



91A Fourth Avenue / Ottawa ON K1S 2L1 CANADA

Phone: 613-235-8553 or 888-296-3222 / Fax: 613-235-1753 / cym-office@quaker.ca / www.quaker.ca

April 22, 2020

Dear Friends,

Greeting and blessings – I hope you are all safe and well. I also hope that all Monthly Meeting and Committee contacts receiving this letter will share it widely with Friends. It contains information on many matters about which the clerks have been receiving questions.

The most basic question is: How are we going to conduct our business this summer without CYM in session? Believe me, the Clerks' Committee has been giving this one deep and prolonged thought and discussion. We have decided against trying to have business sessions with cross-country participation as if we were at Yearly Meeting. The difficulties with such an arrangement, we believe, outweigh the benefits.

As I said in the last Clerk's letter, all the Documents in Advance that are ordinarily sent to the Yearly Meeting office prior to YM should still be sent, though with a later deadline of the end of May. After May 31st, the documents received will be posted on the CYM website. We are planning that they will be in a special section much like the one that is kept current during a Yearly Meeting in session, as well as in the Documents section of the Business pages as usual. There will be sections for State of Society reports, committee reports, Audited Financial Statements, Memorial Minutes, and Meeting statistics (births and adoptions, deaths, and new members). The Office Administrator will send a notification to Meetings as each section is posted. Late documents will then be posted as they arrive. The CYM Secretary is preparing a tutorial on how to access the Business pages and the documents, for Friends who are not familiar with the process, and we'll let you know how to find that when we notify you about the posting of the documents.

Well, then, how is our business to be done? As always, it will be conducted in the Light, with the guidance of the Spirit, and in right order by means of accepted Quaker process. As Quakers we have faith that decisions made in this way are the right ones for the time and the circumstances. The body that will make these decisions is Representative Meeting, through specially-called, on-line meetings. Because the Clerks' Committee believes it to be highly unlikely that a face-to-face gathering will be possible or wise by August, there will be several sessions of Representative Meeting during the summer months. We intend that each session will be a maximum of two hours. The first one will be held on **Saturday, June 20 at 1:30 Eastern time**, 2:30 Atlantic time, 12:30 Central time, 11:30 Mountain time, and 10:30 Pacific time.

The agenda for the first one will consist of the following urgent items:

Nominations report and approval: terms to end or begin August 15;

Approval of Statement of CYM Purpose from the Change and Sustainable Transformation working group – CAST;

Initial review of CAST proposals for changes to CYM structure;

Revisions to *Organization and Procedure* from Discipline and Review Committee – Clerks'

Committee has authorized that both 1st and 2nd readings can take place at Representative

Meeting *this year*, if it is deemed expedient for our operations;

Setting the date for next online Representative Meeting.

The reports for this meeting from Nominating Committee, CAST, and Discipline Review Committee will go to Monthly Meetings sooner than other documents, in May, so that there can be well-discerned Monthly Meeting input to Representative Meeting in June.

We ask Monthly Meetings and Half-Yearly Meetings to season any special interests raised by Friends this year instead of bringing them to these reduced Representative Meeting sessions. However, if items of business arise that do require discernment and possible action, they should be seasoned by Monthly Meetings and sent to the CYM Clerks – cym-clerk@quaker.ca or through the CYM office. As only essential business will be conducted during the summer, Clerks' Committee will decide whether and when such matters should come on the agenda for Representative Meeting. Any other responses, concerns, or questions can be sent to the CYM Clerks by the same means.

The Interim Program and Support Committee, IPASC (mentioned in the last letter), is at work on ways to make other offerings of CYM available to Friends. There will be more communication as solutions are found. Please hold in the Light all the hard-working Friends who are trying to nurture our blessed community in these difficult times.

Wishing you good health and safety,
In the Light,



Beverly Shepard,
Presiding Clerk
for the Clerks' Committee:
Marilyn Manzer, Incoming Clerk
Fran McQuail, Finance Committee Clerk
Peter Cross, Trustees Clerk's designate