

## What is an Intermediate Meeting?

An intermediate meeting is a meeting of Friends from a number of different worshipping communities who come together. It might be for worship, learning, to eat, walk, anything that enables them to get to know one another and build community. Current examples include:-

- Wigtown, Castle Douglas and Dumfries meetings who come together in Castle Douglas every fifth Sunday for Meeting for Worship.
- Island and Coastal Friends from the west coast who worship together online every Sunday evening and meet once a year for a residential weekend.
- Pluscarden, was the annual residential weekend for NSAM. They have arranged for it to continue and have appointed Friends to arrange next year's event.
- ESAM Friends have been operating their AM on a 'care and maintenance' basis. Their LMs have arranged events and invited Friends from the other LMs to join them.
- Dunblane LM invited the Swarthmore lecturer, Emily Provence, to speak and invited Friends from the neighbouring LMs who came from three different AMs.

Many of these Occasional Intermediate meetings need to do no business; for those that do, it is simply for internal organisation, like appointing people to plan the next meeting. This is not QiS business.

It is possible that one of the AMs might want to continue meeting regularly. This too brings members of different worshipping communities together. In the new organisation, this would be a Regular Intermediate Meeting. Such a Regular Intermediate Meeting would appoint a Friend as a clerk to help them operate, though it would be important that any such appointments did not limit the ability of Friends from these communities to serve in QiS roles. This sort of Regular Intermediate Meeting could want to do business. Some of it could be things relating just to its constituent communities, this would probably not be QiS business. They might also want to take some business relating to responsibilities that are specifically QiS business. QiS may decide to work with them to draw up an MOU listing the kinds of QiS business it would be appropriate for them to do. When the community subgroup asked Friends if there was business that might be best done in groupings smaller than the national body, membership and appointments were frequently mentioned. For this to happen, the necessary provisos are that the agenda of these Intermediate Meetings should be advertised across QiS in case another QiS Friend is led to attend, and that an Intermediate Meeting takes no decision that lays an obligation on other members of QiS. The minutes of these items of business are QiS minutes and should be forwarded to QiS so they can be accepted at the next QiS meeting.

Although the focus of an Occasional Intermediate Meeting is on community building, it is possible that there might be an item of QiS business that it wished to take itself. The most likely would relate to membership or an appointment. An occasional Intermediate Meeting would not be set up for the purpose of taking such business; but one set up for a different purpose might decide it felt right to take an occasional item of business. In order to ensure this is rightly held, there is a list of requirements which might be summarised on a proforma so they can easily be checked through. This is largely something that can be done by an administrator, though the final authority would need to come from a QiS clerk.

Since Friends would not be coming together as a community at an Area Meeting, it is to be hoped that community building would be supported by a growing number of occasional Intermediate Meetings. Initially examples of an occasional Intermediate Meeting taking business is expected to be rare.