

Hamilton Friends December 2017 Newsletter



Advices and Queries

13. Do not assume that vocal ministry is never to be your part. Faithfulness and sincerity in speaking, even very briefly, may open the way to fuller ministry from others. When prompted to speak, wait patiently to know that the leading and the time are right, but do not let a sense of your own unworthiness hold you back. Pray that your ministry may arise from deep experience, and trust that words will be given to you. Try to speak audibly and distinctly, and with sensitivity to the needs of others. Beware of speaking predictably or too often, and of making additions towards the end of a meeting when it was well left before.

Coffee List

Dec 10 – Shirla and Wilf Rutland

Coffee: NO ONE IS SIGNED UP FOR COFFEE HOSPITALITY AFTER THIS SUNDAY! Friends, is this a service you can offer to our Meeting? It's not a hard one. You come about 20-30 minutes ahead and set up the coffee maker, for which instructions are posted, and heat water for tea. Tea is not a big seller these days, so putting out the kettle with a variety of tea bags is probably the best approach.



Cups and saucers and mugs, spoons, and sugar, milk, and cream should be readied to set out on the table after meeting. Coffee hosts may need to bring cream and milk, and usually also bring some treats for the refreshment time, but we do have back-up cookies on hand in case this isn't possible for you.

Calendar

16 December: Memorial Meeting for Caroline Johnson, 11 a.m.

7 January: Meeting for Worship for Business

14 January: Potluck lunch and presentation by Ahmad Kanji of Toronto MM on Syrian culture and customs





Canadian Friends Service Committee asks Friends across Canadian Yearly Meeting 3 questions. Bev brought the questions to the last Meeting for Worship for Business, but here they are in their expanded form. She asks that Friends consider them, and if they have responses, she will gladly receive them for forwarding to CFSC.

Queries

1. How can the connection between CFSC and Monthly Meetings/Worship Groups be strengthened? CFSC has asked for Monthly Meeting/Worship Group Liaisons to be named by the Meetings and Worship Groups. Liaisons receive updates from CFSC once a month and are asked to share these with their Meetings. CFSC also sends out an e-newsletter once a month, and Quaker Concern (with longer articles) three times per year. Could the use of liaisons, newsletters, quakerservice.ca, social media, and CFSC visits to Meetings be improved? Could other strategies be used to establish CFSC's presence at Meetings/Worship Groups?
2. How can CFSC receive more suitable nominees for all its committee positions? Are there ways that CFSC could improve its nominations process? How can CFSC, CYM, and the Meetings ensure that nominations are being put forward? How can we all ensure that the nominees are being put forward because of their interest and/ or their experience in the position for which they are being nominated?
3. Is the value of simplicity being respected in CFSC's work? Are CFSC's program committees working on too many concerns? What are the pros and cons of adopting more concerns vs. being more focused? How can we take on the work of Friends and not put too high a workload on our staff and volunteers?

-Submitted by Bev Shepard

We're busy at CFSC planning major conferences and symposiums and we've just had a refreshing and worshipful weekend of committee meetings. Here are this month's points to please raise with your Meeting/Worship Group:

1. Amnesty International is running a campaign called *Occupation at 50* to ask Canada to stop importing products from illegal Israeli settlements. As this campaign is closely aligned with Canadian Yearly Meeting's 2014 minute about the illegal settlements (see <http://quakerservice.ca/our-work/peace/israel-palestine/>) Friends may be interested in signing the petition to be delivered by Amnesty International to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau: <http://quakerservice.ca/Occupationat50> (this link will redirect you to Amnesty's petition).

-Submitted by Paul Dekar

Synthetic biology conference a success

It's rare to have the chance to hear from a leading expert in their field. But it's rarer still to hear them offer a presentation together with a leading critic of that field! This is just what happened at the highly successful conference on synthetic biology recently hosted at Friends House in Toronto. We're working to get the conference video edited and online in high definition. In the meantime, you can access

- presentation slides: <https://www.slideshare.net/CanadianCouncilofChurches>
- low-definition recordings: <https://www.united-in-learning.com/index.php/redesigning-the-tree-of-life>
- the World Council of Churches article: <https://www.oikoumene.org/en/press-centre/news/re-engineering-life-forms-church-forum-raises-concerns> and
- the *Anglican Journal* article: <http://www.anglicanjournal.com/articles/food-culture-food-life-food-ritual-ethics-synthetic-biology-examined-conference/> about the event.

You can also learn more about synthetic biology at <http://quakerservice.ca/syntheticbiology>

-Submitted by Matthew Legge via Paul Dekar



Canadian Yearly Meeting has established a relationship with a group of French-speaking Evangelical Friends, refugees from violent situations in several African nations, in churches in Ottawa and Quebec. If you're interested in knowing more about these Friends, visit

: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/au99kxsguibwfr6/AACkC9wyiezknKa-7uyGDbnDa?dl=0>. CYM has granted the group some funding to support workshops of healing in the various communities, based on the model of Alternatives to Violence Project.

-Submitted by Bev Shepard



For Friends interested in our upcoming sessions on Truth and Reconciliation with Indigenous People, there is some background material at <http://richardpreston.ca>

-Submitted by Dick Preston

Cambridge Worship Group: The Cambridge Worship Group will not be meeting in December. We resume meeting in January on Friday January 26, 2018 at 2 pm at Carol Leigh and Glenna's house. Please email clwehking@gmail.com if you would like to attend.

-Submitted by Glenna Janzen