

## **CEG Minutes of Meeting for Worship for Business, Gdansk, Poland 2023**

### **CEG 2023/01**

Yesterday we heard news from Friends and Friends' concerns about the relationship between our spiritual and social growth. We also heard greetings from Friends and meetings from Manchester and Alton UK, Germany, Scotland, Sweden and FWCC EMES. We received greetings from our Friend Jalka.

### **CEG 2023/02**

We asked Cathy Butler to join Gerry Turner as our Elder for this weekend. Friends gratefully accepted the willingness of Magda Knapowska, Hansjörg Rothe, Nadyezhda Spassenko and Arne Springorum to serve as the Epistle drafting Committee.

### **CEG 2023/03**

As a gathering we have no new official members. We briefly heard views from Friends about how to encourage and support seekers, attenders, and new members for example by listing responsibilities, by receiving copies of "Advices and Queries". This theme will be followed further on Sunday morning. We currently have 35 international members in 9 countries, including Georgia.

### **CEG 2023/04**

Magda Gadomska from the Nominations Committee gave us the report from their year's work. The Nominations Committee brought the names of Cathy Butler and Gerry Turner to be Assistant Treasures for one year. We also asked Liz Coling to serve as a co-Clerk for another term of three years to the end of CEG 2026. The meeting welcomed their willingness to take on these tasks.

### **CEG 2023/05**

Arne Springorum, our Treasurer, presented the financial report:

At the end of 2022 we had 7889 EUR, 888 EUR more than in 2021, however these numbers are influenced by funds we are receiving and dispersing for Ukrainian refugee help through our Funding for Ukraine Group (FUG). Filtering for that influence, the money held by CEG would be a total of 5628 EUR, 1373 EUR less than in 2021. CEG expenses and income in 2022 were mainly connected to our CEG meeting in Zbraslav near Prague in June and the preparatory meeting, in Brno in November. The current travel fund balance stands at 106 EUR, and we will soon reapply for another grant from the Spiritual Gift Fund administered by EMES and are grateful for this opportunity. The remaining funds are 2981 EUR of free unbound CEG money, and 2540 EUR still reserved for the CEG documentation project. All CEG funds are kept in two separate CZK and EUR bank accounts under the care of Czech Friends. The Meeting accepted the report.

## **CEG 2023/06**

Our Clerk gave us a short introduction to the draft Statement of Identity of the Central European Gathering and reminded us of the first two points we approved last year in Prague.

1. What is the CEG? The CEG is a Quaker entity which is part of EMES and exists to provide a common meeting ground for Friends and friends of Friends in Central Europe. It aims at holding annual meetings to further fellowship, worship together, and the exchange of information on matters of common Quaker concern. We currently accept the necessary support of the International Membership Applications Committee.

2. What Area is covered by the CEG?

The CEG currently serves Friends in the area between the Baltic, Adriatic and Black Seas and welcomes f/Friends and visitors from further afield.

The Meeting accepted the following draft proposal:

3. Who is to be informed of CEG events such as preparatory meetings and MfW? CEG is open to all, but specifically invited to the CEG are:

- 1) those who are members of the Religious Society of Friends and reside within the CEG Catchment Area or are explicitly invited by the CEG from outside,
- 2) identify themselves as Friends or friends of CEG Friends,
- 3) are currently or historically associated with CEG
- 4) those who Friends think could benefit from attending or whose attendance could benefit CEG.

The Recording clerk responsible for sending out invitations to CEG events should take care to invite those who have attended any CEG event in the last two years minimum. They have a right to individual invitations to all CEG sessions for the two calendar years following the calendar year in which they last attended a CEG meeting.

4. What are the aspirations of the CEG?

- The CEG expects to become a Yearly Meeting with a name to be decided and will work to ensure that all individuals in the catchment area might have assistance in identifying or founding local worship groups or meetings, and the YM will also work to nurture existing meetings.
- That all national gatherings in the area might, if they wish, be assisted in forming national area meetings.
- CEG YM will take over the granting of membership to persons in the catchment area.
- Groups, meetings, and individuals in the CEG area are invited to become part of this Yearly Meeting.

## **CEG 2023/07**

In our fascinating discussion on the name of the YM we were concerned not to be exclusive. A geographical name such as Central Europe could be misleading. However, names associated with three seas, or Concordia would not be understandable by anyone outside today's Meeting. We had a lot of brilliant ideas, but the name is not that important, we are excited be at the birth of our new yearly meeting. Michael Eccles informed us that we will need to ask EMES for us to

be recognized as a yearly meeting and for this we need a name. The meeting finally chose the simplest, Central European YM.

On this 26<sup>th</sup> day of May 2023 in Gdansk, Poland, Central Europe, on the edge of the Baltic Sea, in the presence of 39 Friends in person and online, the CEG became the Central European Yearly Meeting. We are looking forward to formalizing this via EMES.

### **CEG 2023/08**

We heard the reports from our representatives to EMES, QCEA, QUNO and also from the Funding for Ukraine Group. Friends shared their thoughts, questions, and concerns. We thank our representatives for their work.

### **CEG 2023/09**

Our Friend Kasia Kaczmarkiewicz gave us a report about her progress on the CEG archiving project, in which she is supported by Jalka and Arne. The legal and financial issues were finally agreed and Kasia is happy to have started interviewing Friends in person and online about the history and current status of CEG. Other Friends are asked to complete a questionnaire for Kasia, if they wish, and she will use all relevant materials in the final book.

### **CEG 2023/10**

Bearing with our new privileges and responsibilities as CEYM, Friends approve the following donations in the year 2023 from our existing funds:

100 EUR to FWCC EMES

100 EUR to QUNO

100 EUR to QCEA

In return we encourage Friends and meetings and worship groups to consider including CEYM in their giving's / donation plans.

### **CEG 2023/11**

The Meeting gratefully accepted Éva's offer to host CEYM 2024 in Hungary and will support them in anyway needed. The date will be decided.

We will meet for the preparatory meeting in Prague, in autumn (20-22 October 2023), and will also meet in the winter.

Kasia Kaczmarkiewicz  
Liz Coling (Co-Clerks)