

Toronto Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends
Meeting for Worship for Business on 12 February 2020
at Friends House, 60 Lowther Avenue, Toronto

Present: Kwame Barko, Elizabeth Block, Ben Bootsma, Christine Chatten, Dan Cooperstock, Paul Duchastel, John Gell, Judy Gilbert, Brydon Gombay, Colin Johnson (recording), Jon Karsemeyer, Carolyn Knott, Doug Morris, Ruth Pincoe (presiding), Judy Pocock, Jane Sweet, and Wendee Wood.

Regrets: Rosemary Meier, Anne Mitchell, Ellen Johnson, Leigh Turina, Ginny Walsh

Opening Worship and Clerk's Reading

The meeting began with silent worship. The Clerk read a poem, "Not Quite the Same," written by Bonnie Day in 1970, no. 4.29 from Canadian Yearly Meeting *Faith and Practice*.

Not Quite the Same

*Force is not power,
for power springs
from an inward source
defying, eluding
and ever outwitting
Force.*

*Power moves quietly
surely and strongly
like streams that flow:
(turning the mill-wheels
incidentally as they go).*

*Force is not power
and rarely if ever
does power have need for force,
and those who insist
on wedding the two
are completely deluded, of course.*

Land Acknowledgment: *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 toward justice and reconciliation.*

2020.2.1 MINUTES

2020.2.1.1 Minutes of the Meeting for Worship for Business, 19 January 2020

The minutes of the Meeting for Worship for Business held on 19 January 2020 were approved as circulated, with the deletion of "Ginny Walsh" from the list of Friends present.

2020.2.2 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

2020.2.2.1 Hospitality for CYM Representative Meeting, 21–22 February (2020.1.2.1)

Ben Bootsma gave an update. There are some late registrants, some of whom had not received the registration form. Ruth Pincoe will check with Ben Bootsma to confirm the list of representatives. Questions concerning donations of food should be addressed to Jordan Kerr. We

will clarify the arrangements for the dinners on Friday and Saturday. Information will be circulated on the TMM e-list and put in the announcements for Sunday after Meeting for Worship. In response to a question, Ruth Pincoe confirmed that Representative Meeting is a closed meeting, so as to allow for continuity and efficiency in considering the business within the frame of a tightly packed agenda.

2020.2.2.2 Inside/Out: A Quaker Witness (2019.12.4.3)

John Gell spoke to this matter. When Orev Katz spoke to TMM Friends in back March 2019, there was enthusiasm about organizing a “circle of care” for ex-inmates of the provincial jail and federal penitentiary systems. A group of seven Friends met in April 2019 to prepare a report for Monthly Meeting, but there have been many delays and frustrations in moving this concern forward. Several Friends in the group have now lost their enthusiasm and feel that this concern should be laid down. Daisy Auty, clerk of CFSC’s Criminal Justice Program Committee, may wish to be involved, but unless there is a TMM Friend, or a group of Friends, with passion and commitment to move forward, a project like this will not happen. One possibility is that Orev Katz may be interested in renting space in Friends House for a circle of care program.

It seems that this project is a good idea coming at the wrong time for TMM Friends. Some of the younger Friends could be asked if this is a leading concern for any of them. We might also reconsider such a project in a year’s time. John Gell’s notes on the project, along with Judy Pocock’s report from November 2019 and the relevant TMM minutes will be available for future consideration. The Clerks will inform CFSC of this decision.

2020.2.2.3 TMM Land Acknowledgement Revisions (2020.1.2.5)

The Ad Hoc Committee has considered suggestions made at the January Monthly Meeting. Their report is attached to these minutes for consideration at the March Monthly Meeting, when the Ad Hoc Committee will also present recommendations for further action that TMM could undertake toward reconciliation and justice.

2020.2.3 REPORTS

2020.2.3.1 Nominating Committee Report (2020.1.3.1)

Doug Morris reported on behalf of Nominating Committee:

Nominating Committee has two names to bring forward for TMM positions. These additions are corrections in that the individuals already sit on the respective committees:

Charlie Gordon, for Religious Education;

Bill Ruffett for Toronto Friends Sponsoring Refugees (TFSR)

Doug noted that Bill Ruffett may not attend Meeting for Worship. Concern was raised about appointing people to TMM standing committees who are not TMM members or attenders. This situation could create problems such as unintended liability. This matter will be clarified before the March Monthly Meeting when these names will be considered for approval. Doug also explained that Jordan Kerr’s name has been proposed for TMM Twitter moderator and will be considered for approval once the terms of reference for this position have been approved.

Nominating Committee also brought forward the following names to send on to the CYM Nominating Committee for consideration for Yearly Meeting committees:

Dan Cooperstock for Finance Committee,

Ben Bootsma for Camp NeeKauNis Committee,

Kate Dee for Camp NeeKauNis Committee

Wendee Wood for Program Committee,

We will consider the first three names for approval at the March Monthly Meeting. Last week CYM Nominating Committee circulated a special immediate request for names for CYM Program Committee so that these names could be brought forward for approval at Representative Meeting, and the Friends could begin work immediately. We approve forwarding Wendee Wood's name to CYM Nominating Committee. Since Wendee is not in membership, we also minute our support for her nomination to CYM Program Committee. The clerks will contact Heidi Dick, Clerk of CYM Nominating Committee as soon as possible.

We thank Doug and the other members of Nominating Committee for their hard work.

2020.2.3.2 Resident Friend Manager Report (2020.1.3.3)

Ben Bootsma spoke to the Resident Friend Manager Report, which was attached to the January Minutes. Ben noted that 2019 was the busiest year for rentals. His report includes a visual representation of the use of Friends House by category. Newcomer refugee work is the highest use category and this figure does not include refugee work undertaken by both Eusebio Garcia and Joe Khanji. Ben also commented it has been important to find efficiencies over the past year because his hours were reduced to 40 hours per week; some duties were delegated to weekend staff whose hours have been increased. He reported on building issues that have been or are about to be addressed. Energy consumption will continue to be monitored. Staff are doing an extraordinary job. We accept this report with many thanks, and we thank Ben also for his leadership and oversight of the house personnel.

2020.2.3.3 Preliminary 2019 Year-End Statement

The Preliminary 2019 Year-End Statement will be attached to these minutes for consideration at the March Monthly Meeting.

[Clerks' note: The statement is not yet available. It will be circulated as soon as possible.]

2020.2.3.4 Statistics Report

The Statistics Report will be attached to these minutes for consideration at the March Monthly Meeting. This report, when approved, will be forwarded to Canadian Yearly Meeting.

2020.2.3.5 Report on CYM Representative Meeting, February 2020

The report on the February 2020 Session of Representative Meeting will be attached to these minutes – if it is available in time – for consideration at the March Monthly Meeting.

[Clerks' note: This report is not yet available. It will be circulated as soon as possible.]

2020.2.3.6 TMM 2020 Report Schedule

The TMM 2020 Report Schedule is attached to these minutes. Please contact the Clerks if any of the dates on the schedule should be changed.

2020.2.4 NEW BUSINESS

2020.2.4.1 Toronto Monthly Meeting Retreat, Saturday 9 May

The Meeting of Ministry and Council has organized a full-day retreat, to be held on Saturday 9 May. The goal of this retreat is community building among Toronto Friends. We hope that Friends will gain a better shared understanding about the joys and challenges of discerning faith and practice emerging from the peace testimony and communicating with diverse audiences, and explore the different views and experiences present in the Meeting. Friends are asked to come prepared to reflect on and speak about a peace or social concern that they currently hold. The

facilitators are Matt Legge and Tasmin Rajotte from the Canadian Friends Service Committee. Ministry and Counsel will bring a budget and further details to the March Monthly Meeting.

2020.2.5 CORRESPONDENCE AND POSTINGS

2020.2.5.1 Letter from CYM regarding CYM Secretary

A letter from the CYM Clerks – Beverly Shepard and Marilyn Manzer – informs us that Cameron Fraser, who has been serving as CYM Secretary since August 2018, will be stepping down after the CYM sessions. The exact time has not yet been set as Cam wants to ensure that projects he has undertaken are completed or resolved to a point where they can be passed on. CYM has been blessed with Cam’s dedicated and skilled service, particularly with Young Friends and the Personnel Committee. He will be missed. He plans to return to the education field. The letter will be attached to these minutes and posted on the notice board.

2020.2.5.2 Letter from Glenn Morrison, CYM Representative to FWCC

A letter from Glenn Morrison (Winnipeg MM), the Canadian Yearly Meeting Representative to Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC), Section of the Americas, presents details about the work of FWCC. Glenn reminds us of significant differences between Quakers in Canada and the majority of Quakers around the world, and notes the role FWCC in bringing Friends of varying traditions and cultural experiences together in worship, communication, and consultation, to express our common heritage and our Quaker message to the world. Glenn also mentions the Quaker United Nations Offices in New York and in Geneva and the FWCC travelling ministry program. He encourages us to celebrate World Quaker Day (4 October 2020) by responding to the query: “What does it mean to be a Quaker today?” Glenn notes that while we contribute to FWCC through CYM’s annual donation, monthly meetings and individual Friends might consider additional contributions. Donations to FWCC can be made through Canadian Yearly Meeting. Glenn’s letter will be posted on the Bulletin Board and attached to the minutes by means of an electronic link on the TMM webpage.

2020.2.5.3 Letter from Peter Kegode, Nairobi Monthly Meeting

Peter Kegode, a member of Nairobi Monthly Meeting, has recently moved to the New York area and is attending Purchase Friends Meeting. Through his specialty coffee business Peter has partnered with Ocean Sole Africa to promote and advocate for sustainable consumption practices and climate justice. Peter will be in Ontario in the last week of February. Lyn Adamson and the TMM clerks have made arrangements for Peter to speak to TMM Friends after Meeting for Worship on Sunday 1 March.

2020.2.5.4 Communications Survey from Canadian Yearly Meeting (CYM)

We received a survey from CYM Publication and Communication Committee regarding our Monthly Meeting communications. Carolyn Knott completed the survey on behalf of TMM.

2020.2.6 MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

2020.2.6.1 Death of Trevor Cobain, 28 January 2020, in Scotland

We record the death of Trevor Cobain, husband of George Saunders, on 28 January 2020 in Kirkaldy, Fife. George was a long-time member of Toronto Monthly Meeting before he and Trevor moved to the Niagara Peninsula. After George’s death, Trevor moved to Scotland where he was living in residential care. We received the following message from Laurie M. Naumann,

the clerk of Central Fife Local Meeting. The Clerks will contact Pelham Meeting and Hamilton Meeting, and respond to Laurie's letter.

"The FWCC office in London kindly passed me your name as I wish to inform Canadian Friends about the sad and sudden death of Trevor Cobain yesterday, the 28th January, in Kirkcaldy, Fife. My understanding from Trevor was that he worshiped both in Toronto and St Catharines for many years with his, now deceased, husband, George Sanders. It was agreed with Trevor's brother Ivan's family – who have no Quaker associations – that I should contact you as I am going to be involved in arranging the Quaker funeral locally. No dates have been set yet, but it would be helpful to have a link person to keep posted about the arrangements and, possibly, for obtaining some words for inclusion in a written tribute to Trevor or to be read as ministry in the funeral Meeting for Worship.

Trevor had been living in residential care here for almost two years and started attending our local meeting for worship in December 2018. Although he required assistance in getting to meeting, he had been a very regular attender since and participated in our discussion group and business meetings. It was only on Sunday when we went to collect him for Meeting for Worship that we discovered that he was in hospital. Our meeting will very much miss Trevor's regular, friendly, sensitive and cheerful presence at Meeting for Worship and are holding his family in the light. Although communications were sometimes difficult, we were able to share a lot; we had much in common and were able to share happy and sadder times with him. I've copied this message, for information, to Friends at Pelham Executive Meeting. I'll keep you informed about arrangements as they develop and look forward to being in touch. In Friendship, Laurie M. Naumann, Clerk, Central Fife Local Meeting (A part of South East Scotland Area Meeting)."

2020.2.6.2 Application for Membership from Eleanor Andrew

This matter is continuing.

2020.2.6.3 Minute of Remembrance for Daphne Steadman (2019.10.6.3)

This matter is continuing.

The Meeting ended with a period of Silent Worship.

The next Meeting for Worship for Business will be held on **Sunday 15 March at 12:45 pm.**

Attachments

- 2020.2.2.3 Revised Land Acknowledgement Texts
- 2020.2.3.4 Statistics Report
- 2020.2.3.6 TMM 2020 Report Schedule
- 2020.2.5.1 Letter from CYM regarding the CYM Secretary
- 2020.2.5.2 Letter from Glenn Morrison, CYM Representative to FWCC