**YAF Report for 2016-2017**

**Leadership and Communication**

Kate Oberg has been the sole convener of the YAFS from summer 2016 until mid-way through summer 2017. Erin Murphy and Rebecca Nelson have come forward to co-convene the YAF group. This is great news for Young Adult Friends. We are very excited to have new energy in the leadership of Young Adult Friends.

In terms of outreach YAFS have maintained the Meetup.com site. Kate Oberg thinks it is a worthwhile endeavor to have as those interested in Quakerism can easily find the YAFS and the meeting as a whole. Many people have found YAFS this way, and it lets all know about Friends Meeting of Washington, not just people who identify as “young.”

The YAF listserv has continued to provide a forum for YAFs to convene outside of the meeting. The listserv has been used to disseminate information and coordinate in-person gatherings. There are currently 253 members of the YAF listserv. This is 5 fewer than the previous year, partly because of Kate Oberg’s efforts to be responsive to removal requests and also contact members who may not be active or consider themselves YAFs still. Potential other platforms for the YAF listserv are being actively considered.

**Young Adult Friends and the wider meeting**

Many YAFs have been active in Meeting wide events and serving on committees. Of Young Adult Friends that identify with the YAF group (rather than people that do not attend Young Adult Friends events even if they are in the typical age group) these have included: Brian Lutenegger & Justin Kwong, (Property), Chris Wickham (Records & Handbook), Jorge Sanchez (Hospitality). Young Adult Friends have also been a driving presence on the FMW Sanctuary Taskforce, including Rebecca Harris, who recently agreed to be co-clerk of the taskforce, Erin Murphy, Brian Lutenegger, Anastacia Ebi, and Rebecca Nelson. Kate Oberg is on the Scholarship committee for Langley Hill Friends Meeting.

**Social and Spiritual Activities**

The Young Adult Friends continue to try to meet at least monthly basis for a shared meal. Rebecca Nelson hosted several gatherings at her home, and there were several potluck dinners at the Meeting House. The YAFs also sometimes go to brunch after Meeting on Sundays.

Other social events have included a trip kayaking on the Potomac.

Starting in September, Gene Throwe has hosted a weekly Bible study with the FMW YAFs and multi-denominational Queer for Christ group on Wednesdays.

Each YAF event attracts 4-10 Friends although it is very varied who shows up. Many young Friends attend Meeting for Worship on a regular basis and in that, Kate Oberg thinks YAF has a very strong representation especially when including the different times and locations.

Erin Murphy and Rebecca Nelson conducted a poll with the Young Adult Friends to determine what they’re looking for from their membership in this community. The results indicated that most YAFs are primarily interested in “Making new friends with at least some shared values,” “Sharing spiritual concerns with people in a similar life situation,” “Participating in community service activities,” and “Learning about events and opportunities,” in that order.

YAFs indicated they were interested in 2-3 activities per month, and the most popular options were “Outdoor activities like hiking, tubing, kayaking, camping,” “Social justice activism activities,” “Quaker or other activities,” “Post-Meeting brunches,” and “Mid-week evening dinners.”

Email (Google Group), Facebook, and a Shared Google Calendar were the most popular options for communicating with YAFs about activities - while MeetUp was listed as an option, YAFs did not select it. However, MeetUp does advise participants by email about upcoming events, so that functionality could make it useful even if YAFs don’t directly think of MeetUp as a useful tool.

Two-thirds of YAF respondents live in DC, while one-third live in Maryland and Virginia.

**Budget Use**

The Young Adult Friends did not spend nearly as much of their budget as was possible this past year, resulting in a reduced request for budget this year.

**Challenges and the future**

The challenges that face YAFS are much the same as those affecting the general Quaker community. We are disheartened and challenged by the political strife and decisions taking place on the national and international stages. Many of us have been drawn to work on these particular challenges – in particular the challenges of immigrants and the undocumented in the United States. This has led many of us to be drawn to social activism. Many YAFS participated together in various protests including the Women’s March as well as the march in response to what has been referred to as the Muslim Ban and the March for Science.

In the future, we hope to maintain a schedule of 2-3 activities per month, with a mix of spiritual and social focuses. We solicited ideas for social activities that we will be scheduling on a new, shared Google Calendar to help coordinate between co-conveners and FMW YAFs.

Respectfully submitted,

Kate Oberg, Rebecca Nelson, and Erin Murphy