

## Formal Session 6: Friday 8 July at 2.00pm AEST

### YM22.30: Opening Worship

Emily Chapman-Searle read from *this we can say*:

*After three hundred years we may be justified in taking an optimistic view of the achievements and resilience of the Quaker Way, and the success with which it has lived out its prophetic and conserving roles. However, to live out the Quaker Way faithfully in our own time and land is not to try to repeat what early Friends were called to do, not to cling to whatever Quaker forms we have inherited in this Yearly Meeting. What we share now with Friends who have gone before us is a task and some fine tools. Our task is to inaugurate the Way of God in this time and in this land; our tools are our personal experience of the Light within, and our corporate experience in using collective guidance to discover and enact God's will in the world. To do this we must not become more like early Friends, but more like ourselves as we are in the eye of God.*

Ursula Jane O'Shea 1993, 1.84

### YM22.31: Minute of Record for YM22 Friendly School

The YM22 Friendly School theme was 'Caring for Humanity in Interesting Times'. The last phrase is from what is apocryphally claimed as an ancient Chinese curse "May you live in interesting times", which is no longer a curse but can be a blessing. Times of danger and uncertainty can also be the most creative times.

This topic inspired ten wonderful schools that rose to this creative challenge. Schools were allocated a five-hour period and school presenters were asked to choose their own starting and finishing times, while providing regular breaks to allow attenders at the schools to properly refresh themselves. Presenters reported that while preparation took their time, there was much personal value in this work.

The ten schools offered were:

1. Working together adaptively as we face the ten threats to human existence
2. Creative writing on the theme of 'Caring for Humanity in Interesting Times'
3. Building the peace the world needs: Quaker Peace and Legislation Committee
4. An introduction to several words in the language of Original Australians and the implied concepts they encapsulate
5. Time with John - John's Gospel as the Quaker Gospel
6. The spiritual side of reality in 'Caring for Humanity in Interesting Times'
7. The Earthcare game as a way of 'Caring for Humanity in Interesting Times'
8. The labyrinth as a way of consolation
9. Poetic and artistic responses to 'Caring for Humanity in Interesting Times'
10. A focus on the deeper spiritual and cultural factors behind our exploitation of the world and resources.

Six Schools have so far forwarded a report on their experience. Overwhelmingly, presenters were very happy with the sessions. With a Zoom host in place, they did not find any difficulty with using Zoom. They enjoyed the level of engagement by participants and the opportunity to share something of their own passion in confronting these "interesting times". A fuller summary of the schools will appear in *Documents in Retrospect 2022*.

## YM22.32 Children & JYF Committee Report

YM considered the Committee Report's Unresolved Items as presented in the Children & JYF Committee's Preparatory Session Report:

Recommendation:

*1a) We recommend that young people and families be brought more into the heart of AYM and aligned more closely with other national coordination being undertaken in AYM by continuing the paid C&JYF Coordinator position (may need a new name –referred to here as 'paid worker').*

YM supports the continuation of a paid Children & Junior Young Friends Coordinator position. We ask that the position be in the budget for 2022/23, including provision for a one-month hand-over with the current C&JYF Coordinator.

Recommendations:

*1c) We recommend that, for the next six-twelve months, the paid worker focus on a consultation project with families and young people, local and regional meetings, worshipping groups and isolated Friends to:*

- identify and consider the needs of meetings, families and young people;*
- build community, relationships and support for those working with families and young people;*
- connect people with similar challenges, ideas and needs; and*
- consult with other YMs and learn from their experiences (e.g. A/NZ).*

*1e) We recommend that this project will propose a way forward for the paid worker and CJYF Committee to support families and young people within AYM. We ask that Friends consider that the way forward include a broader mandate and consider the needs of families, Young Friends, children and JYFs. This may include borrowing from Britain Yearly Meeting the concept of A Quaker Life Committee.*

YM supports recommendations 1c) and e) from the C&JYF Committee's YM22 Preparatory Session Report. We ask that the second dot point in 1c) be amended to 'facilitate building community and relationships'.

Recommendation:

*1d) We recommend that this project be designed by the paid worker, the C&JYF and Child Protection Committees, in consultation with Friends with relevant expertise in social research. We wonder if it might be possible to consult with young people as part of this project by bringing them together in-person.*

YM supports recommendation 1d).

Recommendations:

- b) We recommend that the management of this paid worker be the responsibility of the AYM Office in order to provide more support and coordination of the work. We acknowledge this will add to the workload of the AYM office, and may require additional support from a Friend/consultant with the necessary HR skills. We see that bringing the work of this person to a more central location with AYM will support their work and enable more cohesion and connection with the rest of AYM.*
- f) We recommend that the current C&JYF Committee become the support committee for the paid worker in this consultation project.*

*g) We recommend that AYM Nominations Committee identifies a Friend to take on the role of the paid worker from 1 September 2022 (to allow for a one-month transition with the current C&JYF Coordinator).*

*h) We recommend that the C&JYF Committee works with AYM Nominations Committee to develop a role description for the paid worker.*

YM does not support recommendations b), f), g) and h).

We ask that the AYM officers and the C&JYF Committee recruit a Friend for this position, including confirming the role description prior to recruitment. We accept that AYM Nominations Committee may be included informally in the recruitment process to help make this position widely known amongst Australian Friends. Ideally, the appointment will begin from 1 September 2022, including a one-month transition with the current C&JYF Coordinator.

We ask the C&JYF Committee and AYM officers to consult about the support and management of the position.

The Formal Session closed with silent worship.