



# GENERAL MEETING FOR SCOTLAND

18<sup>th</sup> November

Elgin

## Minute. 1 Worship

We began with a period of worship during which, part of 15.01 of Qf&p was read. We were led to consider Stewardship.

## Minute. 2 Elders

We are glad that we have Elders present who are willing to uphold our Meeting for Worship. Our clerk has introduced first timers to some of the discipline of Quaker business meetings.

## Minute. 3 Welcome to all present

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

We are glad to welcome, Deborah Rowlands clerk of BYM, Paul Parker our recording clerk, Anne Ullathorne clerk of Meeting for Sufferings, her husband Peter Ullathorne BYM treasurer, Catherine James representing Friends in Wales, Neil Jarvis a member of staff from Friends House, Tim Gee who is here to share with us later about Meetings for Sanctuary and Mairi Campbell-Jack our Parliamentary Engagement Officer.

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

East Scotland	11
South East Scotland	5
North Scotland	24
West Scotland	4

**Total: 44**

## Minute. 3 Reporter

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

## Minute. 4 New members and deaths

We record the following new members and one resignation since our last meeting from Area meeting minutes:

Esther Shreeve - South Edinburgh LM  
Pascoe Harvey - Central Edinburgh LM  
Mark Borthwick - Portobello and Musselburgh LM

We record the following death from Area Meeting minutes:

Death - Douglas Nelson (04/08/17) Central Fife

### **Minute. 5 Listening to North Scotland Area Meeting**

We have been glad to listen to Friends from North Scotland Area Meeting. In a worship sharing session we heard of the history, life and special experiences of those living and worshipping in NSAM. Friends are scattered yet feel supported by GM and by the staff at Friends House. We give thanks for the community of the meeting.

We receive the following minute 57/17 from NSAM held 11<sup>th</sup> November 2017.

“We should like general meeting for Scotland and Meeting for Sufferings to consider the possibility of having a Trust body for the whole of Scotland. This would release many Friends who are currently trustees, for other service.

We are reminded that AM trustees do have a role in upholding the life of the meeting. Let’s hang on to what we can do and hold our vision.”

We ask our GM trustees together with NSAM trustees to meet together to see how best to move forward with this consideration. We ask that they report back to GM when they are ready.

### **Minute. 6 Worship, afternoon session**

During Meeting for Worship we heard read part of the Testimony to the Grace of God as shown in the life of Helen Steven. We accept and endorse this Testimony and ask our clerk to sign it and forward it to BYM.

The full Testimony is attached to these minutes.

### **Minute. 7 Nominations**

Our GM Nominations group brought us the following names.

#### 1. Meeting for Sufferings Representative

Ann Kerr, nomination to be sent to BYM for appointment BYM 2018 to BYM 2021.

#### 2. Meeting for Sufferings Alternate

Mike Shilson, nomination to be sent to BYM for appointment BYM 2018 to BYM 2021.

#### 3. Scottish Faiths Board on Community Justice

Jenny Copsey January 2018 to December 2020

#### 4. Scottish Joint Committee on Religious and Moral Education

Mairi McCormack January 2018 to December 2018

NOTE: This was a new appointment made for one year only. We asked Mairi to report back to us at this meeting and recommend whether she complete her triennium or not. As the Committee did not meet at all in 2017, she is unable to report, but would like to serve another year so that she can attend a meeting if they reconvene.

#### 5. ACTS Trustee

Huw Lloyd Richards with immediate effect until June 2019

Note: We were asked by ACTS to appoint a Trustee in June 2017 (Minor Churches serve as Trustees on a rota system). We were unable to appoint. Huw Lloyd- Richards was appointed as GM representative to the ACTS Members Meeting in June 2017. He

himself requests that he be released as a member to serve as a Trustee. He attends the Members Meetings as a Trustee and we do not need to find a second person to serve as a Member at present. In the context of the current review of ACTS our voice and contribution will be best made through the trustees group which will be able to effectively initiate aspects of the review process. By contrast the role of members may be a less effective role to contribute fully to the future of Acts. Huw will be reporting to us at the March General Meeting and sends his apologies for today's meeting.

These names being acceptable we appoint them accordingly. We thank our GM nominations committee for their hard work in this service for us.

### **Minute. 8 GM Budget**

On behalf of GM Trustees, Nigel Dower, our treasurer, has introduced the GM budget.

We appreciate the clarity of this budget and are happy to accept it. We also considered The GM Donations and Affiliations. We are grateful for the additional guidance on reporting back to GM by the contacts/representatives. We ask our clerk to ensure these reports are included in future agendas where appropriate. We are happy to accept and approve the donations and Affiliations. GM trustees have informed us that the generous legacy from Jenny Auld (West Scotland) of £24,934.00 has now arrived in our bank account. The Budget is attached to these minutes.

*(Note: Part of the considerations for Local Meetings and Area Meetings over the coming months will hopefully be to consider GM's priorities. At our March GM we will focus on these and try to get a steer on where Friends see our energies and resources being spent. Part of this consideration may be how to spend Jenny Auld's generous legacy. There is no rush to do this but also it would be a shame to leave it sitting around.)*

### **Minute. 9 An Approach to the Theology of same-Sex Marriage Please find the report attached to these minutes**

In July we were asked to respond to and feedback on The General Assembly of the Church of Scotland's Report "An Approach to the Theology of Same Sex Marriage". Your clerk asked QCCIR to undertake this response on our behalf. The paper and related back ground reading is attached to these minutes. We ask our clerk to write to QCCIR, specifically Rachel Muers, and thank them for this work.

We are grateful for the work on the response paper. We authorize our clerk to liaise with Rachel Muers on a few changes, following this we are happy that it is our response to The General Assembly and ask our

clerk to forward it to the Rev John McPake.

#### **Minute. 10 Tim Gee on Sanctuary Meetings**

Tim Gee has described, in a very clear and engaging manner, his work for BYM on Sanctuary Meetings.

He spoke of some very moving visits to groups around the country who are working in various ways with refugees. Tim encourages us to consider how we can make links with other local groups and faith

organisations. Most people here return to their meetings with the leaflet "Being a Sanctuary Meeting –

Questions and Answers. For more information please go to [www.quaker.org.uk/migration](http://www.quaker.org.uk/migration)

We thank Tim for his presentation.

#### **Minute. 11 Parliamentary Engagement Working Group Report**

Martin Pippard has spoken to their report which is attached to these minutes. We recommend careful reading of this report and draw your attention to the meeting to be held on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2018 from 1-4 in Edinburgh Quaker Meeting House. This meeting is to thresh ideas and discern a way forward on Universal Basic Income. We welcome the idea that preparatory papers about this will be on our website in advance of the meeting. We are impressed with the work being carried out on our behalf and thank all those involved.

What follows is from a previous minute on PEWG.

*(One of the additional aspects of our advocacy work is letting Quakers know what is coming up around Quaker concerns in Westminster and Holyrood. Where PLFG and Mairi feel individual contact with local MPs and MSPs could be effective, they will alert us via the GMS emailing list.*

*It is important to the PLFG and to Mairi that communication to Quakers across Scotland works. We have a representative from each AM on the PLFG who should update your AM. Mairi keeps Facebook, Twitter and our website up to date. The PLFG writes regular detailed reports on all aspects of this work and these are given at GM. These papers are always attached to the agenda which is circulated widely across Scotland prior to GM. It is also our responsibility to ask for information if we feel we need more.*

*There is a balance to be found between bombarding those who don't want it and missing those who do.*

**Min. 12 Assisting engagement with Friends House for island dwelling, remote and rural Friends**

Mairi Campbell-Jack has told us of a project that encourages friends across Britain to travel to Friends House to find out what goes on there. Friends take part in a tour, share food and generally are informed about what happens there on our behalf. Mairi wondered if we could set up a bursary to enable Friends from far afield to attend such events. We welcome this consideration and feel excited about making these visits happen. We are keen that visits go both ways. It is a matter of making the plans! We encourage individuals, LMs and AMs to consider making such visits and invitations. We ask that, if financial help is required, Friends should contact their Overseers who should have financial support information and we also recommend the booklet "Directory of Quaker Trusts" available from Friends House. We thank Mairi for raising our awareness and excitement about this!

**Minute. 13 Meeting of those engaged in Ecumenical work**

Kate Arnot and Huw Lloyd Richards would like to meet with those of us involved in ecumenical work. Particularly those with an interest in or involvement in review of ACTS by Theos. We are glad to encourage and authorise such a meeting to be held in Edinburgh before February 2018. We ask Kate Arnot to contact those to be involved and arrange the meeting.

**Minute. 14 Letter on crisis for refugees in Greece**

We ask our clerk to write a letter (drafted by Hilary Patrick) on behalf of GM to all MPs and MSPs in Scotland. We ask that Mairi Campbell Jack be involved in this process.  
Draft letter attached to these minutes.

**Minute. 15 Preparing for March GM**

GMS asks all AMs and LMs to spend time in considering GM's priorities over the next few months. The focus is 5.03 of Qf&p. We will be considering how we move forward in terms of human and financial resources.

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

We record our thanks to North Scotland Friends for being our hosts at this GM, and look forward to meeting again on 10<sup>th</sup> March in Edinburgh, where we will consider our priorities as general Meeting

Adwoa Bittle  
Clerk

Attachments on same email as minutes

1. Testimony
2. Budget papers
3. Response on same-Sex Marriage
4. PEWG report
5. Letter about refugees in Greece