

General Meeting for Scotland, 16th November 2014

Extracts from the notes of discussion groups on the Framework Agreement 2015 - 20

What is distinctive about Quaker work and witness, to us and to others?

A quietness - a stillness - based on worship

The Quaker business method - trust that we are willing to give up an initially held position. Ability to trust that what we are listening to is from God, and that it will be given to us even though we don't know what it is. Come in expectation and willingness to listen.

Faith will lead to action. Witness and work are totally integrated.

We test our discernments. Focus as a Meeting on what needs to be discerned.

It is the 'HOW' for which people listen to us. Quaker process means investing in community, seeking the fundamental, working together to **see**, and that is **how** things will come.

What is your vision of the ministry that your local meeting and Quakers in Britain are called to, now and in the future?

"I pin my hopes to quiet processes and small circles in which vital elements take place"
Rufus Jones.

Community is an essential part of the life of the Society. In Scotland the residential part of General Meeting is important.

What are we led to do together?

International work - Quaker work in Brussels, Geneva, NY, UN. Working at ground level.

Witness for Peace. Fair society. Sharing strong community.

Our business method can be used in 'outside' groups (Jesuits do it!)

Learning from others to help us e.g. chaplaincy work

How could Quaker structures and networks help Quakers in Britain to flourish?

Quaker Meeting for Worship for Business may need to be more integrated with Worship.

Witness should arise from the Meeting - bottom up. Friends House can co-ordinate. We need to tell Friends House what we are doing. Use the structures.

Use the [GM] website effectively - be inclusive - include both ends of the age range.