



# GENERAL MEETING FOR SCOTLAND

10<sup>th</sup> June 2017  
Glasgow

## Minute 1 Worship

We began General Meeting with worship.

We are glad that we have Elders present who are willing to uphold our Meeting for Worship.

## Minute 2 Welcome to all present

We are glad to welcome everybody, including 3 attenders, to GM in Glasgow.

We welcome Zem Moffat who will lead our morning session and Mary Welsh from the Roman Catholic Church.

The total numbers of all present.

East Scotland	7
South East Scotland	8
North Scotland	4
West Scotland	23
<b>Total:</b>	<b>42</b>

## Minute 3 Reporter

We appoint Phil Lucas from South East Scotland AM to report this meeting to *The Friend* and the *Scottish Friend*. We ask West Scotland AM to report on GM in Dundee in September.

## Minute 4 New members and deaths

We record the following new members and transfers-in since our last meeting from Area meeting minutes:

South East - Diana Simcock  
Karina McIntosh  
Anne V Phillips from Texas

West - Cait Gould  
Helen McLean

We record the following deaths from Area Meeting minutes:

East - Elsie Luke 10/01/17  
Joyce Agnew 12/03/17  
Owen Silver 18/03/17  
Anne Burdge 30/04/17

South East - Tessa Ransford 02/09/15

West - Helen Ballingall - 08/01/17  
Jenny Auld - 16/02/17

## **Minute 5 Dates and Venues for 2017-18**

We agree the following GM dates and locations for 2018-19:

Dates for GM 2018/19

10 <sup>th</sup> March	South East
9 <sup>th</sup> June	North
15 <sup>th</sup> September	West
17 <sup>th</sup> November	East
9 <sup>th</sup> March	West

We ask that the Area Meetings concerned confirm the acceptability of these dates and inform our clerk of the venue and the contact details of the person nominated to oversee the local arrangements.

## **Minute 6 Morning Session led by Zemirah Moffat on Gender and Sexual Diversity**

We have today welcomed Zemirah Moffat who has spoken simply and movingly of her personal journey, her acceptance by Friends, her involvement with the Quaker Gender and Sexuality Diversity Community, and the activities of the Scottish Gallivanterers. She spoke of conflicting emotions, of love, connection and abuse, of seeking the truth behind the words. She gave us a sheet, a glossary of terms and definitions that are being and have been used to help - definitions that are still evolving. She told us stories, of spiritual experience, of conversations with strangers. We have met in groups - discussing, worship sharing, worshipping - and all together. She welcomed the greater openness that exists now in society.

Yet it takes courage still, and many of us have found this a challenging session, indeed sometimes uncomfortable. We need to respect where people are on the gender spectrum, to understand our common humanity, the right to be ourselves, to listen to each other. We all have gender!

In introducing this session, our Clerk read a minute from North East Thames Area Meeting to Meeting for Sufferings, and this is appended to these minutes. We have also been reminded that our younger Friends tackled this topic openly at the Summer Shindig two years ago. We thank Zemirah for her work, and all those present for their openness and love.

We are at an early stage in a longer wider journey on this listening process. We trust GM Committee to ensure we continue this journey. For now we ask all LMs to reflect on the above minute and consider holding discussion groups. We ask Rosalind Mitchell, Derek Read, Michael Hutchinson and Alison Rimell to work on this topic and bring their thoughts back to GM when they are ready.

We ask our clerk to forward this minute to the Quaker Gender and Sexuality Diversity Community. Zem alerted us to workshops and session to be offered by this group at YMG 2017.

## **Minute 7 Opening worship, afternoon session**

During Meeting for Worship we heard read Qf&p 2.89 which encourages us to listen to the Spirit in our meetings for church affairs, and Advice 1.

## **Minute 8 Nominations**

We thank the GM Nominations Function Group for their work.  
We have received a request for release with immediate effect from Bill Edgar as our representative on Scottish Churches Housing Action. We ask our GM Nominations Function group to search for a replacement and are glad that they have begun this process.

We agree to the following appointments

### **GM Assistant Representative Friend** (Represents Quakers in Scotland)

Sue Lycett June 2017 to June 2018

NOTE: Sue will work with Pamala McDougall for one year and then take over as Representative Friend in June 2018

### **ACTS Members Meeting**

Huw Lloyd-Richards (1<sup>st</sup> triennium) June 2017 to June 2020

### **Scottish Churches Parliamentary Office Advisory Group**

Phil Lucas (to complete triennium) June 2017 to June 2019

NOTE: Phil has served for one year and reports that we should continue to be represented

### **ACTS Group on Human Trafficking**

Marion Fairweather (2<sup>nd</sup> triennium) June 2017 to June 2020

Pam Brunt (1<sup>st</sup> triennium) June 2017 to June 2020

NOTE: Marion works and the meetings are during the day, so we have nominated a second person, not as an alternate, but as a job-share.

### **World Day of Prayer Scottish Committee**

Margaret Roy (2<sup>nd</sup> triennium) June 2017 to June 2020

### **Religious Leaders Forum, Interfaith Scotland**

Jim Pym (2<sup>nd</sup> triennium) Jan 2018 to Dec 2020

### **Parliamentary Liaison Group (West)**

Martin Mansell (2<sup>nd</sup> triennium) Jan 2018 to Dec 2020

### **Scottish Friends Newsletter Editor**

Sila Collins-Walden (1<sup>st</sup> triennium) January 2018 to Dec 2020

## **Minute 9 GM's future priorities**

We have heard that at GM next March, to be held in South East Scotland, we will be asked to consider what we discern are our priorities and how we can achieve them with the resources we currently possess. We have heard read Qf&p 5.03 and look forward to preparing for discussion on this with the aid of papers prepared by GM Committee.

### **Minute 10 External and Internal Communication**

Joyce Taylor and Rosemary Hartill encouraged us to begin thinking about how we communicate. They referred us to the "Our Faith in the Future" publication produced by BYM. We began to consider how we communicate as Quakers in Scotland both with each other internally and with others externally. We were asked if we were content with how this communication works. We felt that we could improve on our use of social media, provision for children and young people, the continued upgrading of our web site, particularly in terms of the look of our Local Meeting pages and website content generally. We are clear that this is not any criticism of David Sterratt and the website steering group and we appreciate all they have done and plan to do on our behalf. We feel it is important to communicate well and professionally. We are clear that this process needs financial and human resources. This is the beginning of a discussion which we all need to engage in. Information from this session will be used in the paper created to encourage preparation for GM next March. Many of us were all prepared for a discussion on our Q logo. This discussion is slightly on hold as we await BYM's new design of trade marked Q's which they plan to produce this autumn. They will offer us a design which we do not need to accept. We will return to this discussion at a future GM where we will all need to be ready again to listen to each other on this subject with love and respect.

### **Minute 11 Trustees Report**

On behalf of GM Trustees, Nigel Dower has spoken to the 2016 Trustees Report. We are glad to receive this report – attached to these minutes – and we thank GM Trustees for their work.

### **Legacy from Jenny Auld and funding of Parliamentary Engagement Officer**

We have heard that GM is expected to receive a legacy from Jenny Auld's estate of approximately £25,000 for which we are very grateful. We agree, subject to BYM Trustees confirming their wish to continue funding the PEO post, for us to use £4,000 a year (£12,000 altogether) from Jenny Auld's legacy to support an extra ½ day for the post of PEO over the next three years. We will consider how to use the rest of Jenny Auld's legacy at a later meeting. We authorise our Trustees to conclude negotiation with BYM Trustees on behalf of GM on the basis of the GM contribution being a maximum of £10,000 per annum.

### **Minute 12 Parliamentary Engagement Officer Report**

Mairi Campbell-Jack has updated us on her work. Please ask in your Local Meeting for the report sent out of Mairi's work breakdown over 2016 until April 2017. She has spoken of how the petition on militarization in schools moving through the Scottish Parliament. She also told us of welcoming letters she will be sending to new MP's along with a copy of Advices and Queries. A summary of the report given today is attached to these minutes. Mairi is doing a superb job of raising awareness of Quakerism and Quaker points of view in the political world of Scotland and we thank her for her hard work and focus on our behalf.

### **Minute 13 Sufferings Report**

We have received Jane Pearn's report of Meeting for Sufferings held 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2017 and thank Jane for this work. We ask Robin Waterston to attend Meeting for Sufferings in October on behalf of GM as Jane Pearn and Kevin Franz, our GM representatives, are prevented.

### Minute 14 Tabular Statement

We have received the tabular statement for 2016.

We note the following numbers of members, attenders and children at 31st December 2016.

	2016			2015	2014	2013	2012
	Members	Attenders	Children	Members	Members	Members	Members
East	89	54	18	94	101	110	111
North	129	113	35	129	126	127	122
South East	255	273	73	254	236	232	247
West	212	201	36	216	231	223	227
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>685</b>	<b>641</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>693</b>	<b>694</b>	<b>692</b>	<b>707</b>

### Minute 15 Proposed changes to GM group structure

We have considered the changes to the structure of our GM groups as laid out in Appendix 6.

We agree to the changes as follows; Children and Young people Function Group is laid down. All work continues as before. The four AM advocates (AM appointments) continue to work with the BYM appointed Advocate and are responsible for organising Scotland-wide events for children and young people.

The advocate support's role description will include being a link with GM. i.e. take part in Central Committee calls and meetings.

Overseeing the advocates, in terms of legalities and Safeguarding are our Trustees and each local meeting has a Safeguarding person appointed. We are clear that the Advocate Support person is ultimately accountable to GM Trustees in respect to safeguarding issues and generally responsible to GM in regard to the services provided to children and young people on GM's behalf. This means that the person who is appointed by BYM as Advocate Support will also be appointed by GM to GM Committee. Madeleine Harding currently holds this role. In time the right person will be found to shadow Madeleine with the view to taking over.

Agenda Function Group is laid down and this communication is part of the job description of the Assistant Clerk to GM.

We have considered the changes to GM group names as laid out in Appendix 6. We agree to the changes as follows; Parliamentary Liaison Function Group is now called Parliamentary Engagement Working Group, GM Central Committee is now called GM Committee. Nominations Function Group is now

called Nominations Committee. Nominations Committee members are appointed by the four AM's. This is not a change.

### **Minute 15 Closing Minute**

We record our thanks to West Scotland Friends for being our hosts at this GM, and look forward to meeting again on 9<sup>th</sup> September in Dundee.

Adwoa Bittle  
Clerk

North East Thames AM held on 18 February 2017, Minute 17.21 Transgender and non-binary inclusion [received and noted by Meeting for Sufferings in April 2017, minute MfS/17/04/15 Transgender and non-binary inclusion](#))

Transgender & Non-binary Inclusion Statement from North East Thames AM

"Facing turbulent times, Quakers in Britain seek a future where Quaker communities are loving, inclusive and all-age. All are heard, valued and supported both in our needs and our leadings. Everyone's contribution is accepted according to their gifts and resources. All are welcomed and included." Our faith in the future (Quakers in Britain, 2015) <http://www.quaker.org.uk/our-organisation/meeting-for-sufferings/our-faith-in-the-future>

Quakers in North East Thames Area Meeting are aware that our community is a continuing creation in which we seek to know and love ourselves and one another in all our differences, united at a profound level in our efforts to reach and respond to others in the things that are eternal.

We want our Local Meeting to be a safe place where each person can come as their own true self and find a spiritual home.

We recognise that there is a growing awareness in society, and in the Society of Friends, that the terms 'man' and 'woman' prove incomplete when describing the diversity of gender identity and experience that exists.

We hope that we can all grow together in our understanding of gender identity.

We want it to be known that our Area Meeting is a place where all are welcomed and nurtured, including people who are transgender and non-binary.

We hope that we can share a spiritual companionship, creating a place where we can all listen to and connect with one another, and accompany one another with love.

The actual MfS minute was this...

MfS/17/04/15 Transgender and non-binary inclusion

We receive minute 17.21 of North East Thames AM, held on 18 February 2017, attaching a statement concerning the inclusion of transgender and non-binary people in our Quaker communities. We welcome the opportunity to increase our learning about this issue - non-binary people are those who do not identify as either male or female.

We forward this minute to Quaker Life Central Committee for their consideration.

Further to our minute 2015/03/09, the Recording Clerk has told us that the tabular statement now contains a third column for those choosing not to be listed as male or female.

Dear Friends,

Here are the links that I mentioned in my presentation to send out to Friends:

- Link to my doctoral work 2008 "Queer Giving: An audio-visually guided shared ethnography of the Wotever Vision (2003-). [www.queergiving.co.uk](http://www.queergiving.co.uk). This website includes *Mirror Mirror*, the documentary film I made and my written academic thesis. *Mirror Mirror* premiered at London's 21st Lesbian and Gay Film Festival in 2007.
- Link to Sibyls (<http://sibyls.gndr.org.uk/>) where friends can find information on and copies of the book from which I quoted *This is my body: Hearing the theology of transgender Christians*. Eds Christina Beardsley and Michelle O'Brien. Darton, Longman and Todd 2016. ISBN 978-0232532067 £14.99. A copy is also available to borrow from Glasgow Meeting House Library.
- An invitation to join the Scottish Gallivanterers - contact [jarom@prontonmail.com](mailto:jarom@prontonmail.com), who is from Wigtown Meeting and the organiser.
- Invitation to meet the committee of Quaker Gender and Sexual Diversity Community and more of our members at BYM. 4-5pm Tuesday in Humanities 0.60 QGSDC will be leading a session on "**Movement Building through the Gifts of Diversity: In times of intensifying global social and political change gender- and sexually-diverse people can offer a particular contribution to movement-building. We can challenge prejudice and inequality and grow together through listening to each other, and by sharing our gifts, learning and experience.**" And this is to be followed by being at the Groups Fair from 19.00 - 21.00.

Zem

## Appendix 5

Meeting for Suffering's report 3rd June 2017

I found it encouraging to hear how the vision of Our Faith in the Future is being used in different ways, from central committees to Local Meetings. We heard how QCCIR has focused on the headings 'Meeting for Worship is the bedrock of living as a Quaker' and 'all Friends understand and live by Quaker discipline'. Along with other churches, the committee recognises that our society is now 'post-secular' and that there are different ways of expressing the spiritual aspect of life that do not depend on religious affiliation. They have asked themselves, of all the possibilities and openings available to them, what love requires of them. They are paying attention to 'Nones' who identify themselves as having no specific religion: they have legacy funding for a three-month research project to try to address how they might engage with this group of people. They asked us to share ideas on how to present Quakerism to other groups, and the criteria – what we hold in common – for working with them. A Friend from Manchester told us how in that wake of the attack, people spontaneously threw away divisive labels, leaving faith leaders struggling to catch up. She spoke of a sense that God is calling us to step outside our own front door.

BYM Trustees also uses Our Faith in the Future in its annual report. This was praised for being clear, accessible and enjoyable to read. It was good to see Scottish Quaker work with ForcesWatch highlighted under the heading 'Quakers work collaboratively'.

We heard from Jude Acton of Leeds Area Meeting how they had used these headings to work through a difficult issue, when a property developer had made an offer for a Meeting House. Local Meetings hadn't really engaged with Our Faith in the Future until they saw how they could use it as a framework for threshing. As a result, the AM now has a Resources and Ministry committee.

Central Nominations Committee perhaps didn't help their cause by emphasising how demanding the work is – but they did beg us not to ask Friends serving on CNC to give other service, partly because they tend to be the kind of friends who think, 'My name's been discerned, so I should agree', and then find themselves overloaded.

The report from Young Friends General Meeting was well received. Several Friends expressed understanding of the difficulties for some young adults in committing to service on committees, but also that we could learn from the way YFGM did things. The Clerks of CNC told us that they took a long-term view when nominating a young adult: even if they could only serve for one year of a triennium, they might give further service later when they were more settled.

Bristol sent us a minute concerning an event they organized about fracking. It reminded me that Sufferings is also a forum for Friends across BYM to inform and learn from each other. I'd encourage GM to consider sometimes sending minutes of record to let Friends know about activities in Scotland.

The most difficult item was consideration of a series of minutes from Kingston and Wandsworth AM, which feels that Meeting for Sufferings is not being pro-active enough in setting the priorities for the centrally-managed work. We threshed this matter for some time without reaching clarity: we will return to it.

Jane Pearn

June 3rd 2017

## **Appendix 6**

### Children and Young People

#### Looking after and inspiring our children and young people

I have been researching the structures that enable our children and young people to meet and be spiritually inspired. It seems a bit cumbersome and roles are being duplicated which is causing a nominations headache at General Meeting and Area Meeting. The people involved are carrying on regardless (thank goodness) and enabling great events to happen. I am very grateful for this and hope to make their lives simpler in terms of role descriptions and lines of communication. As I find it, we should have 4 Advocates, 1 from each AM. This currently works well and these people have a network of people that they call on to provide CYP events. **The Advocate posts are AM nominations.** This works, and people are found to fill these roles reasonably easily. These advocates are supported by an Advocate Support - this is what Madeleine Harding is doing. **This is a BYM appointment, that covers the 4 AMs in Scotland.** Madeleine has been asked if she will carry on and she has agreed. We also have a GM Children and Young People Function group. This does not currently have a clear role and finding people to serve is proving tricky. Seeing as the important work is carrying on regardless of the administrative confusion I propose that we lay down the Function group. The advocate support could have in the role description to be a link with GM. i.e. take part in Central Committee calls/meetings. Madeleine is happy to take part in these calls. In time we will find the right person to shadow Madeleine with the view to taking on this role.



Overseeing the advocates, in terms of legalities and Safeguarding are our GM Trustees and each local meeting has a Safeguarding person appointed. We are clear that the Advocate Support person is ultimately accountable to GM Trustees in respect to safeguarding issues and generally responsible to GM in regard to the services provided to children and young people on GM's behalf.

### **Naming our groups**

GM in session is asked if it agrees to the following changes.

To rename our groups as follows;

**Nominations Function Group** to be re named ***Nominations Committee***

**Parliamentary Liaison Function Group** to be re named ***Parliamentary Engagement Working Group***

**GM Central Committee** to be re named ***GM Committee*** and on it are: Clerk, Assist Clerk, Treasurer, ACTS Rep, Editor of Scottish Friend, GM Meeting for Sufferings Rep, Advocate Support, Convenor of GM Nominations Committee, Convenor of Parliamentary Engagement Working Group and GM Administrator.

**Children and Young People Function Group** is laid down and the work will continue to be completed by our Advocates with BYM Advocate Support who will report to GM as a member of GM Committee.

**Agenda Function Group** is laid down and this communication is part of the job description of the Assistant Clerk to GM.

### **For Information**

In an exciting new development Meeting for Sufferings would like to encourage dialogue in different parts of Britain Yearly Meeting and for General Meeting for Scotland to be more visible to Friends across Britain. This is great news. It will mean a report to be presented regularly at M for S. It seems right that all the hard work we do up here will be known around the yearly meeting. I invite you to send your thoughts about what such a report should include to [adwoabittle@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:adwoabittle@hotmail.co.uk) before the end of October 2017.