

## GENERAL MEETING FOR SCOTLAND

20<sup>th</sup> Sept 2008

Glasgow

### **Min. 1 Reading**

During Meeting for Worship we heard a reading from *Quaker Faith and Practice 2.11* concerning the nature of Meeting for Worship held in the Spirit.

### **Min. 2 Welcome**

We welcome Stephen Smyth, General Secretary of Action for Churches Together in Scotland, to our meeting today.

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

East Scotland 9

South East Scotland 14

North Scotland 4

West Scotland 16

Total: 43 plus 1 attender (pm only) and 1 visitor.

### **Min. 3 New members and deaths**

We record the following new members since our last meeting:

Elizabeth Duncan (W)

Mark Coleman (W)

Pete Stuart (W)

Ken Wood (W)

We record the following deaths since our last meeting:

Sheila Bennett (W)

Alex McGinty (W)

Olga Wood (W).

### **Min. 4 Reporter**

We appoint Marjorie Farquharson of South East Scotland AM to report this meeting to *The Friend* and the *Scottish Friend*. We ask West Scotland AM to report on the next GM.

### **Min. 5 Appointment of new Administrator**

The Clerk has reported on the recruitment process for the post of Administrator.

There was a good response to the advertisement. The selection panel of Robin Waterston, Margaret Peacock and Martin Burnell interviewed four candidates, and appointed Bronwen Currie. She will take up her post on 1 October.

We welcome Bronwen to this post.

### **Min. 6 Kindrogan Conference**

We have received a report from Margaret Gladden. The main speaker at the event in June was Michael Hutchinson, Assistant Recording Clerk, on the theme of Time. The

weekend was very successful and Margaret has explained why this event is valuable for Scottish Friends, particularly young Friends.

We reaffirm the importance of this event, and ask the Function Group to liaise with the treasurer about ways of making the event more affordable.

Kindrogan has been booked for 12-14 June 2009.

### **Min. 7 Archive Group**

The Archive Group consists of Eva Deregowska, Robin Davis and Paul Burton. Paul has reported on the purpose and work of the group. A questionnaire was sent to clerks asking how and where records are currently kept. Returns so far indicate that there is a wide variety of practice. Some records go back as far as the 17<sup>th</sup> century.

The group is aiming to construct a policy on maintenance of our records in the interests of good governance and the needs of the future. Should we have a central storage point? How should we handle long-term records? How should we use the Scottish National Archive and Friends House Library?

Issues include security of storage, electronic storage, the place of the internet, information retrieval and indexing, and best practice for current Clerks.

### **Min. 8 Appointments**

We note that Marion Morton has asked to be released from the ACTS Church and Society Network, and accept this request.

We agree to appoint the following:

1. Northern Friends Youth Events Trust

Margaret Mortimer (South East Scotland) Jan 2009 to Dec 2011

2. ACTS Church and Society Network

Barbara Potter (West Scotland) Jan 2009 to Dec 2011

3. Scottish Churches Racial Justice Group Nov 2008 (temporary replacement

Meg Beresford (West Scotland) for Rachel Frith)

We ask our Clerks to consider ways in which the appointments process at GM can be better conducted, drawing on a recent change of process at Meeting for Sufferings.

### **Min. 9 GM website**

The Clerk reported on his recent discussions with Neil Turner, our webmaster, about the GM website.

Potential developments include the possibility of Local Meeting editors being able to access and update their own Meeting's entry.

We welcome these ideas, recognising the importance of balancing outreach – about GM and Quakers in general – with our own needs and use.

During the discussion, information about GM for Scotland on the BYM website has been referred to. We ask our Administrator to liaise with the relevant department in Friends House about this.

We ask the Clerk to work with Neil and our Administrator and bring further reports to a future GM.

### **Min. 10 Episcopal Church**

Marjorie Farquharson has reported on her attendance at the General Synod of the Episcopal Church in Edinburgh in May. We thank Marjorie for her report.

We ask the Clerks and Central Committee to consider the idea of offering invitations to our GMs on a rota basis to representatives of other churches and perhaps other faith communities.

### **Min. 11 Finance**

We agree to an annual contribution of £120 to Scotland's for Peace, in accordance with our policy on organisations with paid staff on which we are represented.

We agree to give an annual contribution to Jubilee Scotland of £30.

### **Min. 12 Representative Friend**

We have received a report (attached) from Pamala McDougall on her work as Representative Friend. We thank Pamala for her tireless work on our behalf.

We have also heard from Stephen Smyth about future activities organised by Action of Churches Together in Scotland, in which we are invited to participate as fully as possible.

### **Min. 13 Meeting for Sufferings**

We have received a report from Peter Kennedy on the recent work of Meeting for Sufferings. The meeting agreed the final version of the report now entitled A Framework for Action (previously Long Term Framework).

There had also been a lengthy consideration of a draft response to the World Council of Churches consultation on the Nature and Mission of the Church.

### **Min.14 Work of The Retreat**

We have welcomed Chris Holman, Medical Director of The Retreat, a Quaker residential centre in York which works with the NHS to provide mental health care for people with complex and difficult needs.

He has spoken to us of the history and development of services there and has outlined plans and ideas for future programmes of work. He firmly believes that relationships are central to any process of recovery.

Chris has answered a variety of questions from us.

We have appreciated his openness about the challenge the type and style of work at The Retreat presents to all those involved in it. We thank him for helping to develop our understanding of this work.

### **Min. 15 Closing Minute**

We record our thanks to Glasgow Friends for being our hosts at this GM, and look forward to meeting again in St. Andrews on 22-23 November.

Robin Waterston, Clerk