**Anchoring Committee Report for the Traveling Ministry of Mey Hasbrook**

Submitted by Clerk Caroline Webber to Pastoral Care Committee, KFM, June 13, 2020

Members:

Sally Weaver Sommer, Broadmead Friends Monthly Meeting, LEYM

Merry Stanford, Red Cedar Monthly Meeting, LEYM

Caroline Webber, Kalamazoo Friends Monthly Meeting, LEYM

Bonnie Zimmer, Gainesville [FL] Monthly Meeting, Southeastern Yearly Meeting,

Fellowship of Quakers in the Arts (board member)

The Anchoring Committee continued its transition from former clerk Kathy Ossmann to Caroline Webber with accompanying member Bonnie Zimmer. Over much of Summer 2019 the Committee discerned how best to expand its size. Bonnie Zimmer, with Kathy Ossmann (then KFM co-clerk), developed a screening process for naming individuals to its committee. As no KFM members felt called to join at that time, the Anchoring Committee approached Lake Erie Yearly Meeting (LEYM) for assistance. This coincided with the request by KFM for LEYM to endorse Mey's traveling minute. LEYM agreed to endorse it but “suggested requiring a member of LEYM not a member of Kalamazoo meeting be a part of Mey’s Anchoring Committee”[[1]](#footnote-1) since Mey’s traveling minute would carry its endorsement. Through the work of KFM’s Pastoral Care Committee, Kathy Ossmann, and the co-clerks of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting (LEYM)’s Ministry & Nurture two LEYM members stepped forward and accepted Pastoral Care’s invitation to join the Anchoring Committee in September 2019. They are Merry Stanford of Red Cedar Meeting and Sally Weaver Sommer of Broadmead Meeting. As a result, the committee’s capacity to provide support has grown significantly. The Anchoring Committee clerk acknowledges and is grateful to all three members for their contributions in time, experience, and wisdom to the Committee’s work. The Anchoring Committee expresses appreciation to the Pastoral Care Committee for its ongoing assistance and to Friends’ participation in the spiritual gifts meeting of worship (noted below) in preparing the FWCC application, and Friends’ holding the ministry in the Light during Mey’s travels among Britain YM (Aug-Sept 2019) and New England YM (Feb-March 2020).

The Anchoring Committee committed itself this year to support Mey in discernment and in carrying out her ministry where Spirit leads. The Committee has witnessed deep spiritual growth take place in Mey’s ministry as it continues to evolve.

Mey was selected by the Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) Section of the Americas to join the Traveling Ministry Corps starting in 2020. The Committee provided spiritual support in the application process by overseeing a spiritual gift-naming session in July 2019. Members reflected with Mey on her widening travels to meetings in England, the Midwest, and New England this past year and how these encounters enriched and extended her vocal ministry about right relationship and around climate change. Committee members asked both monthly meeting and yearly meeting members to hold Mey in the Light of the Spirit during these travels. Starting in March, the covid-19 pandemic has presented challenges and opportunities. The Committee has discerned with Mey how to sustain and nurture the growth of the ministry among both KFM and wider Friends by serving online. This has included initiating a weekly worship group (Open Heart Worship Group), re-envisioning her role in Traveling Ministry Corps of FWCC as a virtual ministry corps, and being invited to present a workshop during LEYM annual sessions.

Mey’s spiritual grounding in her ministry has been developing in new ways throughout the past year.  When her traveling ministry began, much of her focus was on the art and on the relationship of the art to both herself and to the individuals with whom she interacted.  The focus gradually shifted from the art to a spoken ministry, and over the last year the spiritual focus of the ministry has sharpened into a deep concern related to Right Relationships.  This concern is deeper than the concepts often associated with Right Relationships: earth care in seeking to bring about a ‘greener’ way of living or decolonization as a way of seeking equity or justice.  Rather, it is a spiritual sense of bringing indigenous values to the whole of the life experience and growing justice and equity from the roots of those values.  This seems to be a growing edge of spiritual experience at this juncture in Mey’s ministry. Expressions of this ministry have included reaching out to and visiting indigenous communities, reincorporating her artistic gifts as part of the ministry, and strengthening spoken ministry through invitations to speak. Positive endorsements confirming this have come back to KFM.

The Committee, in its monthly meetings, continues to discern its own role in working with other meetings to understand protocols associated with traveling ministry. These include endorsement of traveling minutes by host meetings and the role of accompanying elders or traveling companions to support traveling ministry. The Yearly Meeting endorsed the KFM traveling minute for Mey at annual sessions in July 2019. Through a series of communications between the Anchoring Committee and the Yearly Meeting clerk, the appropriate format for the endorsement was finalized by New Year’s 2020.

Merry Stanford has asked to step down from serving on this Anchoring Committee as of the rise of 2020 Annual Sessions. Her reason to the committee is that God has placed another task on her heart, which has become the priority in the use of her ministerial gifts. She hopes that KFM will be able to identify one or two members of the meeting who are committed to faithfulness and kindly support of Mey's ministry.

The Committee continues to affirm in unity that Mey is led in her ministry and that the current traveling minute continues to speak to this. We recommend that Kalamazoo Friends Meeting request LEYM to renew its endorsement of Mey’s travel minute.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Anchoring Committee,

Caroline Webber

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Clerk, Anchoring Committee

1. 2019 LEYM Annual Sessions minutes [↑](#footnote-ref-1)