

Feedback re YM 2022.

Technical helpers

Personally, I felt that the task of helping other Friends properly connect to YM online went well. I had little to do, but David and Michael may have had more calls than I did. I'll be interested to hear of David and Michael's experience.

No costs incurred from my end.

Love and light

Derek

I thought it went well – little to do – which I think was probably due to the training sessions that Ronis and Michael conducted. I would be interested to know how many people attended them.

There was one bit of confusion I was involved in caused by a password not being included with the printed Zoom click through reference. That was eventually sorted.

No costs incurred.

Cheers

David

Epistle

My reflections:

Positive: we had a very compatible team. We each brought different skills to the role but all had a passion in different ways for language as well as familiarity with the Quaker decision making process and culture. This is important on or offline, but online in addition we needed a facility with digital tools in the mix in at least one member to make it work - and preferably more than one. We had that too.

Another positive for me and at least one other member was the ease of audibility online. And the privacy of the Zoom meeting.

A potential challenge was the need to get references and names correct. We were fortunate that you foresaw the need for one quote and responded promptly when we needed a second. Sending the draft YM minutes to the EC would be a good ongoing practice in case they are needed. Online you are under a lot of time pressure because of not having meals provided, and urgent contact with people who don't regularly check messages is not so easy.

We had really useful feedback, both in real time and via the email, especially towards the end. We needed that as, when operating online under time pressure, you can't just shoulder tap people to get input. You rely on them to initiate and respond quickly, with an awareness that the text really needs to be finalised, preferably well before, and certainly by the opening of the final session.

It really helped that the agenda for the last one and a half sessions was less likely to provide epistle material, being in the nature of reporting on work already completed and reflected on elsewhere.

That's my 'two pennith worth'. Hope it's helpful.

In friendship,

Heather Denny

I have been on the epistle committee before, but I found the online role much more intense and physically hard. I am not used to spending hours at a time at the computer. My chair became harder and harder. Also I had no one at home to look after me so had to scramble for meals.

I agree with all Heather's points.

I really appreciated and enjoyed working with such a devoted group. All in all a great experience.

in peace

Carril Karr

Pastoral Care

Reflection of YM 2022 from a PSCC perspective.

We found that YM ran very well. This was a new experience for us all and we appreciate the preparation beforehand and the way you were able to respond to various challenges that might have been more stressful than it appeared to us.

Comments we would like to make are:

when members of PSCC were appointed it could have been helpful to identify a convener.

In future this may help PSCC in coordinating their respective duties and responsibilities remotely.

Having the open Zoom Room available to PSCC worked well.

PSCC provided a couple of members after each session (and associated sessions) in designated breakout rooms. This worked well, however we learnt that it would have been better for us to schedule that role rather than it being an ad hoc arrangement.

There were no serious concerns brought forward to us at YM.

As we were attending from home it meant that we were distracted at times by things that we would have left behind if we were gathered together.

We also noticed this in others, some however were rather prone to log into the meetings before they had properly arranged a quiet space at home.

We would like to be allowed to be admitted into the meeting from 15 minutes before the "start time". It felt rather unnatural to all come in en masse.

When those appointed to PSCC and R&S were introduced at the beginning of YM the words used in the second document for registrants:

"If you are finding the online experience or anything else about Yearly Meeting uncomfortable or upsetting, please contact one of our Pastoral and Spiritual Care Friends."

would be suitable. An appropriate introduction for the R&S contacts needs to be developed so Friends know what their role is intended to serve.

A couple of small matters around ministry from Friends: there should be consistent use of name and Meeting by those asked to speak and when a Friend has finished presenting a report they should allow the clerks to manage the subsequent questions.

Dave, Shirley, Raewyn, Rick.

Other roles:

Dots and commas – we sent all after YM, plus Epistle to check macrons. Used "track changes" for the Minutes and found that a good way to see suggested changes.

Reading names of those who have died

Alert person to starting out of the silence..

All age worship:

I thought Melinda did a wonderful job of presenting the materials. In the future, it would be good if we could plan to do it when the YM schedule is first published so MFW could determine how they can best participate.

I hope if it is done again, we record it for all those who could not attend. Our kids all missed out because it was near the end of school holidays and had other plans.
Jan Schmidt

And thank you both for choosing the adventurous path.

We did have a bit of trouble promoting the all age worship. You may say more but she tried to send the letter to Clerks and Pastoral care Committees with limited success. So one thing is to be able to promote such an event and to encourage Friends to particularly invite families who may be on their books but they don't see often.

It also would have been good to have had a break out room for the kids. I would think it would need a couple of adults there to help manage conversation but at least one person suggested this after the event.

And I add my thanks to Charlotte - you did a beautiful job of introducing the session and Melinda and then closing and encouraging discussion after.

I have attached the photo Melinda sent us from her home which you might like to include in your reflections.

Melinda has said she will run an information session on Faith and Play and so I have asked her for some dates. She said she could offer training on zoom but it would really need at least one session in person. I wonder if we could bring her out for a visit to New Zealand and Australia. I would be interested and willing to work with others for this to happen and seek funding. I feel confident in finding some funding from Australian Quaker funds.

I met a Quaker in another on line group this week who said that the worship had moved her deeply and she kept remembering different aspects of it. I have my person that I wrote on and couples in with me on my desk!

I am wondering if you are thinking of a report/article for the website Anne and Alistair?

In friendship

Ronis

Notices

In response to your suggestion that something could be learned from the way we did the notices - - probably make sure the person doing it is more computer savvy than I am! The text was fine to copy and paste but I was completely stumped by the photos and how to make the links live (I couldn't get any links to copy and paste and when I typed them in directly, they turned out to be "dead".) Nicholas Jose came to the rescue and put up the photos and links, and gave me a lot of info about the links, referencing the Quaker website resources page (not sure if that is exactly what it was called). Unfortunately it is all Greek to me.

Definitely I think it is a job the YM clerks should not have to do, as sometimes there was urgency to put up a particular notice and you were already quite busy.

Peg

Zoom hosts and general

See Michael Searle's report.

Needed extra Zoom accounts, especially for use of Epistle Committee and Pastoral and Spiritual care Committee.

Some other groups also met around YM time and they needed access to a Zoom account too.

Clerks and Zoom hosts co-located for YM

Other things to Note.

1, Regos and deadline:

From CHCH MM

Reflections of Yearly Meeting 2022

Following Meeting For Worship on 8 May, a group met to discuss their impressions and memories of

Yearly Meeting. Group consensus was that all were very impressed by what was the first all-Zoom YM, where the clerks' planning and the processes they used allowed wide ranging discussions to flow. The technical expertise of Michael, Ronis and their supporters ably supported the clerks in this. It was pleasing to see the number of people who would not normally attend YM and who did because it was by Zoom, another bonus of the covid pandemic.