

Yonge St. Half Yearly Meeting Minutes **Saturday, Oct. 16, 2021, held virtually via Zoom**

We acknowledge that we meet on the traditional territories of the Haudenosaunee, the Huron-Wendat, and most recently, the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. Toronto remains the home of many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island. May we work together for justice and reconciliation. [Land acknowledgement was read out at beginning of the morning session of Yonge St. Half-Yearly Meeting.]

Present: Lyn Adamson TMM, Judith Amundsen TMM, Anne Christie TMM, Sheldon Clarke YSMM, Virginia Dawson YSMM, Judy Gilbert TMM, Sylvia Grady TMM, Chris Hitchcock HMM, Barbara Horvath YSMM, George Ivanoff YSMM, Richard Lathwell TMM, Rosemary Meier TMM, Lynn Robinson TMM, Bev Shepard HMM, Evelyn Smitz-Hertzberg YSMM, Leigh Turina TMM (recording clerk), Kathryn Wiersma HMM, Wendee Wood TMM, Jane MacKay Wright HMM (clerk), Juno Zavitz TMM.

Regrets: Gini Smith; Ruth Pincoe, Keith Maddock

The meeting opened with silent worship and the clerk read from *Canadian Faith and Practice*, 4.71 and welcomed Friends.

4.71

The produce of the earth is a gift from our gracious Creator to the inhabitants, and to impoverish the earth now to support outward greatness appears to be an injury to the succeeding age. John Woolman, 1761.

YSHYM Delegates. The clerk welcomed the Yonge St. Half-Yearly Meeting (YSHYM) delegates from the Monthly Meetings. They were: Bev Shepard, Hamilton Monthly Meeting; Virginia Dawson and Barbara Horvath, Yonge St. Monthly Meeting (YSMM); Rosemary Meier and Leigh Turina, Toronto Monthly Meeting (TMM).

Recording Clerk. We approve Leigh Turina as recording clerk for this Half Yearly Meeting.

Reporter for *The Canadian Friend*. We approve Rosemary Meier as the reporter to *The Canadian Friend*. She will write a small description of this meeting and send it to: editor@quaker.ca as well as the YSHYM clerk.

Agenda Review. The agenda was accepted as distributed.

2021.10.1 Minutes. Minutes of the Meeting held on October 3, 2020, were considered correct as circulated. In future the clerk will investigate making documents more available online.

Business Arising from the Minutes:

2021.10.2 Concern from TMM Sexual Abuse and Harassment Committee (2019.5.20) This matter is continuing.

2021.10.3 Friends Needed to Serve Half-Yearly Meeting (2019.5.7)

Friends needed are: Recording Clerk; Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer; Representative to Canadian Yearly Meeting (CYM) Representative Meeting; Clerk of YSHYM. We approve setting up a nominating committee to present a slate of new names for Spring YSHYM and ask George Ivanoff, Chris Hitchcock, and Sylvia Grady to serve on this committee.

2021.10.4 Report from Canadian Yearly Meeting Liaison (2020.10.4)

The clerk has been serving as acting liaison. She reported that a number of issues and concerns have been presented since the last report; the new report will be attached to these minutes (Appendix A). Of note, is that CYM 2022 will be held online and not in person. Chris Hitchcock, Clerk of CYM Program Committee, noted that they are looking for suggestions of names for Sunderland P. Gardner lecture and Bible/Quaker study speakers. Program Committee would appreciate Friends sending names to: program-clerk@quaker.ca.

2021.10.5 Report from Half-Yearly Meeting Program Committee (2020.10.8).

Barbara Horvath read the report from YSHYM Program Committee. Current members are Barbara Horvath from YSMM, Rosemary Meier from TMM, Alice Preston from HMM. We will attach the report to the minutes (Appendix B).

We received their report and approved their recommendations, including laying down the current program committee. The present members are willing to continue to serve the last two years of their terms and will do so as the YSHYM Liaison Committee. Their recommendations included:

- Re-name the Program Committee as the **Half-Yearly Meeting Liaison Committee**.

- Mandate: To offer consultation and input about the issues and interests of each of the monthly meetings, in order to help the host meeting identify and develop the program for the upcoming session of Half-Yearly Meeting.
- Membership: Each of the monthly meetings appoints its representative to the Committee for a three-year term.

2021.10.6 CYM Change and Sustainable Transformation (CAST) Working Group Proposal for Holding Yearly Meeting in Regional Sessions (2020.10.9) – CAST has asked for this issue to be taken off the agenda due to feedback from Friends across Yearly Meeting. This item is laid down.

New Business:

2021.10.7 Regional Gathering in Central Canada (2021.10.6) We will discuss the issue of a regional gathering in Central Canada at the Spring 2022 YSHYM. We approve Chris Hitchcock and George Ivanoff preparing this issue for discussion at that meeting.

2021.10.8 Report from Half-Yearly Meeting Treasurer, including CFSC contribution

Anne Christie, YSHYM Treasurer, presented the Treasurer's report for 30 Sept. 2020 – 01 Oct. 2021, which will be attached to these minutes (Appendix C). We received this report with thanks. The treasurer reported receiving a request from the Clerk of Canadian Friends Service Committee (CFSC) as an appeal sent to Monthly Meetings for donations on behalf of the 90th anniversary of CFSC's service. We approve sending \$500 to CFSC who coordinated today's program.

Friends also discussed whether we offer honoraria to speakers. We approve offering June Etta Chenard \$500 for her Oct. 2020 presentation.

As noted in the minute (2020.10.7), "We approve maintaining at least one year's programming expenses in our accounts..." for future program expenses or honoraria.

Appreciations: We thank TMM for organizing this Fall 2021 YSHYM program; we thank Matt Legge, Trevor Chandler, and Christina Telluz for

their workshop. The next meeting (Spring 2022) will be hosted by Hamilton Monthly Meeting with the date to be determined.

The Meeting closed with silent worship.

Attachments included below:

- Appendix A: Report from the YSHYM Liaison to CYM
- Appendix B: Report from the YSHYM Program Committee

Attached Separately:

- Appendix C: YSHYM Treasurer's Report (30 Sept. 2020 – 01 Oct. 2021). This report is attached as a separate document.

Appendix A: Report from the YSHYM Liaison to CYM

Summary report from acting Canadian Yearly Meeting Liaison October 16, 2021

CYM and Representative Meeting items considered in the past year:

Discipline Review Committee has been working to update the CYM Organization and Procedure. They are working on changes to O&P including Trustees and Finance Committee responsibilities.

It was decided to continue with only a digital version of O&P, not to print hard copies. Meetings are encouraged to set up an O&P loose-leaf binder and add O&P updates.

Archives Committee is looking to hire a professional Archivist to help re-open the CYM Archives located at Pickering College, Newmarket. The Archives have been renamed the Arthur Garrett Dorland Reference Library. CYM has agreed to provide top-up funding if necessary to add to funds that Archives Committee has already received from Samuel Rogers Trust and other sources.

Reporting and Clearness Sessions: Archives Committee, Finance Committee, Publications and Communications Committee, Continuing Meeting of Ministry and Counsel, Multi-faith Work (laid down).

Working Groups set up: Finance System WG, Personnel/Finance WG. Cameron Fraser who has served well as CYM Secretary has submitted his resignation.

The Change and Sustainable Transformation Group continues its work. They have set out CYM priorities as: Community, Learning, Sustainability, and Youth and have proposed changes to CYM structure for Friends' consideration.

Cowichan Valley has brought a concern to CYM in support of same-sex marriages. They are looking for a Minute of Record on the subject.

Representative Meeting confirmed nominations to various CYM Committees and WGs. It was brought to the attention of Friends that Canadian Council of Churches has various subcommittees that Friends can take part in. CYM Nominating Committee appoints a representative to the CCC Governing Body. It also discerns and submits for approval but does not look for representatives to the CCC subcommittees.

CYM is working on a Land Acknowledgement to be used at CYM gatherings and Monthly Meetings.

CYM 2022 will be held online.

Jane MacKay Wright

Appendix B: Report from the YSHYM Program Committee

Report from Half-Yearly Meeting Program Committee

Date: October 16, 2021

From: Barbara Horvath, Rosemary Meier, Alice Preston

Background:

Yonge Street Half-Yearly Meeting established the Program Committee in 2017 with a mandate to research topics, themes and speakers for the planning of programs at Half Yearly Meeting. This was created with the intention of designing programs that would have some continuity, building on a theme. The initial theme was life course issues, beginning with the October 2020 program June Etta Chenard delivered about End of Life Planning.

The pandemic has made long term planning less viable and made current issues and concerns more urgent. The program for the spring 2021 Half-Yearly Meeting, "In a Time of Transition: Seeds of Change, Roots of Strength," was shaped by the impact of the pandemic on Friends.

For this reason, the Committee feels its original mandate would benefit from a reorientation. The value of the Committee is to encourage more collaboration and establish stronger links among the monthly meetings.

Recommendation:

- Re-name the Program Committee the **Half-Yearly Meeting Liaison Committee**.
- Mandate: to offer consultation and input about the issues and interests of each of the monthly meetings, in order to help the host meeting identify and develop the program for the upcoming session of Half-Yearly Meeting.
- Membership: each of the monthly meetings appoints its representative to the Committee for a three-year term. The present members are willing to continue to serve.

Appendix C: YSHYM Treasurer's Report (30 Sept. 2020 – 01 Oct. 2021)**Yonge Street Half Yearly Meeting Treasurers' Report, October 16, 2021** (30 September 2020 - 01 October 2021)

This report is attached as a separate document.