committee section on the CYM website for descriptions of the work of each committee. This can be helpful to Friends in discerning if a committee would be a good fit for an individual's interests and service.

We have received some resignations and are preparing a slate of nominations to bring to CYM in session. We will also be approaching Meetings to consider further nominations to fill vacancies.

Heidi Dick

## **PERSONNEL COMMITTEE** (formerly Personnel Policy Committee)

For the past many months, the Personnel Policy Committee has focused on managing the restructuring of the committee's form and function.

It was agreed, in consultation with Clerks' Committee, that the name of Personnel Policy Committee be changed to Personnel Committee (PC) to reflect the committee's work with policy and implementation. At the same time, Clerk's Committee also approved allotting some staff time toward implementation. It was realized that there was a significant gap between personnel policy and the implementation of same. To this end, PC struck a Personnel Policy Implementation Working Group (PPIWG), comprising of a member of the Committee and the CYM Secretary who will research and identify gaps between policy and implementation and work with the Personnel Committee to realize good order in the personnel matters of CYM.

The PC created an **Interim plan for Personnel Policy implementation** in order to provide clarity and stability while a change-over is carried out. A member of the Personnel Committee was identified as contact for specific employment and contracting considerations. This role is envisioned to be a resource to CYM's employing committees, not to be an active daily assistant.

It was also agreed that for the interim, the identified PC member would be a direct liaison with the management consulting firm, Business Sherpa, which CYM contracted to provide Human Resources consulting services on an as-needed basis

PC worked on establishing a structure that would facilitate clear communication and support between existing Employing Committees, Employees, Clerks' Committee and the practice of the reconstructed Personnel Committee.

The current planning and reorganization of the Personnel Committee has been challenging and requires studied thoughtfulness as way forward is found. We wish to acknowledge the support and cooperation of the Clerks' Committee and the unstinting contribution, cooperation and wisdom of the CYM Secretary without whose help we would not achieve such progress.

Monica Walters-Field, Clerk, Jim Chapryk and Margaret Sanders

## **PROGRAM COMMITTEE**

Reporting and Clearness is the opportunity for a committee to look beyond its day-to-day functioning to reflect and receive guidance from CYM on whether the direction of its efforts is in line with Spirit's lead at this time. In the case of Program Committee, whose mandate is the very specific one of coordinating CYM in Session, this particular Reporting feels a little after the fact since CYM has already spent such a considerable time in recent years discerning what it needs from our annual gathering, most recently as part of the Simulation Exercise in which all monthly meetings were invited to participate. The basic structure of Yearly Meeting, including its frequency, duration, schedule, and the four-year rotation of locations, has been rigorously examined and challenged.

Decisions arising from this process were minuted at the fall Representative Meeting of November 2017: "We were reminded that Friends don't change current practice until we consciously come to unity on a change. So CYM in Session will continue to meet annually, and the four-year rotation of location will continue." (RM 17-11-15).

So Program Committee considers the matter settled for the time being: we stay the course. The present Report will therefore limit its scope to commenting on our internal functioning and challenges, and an account of the costs of this course.

On this current course, Program Committee is happy to report that we are working very well. We know well what we are aiming for; we each know our tasks; our collective knowledge is extensively recorded and well-organized. We have the exemplary support of our Office Administrator. We work lovingly and joyfully together, and we take satisfaction in the very tangible result of our work and the many connections throughout CYM that it allows us to make and nurture.

We are coming upon a challenge of continuity. Almost all our members are on their second term, and our clerk's second term ends at the rise of this Yearly Meeting. As of the time of writing this report, no name has been found to take on the role. We ask Friends to discern whether they might be led to this work which is joyful, well-resourced, much needed, and warmly appreciated by the CYM community.

The challenge of finding leadership for the Children and Youth Program is perennial. Over the years we have experimented with many different models for the oversight of this responsibility. Every year we

struggle with finding enough Friends to provide leadership and care for all the groups. This year we are thankful to Kate Holden, Alice Preston, and Wes Weima who have offered their service as Coordinator (Kate) and Group Leaders (Alice and Wes). At the time of writing this report, we are still searching for one more Friend to serve in this essential aspect of our Yearly Meeting community.

The challenge we experience in finding leadership is not ours alone, but the current condition of our Society as the Simulation Exercise also reflected. Without wishing to reopen the discussion, we would like to reiterate to the full body of CYM what we previously reported to Representative Meeting: our current four-year rotation of locations, which does have rich benefits, also comes at a significant cost of human energy.

The recurrent search for new sites when previous ones no longer serve our needs takes up a significant portion of our Office Administrator's time. Even when we are returning to a previously used site, the four-year rotation places a considerable tax on our collective working memory, especially the clerk's. Four years is a long time between returns, and given the terms of service for committee members it is likely that whoever is clerking PC that year has never clerked in that same location before. PC and Local Arrangement memories are fading, and we are always reinventing the wheel for each site.

Planning and facilitating a Yearly Meeting gathering is a complex job with many details to remember. Even with our careful documentation as guide and with the benefit of several years' experience, the current clerk still finds that pieces of knowledge get forgotten and tasks neglected. For someone new to take on clerking such a complex collection of tasks is difficult. One way we can make it easier for Friends to serve on and clerk committees is to lighten and simplify committees' tasks. Holding YM in a consistent location could be one way to do this for Program Committee.

The cost of complexity is not just a matter of the convenience of committee members, but means that the energy that is committed to these tasks is not available elsewhere in the larger body. The experience of the fallow year has shown us that released from the tasks of preparing for YM, several PC members have taken on other ways of serving CYM, our local meetings, other Quaker bodies, or our communities beyond Friends. Our Office Administrator had been released to serve other CYM committees during 2017, strengthening other parts of the CYM body.

There is great richness for CYM in holding YM in different locations. A moveable YM makes it easier for Friends in different parts of the country to attend, and builds unity as we visit each other in different regions. But the cost in human energy also needs reckoning, and has repercussion throughout the body.

Nathalie Brunet, Program Committee clerk

## **PUBLICATIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE**

### **Highlights:**

- New Editor(s) and greater stability/production
- Email transition to Google for Non-Profits
- Outreach Special Interest Group
- More detail on the [P&C Committee Website](#)
- [Procedure Manual](#) for the Committee is now available
- Key contact info ([editor@quaker.ca](mailto:editor@quaker.ca); suggest agenda items using our [online form](#); PubComm Clerk)



## Organization of Committee Work

Over the last year, considerable time has gone into developing a system of subcommittees to steward the work of the Publications and Communications Committee. As we reported to the Fall 2017 Representative Meeting:

- The Editorial Subcommittee works with the contracted editor on editorial direction for The Canadian Friend, questions about the quaker.ca website, and with the Canadian Quaker Learning Series as requested. Other publication needs (such as video uploading) also fall under this subcommittee. One member of the editorial subcommittee serves as a point contact for contractors or employees engaged by Publications and Communications Committee.
- The Policy and Procedures Subcommittee works on the procedure manual for the committee and identifies policy gaps.
- The Communications Reevaluation Subcommittee is evaluating communication, particularly focussed on the quaker.ca website.

All three subcommittees meet regularly and report at our full committee meetings (which are held every two months). Additionally, a search subcommittee conducted the selection process for our new Editor.

All subcommittees, as well as the full P&C Committee, publish [notes/minutes](#) in searchable, tagged HTML format on our committee website.

We now have named a Recording Clerk, have a committee [online calendar](#) which helps keep us organized, and are making extensive use of our [committee subsite](#) web space on Quaker.ca. We have also developed a [committee procedure manual](#), and are experimenting with PivotalTracker as a project management software (particularly for tracking website issues). We are happy to share templates and subsite ideas with other committees.

We supported the CYM office in creating a [CYM-wide online calendar](#) where Friends can find information about committee meetings, Canadian Friend deadlines, etc. The calendar is maintained by CYM Office Administrator Kerry MacAdam.

## Email transition

After several years of email difficulties, as of April 2018 we have transitioned @quaker.ca emails to a different server system (Google for Non-Profits). We hope that this will address deliverability problems and, over time, offer options for easier transfer of information and email records between Friends rotating through the same committees and clerking roles.

While the Committee ultimately discerned that we should move forward with this transition - being mindful both that many @quaker.ca emails were already forwarding to Gmail addresses and that a solution to email delivery challenges was long overdue - we also carry concern for digital privacy. In August 2017, PubComm minuted the following:

“P&C requests that the Policy Review Subcommittee take up the issue of assessing the level of privacy required and make recommendation concerning practices which balance the need for communication with the need to protect privacy and protect against surveillance.”

This work is ongoing.

## **New Editors**

In the last year, we have been ably served by two Editors: first Reykia Fick, and then, as of September 2017, Tim Kitz, both of Ottawa Monthly Meeting. We thank Reykia and Tim for their work, which has brought much-needed stability and inspiration to the production of the *Canadian Friend* and to editing Quaker.ca. We believe that combining these two roles is working well at this time.

## **The Canadian Friend**

A new style template has been developed for *The Canadian Friend*, visible as the new look and feel for the issues since Sept 2017.

Our current plan is to publish three issues of *The Canadian Friend* per year. Information about the upcoming themes and deadlines is posted to the [TCF web page](#) as it becomes available.

## **Quaker.ca**

All information to be posted on the front page of Quaker.ca is now directed to the editor (editor@quaker.ca).

We continue to develop our [video library](#) which contains a variety of CYM-related content. These videos are available to be used elsewhere on the website (for example, this page chronicling the [2017 Quaker Study on Palestine and Israel](#)). These videos are hosted in a subscription-based [Vimeo channel](#).

We continue to work with Glen Newbury of Islandside Studio (based in Toronto) and Bruce Dienes of Capflex Networking and Annapolis Valley MM on maintaining our technological infrastructure (website, email, and domain management).

## **Canadian Quaker Learning Series**

CQLS produces pamphlets such as those of the annual Sunderland P Gardner lectures. After many years of faithful service, Peterborough Monthly Meeting has passed on their responsibilities for this work. Ruth Pincoe and Mary Conchelos stewarded the board through an interim process bringing together friends across Canada. The responsibility for CQLS has now passed to Winnipeg Monthly Meeting.

We thank the outgoing editorial board for their faithful service and care in handing over the work. We also celebrate the willingness of Winnipeg Friends in carrying this work forward.

Maggie Knight's Sunderland P Gardner lecture pamphlet was distributed at the end of 2017. At time of writing, Steve Fick's SPG lecture pamphlet is in final production and is planned to be distributed with the next issue of the Canadian Friend.

## **CYM 2018: Collaborating with Education & Outreach on an outreach-focused Special Interest Group**

Publications and Communications Committee will be co-hosting a Special Interest Group in August at CYM-in-session. The theme will be outreach, and our hope is to foster discussion and sharing among monthly meetings.

## **Looking forward**

We are working on ways to allow people to be notified about new content on the website.

We will be updating our Wordpress theme to one that is current and HTML5 compliant, which will make it easier to use the secure https protocol.

At the rise of CYM 2018, long-serving PubComm Clerk Chris Hitchcock will rotate off the Committee. Maggie Knight has agreed to serve as the new Clerk, and has been engaged in transition work with Chris over the past several months. Friends wishing to contact the PubComm Clerk are asked to write to [pubcom-clerk@quaker.ca](mailto:pubcom-clerk@quaker.ca).

Chris Hitchcock, outgoing Clerk and Maggie Knight, incoming Clerk

## **STATISTICAL SECRETARY**

I have now completed my six year term as CYM Statistical Secretary and am ready to pass the responsibility on to another Friend. The statistics of the monthly meetings is only a small aspect of the lives of Friends, but it does illuminate part of our work.

Since the days of the earliest Quakers, Friends have been scrupulous in keeping records of membership, marriages, births and deaths. Our Yearly Meeting continues this tradition, not for tradition's sake, but with a belief that the records are important both in understanding where we are now, and in not losing information of value and interest to the following generations.

For me, one of the joys of our annual gathering is the opportunity to make and renew friendships with the amazing people who form Yearly Meeting. Of course this is not reflected directly in the count of heads provided by the statistical report. However, the figures provide an important measure of how our Yearly Meeting is changing, and by recording them every year we can take account of how Yearly Meeting may evolve. In particular, to plan for the future we need to understand where we have come from and the statistics provide one measure of this.

One thing which I have learned from the statistics is how monthly meetings can be understood as falling roughly into three stages of development:

- New meetings which are growing and developing rapidly often with a lot of energy and innovative ideas.
- Maturing meetings which are consolidating their gains and perhaps focussing their energies.
- Older meetings some of which have long histories dating back to before the formation of Canadian Yearly Meeting in 1955 (Yonge Street is more than 150 years old). Often these meetings have concerns that their membership is growing older and is not being adequately renewed by younger members.

Overall about one third of the members of CYM are designated as "uninvolved" which is a particular concern for some of the older meetings. This number may reflect the fact that a member has drifted away and the meeting has not found a way of removing them from their rolls in accordance with Organization and Procedure. However anecdotal evidence also shows that some non-active Friends defend their Quaker affiliation even when they take no part in the meeting's activities. For some meetings the number of attenders equals or exceeds the number of active members. We need "our attenders to become members and our members to attend." A potentially interesting statistic would be the age when Friends first become members of a meeting (this appears to be a difficult statistic to collect for privacy reasons). A superficial observation of my own meeting suggests that most of the new members are between 30 and 50.

I have enjoyed this six years of service as statistical secretary. It has been an opportunity to learn more about CYM and its history, to share some of the joys and sorrows of monthly meetings and appreciate the work which so many do, and to enjoy the (mostly email) contact with some wonderful Friends who prepare the annual meeting reports from which this report is compiled.

John Dixon

**CYM STATISTICAL REPORT: CALENDAR YEAR 2016**  
*Full names of meetings are given in Attendance by Group Report*

	Arg	AV	Cal	Col	Cow	Edm	Hfx	Ham	KA*	IBC**	Mon	NB	Ott	Pel
Membership Summary														
TOTAL Dec. 31, 2016	31	17	28	45	15	22	54	43	44	21	15	37	135	13
Corrections (2017 report)									1 1					
Additions:														
Birth/adoption														
Request	1								1		2		4	
Transfer in	2				1				1		1			
Losses:														
Death	1				1		1		1		1		1	
Resignation	2		2		1		1						1	
Removal	1				2								1	
Transfer out	1								1					
TOTAL MEMBERS 2017	32	15	28	42	14	18	53	43	44	21	19	37	137	12
Membership Profile														
Birth to 18 (Young Friends)	1		2		2		1		1		2		2	
19--35 (Young Adult Friends)	5		1				2 4		8 2		3 3		25	
36--59 (Adult Friends)	5	7	9	9	3	10	19	16	18	2	3	8	39	3
60 and over (Senior Friends)	21	8	19	30	9	8	32	22	18	16	13	24	71	9
Uninvolved (of above)	20	7	16	21	4	3	21	22	8	7	4	9	58	6
Members from other MMs	2	1	4	0	6	0	3	4	3	1	9	14	8	0
Attendees Profile														
Birth to 18	1		7	1	1		5		5		3		3	2
19--35	1		3				1 1		5 1		16 3		5	1
36--59	2	4	12	2	3	2	6	8	12	1	9	18	21	3
60 and over	5	1	3	6	3	2	4	7	9	6	7	19	10	7
TOTAL ATTENDERS 2017	7	7	25	9	6	5	11	21	31	8	35	40	39	13
Total Involved in MMs	21	16	41	30	22	20	46	46	70	23	59	82	126	19
Marriages	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0

\* Age profiles estimated

\*\* Interior British Columbia (IBC) was Vernon MM

## MAIN SUMMARY

*Columns include main body of meeting and groups under its care*

	Pet	Pra*	Sas	SJ	SP	TI	Tor	Van	VI	Win	Woo	Yar	YS	TOTAL
<b>Membership Summary</b>														
<b>TOTAL Dec. 31, 2016</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>1035</b>
Corrections (2017 report)	1	-4	2		-5		1				-2	1		-4
<b>Additions:</b>														
Birth/adoption													1	1
Request					1	1						1		11
Transfer in								1						6
<b>Losses:</b>														
Death		1					2		2				1	13
Resignation						1			1					9
Removal														4
Transfer out								1	3		1			7
<b>TOTAL MEMBERS 2017</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>1016</b>
<b>Membership Profile</b>														
Birth to 18 (Young Friends)						1	4	7	8		1	3	3	38
19--35 (Young Adult Friends)			3		1	7	17	10	16			18	7	132
36--59 (Adult Friends)		1	4		5	7	25	32	31	4	3	31	25	319
60 and over (Senior Friends)	9	1	5		10	9	65	24	33	8	11	33	19	527
Uninvolved (of above)	1	0	0	0	4	10	24	15	5	3	8	62	19	357
<b>Members from other MMs</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>109</b>
<b>Attendees Profile</b>														
Birth to 18	4				1		2	25	5	8		3	4	80
19--35				3		2	6	31	10	6	2	3		100
36--59	1			5	2	2	27	27	18	33		4	14	236
60 and over	9			3	6	7	31	17	16	6	1	14	13	212
<b>TOTAL ATTENDERS 2017</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>628</b>
<b>Total Involved in MMs</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>1396</b>
<b>Marriages</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>

\* Age profiles estimated

\*\* Interior British Columbia (IBC) was Vernon MM

# CYM STATISTICAL REPORT: CALENDAR YEAR 2017 - ATTENDANCE BY GROUP

	Monthly Meeting	Name	Type of Group	Avg. attendance M for W	FDS	Frequency of meetings
<b>Arg</b>	<i>Argenta</i>	Argenta	Main Body	8		weekly
		Nelson	Worship Group	6		twice a month
<b>AV</b>	<i>Annapolis Valley</i>	Annapolis Valley	Main Body	8		weekly
<b>Cal</b>	<i>Calgary</i>	Calgary	Main Body	9		weekly
		Lethbridge	Worship Group	3		monthly
<b>Col</b>	<i>Coldstream</i>	Coldstream	Main Body	12		three times a month
<b>Cow</b>	<i>Cowichan Valley</i>	Cowichan Valley	Main Body	12		three times a month
<b>Edm</b>	<i>Edmonton</i>	Edmonton	Main Body	9		weekly
<b>Hal</b>	<i>Halifax</i>	Halifax	Main Body	8		weekly
		Antigonish	Worship Group	5		twice a month
		South Shore	Worship Group	10		twice a month
<b>Ham</b>	<i>Hamilton</i>	Hamilton	Main Body	20	4	weekly
<b>IBC</b>	<i>Interior British Columbia</i>	Interior BC	Main Body	12		twice a month
		Lillooet	Worship Group	2		weekly
		Prince George	Allowed Meeting	3	2	monthly
<b>KA</b>	<i>Kitchener Area</i>	Kitchener Area	Main Body	16	3	weekly
		Guelph	Worship Group	0		in abeyance
		Lucknow	Worship Group	12	0	twice a month
<b>Mon</b>	<i>Montreal</i>	Montreal	Main Body	18	1	weekly
		Laurentian	Worship Group	3		weekly
		Mid-week	Main Body	6		weekly
<b>NB</b>	<i>New Brunswick</i>	Eastern Shore	Allowed Meeting	7	2	twice a month
		Fredericton	Worship Group	8		twice a month
		Fundy Friends	Worship Group	5		weekly
		Prince Edward Island	Worship Group	7		weekly
		Sackville	Worship Group	6		weekly
		Saint John	Worship Group	4		twice a month
		Woodstock-Houlton	Worship Group	12	2	weekly
<b>Ott</b>	<i>Ottawa</i>	Ottawa	Main Body	37	2	weekly
		St. Lawrence Valley	Allowed Meeting	8+6		weekly
<b>Pel</b>	<i>Pelham (Niagara Quakers)</i>	Pelham	Main Body	10		twice a month
<b>Pet</b>	<i>Peterborough</i>	Peterborough	Main Body	14	3	weekly
<b>Pra</b>	<i>Prairie</i>	Regina	Main Body	0		in abeyance
<b>Sas</b>	<i>Saskatoon</i>	Saskatoon	Main Body	6		weekly
<b>SJ</b>	<i>St. John's WG</i>	St. John's	Worship Group	8		twice a month
<b>SP</b>	<i>Saanich Peninsula</i>	Saanich Peninsula	Main Body	10		weekly
<b>TI</b>	<i>Thousand Islands</i>	Thousand Islands	Main Body	10	1	weekly
<b>Tor</b>	<i>Toronto</i>	Toronto	Main Body	43	2	weekly
		Downtown	Worship Group	5		monthly
		West End	Worship Group	8		monthly
<b>Van</b>	<i>Vancouver</i>	Vancouver	Main Body	29	0	weekly
		Coquitlam	Worship Group	0		laid down
		North Burnaby	Worship Group	12	2	monthly
		Fraser Valley	Worship Group	0		laid down
<b>VI</b>	<i>Vancouver Island</i>	Victoria Friends	Main Body	31		weekly
		Victoria (Wednesday)	Worship Group	14		weekly
		Mid-Island	Allowed Meeting	10		twice a month
<b>Ver</b>	<i>Vernon (now Interior BC)</i>					
<b>Win</b>	<i>Winnipeg</i>	Winnipeg	Main Body	23	1	weekly
<b>Woo</b>	<i>Wooler</i>	Wooler	Main Body	5		twice a month
		Bloomfield	Worship Group	0		laid down
<b>Yar</b>	<i>Yarmouth</i>	Yarmouth	Main Body	18		weekly
		Manitoulin Island	Worship Group	0		irregular
<b>YS</b>	<i>Yonge Street</i>	Yonge Street	Main Body	20	3	weekly

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

2017 was a challenging year for me as we had a change of office accountants. Elaine Edwards left CYM in February and I filled in for a couple of months. Lorraine Burke was hired in May 2017 and has now completed a full year at CYM. Lorraine has done very well. It always takes a full year for a new person to experience all that goes on in a new organization and Lorraine has managed very well. She began her year filling in the charitable tax return for 2016 and has just completed the one for 2017. This year she will also be preparing the budget for 2019, which will be presented to Representative Meeting in November.

The budget for 2017 projected that we would have a deficit in the 2017 income statement for the CYM General Fund and we had agreed that we could approve this deficit budget because we understood that the CYM General Fund could absorb it. We were doing this to support the new CYM Secretary position and we also understood that we would have deficits for the three years that we had agreed to maintain the CYM Secretary position.

The actual results for 2017 were much better than budget. We began 2017 with an accumulated balance of \$695,532 in the CYM General Fund and ended with a balance of \$711,697. This meant that the Finance Committee felt comfortable recommending to CYM that we extend the CYM Secretary position for an extra year, extending the contract from three years to four years. Finance Committee will do a more detailed analysis of our financial position before the November 2018 Representative Meeting to see what might be needed to see if that position could become permanent.

The 2017 audit was, as usual, a clean audit. The audit was examined by Finance Committee and approved by the Trustees. There were no issues to bring forward.

I will not be present at CYM in session this year but will be present at the November Representative Meeting in Victoria. This is my last year as Treasurer and I will bring some recommendations to the November Meeting to outline how CYM can manage its financial responsibilities without a Treasurer but with some increased duties for the CYM staff accountant. I will still be available to Lorraine as I am moving to be a Trustee of CYM, which gives me an official role in CYM. I will continue on Finance Committee as the representative of Trustees and will continue to work with Lorraine.

Have a good yearly meeting session. I will be there in 2019.

Anne-Marie Zilliacus, Treasurer

## **TRUSTEES**

As the Trustees review financial information and activities related to CYM properties, we are reminded of the many Friends who contribute significant time and resources to the Yearly Meeting. We are also appreciative of the work of CYM staff, Kerry MacAdam, Cam Fraser and Lorraine Burke, whose expertise and skills make all of us more effective.

Since our report for 2017, CYM Trustees have met once and used electronic means to deal with another issue. Our report includes Yonge Street Friends Burial Ground and Pickering Friends Cemetery and the Statement of CYM investments and other property.



### **Financial Administration**

- The Board of Trustees examined the Audit Findings letter and will follow up on one issue that was identified.
- With advice of the CYM Treasurer, we approved the Audited Financial Statements and signed the Audit Representation Letter.

### **CYM Investments:**

- CYM's investment portfolio has been approved to comprise up to 50% equities, a decision which yielded increased income in 2017. This income is allocated to several specified funds within CYM, including Camp NeeKauNis and Trustee funds.
- The investment portfolio is carefully monitored by the Treasurer of Trustees and the other Trustees.
- The list of investments is attached, which includes the properties owned by Canadian Yearly Meeting. It reflects our position, as of December 31, 2017.
- These investments are in compliance with CYM's Ethical Investment Policy.

**Insurance:** Coverage of the Directors and Officers Liability Policy is at \$2M. This policy also covers Clerks, staff and volunteers of CYM

**Risk Assessment Reports.** The process of collecting reports from all CYM committees, begun in 2014, facilitates Trustees' awareness of the ways in which risk is identified, managed and mitigated across the operations of CYM. The process has been refined and adjusted to better collect this information.

- The added value of the Risk Assessment Report is to help clerks and committee members to reflect on what risks their committees might encounter and how they are managing those risks.
- As of the Trustees' meeting, April 21, 2018, all CYM committees had provided their reports.
- A couple of committee clerks report increased attention to personnel management, related both to employees and contractors.
- Committee clerks are encouraged to consider their Risk Assessment Reports at their fall meetings, to inform new members and to review their attention to risk. The updated Report should be prepared by the committee by late January and forwarded to the Trustees.

### **Property Issues:**

- **CYM Archives:** Trustees bring the attention of Friends to the importance of the Archives and Quaker Library. These resources are not only invaluable records of Quakers in Canada and elsewhere, but also a source for researchers and genealogists. Trustees encourage Friends to provide both the financial and volunteer resources to continue to operate the Archives and to make them more accessible. We acknowledge Pickering College's continuing provision of suitable facilities and practical support, contributions-in-kind that benefit the whole Yearly Meeting. The report of the Archives Committee is elsewhere in Documents in Advance.
- **Camp NeeKauNis:** In addition to its Risk Assessment Report, Camp Committee forwards to Trustees the report of its Physical Development Sub Committee, which gives us a description of their maintenance and development plans for the Camp property. Trustees respect and appreciate the thoughtful stewardship of Camp's many committee members and volunteers. The Camp NeeKauNis report also appears elsewhere in these Documents.
- **CYM owned Cemeteries:** Reports from the two cemeteries are attached.

- **Pickering Cemetery Committee:** Co-Convenors, Jim Adamson, has been joined by Lee Adamson, upon the death of Bill Lishman in December 2017.
- **Yonge Street Burial Ground:** The Yonge Street Friends Burial Ground Committee, Jeffrey Field, Clerk. Early in 2018, Eve Schmitz-Hertzberg and Richard Kamus, both of Yonge Street Meeting, have been named Co-Administrators.
- **Hay Bay Cemetery** is maintained by a neighbour, who is reimbursed for mowing and other costs.

**Requests to Trustee Funds:** the trustee funds are designated for specific purposes, as described in the document, Quaker Trust Funds in Canada.

- **A.S. Rogers Fund:** no requests were received
- **Sarah E. Richardson Fund:** a grant has been approved for Signy Fridriksson and Steve Fick for their travel in the ministry with a concern for Couple Enrichment.
- **Joseph P Rogers Fund:** no requests were received

**New Trustee:** Trustees are responsible for naming new Trustees. Anne-Marie Zilliacas is appointed, effective at the rise of CYM 2018. Her name will be included, for information, in the report of Nominating Committee.

**Privacy Policy:** CYM's Privacy Officer, John Dixon, was consulted about the CYM Directory of Members and Attenders. It was concluded that a printed directory, rather than an electronic one, was the most secure method to maintain privacy of information at this time. Friends who wanted to be included in the Directory had to sign a consent for inclusion.

**Legal Coordinator:** CYM's Legal Coordinator, Rick Rolston was consulted by Archives Committee regarding a copyright question.

**CYM Trustees:** Kwame Barko, Pete Cross, John Dixon (Treasurer), Barbara Horvath (Clerk), Martha McClure, Rick Rolston.  
Barbara Horvath, Clerk

HELD UNDER THE CARE OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF CANADIAN YEARLY MEETING at December 31, 2017

	RATE	BOOK VALUE	MARKET VALUE
INVESTMENTS			
CASH EQUIVALENT			
BNS Investment Savings Acct.	FLTG	110,858	110,845
		<u>110,858</u>	<u>110,845</u>
PREFERRED SHARES			
Algonquin Power & Utilities Corp	5.00	19,210	25,100
Bank of Montreal	4.00	68,650	72,000
Bank of Nova Scotia	2.95	125,309	124,850
Bank of Nova Scotia	2.60	73,816	74,400
Bank of Nova Scotia	FLTG	123,067	124,100
Brookfield Asset Mgmt	4.50	12,345	12,400
Brookfield Infrastructure	5.35	50,000	51,640
Canadian Western Bank	6.25	39,747	40,275
Fairfax Financial	n/a	18,150	23,100
Industrial Alliance Ins&Fin	3.77	19,691	24,120
Manulife Financial Corp	4.35	12,576	12,535
Pembina Pipeline Corp	n/a	12,090	11,970
Power Financial Corp	4.2	23,100	24,620
Sun Life Financial	FLTG	70,400	64,980
Toronto Dominion Bank	2.57	73,952	74,460
Toronto Dominion Bank	4.5	25,000	25,670
		<u>767,103</u>	<u>786,220</u>
EQUITY			
Aecon Group	n/a	15,284	19,940
Algonquin Power & Utilities Corp	n/a	24,827	42,180
Alimentation Couche-Tard	n/a	30,750	32,795
Alphabet	n/a	31,558	39,736
Bank of Montreal	n/a	41,908	42,751
Bank of Nova Scotia	n/a	97,783	137,904
BCE NC	n/a	73,737	81,513
Boralex	n/a	20,036	35,250
Brookfield Renewable	n/a	28,925	43,810
Chartwell Retirement Residences	n/a	19,645	32,520
Cineplex	n/a	22,650	22,398
Magma International	n/a	31,127	42,744
Manulife Financial Corp	n/a	48,897	78,660
Royal Bank	n/a	97,874	159,108
Toronto Dominion Bank	n/a	93,202	162,030
		<u>678,203</u>	<u>973,339</u>
CASH			
		6,399	6,399
TOTAL ACCOUNT HOLDINGS			
		<u>1,562,563</u>	<u>1,876,803</u>

**Scotiabank - Cash available for programs funded directly by Trustees**

Chequing account	63,833
GICs	80,434

**Investment interest/dividends disbursed to trust programs during 2017** **57,448**

**OTHER PROPERTY (at cost, market value not available)**

*Cost since 2000, prior costs not available or insignificant in this year*

Camp NeeKauNis, Waubashene, Ontario	306,422
Hay Bay Cemetery, Adolphustown, Lennox Addington County, Ontario (inactive, historic site) Pickering Friends Cemetery, Pickering, Ontario (active cemetery)	
Yonge Street Burial Ground, Newmarket, Ontario (active cemetery)	
Canadian Quaker Archives, Pickering College, Newmarket, Ontario	16,500
John D. Dixon Treasurer, CYM Trustees	

## **Pickering Friends Cemetery, Annual Report for 2017**

Bill Lishman (until Dec 30), Jim Adamson, John Sabeau and Bob Martindale continued as the committee caring for the cemetery.

Sadly, Bill died from Lymphoma on Dec. 30. He had been the mainstay for matters related to the cemetery since well before 1979 and cannot be replaced. Our condolences go to his family members.

The ashes of 3 deceased members of the Chapman family (Eileen d.2002, Ronald d.2012 and Pamela d. Aug 12, 2017) were buried in the Chapman lots on Aug 23 with six family members in attendance.

Cheque in the amount \$56.50 to Friends Cemetery (Pickering/Ajax) from Sanderson Monument for perpetual care of the flat monument to be installed on the lot used for the ashes of Pamela Chapman was sent to John Dixon, Treasurer of Trustees of CYM.

The cost of grass cutting in 2017 was \$1300.

February 2, 2018

## **Yonge Street Friends Burial Ground, Annual Report for 2017**

### **Committee Members:**

Jeffrey Field (Clerk), Ruth Pincoe (Recording Clerk), Sherita Clark, Richard Kamus (approved March 17, 2018), Ruth Jeffery-MacLean (Administrator to Feb. 2018), Eve Schmitz-Hertzberg (new administrator) (approved March 17, 2018)

The Yonge Street Friends Burial Ground is located at 17000 Yonge Street in Newmarket, Ontario. It is south of and adjacent to the Yonge Street Meeting House and is maintained for the use of members of the Religious Society of Friends, regular attenders and their immediate families. It is one of two burial grounds under the care of the Canadian Yearly Meeting Board of Trustees and licensed under the Bereavement Authority of Ontario.

Canadian Yearly Meeting Board of Trustees appoints members to the committee and these Friends are responsible for the maintenance and management of the burial ground according to Quaker practices and the Ontario Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services Act (2002). Although the work proceeds as necessary throughout the year, the committee meets in May and September to review the work and to plan. The Administrator is available at all times for the sale of plots and to insure the witness of interment or scattering of human remains.

We regretfully report the passing of Bert Ross who served the Yonge Street Friends Burial Ground Committee for several years. He was a willing support to the committee and assisted the Administrator during the time when the By-Laws needed to be amended. Bert ensured that the necessary steps were followed and documented so that the actions of the committee were in compliance with the provincial legislation. Bert died 16 December, 2017.

Cameron Knight was our latest friend to join the Burial Ground Committee. He has since laid down this service and has relocated to a community in South Western Ontario.

**Interments and Scatterings:**

There were **2 burials of cremated remains: Fred Simons and Hilda Jacobs**  
**1 burial plot** was purchased by Leo Molczadski.

**Deterioration of the metal fence:** A section of property on the east side of the burial ground was temporarily expropriated to facilitate the construction of a transit corridor on Yonge Street. The metal fence that has been a source of concern for several years. We were advised to leave any repair or replacement until the construction has been completed. The Region of York approached us with the offer of some financial assistance to improve the appearance of the streetscape. The committee has invested a considerable amount of time discussing the best option for fencing.

**Historic Stones:** The committee is always concerned with the care and preservation of the historic markers. The Town of Newmarket has now passed the designation of the burial ground as being of historic significance to the Town and the Province. We have not proceeded with much needed work on the stones but continue to make ourselves aware of best practices. We have asked the Trustees to advise us of the amount of money that remains in the restoration fund.

**Landscaping:** We are grateful to the contracted services of David Saunders, an attender at Yonge Street Monthly Meeting who has made himself and his equipment available to keep the border areas trimmed and free of encroaching vines and removing dead and diseased limbs and plantings.

**Administration:** Ruth Jeffery-MacLean has been available for the selling of lots, maintaining records, communicating with the Bereavement Authority and the Public Guardian and banking and filing the mandatory reports. Other members of the burial ground committee have assisted with the on-site responsibilities including witnessing interments and scatterings, receiving the families and friends as desired and providing hospitality as requested.

**Burial ground information:**

Creation of a new information pamphlet continues as an agenda item into the new year. We have not gotten any traction for creating a website. The email address for the burial ground is:  
[YS-burialground@quaker.ca](mailto:YS-burialground@quaker.ca) which links to the email of Jeffrey Field, Clerk.

**YEARLY MEETING SECRETARY**

I will have served as CYM Secretary for one year as of CYM in Session. This document reports on my work between August 1, 2017 and July 15, 2018, as well as work as CYM in Session and some of my future initiatives. The late nature of the completion of this report is due to a variety of other work priorities I faced in the late Spring and early Summer.

**Orientation and Welcome**

I began my role as Secretary on August 1, 2017 by travelling to Winnipeg and Ottawa for a formal orientation process with CYM Mentoring Clerk Elaine Bishop. I was warmly welcomed and hosted by Winnipeg Monthly Meeting during my first few days on the job. I travelled to Ottawa for five days to meet the Ottawa CYM Staff and continue my orientation. I returned to Victoria tasked with orienting myself to the job and relevant CYM policies; creating orientation period and first-year goals; setting up the Victoria Office (e.g, work space, resources, insurance, etc.); working with Education and Outreach Committee;

and engaging in regular communication. I also continued to meet with Elaine Bishop, CYM Mentoring Clerk, every one or two weeks for the first two months of my employment.

### **Clerks Committee**

I began meeting with CYM Clerks' Committee as a whole in early September 2017. At that time, the committee was comprised of Elaine Bishop, CYM Mentoring Clerk; Barbara Horvath, Clerk of CYM Trustees; and Anne-Marie Zilliacus, CYM Treasurer. The committee brought me up to speed on current business, guided my initial work, and reviewed and approved my goals documents. I have continually met with Clerks' Committee through Anne-Marie's stepping down from service on Clerks' Committee and Beverly Shepard's return to the role of Presiding Clerk of CYM.

I have met regularly with CYM Clerks' Committee on a monthly basis, to share information, support the clerks in their work, and to be supported in the management and oversight of my work. I consistently reported on completed tasks, current work, and future initiatives and made recommendations to the clerks concerning potential actions. All of my significant actions and initiatives have been discerned and approved by Clerks' Committee, and I have valued their support and the use of them as a sounding board.

### **Noteworthy Initiatives as Secretary**

Four noteworthy initiatives have arisen over the first year. Encouraged and supported the Young Friend and Young Adult Friend (YFYAF) Regional Contacts to meet twice in person between their 2017 and 2018 gatherings at Camp NeeKauNis. The Regional Contacts and Pre-CYM Gathering Organizing Committee met in Ottawa in November 2017 and participated in Representative Meeting as well as engaged in collaboration and planning concerning their work. The two groups met again in Ottawa in February 2018. I supported the groups in seeking financial support from Education and Outreach Committee, the purchase of airline tickets, arrangements for accommodation and meeting space, and reimbursement of costs associated with the two meetings. These YAF have been engaging in important work toward preparing space for YFYAF to come together, strengthen relationship and community, and potentially determine a way forward.

Work with Personnel Policy Committee has unfolded since October 2017, and led to a number of recommendations from the committee and myself. Our shared work has resulted in significant forward momentum in the evolution of CYM personnel and organizational practices. My work with the CYM Office Staff, comprised of Kerry MacAdam, CYM Office Administrator; Lorraine Burke, CYM Accountant; and myself, resulted in the group's recommendations and associated approvals to modify a number of organizational practices and structures for the betterment of CYM.

I have been exploring collaborative relationships with a wide range of personnel, including participating in a highly successful short-term collaborative initiative with Jim Chapryk of Personnel Committee. We completed a significant workload in a five-month period guided by his experience and expertise in Human Resources. This resulted in the aforementioned substantial movement toward better personnel practices for CYM. I am excited to support and engage in and with collaborative-teams as a way to enable Friends to identify answers to our challenges through reflection, communication and action - all grounded in spirit.

### **CYM Office, Victoria**

Clerks' Committee agreed to my working from Victoria by distance and travelling to Ottawa and other Meeting Houses and events as necessary. There is a clear intent to have me travel as little as possible, while still being a presence across geographically separate regions. I met with Friends by phone and Zoom (an online communication platform), and strive to make as much face-to-face contact as possible with fellow Quakers. Two of the benefits of my working from home include less cost for office space and my

geographical placement serving as a CYM presence in Western Canada. CYM considers my work to take place out of the 'Victoria CYM Office', and a variety of western Friends have contacted me as a CYM resource.

### **CYM Office Travel**

I travelled to Winnipeg and Ottawa in August for orientation, Montreal in October to attend an Education and Outreach Committee meeting, and Ottawa in November to attend Representative (Rep) Meeting. I currently travelled once in 2018, flying to Ontario in May to attend and present at Pelham Half Yearly Meeting and work with the CYM Office Staff in Ottawa. My calendar is fully scheduled during my travels, as I aim to maximize my time with CYM Personnel and local Friends. I usually attend Meeting for Worship, potlucks, and special meetings or events, as well as fit in individual visits, and collaboration with staff and service people. I have also been working to schedule downtime and exercise during travel.

I will of course be travelling to Toronto and Barrie in a few weeks for CYM. I will be attending the North American Superintendents and Secretary's Annual Gathering in Albany New York in mid-September, and am planning to tie-in a visit to Ottawa to meet as a CYM Office Staff team as well. I will travel to Toronto and Ottawa for 12 days in November to attend an E&O Committee meeting, work with the CYM Office Staff, and attend a Finance Committee meeting. I am grateful for E&O holding their Spring 2018 committee meeting in Victoria and for CYM deciding to hold the November 2018 Rep Meeting in my home town as well.

### **CYM Office Presentation/Facilitation**

As previously stated, I was invited to attend and present at Pelham Half Yearly Meeting (PHYM) in May 2018. I took the opportunity to present an organizational model I had been working on, which aligns my role in supporting the CYM community, with my current Master's Program studies, and a fractal organizational model I have been working on over the last seven years. I presented to PHYM a fractal organizational model of the organism known as Canadian Yearly Meeting. This model assisted me in demonstrating our interconnection as Canadian Friends, and the importance of working together at the local, regional, national and international levels. I then made a call for the operation of informal working groups and led a pseudo-World Café process where attendees formed working groups to dialogue and set intentions for potential collaboration. I found PHYM participants' to be incredibly receptive to the fractal organizational model and enthusiastic about engaging as working groups. I am inspired to facilitate similar processes, and welcome inquiries and requests – which will be taken to my employing committee for discernment.

### **CYM Office, Ottawa**

I have worked with the CYM Office staff as much as possible in person and by phone. Lorraine Burke, CYM Accountant, and I have worked closely together out of necessity regarding CYM finances and the transition of the CYM Treasurer. Lorraine kept up regular communication throughout the year-end financial and audit processes, and consistently connected as financial considerations and requests arose. Anne-Marie Ziliacus has been transitioning out of the CYM Treasurer role and associated responsibilities and will have completed her service as of CYM 2018. Anne-Marie, Lorraine and I have worked toward clarifying CYM finance roles, responsibilities and relationships, particularly in relation to the responsibilities that will be laid-down by the Treasurer (there is currently no plan for a new Treasurer). I have worked with Anne-Marie, the Office Management Committee, Clerks' Committee and Lorraine to address the transition concerning the Treasurer's support of the CYM Accountant. I am grateful for Anne-Marie's support over the last year, and her sharing of knowledge and skill in support of Canadian Friends. Lorraine and I will work closely together to prepare the 2019 budget and in the presentation of the budget to Finance Committee and Representative Meeting in November 2018. We will also continue to work closely as CYM

## Office Staff.

Kerry, Lorraine and I met in May, and as a collective decided it would be valuable to reframe the CYM Office Staff meetings. We articulated a recommendation to Clerks' Committee and upon approval, took over the roles and responsibilities of organizing and running the CYM Office Staff meetings. We are engaging in ongoing organizing and re-organizing to manage our CYM Office communications, especially our communication flow with Clerks' Committee. We are now in our third month operating as the CYM Office Staff team. We rotate responsibilities for clerking, recording and the creation of the agenda, and bring ideas forward for discernment and feedback before taking further action. We are committed to taking recommendations forward to Clerks' Committee or other CYM bodies as needed, and in alignment with Quaker processes.

## Education and Outreach Committee Clerk

I joined Education and Outreach Committee (E&O) as incoming Clerk in December 2016, with the intention of taking over as Clerk on July 1, 2017. I worked with Marilyn Manzer, previous E&O Clerk, to transition into the role and significant associated responsibilities. I conferred with Marilyn when I felt led to apply for the position of CYM Secretary, especially due to the implication concerning being unable to maintain my commitment to serve as E&O Clerk if I obtained the job. My decision posed a great challenge for the committee, and could have potentially negatively affected CYM education and outreach.

Clerks' Committee was aware of the impact of my hiring and committed a portion of my time as Secretary to assist E&O in the Clerk transition. I formally served as E&O Clerk from July 1 – 31, 2017. I began my work as a CYM staff person on August 1, 2017, and continued performing the majority of roles and responsibilities of E&O Clerk after that point. I was unable to find anyone to step forward as E&O Clerk, whether committee members or external Friends. I continued to walk a difficult and fine line as a staff person, supporting the organization of the committee and taking important considerations to the committee as a whole.

I attempted to establish a clerking committee within E&O as way to support the Clerk responsibilities and oversee committee operations. Wesley Glebe was one of three committee members who agreed to serve on this clerking committee. Over a number of months, Wesley naturally took on a greater level of responsibility; effectively identifying and working to his skills sets while communicating areas he required the support of the team (committee and CYM staff person). Wesley eventually took on the role of interim-Clerk before being approved in the role of Clerk as of April 2018. I have been working closely with Wesley over this time and greatly value him and what he has to offer E&O and Canadian Friends.

My work has transitioned away from pseudo-Clerking responsibilities and supporting online courses (see the section below) to more general support with E&O business and organizing. Education and Outreach committee members have continued to support Canadian Quakers with grants and loans and online courses, and have also been working hard behind the scenes to reorganize their committee. The committee members have been working to make roles and operations more manageable to sustain and engage in the important work of supporting Canadian Quaker education and outreach.

## Education and Outreach Committee Online Courses

I stepped into supporting E&O online courses in September 2017, both as pseudo-clerk and in my role of CYM Staff person. It was evident that the significant workload associated with administering the courses, including keeping to important timelines and supporting online course facilitators, necessitated the attention of someone in a paid position. I began working closely with the E&O Online Course Sub-Committee and the online course facilitators to organize the registration and evaluation processes as well



as advertise and promote the courses.

The role of E&O pseudo-Clerk and online course administrator, coupled with the other responsibilities of the Secretary, became overwhelming. The amount of work connected to E&O clerk/committee support and maintaining the online courses was too much. A period of sickness aligned with my awareness of feeling overwhelmed, and I communicated my concerns to E&O, with a recommendation to enact or hire an online course administrator. I provided significant support and detail for this idea, which included the administrator maintaining and potentially further developing E&O online courses and supporting course facilitators, while working closely with and reporting to E&O. My recommendation was approved by E&O in April; Wesley and I are currently working on a process to hire or engage an online course administrator. I am very grateful to Wesley Glebe, E&O Clerk, who has limited my engagement in E&O communications and workload since April, which has assisted in alleviating stress and, in turn, assisted in my gradual return to wellness.

### **Personnel Policy Committee**

My work with E&O and other Employing and Contracting Committees led to a greater awareness of CYM personnel practices. Questions and concerns naturally arose through my experiences and I began to take personnel-related business to Clerks' Committee as part of my regular reporting. Monica Walters-Field, Clerk of Personnel Policy Committee, had been connecting with me, and I returned to her with observations and queries. It became clear that CYM's personnel policies were being implemented to varying degrees, and that there was no oversight of policy implementation (interestingly, I believe this is the case for a number of CYM policies). I learned that CYM's multiple attempts to strike a Personnel Policy Implementation Committee had been unsuccessful, and I was witnessing some of the implications within E&O's personnel practices.

I began to explore this implementation challenge with Monica Walters-Field and was invited to attend my first Personnel Policy Committee meeting in January 2018. The committee identified the need to determine responsibilities for implementation of personnel policies and recommended the striking of a working group to do this. I attended Clerks' Committee meeting with members of Personnel Policy Committee, and Clerks' Committee approved the allocation of a portion of my time to work with the Personnel Policy Implementation Working Group (PPIWG) and attend Personnel Policy Committee meetings. The Clerks were clear that I was being assigned on an interim basis, and that this would be regularly monitored through my and Personnel Policy Committee's reports and presentations to Clerks' Committee. Clerks' Committee also approved Personnel Policy Committee's request for PPIWG to be able to explore the allocation of CYM Staff time in the support of personnel matters, and their recommendation to change the name of 'Personnel Policy Committee' to 'Personnel Committee'.

### **Personnel Policy Implementation Working Group**

Jim Chapryk, Personnel Committee representative, and I worked together as the Personnel Policy Implementation Working Group (PPIWG) from January – June 2018. We met once every one or two weeks to discern a way forward, direct my work, and review the documents I was producing. We regularly reported to Personnel Committee and presented reports to Clerks' Committee almost every month. I reviewed CYM's Personnel Policy Manual, Operational Manual and Organization and Procedure, and listed all personnel implementation responsibilities outlined in the documents. Jim and I worked through each responsibility one by one and identified roles and responsibilities of Personnel Committee, Employing Committees, CYM Staff (just as a potential), and Human Resources Consultants. I was then tasked with creating Terms of Reference Documents, which outlined the division of responsibilities between Personnel Committee, Employing Committees and CYM Staff (as a potential). Jim and I completed these draft Terms of Reference documents and a summary of our work before recommending the laying down PPIWG in

June 2018. Clerks' Committee approved the laying down of PPIWG in June 2018.

### **Personnel Committee**

I continued to work closely with Personnel Committee, especially through the reporting processes between PPIWG, Personnel Committee and Clerks' Committee. Personnel Committee identified an interim solution to CYM's need for a Human Resources Consultant, and created an agreement for as-needed services with Business Sherpa, until Personnel Committee was clearer on CYM's needs for Human Resource Consulting. Personnel Committee identified a need to eventually release a Call for Proposals to determine which Human Resource Consultant organization to engage as a contractor group. Personnel Committee has not completed their work toward making a Call for Proposals, especially due to the need to focusing more pressing matters.

I encouraged Personnel Committee to host a meeting of Employing and Contracting Committees and supported them to arrange the meeting on June 16, 2018. I worked with Personnel Committee to create documents in advance for the meeting, and assisted the committee in the lengthy process of planning for the meeting and preparing an agenda. Personnel Committee, Employing and Contracting Committee representatives (i.e., Education and Outreach Committee, Publications and Communications Committee, Office Management Committee, Clerks' Committee, Archives Committee and Camp NeeKauNis), and I met on June 16, 2018 to engage in a valuable consultation and collaboration session to determine next steps for CYM personnel matters. It was identified that CYM Personnel Policy was being inconsistently implemented, and a number of representatives questioned the current employing committee model. The collective group asked Clerks' Committee and Personnel Committee to follow-up with this point of business to determine next steps for potentially modifying CYM Personnel structures.

The group also discussed contracting versus employment practices and determined that more information was required before making recommendations for a way forward. Maggie Knight, incoming Clerk of Publications and Communications, and I were identified to work together as an Ad-Hoc Working Group to create a resource for discerning the engagement of contractors versus hiring of employees. We were also tasked with reviewing current CYM employment and contracting relationships, and to make recommendations - all based on my employing committee's approval to engage in this work. The meeting attendants also spoke to the value of meeting in this fashion, their interest in meeting again to review personnel matters, and an idea of creating a 'community of practice' among CYM Committee Clerks.

Personnel Committee and I met with Clerks' Committee on July 19 to review the June 16 meeting and discern a way forward. Personnel Committee was asked to articulate a redesign of the CYM Personnel Policy implementation structure(s) and work with the various stakeholder parties to determine the best way forward. I met with Personnel Committee to continue a re-visioning of the personnel model. We met again with Clerks' Committee on July 3, and continued working on the structure before I presented it at the July CYM Office Staff meeting.

The Administrator and Accountant were receptive to and appreciative of the ideas, which included a simplification of the structure and the idea of CYM Office Staff working as a team to support CYM personnel practices. I have met with Clerks' Committee to review the evolving model for CYM personnel policy implementation, and have met regularly with Personnel Committee in the lead-up to CYM in Session. I have worked with Personnel Committee to schedule a meeting with CYM Employing and Contracting Committees, Personnel Committee, and CYM Office Staff during Thursday's dinnertime at CYM. We anticipate continuing our work on the redesign of the CYM personnel structures by engaging in further consultation and collaboration with these committees.

Maggie Knight and I began work as the Personnel Policy Ad-Hoc Working Group shortly after the June 16 meeting, and have continued to meet and support this organizational work. I was recently identified as the Point of Contact for CYM Employing and Contracting Committee personnel support, and will work closely with Personnel Committee in this work, which might include liaising with our outside Human Resources Consultant group as necessary. I will continue to work with Personnel Committee and Clerks' Committee to redesign CYM personnel structures, and aspire to present this and the Ad-Hoc Working Group's products at the November 2018 Representative Meeting.

### **Young Friends and Young Adult Friends**

I connected with Young Friends and Young Adult Friends (YFYAF) as an E&O representative when I attended the YFYAF Camp NeeKauNis Retreat in 2017. I followed up with the Young Adult Friend Regional Contacts in August and September 2017 as CYM Secretary, and attempted to meet with them as a group. I ended up meeting with them individually in September, and recommended they attend the November 2017 Representative (Rep) Meeting in Ottawa. I suggested they attend Rep Meeting as the Regional Contacts and also take time outside of Rep Meeting to organize themselves as Regional Contacts and the Pre-CYM Retreat Organizing Committee.

I had already completed the necessary process to ensure the availability of financial assistance to support these Young Adult Friends with traveling to Representative Meeting, and supported them with obtaining airline tickets. The Regional Contacts asked me to facilitate a conversation to assist in articulating my YFYAF-related goals, as assist them in their work as Regional Contacts. During the weekend, I encouraged the YF/YAF Regional Contacts and Pre-CYM Gathering Organizing Committee to consider meeting again before the Pre-CYM Gathering. I informed them that I had applied for funding for YFYAF initiatives between January –December 2018, as part of Education and Outreach's application to the Samuel Rogers Memorial Trust fund.

The plans regarding my facilitated processes did not work out for either party. I made some mistakes by being over-enthusiastic and over-engaged with the Young Adult Friends' processes, and they in turn pulled back from their interactions with me. I apologized for the way things played out and have been attempting to support them in their work as best as I can, while giving them the space to operate and make requests for assistance. The group met again in February, and I assisted with some of their arrangements and the purchase of airline tickets.

I realized that YFYAF Pre-CYM Gathering information was not slated for inclusion in the spring Canadian Friend, which included the CYM in Session insert. I worked with members of the Pre-CYM Gathering Organizing Committee to rush an announcement and the creation of a draft version of their online registration form. I supported their advertisement being posted in the Canadian Friend and on Quaker.ca. I also worked with Kerry MacAdam and E&O Committee to amend the financial section of the CYM insert, to include financial assistance for Young Friends, Young Adult Friends, and families to attend CYM.

I have continued to meet with the YFYAF Regional Contacts and members the Pre-CYM Gathering organizing committee. I communicate with them by email, text, phone and Zoom (online communication platform). The organizing committee asked me to make arrangements for their bus transportation from Toronto to Camp NeeKaunis and then from Camp NeeKauNis to Georgian College to attend CYM. I made the arrangements, and will follow-up with bus organizing the week before the event to support any necessary changes to best meet their transportation needs.

I was contacted by one of the organizing committee members in early June with a request to assist them with their Risk Assessment. I met with the representative to begin a draft of the Risk Assessment and then

delved into a review of CYM Policies. I provided a draft Risk Assessment document to the Organizing Committee, with recommendations for follow-up actions to ensure the Gathering aligned with CYM policies. I have supported their adherence to CYM policies, including obtaining childcare volunteers (for childcare at Camp NeeKauNis), and the creation of a training session concerning the CYM Safe Nurture of Vulnerable Persons in Our Care Policy. I will lead a training session for the retreat organizers and childcare volunteers before the start of camp via Zoom.

*I feel it important to note that I became familiar with many CYM policies during the aforementioned risk assessment work. I reviewed the main CYM policies during my orientation, but had not been exposed to others. It is my observation that CYM might be lacking in implementation strategies or structures for a number of CYM policies. I suspect that the CYM Office Staff might eventually take on a greater responsibility for overseeing implementation of policies and resourcing committees to assist them in adhering to policies.*

I continue to make myself available to YFYAF, and strive to support them with finding funding, as well as supporting their initiatives. I will continue to work toward identifying any loose ends in communication and organization, especially in relation to communication between the YFYAF and other CYM organizational bodies. I will continue to act a communication conduit between Regional Contacts and Clerks' Committee and Education and Outreach Committee. I have been continuously processing the other aspect of YFYAF work, how our organization supports YFYAF. I had an 'aha' this May, as a member of a young Quaker family attending Western Half Yearly Meeting, and am inspired to explore how Friends can grow in the way we nurture each other and our community. I aspire to engage in collaboration with others concerning this and will present ideas about this outside of this report.

### **Program Committee and CYM In Session**

I was asked to take on the arrangement of bus transportation for CYM participants to travel between Georgian College and Camp NeeKauNis, based on the bus arrangements I was making for the YFYAF Pre-CYM Retreat. I have worked with Program Committee to ensure the bus times and arrangements work for their planning. I will also support the final arrangements and organizing of the buses on the Wednesday at CYM. I will be engaging in a range of organizational initiatives the two days before CYM, including performing the training session for the Children and Youth Program leaders, in alignment with CYM Safe Nurture of Vulnerable Persons in Our Care policies.

I volunteered to work with Caroline Balderston-Perry to organize the Saturday evening Community Celebration. We have engaged in planning sessions, and I anticipate leading a few parts of the evening, including some activities with the children prior to the start of the celebration. I will also be leading the Multigenerational Activities on Sunday afternoon, which will include community-building games designed for children and the 'inner child in all'.

I will be serving on Agenda Committee for the length of CYM, and will support CYM Clerks during Meeting for Worship for Business as needed. I am working with Maggie Knight and Clerks' Committee to co-facilitate the CYM Committee Clerks meeting on Sunday morning, and with Monica Walters-Field to co-facilitate a meeting with Employing and Contracting Committees on Thursday evening. I have also been meeting with Maggie Knight, incoming Clerk of Publications and Communications Committee, and Wesley Glebe, Clerk of Education and Outreach Committee, to support the organizing and running of a very important Special Interest Group (SIG) on outreach and community building. I look forward to CYM, to the fellowship, to the spiritual nurturing, and to Meeting for Worship for Business. I am excited about the opportunity to reconnect, strengthen, and build community.

**Work With Other Committees**

I have also been in communication and collaborated with a variety of other committees and personnel. Some of this work has been connected to CYM personnel matters, and other work has arisen through organizational communication. I have met with Tasmin Rajotte, CFSC Administrator, during most of my trips to Ottawa. We share information through email, including resources related to personnel policies and practice, agency agreements, and qualified grants. I have engaged in a fair bit of communication with Publications and Communications Committee and Contributions Committee, as well as a variety of other formal and informal Canadian Quaker groups.

**Looking Forward**

As is evident, there is by no means a lack of work for CYM Office Staff. I am grateful to work with the highly competent and committed CYM Office Staff: Kerry MacAdam, CYM Administrator, and Lorraine Burke, CYM Accountant. I look forward to building on our work together and believe the CYM Office Staff can and should support CYM personnel matters, financial matters (including accounting and fundraising), and administrative matters (including communications, organizing people and events, and ensuring the implementation of CYM policies).

I will continue to support Education and Outreach Committee, Clerks' Committee, Personnel Committee, and Young Friends and Young Adult Friends, and look forward to working with Canadian Quakers to determine how to support Young Friends, Young Adult Friends and families as an organization. I also aspire to tie my collaboration-focused Masters of Arts research project into my work with one or more groups within CYM or Canadian Quakers over the next year. Thank you for the opportunity to serve the community in this paid position. I am grateful for this opportunity, and feel held in love and light.

With deep, heartfelt gratitude,  
Cameron Fraser

## **MEMORIAL MINUTES**

### **CORBETT, DAVID**

**11 November 1963 - 12 October 2017**

Our Friend David was utterly unique. Once you met him, you never forgot him. He was a fascinating, highly-intelligent, fiercely independent man, and not one to do things just because they were expected of him. He showed no favour to family, authority, people of wealth or rank, or anyone else deemed important by society. You had to earn David's respect and affection through your own merits.

David was born in St. Louis in 1963. His family history was unsettled and complicated, with his parents divorcing and both remarrying. He had a younger brother Stephen, and numerous half siblings and step siblings. But because he would not do things for people just because they were related to him, family connections were often tenuous at best.

After his parents' divorce his mother remarried and moved to Ottawa, where David lived for much of his life. Even as a teen, David was independent and marched to his own drummer. He attended Ashbury College for part of high school – and was pleased to get himself requested not to re-enrol, as he found the dress code and the authoritarian regime at Ashbury not to his liking. He finished high school at Glebe Collegiate.

David had excellent recall of anything he read. He earned a BSc in Physics from Carleton University and a BA in Religious Studies from the University of Ottawa, considering the fields very similar, in that both attempted to construct explanations of phenomena that could neither be verified nor observed directly.

He was a spiritual seeker. Over the course of his adult life, he was Christian, pagan, Quaker, and finally Buddhist. He struggled with 'faith' -- finding a sense of the divine and of meaning -- all of his life. The Soto Zen Buddhism he adopted allowed him to engage in thought and practice as faith, without the kind of mystical necessity that he perceived as core to other religious approaches. He eventually became an ordained Buddhist monk.

David joined Ottawa Monthly Meeting in the 1980s. It was there that he first came to know his future wife, Siân Reid. They dated from 1989 until 1991 before having a very painful parting, in part because she valued security and he valued freedom.

Siân and David spoke only infrequently for the next six years, until he began the program in Religious Studies at the University of Ottawa which Siân had completed some five years earlier. This gave them a basis to talk again, and they slowly worked their way back into a friendship.

While he and Siân were apart, David worked extensively with the Alternatives to Violence project, teaching non-violence in prison settings. He had decided that it was more important to do work that he believed was meaningful and socially important than it was to work for wages, and so he largely abandoned commercial computer work, and instead focused on living simply on the allowance he received from his family. Careful spending and judiciously invested inheritances allowed David to live most of his adult life without having to work for pay.

In 2002 an ultrasound required after an attack of kidney stones revealed that David had somatostatinoma, a very rare form of cancer. Six months after a major operation David was told he was clear and could go

on with his life, and Siân and David got married legally (they had already been married for a year religiously) in 2004. Yet two months later, David was told he had six months to a year to live. The thirteen years that followed were extremely challenging: three liver resections, three years of weekly experimental chemotherapy, and intermittent bouts of radiation therapy.

We were glad when David and Siân came to join us in Hamilton Monthly Meeting a few years ago. Our memories of David begin with his dramatic entry into our Meeting Room; a very tall, thin man in black, with lace-up high boots, a greatcoat, and large-brimmed hat. Sitting with Siân in the back row, sizing us up as Quaker seekers: how he regarded our spiritual seeking, we could only guess. But David and Siân kept coming, and so we must have been acceptable. They also joined one of Meeting's small lunch groups, and over time we started to get to know them.

Spiritual seeking, perhaps even better described as relentless spiritual seeking, certainly characterized David as we knew him in Hamilton Meeting. This was exemplified in his presentation on the early development of the peace testimony. Several of us were led to a more thorough and incisive appreciation of the roots and continuing growth of this testimony, and came away impressed with his knowledge and interpretation of Quaker history and his ability to convey his thoughts.

David could strike people as somewhat peculiar. Some of this was because he was autistic, and learned all of his social responses by rote. Some of it was that he just really did not care what you thought of him. He was, for example, known to walk up to serving members of the military at social functions and ask them how they could justify being paid to kill people. He didn't care that this made them uncomfortable and mortified his date; in his opinion, having made that choice of occupation, they should be prepared to defend it.

On the other hand, he was flexible and could be persuaded by the better argument. Presented with an argument that contradicted his own, if he found it better than the one he was using he would change his opinion and behaviour. No one knew this better than the love of his life, Siân Reid.

Being around David was rarely boring. He had an active mind, and was broadly read in areas from religion to science to history. Siân recounts that she once kept him distracted on a painful post-surgical journey home to Ottawa from London, Ontario, by having him outline the entire Gallipoli campaign during WW1 and explaining the effects it had on the development of the modern Turkish state.

Our memories of David include his stoic and taciturn endurance of a painful decline of physical health due to the slow but relentless cancer. While his illness imposed severe constraints, David never let it stop him. Even in his final days, he could find time to cheer those around him and was not afraid to make plans for the future.

In the weeks before he died, David got to know Wilf Ruland (Treasurer of Hamilton Meeting). Wilf had originally come to discuss David's wish to leave a substantial bequest to the Meeting. David needed physical assistance with work he wanted done to set up a computing station and to reconfigure his room, and Wilf was able to assist. Within a short time David had persuaded Wilf to learn to play Go (a highly complex Eastern board game that makes chess seem easy). In a short time the competent teacher and adept student were embroiled in fierce intellectual battles at the Go board. They had just completed their second match (which Wilf won after being given a generous handicap) and were making plans for their third when David died, October 12, 2017, at the Bob Kemp Hospice.

The generosity of David's bequest to Meeting was, like his first arrival, a dramatic surprise. We are pleased that he considered us worthy of his generosity, and are glad to have been given the chance to get to know this unique man even a little. His courage in the face of adversity was an inspiration to us all.

## **DOWNHAM, TINA**

**27 January 1943 – 29 January 2018**

Life ceased for Tina all too soon, yet she lived it fully and enhanced the lives of all who knew her. She first became acquainted with Coldstream Friends Meeting when her brother Ron Nauta married Jenny Zavitz in 1972, daughter of one of the Coldstream Quaker families. Ever since attending the simple-style wedding in the Meeting House she had felt an affinity for the Quaker beliefs and life style. Years later she decided to join the Meeting, having already personal friends there who were members.

She brought new dynamics into the life of a meeting. Soon after she joined she became our recording clerk, where she employed her efficiency and typing skills. Her many other special artistic skills and gifts were also quickly deployed. We always celebrated Christmas season without too much fanfare or decoration. That changed when Tina was put in charge. She taught us how to make wreaths from the evergreen branches she and her husband, both in the horticultural business, had collected. From that time on the front of the Meeting House was decorated with our homemade wreaths every Christmas season.

Tina was also interested in our physical health and wellbeing. She had a philosophy like that expressed by a Zen Buddhist master: everything is perfect, but there is always room for improvement! She taught us how to do Tai Chi and increase our flexibility and flow of energy, which in turn would enhance our peace of mind.

Next on the list was our singing., We all knew there was room for improvement in this area, but Tina did something about it and would demonstrate how to better keep tune and rhythm.

Even coffee time, once a month, came under scrutiny. Coffee, she said, should be served properly with pure cream, not with just plain milk! This was a tradition ingrained in her from her Dutch heritage. Since members were reluctant to change, Tina would cheerfully bring her own cream until the Meeting adopted this change.

The above is just a reflection of Tina's dynamic, yet also laid-back personality. She did not take herself too seriously and every time spent with Tina was quality time. She often remarked on this aspect of doing things together. Often these quality times together would take place at her and her husband's spacious home. George, her husband, also became a member of our Meeting. He passed away in 2008.

Tina was also fully engaged in a variety of committees in our meeting, Ministry and Counsel, Search Committees, etc. She contributed to discussions and decision-making with clarity of vision. She was also part of our Liaison Committee, which was linked with the Yearly Meeting in the process of scrutinizing and selecting material for the draft chapters of a more Canadian oriented Faith and Practice, which was in the making from 2000 to 2010.

Do we miss Tina? Yes, very much. She gradually prepared us for her diminishing role in our Meeting. She knew she was gradually succumbing to the Alzheimer disease, just as her mother had been, to whom she had given so much of her care and time.



She will be remembered by all with love. We give thanks for the ministry of her life.

"A leaf is released from the arms of a tree  
to glide through the air... now totally free...  
A journey to make- a good-bye to us all...  
A beautiful brilliance- we'll always recall." Anon

**ENGELMANN, MARY**  
**Died 23 August 217**

Mary Engelmann died Wednesday, August 23, 2017. She was 90 years old.

Mary was a beloved long-time member of Edmonton Monthly Meeting, serving as clerk of the Meeting, and on various committees, hosting events in her home, and acting as a resource for Friends and attenders.

She received an MA in social work in the 1950's and worked as a social worker in both New York state and Calgary before moving to Edmonton where she worked tirelessly in the field of gerontology, implementing many programs and services for seniors that continue today.

Late in life, Mary was active in her local United Church while remaining faithful to her Quaker community.

Mary's patience, wisdom, humour, and generosity will be greatly missed.

**FROST, DONALD LESLIE**  
**1956 - 2016**

Don was born in 1956 and passed away June 2016.

Don was one of the gifted people who did not fit in with the school system. He did not get a high school diploma but at 18 he was accepted at the Ontario College of Art. He went on to become a Cabinet Maker, a chef, a salesman and an addictions counsellor.

He was also father to Dale and Sean. In the early 90's Dale nearly drowned and spent the rest of his life in a coma. Don quickly caught onto the medical procedures and within a day had a good understanding of what the nurses were doing and how to operate the touch screen monitor by his bed. This was before most people knew about the technology.

One of the reasons Don moved to different vocations was a life-long struggle with substance abuse which led to periods of treatment and incarceration. When focused he was one of the nicest people, who would do whatever he could to help those around him.

For a time, Don lived and worked near the Coldstream Meeting House. When a storm came through Coldstream he worked tirelessly on the grounds cleaning up, cutting trees and removing debris. He did repairs and helped install our washroom when we expanded our First Day school rooms.

In the early 2000's Don got control of his substance abuse and enrolled in Sir Stanford Fleming College in the addiction counseling program. While living in Peterborough he attended the Peterborough Meeting.

When he graduated and returned to London he worked at Nimkee NupiGawagan Healing Centre as an addictions counsellor. He attended Coldstream Monthly Meeting and became a member of the Meeting, serving for a time on the Social Concerns committee.

Unfortunately Don was not able to maintain control of the addiction and although he stayed connected with the Meeting he no longer attended.

After suffering deteriorating health for several years Don died of liver disease in June. He had the support of his partner Dianne Trowhill. His funeral was held at the Meeting where many of his friends commented on the positive ways they had been affected by Don's life. His ashes are interred at the Meeting Grounds Cemetery.

**GRAHAM, ANGELA BAIRD**  
**13 March 1925 – 19 July 2017**

Angela Baird Graham was born March 13, 1925 near Winnipeg, Manitoba. She obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree from what is now the University of Winnipeg and went on to do graduate work at Smith College in Massachusetts obtaining a Master of Social Work degree. Ahead of her time, Angela had a professional career, including managing London's Public Housing program followed by being Head of the Social Work department at St. Mary's Hospital where she introduced programs that supported more independence for long term residents. Married to Professor John Graham for 58 years, together they raised three daughters, Gillian, Kathleen and Anne, of whom she always spoke lovingly and with pleasure. She was proud of them without being boastful.

Angela and John came to Coldstream Meeting after seeking a spiritual home and she was a stalwart of the meeting participating actively and contributing to all aspects of the meeting. She was a woman who was interested in myriad of things. A great reader, she regularly recommended books for the Coldstream library. She kept abreast of world and local events, sharing items she heard about through the media. Her mind remained sharp until the very end. She understood the need to change with the times and was astute enough to make changes and adapt.

There was a great calm about her and she always spoke in thoughtful, measured words. She listened to others, without interrupting. She contributed to conversations and discussions giving consideration to comments made by others. Her quiet manner was the epitome of Quakerism.

Angela valued quality in everything: clothes, food, furniture, music, poetry, books, friends. Whenever she spoke of her friends she told of their fine and admirable characteristics. She remembered those who had passed on with fond memories. In all things she never expressed regrets but only focused on the good, in whomever or whatever it might be.

Angela was always gracious in what she said and did. This was evident whenever she welcomed people into her home. Ever a thoughtful hostess, she did everything to make visitors comfortable. On many occasions she hosted committee and other meetings for Coldstream Monthly Meeting. For a period of time, when traveling to Coldstream became difficult for John she opened her London home to provide a venue for Meetings for Worship.

Angela was blessed with a rich and plentiful upbringing, education and life experiences which she shared generously throughout her life. She approached old age with courage, hope and serenity and regularly stayed in touch with the meeting, coming as able and receiving and reflecting God's love right to the end.

## **HILL, SUSANNE RICHARDS**

**1 October 1933 – 18 September 2017**

It is one of the misfortunes of the ordinariness of existence that one rarely gets a perspective on someone's life until they are gone. Then somehow, miraculously, the person seems to step right out of the shadows of the daily rising and setting of the sun and they are revealed. Sue Hill was splendid. Sue belonged to that grand cavalcade of Quaker women like Elizabeth Fry, Lucretia Mott, and Susan B. Anthony whose compassion, intelligence, sense of justice and hard work left the world a better place.

Sue was born and grew up in Nashua, New Hampshire. Her mother was poet and writer Helen Mitchell, her father, Dr. Loren Richards, was a medical doctor who served in the US navy during WW II. Sue was a graduate of Wellesley College, married her geology professor Pat Hill and moved to Ottawa in the 1960s.

Sue, an economist, was an independent woman forming her own company Econolynx with international clients including British Airways and the government of Japan. Like many economists she had a clear eyed view of society. It was a deep part of her to defend those who had trouble standing up for themselves.

Sue played a major role in the founding of the Canadian branch of *Amnesty International* and worked for four decades to awaken people's conscience to the 'disappearances' in Argentina, the post-coup repression in Chile and to manage the activities of Group V in Ottawa. She was much loved and appreciated for her years of work and commitment to prisoners of conscience.

Sue came to Quakers as an adult when she was living with her children in Bristol, England in the 1970s. Soon after their return to Ottawa she became engaged in the life of Ottawa Monthly Meeting. Not surprisingly, she taught the First Day School children as she taught her own children about the need to pay attention to injustices locally and in the world. She served on various committees and brought her wise insights to Monthly Meeting for Business. Sue was a regular participant in the peace vigil and other demonstrations in front of embassies or the parliament buildings during the 1980s and 1990s. She loved to sing.

Sue helped to care for the Ottawa-based Canadian Yearly Meeting staff as we transitioned from General Secretary to administrator and book keeper. Her visits to their office were not just a committee task - she listened to their stories, asked about their children and brought gifts. When Friends pushed the boundaries of respect for CYM staff she took on her "mother bear" persona to protect them. Sue also took the lead in organizing and caring for the food co-op at CYM gathering for a number of years before we had a paid coordinator.

When Sue was a high school student in Nashua, her grandfather took her to a baseball game. She decided she liked the sport and would like to play, but her school had no team a girl could play on.

Sue went to the principal and asked if they could form a girls' team. The principal said "No - baseball is a boy's game". At the start of the next school year, she asked again for a girls' team to be formed and received the same response. In grade 12 she received the same response - but that time she did not leave.

She said she would stay in the office until the principal changed his mind and allowed the girls to have their own baseball team. She waited all day and the next. On the following afternoon the principal relented and allowed the girl's to have their own baseball team. The school office staff who were all women, clapped the young girl for her courage and tenacity.

Sue had the same courage, the same tenacity, the same beauty right up to the end. When she received an Alzheimer's diagnosis, her reaction was the same as she had as young girl when presented with injustice. She said to her son, "I've just been given a big mountain to climb". She refused a ride home. Instead she said that she would 'like to go home by herself'; and she found her way home by herself on the bus.

Sue found the way home for many people.

## **JOHNSON, CAROLINE**

**1 December 1969 – 21 August 2017**

Caroline Margaret Johnson was born in Burlington, Ontario, on 1 December 1969. She was given her first name after her father, Charles William Edward Johnson, and her middle name after her mother, Jean Margaret Johnson. Jean carried Caroline under her heart from England, where she was conceived, by passenger ship to Canada (where Charlie was already living), with Catherine, aged 4, and Mike, aged 2. Caroline was brought home wrapped in a white crocheted blanket with pastel dots, and her sister Catherine loved her as soon as she saw her.

Soon afterward, the family moved to Copetown, Ontario, where the children grew up in the country with dogs, cats, goats, sheep, rabbits, chickens, ducks and geese. As the youngest, Caroline was petted and teased in equal measure.

The family began attending Hamilton Monthly Meeting soon after immigrating. For Caroline's young childhood, the Meeting helped to provide a loving, safe, and stable place in which to grow. For many years, the family also attended Camp NeeKauNis, another nurturing place for Caroline as a child, and one with which she continued some involvement as an adult.

Caroline was twice victimized during breakdowns in her father's mental health, once when she was only 8 years old, and once again as a teenager. The severity of these two traumas affected her for the rest of her life. Caroline coped by separating herself from them and trying to have as full a life as she could. She did have a full, bright life despite the black pull of her traumatic childhood. She was the smartest of her siblings at school, an A student.

After her parents separated, the family stopped attending Quaker Meeting. When Caroline was a teenager, John Milton married her mother, and she accepted him as her adopted father. After high school, she earned a BA in International Development Studies in Toronto, with a sojourn in Mali and in Cameroon where she acquired fluency in French. Caroline worked for Canadian Crossroads International, and set up the Vancouver office in the late 90s. During her work coordinating exchange programmes with partner countries, she met Sigit Murdawa and married him in Indonesia, where she lived for two years, teaching English and learning Indonesian. She and Sigit moved back to Vancouver once his visa came through. Caroline desperately wanted a baby, but was unable to conceive. Once her nephew Anton was born, all her maternal energy went into being an aunt. Catherine and Anton visited Canada regularly, and Caroline met them in the UK and came to Berlin for Christmas most years, bringing just the right thoughtfully chosen

gifts. Caroline's presence as another adult who loved Anton was a huge support to Catherine. Caroline was also instrumental in finding a way for Catherine to recover from chronic fatigue syndrome after doctors had given up.

After a few years back in Canada, Caroline and Sigit parted ways. Caroline had various jobs upon their return, including working for a company that convinced publishing houses to print on recycled paper, not least the one that published Harry Potter in Canada. With her incisive mind, these undemanding jobs were not satisfying, but she really found her calling when she undertook a Masters of Library and Information Science at the University of British Columbia to become a children's librarian. After completing the gruelling course, Caroline started as a standby children's librarian, eventually landing a full-time job as a Youth Services Librarian. She switched from a wealthy area to a less well-served one, motivated by the hope of making a difference to families and children, especially at-risk and marginalized groups.

She was passionate about her outreach work, making strong connections to the Fraser Region Aboriginal Friendship Centre Association, the Awahsuk Aboriginal Head Start preschool, the Surrey Food Bank, where she distributed library books that would otherwise have been thrown away, the Umoja Operation Compassion Society, a non-profit organization dedicated to helping African and other immigrant and refugee families successfully integrate into the community, and many other organizations. The time she had spent in Cameroon, Mali, and Indonesia made her an asset in communicating with other communities than her own, as did her deep sense of justice and her strong compassion. Caroline contributed to the library's French materials for children and ran French Storytimes. She created and coordinated the Dog-Tales program at her library, helping children who struggled with reading by getting them to read to the most unjudgmental of listeners, dogs. The Johnsons had always had pets, and Caroline had a cat, and a dog she shared with Jean, and later a second dog. Her own and her roommate's dogs were both in the DogTales reading programme. Caroline and Catherine travelled together in the UK, and to Prague, Venice, and Egypt. Since Catherine speaks some Arabic, she did most of the talking in Egypt, but Caroline learned to say "Uhkti zaki" – "my sister is clever," which she said often.

In 2011, Jean moved to Vancouver and her life and Caroline's were closely intertwined from then on: birding and gardening, eating, and going on outings and holidays together. Jean became good friends with the parents of Caroline's second husband, Mark Lynds. This marriage, too, came to an end.

Caroline was creative and productive with numerous crafts, and shared this talent with children in her capacity as a librarian. She made marmalade, wine, and in the last year of her life, ginger beer for her Society for Creative Anachronism gatherings. In that same year she took therapeutic horseback-riding lessons, riding at least once a week, usually more, and made many new friends.

Caroline struggled with depression most of her adult life, and in recent years with alcoholism and prescription drug abuse. After she realised that Jean, who had been such a big part of her life since she moved to Vancouver, was going to die soon, Caroline felt unable to continue at work and took disability leave from April 2016. She took Jean to her medical appointments, but her mental health got worse as Jean's health declined. She got a puppy and spread puppy love in Jean's hospital, going from room to room with him. Jean's death was very hard for her. When John Milton died as well, Caroline said she felt like an orphan. The pull of the trauma she had cut off in childhood drew her to a dark place from which it grew harder and harder to make her way back to her light, lovely life of dogs and horseback riding and friends. For some time after Jean's memorial, she felt that Jean's spirit was not so far away and that death was not so final, and considered ending her life. On the day of a total eclipse of the sun, 21 August 2017, she felt the time had come to leave this life. We remember her as she was in the best times, larger than life, loud and laughing, smart as a whip, hospitable, compassionate and magnanimous.

**JOHNSON, JEAN MARGARET LOY**  
**18 November 1943 – 5 October 2016**

Jean Margaret Loy was born on 18 November 1943 in Sheffield, England, with bombs falling around her mother on the way to the hospital. Jean was the only child of Jesse and Peggy Loy. Her father worked on the railway, and her mother worked as a “dinner lady”, having been a maid from the age of 13. When Jean’s aunt was “disappointed” by a GI, Jean’s mother took her in. Auntie Barbara and her fatherless son, Michael, lived with Jean’s family for many years. Her cousin Michael was like a brother to Jean during her childhood, and he adored her. Even after Michael and his mother got their own home, and Jean and her parents moved to Felixstowe on the sea, Michael would spend the school holidays with them. A shy child, Jean liked nothing better than to take her dog out and go birdwatching, often with her little cousin in tow. These long walks helped to nurture both her independent spirit and her love of birds, two things that would stand her in good stead all her life. She finished school and was the first of her family to get any higher education, studying in London to become a foreign language secretary for a year, after spending several months in France as an *au pair*. Her love of language never left her; even the year before she died she learned a few phrases of Czech for her grand tour of Europe.

In 1964, while living in London, Jean met Charlie Johnson, a birthright Friend. Thus began her long association with the Society of Friends. Jean and Charlie married in September 1964. Their two children, Catherine and Michael, were born in England in 1965 and 1967. In 1969 Charlie, a metallurgical engineer, accepted a job at Stelco in Hamilton, Ontario, and the family moved to Canada. Their daughter Caroline was born in Burlington the same year.

Jean became a member of the Religious Society of Friends in the early 1970s. Hamilton Meeting remained her home Meeting for the rest of her life. She was very active in the Society of Friends, serving in a number of different capacities at Monthly Meeting, Half-Yearly Meeting, and Yearly Meeting levels. Camp NeeKauNis was an important part of family life, and Jean gave back by serving on the Committee, as well as taking on various roles at Camp, sometimes at the last minute when needed.

The family lived in Burlington when they first came to Canada, then moved to a little plot of land in the country outside Dundas, in Copetown, where Jean raised chickens, geese, sheep and goats, and grew much of the family’s food, so the children grew up with lots of organic food and fresh air. Charlie had his first mental health breakdown in 1976, and from then on suffered from mental health problems. Jean and Charlie separated in 1978, and after less than a year in town, she and the children moved to the country again and kept goats and a garden. Having worked only at Peace Research Institute-Dundas since coming to Canada, Jean had to start from scratch in the labour market, first at a chicken factory, then cleaning in an animal research lab at McMaster University, where perinatal researcher Molly Towell soon saw Jean’s potential and hired her as a research assistant. Jean saved the lives of many post-study lambs, giving them a home on her property. Jean’s love of nature and of gardening led her to earn a certificate in horticulture from the University of Guelph, and she wrote a gardening column for local weekly papers for a time. Jean continued at McMaster for the rest of her working life, doing radiocarbon data testing after leaving the animal labs.

During this time, the family stopped attending Meeting. Jean’s concern for the environment, simple living, and for peace and social justice meant that she continued to uphold Quaker values during her absence from Meeting. In September 1994, she married John Milton, and Jean returned with John, then an attender, to Hamilton Monthly Meeting, where they both contributed actively to Meeting life. Jean worked with another Friend to plan the native species garden at the Meetinghouse, and supervised the design, planting, and care of it. John and Jean lived for several years in Dundas, then moved to a house in

Hamilton which they made beautiful after the neglect it had suffered previously. For years, John and Jean came by bicycle to Meeting (and everywhere else) in all seasons and weathers, an example of strength and a light footprint.

About 2006, Jean discovered a lump in her breast, and underwent a mastectomy, chemotherapy, and radiation. She went back to work after treatment, but retired from McMaster soon after. This was of course a traumatic time, during which Friends did their best to support her. At the end of the treatments, Jean and John parted ways, and in 2010, Jean moved to Vancouver to be closer to her daughter Caroline, partially so that she would be near one of her children if the cancer ever came back, but also because she had long wanted to live in beautiful British Columbia.

Jean's love of the outdoors and of birds turned out to be a way to make friends, as it had in the Hamilton area, where she was a member of the Hamilton Naturalists Club and had many birding companions. It was a large part of her enjoyment of her retirement. She and Caroline often went on outings together and had meals and holidays together, and Jean always enjoyed and took comfort in Caroline's dog, Sam. Jean did not find a comfortable Quaker home in any of the Vancouver area Meetings, and attended only infrequently, never transferring her membership from Hamilton. She lived in three different places in the Vancouver area, eventually settling in a beautiful apartment in New Westminster. There she grew plants on her two balconies, continued birding, and enjoyed her relationships with all three of her adult children, and her grandchild, Anton, who visited with his mother Catherine from Germany, as they had done when Jean lived in Ontario. Her son Michael moved to Vancouver in 2013 to be better able to spend time with her. He took her sailing, which she greatly enjoyed, and met with her regularly.

In June 2015, Jean was diagnosed with malignant mucosal melanoma. After a bad relationship with her previous oncologist in Ontario, she developed a trusting relationship with her Libyan oncologist and surgeon in Vancouver. She went ahead with all of her holiday plans in summer 2015 despite her diagnosis. She spent a week on Galliano Island, and made a grand tour of Europe that she had been planning all year: to Berlin, Amsterdam, Prague, Cesky Krumlov, and Vienna. Radiation and surgery gave her a reprieve during which she made a trip to Cuba and managed occasional outings into nature for some birding with her daughter and the dogs, or with friends. The first half of 2016 was dogged with medical appointments to which her daughter Caroline accompanied her, but this aggressive cancer metastasized, eventually causing her hip to fracture in June 2016. She was hospitalized for hip replacement, and had cataract surgery while in hospital. She enjoyed visits from Caroline's new dog, Sirius, who was then just a puppy. Her son Mike fitted Caroline's house with a ramp and a chair-lift, both of them thus facilitating her longed-for escape from hospital, and after a few days at Caroline's, she was able to go back to her own home, where she rallied, outlasting one prognosis after another. Catherine left her work and life in Germany and came to look after her mother in June, nursing Jean at home until her death.

Jean was a cheerful, strong person with a generous heart, and faced her illnesses philosophically and with courage. Jean died on October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at her home in Vancouver, BC, with Catherine attending her. She will be lovingly missed.

## **LEMBKE, PATTY**

**8 June 1955 – 25 December 2017**

Our beloved friend Patricia Kaye Lembke was born in Deep River, Ontario on June 8, 1955, the daughter of Dick and Nancy Meeker and the eldest of four siblings. Her father's work with Atomic Energy of Canada took the family to Pinawa, Manitoba, where Patty spent most of her childhood and growing-up years.

Patty's many skills, talents and passions were far-reaching and touched many people's lives. Her training as a librarian eventually led her to Churchill, Manitoba, where she met and married Ted, the love of her life. Their three daughters Shelley, Christine and Sarah were born during their time in Churchill, Winnipeg and then Regina as the family settled in Saskatchewan, ultimately in Lumsden, in 1992. But Patty's fiercely-loving spirit, with her arms wide open in welcome, continued to expand their family with "honorary" fourth daughter Cheryl, and many foster children. It's impossible to know how many people were gifted with Patty's intense love. Her shining spirit enriched everyone around her, and she exemplified a life of quiet generosity to others and the communities where she lived.

Patty's long search for a spiritual home brought her to Friends through Regina Allowed Meeting in 1999 or 2000, where she quickly became a wholehearted participant. Until this point she had always been "Pat Lembke" – but because there was already a "Pat" in Regina Meeting, she suggested that she become "Patty". She liked this new name, and it stuck. Soon afterwards, Patty became a member of Prairie Monthly Meeting. From this base she went on to be an active presence in Canadian Yearly Meeting, attending both CYM and Western Half Yearly Meeting regularly, and serving on Representative Meeting, Nominations Committee and Contributions Committee, just to name a few of the ways in which she generously gave of herself. When Regina Allowed Meeting was laid down in 2014, Patty continued her very active involvement in Friends elsewhere, despite a growing number of health issues about which she rarely complained.

Among Friends we often hear the phrase "This Friend speaks my mind." Our f/Friend Patty always spoke *her* mind, and occasionally became impatient with Quaker process. She was a wise, intelligent woman with a keen sense of humour, and had strong, tenacious opinions. If asked for her thoughts on a matter, one had to be prepared to listen to something we didn't necessarily want to hear; Patty always gave her genuine take on things, always holding at heart her concern about what would be best.

A woman who selflessly offered up her life in a "ministry of action" – her quiet generosity demonstrated in so many ways, whether it was lovingly tending to people she'd "collected"; packing food hampers; cooking and catering; volunteering at schools and libraries and countless community events; founding a therapeutic riding association; making anonymous donations to causes she passionately supported – our dear Patty Lembke was a deeply spiritual woman who also found great comfort and solace in worshipful silence.

As her health declined and she was no longer able to play such an active role in her world, Patty moved into the next stages in a realistic, matter-of-fact manner, still treasuring her contacts with f/Friends near and far. During her final month she said that even though she was dying, she really had the best of all possible worlds – to be at home, surrounded by people she loved and who loved her, and to be able to feed them.

Patty Lembke died on the night of December 25, 2017. Her brimming luminous smiles, her fierce, nurturing love for others, her insights, her delightful humour, are sadly missed. We are blessed to have been graced by her shining spirit.

**MILLER, EDITH HOISINGTON**  
**30 July 1932 – 6 August 2017**

Edith Miller was a dearly loved and faithful member of the Religious Society of Friends. She was born on July 30th, 1932 in Ossining, New York to the late Frederick Reed and Elizabeth Abercrombie Hoisington. After high school she studied liberal arts for two years, but then chose to be independent and



worked as a secretary in New York City. She also worked as a freelance compositor for science books.

Edith loved music, and it was through her participation in choral groups that she met Michael in 1961. They married in 1962 and Edith always said that marrying Michael was the best thing she ever did. All who knew them would agree they were a very devoted couple. They moved from New York State to Sackville, New Brunswick in 1969. Here Michael began a long tenure as a teacher of music at Mount Allison University and he and Edith raised their sons Andrew, Nate and Joel. For the three boys, music was a vital part of everyday life. Their musical talents have enriched the lives of many people, including Quakers, and Friends have fond memories of enthusiastic performances at Quaker gatherings.

In 1975 Edith and Michael became members of the Religious Society of Friends. They and their children attended meetings for worship and were always an anticipated and delightful presence at annual Quaker Gatherings. In later years Miller grandchildren were a great addition to those events. Edith and Michael were founding members of New Brunswick Monthly Meeting in 1980. Edith gave valued service as recording clerk of the meeting and as editor of the Atlantic Friends Newsletter. She carefully kept photos and records of Friends' activities and served on committees to plan and organize Atlantic Friends Gatherings and Maritime/New England Gatherings. She and Michael were a faithful presence at many sessions of Canadian Yearly Meeting. She gave strength to our Friends' community and contributed to our corporate memory.

Edith's concern for peace and justice led to her Quaker involvement in Native Brotherhood ceremonies at Dorchester Penitentiary and alliance building with First Nations People. She cared deeply about the natural world. In her home she kept unique pieces of driftwood, stones and feathers tastefully displayed where they reminded her of special moments spent in nature. She treasured the annual summer camping trips with her family on Ram Island in Penobscot Bay in Maine, an island shared with close and extended family members.

In Sackville Edith was actively involved in many community-based art organizations, including the Sackville Community Arts Centre and Sackville Art Association. She sang in university choruses, earned her yellow belt in Judo and took dance lessons in ballet, modern jazz, and creative movement. She hosted a jazz program on the campus-community radio station and for a number of years wrote a bi-weekly column in The Sackville Tribune Post on environmental, justice, and Indigenous Canadian issues. She contributed articles to periodicals on the arts, especially dance reviews. Edith was a writer of poetry and prose and in 2016 she celebrated the publication of her book *Crow Impressions and Other Poems*, a lovely collection featuring her inspired thoughts about art, music and nature. Edith was a member of The Writers' Federation of New Brunswick and received prizes for two narrative poems and two non-fiction works. She was a juried member of the Professional Writers' Association of Canada.

For more than forty years Edith was an integral part of the Atlantic Quaker community. She was always a welcoming, caring and fun-loving presence. She and Michael hosted countless travelling Friends and others in their home. As one visiting Friend observed:

"I was impressed by the manner in which both Edith and Michael seemed to be individuals who naturally 'stepped up' when there was some need they felt they could help address. I believe we come to expect and rely on such individuals to always be able and willing to be contributors to the community in some manner or another. By degrees they become woven into our own sense and appreciation of what is good and wonderful in the world. It is a real wound and trauma when individuals such as Edith are suddenly not with us... I am sure that for everyone who was touched by her life, Edith's example and kindness remain a living influence and presence in our lives."

We give thanks for the Grace of God in the life of Edith Miller.

## **MILTON, JOHN EDWARD**

**1 December 1961-1 December 2016**

John Milton was born on the first day of December in 1961 and was adopted as an infant by Walter and Doreen Milton. Five years later, in 1967, the family moved from their Hamilton Mountain apartment to a house in Westdale, where they worshipped at St. Paul's Anglican Church. He attended George R. Allan Elementary School, Dalewood Public School, and then Westdale High School, where he was a life-of-the-party type of student with a mischievous streak. Nevertheless, despite the youthful hijinks, he was accepted at McMaster University, where he studied humanities and computer science.

John also took a course in paramedicine in Welland, Ontario, and spent time as a medic in the Canadian Forces. Constantly interested in new things and in expanding his knowledge, he was a model of life-long learning. As recently as about 2005 he studied laboratory technology at Mohawk College in Hamilton. His working life involved time as a civilian paramedic, a position at Home Depot, and – the steadiest of his jobs – an independent renovation business. One of the most remarkable things about this business was that he built a trailer for tools and lumber to be towed behind his bicycle (which was his only mode of transportation for years) as he went to his various construction jobs: a practice not just, as one of his friends has said, “herculean”, but environmentally responsible to a degree hard for most of us to match. John was also adept at computer technology, and part of his working life was trouble-shooting and writing sophisticated software for clients in the Sciences at McMaster University, and others.

John had a strong social conscience. As a young man he was a volunteer with the Boy Scouts. He was a peace activist and was involved in the protests against the Iraqi war in 1991, including participation in a protest camp set up at McMaster. He met Jean Johnson at McMaster while she was working there, and on September 17th, 1994, they married at St. Paul's Anglican Church. Jean was a Quaker, though she had been away from the Meeting for over a decade following the end of her first marriage. A chance encounter with three Friends from Hamilton Meeting on the trails of the Dundas Valley Conservation Area (they were hiking; Jean and John were cycling – on their honeymoon!) assured Jean that she and John would be warmly welcomed if she returned to Meeting, and they began attending Hamilton Monthly Meeting. John became a member in 1998.

John became an invaluable part of the HMM Maintenance Committee, using his knowledge and skills with tools to make needed repairs to the Meeting House. He served very ably as a Clerk for the Month when the presiding Clerk was in need of assistance. Reciprocally, HMM supported him in his various concerns. In the early 2000s he was deeply involved in opposing the construction of the Red Hill Valley Parkway, a controversial project that disturbed the natural environment and was on indigenous land. John participated in an encampment and sacred fire established by members of the Haudenosaunee, as well as protesting and being arrested at the Ontario Legislature. The time spent with Native protesters resulted in several close friendships between John and Native people (and a resumption of his once-discarded habit of smoking).

John and Jean lived for a time in Dundas, in a small house which John's carpentry skills improved markedly. There he built a backyard workshop which was his pride and joy. They moved to a larger home in east Hamilton, and John turned that house, too, into a beautiful home, after its years of neglect. One of the HMM supper groups involving Jean and John was so successful that it met for several years,

experiencing both of their homes. John had a life-long interest in photography. Both in the home in Dundas and in the East Hamilton home, John had a darkroom set up and was adept at developing his own prints. During this time of their connection with each other and with Hamilton Meeting, Jean and John were both very active in the Meeting and with Camp NeeKauNis, where John's skills were again invaluable.

Jean developed cancer which was diagnosed in 2006, and following her treatment she and John separated. Jean moved to the West Coast in 2010. John remained in Hamilton and moved in with his parents, who were both in failing health.

For some years, John attended Hamilton Meeting faithfully, but even when circumstances drew him away from us he offered his maintenance skills when needed, attended from time to time and was fully present in the worship, and stayed in touch with many individual Friends. He served on the Meeting's website oversight committee with dedication and imagination.

John was a complex and fascinating human being, with friends from various walks of life who respected and loved him for many different aspects of his personality. His friends often sought his advice when facing difficult situations. A good listener, he was generous with his time and expertise. While being keenly aware of the injustices and problems in our society, he could also treat them with pointed humour to prevent despondency. One friend has said John "adored tools, gadgets, computers, cooking, literature, film, music, political and religious thought, and discussion of all of these things. He really was a renaissance man... complex and contradictory and even argumentative at times."

John's parents had always cherished and supported him, and he returned this love and caring as they approached the end of their lives, attending to their needs and advocating for them. John's mother died in August 2014 and his father early in 2016. He felt their losses deeply and seemed personally diminished by them. His own health was poor in recent years, with renal failure complicated by a bacterial infection requiring hospitalization. Nevertheless, his death on his birthday, 2016, while awaiting an impending kidney transplant, was unexpected and a shock to his Meeting and other friends. His hearty laugh, broad grin, generous spirit, and even his occasionally argumentative nature, will be greatly missed.

## **OSBORNE, VALERIE**

**20 April 1930 – 12 September 2017**

Val, the daughter of Arthur and Dorothy Humberstone, was born in Cambridge, England, where she trained as a teacher. She moved to Zimbabwe (then Rhodesia) to teach in a whites-only girls' school until she could no longer stomach the racism around her. She immigrated to Canada where she taught in both Dartmouth and Halifax. Here she met John who had immigrated to Canada for an engineering position.

They had three children, two boys (Mark and Giles) and a girl (Claire) and a number of Newfoundland dogs. The family lived in Dartmouth but bought a summer cottage, an old fisherman's house, at Ostrea Lake. The cottage had no running water, only a hand pump, and a wood stove for cooking. Val, however, was not bothered by the lack of conveniences and kept the family warm and clean during vacation time. John introduced all three children and numerous guests to sailing, one of his great passions, and the children all recall the times at the cottage with great delight and nostalgia.

Valerie and John were among the early members of the Halifax Monthly Meeting and freely shared their considerable wisdom and love for the Meeting and Friends. Both served as Clerk for a time, as well as

being on many committees. Both were passionate advocates in the Peace Movement of the 1970s-80's and Val became active in later years with Project Ploughshares. When they could no longer attend the Halifax Meeting, they hosted Meetings for Worship of the Dartmouth Worship Group in their comfortable home. One member recalls: "In addition to the people, dogs were welcomed! These dogs were typically well-behaved and knew how to worship in silence. Unless there was a cat present."

Val had always wanted a university degree. At the age of 41 she enrolled at Saint Mary's University, completing her BA Honours in Geography. Although it took her six years to do her degree, Val enjoyed every minute of her "higher education" and received top marks.

But her grandchildren soon took first place in her heart. Three active grandsons, Graeme, Eric, and Ian Bent, kept her busy and happy.

Val is remembered by some members of Halifax Meeting for her firm and compassionate Clerking during the sometimes highly emotional discussions over the Meeting's response to their its request for a Same Sex marriage. This was before Same Sex marriages were legalized. In this case, the Meeting agreed to take the couple under their care and the ceremony went ahead.

One member, a long-time family friend, summed her up this way, "Val was a liberated woman before most women (and without John noticing).

**RAJAGOPAL, DAGMAR**  
**3 May 1940 – 29 May 2017**

Dagmar was born on May 3, 1940, in Oranienburg (north of Berlin) to Heinz Hoffman and Andrea Margarethe Hoffman. While her father was fighting in the war, Dagmar and her mother moved to be with her maternal grandparents in Briesen, and, as the Soviet Army advanced, they fled to Halle, which was occupied by the Americans. After the division of Germany, Halle was occupied by the Russians, as a result of which there was great hardship and fear. In 1948 the family – Dagmar, her mother, two aunts, and an uncle – decided to flee during the night to the West. It was a harrowing experience for an eight-year-old girl.

In the West, they were considered refugees, and were moved from place to place, ending up in southern Germany. Dagmar's parents divorced, and she and her mother were living with the grandparents when her mother was offered a caretaker position in Schloss Glücksburg (near Flensburg), which was owned by the Duke of Schleswig-Holstein. And so they moved to northern Germany. Here Dagmar completed high school and then moved to Munich to enroll in a two-year management program. She won a scholarship (for which two of her high school teachers had recommended her), and in 1961, she started her studies in Economics and Politics at the University of Munich.

In 1962–63 Dagmar's studies took her to Liverpool University and, during a week's break staying at a hostel in London administered by Quakers, she met Raja who was taking a break from his studies at Cambridge. Despite having to separate – one returning to Munich and the other to Cambridge – their friendship grew. Raja obtained work in the Max Planck Institute in Munich and soon they were married. The municipal official who married them took Dagmar aside and asked if she really knew what she was doing, marrying this Indian gentleman. Dagmar followed her heart. Then, as always, her will was strong. Dagmar completed her degree in Economics in Munich. Krishna was born in 1965 in Munich, and in 1966 they moved to Toronto where Raja joined the faculty of York University. Mohan was born in 1968 and once he was in kindergarten, Dagmar began taking night courses at the University of Toronto working

towards an MA degree in Economics. When Krishna and Mohan were able to take care of themselves, she enrolled in the University of Toronto's PhD program, completing her doctorate in 1987, thus fulfilling her personal goal of completing her final degree before either of her sons completed their first degree. She then pursued a career in Economics at University of Toronto and Ryerson University. After retiring, from 2005 to 2010 she served as Coordinator for Economics of the Chang School of Continuing Education at Ryerson University.

A continuing concern throughout for both Dagmar and Raja was spiritual values. Dagmar was raised as a Lutheran, but, like many young people, she was confirmed out of the church rather than into it. Christianity's claim that it is the only way to salvation was (and still is) unacceptable to me, she wrote. Later, after meeting Raja, she read about his Hindu faith and came to believe that all the religions are like paths that lead to the same mountain top. But in order to move closer to the peak, "we have to walk up one of the paths. Going around the base of the mountain and comparing the paths," she wrote, "will not get us any closer to the top." Dagmar and Raja had thus created a shared spiritual base.

When they arrived in Toronto, they attended the Willowdale Fellowship meeting in local homes where they met a number of Toronto Friends. They began to worship at Toronto Monthly Meeting and joined the Religious Society of Friends in 1973. Dagmar served as First Day School Coordinator for about six years. Later on Dagmar also served on the Day Care Committee, the Meeting of Ministry and Counsel, and Finance Committee and as Treasurer, Auditor, and Clerk of Personnel Committee. She served Toronto Quakers faithfully and with integrity in all of these positions.

Dagmar's health problems began around 2013, and near the end of 2014 Dagmar and Raja moved to Christie Gardens. Dagmar was well supported by the services and facilities there, but her health continued to decline. She bore all her diminishments with fortitude and courage. Her passing was sudden, and was difficult for her family who now carry on with their memories.

### **RAHN, BARBARA RIPLEY MYERS** **17 November 1916 – November 2016**

Barbara was born on 17 November 1916 in Clarks Green, Pennsylvania. She was the second child of four and the only daughter of Marjorie Clapp Myers and James Myers. Barbara and her brothers spent their early years in Cos Cob, Connecticut and New York City where James Myers worked as a Presbyterian minister and became the founding executive secretary of what in later years evolved into the Department of Church and Economic Life of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. Marjorie Myers served for many years as volunteer director of the Quaker Work Room at the 20<sup>th</sup> Street Meetinghouse of the Religious Society of Friends in Manhattan. Barbara grew up witnessing a lifestyle of working to help others.

Barbara attended Oberlin College in Oberlin, Ohio and went on to graduate studies in early childhood education at the Bank Street School for Teachers in Manhattan. As a young woman she worked in teaching and supervisory roles at the Gordon School in Providence, Rhode Island, at the Vassar Family Institute, and at the Highlander Folk School Nursery School in Monteagle, Tennessee. She went on to assist in the development of a Cooperative Nursing School in Northville, Michigan, and to serve on its board of directors. She also worked as head teacher for the Wilton Friends Nursery School in Wilton, Connecticut and for one summer as a head teacher with a federal Head Start Program in Norwalk, Connecticut.

In November of 1940 Barbara was one of the few women volunteering at the Quaker work camp run by American Friends Service Committee in Cooperstown, where she took turns working in the woods and in the kitchen. While there she met Sheldon Rahn, a young seminary student who, as a conscientious objector to the war, was doing his alternative service in Cooperstown. Sheldon and Barbara were married on 10 May 1941 at Barbara's home Meeting, 20th Street Meetinghouse of the Religious Society of Friends in New York City.

Barbara was a loving mother to her three children John (Suzanne), Cherry (Steven) and Patsy and grandmother to Amanda (AJ), Charlotte (Rebecca), and Lilah (Joe).

In 1966 Barbara and Sheldon moved to Waterloo, Ontario where Barbara continued to contribute to her community by serving the young and the vulnerable. She served as executive director of the Waterloo branch of the YWCA for six years prior to becoming the supervisor for the first municipal Day Care Centre in Kitchener, Ontario, and subsequently supervisor of a new regional Home Day Care program for the Regional Municipality of Waterloo. She was active in volunteer service her whole life, including working in the library and coordinating meals on wheels in the Kitchener area. Barbara was active in Kitchener Area Monthly Meeting where she contributed in many ways, often quietly behind the scenes.

As they aged and were no longer able to physically attend Meeting, Barbara strove to maintain her Quaker connection. She regularly reached out to the Meeting, was always happy to welcome visitors into her home and would call whenever she had a few months' worth of Quaker journals ready to pass on. Despite her own decreasing physical mobility, she uncomplainingly cared for Sheldon in their home as his dementia developed.

After the death of her dear husband Sheldon in early 2014 Barbara moved from their home into a retirement home where she continued to welcome visitors and celebrated her 99<sup>th</sup> and 100<sup>th</sup> birthday with parties attended by family and friends. Barbara died peacefully, attended by dear friends, at the age of 100.

## **REPRESENTATIVES TO OTHER QUAKER BODIES**

### **CANADIAN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES - COMMISSION ON JUSTICE AND PEACE**

The Commission on Justice and Peace (CJP) is one of the working groups of the Canadian Council of Churches (CCC). This group meets face-to-face twice a year and has several conference calls per year as well. For the 2018 - 2021 triennium plans are to focus on i) poverty in Canada, ii) peacemaking with a focus on militarism and Palestine/Israel, iii) living into the Council's expression of Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples and, iv) just allocation of resources - a very vague reference to sustainable economy and still to be clarified. Details of other commitments are slowly taking shape.

Last fall a Pastoral letter on poverty was prepared for member churches to use. Also last fall a letter was sent to Chrystia Freeland on Canada's absence from the multilateral process to ban nuclear weapons. Currently CJP is working on a letter to our Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau expressing dismay at his opposition to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and urging our Canadian government to take increased leadership in supporting it. Because CJP represents 25 member denominations of the CCC it requires a good deal of editing work to get the wording that will be acceptable to all.

Recently the CJP has produced a "Principles of Peace" document which was adopted by the CCC board at their spring meeting. Although Refugee Rights are not a priority CCC has been engaged in the work of challenging the Safe Third Country agreement. Other reference groups within the CCC include the Sexual Exploitation Working Group, the Faith and Life Sciences group - formerly the Biotechnology working group. Project Ploughshares is an integral part of CJP, providing expertise and updates on militarism and Canada's role in it. Project Ploughshares drafts our related letters to the government.

Within Canadian Yearly Meeting and Canadian Friends Service Committee there is periodic grumbling about our corporate lack of engagement in some social justice issues. As part of the Canadian Council of Churches we are given a role and a place to express these concerns in conjunction with 24 other faith groups. It is a privilege to be the CYM representative to this committed, articulate and faithful group working on social justice issues that are also a concern for Quakers in Canada.

Carol Dixon

### **CANADIAN MULTI-FAITH FEDERATION**

After attending several meetings of the Canadian Multi-Faith Federation, a number of issues came into focus.

1) CMF was having difficulty making connections across the country and needed hard-working board members who could help them to broaden their reach. Simultaneously, it appeared to me that the same elder-statesman of this organization who were interested in broadening the reach were at the same time reluctant to relinquish control of the organization that is such a major part of their life's work. I made a report to the clerks and to the CYM committee on interfaith activities that I did not think it was in CYM's best interests to commit to this organization. I also made it clear that even if CYM decided to continue involvement, I could not take on the level of commitment being asked for by CMF so I would not be submitting my name for nomination to the board.

2) Sometime after I signaled to both CYM and CMF that I wouldn't be continuing, I was cc'd on an email of complaint from one of CMF's employees. She was making a claim of wrongful dismissal and asking for the board's intervention. My response to that letter was to point out that my nomination papers had not been signed and I would not be continuing on the board.

The main reason that the Ontario Multifaith Council has re-branded as the Canadian Multi-faith Federation is that after it lost government funding, the board felt that being a federal contract holder for chaplaincy (eg with the correctional service of Canada) was the best way to sustain the work. While the interfaith education CMF offers is excellent and important, being a mid-scale employer of multi-site contract employees is a complex affair that requires a great deal of expertise. I would suggest that it is not in CYM's best interests to be a signatory to such a complex endeavor.

3) If Friends wish to be involved in interfaith dialogue at the national level (a desirable aim to be sure) then I would suggest working with Canadian Interfaith Conversation <https://www.interfaithconversation.ca/about-us> who foster rich dialogue without the complications acting as a mid-scale employer.

Kate Johnson

## **FRIENDS GENERAL CONFERENCE**

Friends General Conference (FGC) is a coalition of North American Yearly Meetings and Canadian Yearly Meeting is the only member outside of the United States. It has been an interesting first year as the representative to FGC, which is facing some pretty severe challenges.

Being a representative to FGC is quite a heavy commitment. It is almost like belonging to another yearly meeting, with all the same committees and work that we have in CYM. Central Committee is the main governing body, rather like Yearly Meeting in Session. There are up to 160 members of Central Committee made up from representatives of all the yearly meetings. Each member is asked to join a subcommittee, which could be finance, long range planning (for the gathering, like our Program Committee), the Institutional Assessment Working Group (working on racism), Development Committee (fundraising), committee for Nurturing Ministries (like our Education and Outreach/Continuing Meeting of Ministry and Counsel) and the Publications and Distribution committee (P&D). I am on the P&D committee. These subcommittees meet most often by phone about once a month. In addition, as the only representative from CYM I am also on the Executive Committee, which meets face-to-face a further three times a year and is rather like our Representative Meeting.

CYM contributes financially to FGC and for this reason it is really important that we have a representative on the Central and Executive committees because we are required by the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) to have control over any money that we contribute to organizations outside of Canada. As the representative to FGC I am part of the decision making and budgeting process for FGC. CYM signs an agency agreement with FGC, as required by CRA, but the agreements themselves are not sufficient in CRA's view to give us control over our money unless we participate in the governance. It would be the same for other Quaker bodies outside of Canada that we belong to (like Friends World Committee for Consultation and Friends United Meeting).

The FGC Gathering that is held every year in a different part of the United States is FGC's most important program but FGC is more than the Gathering. There are training programs for Clerks of the Adult Young



Friends and High School programs, an Institutional Assessment looking at racism within FGC, consultations for Yearly Meeting Clerks, retreats for YM General Secretaries, Spiritual Deepening eRetreats, the Welcoming Friend Project and materials and tools for First Day Schools. It is well worth looking at the FGC website, at [www.fgcquaker.org](http://www.fgcquaker.org) for full descriptions of all these things.

These are all wonderful programs but FGC is facing serious deficits and is having to cut programs. There was some discussion about cutting the bookstore, even though it has already moved to being solely online. The model of Quaker Book Service (QBS) as a completely volunteer run service inspired the P&D committee to propose something similar for the FGC bookstore and this has given the bookstore a reprieve. There is a distribution house that will take care of selling and packing books but the P&D committee has taken on running the bookstore at the Gathering and tracking additions and deletions to the stock and reviewing books for the webpage book catalogue. They have drawn in more volunteers to help with this.

The reason that I joined the Publications & Distribution committee was originally to be a liaison between the FGC bookstore and Quaker Book Service. Now that QBS is laid down this is not necessary but it is still very important to be part of the Executive Committee in order to fulfill our CRA obligations.

The Executive Committee meets in a different area each time and in May came to Ottawa Meeting and as well as their meeting, they gave Ottawa Meeting a presentation on welcoming families and children, something our meeting is very concerned with. There are few Friends in Ottawa Meeting who attend the FGC Gathering or who take advantage of their other programs so this was a wonderful opportunity for the meeting to learn more about FGC. Those of us going to CYM in session this year should talk to the FGC visitor and ask them about what FGC has to offer. Your meeting might find something very useful and inspiring.

Anne-Marie Zilliacus

## **KAIROS**

This is my second term representing Canadian Yearly Meeting on the Steering Committee (SC) of KAIROS. I was appointed Chair of the SC in December 2017. As well as the ten representatives from the member delegations there are also four members at large, at least two of whom are aboriginal people. KAIROS Blanket Exercise continues to attract new requests – most recently from the RCMP. Kairos is developing a tracking/evaluation process to assess impact. There is a standard script, with options to adapt. Small groups can still access the Blanket Exercise at low cost by contacting KAIROS.

Women, Peace and Security Program – with partners in South Sudan, Democratic Republic of Congo, Palestine, Columbia and the Philippines - emerged out of the Women of Courage program and its aim is to increase the role of women in peacebuilding and development processes.

KAIROS is developing an annotated report card of the 13 provinces and territories on actions taken towards the TRC 62.1 “to make age-appropriate curriculum on residential schools, Treaties, and Aboriginal peoples’ historical and contemporary contributions to Canada and mandatory education requirement for Kindergarten to Grade Twelve students.” (TRC Calls to Action).

KAIROS has also developed resource materials for Reconciliation in the Watershed workshops and Indigenous and Newcomer Friendships workshops.

KAIROS submitted comments to the Arctic Policy Forum and Framework Consultation February 2018. There is discussion underway about another Arctic Conference, possibly organized by the Canadian Council of Churches, to take place in 2019.

KAIROS has prepared a report on fossil fuel subsidies and has prepared a statement on Free, Prior and Informed Consent relating to the Kinder Morgan pipeline and Indigenous Peoples.

KAIROS Steering Committee has identified that we need to develop a Proposed Code of Conduct document to ensure professional standards are followed for risk management, work place sexual harassment, working with vulnerable adults and children, and security procedures. SC is seeking Code of Conduct documents from members to help the SC move forward on this.

KAIROS has three 'circles' made up of representatives from its members. The circles are ecological justice; indigenous rights; partnerships. Quaker representatives are Ruth Walmsley, Robert Miller and David Millar. A circle fest will be held at the end of May.

The next meeting of the Steering Committee is at the end of May.

Further information on KAIROS programmes and resources can be found on the KAIROS website at [www.kairoscanada.org](http://www.kairoscanada.org)  
Anne Mitchell

## **KAIROS ECOLOGICAL JUSTICE (FORMERLY SUSTAINABILITY) CIRCLE**

The KAIROS Ecological Justice Circle brings together one rep. from each of the Canadian member churches, to work on advancement of social and environmental justice, based on the understanding that the earth is an integral part of God's creation, and that we must live within Earth's material limits. Our work is inspired by eco-theology, and influenced and informed by Indigenous wisdom.

I completed my first 3-year term on the KAIROS Sustainability Circle in the Fall of 2017, although I have continued to participate in conference calls with the circle since that time. My name is being put forward by Vancouver MM Nominating Committee to the CYM Nominating Committee to serve a 2nd term. My understanding is that if approved at CYM 2018, my term would go from Fall 2018 - Spring 2021.

Our Ecological Justice Circle has kept in touch via conference calls in September 2017 and February, March & April of 2018. There was an all-Circle Gathering held May 9/10, 2017 in Toronto, which I was not able to participate in.

I was asked to represent KAIROS at a **Corporate Climate Justice: A Conference For Fossil Fuel Accountability**, held in Vancouver on January 19/20, 2018. A report is available upon request.

A renewed structure and mandate for the Circles (in line with the 2016-2020 Strategic Plan) has been developed over the past year. Program priorities for our Circle in 2018 include climate justice; transitioning off fossil fuels & ending fossil fuel subsidies, as well as the building of sustainable alternatives; addressing impacts of resource extraction; protecting water and watersheds; amplifying the voices of Indigenous women.

We were saddened at the passing of John Dillon, our long-time KAIROS staff liaison to our circle, and are getting to know Beth Lorimer, our new Ecological Justice Program Coordinator.

### **KAIROS Committees Terms of Reference**

#### **Functions of Ecological Justice Circle:**

- a. Undertake policy analysis and reviews related to ecological justice and assist with formulation of submissions to consultative processes related to ecological matters;
- b. Share analysis, coordinate strategies and collaborate on ecological justice work in the KAIROS program and in ecological programming within regional, sub-regional and local initiatives;
- c. Promote and disseminate KAIROS ecological justice education and awareness widely through KAIROS member churches and networks;
- d. Strengthen ways in which the wisdom, perspectives and work of global South and North partners (program-funded, advocacy and/or solidarity) can both inform ecological justice work and partner with KAIROS for impact;
- e. Assist in prioritizing elements of ecological justice programming within the current Strategic Plan and undertake periodic review of the program to evaluate its effectiveness and relevance to inform future strategic planning processes.

Ruth Walmsley

### **KAIROS INDIGENOUS RIGHTS CIRCLE**

There have been two meetings since the last report. One in Winnipeg in the fall was attended by Elaine Bishop. Staff changed between then and the meeting in May, and minutes are not available. It is my understanding that a fair amount of time was spent discussing the ongoing structural changes within KAIROS and member churches.

As this is my last report after serving for 8 years, I was delighted to participate in the KAIROS Indigenous Rights Circle meeting May 28, 2018 in Toronto. It reflected the significant shift in the relationship among various circles and structures within KAIROS. At the beginning of my service, the Indigenous Rights Circle was the entity that KAIROS identified as the group to engage with regarding Indigenous issues. At the end, the inclusion of two Indigenous Board members, with the protocol for nomination and role with the potential for more members was approved. This reflects more of a relationship based on Indigenous/church Nation to Nation. The transformation is not complete, but the structural underpinnings are in place.

As I've written before, the experience of being in the Circle with Indigenous and church representatives is one of the most positive ones I've had with social justice organizations. To me, the decision making process led by co-chairs which intentionally utilized both Indigenous and mainstream approaches exemplified what could be how reconciliation can work in the broader Canadian society.

The membership of the Indigenous Rights Circle may very well be close to 100% Indigenous in the next few years, as there is now enough capacity in most churches to send an Indigenous representative.

In my experience the role of Quakers on the committee has been to ask the difficult questions, and maintain a stand that reflects a rights based perspective. I am grateful for having served in this role and particularly for the opportunity to travel to a number of Indigenous communities, to hear and learn directly of their experiences and concerns.

My recommendation for moving forward is for a mentoring role to be intentionally developed for this, and possibly other Circles and committees that CYM sends representatives to. At times, Committees have institutional history and cultures that are not documented, or easily understood initially. Mentoring/support to the incoming representative can help address this possible gap.

Penni Burrell

## **KAIROS SUMMARY OF CIRCLE GATHERING**

### **Toronto, 28-29 May 2018**

I attended as a future member of the Partnership and Rights Circle, which has sponsored so many Women of Courage tours. It was a delight to see Anne Mitchell (Board), Penni Burrell (of the Aboriginal Circle) and so many Kairos staff and coworkers again, including a number from ROJEP, the Quebec partner.

Kairos is an ecumenical Christian NGO bringing together a number of previous coalitions on ecological, gender, migrant, and indigenous justice; the new economy; actions include women's tours about extractivism, Winds of Change reconciliation with First Nations ([videos](#), the 94 calls to action, native rights, education, MMIW, the blanket exercise); lobbying MPs, cabinet ministers and provinces on all these topics. I highly recommend looking through the website <https://www.kairoscanada.org/>

The best news is that Ottawa is again sponsoring Kairos partnership work, to the tune of \$5.7 million over five years. Current tasks of Partnership and Rights Circle are to:

- set priority for “Women Peace and Security” in P&R strategic plan (approved),
- revise and clarify its Israel-Palestine policy
- draft a peacekeeping policy for the board's consideration (taking into account peace churches' position). I will work in this subgroup.
- conduct a partner review (Kairos has many partners! 5 main Global Partners in strategic plan #4 below)
- plan a Church Leaders delegation (visit to one or more partners' countries)

Other good news: Ottawa's appointment of a federal human rights/mining ombudsman, after years of resistance to huge petitions circulated by Catholics' of Development & Peace. Conformity with UNDRIP: Romeo Saganash's Bill 262 just passed third reading and goes to the Senate. In both cases there may be compromises and loopholes, which Kairos must watchdog.

Kairos' strategic plan for 2016-2020 has four emphases:

1. reconciliation with indigenous peoples (action is tracked in CBC's [Beyond 94](#) website)
2. reconciliation in the watershed (local and global eco-justice)
3. reconciliation with migrant and diaspora communities (stopping human rights violations and injustices that lead to forced migration)
4. Women of Courage (commitment to gender justice, working with partners who are women peacemakers, human rights defenders at home and abroad, support and capacity-building; a Kairos handout points out that only 2% of international funding goes to gender equality, though it is essential to peace processes). Our five Women Peace & Security global partners are EVPHR in the Philippines, Héritiers de la Justice in DR Congo, Women's Program of the South Sudan Council of Churches, and Wi'am, a peace group in occupied Palestine. Videos of each project will be available.

Responsibilities of the 3 Kairos circles:

- Indigenous Rights Circle (aka KIRC): Winds of Change campaign and TRC actions mentioned in para 2 above), draft Arctic Policy, deepening relations with indigenous peoples. Uses some CFSC publications.
- Ecological Justice Circle: reconciliation in the watershed, climate policy, just transition, solidarity with communities, draft a Civil Disobedience policy.
- Partnerships and Rights Circle: Women of Courage tours; Women, Peace and Security; draft Peace policy; human rights, extractivism, migrant workers' rights and the solidarity actions.

Our meetings ended with a memorial service “Living up to John Dillon's Legacy”, celebrating his 44 years work for Kairos and other ecumenical justice groups.

A final thought. Compared to huge world needs this is so little, though significant. It reminds me of the Quaker ambulance brigades working among the wounded of two world wars. What we really want to do is remove the root causes of war, violence and injustice. Kairos works faithfully and radically (at the roots).

David Millar

## **PROJECT PLOUGHSHARES**

This year marks the fortieth anniversary of the formation of Project Ploughshares, Canada's foremost ecumenical peace coalition. Founded in 1976 by Ernie Regher, a Mennonite, and Murray Thomson, a Quaker, Project Ploughshares soon became a project of the Canadian Council of Churches. The Governing Committee of Project Ploughshares follows the mandate received from the Council. It is comprised of persons appointed by the sponsoring churches and of members-at-large appointed by the Governing Committee. Widely regarded as an authoritative voice for peace it produces fact-based research in the fields of: arms reduction and control, nuclear disarmament, space security and peace-building efforts in Canada and around the globe. Its articles, research reports, policy briefs and periodicals have been widely used by the churches, Non-Governmental Organisations, parliamentary committees, the Canadian government, the United Nations and other multilateral organizations. Ploughshares experts are often called upon to consult with government departments, agencies of the UN and the media to share their research findings in support of peace.

Among other initiatives Ploughshares created and maintains a database on Canadian military production and exports and publishes an annual report detailing armed conflicts around the globe. It initiated and maintains the Space Security Index, the only comprehensive assessment of space security. It has prepared briefs on Canada-U.S. defense relations, nuclear disarmament and was a co-sponsor of the Prepare for Peace in Iraq statement endorsed by 40,000 Canadians that influenced Canada's prime minister not to join the war in Iraq. Ploughshares is a co-founder of Mines Action Canada and the International Action Network on Small Arms. Its quarterly magazine, Ploughshares Monitor contains research results and analytic articles in the field of its on-going research. A complete account of its activities and publications can be found on its web-site at [Ploughshares.ca](http://Ploughshares.ca).

Operating funds of Project Ploughshares come from sponsoring churches (including Canadian Yearly Meeting through Canadian Friends Service Committee), a small endowment, individual and congregational donors and government and international agencies with which it undertakes cooperative ventures.

In recent years the Governing Committee and staff have been dealing with a sudden contraction in the funds available for programming. In 2011 the Government of Canada cancelled without comment several cooperation agreements for on-going projects. This resulted in a reduction of more than 30% in annual budgets and necessitated the termination of projects and some staff. The government of the day appeared to have little interest in issues of peace and disarmament and even less interest in hearing from civil society on these issues.

For the past five years Ploughshares, while maintaining key elements of its research and publications program and consultations with international and multilateral agencies, has been working to strengthen its resilience and enhance its sustainability as an organization.

The governance of Ploughshares has been enhanced with new policies and procedures and a stronger relationship with the Canadian Council of Churches. A nation-wide consultation among Ploughshares supporters helped to inform the development of a new strategic plan that affirms Ploughshares' aim to continue to be one of Canada's leading civil society voices for sustainable peace and disarmament, renews its commitment to produce high quality knowledge-based research on policy options to advance sustainable peace, speaks to the importance of mobilizing new partnerships to build peace nationally and globally, and focusses on continuing to build a well governed, inspiring and financially stable organization.

In the past year Ploughshares has been working to implement this strategic vision. It has established a close working relationship with the new Mennonite Savings and Credit Union Centre for Peace Advancement at Conrad Grebel University College, University of Waterloo. This relationship will provide many opportunities for shared activities with the Centre's researchers, educators and activists. The Ploughshares office has been moved to be adjacent to the Centre and has already begun sharing programming opportunities and developing joint research initiatives.

The Governing Committee has been strengthened with several new appointments from the participating churches and new at-large members. The Rev. James Christie of the United Centre for Theological Studies of the University of Winnipeg has joined the Governing Committee as the chair. He is an ecumenist and pioneer in dialogue theology. He has extensive organizational experience as the past president of the Canadian Council of Churches and chair of the Council of the World Federalist Movement and has a life-long commitment to peace and reconciliation.

In September 2015, Cesar Jaramillo became the new executive director of Ploughshares. Cesar, a graduate of the University of Waterloo and a researcher with a background in journalism, has worked for Ploughshares for six years, undertaking research on nuclear disarmament, outer space security and conventional weapons control. He has been called upon frequently as an expert by multilateral agencies and the media.

Three new research staff have also joined Ploughshares. In addition to augmenting capacity in Ploughshares' traditional research areas these new staff will allow some expansion of the work to include such fields as the gender dimensions of armed violence, the link between development and sustainable peace, the emerging security threat posed by autonomous weapons (such as drones), the necessity of effective security sector reform in post-conflict situations and the challenges to peace from large-scale migration.

With the new team in place Ploughshares has been moving quickly to undertake and publish new research efforts and to become more widely heard on current events in the conventional press and through social media. The recent work of Cesar to question the Canadian sale of armed military vehicles to Saudi Arabia,

which has been widely covered in the national media, is a good indication of the vitality of the new team.

As a part of Ploughshares' commitment to sustainability the Governing Committee has begun to develop plans for a medium-term fundraising strategy to be implemented over the coming months and years. In recognition of Ploughshares' 40th anniversary an immediate fund-raising effort is also underway.

While in the past several years Project Ploughshares has passed through difficult times it maintains its role as Canada's foremost ecumenical peace coalition. With the continuing support of Canadian Yearly Meeting, its other church partners and individual donors Ploughshares is well placed to continue its contributions to achieving a more secure and peaceful world.

Robert Clarke

## **WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES**

I am the Canadian Yearly Meeting (CYM) representative to the World Council of Churches (WCC) and appointed by the WCC Section of the Americas to the Central Committee.

I am supported in this work by Gale Wills, Lesley Read and Gini Smith appointed by CYM in 2016.

In response to the WCC's call to a Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace, the member denominations in Canada decided to prepare a 'story' of their denomination's Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace. We prepared a brief account of CYM's ecumenical/interfaith work on refugees. This is on the KAIROS website - [www.kairoscanada.org](http://www.kairoscanada.org) - filed in spirited reflections - and I hope it will also be placed on the WCC website and CYM website.

In November 2017 the WCC and Canadian Council of Churches (CCC), with support from Canadian Friends Service Committee (CFSC) and Toronto Monthly Meeting, sponsored a two-day international conference titled *Redesigning the Tree of Life: Synthetic Biology and the Future of Food and Agriculture*. The conference took place at Friends House in Toronto. The CCC is considering its capacity for next steps, as is CFSC. Materials from this conference can be found at [www.councilofchurches.org](http://www.councilofchurches.org) or [www.quakerservice.org](http://www.quakerservice.org) (Search - Redesigning the Tree of Life).

The WCC is celebrating its 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2018 and invited WCC members to write brief reflections from their denominational perspective. We offered a brief story about CYM and its ecumenical beginnings with the WCC and the CCC.

I plan to attend the WCC Central Committee in June 2018 in Geneva. I can report on that at CYM in August. We will hear updates on the Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace from member denominations around the world, decide on the location and dates of the next International Gathering and consider how the WCC can best respond to the many challenges facing the world.

The WCC sends out a weekly email newsletter. You can ask to receive this by contacting [news@wcc-coe.org](mailto:news@wcc-coe.org). More information is available on their web page at [www.oikoumene.org](http://www.oikoumene.org). And I would be pleased to respond to questions. You can reach me at [annemitchell8@sympatico.ca](mailto:annemitchell8@sympatico.ca) or 416-533-8402.

Anne Mitchell

## **STATE OF SOCIETY REPORTS**

### **ANNAPOLIS VALLEY MONTHLY MEETING**

During 2017 Annapolis Valley Monthly Meeting has continued to have a handful of active members. We have been very active – meeting for worship weekly and for business monthly, and working with other Friends' meetings and community groups, including the Wolfville Area Inter-Church Council.

Our meetings for worship have been rich, with considerable vocal ministry, and deep personal sharing at the end of the meeting for worship. We have several regular non-member attenders who add to this richness. We nurture one another through participation in study groups, potluck meals, shared outdoor experiences, and an active Ministry and Counsel. We recognize and discuss our imperfections. There is a lot of love, warmth and respect as we try to support each other. Our Meeting continues to suffer from disconnection with several long-term members who do not wish to participate. We have not found ways to heal from previous hurts. The aging of our community is noted regularly. We have few younger members and attenders and only one child who sometimes attends Meeting. Our Meeting maintains a healthy balance between spiritual seeking/nourishment and outward activism for social justice.

In January we were approached by a Friend living in Texas who had just bought a large house in the Annapolis Valley to help support a local organic farm. He offered us the opportunity to use the house as a meeting site. We decided to meet in "the Canard house" once a month, in order to assess its suitability and our compatibility with the farm use. We have moved some of our library into the Canard house and have held a couple of workshops there. Our use of the house acts as a form of outreach for us, for which we are grateful.

Annapolis Valley Monthly Meeting has continued to work with the other Atlantic area Meetings toward forming a Half Yearly Meeting and we hosted a visit from the Canadian Yearly Meeting Committee established to assist us. In November several of our members attended a discussion in New Brunswick with Friends from the region to take further steps toward a Half-Yearly Meeting. Our Truth and Reconciliation subcommittee meets almost weekly. It publishes a quarterly newsletter to keep Meeting members apprised of the work and to give suggestions for learning and action. This has been a form of outreach for us. Our Meeting partnered with a local consultant and Acadia University to organize a very successful public presentation and discussion called "Questioning Canada 150." Over 175 attended to learn about indigenous peoples' experience of Canada. One TRC committee member attended the dedication of a replica of the original Quaker Meeting House in Beaver Harbour, New Brunswick and the recognition of the Passamaquoddy First Nation and the commemoration of Canadian Quaker abolitionists. Several of our members volunteered at a huge four-day festival in Grand Pré to celebrate the contributions of Acadian and Mi'kmaq cultures to Nova Scotia. Others attended a pow-wow at Millbrook First Nation and hiked the Mi'kmaway Trail which traces an ancient settlement of Mi'kmaw people.

Subcommittee members engaged with the following:

- a weekend training on direct action regarding protection of the Shubenacadie River area from potential environmental damage from gas storage in salt caverns
- planning meetings for Circle of Hope Maowi Omi at Acadia University
- 'Reconciliation in the Watershed' at the Tatamagouche Centre

Our Meeting has discussed how we might acknowledge First Nations land, but has not yet reached unity about this. Our TRC subcommittee reports to CFSC.



Annapolis Valley Monthly Meeting feels strongly about the preservation of CYM. We responded to the CYM Clerks Committee that it was premature and not in right order to request us to do a simulation exercise on the subject of dividing CYM. We submitted a minute to Representative Meeting, giving reasons why CYM must be supported and maintained.

Our Outreach subcommittee keeps up an active web presence, follows up with inquirers, and has produced a banner for our meeting.

Our Quaker Study sessions covered 'What is in your Quaker Knapsack?' and the simplicity and peace testimonies. Katie Aven led us in an examination of reconciliation and healing based on her experience of a workshop in Ireland. Additionally, a member conducted a workshop for us on "Welcoming LGBTQ Seekers and Friends", with material posted on our website. We hosted a Penal Abolition workshop led by visitors from CFSC, David Summerhays and Dick Cotterill. This was enriched by participation from our wider community.

We look forward to our next year, hoping with God's guidance to make our community more loving, spiritually enriching, and visible.

## **ARGENTA MONTHLY MEETING**

Six to eight Friends gather for worship each Sunday at the Argenta meetinghouse. We meet in deep silence with occasional vocal ministry. Among us, we have genuinely caring relationships.

The Nelson worship group meets twice monthly: once in Nelson and once in Winlaw. This group also has a strong sense of fellowship fostered by singing, worshipping and eating together. We continue to long for a larger, more consistent attendance; however, the average of four or five attendees remain committed.

Both worship groups have meaningful sharing following the close of silence. These conversations serve to deepen our friendships and the understanding of one another's spiritual quests.

Two or three times yearly, our two worship groups and some isolated Friends meet together in a regional gathering. It is always a great pleasure for us to worship with the expanded group. We recently benefited from guided worship-sharing at the regional meeting. The regional gatherings enhance our sense of belonging to the greater Argenta Monthly Meeting.

We were glad to welcome two new members to our meeting – both of them returning to our membership decades after leaving Argenta as young adults.

Some of us – along with helpers from the Argenta community – have worked hard on maintaining and improving the meetinghouse. On the other hand, we have not yet found clearness about the future of the building that used to house Argenta Friends Press.

As a meeting, we provided some financial support for a yearly Women's Peace Retreat here in the Kootenays and the Friends Women's Association in Burundi. Although, as a collective, we did not take on major projects, individuals dedicate their time and treasure to many causes in support of Quaker

values. Our members and attenders pursue social justice issues around the world, including the support of refugees and Canada's need for genuine reconciliation with our native peoples. Many of our members are involved in environmental concerns such as the protection of local watersheds. Faithful members take loving care of the elders within the Meeting community. And two members volunteer at a Friends School in Costa Rica.

We are held together by our shared appreciation of "the still, small voice of calm".

## **CALGARY MONTHLY MEETING**

Calgary Monthly Meeting met in Worship Sharing to consider the queries from Canadian Yearly Meeting. It is clear from responses of Calgary Friends there is a deepening spiritual base in the Meeting, a nurturing. This spiritual grounding is the basis for our members' outward work, action that comes from being spirit led. Most of our members are in caring professions or act in some way to promote change, so we do not feel moved to take on social or environmental projects as a group. "Social action happens through the hearts and hands of members." Instead, we exchange stories of what we are doing and endeavor to support our members and attenders in their outward work.

Our Meeting has attracted several new attenders who have enriched our Meeting with their youth, their experiences, and their young children. A member has offered to organize a more formal First Day School. We are pleased and excited with this growth and spiritual deepening.

Our clerk moved to Victoria in the summer of 2017. In response Meeting for Ministry & Counsel led us in a gift discernment process consisting of two Worship Sharing meetings.

In the first, we asked:

- Why do you come to Calgary Monthly Meeting?
- What interests and excites you about being part of CMM?
- What do you seek in CMM that you wish was part of the Meeting?

In the second, we asked:

- What are you called to do?
- What gifts or experience do you have that you can offer the Meeting?
- What would you like to learn?
- What might you be willing to try?
- What gifts do you see in others?

Both meetings were well attended and were deeply spiritual. After the closure of the second meeting people stayed very quiet and still, as if reluctant to emerge from the silence. The result of this sharing was that all our positions were easily filled by people eager to support the Meeting.

Our retreat in February 2018 explored the concept and experience of Leadings. We discussed Jerilynn Prior's pamphlet "I Feel the Winds of God Today" and were grateful to have Shauna Curry share her experiences with Leadings which took her on a bicycle trip from Calgary to Chile and an extensive search for the right job. She stressed the important role of Committees of Care and Clearness.

Our winter retreat helped to compensate for Canadian Yearly Meeting's fallow year. One attender also pointed out that there was an increase in attendance at Fall Western Half Yearly Meeting possibly because we did not have CYM in session. Another member questioned whether we support CYM adequately. We are grateful for CYM and WHYM which are a home for our Meeting: spiritually and administratively. We are pleased to have a Representative who keeps us informed and connected with CYM.

As a form of outreach we occasionally but regularly meet at distant friends' homes. We value the time spent talking after Meeting for Worship. We have considered whether these afterwords dilute ministry during the meeting, but we think instead, that it encourages ministry. Our meetings, however, remain mostly silent.

### **COLDSTREAM MONTHLY MEETING**

Coldstream Friends meet weekly and even on very snowy winter days the meetinghouse doors are open for any who can make it. This is possible because of our members in the Coldstream community who live close to the meetinghouse and also to neighbours in the community who provide maintenance services for the grounds.

We are a small meeting with a core of Friends that are regular attenders. Dependent on the exigencies of weather, attendance at meetings varies from about 4 to about 20. This includes urban members from nearby London and others who drive varying distances. There are also those who because of distance, failing health or the demands of career or family are able to attend less frequently. We maintain contact with more isolated Friends via personal calls, occasional visits, newsletters and emails. Together we are an extended family with whom we feel comfortable to share our spiritual lives. We worship together, eat, sing, do business and share other aspects of our lives. We have been told we are welcoming and make visitors feel comfortable enough to share.

We have also been told by newcomers that after the welcome we do not always provide as much information as they need about Quaker ways. We do have an easily accessible library and do direct attenders to online resources. We struggle with when, how much and how to communicate.

We have had a number of attenders this year but most have returned only a few times. Most of our adult children are no longer involved with Friends. Our location does necessitate driving, and although we try to provide transportation for inquirers, transportation may be a barrier for some, especially young urban friends who are used to being independent with public transit. We do have one new active member this year. There are no children of members in the meeting, but we do have two new young occasional attender families one of whom has a young child who have expressed an interest in more involvement. We have rooms and resources but it is difficult to plan for occasional attender children. Most of our members are now over 50.

We lost a valued older member this year. Memorial meetings bring members of the wider community to the Meeting. As our Meeting ages, we grow closer and wiser as we support our elderly Friends and their families.

Our Meetings for Worship are not always vocal, but following silent worship we share “afterthoughts” and discuss “Quintessential Quaker” quotations. This has been a longstanding practice with us that continues to be fruitful. We share personal perspectives and we listen to one another. Although there is a broad spectrum of beliefs within our community, we do seem to be in unity often about deeper spiritual perspectives that shape us.

Our annual Ministry and Counsel retreat was held in February. This year we used a video address by Parker Palmer, found on the FGC web site, as a basis for our retreat. This was a wonderful resource without the expense and uncertainty of transporting a speaker in the middle of winter. His topic “A Hidden Wholeness” provided us with a wealth of ideas to explore and learn from. We have found that using online resources has been successful and has opened a possibility for future gatherings. This makes it possible to bring awareness of wider Quakerism to those who do not travel to larger gatherings.

Our Meeting has a full roster of committees to attend to the business of the Meeting, care of the building and cemetery, care for the people and to look after finances and projects. The members appointed to these committees have been faithful to their work. Our Meeting is well cared for.

We are aware and involved in our immediate and wider communities. This year we dedicated one Worship Meeting to a focus on peace. Our Meeting holds the responsibility of giving grants from the Canadian Friends Foreign Mission Board. In cooperation with other churches we continue to sponsor refugees. We support one Friend’s work with a school and community in Bududa, Uganda. We have ties to local Indigenous people through several of our members and to Kairos. A number of our members have attended protests in favour of diversity in our communities and in support of Muslim neighbours after attacks on mosques in other cities. A number of our members work in careers that are an expression of our values including such disparate fields as organic farming and gardening, health care for the elderly and service to women at greatest need in London and area.

The fallow year for Canadian Yearly Meeting has been a busy one for us as we joined with other Meetings in Pelham Half Yearly Meeting in expanded gatherings in spring and fall that allowed us to get to know one another better as we learned from and about Indigenous peoples, their sufferings, their strengths and possibilities for reconciliation.

## **COWICHAN VALLEY MONTHLY MEETING**

In the acknowledgements section of her important book on mental illness/mental health, *The Daisy Project*, Daisy Anderson wrote: *To the Duncan Worship Group of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) and to the Duncan United Church: I learned what it meant to live in healthy relationship with the Spirit, the community and the larger world. Thank you for your love so freely given.*

Cowichan Valley MM met on the First and Third Sundays at Providence Farm, St. Ann's Building, Duncan. We added a third meeting on the Fourth Sunday of each month at Ts'i'ts'uwatul'Lelum, downtown Duncan (the home of one of our members), to facilitate the participation of members with mobility and health barriers.

After cancellations/low attendance due to holidays and inclement weather in January, attendance increased. Throughout the rest of the year, our usual attendance at meetings for worship averaged 12

people. This includes members, several regular attenders who have moved to this region and are members of other meetings, several regular attenders, and a number of visitors. In the spring of 2017, our F/friend, Vivien Abbott, died. We welcomed no new members. No families with children attended during this year. One member laid down his membership.

The essence of our Meeting for Worship continues to be silence with occasional vocal ministry. We regularly share after-thoughts, muffins, and coffee.

In February 2017, we hosted a special meeting on Spiritual Growth and Outreach with a representative from CYM. An Outreach committee has been formed and we have begun announcing meetings for worship in a Cowichan Valley magazine. More work is needed on sharing worship with other Vancouver Island meetings, Outreach, and ways of impacting our local community. We held a Quakerism 101 study group during April and May. In May and September, individual members and attenders participated in Truth and Reconciliation workshops hosted by Vancouver Island MM. We held a Study Group on Canadian Faith and Practice from October 2017 to January, 2018. In addition to deepening our understanding of Quakerism, these sessions strengthened our Quaker community. During these sessions we also got to know each other in ways that nurtured our relationships, connections, and friendships.

We nurture our Meeting through our meetings for worship with attention to business, our study groups, and informally through individual friendships among members and attenders. In an effort to make business meetings accessible to all members, we alternate meeting for business before and after worship. We share clerking, recording, and other responsibilities as Friends feel led to contribute. We share responsibility for Pastoral Care with current and former members and attenders, providing support when asked and respecting one another's need for privacy and autonomy.

CVMM supports the wider Canadian Quaker community through participation of members and attenders in Canadian Friends Service Committee and Representative Meeting. In October, we nominated a member for the Voice of Women's Anne Goodman Award for Peace Education. In October two CVMM attenders travelled to Ottawa to video and edit 'Quaker Studies on Palestine and Israel', hosted by Ottawa Monthly Meeting. These videos are now available on the CYM website.

CVQs have been operating by following our social and environmental leadings in many different ways. We are in the process of putting our stories on the CVMM website (<http://cowichanvalley.quaker.ca/>).

## **EDMONTON MONTHLY MEETING**

Our meeting was deeply saddened by the death of Mary Engelmann who was 90. Mary was our longest-standing member and over the years served the Meeting in all possible capacities. She nurtured newcomers and supported those in crisis. She was a valued elder and we miss her a great deal. Memorial services tend to have the positive outcome of good fellowship, and hers was no exception. We are saddened by the decision of two members to lay down their membership.

Fellowship. We had many opportunities to enjoy fellowship throughout the year. Our monthly potlucks at a Friend's house for food and conversation, often have a designated topic. We had two extended potlucks; a summertime outing to the country home of one Friend and our annual Christmas gathering

with Carol singing. In addition, we were delighted to welcome several members who we had not seen in some time, when we held a gathering to consider queries as preparation for our 2016 report.

Outreach and Education. Three of our members presented different aspects of Quakerism in their own lives. Tea afterwards permitted visitors to chat with the presenters. For World Quaker Day one member provided an entertaining and informative 'journey around the world' a Quaker education exercise. We were quite surprised by how much we didn't know! We have begun a bi-monthly reading/discussion group before worship with a focus on readings of early Quakers. These sessions have enriched understanding of Quaker history and beliefs for those who attend. We also continued our book club with "Just Living" by Meredith Egan and "Seven Fallen Feathers" by Tanya Talaga.

Local Action. We have been involved in the wider Edmonton community in several ways. As we have done now for several years, we joined U.N. Peace Day celebrations at City Hall, as well as the November 11 Interfaith Prayer Walk for Peace, where this year's presenters, in addition to Quakers, were First Nations, Baha'i, Sheikh, and Catholic. Our commitment to Edmonton ending homelessness has resulted in some members assisting in a Habitat for Humanity build. Also support of TRC goals has led several members to attend a variety of TRC related events.

Travel. Three members attended FGC in Niagara, one being a Young Friend, attending with other CYM Young Friends. One of these members joined a week-long workshop on clerking. The insights and materials that she brought back have already benefitted our meeting. In addition, closer to home, two of our members attended Calgary Meeting's annual retreat, and others made the trip to Western Half Yearly Meetings in Sorrento, BC and Shekinah, Saskatchewan.

Activism. While some yearn for more activism, some have questioned whether activism, or service to the community, and commitment to our worship creates a tension that is difficult to resolve. It could be that the tension is not a conflict between the two – in fact perhaps they are different manifestations of our spirituality. The tension may then come primarily from demands imposed by time limitations, and we each try to resolve this as best we can.

Worship. In considering the ongoing spiritual strength of our meeting we reflect on the following text from our last year's State of Society Report and find that it continues to be accurate:

*'We are a small meeting, with seldom more than 10 present. Ministries are few and far between. While several people expressed having had a sense of a gathered meeting, others felt that more ministry would enhance their sense of communal worship...'*

One new practice has been to take time following Worship to invite the sharing of joys and concerns. This has strengthened our understanding of each other and our ability to provide support when needed. As was the case last year, we continue to search for ways to draw us together in worship.

## **HALIFAX MONTHLY MEETING**

In the interest of meeting CYM's request to consider 5 questions reflecting back on the year without an annual meeting, Halifax Monthly Meeting determined that this could only be done if we reflected back two years, rather than the usual one year. This allowed us to consider if there was a sudden change or a gradual change or no change at all.

Another change to our approach for this State of Society Report (SOS) was that instead of perusing minutes and committee reports to garner our SOS, we met prior to a Meeting for Worship for Business and had a discussion. Seven persons participated, which reflects our average attendance at Meeting for Worship.

#1 How have you nurtured your Monthly meeting during the fallow year of CYM in session?

Halifax Monthly Meeting progressed from discussion of establishing an Atlantic Half Yearly Meeting to formalizing a Clerk and a Committee. While this has been underway in various iterations over the past years, we used the event of the fallow year to energize this leading.

One person who goes to CYM when it is in the East, did miss seeing others and felt there was a lack of feeling engaged with community during the two years. FGC was not a feasible option during this time. The remainder of the group offered no opinion, due to not going to CYM in the summer.

#2 How have happenings in the world such as difficult climatic events, wars, refugees and mass shootings affected the spiritual life of your meeting?

This has been a condition under which we have been meeting for many years, although the American Election accelerated emotions. Careful listening during Meeting for Worship ministry and Worship Sharing helped to provide a vent for those who's passions needed expression and reflection.

Halifax Monthly Meeting has been active in supporting refugee projects in our community for several years. This is a response that provide an immediate and active participation in world events that give a sense of engagement and authenticity for the Meeting.

Regrettably, last year there was a mass shooting at a mosque during the Interfaith Harmony Week. Several Quakers, on their own initiative, attended a peace circle around the local mosque. Upon seeing each other at this event, it was a surprising and sustaining action that has given Halifax Monthly Meeting a sense that there are many in the world who share our concerns, and that we are not acting in isolation.

The Truth and Reconciliation efforts and events have long been a focus for our Meeting. One activity was the donation of two books to each Middle School or High School libraries in Halifax Regional Municipality. These books were about First Nations People's experiences in residential schools.

We have one elder who is deeply connected to the pain in the world and when she speaks through Ministry, it resonates with our Meeting. Halifax Monthly Meeting is a group who tend to express our inner lives quickly through action. We appreciate that there is someone who brings our spirit to the fore.

#3 How do we nurture each other, and particularly our children, to grow in hope rather than in fear?

We have had a few members spend time in hospital over the past two years. Visits, meals and home visits have been ongoing. Efforts to provide transportation for people to and from meetings has been a partial success. Many long term members have relationships with each other that allows for deep listening and comforting. We celebrated a 100<sup>th</sup> birthday with a party, music. Guests from the Mi'maq and Black communities attended. Ministry and Council has been active in visiting shut-ins. We continue our potlucks at Easter and Christmas. One tenacious member continues to provide programming for

those children connected to Meeting but who do not attend First Day School.

#4 Given declining membership in many of our meetings, A) what measures is your meeting taking to attract and retain newcomers, and B) how is your meeting working to transmit Quaker teachings and values to our children?

A) We are putting energy into the Interfaith Harmony Week, a web page and a Facebook page. We are engaged in looking at a new space for meetings that are on better bus lines and a pedestrian based neighbourhood. We are definitely struggling to spread our energy around to all our projects.

The on-line program, Intro to Quakers, pleases our latest attender very much. This sort of a program is not something we, as an older group, would think to offer. Our attender noted that of the participants in this course, only one is a Quaker, the rest are attenders. She mentioned that being a Quaker is not a priority but participation in Quaker led events is what attracts her to us.

The current on-line course addresses a lack that un-programmed meetings have, which is there is a shortage of expression on how we think or what we believe or even, how we do it.

B) Our children's programming aims at being inter-generational with a focus on family, sharing and community. Two recent events at the Cirque School have been fun. Atlantic Friends Gathering always has a Children's program, mostly about fun and connection in community.

It was noted that Quaker values are not that different from many other groups and that we should not assume that ours are exclusive to us. We value love, compassion and equality as an example.

#5 How does your meeting strive to balance concerns for the larger society with concerns for members within your meeting?

Halifax Monthly Meeting has always had a tendency towards individuals acting on their leadings in the larger world as opposed to our meeting working as a whole towards one leading. That said, our meeting does come together to support these individuals. Our refugee work has been an example of the Meeting working as a unit. As a result, our attention to individuals comes about with energy and action.

Further Observations:

We reflected that we are not very active in maintaining our own meeting since we are a more outwardly focused group, rather than inward.

We urge that CYM does not shorten the time given to the annual meeting. A whole week is needed to attend to the agenda items as well as the fellowship and worship.

Should we consider our archaic language? Would this attract a younger demographic? Could "Meeting for Worship" change to "Quaker Meeting" and "Worship Sharing" change to "Meditative Sharing"

### **Antigonish Worship Group**

It was not possible for this Worship group to gather in time to consider a response this year.



### **South Shore Worship Group**

The South Shore Worship Group embodies the spirit described in Canadian Faith and Practice 3.63: "...its members take a warm personal interest in one another's welfare...those who are engaged in various forms of social service realize that they have the sympathetic support and prayers of their Friends in their work." – Discipline, Canada Yearly Meeting (Five Years Meeting), 1932.

At our bi-weekly meetings as few as four and as many as 14 gather to share worship and conversation. We stay connected to each other with regular emails and phone calls, passing on information from Halifax Monthly Meeting or from any other group that is of interest to our members. We also keep in touch with several people who are out of the country to help us and them stay connected. We report to the group any challenges members may be experiencing and try to serve those people in many ways, from bringing them food, doing daily tasks, taking them to medical and other appointments, and visiting and encouraging them in friendship. Our worship group is under the care of Halifax Monthly Meeting and we welcome the occasional visits of members from that Meeting.

During the fallow year of CYM in session, some of our members have taken online courses from CYM and have sought assistance from Halifax Monthly Meeting in the form of a clearness committee as well as regular information-sharing. Two of our members attended an exploratory meeting to discuss formation of an Atlantic Half Yearly Meeting and several members were part of Betty Peterson's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration in Halifax.

\*How have happenings in the world such as difficult climatic events, wars, refugees, and mass shootings, affected the spiritual life of your meeting?

Remembering that it is better to light a candle than curse the darkness, Meeting for Worship is a place and a time to remember the deep truths of our spirituality and to be nurtured by them.

\*How do we nurture each other, and particularly our children, to grow in hope rather than in fear?

We rarely have children attend our meeting although we would certainly welcome children and their families.

\*Given declining membership in many of our meetings, what measures is your meeting taking to attract and retain newcomers, and how is your meeting working to transmit Quaker teachings and values to our children?

We are always ready to welcome new members when they contact us and, if an individual expresses interest or curiosity about Quakers, we will let them know of our Meeting.

\*How does your meeting strive to balance concerns for the larger society with concern for members within your meeting?

We stay in close touch with those in our meeting who are ill, in hospital or experiencing difficulties. While we seldom take action as a worship Group, we support the work that members take on through local social justice organizations. We co-operate with other groups to host events. Currently, two of our members are on the organizing committee of a Kairos-sponsored Blanket Exercise planned for May in

Mahone Bay. Some of our members also participate in biweekly peace vigils with People For Peace.

## **HAMILTON MONTHLY MEETING**

Last year's report began:

"Hamilton Monthly Meeting continues to be a strong and supportive community, providing invaluable spiritual and social nourishment for our members and attenders. We have been blessed ... with a small but active First Day School, and a continuing trickle of new faces at Meeting for Worship. Yet we are mindful that many of us are aging and we mourn the loss of dear friends due to incapacity and death. If we are to sustain ourselves in the long term we must strive both to strengthen our spiritual lives and to increase our numbers."

"Our Meetings for Worship are usually attended by 16 to 21 adults. The silence is generally deep and peaceful and is often uninterrupted by Ministry until the last quarter of the hour. Vocal ministry is well considered, usually brief, and generally insightful. A sense of being covered by the Spirit is often palpable. Ministry from a wide range of theological and humanistic perspectives is accepted and valued."

These words are equally valid today.

Last year we noted the importance of deepening our spiritual life and communicating the Quaker Way to inquirers. In 2017 we planned a number of events with this in mind. One such event was a one day retreat with the theme of "Images of the Sacred" held at the Meeting House in April. Led by one of our Friends and adorned with music, the day gently challenged us with the questions about our own images of the sacred, the god we DON'T believe in, and where and how we experience divine spirit. Other events related to this concern included a potluck lunch and discussion of Early Quakers and the Bible, a presentation and discussion of the Peace Testimony led by a dear Friend who has since died, and a discussion of the role of culture in promoting aggression, based on a recently published book by another dear Friend. Participants in these activities expressed great satisfaction in the feelings of community and closeness which developed. However we note that few of our activities have been directed at acquainting newcomers with the core beliefs and testimonies of many Friends. We urge Meeting to rectify this.

As in 2016, much of our energy in 2017 was directed towards our goal of sponsoring a Syrian refugee family. Some generous bequests and grants from the Rogers Foundation have allowed us to totally refurbish the upstairs of the Meeting House, making it suitable as temporary accommodation for our refugee family. A core group of Friends has been managing our preparation; words cannot convey the depth of our gratitude to them. We note that the practicalities of sponsoring a refugee family provide an energizing stimulus for Friends and Attenders but we must take care not to overburden a few of our most active Friends.

A second focus of our social justice concern has been developing respect for and contact with the First Nations people of our region. Activities in this area were slightly less prominent in 2017 than in 2016; however, we were fortunate that our Friend Jenn Preston was able to provide us with a detailed update on the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, that the Christmas presentation

of the First day School had a theme reflecting the sufferings imposed by the residential school system, and that we were able to report the sterling efforts of many of our Friends and Attenders to the Indigenous Rights Committee of Canadian Friends Service Committee.

We continue to be deeply aware of our human frailty and mortality. During 2017 we lost one sojourning Friend to early death from cancer and we hosted three memorial meetings all related to one family which experienced tragic loss of life. We are reminded to hold each other, indeed all of humanity, in the Light and to support each other as we meet the joys and sorrows of our human existence.

## **INTERIOR BC MONTHLY MEETING**

Interior BC Quakers, when meeting to give input for our State of Society report, said:

- We are a positive, supportive group where every member is cherished and their gifts are valued.
- There is a lot of heart in our Meeting now.
- We feel like a pioneering community, where people take responsibility and everyone pitches in.
- Our Meeting is small, so distinctions between members, attenders, and committee members are lessened.
- There is a balance between spiritual life and social action.
- Vocal ministry has increased during Meeting for Worship, often about world events.
- We love the silence and sense of peace.

The 12 to 15 members in attendance were in unity that they were becoming more comfortable with speaking and participating, and that the Meeting is slowly growing. What brought about the positive change?

A few months ago, we had a sense of crisis because our clerk was completely overloaded. She was clear that she needed a rest and we loved her enough to understand. We decided to change our expectations. We divided up some jobs and got rid of others. Ministry and Counsel took a more active role. With some trepidation, a brave soul took on the role of clerk. We discovered that the more we put into our Meeting, the more we got out of it!

Not everything is easy, of course. We must work to balance tradition with the needs of new people. We seek ways to include a small number of children in our Meeting. We are geographically separated from our Worship Groups and they feel small and isolated. Extreme weather events, such as forest fires or severe winter storms, make attendance in Kelowna difficult too.

Several of our members are called to social action although several others, long time members of national committees, have been called to take a break. Our Prison Committee, which felt led to visit in the Okanagan Correctional Centre in partnership with the John Howard Society, was unable to proceed with that leading: face-to-face visiting is not permitted. The committee seeks clearness now and feels that it may be led to assist with literacy for newly released prisoners.

Interior BC Monthly Meeting is our spiritual home; these are “our people” who support us and care for us as we seek to follow the Quaker Way.

## **MONTREAL MONTHLY MEETING**

Our Meeting was not fallow this year. Our Book Club read *Holy Nation: The Transatlantic Quaker Ministry in Time of Revolution* by Sarah Crabtree.

David Summerhays became our new Clerk after the seven-year service of Claire Adamson, who was much thanked for her hard work. We started having joys and sorrows and worship sharing in the first 10 minutes of Meeting for Worship to encourage everyone to participate.

We are very happy to welcome the Mungombe family to our Meeting. David Millar has been working with Quebec Friends Church to partner with them as they build they Congolese refugee ministry in Canada. Montreal Inter-Church organized a First Nations conference on Faith and Reconciliation and Rights of Indigenous Peoples. We live in very difficult times but do our best to help and remind us to hope. One of our members, Gia Greer, made a banner, to be decorated by our First Day School that members of the Meeting brought to an anti-racism march.

We nurture each other, and particularly our children, to grow in hope rather than in fear. We held a visioning session for First Day School and decided that each volunteer shall transmit Quaker teachings and values to our children, each in their own style.

To attract and retain newcomers: We held an Open House in November. The only person to respond to the invitation was a reporter from the local newspaper, who came to take photos after Meeting. We hold potlucks and discussions after Meeting. We've started holding inquirer's meetings on every second Sunday. They have been much appreciated by both inquirers and long-time attenders and members of the Meeting.

Greta and Jacob Stone visited from Montpelier, Vermont (members of Burlington Meeting) singing "Committees on committees". We were happy to host Education and Outreach Committee in October. We sometimes hold a Meeting for Worship in the home of Molly Walsh in palliative care.

Midweek Meeting continues at the Catholic Newman Center near McGill University, with solid attendance.

It was a busy, nurturing 2017.

## **NEW BRUNSWICK MONTHLY MEETING**

New Brunswick Monthly Meeting is comprised of the following Worship Groups: Fundy Friends, Sackville, Woodstock-Houlton, Fredericton and Saint John. Each composed its own State of Society Report.

As a Monthly Meeting we come together for meetings for worship for business for at least six meetings a year. All of the Worship Groups participate in the business meeting.

We have supported the Peskotomuhkati (Passamaquoddy) People since 1998 as they prepared applications to the federal government to be recognized as People. The application was reviewed by

the Justice Department and recommended to move forward. Negotiations are now taking place for resource sharing. Friends hold these meetings in the Light as they take place on a monthly basis. The Beaver Harbour Museum Association built a facsimile of the Quaker Meeting House in the 1700s and held a dedication in August. Doris Calder was invited to give the dedication speech. NBMM also prepared an information panel on "Who Are the Quakers" to be given to the Museum for display. NBMM along with Halifax MM and Annapolis Valley MM took action on forming a Half-Yearly Meeting for the Atlantic region. NBMM Friends also came together for a spiritual retreat on "Sharing Our Spiritual Journeys". This proved to be a very deep and meaningful experience for Friends sharing what lies close within our souls and having a great deal of faith and trust in sharing with one another. Our members also continue to take part in AVP events at the Dorchester prison as well as facilitate workshops for the public to attend.

### **Fundy Friends Worship Group**

We are grateful for the participation we have in our small worship group. In the past year we continued to meet with Julie Kronenberger, Colleen Gick, Ann Wildish, Maria Recchia, Helen Thomas and Suzie Newman. We were also very pleased to welcome back Liz Neve. And we are delighted to have two new attenders, Beth and Rino Godbout, who add a wonderful presence to our group. Beth and Rino moved into the area a few years ago and found our worship group through Colleen Gick. Betty Tatersall moved away to Moncton and we miss her good spirit.

We aim to meet every Sunday but cancel in poor weather and if less than three people are available to attend. We begin our Meetings for Worship with a reading and/or piece of music, have 30-40 minutes of silent worship, followed by worship sharing, and finally sharing of food and hot drinks. We have continued our collaboration with the local Catholic women's group and participate in house church on the second Sunday of most months. House Church consists of an interpretation of the Catholic liturgy with bible readings, poetry, prayers, etc., and with a period of silence after the gospel reading followed by a worship sharing on what the readings meant to each of us. We take turns preparing the liturgy and take considerable creative license with it.

Being such a small worship group, we seek to find common ground and broaden our faith community locally. Collectively we feel a leading to connect more with other like-minded local churches and spiritual groups. We have a close relationship with Jane Doull, pastor of the United Church in St. Andrews and some of us participate in Thursday evening contemplative services there once per month. Some of us occasionally attend community events at St. Stephen University (SSU) or interact with their students. SSU is very engaged in social justice issues. Although we have many local connections, we seek to move out into the community further.

Our close proximity to the US border and the constant news reporting on the Trump presidency is creating a feeling of grave concern for our grandchildren and difficulty envisioning the future. Still, we are deeply encouraged by the rise of civil society in the USA speaking up for justice and truth. We are being led to reflect further on how best to connect in the world in service and action. In light of reconciliation and the recognition process of the Peskotomuhkati, we are contemplating our history and how to deal with the legacy of injustice in Canada.

Our longing for connection includes a closer association with NB Monthly Meeting. As Maria will be leaving her job sometime before December 2018, she plans to make an effort to attend Monthly Meeting

as her schedule opens. We also feel led to connect to the natural world more often and more fully. We are considering a day-long retreat in nature together as a worship group.

Although our hearts break with the grave injustices in our world and the worrisome state of the environment, we are deeply grateful for the joy and beauty in our lives, for the love of our families and pets, and for the fellowship we share together.

### **Sackville Worship Group**

The Sackville Worship Group comprises three members of NBMM, a Friend who holds membership in Hamilton MM and mainly attends the fellowship opportunities, a Friend from the United States who comes to worship periodically, and seven regular, enthusiastic attenders.

Our Meeting for Worship seems to provide an important service to the attenders who, although not drawn to discern membership in the Society of Friends, are grateful for the chance to sit in silence – in community – and open themselves to God. Our worship is often deep. We would benefit from more spoken ministry, but of course that cannot be forced.

We nurture our community through a monthly brown bag lunch gathering and the occasional special get-together, such as our annual pre-Christmas catered lunch.

The Sackville Worship Group continues to take part in the life of New Brunswick Monthly Meeting when possible. We host Meeting for Worship for Business once or twice a year, and last December we played host to a gathering of Friends from the Atlantic Monthly Meetings to discern matters related to the proposed Half Yearly Meeting. As well, we invited David Summerhays and Dick Cotterill to come to Sackville last fall to facilitate a workshop on prison abolition.

We all continue to be involved in social justice issues as led. Most of this work is done on an individual basis rather than as a group effort. All three NBMM members occupy, or are moving into, CYM positions, and two of the three currently serve in NBMM positions.

### **Woodstock-Houlton Worship Group**

We come again to reflect on the spiritual state of our Worship Group during the past year. We have all found many of the circumstances in the world around us to be pretty chaotic; full of fear, unresolved conflicts, and uncertainty in where the future might lead. And yet in our own communities, we find much to be grateful for. And we continue to support one another as each member is very often engaged at other levels in service work, in ecumenical work, and activities that contribute to the local community. And then we return again to our meeting for worship for spiritual grounding, renewal and support. This pattern has sustained us well over the years.

We find our life in the Spirit through working with refugees in our community, working with Wabanaki and other Indigenous groups, ecumenical endeavours, weekly peace vigils, environmental activities, aid for children. We also continue with prayers for the injustice, conflict and fear that abounds around us. We find a sense of community in our faith group, each of us feeling sustained even though we may not always be able to attend every meeting.

We find our worship and our work to be one and the same. The spiritual strength that sustains us in silent worship and spoken ministry also supports us in the work that we do. We take to heart the "Practice

of the Presence of God” from Brother Lawrence that the tasks that are necessary for our daily lives are just as important as our weekly meetings for worship.

Although the children in our group are few and are now teenagers, we often reflect on the work we have done and the manifestations that are apparent in the lives that they lead. We do have hope that the seeds of love that have been planted will take root and stand them in good stead wherever they may find themselves in the future.

Our fellowship time after worship each week is rich with sharing. One focus this past year was on the book “By the Light of the Moon”, written by Bunny McBride who was a camp counsellor of one of our members. We found the book profoundly meaningful and we resonated with much of her writing. We include in this report a quote from her book: “.....the wind was *spiritus*, God's breath, and it occurred to me that *this* is what sweeps away personal ego and its many pitfalls. But for that to happen, I'd have to open myself up as a passageway and allow that breath to do its work. I'd have to set aside personal ego with its determination to be right, to justify itself, to win, to impose guilt, or to hold on to something out of pride. I'd have to make space for God's grace, for Divine Love to breathe through me and express the true emanation I was created to be.”

### **Saint John Worship Group**

The Saint John worship group is composed of five members and one new attender. We meet about once a month. Our core group has been together for many years and deeply value the support we receive from worshipping together. Our monthly meeting for business does not occur in our area and this provides a challenge for some. We support the work of both the Monthly Meeting and Canadian Yearly Meeting.

### **Fredericton Worship Group**

The Fredericton Worship Group is a small Quaker group that follows the traditional unprogrammed practice of worshipping in silence. This past year, an average of five to eight individuals some members and some attenders worshiped twice a month although there were approximately 20 local individuals who regularly receive electronic notices of our meetings as a way of staying in touch. Three inquirers also worship with us, however, regrettably, none joined us for more than one initial meeting.

This past year, our worship group was also very saddened and thus affected when we lost one of our most cherished long-time members, Edith Miller. Edith was a truly welcoming person who often spoke out of the silence during meeting. Edith shared her very inspirational type of spirituality with us. A memorial meeting for Edith was held in August 2017 in Fredericton. It was attended by friends from all NBMM worship groups.

## **OTTAWA MONTHLY MEETING**

Ottawa Monthly Meeting (OMM) is fortunate to have a long history of Quaker practice. We remain enriched by the presence of many long-standing careful Friends. We do have concerns that we sometimes feel burdened, and we strive to approach our Quaker service with lighter hearts and gentler discernment. We regularly welcomed travelling visitors and hosted a number of Canadian Yearly Meeting committees, including planning and hosting the 2017 Canadian Yearly Meeting Quaker Studies weekend. Providing hospitality remains a joyful service for Ottawa Friends, but we found some larger

demands a challenge. The Quaker Book Service, which had been in our care, was laid down after 38 years, due to changing times in book publishing.

We prepared a document on vocal ministry, as a result of feedback from members of OMM and the writing of another Friend. We continue to grow into a place where we search together for the eternal messages that help define our places in the world. It can take time for personal reflections to be tempered into an offering to the spiritual strength of the Meeting. We learn from concerns that do not appeal to us personally. We try with patience and humility to communicate ideas that may be wearing, difficult to untangle, and contrary. We are sustained by many Friends and attenders in our Meeting who have an ability to discern the beginnings of pain or misunderstandings. What is not spoken is just as important as what is spoken, and quiet Friends are often the most perceptive.

Peace and Social Concerns Committee (P&SC), in collaboration with the clerks and the wider Meeting, completed a fruitful discernment process in April where they reflected on the committee's work in relation to faith principles, other Quaker bodies, and their direction. A valuable guiding report was produced. As reflected by the work of P&SC, individuals and the Meeting as a whole, we continue our work with those who find themselves outside of the larger economic community: refugees and those facing systemic and everyday racism and discrimination in Indigenous communities, diverse immigrant communities, and globally. Support for Indigenous peoples was strong in 2017 with the Meeting's participation in the pilgrimage to support the UN Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and Bill C-262, Ottawa Kairos and Centre 510 - a drop-in centre for homeless Indigenous peoples. We attended an event on Parliament Hill to support the Nuclear Weapons Ban Treaty, supported one individual's ongoing campaign for the abolition of Nuclear Weapons, and engaged with our yearly event around Hiroshima and Nagasaki day. Other efforts for building justice were intertwined with these more direct peace building efforts.

We continue to support OMRA refugee housing, the Centretown Emergency Food Centre and the initiative of some meeting members for the Early Childhood Education centre in Bajo Lempa, El Salvador. We look forward to the arrival of our privately-sponsored refugee family in mid-2018.

Our Adult Religious Education and Outreach Committee (AREO) has been very active and we thank its members for their loving service. In particular, we acknowledge the growth that occurred during our annual retreat. The committee's diligence is driven by a concern for our sustainability as a religious community and we have seen an increase in visitors and some renewal of old connections.

Premises Committee led us to consider broader questions of what we want our future meeting to be; as well, they improved the condition of the space that enables our community life.

We have welcomed four new members, had one request for removal, celebrated a wedding, one birth, and remembered a dear Friend at her death. People continue to come to us to share their experiences and personal journeys.

We are gladdened by the increase of Young Adult Friends in our Meeting and this is a freshening of Spirit. Our First Day School has been sparsely attended and this year, for the first time, we did not have a children's program at Christmas. We have been challenged to promote our caring teachers and our rich educational resources. We see the coming year as one of outreach in this area as we feel the absence of Young F/friends.



We rejoice in each other and value the opportunities for shared worship and service.

### **St. Lawrence Valley (Potsdam, NY) Allowed Meeting:**

An average of 7-9 of us meet for worship weekly on Sunday afternoons in Potsdam, followed by a potluck meal and fellowship including thoughtful discussion. We remain thankful for the hospitality of the Christian Science Reading Room, a quiet place where we can hear God speaking to our lives most effectively. Two new Friends from other parts of the US have brought us fresh insight this year: a young man who is a recent Guilford College graduate from Buffalo, and a lifelong Quaker woman from the San Francisco area. We are thankful for their presence. During the summer season we are sometimes joined by Friends who are at their nearby camps. We are thankful for a few members who take the time to prepare and lead casual discussion/worship groups about some aspects of Bible/Quaker history a few times a year.

Mid-week Meeting during the academic semesters at St. Lawrence University in Canton reaches another 5-7 folks who also seem to appreciate a gathered quiet worship time as well as fellowship and conversation over a shared meal, but many of whom are not involved in our Meeting business. We believe that a shared meal is a positive way for us to build a sense of community that can deepen our own individual spirituality and so continue the practice of potluck meal after Sunday worship, and the hospitality of St. Lawrence dining hall on Wednesdays.

We are finding that many times Meeting for worship can be more quiet and scattered and less gathered than we would consider desirable. In response, we are intending to encourage each other to write and share our own queries towards the beginning of worship time. With spiritual guidance, we anticipate that way will open to handle the disappointments, changes, and injustices that we perceive to be taking place in our world today.

### **PELHAM EXECUTIVE MEETING**

We meet on the first and third Sundays of the month, at the Niagara Artists Centre in St. Catharines. The venue is a fitting place, as several of us are members of NAC and some are practising artists. We find spiritual sustenance in the regularly changing exhibitions.

We appreciate the value of silent worship. There is a deep trust and a sense of connectedness in the Meeting, that allows Friends and attenders to share what is in their hearts. This may be in part a positive aspect of our small size. Attenders speak of being welcomed and accepted; and of being offered nurture and mentoring. One attender spoke of a sense of coming home, which helps one to come home to oneself. There is a hopeful feeling of an energy of renewal. The quality of worship is enhanced by the presence and active contribution of attenders. One attender is using parts of what he experiences in Quaker worship in his work and writing as a Mennonite pastor. The matter of discernment about vocal ministry (what is helpful or not; what is of Spirit or not quite; etc) is important to us. A Friend offered this helpful comment: "Sometimes a person wonders whether they should offer vocal ministry based on a thread of an idea that keeps recurring to them in Meeting. If they are in the habit of seeking divine guidance in mundane matters, it will be easier for them to discern when and how to speak into the silence."

We need to pay more attention to keeping up the connection with each other outside of Meeting for worship.

We are experiencing a growing sense of community with Mennonites and Muslims through membership in the Bridge of Hope---Bridge of Hope is a refugee settlement team of various faith groups in the Niagara Region. It is supporting a Syrian family, who have been in St. Catharines for a year, and is raising funds to bring more refugees from Syria. Other activities of the Meeting: statements of support for the memorial for the victims of the murder of Muslim worshippers in Quebec City, and for the Haudenosaunee deer harvest, conducted in the Short Hills Provincial Park. We seek to develop a closer relationship with the Indigenous community; hence we begin our Meetings with an acknowledgement that we meet on traditional Indigenous territory. We also witnessed in support of our testimonies of peace and equality at a counter-demonstration in opposition to an anti-immigrant rally in Niagara Falls. We made a financial contribution in support of the British Methodist Episcopal Church, where Harriet Tubman and many other escaped slaves worshipped. One member has been formally recognized as a Quaker chaplain and offers ministry at the hospice in St. Catharines.

We were fortunate that the 2017 Friends General Conference annual gathering took place close by; several attended all or part of the gathering.

We seek to discern the fluid boundary between the secular and the spiritual, and to be more aware of those times when our activities are not grounded in seeking guidance from the Inner Light.

We mourned the death of an attender who was an important and supportive member of our community.

We commit to the following statement, which appears on our website—[pelhammeeting.wordpress.com](http://pelhammeeting.wordpress.com)—:

We recognize the continuing evolution of our thinking and of the Light revealed to us. Our Meeting is united in refusing any kind of systematic theological statement. We prefer to be Doers of the Word and not Hearers only. We acknowledge the Christian roots of the metaphors by which we seek to be guided by the Spirit—the Word, the Seed, the Inner Light, the Inner Guide, the Living Christ, the Still Small Voice. Understanding that the Light is universal, and that the Seed is present in everyone, we do not find it distressing that we are not in unanimity about whether or not we consider ourselves Christian. We are in unity as to seeking truth in stillness.

## **PETERBOROUGH MONTHLY MEETING**

Our weekly Meeting for Worship continues to be our spiritual centre. The quality of silence and vocal ministry (when it comes) are satisfying and nourishing. Many welcome this opportunity for stillness in their lives. We appreciate afterthoughts and reflections following meeting and conversations during our potlucks as we continue to grow in community. We are enriched by the contributions of several new attenders. Newcomers are always welcome.

Teaching and discovery continue to be important to our meeting: our monthly discussions after our First Sunday potlucks, a monthly mid-week meeting for worship sharing at a local retirement home, and our World Religions study group continue to enrich us spiritually. We are hoping that moving our library

(formerly in a private home) to Sadleir House, where we meet, will promote its wider use by all in the meeting.

We now offer a weekly children's program which includes the monthly EarthCare program. We are gradually introducing queries designed for children to the program. The children's report after EarthCare brings joy to the meeting.

The meeting continues to promote the local Peace Council, which holds a regular monthly peace vigil. Many of us participated in the community-wide Day of Solidarity against neo-Nazisim. One focus of our social activism is work involved in Truth and Reconciliation.

Other outreach activities included: sponsoring and introducing a film at the Reframe Film Festival; prison visitation at Warkworth Institution by one member; involvement with the Bridges Out of Poverty mentoring program; participation in an ecumenical event called "Many Windows One Light". A number of Friends participated in the annual clean-up at Linden Valley Cemetery (a cemetery near Lindsay and site of an old Meetinghouse, managed by a group, some of whom have Quaker backgrounds.)

We sent a delegate to two Representative Meetings, several members attended the St. Lawrence Regional Gathering, and three of us attended the Carry On Discovery (COD) camp at Camp NeeKauNis. Two members serve on the Camp NeeKauNis committee and two members are on the Publications and Communications Committee.

We set up a committee of care for one member, and we held a retreat on end-of-life issues in the spring.

## **PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND ALLOWED MEETING**

The Prince Edward Island Quaker Meeting has just completed two years as an Allowed Meeting under the care of New Brunswick Monthly Meeting, having evolved from a long-standing worship group. While we remain small in numbers (an average of six Friends attend Meeting, but sometimes seven or eight as two Friends live some distance away), we are strongly engaged together. Unfortunately, we suffered two losses this year: one, a long-time and much-loved Friend who succumbed to Alzheimer's, and the other, a Young Adult Friend who brought much wisdom and energy to the Meeting during his two-year sojourn with us.

We are aware of our strengths and weaknesses, and through our periodic formal meetings for worship for business, and at other times, we are mindful to address those areas of our Meeting life that might open wider into blossom with the application of a little extra sprinkling from our collective watering can.

One important event of the past year was our move to a new Meeting location. After three years at the multi-faith Chaplaincy Centre at UPEI in Charlottetown, we faced the fact that the space was not best suited to our worship needs. Fortunately, we have found another, similarly central, location at The Mount, a large non-denominational continuing care community, to which we moved in January 2018. We were cordially offered the use of the library on Sunday mornings, a cheerful, light-filled room with an adjacent kitchen, and a deck where Meeting could be held outside in the summer. Best of all, we have been able to add our Quaker library books and pamphlets to the shelves, and have evidence that residents have been browsing.

Our worship is mainly silent, but Friends find this powerful, allowing answers to questions to penetrate our thoughts, while some struggle with wandering minds or naps. The discipline of an hour of silent worship, something new attenders may find uncomfortable at first, takes time to develop. Although we encourage Friends to offer spoken ministry, laying aside unnecessary inhibitions, there is no set formula for *how* the Spirit will move us to speak. We plan to experiment with a short period of worship-sharing to close Meeting for Worship when we can share thoughts that did not emerge as spoken ministry.

During this winter, we continued for the sixth year with a series of Quaker Study evenings. Topics ranged widely, including the Sermon on the Mount; Sin, Grace, and the image of God; the Gospel of Mary Magdalene; Prophecy; and many other subjects (and deviations from them).

Within the Society, one Friend has served on a CYM committee and as a recording clerk of New Brunswick MM, three Friends attended Atlantic Friends Gathering, and another serves on NBMM's Ministry & Counsel. Friends are regularly represented at NBMM's Meetings for Worship for Business. On the other hand, in the past year, except for maintaining an active Facebook site, we have been unable to further the development of outreach opportunities, including following up with several enquirers from the previous year. This has now become a priority.

The publication of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's report in 2015 brought forth an exhortation from CYM for Meetings and individuals to examine our consciences, speech and actions as they relate to Indigenous Peoples. We are asked to shed the guiding light of our Testimonies on our past and future relationships, and report annually to CFSC. While our Meeting's direct connection with Indigenous Peoples in our province is minimal, in diligently carrying out this exercise we have become more aware of the need, as Quakers individually and collectively, to pay attention to the issue. Our more substantial report this year demonstrates our increased sense of responsibility to do our part in the healing process.

We are a caring community, yet we need to develop greater discipline in listening, a rare skill in the high-pressure outer society in which we are obliged to live. Members of our Meeting bring an enriching diversity of spiritual and life experience from which we all benefit immensely. Ultimately, the glue that binds us together is our worship together.

## **SASKATOON MONTHLY MEETING**

Our Meetings for Worship continued to be rich and deep. Friends this year participated less in national committees and focused on self-care. We also planned to try a new day and time for Meeting for Worship (Sundays at 4 pm) and have implemented it on a trial basis in 2018.

Our Meeting valued the painful yet blessed experience of journeying with Patty Lembke. We joined with Friends from Prairie Monthly Meeting to worship with Patty in her home, which was a time of deep spiritual togetherness. Later, we traveled together again to take part in a Memorial Meeting with her family, held in the manner of Friends. The Memorial Meeting was a rich time of sharing tears, laughter, and stories. We continue to grieve and to hold Patty's family in our hearts.

Shared travel to these Meetings gave Saskatoon Friends an opportunity to connect with each other in addition to supporting our dear Friend Patty.

We enjoyed the opportunity to gather with Friends from Western Half-Yearly Meeting at Shekinah, especially in light of the fallow year for Canadian Yearly Meeting.

## **THOUSAND ISLANDS MONTHLY MEETING**

This report was developed from Friends' responses to two questions put forth in a sharing session in February 2018, as well as by e-mail. We have also drawn from events, Meeting work and various developments over the 2017 year.

### *Spiritual Life and Growth*

Friends have shared that they yearn for meaning, struggle with spiritual growth, question whether they may be religious but not spiritual, and believe spiritual growth is up to the individual and investment of personal time and energy. Several Friends have found participation in a newly formed Meeting group based on Rex Ambler's *Experiment with Light* to be enriching and helpful with silent worship. Meeting allows Friends to live life more deeply with Quaker ideals, reflection and ministry valuable in day to day experiences. One Friend found that geographic distance, which has reduced frequency of attendance at Meeting for Worship, has also reduced a feeling of support in spiritual life. Some Friends have experienced Meeting for Worship as a calming influence, a stress reducer, a safe space, and a refuge from the busyness of daily life. Others have found demands of daily life affect their attendance or lead to feelings of guilt associated with personal worship that is not fulfilling or inspirational. One Friend has reported a feeling of having missed something when Meeting for Worship ends; another reports not being able to reach a sense of connectedness with "the divine", a "cloud of unknowing," but sees this as a personal dilemma rather than a quality of the Meeting. Afterthoughts at the end of silent worship are often rich and frequently lighthearted as well.

### *Meeting as Community*

Our Meeting has been described as providing a safe space for our own values, a place that "fed my soul" when there was a need. It offers friendships and genuine caring that are a gift, provides support that motivates and fosters strength. One Friend has suggested a small community like ours may be more manageable and while some feel a wonderful closeness with other Friends, we have also suffered from the loss of some attenders who no longer come. A number of Friends have experienced health challenges, stresses of life events and changes associated with advancing age. We have tried to be supportive of those who are not able to be physically present on a regular basis and are happy for their presence on the occasions when it is possible. Monthly shared meals remain an important socializing opportunity.

### *Conflict and Healing*

We began the year in the midst of a challenging period of prolonged conflict, with raw emotions, unresolved issues and a need for healing. We have recognized the need to be more proactive in responding with love and integrity to early signs of conflict, and to strengthen the role and responsibility of M & C. We made the deeply discerned, but very difficult decision to ask a Friend to cease attending. Differences remain over the potential for forgiveness and reconciliation. A Friend resigned membership as a consequence of this decision. We continued to struggle with the need to support individuals while moving forward to increase trust and strengthen the overall health and spiritual growth of the Meeting. A special session with an independent counselor was helpful to some of the Friends most directly impacted by conflict. Review of a variety of external sources on conflict in Quaker Meetings, along with

much discussion and reflection over a two-year period has culminated in a deeper understanding among some Friends of important aspects of conflict recognition, resolution and transformation. We revisited Meeting guidelines for conflict approved in 2005. A revised document of Interim Guidelines for Dealing with Conflict within the Meeting has been approved (March 25, 2018). Issues of healthy communication practices, good Quaker process, transparency versus confidentiality, individual versus corporate decision-making, simultaneous maintenance of integrity and compassion, and seeking in the Light to do what is right have been important themes in committee discernment. We have also recognized the need to focus on conditions which may contribute to risk of conflicts, while remaining aware that conflicts will continue to happen. We need to prepare ourselves better for addressing conflict. Listening actively, sharing, speaking with forthrightness and honesty are important communication strategies to practise.

#### *Work of the Meeting*

M & C undertook a strategic visioning exercise with the broad considerations of “where are we?, where would we like to be?, and how do we get there?” This led to an effort to more clearly document roles, responsibilities and functions of various Meeting positions and committees. The goal was to raise awareness of the importance of Meeting positions, to increase appreciation for the many kinds of contributions which support the Meeting, to guide the future work of the Nominating Committee, to help Friends in understanding how they can best contribute to Meeting work, to support succession planning as Friends choose to give up their work in long held positions and to reduce potential for misunderstandings in performance of the Meeting’s work. Development of more centralized archives is a part of this process, yet to be implemented. Friends have recognized there are times when you cannot contribute to Meeting work and that not everyone can do certain things. Some ask themselves whether it is acceptable not to do Meeting work, to take without giving. There is recognition of an ebb and flow in people’s lives and in the life of Meetings. One Friend reports receiving comfort from being able to serve the Meeting from a distance and has recognized service as a mode for receiving spiritual encouragement and enrichment. Another finds service opportunities helpful with seeing the world as interconnected.

Responsibility for our sponsored Syrian immigrant family officially ended on December 31, 2016; contact with them is maintained through periodic visits. A debriefing session of the sponsorship experience held by M & C committee helped to provide some objectivity and learning from what had been a challenging experience for the Meeting. It also showed there remained unresolved feelings related to conflict within the sponsorship process.

#### *Health of the Meeting*

At least one Friend believes the Meeting is emerging stronger from a time of trial. Another has suggested it is important to take the good bits from what we encounter and to let go of what we don’t like. We have gained a new member as well as some new regular attenders, in spite of some difficult circumstances. We appreciate the presence of our one engaged youth and the insights he offers. And we continue to work toward a healthier, stronger Meeting with the talents, gifts and foibles which are all a part of our corporate worship and activity.

## TORONTO MONTHLY MEETING

Our State of Society report for 2017 has two sections. The general section is focused on the functioning and activities of our Monthly Meeting and our Meeting Community. The appendix presents the responses of 29 Friends who gathered on the afternoon of Sunday 4 February 2018 to consider the State of Society of Toronto Monthly Meeting.

The general section of this report is more than a simple accounting of Monthly Meeting agenda items. The worshipful and at times difficult discernment we experience in our consideration of issues that come before our Monthly Meeting, our committees, our Worship Groups, and our Meeting of Ministry and Counsel are an important part of our spiritual lives as members and attenders of the Religious Society of Friends. We are grateful also for concerns brought by individual Friends that help us to move forward, however slowly, as a Meeting.

*We meet on the traditional territories of the Haudenosaunee [Ho-de-no-show-nee], the Huron-Wendat, and most recently, the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation. Toronto remains the home of many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island. May we share the land in peace.*

After much discernment we approved the above acknowledgment that is read at all our gatherings and is included on our letterhead and our *TMM Newsletter*. We know it is only a beginning, and that we must move forward. Our discernment about a witness to our climate concerns by investing in SolarShare bonds made us aware of our need for an investment policy for stewardship of our resources. Our Quaker Committee for Refugees became a member of Canadian Council of Refugees and organizes an annual art show and fundraiser. The Toronto Friends Sponsoring Refugees is now a standing TMM committee; they have sponsored one family and are working to bring a second family to Canada.

Following a request from another faith group about the Quaker practice of scrupling, we prepared a one-page set of guidelines for use not only by Friends but outside the Meeting, particularly by ecumenical organizations. Another venture into ecumenical territory led to *Redesigning the Tree of Life*, a two-day conference held at Friends House on synthetic biology and the future of food, sponsored by the World Council of Churches and the Canadian Council of Churches with support and involvement from TMM members and from CFSC. A letter of thanks refers to Friends' "fine sense of timing, relevance and discernment" concerning "what is important for the church in Canada to pay attention to now."

We have been considering aspects of the structure and working of our Monthly Meeting. Our difficulty in finding Friends willing to serve as clerks led us to restructure our clerking procedures to reduce the clerks' workload. We also created a new administrative assistant position as a one-year trial to relieve the Secretary/Assistant Treasurer of some duties. We approved a Protocol Regarding Children and Vulnerable Adults, and thank the Friends involved for their years of patience and perseverance. An ad hoc committee on communications and outreach developed guidelines for our *Newsletter*, email, and social media announcements and postings. And finally we began our discernment regarding the implications of incorporation. Our efforts to explore what incorporation could mean for us as a Quaker community – how we would maintain our spiritual practices and integrity – are continuing slowly and carefully.

Last spring we held a one-day retreat to focus on the spiritual life of our Meeting. We were asked to consider two queries: *Is our Meeting a true spiritual community? Are we just wellmeaning people acting independently?* Friends were engaged and found the experience enriching and uplifting. There was enthusiasm for similar gatherings and more opportunities for discussion.

Last summer the joy of a marriage under our care was especially welcome. During the past year we held seven Meetings for Worship in Remembrance of Friends from our Meeting and prepared testimonies or minutes of remembrance for them. A Specially Called Meeting for Worship to witness and uphold the spiritual commitment of two Friends as spiritual aunties to a young boy and his parents was also a spiritually grounded and joyful occasion.

Our Meeting Community – a committee of neighbourhoods – includes a monthly Friday evening gathering for a meal and board games, and is enriched by informal gatherings for meals and by groups of Spiritual Companions. The Meeting also upheld a long-time attender who was led to participate in a year-long program at Woolman Hill entitled “Nurturing Faith, Worship, and Faithfulness.” Part of this process involves a monthly “Faithfulness Group” that meets once a month to provide ongoing mutual support, help with discernment, accountability in following a leading, and attention to God’s presence and activity in daily life.

Regular presentations and discussions after Meeting for Worship organized by the Religious Education Committee and the Peace and Social Action Committee provide time for sharing our spiritual lives and our concerns about social justice. We also welcome Quakers from across Canada who visit Friends House for CYM Committee Meetings and Representative Meeting. In late December Friends gathered after Meeting for Worship to sign cards with a pastoral letter to those unable to attend Meeting through infirmity or distance.

The **West End Worship Group** meets on the first Sunday of each month in homes of members. We gather from 10.30 to 11.30 am so that those in attendance may also attend afternoon events at Friends House. Meetings are usually silent, but we spend some time afterwards sharing events of the previous month – both joys and sorrows. Light refreshments are offered and this social time allows us to deepen friendships and to share and discuss Quakerly concerns. We welcome new members and our average meetings have grown in size to eight to twelve on most Sundays.

The **Downtown Worship Group** meets at 2:00 pm on the second Tuesday of each month in the St Lawrence Market area of Toronto at the residence of a group member. Because the group is aging, ill health continues to cause cancellations. Nonetheless, the four or five regular members remain loyal, and we value the time we spend together in shared worship, discussion, and tender concern for one another. We have undertaken a practice of reading a query from “The Spiritual Companions” group before each time of worship, and have found that rewarding.

The twenty-nine Friends present at the Worship Sharing session held 4 February 2018 were encouraged to share their thoughts and feelings about the state of the Toronto Meeting and their experience as part of the Meeting Community. In the tradition of worship sharing, there was no discussion. Each contribution was followed by silent worship. A series of six queries was provided beforehand. What appears below is a record of Friends’ sharings and responses to these queries, assembled from a transcript of the session in the order that they were heard.



*What is your image of a Friends Meeting as it should be? What would indicate a spiritually strong Meeting?*

- The meeting is well attended with a combination of a variety of faith and practice
- Meeting for Worship is a place where we can all explore our spirituality
- We see committee work intermeshed and inter-related with Meeting for Worship in a circular pattern
- A place where each of our lights can be explored and expressed – striving to see past one another's words to their light
- Spiritually strong meeting – for newcomers and oldcomers – talking and working with each other we feel like family – that is present but not always achieved all the time
- This spiritual community has shown its strength of spirit but recognizes its shortcomings. We must have a willingness to face them together – to truly act on what we practice (believe?)
- There is a variety of opinions – a strong meeting gives people opportunity to speak out and share opinions with respect, even when they disagree
- A strong meeting is one where we know each other and see each other in the spirit and share our journey; where we know everyone that wants to be known – children, young people, etc.; where we take care to notice who is here and who isn't here; and give attention to make space for everyone while seeking to know them
- This Meeting lacks wisdom found in the struggle of the Black community – we should make more of an effort to extend and reach out to Black churches to recognize the pain and struggle in that community
- This meeting is a place of healing for some but not for others
- Being a Friend may begin as belief but doesn't end there. Being a Friend is knowing the truth of being – it is not about outward forms, traditions, styles, or politics. Service is important but service falters when done in the wrong spirit. Friend's Meeting has a membership that has moved beyond belief and has claimed and owned knowledge of being present and real and honest and truthful and being inspired by the light of God. This is difficult but also simple and uncomplicated but without some help it is impossible.
- It is a comfort coming into meeting for worship with all the turbulence of the outside, being with people who mostly share the same values
- A strong meeting involves its members feeling connected. A meeting that works and plays along with each other marked by a giving and receiving between people – a sharing to come together to create something as a whole.
- There should [*in "as it should be"*] not be a "should." There must be an organic element to Meeting for Worship. We give up some control when we walk into Meeting for Worship – entering into an unknown zone – we have to remember that people think that Quakerism is modern and very inclusive and this is new, but in fact from the beginning there has been an emphasis on not having a creed. Little unites us but what does unite us and is central is seeing that of God in everyone – when I walk into Meeting there is something which holds me up, an atmosphere – I don't see a difference between spirituality and our daily life
- My great attraction to Friends was the great integrity of Friends but we must be prepared as a Meeting to let our lives speak and be prepared for the consequences of that – have courage to do the right thing – this is important.

*Where do we fall short? Where have we done well?*

- In order for Friends to live in the world we need the foundation of a well-functioning supportive community – knowing each other in the spirit and in activism are one. We fall short when they are disconnected; the more I bring myself to know the community the more support I feel. There are voices we are not hearing who are not here – they may be here if we made space for them.
- We have done well having a door open – we truly mean it – but the doors are open and welcome but few come in. We need to attract more young – the people of the “now” who speak the language of the “now” in order to get involved in the current work of the world – having young people should be the notion and the norm – as leaders in the community’s work – without them, it makes it difficult to focus on the now in 2018
- This Society offers the open and liberal infrastructure to build on if we can be more positively and lovingly critical of the things we consider untouchable. The only sacred thing is the human – no text should be held sacred. We need to be more openly critical without being afraid to touch the things we do not feel comfortable touching
- This Society can touch more and do more than it is at the moment
- Young people are the root – we need their energy – but at the present time we have a young Prime Minister who has made decisions that are very disagreeable. The young must have a good background for what they speak.
- As I get old, I fall short of patience continuing to be part of this Meeting through many years and conflicts, but I’m still here and I recognize what has been resolved and what has not. However being part of this Meeting has let me grow beyond that and I’m happy to see Friends that I’ve known for many years and I’m grateful for the opportunity. This is what we have done well.
- Sometimes we are too hard on ourselves. Sometimes we want to do more than we’re capable of doing – our reach sometimes exceeds our grasp. But if we don’t reach, we won’t accomplish anything. Our Meeting is unusual because we have many activities and responsibilities most Meetings don’t have – but people are willing to serve and that’s part of a functioning Meeting. I also become impatient – we must be more open with one another. I love this Meeting, I’ve been here a long time, the structure of society has changed and we shouldn’t feel guilty that we aren’t attracting people.
- It is a surprise that I’ve become attached to any group – what’s been successful is that this is a place of security and non-judgement – a place of acceptance. We are very quiet about who we are so it’s hard to pull people in – age is only a number – there are more young people in this Meeting than there were five years ago.
- Trying to achieve a balance between perfection and pragmatism is part of Quaker DNA.

Quakers were the only millennial group to survive the 17th century – they tried to maintain a balance between perfection and pragmatism – the crux of Quaker DNA. This has always been a Quaker contradiction and always something the Society has grappled with – both our strength and weakness. We should embrace our desire of commitment to everyone. There have always been individuals with a radically socially prophetic voice among Quakers: we must learn not to be threatened by either the pragmatic or prophetic voice; we must approach differences with a positive embrace – that everyone can find a space here even for a short time.

*What is our way forward? How do you see your part in this?*

- A contemporary question – the first question of God to Adam was, “Where are you?” A question meant for us to consider – Where are we? Are we present in the moment or are we straining against an impossible obstacle of being somewhere other than where we are. Being present where we are is something Jesus did and George Fox did; something we are called to do.
- Going forward I used to think generationally, but there are fewer and fewer children present in the Meeting House, there are fewer people to show us the way forward. Let the young ask the questions – they know the answers and communities find a way forward by watching children and growing. We need to be more open and aware of what we offer to young families – there is hope in children and families. We want to hear that hope and laughter and joy of having children in the midst
- Our way forward is to support the youth we have emotionally, financially when necessary, and spiritually. I have always felt a lack of guidance and spiritual support among Quakers for youth. To support youth in the Meeting we need to reach out not just to the youth that come but those that don’t come anymore.
- I am encouraged by the statements that come from our Meeting and from Yearly Meeting about important issues and are sent to politicians, etc., but I am worried about the concern for our own safety. This should be a matter of faith. We should not be concerned about our safety if what we are doing is in line with the will of God. Jesus set his face to Jerusalem where he knew his opposition was. We should not be afraid for our own safety; we should always do the thing that seems to be God’s will for us. People will come when they are led. We must reach out to the young people in a lost world.
- Camp NeeKauNis is there as a resource and escape for youth: water and space and nature. My faith lies there for grounding youth and children. This dissatisfaction [of youth] comes from being disconnected from the land. There is a lack of time for camp – we must be more open with time – if we feel our way towards NeeKauNis it will come. It is an opportunity that we are ignoring. Let’s connect with nature and be humble.
- History teaches of collapsing empires; none vanished overnight. There are initial signals of the decay of society; there are signs now.
- We shouldn’t be afraid to do what we need to do – but we can only do this when we feel safe and supported. In a safe environment we find the strength to do what we need to do. We must build TMM as a strong and inclusive supportive community so that when an occasion of strife comes up we can face it.
- As a young person I have a lot of ideas for change, but I need support. Please talk to me about these ideals.

## **VANCOUVER MONTHLY MEETING**

Vancouver Monthly Meeting is in a place of quiet renewal. We have been energized by the presence of many new attenders. We have strengthened our charitable engagement through new partners. And we have seen many regular attenders and members take up roles of service in the meeting.

Our First Day Meetings for Worship are well attended, with typically between 20 and 40 persons, with members balanced fairly consistently with an engaged group of attenders. Child care is provided every

First Day and First Day School is organized once a month. Last year we initiated writing to the many young adults inviting them to consider adult membership.

With a shift toward new governance and oversight, we were able to continue to provide scholarships to students in Chatamilu, Kenya. We have made changes to the way we structure our charitable programs that we believe make them more consistent with Canada Revenue Agency requirements.

We offer a monthly Queries and Advices group for newcomers and experienced friends alike, to discuss Quaker practices and history, as well as an Early Friends Study Group.

Two Friends from Vancouver Meeting travelled to Ben Lomond Quaker Centre in California, and returned to our Meeting with a host of promising ideas for deepening our spiritual life. From that arose, as one example, the start of a mid-week Meeting for Worship. Other ideas are being pursued, or at least explored. We know that spiritual practice is at the core of what we are as a community and is essential to guide and sustain the outer works of our lives. We seek ways to deepen our experience of the Spirit.

The Yukon Worship Group under the care of Vancouver Meeting was laid down at their request. The Fraser Valley Worship Group continues to meet, but not under the care of Vancouver Meeting, at their request. The Coquitlam Worship Group was discontinued, by decision of the Worship Group host. Vancouver Meeting has gone through a process of discernment relating to the question "What does it mean to be a worship group under the care of our Meeting?" We have not done a good job of supporting Worship Groups outside Metro Vancouver. The North Burnaby Worship Group continues.

We held both Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners which were well attended, and in December we also had a beautiful Christmas celebration in the form of a semi-programmed Meeting for Worship. We give thanks for the work of the Hospitality Committee for providing a warm welcome every First Day and for special occasions.

**Canadian Yearly Meeting has suggested the following set of queries for consideration by Meetings in their State of Society reports.**

*How have happenings in the world affected the spiritual life of your meeting?*

Vancouver Quakers have a long history of activism in the affairs and struggles of the world. The Meeting strives to maintain a balance between supporting individual Friends in their activism and maintaining a nurturing spiritual centre.

*How do we nurture each other, and particularly our children, to grow in hope rather than in fear?*

The social inequities and environmental destruction of the world weigh heavily on Quakers, including parents, and this is perceived by our children. We find the weekly practice of Meeting for Worship and the fellowship and support that occurs in and around our Meetings naturally instills hope, heals some of the traumas and helps to overcome fear.

*Given declining membership in many of our meetings, what measures is your meeting taking to attract and retain newcomers, and how is your meeting working to transmit Quaker teachings and values to our children?*

Our Meeting makes a special effort to retain newcomers by (1) ensuring that someone takes the time to speak one-on-one with newcomers at their first Meetings, whenever possible, (2) having a variety of reading materials available for newcomers, (3) holding the Quaker Q&A (Queries and Advices) group once a month.

Quaker Q&A was previously called the Newcomers Group, but we changed the name to convey that the group is inclusive of long-standing Friends and attenders. In the group, we address the enquiries of newcomers. We find that this conversation forms bonds between newcomers and more established Friends.

We also find newcomers respond well to our shared meals and opportunities for fellowship after rise of Meeting. There is also an Early Friends Study Group held monthly (1st Sunday after rise of Meeting) to which everyone is always invited, that introduces people to Quakerism's rich history.

Together, these study groups have improved, for those who have participated, the understanding of the ways of Friends within the Meeting.

## **VANCOUVER ISLAND MONTHLY MEETING**

We value being part of a community where spiritual life encompasses and addresses concerns in the world and are grateful for a spiritual community that upholds non-violence, care for one another and the earth. We are energized and led to action for change by an understanding that all life is sacred and interconnected and that careless human activity endangers the stability of our ecosystem upon which all life depends.

We are guided by the knowledge that faithful attention to the Spirit is essential to the ongoing work of creating small and large peaceful alternatives to fearful and violent happenings. Our worship is a special time for being filled with the Spirit, to be led and upheld to do the work that must be done, to address the injustices we see. We look to our times of worship as a leavening when despair overwhelms us, to renew and balance us, to give us strength to carry on and to speak truthfully from a deep loving place within.

Concern is expressed both that our Meeting resists "political" statements and that a singular focus on one point of view when expressed during worship may not be appropriate. It speaks for many that we not "lay heavy on a captive audience" and respect that no problem has one story.

For the most part we work individually from our spiritual convictions to address issues of injustice that call to us. We acknowledge that we seldom engage in corporate discernment to act as a Meeting as a whole in addressing particular issues, but we value having the opportunity to bring concerns to Meeting for Worship for Business. There are times when it is important to carry Spirit guided belief from this Meeting to our politicians. Together we can act in ways that are upheld with love and supported by our testimonies. For example, our letter to the Prime Minister deploring the bombing in Syria, April 9, 2017.

We addressed matters pertaining to Truth and Reconciliation. It was not an "easy place to go" but our response stands out as a major corporate work during 2017. We struggled to find the right language, to name the land we occupy and to name the group who carried this work forward. During two well

attended workshops we shared knowledge, concerns, and made commitments. The first interactively engaged the Meeting in the six principles from Canadian Yearly Meeting. The second, the Village Exercise, led by Kathy Camilleri of the Cree Nation, helped us experientially deepen our understanding of the impact of European colonization. This day of ceremony, role-play and sharing was attended by approximately forty people, including visitors from the wider Victoria faith community and Quakers from other Island Meetings.

Our Meeting continues to be enriched by our partnership with the Friends Women's Association of Burundi and their work at the Kamenge Clinic with HIV/AIDS patients. Their monthly reports and a visit from Director Parfaite Ntahuba in May, keep us mindful of the wonderful presence of Friends worldwide, and the importance of worship and service in building and sustaining a peaceful and loving world.

Also valued by this Meeting was the quiet retreat, an Island Gathering, and the Self Study Pamphlet on Canadian Faith and Practice written and produced by our Meeting in 2017.

Much energy was required this past year by Care Committees, Ministry and Counsel and Friends, to hold families caring for seriously ill and dying loved ones. We value being supported by Friends when we become ill or weary or overwhelmed.

Communication among friends in the community, both regular attenders and those whose lives are touched by the Meeting from afar, is an ongoing focus. News and events of our Meeting are spread abroad and at home via our e-mail newsletter - Fern Street News. As well this year, we updated our Meeting's directory.

Of concern is the spiritual attention to the few children and teens in our Meeting. We need to keep connections alive among young Friends. When parents come with children to our Sunday worship it is usually they who become responsible to care for their children upstairs. Perhaps this is why some of the newer attenders and their children do not return. Do we have it within us to find ways to welcome newcomers and inspire them to return?

In the silence we listen for Spirit to speak quietly within us or through the ministry of a Friend. What may not speak to us could very well meet another's need. We strive to be patient and non-judgmental. Our Community of Friends is nourished as we celebrate each other's gifts and lives, share and connect together during work for justice, peace and ecology, knitting while eating cake, make music and tell our stories.

**Mid-Island Allowed Meeting:** Our worship gatherings twice a month offer us time in a spiritual community which allows freedom of worship in the luxury of silence, peace and safety.

We appreciate the diversity within the "likemindedness" of our group. Sadly, we also ponder whether we are fading away as a group. More people are leaving for various reasons than new ones are joining, and some people who held us together in the past are no longer attending as regularly as before.

We considered perhaps using some of our resources for a website to inform people of who we are and encourage interest.

In terms of issues, for example homelessness, each person's personal motivation leads to action and activism in the larger community, but we are not looking to this group to stoke that furnace. Part of our

appeal is that we are unstructured. We value our time together and the smallness of our group does not lessen our appreciation of the chance to worship together.

## **WINNIPEG MONTHLY MEETING**

### **Nurture in a Fallow Year**

At the end of the year many Manitoba farmers put in a crop planted among the standing stubble. It won't come to harvest until the winter has come and gone, it sits buried shallow, being tried and changed by the same deep cold which bursts city pipes buried less than eight feet deep. We have many members who are involved in CYM committees, and have found by moving to a new space that we are able to be more equitable on the ground level and have adapted how we do community in changing where we do community. It is not that we are ignorant or ignoring the shrieking of strife in our world, it is just that we are busy finding and working on our part in its repair and transformation, just as we hear other people in other meetings are doing in their way in their place.

We have a warm place to share our struggles, our hopes and our questions. There is enough light to bring our fears into, and people care for each other and share with each other and accommodate our diverse needs. We plan on having one potluck a month, but it happens at every meeting regardless. In discussions over food after meeting we share experiences, questions and reflections, nurture one another and hold each other up, and learn together in community.

We have experimented by having seasons of attention to one testimony at a time, and this has led to more people attending and facilitating education sessions, which in turn continues to lead to greater depth and application in our lives. We feel enthusiasm for nurturing ourselves as a community knowing we couldn't have it at CYM this year. We took the Quaker learning series under the care of the meeting and put on a Treaty Celebration event where we as settlers and newer Canadians thanked our treaty partners for their great generosity.

Many in this Meeting share their insights and gifts, and many follow their leadings thoughtfully and sincerely. We worship each week, and once every second Wednesday of the month we meet in the evening for those who can't come Sunday morning. Vocal Ministry is rich with gifts coming from deep expectant waiting, or wrestling with the particular Advice and Query set on the table that day, or a voice from the person struggling to draw closer, or a commentary on a glimpse of the Peaceable Kin-dom. Invitations to love the world come through; welcoming refugees in our communities, upholding human rights, living out integrity through voluntary simplicity and restoring right relationship with each other and the First Peoples and First Nations with whom we share land, or just being thankful for a moment in silence together.

## **YARMOUTH MONTHLY MEETING**

We continue to hold meeting for worship at our meetinghouse every First Day morning from 11 to 12. In these times when difficult issues press on us from all directions, meeting for worship is the sustaining centre of our spiritual community. The peace and loving support found there provide a sanctuary where our spirits are replenished and refreshed, and we leave feeling stronger and more able to meet the challenges of the week ahead. The weekly meetings for worship also help generate the spiritual energy

friends need to reach out into the wider community.

About 15-20 people attend regularly, and we offer a First Day School program for two young children. During meeting for worship more Friends are feeling called to offer vocal ministry and sometimes, out of a worshipful silence, we are blessed with the experience of a truly gathered meeting. Ministry and Counsel chooses an advice or a query each which is read at the beginning of every Meeting for Worship for one month. Friends have found this useful. Once a month we hold a potluck lunch after Meeting for Worship which is a well-attended event and a chance for friends to catch up on the news we may not have time to share during the shorter visits that take place after every meeting for worship. A Quaker Education class is held once a month before Meeting for Worship. We are rethinking the content offered in these classes. The origins of Quakerism, and the early years are very interesting and can be related easily to present day events and challenges. It's also important, we believe, to continue to consider Quaker testimonies in light of these times.

Our monthly newsletter allows for good, ongoing communication between all friends and other interested people in the area. It also provides us with the information we need to be aware of those who need our prayers and/or support, including those who are ill, injured, or compromised in some way, and those grieving the loss of loved ones. We also find news about Canadian Yearly Meeting and about events and activities being offered by nearby Monthly Meetings. The newsletter also includes helpful prayers and educational material as we continue on our individual spiritual journeys.

We are grateful for our 150-year-old meetinghouse. Thanks to a Samuel Rogers Trust Fund grant we were able to complete extensive interior and exterior repairs. We removed some bookshelves and generally increased the uncluttered, harmonious space where we hold meeting for worship. A new stove was also purchased for our kitchen. Friends who helped make this happen through hours of hard work report that the experience deepened their love and gratitude for the building, and also for the community itself. Personal sound amplifiers have been made available so that Friends who have difficulty hearing can feel more connected during meeting for worship, and other gatherings.

We designed and produced a new pamphlet which is made available to new attenders or interested people who are passing through. We took care to include in our pamphlet a statement acknowledging that our meetinghouse was built on the land of the Attawandaron (Neutral), Haundenosaunee and Algonquin peoples. Copies of *Canadian Yearly Meeting Faith and Practice* and *Organization and Procedure* were purchased by the meeting which we invite new attenders and members to make use of to help them better understand Quaker ways.

Friends participate in gatherings with other faith groups such as the Easter Sunrise Service and World Day of Prayer. The Society of Friends in Sparta is the only place of worship meeting regularly in this community now, but some members of churches that had to close their doors participate in the outreach activities provided by our meeting.

The annual Hiroshima Memorial Lantern-Floating continues to be a way of reaching out into the community. It is held at a popular and well-known public park in St. Thomas at dusk every August 6, and the simple act floating of lanterns for peace and to remember the victims of the use of atomic weapons speaks to everyone who participates. We have organized this event for over thirty years. Prior to Hiroshima Day we set up a display at a local farmer's market where people are invited to make a tissue paper lantern cover. Children are particularly interested in this activity and through this outreach effort



we have more people participating in the lantern-floating.

Yarmouth Monthly Meeting hosted the 2017 spring Pelham Half-Yearly Meeting this year. The focus of the gathering was around the question, "Who is my neighbour?" A member of the Oneida of the Thames First Nation spoke at one session, and The Truth and Reconciliation Report was the focus of another session. Some of the activities were held at a large home in Port Stanley overlooking Lake Erie, which we rented for the weekend. Friends who wished to stay overnight could do so. This allowed for more time to get know friends from other Monthly Meetings. It was well-attended!

This year our annual Harvest dinner was, once again, a success. The planning and running of this dinner brings us together once a year. It's also a great way to make our Quaker presence known in the community at large. The money raised went to supporting local initiatives with Youth-At-Risk in St. Thomas, the local food bank and our Uganda Alternatives to Violence workshops.

YMM participated in the Community Garage Sale this year and found it a good way to open our doors to the citizens of the Sparta and St. Thomas area.

This past year Friends who love music have reached out into the community inviting people to come to participate or to be part of the audience at an Open Stage which is held once a month after Meeting for Worship. The meeting also hosted a Ceili.

Windsor Worship Group and Manitoulin Worship Group were both established under the care of Yarmouth Monthly Meeting. The Windsor Group is no longer meeting, and the Manitoulin Worship Group is small and meets occasionally.

Yarmouth Monthly Meeting hosted the spring Pelham Half-Yearly Meeting this year. The focus of the gathering was around the question, "Who is my neighbour?" A member of the Oneida of the Thames First Nation spoke at one session, and The Truth and Reconciliation Report was the focus of another session. Some of the activities were held at a large home in Port Stanley overlooking Lake Erie which we rented for the weekend. Friends who wished to stay overnight could do so. This allowed for more time to get know friends from other Monthly Meetings. It was well-attended!

This coming year we will commemorate 200 years of worship by the Society of Friends here in Sparta. We are deeply grateful for those who brought their spiritual practices here early in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and set about building the Quaker community we so cherish.

## **YONGE STREET MONTHLY MEETING**

*As Friends, we commit ourselves to a way of worship which allows God to teach and transform us. We have found corporately that the Spirit, if rightly followed, will lead us into trust, unity and love; all our testimonies grow from this leading.*

*Introduction, Advices and Queries*

Yonge Street Monthly Meeting (YSMM) organized two specific events that fed our spirits in 2017. We were deeply nourished by hosting Yonge Street Fall Half-Yearly Meeting. The planning committee took advantage of the special resources available during CYM's fallow year to host a full weekend, with three

linked presentations by guest speaker, Jeff Dudiak. The program attracted participation from many Friends, plus some members of the local community. Jeff gave us much to think about as we worshipped together, exchanged our ideas and shared meals and laughter. We all benefited from being with Friends from beyond our own Meeting. A full description of the weekend and Jeff's ministry is in the winter 2018 issue of *The Canadian Friend*.

In February we spent a day, "Holding Our Triggers in the Light," a topic identified in our Deepening Spirit retreat. Because ministry comes to us from diverse faith traditions at a time in meeting for worship when we are most vulnerable, we can sometimes feel hurt by language used in that ministry. The goal of the workshop was not to avoid our own and one another's "triggers," but to better understand and disarm them. We spent the day listening to each other and helping ourselves to communicate more openly. At the time of the workshop most of us were not aware of a very deep hurt that had been felt by some members because of a decision of the Meeting. In our efforts to address this deep distress, we came to recognize the necessity to trust one another enough to share our hurt and talk about how a decision is experienced. Friends are encouraged to record minutes that are direct and succinct, but we need to be willing to question what is recorded, and correct misinterpretations, or add needed clarification.

During the year, Yonge Street Meeting used the Quaker process of Committees of Clearness for two very different questions. The first was to consider a request to take a marriage between two men under the care of the Meeting. This was the first test of the Meeting's position regarding same-sex marriage, so the Clearness Committee first reviewed Quaker precedent and Ontario law. Upon receipt of their report, we approved a "Minute in Support of Same-sex Marriage at YSMM: YSMM will consider all applications for marriage under the care of our meeting regardless of sexual orientation." We then approved, "with joy," taking this marriage under our care. The celebration of this union was a highlight of the year.

The second Committee of Clearness was for a Friend's leading to start a worship group in a community in which he is the only Quaker. The Clearness Committee recognized this as a strong and real leading, for which the Meeting then minuted support. In each of these instances, the committees took a great deal of time to discern the issues in depth, to listen to one another, refer to relevant Quaker resources and minutes and then to compose a thoughtful report to the Meeting, all aspects of excellent Friends' practice.

The Peace, Environment, and Social Action Committee keeps us engaged with the broader community in a number of ways. Among their concerns is the Helping Hands project, which provides basic material to individuals released from custody without the possessions they brought into jail. They assisted more than 250 people in 2017 and helped a similar program get started in Toronto. Dinners for Inn from the Cold are prepared and served by Yonge Street Friends three times a year; volunteers benefit from the collegiality of working together as much as the guests benefit from the delicious dinners.

Yonge Street Friends gave due consideration to the proposal to split CYM; we were in unity that we want to retain a national CYM. We welcomed CYM Program Committee to the meeting house after their site visit to Georgian College in Barrie. We look forward to working with them as the Local Arrangements Committee at the CYM gathering in August, a role our meeting last fulfilled when CYM was held at Pickering College many years ago.

The Meeting is working hard to support the presence of children and full participation of their parents. In 2017, we welcomed two babies, who join three other young children who attend Meeting. We are appreciative of the leading felt by the Friend who very faithfully provides the First Day School program. We have stumbled in our efforts to find the best way to keep in touch with young people who were children of the Meeting but have since grown away from us. We question the suitability of the model of membership we have inherited from earlier times.

The strength of the Meeting community has been tested by the deaths of three Friends, the re-location of two couples, and health concerns among many Friends and their family members. With smaller numbers at meetings for worship, we are very conscious of the importance of outreach and welcoming newcomers. Our accessibility features continue to be deeply appreciated. The mid-week Meeting for Worship and the weekly book group discussion offer alternatives to Sunday Meeting. Our outreach efforts include welcoming outside groups to use the Meetinghouse. For many years, the Women's Centre of York Region has held three series of weekly workshops; an artists group comes bi-weekly. Alternatives to Violence held their national Annual General Meeting with us. We also exchanged visits with a nearby Mennonite congregation, which included an interesting session explaining Quaker beliefs from our varied perspectives. Students, faculty and parents from Pickering College visit for presentations about our history as well as our beliefs.

The Meeting reviewed and revised all the descriptions of the work of our positions and committees. While this clarified expectations and accountability, it also highlighted the many roles and responsibilities we are attempting to fulfill. We depend on the willingness of a relatively small number to do a great many different tasks. We have to consider: "...Attend to what love requires of you, which may not be great busyness." #28, *Advices and Queries*