

**Report on CYM Representative Meeting,
Held at Friends House, 60 Lowther Avenue, Toronto, on 21–22 February 2020**

One highlight of Representative Meeting is the Friday evening when we hear brief reports from all the representatives of Monthly Meetings, CYM Committees, other Quaker bodies about their activities and the state of their meetings. "A *healthy picture emerged of many monthly meetings making efforts to grow their faith and to act in the world. Many meetings also reported small numbers of new members.*" [2020.2.7] This session is a valuable part of Representative Meeting. Hearing each other's news brought us closer together and helped to prepared us for the important discussions on Saturday.

Earlier in the evening we received 16 reports (listed at the end of this report). CYM Presiding Clerk Beverly Shepard spoke briefly to the CYM Clerks Report, noting that Cameron Fraser would leave his role as CYM General Secretary before the end of 2020. She also reported that a survey run to evaluate our first Representative Meeting on Zoom had collected good suggestions for future online meetings. [2020.2.5]

CYM Incoming Clerk Marilyn Manzer gave a brief outline of the procedures planned for our Saturday Morning session devoted to issues related to Personnel, Finances, and the CYM Clerks Committee. [2020.2.6]

RM Minutes and Reports

The *italic* numbers beginning with 2020 refer to Representative Meeting (RM) minutes. I encourage Friends to read these minutes and reports. They are available on quaker.ca, and a complete copy will be placed in the Friends House Library. TMM members may also request printed copies from the TMM Clerks.

Considerations related to CYM Personnel, Finances, and the CYM Clerks' Business

Our Saturday morning devoted to these issues, ably clerked by Marilyn Manzer, was time well spent. We began with short reports from the Ad Hoc Committee on Financial Sustainability (AHCFS), the CYM Personnel Committee, and the Personnel Management Group, plus a report from Marilyn on the joint work of the Clerks' and Personnel Committees. Marilyn laid out a plan for thinking about change in CYM. We will start by identifying the purpose of CYM and examining our needs and priorities. With this information in hand we can move forward to solutions. The AHCFS will submit a final report containing the material they collected. This task will complete their work and the committee will be laid down at Yearly Meeting. [2020.2.9]

A "Sustainability Group"

We approved the appointment of a new group to address sustainability within CYM. The group will be appointed by Clerks' Committee and Personnel Committee and will include representatives from Clerks' Committee, Finance Committee, Personnel Committee, the Personnel Management Group, the Trustees, the Ad Hoc Committee on Financial Sustainability, Canadian Young Friends Yearly Meeting, and other Friends who can contribute diverse experience. Friends who would like to suggest names for this group should contact Virginia Dawson or Marilyn Manzer.

During the autumn months the group is to correlate the identified priorities, programs, and services with costs and CYM's financial reality; communicate financial limitations to CYM Committees; recommend budget decisions for Finance Committee; and prepare a report for Representative Meeting in November 2020.

The mandate and tasks of the group are laid out in detail in *RM Minute 2020.2.9*. The intention is to identify commonalities and themes from the AHCFS consultations and draw on other sources to complete a description of the purpose of CYM, a list of CYM's needs and priorities, a list of its associated programs and services, and a proposal for moving forward. Their report will be included in the *Documents in Advance* for the 2020 session of Yearly Meeting.

November 2020 Representative Meeting

The report of the "Sustainability Group" is to be considered by Representative Meeting in November in order to move this work forward. The complexity of the issues to be considered precludes using an online platform such as Zoom, and Finance Committee indicated that a face-to-face session is financially feasible. We approved holding a Representative Meeting at Ottawa Meeting on 27–28 November 2020. [2020.2.10]

2020 Budget Adjustment

Fran McQuail, Clerk of Finance Committee noted the need for an increase to \$10,000 in the 2020 budget line for consultant advice. The increase is in response to a request from the Clerks' and Personnel Committees, who note that past experience indicates it is cheaper to get advice than to try to solve the problems from not doing so. The increase was approved. [2020.2.11]

Meetings for CYM Committee Clerks.

The CYM Clerks' Committee (which consists of the CYM Clerks plus the Clerks of Finance Committee and Trustees) has been looking at ways to support CYM committee clerks working together, and suggested regular meetings on Zoom several times a year. These meetings will provide opportunities for identifying common issues, exploring ways of working together, and considering changes to CYM structures and procedures. The Committee Clerks present at held a successful first meeting on Saturday over breakfast and found the opportunity to check in, ask questions, and share information was indeed helpful. We approved establishing a process for future meetings. [2020.2.12]

The Canadian Council of Churches

Canadian Yearly Meeting is a founding member of the Canadian Council of Churches (CCC) and their objectives are closely aligned with Quaker testimonies. In November 2019, on the occasion of the CCC's 70th anniversary, the CCC General Secretary presented Beverly Shepard with a plaque confirming CYM's membership, and suggested that it be displayed in the home meeting of the CYM Clerk (or in Friends House if the CYM Clerk's home meeting does not have a meeting house). The plaque currently hangs on a wall in the Hamilton Meeting House. [2020.2.5]

The Archives Working Group

As some Friends are aware, the CYM Archives is temporarily closed and Archives Committee (down two members) is in a "fallow period." Interested Friends (including a CYM Trustee and a CYM Clerk) from across Canada have formed an "Archives Working Group" to try to rectify this situation. Progress has been made in finding new committee members and adapting the committee's mandate. Proximity to Pickering College is no longer required. Further plans include hiring an Archivist and establishing a "Friends of the Archives" group. There has been recent interest and good hope of a revival.

Representative Meeting supports in principle the continued work of the Archives Committee and the operation of the Canadian Quaker Archives and Library. Unused funds in a deferred revenue account are available, once the Committee can meet and create a budget. The CYM Finance and Archives Committees will draft annual letters of understanding regarding the management of the Archives Fund and the budgeting and accounting for grant money. [2020.2.13]

Changing Organization and Procedure

Discipline Review Committee brought three texts forward for approval. A definition of the term "Minute of Record" (in Section 2.8: Minutes) was approved for First Reading. A detailed description of the procedure for forming new half-yearly meetings (Section 5.3), was approved for Second Reading. Terms of reference for the Camp NeeKauNis Committee (Section 6.10) were also approved for Second Reading. Representative Meeting also approved the removal of Section 6.14: Ecumenical Committee (which was laid down in 2012). These changes will be added to *Organization and Procedure* on the CYM website, and the index will be also updated. [2020.2.14]

New CYM Nominations

Four names brought forward by Nominating Committee were approved: Eve Schmitz-Hertzberg (Yonge Street MM) for Archives Committee; Sarah av Maat (Halifax MM) for CFSC; Wendee Wood (TMM) for Program Committee; and Jeff Dudiak (Edmonton MM) for CYM representative to the World Council of Churches. Heidi Dick, Clerk of Nominating Committee noted the following available positions for CYM Standing Committees: Archives (4 places); Contributions (2 places); Finance (1 place); Personnel (3 places), Camp NeeKauNis Committee (5 places), Education & Outreach (4 places), and Publications & Communications (2 places). Heidi also announced the urgent need for a Youth Program Coordinator at CYM. [2020.2.15]

A Question of Endorsement

A minute from Vancouver Monthly Meeting asked Canadian Yearly Meeting endorse Iron and Earth, an organization working to retrain oil industry workers as workers in green industries. While this is the type of organization that many of us admire, the act of endorsing a specific organization is problematic. It is not our practice, and endorsing a single organization may not be the best way to express unity around the Canadian Yearly Meeting's support for a green economy. The request was not approved. The minute on this issue reads in part: "*We suggest that Half-Yearly Meetings, Meetings, and Worship Groups seriously consider the advice in [the report from Vancouver Meeting] which lists actions that could be taken in support of Iron and Earth ... We encourage Vancouver Monthly Meeting and other Meetings to continue to hold these many complex issues in the Light and act as they are led as we recognize their great importance.*" [2020.2.16]

Publications & Communications Requests

The Committee brought five requests for consideration by Meetings and Friends across Canada. [2020.2.18]

- 1 They are seeking three new members and would appreciate representation from Ontario, Quebec, and the Atlantic provinces.
- 2 They are building an network of advisors and are seeking Friends with technical skills who cannot serve on a committee, but could give advice or assistance on specific issues.
- 3 They ask meetings and worship groups to send meeting times and locations to editor@quaker.ca so the listings on quaker.ca are kept up to date. (<https://quaker.ca/contact/find-a-meeting/>)
- 4 They ask monthly meetings to complete their online survey.
- 5 They encourage Friends to sign up for their newsletter at <https://bit.ly/2L7NuhW>.

Cameron Fraser's Research Project

Cameron Fraser is also embarking on research project that asks, "*What organization practices within Canadian Quakers and Canadian Yearly Meeting enable or inhibit organizational change and transformation?*" He has requested permission and support from CYM. The project description is detailed, and our minute affirming Yearly Meeting support is similarly detailed. Friends wanting more information can read *Minute 2020.2.18 and RM Report 14*.

Thanks and Closing Worship

Representative meeting closed with a minute of thanks to Toronto Monthly Meeting for the housing, food, and fellowship provided with such care, so nourishing to our bodies and souls. Our closing period of worship was indeed thankful.

FRIENDS PRESENT

Clerks: Presiding Clerk: Beverly Shepard (cym-clerk@quaker.ca); Incoming Clerk: Marilyn Manzer; Recording Clerk: Judith Brown

Monthly Meeting Representatives: Annapolis Valley MM—Penni Burrell; Calgary MM—Heidi Dick; Coldstream MM—Martha Laing; Cowichan Valley MM—Linda Scheiber; Edmonton MM—Holly Turner; Hamilton MM—Katherine Smith; Kitchener Area MM—Rachel McQuail; Lucknow Worship Group (under Kitchener Area MM)—Fran McQuail; Montreal MM—Brooke Nancekivell; New Brunswick MM—Vince Zelazny; Ottawa MM—Anne-Marie Zilliacus; Pelham Executive Mtg. /Niagara Friends—Lisa Smith; Prairie MM—Laurel Beyer; Saanich Peninsula MM—Ro Fife; Saskatoon MM—Laurel Beyer; Thousand Islands

/Kingston MM—Irene Watt; Toronto MM—Ruth Pincoe; Vancouver MM—Rachel Yordy; Vancouver Island MM—Catherine Novak; Winnipeg MM—Zaley Warkentin; Yarmouth MM—Martha Laing

Quarterly and Half-Yearly Meeting

Representatives: Atlantic HYM—Vince Zelazny (reporting to); Yonge Street HYM—Gini Smith

Standing Committees of CYM: Ad Hoc Committee for Financial Sustainability—Kris Wilson-Yang; Archives Committee: Katherine Smith; Camp NeeKauNis Committee—Rachel McQuail; CFSC Administrator—Tasmin Rajotte; Contributions Committee—Penni Burrell; Discipline Review Committee—Ruth Pincoe; Education & Outreach Committee and Canadian Young Friends YM—Zaley Warkentin; Finance Committee—Fran McQuail; Nominating Committee—Heidi Dick; Personnel Committee—Holly Turner; Personnel Committee Clerk and Personnel Management Group—Monica Walters-Field; Personnel Management Group—Virginia Dawson; Program Committee—Chris Hitchcock; Publications and Communications Committee—Rachel Urban Shipley

Others present by virtue of their position:

CFSC Associate Clerk—Vince Zelazny; Canadian Young Friends Yearly Meeting—Wesley Weima; CYM Trustees Clerk—Barbara Horvath; CYM Trustees Treasurer—Anne-Marie Zilliacus; CYM Secretary—Cameron Fraser;

Regrets: Argenta MM—Seán Hennessey; Coldstream MM—George Webb; Peterborough MM Canadian Young Friends YM—Stephen Ginley; Publications and Communications Committee—Maggie Knight; Recording Clerk—Eric Kristensen; Western HYM—Celia Cheatley and Maxine Kaufman-Lacusta; Yonge Street MM—Norm Smith

RM Reports received (Minute 2020.2.4)

- 1: Vancouver MM minute on Iron and Earth
- 2: Report from CYM Trustees
- 3: Report from CYM Finance Committee
- 4: Report from Contributions Committee
- 5: Report from Publications & Communications Committee
- 6: Report from the Archives Working Group
- 7: CYM Clerk's Report
- 8: Report from Cowichan Valley Monthly Meeting
- 9: Report from Discipline Review Committee
- 10: Report from CYM Nominating Committee
- 11: Report from Camp NeeKauNis Committee
- 12: Report from CYM Program Committee
- 13: Ad hoc Committee on Financial Sustainability
- 14: Process for Approval of Research Project
- 15: Report from Personnel Committee
- 16: Report from Personnel Management Group