

**FWCC Europe and Middle East Section
Peace and Service Consultation, 7-9 October 2022
Minutes**

QPSC 2022/1: Greetings

We have received greetings from Michael Eccles, Executive Secretary, FWCC EMES, and from FWCC's Central Executive Committee.

QPSC 2022/2. Record of co-clerks for 2022

We note that Lee Taylor and Sue Glover Frykman have served as co-clerks during 2022.

QPSC 2022/3: Record of Elders for the 2022 Peace and Service Consultation

We note that EMES Elders Annika Hollsing and Jasmine Piercy have served as Elders at the October 2022 Peace and Service Consultation and thank them for their service.

QPSC 2022/4: Resumé of this year's event

This year's Peace and Service Consultation, from 7-9 October, has been held as a hybrid event: in-person at Quaker House in Bad Pyrmont, Germany, and online on Zoom, under the theme 'What in the world are we doing?' 'Act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with your God' (Micah, 6.8). Philip Austin began by taking a retrospective view of the Peace and Service Consultations that he had been involved in since 1991. Jez Smith then told us about how the monthly online peace and service sessions began in 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic. Bringing us up to date, Paul Holdsworth talked about the Executive Committee's review of the peace and service activities during 2022, the peace and service network participants' survey, and the importance of including the Section's peace and service activities in the EMES Work Plan in order to fully incorporate the EMES vision of building "*a thriving, vibrant, inclusive, all-age, spiritual community of Friends in Europe and the Middle East, woven together in transformative faith and love, working and connecting with others, listening to the Spirit, actively living out our Quaker testimonies of truth and integrity, equality and community, simplicity, peace, and care for the earth and the environment*". This opening session thus paved the way for our considerations of the future proposals for the peace and service network during Saturday's Meeting for Worship for Business (see minutes **6, 7 and 8**, below).

In their dialogue, Oliver Robertson and Kate McNally spoke to the topic 'Service as Witness' (as well as witness as service). Service can take a variety of shapes and forms. Quakers have a tradition of accompaniment, as well as tools to use like meetings for clearness and discernment as opportunities for listening to, holding and furthering other people's concerns and identifying what we as a Quaker community, or with other groups of like-minded people, need to be doing. Some of our service may be emotional and draining. It is important that we take care of ourselves because the people we are serving need us to be whole.

As the main idea behind this weekend's Consultation has been to encourage networking and collaborations, participants were invited to give presentations about their peace and service work and projects. We heard about the Great Lakes Consortium, Quaker Service Norway, the #Object War Campaign, From Swords to Plowshares, the Living Witness Gathering on climate change, the Quaker Africa Interest Group, the Coalition for Work with Psycho-trauma and Peace, Quaker Service Sweden, the work of the sub-group of the Central European Gathering on financing projects benefitting Ukrainian refugees with the funds that have been donated, Northern Friends Peace Board, Quaker Council for European Affairs, Quaker Peace and Social Witness, Quaker Voluntary Action, Quaker United Nations Office in Geneva, Woodbrooke, Friends Peace Team work in Rwanda, Friends House Moscow, France Yearly Meeting Peace and Service Committee and Borgo Basino, farm school, ecovillage and farm.

Tracey Martin spoke to the topic of Walking side by side, accompanying, listening and working together. We were asked to walk around, first alone, then with a friend, then taking turns to follow the other, then side by side. When together, we needed to be aware of the other person and adjust our pace. We need to look at our own practices and ask ourselves if we are walking alongside each other. When we walk, or lie down, humbly with others, we walk humbly with our God.

We have gathered, shared and reflected in home groups and thematic groups (the intersection between peace and climate activism, Ukraine and Self Care). We had fun at our social evening. The Elders have upheld our Meetings for Worship and offered Epilogues each evening.

QPSC 2022/6: Confirmation of the proposed Terms of Reference for the EMES Peace and Service Network

Paul Holdsworth (member of the EMES Executive Committee) and Evan Welkin (EMES Communication and Programme Officer) have presented the Terms of Reference for the Network proposed by the EMES Executive Committee. With regard to the scope of and participation in the Network, it was clarified (and asked to be referred back to the EMES Executive Committee) that while the main aim of the Network is to reflect the peace and service activities within the Europe and Middle East Section, Quakers engaged in similar activities in the other FWCC Sections may be invited to attend the Network meetings as and when appropriate. Also as appropriate, Quakers within the Network who are engaged in other networks are able to share those activities and seek advice. With the inclusion of these clarifications, we support and confirm the content of the presented document.

QPSC 2022/7: Change of name for the two EMES peace and service activity platforms

We agree to the suggested change of names for the monthly online and the annual weekend gatherings to: a) the monthly online gatherings of the EMES Peace and Service Network and b) the Annual EMES Peace and Service Network Gathering.

QPSC 2022/8: Proposed role description for the EMES Peace and Service Coordinating Group and confirmation of the appointment of the group proposed by the EMES Executive Committee

We agree to the creation of a small Peace and Service Coordinating Group to serve from the rise of this year's Peace and Service Consultation to the rise of the Annual EMES Peace and Service Network Gathering in 2023, consisting of Evan Welkin (the EMES staff person responsible for peace and service activities), Sue Glover Frykman (continued service for one more year) and Paul Holdsworth (for one year). We offer our loving support to Friends undertaking this service. The hope is that in the future names will emerge from within the Network for the members of the Coordinating Group, with a recommendation for rolling terms of service of two or three years in order to build continuity and including the power to co-opt as and when appropriate.

QPSC 2022/9: Thanks for service

We thank Lee Taylor for her two years of service as Clerk (in 2021), and Co-clerk (in 2022), which come to an end at the rise of this gathering, and for the dedication she has shown during this time.

QPSC 2022/10: EMES Sustainability Policy

The EMES Sustainability Policy, which was approved by the EMES Annual Meeting in May 2022, has been circulated. This is a way of promoting sustainable travel options to Friends attending EMES events. We note that the EMES Executive Committee is committed to continuing to work on sustainability issues and has started to consider options for offsetting. An evaluation form will be sent to all those who registered for the Consultation, with space there to report on the mode of travel to and from Bad Pyrmont, which will help EMES to measure carbon footprints.

QPSC 2022/11: Future plans

We warmly support the continuation of the monthly sessions and ask the new Coordinating Group to investigate a weekend date and venue in either October or November 2023 for the Annual EMES Peace and Service Network Gathering and communicate with the Network about the proposed arrangements.

QPSC 2022/12: Closing minute

We are grateful to German Yearly Meeting and to Leonie Glahn, the warden at Quaker House in Bad Pyrmont, for hosting this weekend gathering, and for the time we have spent together. Thanks also to Evan Welkin and Jez Smith for their IT expertise and organising skills. We look forward to taking our peace and service work forward, following the leadings of the spirit, as the way opens. We close with the words spoken at Epilogue on Friday evening.

“Have patience with everything that remains unsolved in your heart. Try to love the questions themselves, like locked rooms and like books written in a foreign language. Do not now look for the answers. They cannot now be given to you because you could not live them. It is a question of experiencing everything. At present you need to live the question. Perhaps you will gradually, without even noticing it, find yourself experiencing the answer, some distant day” (Rainer Maria Rilke, Letters to a Young Poet)

Lee Taylor and Sue Glover Frykman
Co-clerks

Present during the Consultation weekend

Evan Welkin (EMES staff)
Sue Glover Frykman (Co-clerk, also Quaker Service Sweden)
Lee Taylor (Co-clerk, also Friends of Hlekweni and BYM's Quaker Africa Interest Group)
Kate McNally (African Great Lakes Consortium)
Daniel Clarke Flynn (African Great Lakes Consortium)
Charles David Tauber (Coalition for Work with Psycho-trauma and Peace)
Tracey Martin (Woodbrooke/Britain Yearly Meeting)
Marlies Tjallingii (Netherlands Yearly Meeting)
Richard Levitt (Leeds Area Meeting of Britain Yearly Meeting)
Derek Brett (Switzerland Yearly Meeting)
Saskia Basa (Quaker Council for European Affairs)
Philip Austin (Northern Friends Peace Board)
Dale Andrew (Friends International Centre, Paris)
Jasmine Piercy (EMES Elder, also Central European Gathering)
Annika Hollsing (EMES Elder, also Quaker Service Sweden)
Christopher Hatton (German Yearly Meeting Peace Committee)
Görel Råsmark (Quaker Service Sweden)
Mikheil (Misha) Elizbarashvili (Georgia Worship Group)
Paul Holdsworth (EMES Executive Committee)
Penny Heymans (Quaker Service Norway)
Jez Smith (Quaker United Nations Office Geneva)
Colin Bartlett (Quaker Africa Interest Group)
Natasha Zhuravenkova (Friends House Moscow)
David Jones (Friends of Hlekweni, Quaker Africa Interest Group)

Jeff Beatty (Quaker Voluntary Action)
Jessica Bishop (Friends of Hlekweni)
Martin Touwen (QCEA)
Karin Hoenicke (Quäkerhilfe Germany)
Suzanne Ismail (Quaker Peace and Social Witness)
Corien van Dorp (Dutch Quaker Help Fund)
Anne Stone (Belgium & Luxembourg Yearly Meeting)

Guests

David Bucura (Rwanda, Friends Peace Teams/Africa Great Lakes Initiative)
Mkangya Alenga Leon (Democratic Republic of Congo/Great Lakes Consortium, Organisation de Paix pour les Opportunités du Développement)
Jean Mweze (CFETD ASBL, Democratic Republic of Congo)
Amosi Malenga Amos (Democratic Republic of Congo/Great Lakes Consortium)
Dieudonne Bisibo Alimasi (Democratic Republic of Congo/Great Lakes Consortium)