

Ad hoc FGC Gathering Request Committee
SEYM Winter Interim Business Meeting
16 First Month 2021

The Yearly Meeting clerk received a request from FGC Long Range Conference Planning Committee (LRCP) on November 27, 2020, to serve as host Yearly Meeting for the 2022 Gathering in Radford, Virginia. This request was presented at a previously called meeting of SEYM Executive Committee (EC) on December 12, 2020. The *ad hoc* committee was formed by EC to gather information to support our discernment.

The *ad hoc* committee met with FGC conference planners to gather further information. From this we gained an understanding of the work of the Gathering Committee and its subcommittees on which we are being asked to serve. A summary of the Gathering Committee, the subcommittees, and their responsibilities is attached.

The *ad hoc* committee also worked through the SEYM office to produce a survey to get some preliminary assessment of the leadings of SEYM Friends and their ability to serve. While there was limited time to gather information, there is similarly very limited time to form a gathering committee and commence work.

The committee understands that serving as a host YM would require the dedication of 15 or more SEYM Friends to this task. This would require many meetings by zoom and potential travel for in-person meetings and tours of the facilities. In summary, the survey does not find close to this number of Friends led and available at this time to undertake this work.

The *ad hoc* committee met again on January 13, 2021. Given our understanding of the size of this task and that insufficient Friends are led to commit to this work, we recommend that YM decline the invitation to host the FGC Gathering in 2022.

We also recommend that SEYM consider providing scholarship assistance to Friends who may want to attend the Gathering, as this opportunity may again rise in the future.

We recommend that SEYM indicate that we would like to be considered as a potential host for some future FGC Gathering when there might be additional lead time to gather a committee and when, perhaps, a location closer to our meetings is selected.

Faithfully submitted,

Bill Carlie, *ad hoc* committee clerk

Liz Dykes

Susan Taylor

Susan Wade

ANNUAL GATHERING COMMITTEE

The Gathering Committee is responsible for planning the program of one particular annual Gathering and providing care for that Gathering when it meets. A new committee is constituted for each Gathering.

The Gathering Committee is self selected and includes members of LRCP as well as members recruited from the Yearly Meeting and local meetings located near the Gathering site. Friends serving on the committee are asked to serve on one of several subcommittees. The Committee meets as a whole in the spring of the year prior to its Gathering (i.e., the 2019 Gathering Committee starts meeting in the spring of 2018) to organize into subcommittees and begin the work of organizing the Gathering. Prior to the first Gathering Committee meeting the Co-Clerks in consultation with LRCP select the theme for the Gathering. The theme and provides the guidelines for the subcommittees in carrying out their work. The committee meets again during the subsequent Gathering, and in the fall. In the spring the Co-clerks collect and circulate updates from each committee. Subcommittee often continue to meet by phone, skype or in person.

During the Gathering, the committee meets daily to hold the Gathering in the Light, to exercise care for the Gathering and to address concerns that arise at the Gathering. Because members of the Gathering Committee are heavily involved in the functioning of the Gathering, some Friends may not be able to attend these daily meetings. A core group of Friends from each subcommittee should attend every day. These Friends should be able to speak to their committee's work. LRCP members, in addition to the Gathering Committee clerks, will continue to participate on the committee for the week of the Gathering. All Friends participating in these daily meetings should remember that these meetings are often confidential and should not be discussed outside of the Gathering Committee.

The Adult Young Friends (18-35) subcommittee plans programs and activities for Friends who have finished High School. It consists of Friends appointed by the AYF Program at the Gathering, and other regional young adult Friends. There are two Coordinators appointed by the AYF at the Gathering the prior year. It does not meet at the first meeting of the Gathering committee and may meet at other times during the year for planning.

The Local Arrangements subcommittee works to establish field trips and to develop information sheets for area attractions as part of the free time activities at the Gathering. Members provide important assistance in locating supplies and special equipment for the Junior Gathering program; provide assistance with local transportation; assist with local information; and assist the Long Range Conference Planning Committee with community

relations and local publicity. May meet once or twice in addition to at Gathering Planning Committee meetings.

The High School subcommittee usually begins its work at the current Gathering, collecting evaluations and seeking high school participants who are interested in helping to plan the next year's program. Working closely with the coordinators of the high school program, the high school subcommittee plans the schedule for the Gathering week, reviews workshop themes and ideas for leaders forwarded from the workshop subcommittee, and seeks ways to improve the overall experience of community for high schoolers at the Gathering. This subcommittee usually does not meet at the first May meeting of the Gathering Committee. This subcommittee may choose to meet at time more convenient for students than when the Gathering Committee meets, in which case the clerk(s) and/or the coordinator(s) serve in a liaison role with the committee. It does not meet at the first meeting of the Gathering committee.

The Junior Gathering subcommittee shapes the format and content of the Junior Gathering program, for infants through those finishing eighth grade. This subcommittee gathers input from attenders and then

reviews evaluations from the current Gathering, suggests program policy, and assists the Junior Gathering Coordinator in recruiting Friends to serve as leaders and teachers in the program. Members take an active role in oversight of the program at the Gathering and serve as liaison with parents and teacher.

The Evening Program subcommittee chooses events and topics for the plenary sessions, and within the time schedule set by the Planning Committee, seeks plenary presenters appropriate to the theme and concerns of the Gathering. The Committee decides whether there should be pre-plenary music, and identifies appropriate musicians for that music. Members of this subcommittee serve in a one-on-one support role with the plenary presenters, coordinate ideas and concerns with the worship oversight group, and assist in planning later evening activities, including movies.

The Workshop subcommittee first reviews the form for soliciting workshops and plans procedures for acquiring workshop proposals and contacting specific leaders. The committee is responsible for selecting workshops for the Gathering with an eye to the theme and to the wants and needs of Friends. Committee members serve as "buddies" to workshop leaders before and during the Gathering, and help with evaluation following the Gathering. This subcommittee also plans the Interest group night. This committee usually meets for a weekend in October or November to select workshops for the Gathering.

The Worship subcommittee gives particular attention to the occasions when the Gathering settles into worship. The group may help plan the opening all Gathering event as well as the closing worship. They also assist in creating a worshipping community throughout the week.

The Communication Subcommittee works with the Gathering Clerks and Conference Coordinator to develop and implement a marketing plan. This is a new and evolving position that involves creativity, enthusiasm, and the willingness to work collaboratively on specific marketing pieces. They may visit regional meetings, prepare Monthly Meeting notices to send to a designated meeting representative, encourage yearly meetings and monthly meetings to set up financial aid funds for their members to attend the Gathering

The Recording clerk may be a member of any subcommittee, but his/her primary responsibility is to keep accurate minutes of the meetings of the committee of the whole.

The Access Resources coordinator and **Food Coordinator** are appointed by the Long Range Conference Planning Committee and work with the Gathering Committee.

Revised 4/18 rr