

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Friends World Committee for Consultation–Europe and Middle East Section held at Kabarak University, near Nakuru, Kenya, on Thursday 19th April and Sunday 22nd April 2012.

EMES/AM 12/1 Welcome and Greetings

The Clerk has welcomed Representatives and other participants to the Annual Meeting. We have received greetings from Janet Cameron (Ireland YM), Kerstin Backman (Sweden YM), Joseph Haughton (Ireland YM) and Jean Zaru (Ramallah MM).

EMES/AM 12/2 Remembering Friends who have died since the last Annual Meeting

During our opening Meetings for Worship we gave thanks for the Grace of God in the lives of Patricia (Pam) Van der Esch Mitchell (Belgium and Luxembourg MM), Alli Järvinen (Finland YM), Herman Backman (Sweden YM), Jürgen Happ (Sweden YM), Gary Fullerton (formerly of France YM) Annie Thornley (Britain YM), John and Pleasaunce Holtom (Britain YM).

EMES/AM 12/3 Appointment of Assistant Clerk and Elders for the Meeting

Sue Glover Frykman has been appointed to serve as Assistant Clerk. Mary Waldmeyer (Britain YM), Lee Taylor (Britain YM), Ali Reid (France YM) and Martin Touwen (Netherlands YM) have agreed to serve as Elders for the Meeting.

EMES/AM 12/4 Presentation of the Annual Report for 2011

The Executive Secretary has presented the Annual Report for 2011. Gathering the material together from the different committees, officers, groups and organisations is an enriching experience. Three new meetings are in the process of development, which is good news. The Section was represented at the International Ecumenical Peace Convocation of the World Council of Churches on Just Peace in Kingston, Jamaica, and in this way was able to contribute to peace issues worldwide. We are grateful for all the loving care put into producing the Annual Report and encourage Friends to circulate it in their own worshipping communities. It is also available on the EMES website.

EMES/AM 12/5 Annual Accounts and Charity Report 2011

The Treasurer has presented and explained the annual accounts for 2011. He expressed appreciation that Yearly Meetings and groups have maintained their contributions over the last few years. However, in order to maintain EMES' core activities, Meetings are encouraged to at least keep up, and if possible increase, their annual contributions. We accept the Treasurer's report. The Executive Committee, as Trustees, have approved the accounts and charity report and authorised that they be signed by the Clerk and the Treasurer (**EC 2012/9**).

EMES/AM 12/6 Appointment of Independent Examiner

Although we have been satisfied with the services provided by John Norman, of Norman, Downie and Kerr Ltd., Edinburgh, the examination costs are relatively high. Marisa Johnson has therefore obtained a quotation from Sheila Fletcher of Enigma Solutions, the examiners who do the accounts for Cambridgeshire Area Meeting, which is considerably less expensive. Before making a change certain issues need to be explored. We authorise the Clerk, Treasurer

and Executive Secretary to investigate the matter further and make a decision on behalf of the Annual Meeting as to who should examine the accounts for 2012.

EMES/AM 12/7 Quaker Youth Pilgrimage

Members of the Quaker Youth Pilgrimage Committee have reported on this year's pilgrimage in word and song. The 18 pilgrims from the Americas, including Honduras, come from a variety of Quaker traditions. Two pilgrims from the Friends School in Ramallah and 6 from Europe will also be taking part. The pilgrimage promises to provide a rich exploration of different Quaker traditions and cultures. It will take place from 14th July to 14th August. Based mainly in Britain, visits will also be made to Brussels and the Netherlands. Further to Minute **AM/11/20**, the Committee is exploring new possibilities for future pilgrimages, especially as the Section of the Americas is now focusing more on young Latin American Quakers. Explorations are now underway regarding a possible pilgrimage in Kenya, in collaboration with Africa Section.

EMES/AM 12/8 Appointments

The Nominations Committee has brought the following names for appointment:

Church and Peace:

Kees Nieuwerth (Netherlands YM). Re-nominated 2013-2015

Geneva Quaker Foundation:

John Burley (not in membership). Re-nominated 2013-2015

Quaker Youth Pilgrimage Committee:

Neccy Kikaya (Britain YM) 2014 & 2016

Jasmine Perinpanayagam (Britain YM) Re-nominated for 2014

Madeleine Prager (Britain YM) 2014 & 2016

Leo Vincent (Britain YM) 2014 & 2016

Releases:

Janet Entwistle (Britain YM) has already been released (2012).

Rachel Miller (Britain YM), who was already appointed for 2014, has asked to be released.

We agree to these appointments and thank the Nominations Committee for its work.

EMES/AM 12/9 Work Plan 2012-2013

The Executive Secretary has presented the Work Plan for 2012-13. Work priorities include:

- Contributing to the organisation of the 6th World Conference of Friends and its follow-up
- Organisation of the Executive Committee Meeting/Retreat in Berlin in September 2012
- Organisation of the EMES Annual Meeting in 2013
- Further development of the EMES website
- Completion of the evaluation of the online Quaker in Europe programme and the development of Ministry and Outreach programmes

- Preparation of funding application to the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust
- Travel to Yearly Meetings in Session and other travel among Friends
- Representing EMES at the Quaker Council for European Affairs (QCEA), Church and Peace, the Quaker World Relations Committee (QWRC) and the Quaker Committee for Christian and Interfaith Relations (QCCIR)
- Engaging with the Conference of European Churches and World Council of Churches on the development of Just Peace, as follow-up from the International Ecumenical Peace Convocation in Kingston, Jamaica, in 2011
- Organisation of the Peace and Service Consultations in 2012 and 2013
- Updating of policies and procedures as required
- Participation in Equipping for Ministry

Julia Ryberg, the Ministry and Outreach Coordinator, has told us about her work. She described it as an unfolding adventure. Funding from the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust has made it possible to run a successful online Quaker in Europe programme in nine languages. An in-house evaluation of this programme is underway. Julia created, organised and managed the Salt & Light online study groups as preparation for the World Conference of Friends in close cooperation with Woodbrooke. The work has also been a learning experience. For example, the Companion programme emerged as a result of reflection on aspects that were not as successful as had been anticipated. A detailed report of the different programmes and Meetings for Learning can be found in the Annual Report for 2011.

We expressed gratitude for the work undertaken and approved the Work Plan.

EMES/AM 12/10 Budget 2012 and Forecast for 2013 and 2014

The Treasurer has presented the Budget for 2012 and projections for 2013 and 2014. Based on the results of previous years and best estimates for the future, the 2012 Budget as presented at the Annual Meeting in 2011 has been changed to account for a salary increase for all EMES staff in accordance with the inflationary adjustments as applied to Friends' House employees and for higher Quaker Youth Pilgrimage costs due to the participation of two students from Ramallah. The Treasurer emphasised that it is important that the total annual income from contributions does not drop below £40,000 if EMES is to function at the present level of core activities. Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust funding for the Ministry and Outreach programme will come to an end in December 2013. The financial situation for 2014 will therefore depend on whether new funding will be possible and how much of that funding would cover a share of the core costs. At its meeting in March 2012, the Executive Committee recommended that an application to the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust be made early in 2013 (**EC 2012/11**), in consultation with Yearly Meetings and groups in the Section. The Annual Meeting accepted the amended Budget for 2012 and the draft Budget for 2013.

EMES/AM 12/11 Peace and Service Consultation

The Executive Secretary has reported on the Peace and Service Consultation, which takes

place towards the end of each year. This is partly a networking event for Quaker peace and service organisations in the Section and partly a retreat.

EMES/AM 12/12 Amari Play Centre, Ramallah

The Executive Secretary has elaborated on the Briefing Paper on the Amari Play Centre that was circulated in advance. The matter was also discussed at the Executive Committee meeting in March 2012 (**EC 2012/16**). The reserves that EMES has for Amari (US\$ 60,000) are a comfortable cushion to compensate for irregular annual donations. However, should the reserves reach the level at which only severance and other winding-up expenses can be met, notice will have to be given to UNWRA and all stakeholders that the project will regrettably need to be laid down. If a service organisation, with the relevant skills and experience, feels called to take on the management of the project, the Executive Secretary would be delighted to hear from it. The opening of a United Palestinian Appeal may present an opportunity for local involvement.

EMES/AM 12/13 Future Meetings

In 2013 the Annual Meeting will take place at The Old Abbey, Kortenberg, Belgium, from either 3-5 May or 2-5 May.

We appreciate an offer from Woodbrooke to host a future Annual Meeting, possibly in 2014.

Invitations are welcome for 2015.

EMES/AM 12/14

We welcome Nancy Irving and Gretchen Castle to our meeting. Nancy Irving, the present General Secretary of FWCC, has come to say her goodbyes in anticipation of her retirement at the end of 2012. We thank Nancy for her service and wish her well for the future. We welcome Gretchen Castle, who will take up her duties as the new General Secretary in January 2013, and look forward to working with her.

EMES/AM 12/15 Closing Minute

It has been a real privilege to gather for our Annual Meeting in Kabarak University, Kenya, at the time of the 6th World Conference of Friends. We have welcomed conference attendees from EMES in addition to EMES representatives. We have appreciated the warm welcome extended by Kenyan Friends and rejoiced in the opportunity to meet with Friends who are attending the conference from around the world.

Rachel M Bewley-Bateman
Clerk

Sue Glover Frykman
Assistant Clerk

