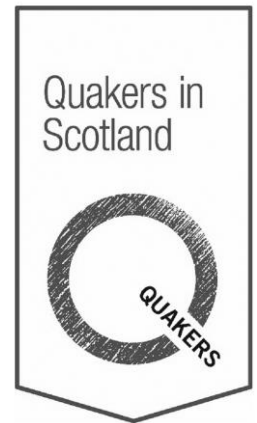


# GENERAL MEETING FOR SCOTLAND



## **Minute. 1 Worship**

We began with worship during which a section from Our Faith in The Future was read. We were led to consider the Quaker communities we seek to build.

## **Minute. 2 Welcome to all present**

We are glad to welcome everybody to GM in Glasgow. Those with us today include 2 attenders, Paul Parker our recording Clerk, Sandra Berry the Director of Woodbrooke, Jonathan Carmichael our staff member working on the Simpler Meetings Project and Chloe Scaling an intern working with Paul.

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

East Scotland	5
South East Scotland	23
North Scotland	9
West Scotland	37

**Total: 74 (78 including visitors)**

## **Minute. 3 Why we do things the way we do.**

Our clerk has introduced newcomers to the right holding of a Quaker Meeting for Worship for Church Affairs. She encouraged us to consider the people in our community who may have laid down a role. We are glad that we have Elders present who are willing to uphold our Meeting for Worship.

## **Minute. 4 Reporter of this Meeting**

We appoint Pam Apted from East Scotland AM to report this meeting to *The Friend* and the *Scottish Friend*. We ask West Scotland AM to report on GM in Edinburgh in June.

## **Minute. 5 New members and deaths**

From Area Meeting minutes, since our last meeting we record the following new members:  
Cleo Welsh NSAM  
Anthea Mason NSAM

From Area Meeting minutes, since our last meeting we record the following deaths :  
Brian Mayes 24/01/19 SESAM  
Gwen Falla April 2018 WSAM  
Chris Newell 14/11/18 WSAM

## **Minute. 6 Proposed dates and Venues for 2020-21**

Proposed dates for GM 2020/21

7<sup>th</sup> March 2020 South East (already agreed)

6<sup>th</sup> June 2020 North

12<sup>th</sup> September 2020 East

14<sup>th</sup> November 2020 West

6<sup>th</sup> March 2021 North

We ask that the Area Meetings concerned confirm that these dates are suitable with the local meeting and the venue. Also that they inform the GM clerk of the venue and the contact details of the person nominated to oversee the local arrangements.

## **Minute. 7 Reports on Meeting for Sufferings held on 23-25 November 2018 and 2 February 2019**

We receive, and are grateful for the reports on Meeting for Sufferings that were circulated with the documents in advance of this meeting and are attached to these minutes. At Meeting for Sufferings, business is considered in our name. Our representatives and their reports are important to the working and life of our Yearly Meeting. Please try to keep abreast of what is happening by reading the reports and speaking with your Area Meeting or GM reps.

## **Minute. 8 Update on Action of Churches Together in Scotland**

Huw Lloyd Richards has written a short report on the current position with ACTS. We are glad of these updates. This topic will be for further discernment by GM on June 8<sup>th</sup> in Edinburgh.

## **Minute. 9 Scottish Churches Parliamentary Office Advisory Group report**

We thank Phil Lucas for his work on this SCPOAG on our behalf and we feel that a link between our PEWG and this group is an important one. We receive his report on the last years work at on this committee which was circulated with documents in advance of this meeting and is attached to these minutes.

## **Minute.10 Parliamentary Engagement Working Group report**

We receive and are grateful for the work of our PEWG and for their most recent report which has been circulated with documents in advance of this meeting and is attached to these minutes.

## **Minute. 11 Quaker Committee for Christian and Interfaith Relations co-option**

It was felt by Huw Lloyd Richards (our representative on ACTS) and GM Committee that a link that provided communication between GM, Quaker Committee for Christian and Interfaith Relations, and the changing situation in ACTS would be beneficial to all involved. Clerks of both QCCIR and GM have considered this, and Huw Lloyd Richards has now been co-opted onto QCCIR. The minute from QCCIR that follows records the terms of this co-option.

## ***QCCIR/19/02 Welcome and membership EXTRACT***

*We welcome our new member Huw Lloyd Richards, of East Scotland AM. Huw has been co-opted at the request of General Meeting for Scotland, in light of his role as Secretary of the Transition Group for Action of Churches Together in Scotland (ACTS). This was agreed by the*

*clerks on a between-meetings basis and is to run for his period of appointment in this role, or for three years (Jan 2019 - Dec 2021), whichever is the shorter.*

## **Minute. 12 Part One of “Scottish Quakers: How do we liberate ourselves to focus on spiritual growth, community building and witness in the world?”**

Paul Parker began his presentation with reading from Advices and Queries no.27 – Live Adventurously. He asked us to consider whether we could see this advice not just for us as individuals but for us as a collective. Can we see it as a challenge?

Can we go carefully but boldly?

Paul reminded us of the discussions and discernments we had had in Perth on 13th September last year. (See documents in advance of today's GM) We had worked out what was important to us and what makes us who we are. In Scotland we have such a strong community with so much to draw on. So much passion.

Paul led us to acknowledge how things are changing both in the wider world and in our own lives. He reminded us of what we had said were the true essentials that we felt we needed to look after. In September we had begun to consider what needs to be done differently and what needs to stay the same. Are the structures that we have working for us doing so in ways that are joyous and adventurous?

Paul spoke of the idea of coppicing. We were led to consider “What is the heartwood of Quakerism? “When we trim back, what new shoots are ready to grow?

“If I go to walk into the forest, I'd rather it was one where the Light would get in” Paul

During some reflection time we heard from Friends about the joy of service and the importance of learning about each other in the things that are eternal. We heard that meeting together in places that are counter intuitive at the time of the move ends up being just the coppicing that was needed to enable new shoots to flourish.

We are encouraged to open our eyes to different and new opportunities. Young Adult Friends are thriving, and we can learn from them. We hope we can include Woodbrooke in this adventure of learning.

There is more freedom than some of us think to do some things differently. We shouldn't constrain ourselves by looking too hard for permission.

Can we boldly (yet cautiously) take a Holy opportunity and be purposely expectant?

Are we ready to jump off a cliff and wait for the wind to be beneath our wings?

## **Minute. 13 Stop Climate Chaos**

Following minute 12 of GM held 17/11/18 Joyce Taylor has given us more detail on Stop Climate Chaos. We agree to join this organisation. Details will be attached to these minutes.

## **Minute. 14 Nominations**

We are grateful for the work of our GM nominations committee. They have brought us the following names;

**Scottish Churches Parliamentary Office Advisory Group** (ex-officio member of the Parliamentary Engagement Working Group)

Huw Lloyd-Richards June 2019 to June 2022

**Northern Friends Youth Events Trust**

Ken Latham with immediate effect until December 2021

These names being acceptable we appoint them accordingly.

**Children and Young People's Advocate Support**

Until January 2019 the role of CYP Advocate Support, currently held by Madeleine Harding has been a BYM appointment. There have been changes to the way this role is to work in England and there will no longer be CYP Advocate Support people appointed by BYM. It was suggested to us by Children and Young People's Committee of BYM that, as this role works really well in Scotland, it could be made a GM appointment. GM committee and GM Nominations agree. We are glad to appoint Madeleine Harding to serve as GM CYP Advocate Support for Scotland with immediate effect until December 2021. We ask GM Nominations to begin to search for someone to shadow Madeleine in this role as soon as possible so as to ensure a comprehensive hand over.

### **Minute. 15 Part Two of "Scottish Quakers: How do we liberate ourselves to focus on spiritual growth, community building and witness in the world?"**

We are thankful that we have embarked on this exercise over the last few years. We are thankful for today and all that we have experienced. We are clear that we have energy, community, passion and a willingness to Live Adventurously.

We have met in small groups to consider the Menu for Change paper. This document is attached to these minutes.

On feeding back, we realise that a minute at this point cannot gather the detail, so we ask our clerks to work on a summary paper of the findings. This will be circulated as soon as it is ready. We ask that this be shared with local meetings.

We are particularly keen to enable better communication between AMs. We do have a newly constructed Communications Group who are tasked with looking at communication across Scotland. We look forward to hearing from them when they are ready.

We have returned often to the idea of inviting Woodbrooke to work in Scotland with us on spiritual and role holder courses. Indeed, all types of learning and development would be most welcome.

We were moved by the feeling in one group that, although we have been tasked by previous GM minutes to tackle our feelings of overburdened-ness, we need to be careful that we are always approaching these considerations being led by the Spirit.

We feel strongly that we don't want to lose sight of this process and discernment. We ask our GM Committee to ensure it comes back to a future GM agenda.

### **Minute. 16 Closing Minute**

We record our thanks to West Scotland Friends for being our hosts at this GM and look forward to meeting again on 8<sup>th</sup> June in Edinburgh.

Adwoa Bittle  
Clerk

For information dates for this year

June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019 Edinburgh

September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2019 Aberdeen

November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2019 Perth

March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Edinburgh

An exhibition well worth a visit

In Edinburgh Castle's war museum, there is currently an exhibition called Conscience Matters. It will be there for a year and is worth going to, if just to see Peter Tennant's papers and belongings from being in the Friends Ambulance Unit for part of the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War. Peter was a founding member of Dunblane LM and the father of Alison Burnley SESAM. (Google Alison Burnley and Conscience. There is a lovely picture!)

For info on Stop Climate Chaos Scotland please search the title or contact their Campaign Manager, Gail Wilson, on [gail@stopclimatechaosscotland.org](mailto:gail@stopclimatechaosscotland.org)

**Please send ideas of topics you would like to see considered at GM with names of good speakers/presenters.**