



GENERAL MEETING FOR SCOTLAND

Saturday 10th March 2007 in Perth

Min.1 Reading

During Meeting for Worship we heard a reading from *Quaker Faith and Practice* 23-10 in which Gordon Matthews writes about the importance of authentic prayer in our longing for peace, justice and the integrity of creation.

Min. 2 Deaths

During Meeting for Worship we heard the MM minutes recording the deaths of Liesel Buckner, Sheila Daw and Ann Brocklebank from West Scotland MM Kabir Khan and Jack Boag from South East MM

Min. 3 Welcomes

The following are recorded as MM representatives

East of Scotland - Irene Allan, Pam Brunt, Alyson Buchan, Ellie Hood, Robert Mackay

South East Scotland – Alison Burnley, Rachel Frith

North of Scotland – Eleanor Fairclough, John Melling

West Scotland – Mary Latham, Margaret Boland

We will record the total numbers of all present and add them to these minutes.

East of Scotland 16 + 2 attenders

South East Scotland 5 + 1 attender

North of Scotland 4

West Scotland 9

Totals 34 + 3 attenders + 2 visitors

We warmly welcome the following attenders and visitors,

George Stafford, Perth, attender.

Dave Holland Smith, Perth, attender.

Diana Horne, Central Edinburgh, attender

Henry Logan, visitor, affiliate member of Rockingham MM, Ohio YM of Friends.

We also welcome our visiting speaker, Steve Whiting.

Min. 4 New Members

The following are welcomed into membership

Chris Booth, Janet Saunders, Ken Jobling, Jaqueline Erskine and Anna Levin from SE Scotland MM

Min.5 Reporter

We appoint Eleanor Fairclough from North of Scotland MM to report this meeting to *The Friend* and the *Scottish Friend*. We ask East of Scotland MM to report on the next GM.

Min. 6 Dots and Commas

We appoint Alyson Buchan to correct any errors in spelling, grammar and clarity to these minutes while preserving the sense agreed at this meeting.

Min. 7 Nominations and Representatives

We agree to appoint the following –

Nominations

Trustees from March 2007 – March 2010

Pam Brunt, Martin Burnell, Philip Bryers, Nigel Dower, Daphne Wassermann.

Parliamentary FG convenor, Alastair Cameron, March 2007- March 2010

2nd ACTS Forum Member. Margaret Peacock STC March 2007 – March 2010

ACTS Faith Studies Network, Christine Davis, March 2007-March 2010

Nomination FG member, brought by North of Scotland MM and noted at GM, John Melling, March 2007 – March 2010

Representatives

Scottish Episcopal General Synod 7th - 9th June in Edinburgh, Anne Davies

Methodist Spring Synod 28th April in Falkirk, Maureen Anderson

Restorative Justice Conference in Perth, Kate Philbrick

Min. 8 Governing Document

We have been reminded of Min.14 of GM for Scotland November 2006. The document (attached) was discussed thoroughly at Central Committee on 25th February when minor amendments were agreed. John Melling explained the document's contents and the amendments made at Central Committee. We ask our clerk and Assistant clerk to sign the document and ask Daphne Wassermann to forward the document to OSCR (Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator). We thank Margaret Peacock and John Melling and others involved for their work on the document. We ask that paper copies of the final document are made available.

Min. 9 Finance

Our request to BYM for financial support for administrative purposes has been accepted and we have received £6,000 for 2007. Central Committee approved the purchase of a new computer for the use of our Administrative Secretary and his hours, salary and terms of work will be reviewed at the triennial review in the summer. We will need to decide how best to use the extra funds from BYM at a later GM.

Min. 10 Annual report and Accounts

Daphne Wasserman has circulated the 2006 accounts and annual report. We have received a legacy of £1,000 from the Plum Trust for the upkeep of our buildings. Our treasurer will consult with meetings as to its best use. We accept the Annual Report and 2006 accounts and thank our Treasurer for all her work in preparing these papers. We authorise the clerk to sign the accounts on our behalf. We hope the review of our activities will be prepared by the Trustees in the future.

Min. 11 Adult Education and Conference Function Group report

Norman Peacock has presented the Adult and Education FG report and accounts for 2006 (attached). We accept these accounts and thank Norman for his work. As the GM accounts are presented in a different way and OSCR might query this, we ask the Trustees to reconcile the style of presentation for 2007. There was a question of financial responsibility for the places booked at Kindrogan for the Summer Gathering Planning Committee. We were reassured that the Summer Gathering Committee will cover the costs of its own places.

Min. 12 Reorganisation of Function Groups

Central Committee has reviewed the number and workings of the function groups. It is agreed that the editor of the *Scottish Friend* become an ex officio member of the Communications FG, and that the Newsletter FG be laid down. Central Committee also reviewed the work of the Administration FG and agreed it should continue as a FG but that the clerk to GM should represent the FG at CC.

Min. 13 Tabular Statement

We note the following number of members in	2006	2005
East of Scotland MM	107	104
West Scotland MM	228	227
North of Scotland MM	117	112
South East Scotland MM	<u>261</u>	<u>254</u>
<i>Total</i>	<i>713</i>	<i>697</i>

Min. 12 Suggested Dates and Venues for 2008 -9

June 7 th 2008	South East Scotland MM
September 6 th 2008	West Scotland MM
November 22 – 23 rd 2008	East of Scotland MM
March 7 th 2009	South East Scotland MM

We ask MM clerks to consider these dates and GM to confirm in June.

Min. 13 Steve Whiting QPSW

Steve Whiting, *Quaker Peace and Social Witness* Programme Manager Non-violence and Campaigns, has recently returned from Nepal where he helped deliver non-violence training workshops for the newly-founded South Asia Peace Alliance. The involvement of QPSW in South Asia started in Sri Lanka, spread first to India and then to Nepal. QPSW have developed excellent liaison with the Indian organisation Ekte Parashad and the South Asia Peace Alliance. The workshops incorporated the use of drama and games, including trust-building games, listening exercises and explorations into personal non-violence. Each day ended with prayers and spiritual reflection, a precious time of listening and learning across religious traditions.

In the past, individual Quakers travelled to India and worked with Gandhi. We are in a sense continuing the legacy of those Friends. This work, and the whole work of QPSW, is unique in being funded almost entirely by contributions from our membership.

In discussion, questions were raised about the spiritual roots of commitment to non-violence, the need to record and publicise examples of effective non-violence, and the need for a positive vision and language of peacemaking. There was some experience of police behaviour at Faslane demonstrations becoming more respectful.

We thank Steve for his inspiring and thought-provoking presentation, stimulating us to reflect deeply on the challenge and opportunities of non-violence in today's world and in our lives.

Min. 14 Minute of Thanks

We record our thanks to Perth Friends for being our hosts at this GM.

Pamala McDougall
GM Clerk