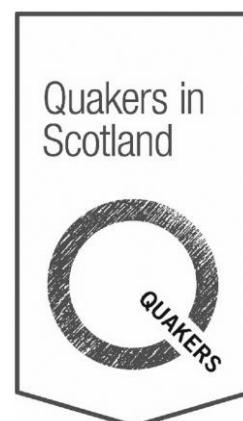


# GENERAL MEETING FOR SCOTLAND

10<sup>th</sup> September, 2022

A blended meeting held in Edinburgh at the Quaker Meeting House, 7 Victoria Terrace, and by Zoom



## 22/09/01 Worship

We have spent time together in worship, during which we heard read *Quaker faith and practice* 21.35 which reminds us that in worship we become united through the creative love of God.

## 22/09/02 Welcome to all present

We welcome all Friends who are with us today, to General Meeting for Scotland, held in Edinburgh Quaker Meeting House and by Zoom.

The total numbers of those present were:

East Scotland	8 (1 in person, 7 on Zoom)
South East Scotland	16 (15 in person, 1 on Zoom)
North Scotland	8 (8 on Zoom)
West Scotland	17 (6 in person, 11 on Zoom)
Visitors	1
<b>Total:</b>	<b>50</b> including 3 attenders, and 1 visitor

## 22/09/03 Elders for this meeting

We are grateful to Sila Collins-Walden and Ann Kerr who have offered to serve as Elders for this meeting. Their duties are listed on the back of the agenda. We remind Friends that we all share the duties of oversight and spiritual care of our Meetings, not just those appointed to carry them out.

## 22/09/04 Reporter for this Meeting

We appoint Gisela Creed from West Scotland Area Meeting to report on this meeting to *The Friend* and the *Scottish Friend*. We ask South East Scotland Area Meeting to report on GM on 19<sup>th</sup> November 2022.

## 22/09/05 Recording between-meetings decisions

We note that the following appointments were made by between-meetings procedure:

### **Nominations**

GM nominations committee has brought forward the following names:

#### **GM Trustee**

Andrew Blackadder (Shetland LM)

To serve with immediate effect until the end of June 2025

(1<sup>st</sup> triennium)

#### **GM representative on Ecumenical Officers' Forum (Scottish Christian Forum)**

Mary Woodward (Portobello and Musselburgh LM)

To serve with immediate effect until the end of June 2025

(1<sup>st</sup> triennium)

#### **Quakers in Scotland Facebook Page Moderator**

Martin McCaffery (St Andrews LM) (2<sup>nd</sup> triennium)

Clive Potter (Aberdeen LM) (1<sup>st</sup> triennium)

To serve from now until the end of June 2025

#### **GM Working Group 2 on Options for Quakers in Scotland**

Neil Turner (South Edinburgh LM)

To serve from now until 10<sup>th</sup> June 2023 (1<sup>st</sup> triennium)

These names being acceptable, we appoint the Friends named accordingly, by between-meetings procedure.

#### **Quaker Committee for Christian and Interfaith Relations**

Nigel Dower (Aberdeen LM) (1<sup>st</sup> triennium)

We pass this name to BYM for appointment.

Elizabeth Allen, Clerk

Michael Hutchinson, Assistant Clerk

Adwoa Bittle, Assistant Clerk

27<sup>th</sup> June 2022

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As a member of Jubilee Scotland, GM received a request to pledge money to the "Big Give" matched funding appeal for Jubilee Scotland's Debt Justice Campaign. As the deadline for making the pledge was 2<sup>nd</sup> September, this was dealt with by between-meetings procedure, and it was agreed to pledge £100 from GM.

Elizabeth Allen, Clerk

Michael Hutchinson, Assistant Clerk

Adwoa Bittle, Assistant Clerk

Nigel Dower, Treasurer  
Martin Burnell, Clerk to GM Trustees

30<sup>th</sup> August 2022

### **22/09/06 New members, transfers and deaths**

From Area Meeting minutes since General Meeting on 11th June, we record the following:

TRANSFER OF MEMBERSHIP – IN

Sue Lee to ESAM from West Kent AM

TRANSFER OF MEMBERSHIP - OUT

Martin McCaffrey from ESAM to SESAM

NEW MEMBERS

Joan Mann (SESAM)

Jane Ditchfield (SESAM)

Ross Campbell (SESAM)

DEATHS

Ida Turner (SESAM) on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Elsie Taylor (NSAM) on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2022

Mary Barnes (NSAM) on

Irene Brockbank (SESAM) on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2022

Margaret Correia (NSAM) on 15<sup>th</sup> June 2022

Mark Tulley (ESAM) on 15<sup>th</sup> June 2022

William Rutherford (NSAM) on 17<sup>th</sup> June 2022

Peggy Bartlett (SESAM) on 4<sup>th</sup> September 2022

Rachel Howell (SESAM) on 6<sup>th</sup> September 2022

### **22/09/07 General Meeting for Scotland report to Yearly Meeting Agenda Committee (YMAC), July 2022**

The annual paper from General Meeting for Scotland to YMAC to help the process of their discernment on issues that might come to a future Yearly Meeting was submitted in July. It was prepared in response to the question, "What might rightly be brought before Yearly Meeting in 2023?" Our clerk, Elizabeth Allen, spoke to the paper.

YMAC has sent us the relevant minutes from their July meeting.

## **22/09/08 Shindig, 30<sup>th</sup> July to 6<sup>th</sup> August 2022, at Ackworth Quaker School, West Yorkshire**

We have received an enthusiastic written report on Shindig 2022 from a group of young Friends from Scotland who attended the event. This was circulated in advance, as Paper A.

Our young Friends have been prevented from being with us today to speak to their report, but hope to come to GM in November.

## **22/09/09 Working with our Children and Young People**

Mary Troup, GM Children and Young People's Advocate Support, has spoken about her engagement with the lively community of Quaker children and young people in Scotland. Mary gave us a glimpse of this in her written report, which was circulated in advance, as Paper C.

We are encouraged to think about how our young people, and our work with them, bring us joy. Let's look for the joy, and know that we don't always see what is going on with our young people but we know that there are so many opportunities for them that they are relishing. We are grateful to the people providing these opportunities. The fast uptake of places for the family weekend and the joy expressed at the event shows that there is a need for these events, and that our young people are here!

We honour the voices of our young people and maintain a commitment to learn from them. We are moved by this quote from one young person:

*"Even though we may struggle to attend Meeting we still practise our Quaker Faith."*

In Quaker week, we are focussing on 'Welcoming Families'. Events linked to this could last all year, and we are all encouraged to reach out and be open and to find the joy. Let's be creative in thinking about how we can make provision that can enable us to come together across the generations.

We thank Mary for speaking to us today and for the work she and others do with our children and young people, and their families.

## **22/09/10 Parliamentary Engagement Working Group report**

The report of the Parliamentary Engagement Working Group (PEWG) was circulated in advance of this meeting, as Paper B. Carolyn Burch has updated the report. We have heard about their advocacy and the action taken on the following issues:

Heat in Buildings and retrofitting

Representatives of the PEWG and others met with Patrick Harvie MSP, Minister for Zero Carbon Buildings, Active Travel and Tenants' Rights on 25<sup>th</sup> August, to discuss the Scottish Government's Heat in Buildings Strategy. There was particular focus on the potential for retrofitting buildings to improve energy efficiency, lower carbon emissions, and address health problems arising from poorly insulated buildings. Fuel poverty is exacerbated by inefficient heat retention in buildings. The PEWG spoke about the equality, economic justice, and sustainability aspects of the issue. The conversation with Patrick Harvie is ongoing.

### Peacebuilding and peace education

The Scottish Government is committed to establish a Scottish Peace Institute by the end of 2022. The PEWG are following up on its progress with the Minister responsible, Angus Robertson MSP.

Paul McLennan's motion to the Scottish Parliament referring to the QPSW Peace at Heart report was signed by 34 MSPs, representing all 5 political parties. The PEWG have now been invited to participate in round table discussions to review Scottish Labour's approach to education.

### Ways of working

The PEWG continues to encourage Friends to write to their MSPs on matters of concern. The Parliamentary Engagement Officer has been visiting Area Meetings to speak about our parliamentary engagement work, and to listen to Friends about what they would like the group to work on in the future.

In addition to meeting with MSPs and others, the PEWG have responded to several Scottish Government consultations. They have been supported in writing their response to the recent consultation on the Land Reform Bill, by a small group of Friends who are knowledgeable about this issue. This was a helpful way of working and they hope small groups on other issues can be set up.

The PEWG are looking for a Friend to speak at 'Time for Reflection' in the Scottish Parliament, and Friends are invited to let them know if they are interested in doing this.

Carolyn has drawn our attention to the following three opportunities for action:

1. Loss and Damage Action Day on 22nd September provides an opportunity for Friends, including young Friends, to write to their MSP concerning implementation of the Scottish Government's Loss and Damage Fund, and the need for reparations. To assist them, a draft letter and briefing paper will be circulated\*.

2. In the lead-up to COP27 in October, the Parliamentary Engagement Officer will circulate a briefing enabling Friends to contact their MSPs in support of a statement by Stop Climate Chaos Scotland on the phasing out of oil and gas, and calling on the Scottish Government to join the Beyond Oil and Gas Alliance.
3. The PEWG have responded to the government's consultation on the Circular Economy Bill. The response and a note of how to contact Scottish Local Authorities about local recycling, are on the Quakers in Scotland website. The PEWG will alert Friends to the opportunity to follow up on this when the Bill comes before the Parliament.

\*Friends who are particularly interested in reparations and loss and damage are asked to make themselves known to Carolyn Burch (ecarolynburch@gmail.com) or Susan Mitchell (susan.mitchell@zen.co.uk).

We thank the group for its work and Carolyn for her report and for answering our questions today.

### **22/09/11 Meeting for Sufferings report**

Ann Kerr has provided us with a written report of Meeting for Sufferings (MfS) held on 2nd July 2022, which was circulated in advance of this meeting. She has spoken to us today, highlighting the following:

- MfS heard about the work of the Quaker Truth and Integrity Group, and reflected on our Quaker response to the lack of truth and integrity in public life. Friends are encouraged to become involved in this issue locally.
- Focusing on the examples from London and Wales and the Marches of amalgamating groups of area meetings to form a single charity, Helen Drewery and Lesley Richards spoke about the simplification of our Quaker structures to reduce the time and effort spent by Friends on governance.
- The practical implementation of Yearly Meeting's decision to make reparations for historic Quaker involvement in the transatlantic slave trade was discussed. Quaker bodies need to consider how slavery contributed to the resources they hold, and we need to think about what action can be taken that is meaningful.

Friends in Scotland might want to explore reparations for historic slavery in the Scottish context, including the legacy left by slavery, and modern slavery. We might want to return to this at a later General Meeting.

We thank Ann for her report. Friends wishing further information on Meeting for Sufferings are referred to the BYM website: (<https://www.quaker.org.uk/our-organisation/meeting-for-sufferings/papers-and-minutes>)

## **22/09/12 Revision of the Book of Discipline - update**

Mary Woodward and Nuala Watt, members of the Book of Discipline Revision Committee (BDRC), have spoken to us about the progress of this work, expanding on their written report, which was circulated in advance of this meeting, as Paper D.

In particular we note the key messages from the BDRC:

- Drafting of fresh texts on the agreed set of topics continues and there are plans to share these drafts more widely.
- When the committee has finished developing a timeline for its work, it will be made available.
- In collaboration with the BYM publications team, accessible formats of the new book are being explored in addition to traditional formats.
- New invitations from Meetings across Britain to share progress and listen to suggestions are welcome.

Nuala and Mary have spoken to us about their personal experiences of how the process is going. There is a real feeling of making progress. Any groups in Scotland wishing to hear of this progress should contact the group's secretary Michael Booth ([michaelb@quaker.org.uk](mailto:michaelb@quaker.org.uk)).

We thank Mary and Nuala for their written report and for speaking to us today.

## **22/09/13 Nominations business**

See minute 22/06/05 for appointments made by between-meetings procedure.

Northern Friends Youth Events Trust has requested that GM nominates and appoints an additional trustee. We agree to this request.

Our Nominations Committee has brought forward the following names:

### Clerk to GM Trustees

Robin Waterston (St Andrews LM)

To serve from January 2023 until the end of December 2025  
(1<sup>st</sup> Triennium)

### Parliamentary Engagement Working Group

Martin Pippard (ESAM)

To serve from January 2023 until the end of December 2023  
(for an extra year)

Iona Community Board (GM link person)

Bob Dixon (Argyll LM)

To serve from January 2023 until the end of December 2025  
(3rd triennium)

Scottish Religious Leaders Forum

Kate Arnot (South Edinburgh LM)

To serve from 10 September 2022 until end of December 2024  
(1<sup>st</sup> triennium)

GM Representative on ACTS Members Meeting

Adwoa Burnley (Perth LM)

To serve from January 2023 to the end of December 2025  
(2<sup>nd</sup> triennium)

Northern Friends Youth Events Charitable Trust

Simon Harding (Central Edinburgh LM)

To serve from January 2023 to the end of December 2023  
(for an extra year)

Roz Currie (Central Edinburgh LM)

To serve from now until the end of December 2024  
(1<sup>st</sup> triennium)

These names being acceptable, we appoint the Friends named accordingly.

We are grateful to GM Nominations Committee for the work they do on our behalf.

## **22/09/14 Hearing from GM representatives on bodies focused on climate justice**

General Meeting for Scotland extends its social witness through linking with organisations focused on specific issues. The Parliamentary Engagement Working Group (PEWG) acts as our link with Stop Climate Chaos Scotland (SCCS) and Andrew Tomlinson, our Parliamentary Engagement Officer, carries out this task. In preparation for this meeting he provided us with a written report (PAPER E). Andrew sits on the Policy and Advocacy working group of SCCS, and is its chair. Currently the group are holding regular meetings with the civil servants charged with drafting the Scottish Government's Climate Change Plan for achieving its targeted carbon emission reductions, due to be published in 2024. They will be meeting with cabinet members in the autumn, and in preparation for this meeting SCCS have commissioned research into



potential fiscal levers that the Scottish Government can use to tackle the climate crisis.

To further our witness on climate justice there are also regular meetings with Christian Aid Scotland, and there are up-and-coming links with Interfaith Glasgow. Working with others is vital.

Today, Richard Raggett presented the report and gave personal reflections on the burden of the reality of what our planet is suffering. Sometimes dark humour is the only way to get through. Quakers are on the case, as shown in our Yearly Meeting minutes 33 from 2021 and 2022. Friends are encouraged to refresh their memory of these minutes.

What we can do:

We can influence our MSPs, please engage with this and ask the PEWG if you feel unsure about how to do this.

The PEWG are preparing draft text to help with letters to MSPs regarding the 22nd September Loss and Damage Day of Action, which will be sent to Friends by our GM Administrator. QPSW has put together a page of suggestions for local meetings and individual Friends. This is a good chance for us to act.

Woodbrooke is producing a one-year course, 'Exploring Faith and Climate Justice', comprising webinars and work at home.

Please also refer to GMS minute 22/09/10.

Resilience: we need to work on how to assist our communities to become resilient to the changes that we face with Climate Change. The more we build links and communications to support and share across our local areas, and linking wider across the country and the world, the more we will be able to cope. Bringing our Quaker values and testimonies to this work is vital and the best context for making progress.

We are referred to the BYM website and the Quakers in Scotland website for information.

We thank Andrew for the work he does on our behalf and for his written report. We thank Richard Raggett for speaking to us today.

**22/09/15 Gerald Richards' Bequest of Quaker and other Books**

We have received Paper F, which summarises the history of Gerald Richards' bequest, and includes the relevant GM, West Scotland Monthly Meeting, and Glasgow LM minutes.

We understand that in about 2004, Gerald Richards bequeathed a collection of around 400 Quaker and non-Quaker books to West Scotland Monthly Meeting (West Scotland Monthly Meeting minute 93/04 Bequest by Gerald Richards), in the hope that they would serve as the nucleus of a collection of books for a Quaker study centre in Scotland. General Meeting was asked to explore the options for this but it eventually proved impossible to set up, as no suitable premises were available. Since then the books have been housed within Glasgow Meeting library, where they were available for Friends to borrow. The library is now very short of space and the books cannot remain there.

In May 2022, Glasgow LM discussed this and agreed the following minute:

***Glasgow Local Meeting Minute – May 2022***

***22/58 Library***

*In about 2004 Gerald Richards bequeathed a collection of Quaker and non-Quaker books to General Meeting for Scotland. At present these are housed in the library below the hatch and in the flat. Paul Burton has informed us that the collection was gifted to General Meeting to form the nucleus of a Scottish Quaker Study Centre. As General Meeting had no space, Glasgow Meeting agreed to house the books. We now wish to free up space in the Library.*

*We ask Paul Burton to contact General Meeting to ascertain a way forward, and include a list of the books.*

We have discussed the situation. We note that no copy of the terms of the bequest has been found, but we understand that it was Gerald Richards' wish that the books should remain together. In our searches of West Scotland Monthly Meeting and General Meeting for Scotland accounts, there was no trace of the £1000 mentioned in WSMM minute 93/04 and GMS November 2004, minute 12. Furthermore, we have been informed that some of the paperback books had deteriorated to such an extent that they had to be discarded, and that the scientific books in the collection are out of date and not worth keeping.

We have considered what should be done with the books. We agree to set up a small committee to go through the books and ask GM Nominations Committee to bring forward the names of 3 or 4 Friends to serve on it. We ask the small group to triage the books into the following categories:

1. Books for disposal
2. Books to be offered to Woodbrooke and Friends House libraries
3. Books to be donated to charity shops

We note that Ruth Bacon is willing to be involved in this work.

We remain open to the idea of having a Quaker study centre in Scotland, sometime in the future.

### **22/09/16 Options for Quakers in Scotland - update**

We have welcomed Lesley Richards, Convenor of the Options 2 Working Group to our meeting today. Lesley has given us a brief update on the progress of the Group's work.

The working group is due to report back to GM in June 2023 and we have been asked us to consider whether we would like their report to include a proposal for changes we might make to benefit Quakers in Scotland. Their current remit is to:

- Explore and analyse changes to our Quaker structures, which might be of future benefit to Friends in Scotland.
- Keep a watching brief on changes being adopted by Quakers elsewhere to learn from the experience of others.
- Monitor how we are putting into practice the suggestions for strengthening our Quaker community in Scotland.

We are content for the Options 2 Working Group to bring us their recommendations, as part of their report next year.

We note that the report will go to the four area meetings, before it comes to General Meeting in June, so that any decision made lies with the whole Quaker community in Scotland.

We thank Lesley for her update.

### **22/09/17 Enquirers' Day 2022**

The 2022 Enquirers' Day will be held in Cathedral Halls, Dunblane, and by Zoom, on Saturday, 5<sup>th</sup> November. It is being organised by West Scotland Area Meeting. For further information about the event please contact Gill Reid (gillreid3@btinternet.com).

### **22/09/18 Correspondence**

We have received the following email from Peace and Justice, which was circulated with papers in advance of this meeting:

*To:  
Peace & Justice (Heather Kiernan)  
Damned Rebel Bitches Women's History Group (Katie Hunter)  
Edinburgh Stop the War (Pete Canell)  
Iona Community (Lesley Orr and admin)*

Muslim Women's Association of Edinburgh (admin address)  
Pax Christi (Marian Pallister)  
Religious Society of Friends Scotland (Elisabeth Allen)  
Scottish Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament ([scnd@banthebomb](mailto:scnd@banthebomb))  
St Thomas Aquin's Secondary School (admin address)  
University of Edinburgh (David Somervell and Gari Donn)  
Women's International League for Peace and Freedom Scottish  
Branch (Secretary)

### **Peace & Justice Opposing War Memorial**

*I am writing to the above-named organisations (or contact names as above - please forward if appropriate) that became part of a consortium founded in 2018 to raise the funds to create an Opposing War Memorial (OWM) in Edinburgh, led by Peace and Justice.*

*The original aim was to place a substantial memorial, in the form of a Handkerchief tree sculpture, to honour conscientious objectors and all who oppose war, in Princes Street Gardens in Edinburgh. The memorial was designed by artist Kate Ive, the winner of a prestigious competition, and would incorporate elements developed in embroidery workshops in the community. The fabrication and installation funds required are in the region of £164,778 and a great start was initially made in reaching £68,000 of this target, but delays and difficulties have meant that even these funds have been eaten into without progress.*

*Covid has had a devastating impact on Peace and Justice and its capacity, with the loss of premises diminishing progress and lockdown limiting activity of any sort. Changes in the City Council mean that the site originally planned is no longer likely, let alone certain, and installation and fabrication costs are set to rise rather than fall. Administrative costs (including staff costs, website maintenance etc) have eaten into the OWM funds and while Peace and Justice managed to fulfil their work on Peace Cranes and the subsequent Consequences exhibition, basic activities on peace education, support and information provision, the newsletter and many planned events had to be cancelled and there is now an urgent requirement to redevelop these as core activities. The Centre's co-ordinator and champion of the OWM has had to take medical retirement, and along with many small NGOs we are reviewing staffing structure to suit the post-pandemic climate.*

*At a recent meeting of some interested parties, we reviewed the current situation about the OWM Project. The remaining funds in the bank for OWM currently amount to £41,416. Peace and Justice does not at this time have the collective capacity to take on the substantial work that is required on the war memorial as originally conceived without seriously undermining its prospects of survival at all. Meeting our obligations for grants already used and funding bids for next year precludes taking up the lead on OWM work again. However, we hope that the project can still go ahead, albeit with a different lead and in a different way, by those who made a commitment to it.*

*Our suggestion is that a new lead can receive the remaining funds, the names of the existing donors and can work with Kate (who agreed that she could provide a revised design) to produce a feasible memorial to suit the available budget, probably at another significant site if they are supported by others (indoors at The Scottish Parliament was one suggestion). I have approached some other groups about this possibility (NFPB, Peace Pledge Union and MAW) who were sympathetic but unable to take it on. UN House Scotland will consider doing so if they have the support of others. ~~SECRET~~ It may be that one of those I am writing to may feel that their organisation could step forward, or could support UN House Scotland. Since Peace and Justice is a registered charity, it would be helpful (though not essential) if that was also true for any recipient of the funds. We are aware that some donors to the original plan would have to be consulted about a change of plan, although we are reasonably confident that they would share our view that completing the project and having a memorial within the next year is now urgent, especially in the circumstances of the ongoing war in Europe.*

***So my questions for each of the organisations listed above are two;***

***1. Do you wish to remain part of the Opposing War Memorial Consortium?***

***2. Would you take on a lead role as noted above?***

*aefauldlie*

*Janet*

*Janet Fenton, Development adviser, Peace & Justice*

Janet Fenton has updated us on the situation with the Opposing War Memorial project. So far, Peace and Justice and the Iona Community have agreed to remain involved in the project, plus several Friends in Scotland, and some University of Edinburgh academics. General Meeting for Scotland agrees to remain part of the Opposing War Memorial Consortium.

We have heard that for the project to go forward, there needs to be a new lead organisation, as Peace and Justice no longer has the capacity to do this. The United Nations Association has expressed interest in acting as lead but only if they can be given sufficient support. We ask Friends to consider if they might be able to volunteer to help with the Opposing War Memorial project. Friends considering this should get in touch with Janet Fenton ([janet@peaceandjustice.org.uk](mailto:janet@peaceandjustice.org.uk)).

## **22/09/19 Notices**

1. Second annual Carnall peace award lecture: Global Peace and Security after Ukraine with Professor Paul Rogers

The Carnall peace award 2022 recipient Paul Rogers will talk about the international and geopolitical implications of the war in Ukraine. He will be joined online by Yuri Sheliashenco, of the Ukrainian Pacifist Movement, and by Vijay Prashad of the Tricontinental Institute for Social Research.

Augustine United Church, Edinburgh  
Wednesday 21 September, 6.30pm

Join in-person or online

Eventbrite link: <https://paulrogers.eventbrite.co.uk>

Facebook event:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/42767150276580>

2. Change of date for the Nuclear Disarmament Cross Party Group AGM

This meeting will now take place in the Scottish Parliament at 1.00 pm on 28<sup>th</sup> September. If you wish to attend, please contact Janet Fenton [janet@wordsandactions.scot](mailto:janet@wordsandactions.scot)

## **22/09/20 Closing Minute**

We record our thanks to South East Scotland Area Meeting Friends for being our hosts today and for setting up the equipment that enabled this blended meeting. We also thank our Zoom host for this GM.

There being no further business to bring before General Meeting, we conclude, intending to meet next for a blended meeting in Aberdeen on 19th November, 2022, if nothing occurs to prevent.

Elizabeth Allen,  
Clerk