

Religious Society of Friends (Belgium and Luxemburg)  
Religieus Genootschap der Vrienden (België en Luxemburg)  
Société Religieuse des Amis (Belgique et Luxembourg)  
Religiöse Gesellschaft der Freunde (Belgien und Luxemburg)

\_\_\_\_\_ Quakers BELGIUM and LUXEMBURG YEARLY MEETING

\_BLYM Newsletter July - August 2019

Our diversity invites us, both to speak what we know to be true in our lives  
and to learn from others.

Introduction to Advices & Queries 1.01, Britain Yearly Meeting Quaker Faith & Practice

Dear friends, lieve vrienden, chers amis, liebe Freunde, queridos amigos, cari amici, greetings.

Listen

When I ask you to listen to me  
and you start giving advice,  
you have not done what I asked.

When I ask you to listen to me  
and you begin to tell me why I shouldn't feel that way,  
you are trampling on my feelings.

When I ask you to listen to me  
and you feel that you have to do something to solve my problem,  
you have failed me,  
strange as that may seem.

Listen ! All I asked was that you listen.  
Not to talk or do - just hear me.

Author unknown.

Appeared in the 2010 Newsletter of the Quaker Tapestry and subsequently  
published in Stepping into the Light, Irish Quakers, 2011 and 2013.

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**BLYM Residential Meeting 2019**  
15 – 17 November at Drongen Abbey near Ghent in Flanders.  
Trusting the Light in your daily Life

Faire confiance à la Lumière dans mon quotidien

Vertrouwen op het Licht in ons dagelijks leven

The programme includes related themes around “Discernment in Daily Life.” But we certainly will not spend all of the time looking inwards. To spice up our lives and the programme, we are taking inspiration from the last French yearly Meeting and plan to include quite a few Quaker SPICES, maybe even all of them! We’re looking for opportunities for some singing as well, and we hope that the Friends who have practiced at the sessions before Meeting for Worship will be able to support this.

The words of our invited speaker speak for themselves. He wrote: “I’m Paul Parker, the Recording Clerk of Quakers in Britain. That means I am the head of the paid staff at Friends House, the secretary to Yearly Meeting, Meeting for Sufferings and Britain Yearly Meeting Trustees – responsible for delivering on what those bodies have discerned that they want done on their behalf. I see it very much as a service role – I am the servant of the Yearly Meeting. Inspired to offer service by the sense that Quaker in Britain in the 21st century are ready to go whoosh! We are becoming more confident again about who we are and what we have to say to the world.”

We are very pleased to welcome Paul especially because he is “grateful for the opportunity to speak about strengthening Meetings, which is something which has been concerning me for some time” he wrote. His speeches have inspired many, and we look forward to having him with us for the weekend.

The costs per person will be in line with the previous years, and this is in part thanks to the generosity of Friends at British Yearly Meeting, and a small pot of funds left over after last years Residential.

We look forward to welcoming several Friends from Meetings outside Belgium, as we have enjoyed their contributions and experiences in the past.

We close this by including a piece of writing that we used for inspiration while preparing our residential Yearly Meeting.

### **Paul Parker blogpost “2019 challenges”**

Let's face it, 2019 is probably going to be a challenging year. Continued political uncertainty, the relentless advance of climate change and rising inequality are just a few of the external factors we'll be wrestling with. Within our Quaker community we'll need to support small and often struggling meetings, examine our diversity and privilege, welcome newcomers, reconcile differences over gender issues, manage our 345 meeting houses and find willing Friends to populate our sometimes over-complex governance structures.

And each of us will face personal challenges too – not just whatever life throws at us in all its joys and sorrows, but the constant challenge of

taking heed "to the promptings of love and truth" in our hearts and trusting them "as the leadings of God".

So what does being faithful to these promptings mean in 2019? Where are we led? What is our collective ministry as Quakers in Britain today? How should our national organisation, Britain Yearly Meeting, respond?

### *Deepening worship*

Our Quaker faith is grounded in our worship and witness. These go hand in hand: our experience in meeting for worship gives us the strength to work in the world; our experience in the world draws us back to meeting for worship. And, crucially, our meeting for worship deepens when our Quaker communities thrive.

That's why in 2019 we need to focus on finding ways to nurture our Quaker communities. How can we be more loving, more inclusive? How can we learn together, find new ways of worshipping together, deepen this worship, and welcome more seekers in?

Whatever your Quaker community is like – a Sunday-morning meeting, a young Friends group meeting over supper one evening, a camp or a worship group round the kitchen table – these questions matter.

As I wrote in *The Friend* before Christmas, that will mean we need to be open to changing how we do things, to simplifying our structures and practices, even as we hold tight to the essence of what it means to be a Quaker.

### *A basis for action*

Thriving Quaker communities give us the strength to change the world, to realise the Kingdom of Heaven here on Earth.

Finding ways to live sustainably today may be our greatest challenge; as inhabitants of the fourth-richest country in the world, with our fossil-fuel dependent economy, we are complicit in the problem.

Is our own privilege blocking us from seeing the way through? What creative ways can we find to challenge governments and businesses to change, while maintaining our integrity by living our own lives in sustainable ways?

The inequality in our world, increasingly driven by climate change, is a major barrier to peace. If we are truly a people who "seek peace, and ensue it, and...follow after righteousness and the knowledge of God, seeking the good and welfare, and doing that which tends to the peace of all" then we have to look at questions of justice, of inequality and the knee-jerk recourse to violence or the threat of it in responding to conflicts.

### *A source of strength*

We have resources for this. As well as our spiritual resilience we are privileged to have money, places, people and a respected voice in the public realm. We should treasure all of these, steward them, and use them well and wisely.

No-one ever said being a Quaker was going to be easy. We're a people of faith who are up for a challenge. Bring on 2019; let's face its challenges together!

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## **FWCC-EMES Reports from Yearly Meetings, Monthly Meetings and Groups 2018**

<https://www.fwccemes.orgews/emes-annual-report-2018>

### **Report from the Belgium and Luxembourg Yearly Meeting**

Today, BLYM Meetings for Worship are held weekly in Brussels, every other week in Ghent on Sundays and once a month on Wednesday evenings, and nine times a year in Luxembourg. On the first Sunday of each month in Brussels there is community singing before Meeting for Worship with a 'bring and share lunch' after Meeting. On the third Sunday, there is a 'brown-bag lunch' deepening-spirituality gathering, currently using material from Woodbrooke's 'Becoming Friends: living and learning with Quakers' course. We also maintain a rich library containing a great deal of Quaker and related literature in both English and Belgium's three official languages: French, Dutch and German.

We believe that one of the best ways to grow our community is to meet together and share experiences both in and out of Meeting for Worship. Apart from the monthly 'Becoming Friends' group, the best opportunities for members of the geographically dispersed BLYM to meet are the annual residential gathering and an annual community day at which we explore topics of concern to our Meeting, but also simply enjoy each other's company!

Of course, one opportunity to meet Friends from other Yearly Meetings is the annual Border meeting, organised in rotation by the various participating Yearly Meetings of Netherlands and Germany – in this way every third year, individual members in Belgium organise the Border Meeting.

As reported last year, our Ministry and Oversight Group was laid down at the end of 2017 and we have been struggling to discern a way forward, faced with the reality that many of our group are already extremely busy with responsibilities within the Meeting. This is an ongoing matter of discussion, reflection and prayer within the Yearly Meeting and will be the topic of the Community Day to be organised in March 2019.

In terms of specific changes within our Yearly Meeting, one of the main and highly encouraging changes in 2018, was the fact that we agreed to recognise the small but lively Ghent group as a member Meeting of our Yearly Meeting. Though the group is largely composed of seekers, it does count several Members of the Society among its numbers and these committed Friends offer support and guidance to the newer members of the group who are still discovering Quakerism. The group is entirely Dutch-language and as such we have been able to renew and grow our contacts with our neighbour Yearly Meeting in the Netherlands, which has been a source of great joy and learning.

Of course, as elsewhere, one of the main concerns to many of our members is the ever-present worry of how Brexit will affect us and our many friends and colleagues working in the European arena, some of whom are eligible to apply for Belgian nationality, but

many of whom are not! Various Friends have been extremely active, participating in demonstrations, debates and other public actions, alongside QCEA or on an individual basis.

Also high on the agenda of the Meeting are the other concerns of the meeting. As with other Meetings, we have two collection boxes in Brussels, one of which is to offer donations to a chosen monthly cause. In the course of adopting our budget for 2018, we agreed that the funds raised for any cause actively supported by a member of the meeting would be matched by meeting funds. Our Meeting donated money to several charities in 2018, including Les Biscuits, European Bureau for Conscientious Objectors (EBCO), Parents en Exil, Friends House Moscow and the Afghanistan Library bus. However, one project that found considerable support towards the end of the year was Diwan, a four – bed roomed house in Brussels that provides a warm, clean and dry place to sleep for 10-12 people per night. The house is available on a temporary basis to a group of some 30 volunteers to shelter people who have no other protection. Between 12 November and 31 January Diwan House has provided approximately 910 nights of sleep in a warm, dry bed and 1840 meals. Many of the migrant guests have stayed on several occasions so it is difficult to know how many different individuals have stayed at the house.

Another project, close to the heart of our Meeting, is the ‘Helping the Helpers’ project that aims ‘to provide training and an ongoing community of self-care support to individuals who serve forced migrants and survivors of violent displacement around Europe.’ The project is grounded in Quaker values and has so far run one course with 9 participants originally coming from Turkey, Palestine, Singapore, Australia, the UK, Belgium, Algeria and Rwanda and working in Greece, France, the UK, Ireland and Turkey.

Between the three residential sessions run over the course of a year, participants meet on a monthly basis with psychotherapists to discuss specific opportunities they have had to apply the skills they have learned. It is hoped that these monthly sessions will help to ensure that the skills learned in the residential sessions can be applied in the daily work of our Helpers.

One of the concerns of our meeting, as no doubt in many other Meetings, is our slowly dwindling membership. We no longer have a children’s Meeting, but we frequently have one or more visitors from abroad. We are therefore concerned to improve our outreach and while we have not yet reached a consensus on how we are going to do this in concrete terms, we are hopeful that in the course of 2019 we will discern the way forward.

In the meantime, however, Meeting has recently published two booklets: Approaches to Meeting for Worship (2014) and Ministry in our Meetings (2017), and two small pamphlets for visitors (2017): Quakers: A Simple Faith and Quakers: A Journey into Silence.

The bimonthly BLYM newsletter also serves as ministry and notices in print, open to all Quaker contributors in all languages, and is currently distributed electronically to 70 current or former BLYM members/attenders and to over 200 other Quaker addresses worldwide.

## **QUAKER WAYS 1**

*We are repeating a series on Quaker Ways that appeared in our Newsletter between 2006 and 2009. The first was written by Elizabeth Baker, a long-time and much loved and respected member of our Meeting who died in 2008 after a long struggle with cancer.*

### **Membership**

It took me 19 years to pluck up courage to apply for membership of the Society of Friends, mainly because, like many other seekers and attenders, I didn't think I was "good enough" to be allowed to join.

Then came the moment when it became embarrassing to have to admit that I actually wasn't a member and to explain why; the explanations became less and less convincing and it finally dawned on me, after a visit to Brussels by Richard Meredith, a lovely Australian Friend, then General Secretary of FWCC, that what was important among Friends was not a "hierarchy of worthiness" or an ability to accept what seemed to be Quaker "essentials", but what Rufus Jones has described as a "sense of living unity" (1) which overcomes the diversity of language we use in our search for the "Inner Light".

We all, insistent seeker, rebel, cautious attender (which I was), have our place in the Society of Friends. What is important is that we learn to listen to one another and to care for and love one another. This commitment to each other will give us the strength and support we need for our day-to-day existence.

Elizabeth Baker

(1) Preface to W.C. Braithwaite's "The Second Period of Quakerism" (1919).

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## **Epistle from the FWCC-EMES (Europe and Middle East Section) Annual Meeting held at Hotel Walzer, Budapest, Hungary**

2<sup>nd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> May 2019

### ***Living in a Foreign Land***

To Friends everywhere: dear friends, kjære venner, chers amis, liebe Freunde, lieve vrienden, queridos amigos, cari amici, kära vänner, kære venner, rakkaat ystävät, kallid sõbrad, drazí přátelé, dārgie draugi, Kedves Barátaim, drodzy przyjaciele, a chairde, Salamaat Asdiqa, greetings.

On the day after Labour Day, when the rights of workers are recognised and celebrated in many of our countries, over 50 people from Yearly Meetings, Monthly Meetings and

Worship Groups across Europe and also from the Americas met together to consider what it means to live in a foreign land, to welcome people into our own land and, sometimes, feel like foreigners in our own land. Our Section includes our Friends in the Middle East. We miss them and hope they can join us at future gatherings.

We started with reflections from four Friends on how their experience of living in a foreign land influenced their ministry and opened them to new ways of thinking, doing and being. We need to consider our own privilege and seek to understand how we are viewed by others and why. While we are aware of the danger of othering and the discomfort of being ‘othered’, looking for God in everyone can help us get beyond the ‘other’ and understand we are all humans.

Evan Welkin (Olympia Monthly Meeting, North Pacific YM, living in Italy) spoke to us on *Vulnerability as Witness: To be of service in a foreign land*. He spoke honestly and humbly of his experience of growing up in a supportive and fairly closed Quaker community and how his hope for his life and for Quakerism were thrown into doubt by his experiences in Turkey on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2001 and his realisation of the limitations of Quakers and Quaker institutions. He asked us to consider the ways in which Quakers have done harm as well as good when they have held power, such as through the industrialisation of whaling, the establishment of penitentiaries and the running of boarding schools for Native American children.

How can we be of service through bearing witness to our vulnerabilities and through our experiences of being strangers in a foreign land and welcoming strangers? What would we do if we truly had power in the world? Compared to many, Quakers do have power and privilege, and we must use it mindfully and with humility, aware of our vulnerabilities and limitations.

2019 is a transition year for EMES as we prepare to implement our 10 year strategy (2020 – 2030). Marisa Johnson, our Executive Secretary told us of the work planned to make sure we have the people, governance and resources we need to grow together and contribute fully to the changes we want to see in the world.

In recent months people across the world, led by young people, have put themselves on the line and called on governments to declare a climate emergency. In Bible Study some of us considered Hebrews (11:15-16) ‘If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return. Instead they were longing for a better country – a heavenly one.’ We as Quakers cannot live in the past but need to go forward with trust and in faith to address climate change and build a peaceful and sustainable world.

We are part of a larger and very diverse world community. We were pleased to welcome Yulieed Avila of General Meeting of Friends in Mexico and Ashley Weinacht of Northwest Yearly Meeting, USA, travelling as part of the Young Adult Friends Intervisitation Project. They led us in rich programmed worship that gave us an insight into both their worshipping communities. Through talking of her own experience of living in a foreign land, Palestine, and her first experience of unprogrammed worship, Ashley reminded us that learning can be uncomfortable and we need to be attentive to what is important to others in deepening their relationship with God.

We participated in workshops on a variety of topics relevant to our Section including what makes us feel at home in a Quaker meeting, life reflections, the Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration and how we can best do nominations, Europe & Middle East Young Friends, the Migrants Help Association in Hungary and Borgo Basino – a new model for community sustainability networking in Italy. We heard about the recent work of FWCC, QUNO, QCEA and Woodbrooke. All of these gave us insights and learnings that we take home with us to our respective meetings.

Tony Frei from Evangelical Friends Churches international in Hungary shared with us his experience of building bridges with Friends in East Africa. We were inspired by James Peter, who came to Hungary as a refugee himself and with unshakeable faith and hope took action to address the hopelessness that was causing conflict in the refugee camps by organising non-violence and then computer training. Migrants Help Association (now First Step), the organisation he formed, continues to offer skills courses and builds bridges between the Hungarian and migrant communities.

We would like to thank Vera Varady of Budapest Worship Group for organising the logistics of our visit to her beautiful city. In one of our epilogues we heard about the ‘thin places’ in Celtic folklore, where heaven and earth are closer together and it is easy to slip between the two. Through deep worship and strong community we can create ‘thin places’ wherever we are. We return to our homes reinvigorated and mindful of our responsibility to extend a welcome to everyone who crosses our paths and whose paths we cross and be patterns and examples in all countries, places, islands, nations, wherever we are.

In Friendship, i vennskap, i vänskap, i venskab, ystävydessä, bien amicalement, in Freundschaft, in Vriendschap, en amistad, in amicizia, v přátelství, draudzība, a barátságban, sōpruses, w przyjaźni, le cairdeas, fī alsadaqa.

Signed on behalf of EMES

EMES clerk Sue Glover Frykman

(Epistle committee: Tracey Martin, Cecilia Clementel, Daniel Clarke Flynn)

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Présentation aux membres de BLYM de notre ami Delson Malumbe des Quakers de la République Démocratique du Congo à la Maison Quaker Bruxelles, dimanche, le 19 mai 2019.

*SOCIETE RELIGIEUSE DES AMIS*  
**COMMUNAUTE DES ÉGLISES EVANGELIQUES DES AMIS AU CONGO**  
CEEACO – RD CONGO

## 1. HISTORIQUE

La Société religieuse des amis a été implantée en RD Congo en 1989 dans le village d’Abeka/Province du Sud-Kivu par Mkoko Boseka en collaboration avec Dunia Eba Mikongo, Amosi Etungano, Assumani Wa

Ndanga avec le soutien de la Communauté Quaker du Burundi appelée 'Bangezi' qui veut dire « amis » en Kirundi.

Elle travailla ainsi comme une Assemblée trimestrielle de Kibimba (de la communauté mère du Burundi).

Elle obtient alors la personnalité civile en 1991 (9 décembre), l'année à laquelle le premier pasteur congolais le Rév. Mkoko Boseka a été ordonné.

Quelques mois plus tard, arrivèrent les premiers missionnaires Quakers des USA dont M. Calvin Coday et Mme. Twila Coday, son épouse.

En 1995, 4 Assemblées mensuelles ont été créés à Abeka, Atungulu, Mi'enge, et Kigongo et cinq pasteurs ont ainsi été ordonnés.

En 2000, toutes ces quatre Assemblées mensuelles sont devenues des Assemblées trimestrielles.

À partir de 2001, la première Assemblée annuelle a été tenue.

Aujourd'hui, la Communauté Quaker de la RD Congo compte :

- 8 Assemblées trimestrielles,
- 27 Assemblées mensuelles,
- 54 Eglises locales, parmi ces églises 10 sont des locataires,
- 42 pasteurs ;
- Plus de 5000 membres en RD Congo et une centaine en Tanzanie.

## **2. ORGANISATION DE LA COMMUNAUTE**

- A. Conférence (réunion annuelle)
- B. Conseil exécutif ;
- C. Commission de contrôle ;
- D. Conseil d'administration ;
- E. Assemblées trimestrielles (l'équivalent de la Région/District ecclésiastique) ;
- F. Assemblées mensuelles (l'équivalent de la Paroisse) ;
- G. Eglises locales.

## **3. PROGRAMME DU CULTE DOMINICAL** *(cas de la Paroisse Moria à Karhale / Ville de Bukavu) :*

- Prières d'ouverture : individuelles et collective (pour le pays, la communauté des amis partout au monde, ...) ;
- Chants d'ensemble ;
- Témoignages ;
- Chants des chorales ;
- Dons, offrandes, contributions ...

- Chants des chorales ;
- Annonces ;
- Chants d'ensemble de louanges et adoration (dances comprises) ;
- Enseignements bibliques (Lectures et prédication) ;
- Prières de clôtures (intercession, ...).

Le culte dure en moyennes 2h30 à 3h00.

D'autres activités peuvent se réaliser après ou avant le culte (comme l'école de dimanche pour les enfants, les messes des jeunes) ou au courant de la semaine (comme les réunions des mamans, les groupes des prières, les visites, ...).

#### **4. VALEURS**

Communauté – Transparence – Paix – Sainteté – Humilité – Egalité – Intégrité

#### **5. REALISATIONS**

- Évangélisation au Sud et Nord-Kivu (Est de la RD Congo) ;
- Un centre hospitalier (clinique) à Abeka ;
- Centre d'amis pour la paix – CAP ;
- Ateliers Couture de femmes ;
- Formation pastorale et en paix ;
- Construction 4 écoles primaires et 2 écoles secondaires ;
- Radio évangéliques (Radio Lwenge) à Baraka.

#### **6. PROJETS**

- Doter des Assemblées, Paroisses et Eglises locales des bureaux et locaux ;
- Etendre les activités Quaker dans toute la République ;
- Ouvrir des écoles de formation sur le Quakerisme ;
- Centre psycho-social et professionnel pour encadrement des femmes violées et victimes des guerres.

#### **7. DEFIS**

- Situation sécuritaire et socio-politique du pays ;
- Faible collaboration entre les Eglises des Amis ;
- Pas assez de ressources.

*Aksanti ! matondo mingi ! merci !*

Présenté par MALUMBE Delson  
Jeune Quaker de la RD Congo  
[malumbedelson75@gmail.com](mailto:malumbedelson75@gmail.com)

le 19/05/2019 au Quaker House  
après le Meeting de BLYM  
à Bruxelles

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## **Quaker Congo Partnership UK**

<http://www.quakercongo.org.uk/>

Quaker Congo Partnership UK (QCP UK) has worked with Congolese Quakers in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) since 2009. Our core projects - a rural hospital, trauma counselling, supporting orphans, peace building and a microcredit scheme for women - benefit 40,000 people living close to Lake Tanganyika and the Congolese border with Burundi. Our partner is called CEEACO (Community of the Evangelical Friends' Churches in Congo). Its vital services are available to those of all religions and none.

This is one of the poorest areas in the world, with incomes of less than \$1 per day. Although very rural, it is heavily populated. Levels of poverty, malaria, malnutrition, infant mortality and illiteracy are high as are incidences of trauma and sexual violence. The area was beset by terrible wars from 1996 – 2003 in which some five million people died.

To this day depleted militias roam, causing occasional violence and bloodshed, There is little infrastructure and funding from national and regional governments is virtually non-existent. Apart from QCP UK, there are few other NGOs working in the area.

Despite the terrible effects of war and unrest in the eastern DRC, CEEACO has done remarkable work, managing to keep its services going and to develop its project work. For more information, contact [quakercongo@gmail.com](mailto:quakercongo@gmail.com)

Co-clerks: Catherine Putz and Margaret Gregory

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## **Quaker Meetings and Events**

### **Border Meeting 2019**

6 – 8 September 2019

[Bezinningshuis Regina Carmeli](#) a Catholic convent in Sittard, Nederlands

<https://www.reginacarmeli.info/> Contact: [border.meeting@gmail.com](mailto:border.meeting@gmail.com)

### **France Yearly Meeting 2019**

25 – 29 October. Domaine Lyon Saint Joseph, France.

<http://www.domaine-lyon-saint-joseph.fr/>

### **BLYM Residential Meeting 2019**

*Trusting the Light in our daily lives*

*Faire confiance à la Lumière dans mon quotidien*

*Vertrouwen op het Licht in ons dagelijks leven*

15 – 17 November

Drongen Abbey in a village about 6 km from Ghent in Flanders.

[www.oudeabdij.be/english.html](http://www.oudeabdij.be/english.html)

Speaker: Paul Parker, Recording Clerk of Britain Yearly Meeting

### **Quakers and Business Group Conference 2019**

<https://qandb.org/>

Thursday 28th November 2019

[Friends House, Euston Road, London](#)

### **EMES Annual Meeting 2020**

30 April – 3 May

L'Enclos Rey, 57 Rue Violet, 75015 Paris. An all-age conference centre, Catholic convent, and retirement centre in the 15th arrondissement.

### **Border Meeting 2020**

Probably 11 – 13 September 2020 at Centre Culturelle Saint-Thomas Strasbourg <http://centre-st-thomas.fr/>

### **Border Meeting 2021**

Germany

### **Border Meeting 2022**

Belgium

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### **Deepening the spiritual: exploring the role of the elder**

In a faith with no leaders, Helen Oldridge explores the role of elders in supporting the spiritual side of Quaker meetings.

<https://www.quaker.org.uk/blog/exploring-the-role-of-the-elder>

### **Clerking**

New publication hot off the press by [Judith Roads](#), a Woodbrooke tutor on Clerking who holds a doctorate in the language of early modern Quakerism: "Sweetness of Unity: Three Hundred Years of Quaker Minuting". (c) Judith Roads 2019) ISBN: 978-1-5272-4085-8. 64 pages. For copies write: [roads4@me.com](mailto:roads4@me.com)

### **What Charity Chairs can learn from the Quaker Business Method**

[https://www.associationofchairs.org.uk/2019/04/10/what-charity-chairs-can-learn-from-the-quaker-business-method/?fbclid=IwAR2KuMgZjtEWCTS7Musr4v9\\_CwiN6Jox0t6\\_kzDGuD5T-UV\\_4A86zQxuCtk](https://www.associationofchairs.org.uk/2019/04/10/what-charity-chairs-can-learn-from-the-quaker-business-method/?fbclid=IwAR2KuMgZjtEWCTS7Musr4v9_CwiN6Jox0t6_kzDGuD5T-UV_4A86zQxuCtk)

### **When Quaker Process Fails**

<https://www.friendsjournal.org/when-quaker-process-fails/>

New QuakerSpeak video, 29 March 2019:

## **The Power of Loving Your Enemy**

<http://quakerspeak.com/the-power-of-loving-your-enemy/>

A review of "Waging Peace" David Hartsough © 2014, PM Press  
ISBN: 978-1-62963-034-2 was published in the 2 December 2016 issue of *the Friend* and the Summer 2016 issue of *Among Friends*.

<https://peaceworkersus.org/books/waging-peace-new-book-by-david-hartsough/>

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## **QUAKER QUISINE 1 -- MIXED BEAN SALAD**

Use a variety of beans, either fresh, dried or canned – butter beans, green/French beans, soybeans, kidney beans, chickpeas, pinto beans, peas and lentils ... whatever type you like, but make sure there is a variety.

Dried beans will need to be soaked overnight before use; canned beans will need to be washed thoroughly and drained.

Put all the beans in a large bowl and add a fairly large quantity of finely chopped parsley.

Prepare a sufficient quantity of vinaigrette – 2/3 olive oil to 1/3 vinegar (balsamic or other type), salt and pepper to taste, one or two cloves of crushed garlic, mustard. You can also add lemon juice if you wish.

Add vinaigrette to beans and mix well. Leave overnight if possible before eating. Mix well again before serving.

Phil Gaskell

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## **Belgium and Luxembourg Yearly Meeting (BLYM)**

Email [quakerclerk@gmail.com](mailto:quakerclerk@gmail.com)

Website <http://qkr.be/>

**Meetings for Worship** at Quaker House Brussels, Square Ambiorix 50:  
Sundays 11:00 – 12:00

**Meetings for Worship** in Ghent (Gent in Flemish/Dutch):

<https://www.facebook.com/QuakersGent/>

Every second Wednesday between 20h and 22h and

Every fourth Sunday between 11h and 13h at

vzw Trafiek (Haspelstraat 37, Pierkespark, Gent).

**Meetings for Worship** in Luxembourg City:

Friends in Luxembourg usually meet on the last

Sunday of a month at 11.00 at the Amnesty

International office, 23, rue des États-Unis, 1019

Luxembourg. We do not meet in December. July and

August can vary. If there are three people who want to

meet and we can arrange getting the keys, we'll meet

in those months.

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I have come to experience the benefits of silent, active listening  
and want to practice that in all my affairs.

At the end of the day arrives awe and gratitude  
for this unique, temporary and necessary part of creation  
that I have been called to play.

All I have to do each day is wake up, show up, and turn towards the Light,  
choosing the Positive over my Darkness within,  
and the rest develops through power greater than myself.

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The BLYM Newsletter is yours in which to share information and reflections that aid in your spiritual journey. It is currently distributed blind-copy to 70 email addresses from the BLYM clerk's list of members/attenders and to over 200 other Quaker addresses worldwide.

Contributions are encouraged from all BLYM Members, Attenders, Young Friends, and Children and are welcome in English, in Belgium's three official languages (French, Dutch/Flemish, and German), and in a contributor's native language.

In drafting a submission, contributors are invited to consider these two questions:

- *Does it support my personal spiritual growth and that of others?*
- *Does it help build community inside or outside of Quaker society (faith in action)?*

Send contributions to [daniel\\_flynn39@yahoo.com](mailto:daniel_flynn39@yahoo.com) at any time.

Written contributions from all who receive the Newsletter are welcome.

If you no longer wish to receive the Newsletter, please let us know.

If you know others who might be interested in receiving it, please invite them to contact us.

- In Friendship • Met hartelijke groeten • Bien amicalement
- Mit freundlichen Grüßen • En amistad • In amicizia • Na amizade

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From our BLYM archives:

## **QUAKER HISTORY: A brief history of Belgium & Luxembourg Yearly Meeting (Part One)**

In the beginning there were just a few individual Friends and Attenders in Brussels who had come to work in a European or an international context.

In 1974 they called on the Friends World Committee for Consultation – Europe and Near East Section, Friends Peace and Service and the International Relations Committee of London Yearly Meeting to sponsor a meeting called by some Friends in Brussels who had developed a concern to set up some sort of a Quaker Representation with the European Economic Community. The meeting issued the Wuppertal Statement which attracted much attention from Friends in Europe and in the USA. For the proper consideration of a Quaker representation in Brussels, the concern needed to be tested and supported by a much wider platform than just Friends in Brussels and a few Europe-minded others. The first step forward had to be the structuring of a Meeting for Worship in Brussels, which could “own” the Brussels representation concern. Thus 1975 saw the consolidation of the informal Quaker group in Brussels.

Friends had been holding a Meeting for Worship each Sunday for four weeks at the Ecumenical Centre in Rue de la Loi, when it was decided to hold a first Meeting for Business on 2 March 1975. The minutes of that meeting are still unnumbered, indicating that the routine was not yet there. It was not self-evident for a small group of very busy people with young children to start a Meeting after the manner of Friends in a country with three cultures and languages, and no tradition of Quakerism. The very few existing Belgian Friends were in touch with and under the care of France Yearly Meeting. The British and Irish Friends living in Brussels were not sure that this was the right way for them to go. They had the patience to follow the “right procedure” for setting up a new Meeting for Worship and sought advice through the proper channels of consultation. FWCC-ENES in its legitimate role as a parent body accepted the Brussels Meeting as a member of the Religious Society of Friends.

A minute of the Meeting for Business of the Brussels Worship Group of March 15<sup>th</sup> illustrates the discussion: “Marjorie de Hartog took over the office of clerk (from Brian Kendall, who had been Acting Clerk) and asked Friends and others present to consider the role of the new Meeting. Should it come under the care of a Yearly Meeting such as France, the Netherlands or London, or, given the unusual transient position of most of the members, should we come under the care of FWCC-ENES, thus avoiding attachment to a specific Anglo-Saxon body?”

A lively discussion followed and finally the Meeting gave Marjorie de Hartog authority to pursue this matter during her forthcoming visit to London, when she would visit Friends House, and seek their advice and council. It was agreed that any publicity or Epistle relating to the new Meeting be deferred until this matter was settled. The Clerk then read a passage from Philadelphia “Faith and Practice” describing the appointment of Committees of the Meeting”

Two weeks later the Clerk called a special meeting at the home of Jan and Marjorie de Hartog, attended by eight Friends and Margaret Gibbins, Executive Secretary of FWCC-

ENES. The Clerk - representing the sense of the Meeting for Business - shared the strongly-felt need of the group to be brought under the care of a body such as FWCC-ENES, rather than an existing Yearly Meeting for the following reasons:

a) the schismatic situation that exists in Belgium between the French- and Dutch-speaking populations and our wish to remain available to everyone. The desire to establish a more structured Meeting than existed hitherto. In recent years, Brussels had gone through a period of great change and development and has now become an international city, truly the capital of Europe. People of many countries now live and work in Brussels, and the Friends here, wishing to reach out and minister to their needs, find it imperative that a properly affiliated Monthly Meeting be established without delay.

b) Friends attending the Meeting would apply for transfer of membership to a Brussels Monthly Meeting and present Attenders would be able to apply for full membership.”

At a Meeting for Business of 18 June 1975 the Clerk read a letter from Margaret Gibbins confirming the Minute concerning Brussels' application as discussed (and accepted) at the Annual Meeting of FWCC-ENES in the Lebanon. The Middle East Yearly Meeting also met on that occasion and only this September would the next one be held, which has now become impossible again. This obviously is a great disappointment for all our Friends in the Lebanon, in Israel and the West Bank, and in Jordan.

Now being accepted and registered with the appropriate Friends' bodies as a Monthly Meeting, Brussels Monthly Meeting could accept Friends into membership and it could seek support for a concern from the wider Quaker community. Brussels Monthly Meeting experienced a sudden expansion of members, as at the Meeting for Business of 17 September 1975 eight transfers of membership and applications for membership had been received, including one from Fred Tize of Antwerp, a Dutchman then already in his seventies who, living in Antwerp, didn't want to be registered with the Netherlands Yearly Meeting. Fred Tize would soon be instrumental in starting Meeting for Worship in Antwerp. The Belgian Friends Van Droogenbroeck transferred their membership from France Yearly Meeting to Brussels MM. Brussels MM was still holding its Meeting for Worship at the Ecumenical Centre in Rue de la Loi and this is where Fred took a few Antwerpians, including myself, to our first Quaker Meeting. The first ministry I received was a query over whether an armed policeman (in Belgium all police are armed) would be allowed into Meeting for Worship .... Somehow over time we seem to have lost the spontaneous instant translation of ministry which we used to hold dear because it is inclusive.

Not much later came the exciting time of moving to the first Quaker House in Avenue de la Brabanconne 28. It would house the meetings of the Brussels Concern Advisory Committee – the predecessor of the Quaker Council for European Affairs – and later the offices of QCEA, as well as the Meeting for Worship. On Saturday afternoon, the front room would be cleared of desks and things to make space for a Friends' circle.

By the end of 1978 a Meeting for Worship had come together in the shadow of the cathedral of Antwerp. It was a solid group with membership still held by Brussels Monthly Meeting. With so many Friends and Attenders living and meeting in Antwerp as well as an international group, including Vivien Flynn and Franco Perna, holding

Meeting for Worship in Luxembourg, it was decided to change the name of “Brussels Monthly Meeting” to “Belgium and Luxembourg Monthly Meeting” as the minute 78/13 of 24 February 1978 reads.

Up to the late 1980s Brussels and Antwerp would alternate the holding of Meeting for Business between Antwerp and Brussels.

Eventually the Antwerp group would diminish because some British families based in Antwerp moved back to Britain, others passed away or started exploring other forms of spirituality. When the meeting room was no longer available, the smaller group held meeting for worship in a private house for many year, which has its own drawbacks.

Later it was decided to attend in the Meeting for Worship in Brussels. It seems that the time is right to hold a regular Meeting for Worship in Antwerp again.

Three years ago, passing through from the USA to the Netherlands, Marjorie de Hartog attended Meeting for Worship in Brussels. As Elisabeth Baker was travelling, I was the only one present in a meeting of about 25 on that occasion which still knew her and it made me realise how many Friends and much time had passed and how blessed Belgium and Luxembourg Monthly Meeting has been sitting in the heart of Europe.

It is said that we will be living in chaotic times for the next hundred years. Do we have the deep roots that bring forth spiritual grounding?

Anita Wuyts