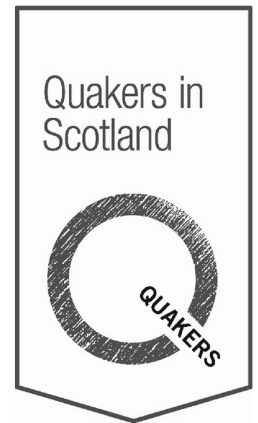


GENERAL MEETING FOR SCOTLAND



Minute 19/11/01 Worship

We have spent time in worship together during which the introduction to “Leadings” in Ch.29 of Qf&p was read. In asking ourselves what shall we hand on, we should remember that as a people we have been gathered, guided and ordered for more than 300 years and through this experience it is still our hope that when we live faithfully, we shall be rightly led.

Minute 19/11/02 Welcome to all present

We are glad to welcome everybody to GM in Perth. Those with us today include 3 attenders and 3 visitors.

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

East Scotland	19
South East Scotland	14
North Scotland	9
West Scotland	14

Total: 59 (including 3 visitors)

Minute 19/11/03 Elders and Overseers

We are grateful to Friends present who have offered to serve as Elders/Overseers for this meeting. Names of those serving for today have been noted. It is important that all of us share the duties of oversight and the spiritual care of our Meetings, not just those appointed to carry them out. We were introduced to people in our community who hold the roles that enable GM to operate.

Minute 19/11/04 Reporter of this Meeting

We appoint Mary Dower from North Scotland AM to report this meeting to *The Friend* and the *Scottish Friend*. We ask East Scotland AM to report on GM in Edinburgh in March.

Minute 19/11/05 New members and deaths

From Area Meeting minutes, since our last meeting we record the following new members:

North Scotland AM Dennis Lundie

From Area Meeting minutes, since our last meeting we record the following death:

North Scotland AM Ellen Moxley on 8th July 2019

Minute 19/11/06 Shindig and Link Weekend 2019

We have heard from some people who attended this year's Shindig and the Link weekend. We are again so glad that these opportunities are available and thank all staff and volunteers that make them happen. The friendships, themes and deep listening that is encountered, supports and strengthens participants both individually and collectively.

Minute 19/11/07 Minutes received from Area Meetings

We receive the following minutes from ESAM, SESAM and NSAM

19.8.2 Improving our ways of working ESAM

At General Meeting in March 2019, we addressed the question: "Scottish Quakers: how do we liberate ourselves to focus on spiritual growth, community building and witness to the world?"

Today, the Clerk has introduced discussion on ways of working more effectively. We considered different areas, including training and support for role holders, improved efficiency and what we considered was our core purpose and key roles.

Our suggestions include:

- Focusing on our core purpose, our spirit-led community, based on 'Our Faith in the Future' – can we make communications work better to allow the spirit to flow through us?
- Developing ideas such as 'buddies' to support role holders and thinking creatively of different ways of eldering and oversight.
- Developing practical ways to improve workings, for example a standardised accounting system, this could be done initially across Scotland.
- Support for training in video conferencing, such as 'Zoom' which is said to be easy to learn.
- Making the nominations process more transparent.

We will forward this minute to General Meeting.

2019/09/11 SESAM General Meeting for Scotland – ‘menu for change’

Our clerk has presented an outline of the menu for change agreed at General Meeting for Scotland in March and has drawn our attention to the points most relevant to our situation in South East Scotland.

Key issues highlighted include:

- How we bring in, and bring on, newcomers – eg through social events, learning opportunities, and equipping ourselves through skills development
- Building community within our meetings (see minute 2019/06/11 for our discussion of how Kelso meeting approaches this) – eg through events, having fun, eating together
- What can we do jointly with other AMs? – eg sharing certain roles, sharing training
- Developing our meetings – what can we do to stabilise fragile meetings, to seed new meetings? And should we be reviewing all our meeting places, owned or rented to see if they are in the right location, with the right facilities?
- Communicating – eg using ‘Zoom’ to cut down on travel; how we use our websites and social media; and our use of print media.

We recognize the shortage of time to discuss these issues fully.

We encourage AM Trustees in their consideration of how to spend our legacy funds and ask them to include the possibility of using them to develop a vibrancy approach.

We note that issues of how Area Meeting is organised and held will be discussed further at our November meeting, when we review three years’ experience of the STIR proposals of 2016.

We ask the clerk to send this minute to General Meeting for Scotland.

We thank the clerk for his presentation.

NSAM

Area Meeting review 67/19 We have considered the review of Area Meeting carried out by the listening Group in 2017. and considered where we are now in 2019: • We have made more of our Area Meetings residential in style; • We have a planning committee to help organise AM's including our annual residential AM at Pluscarden; • NSQT has been laid down and we have one group of trustees instead of 2; • We have laid down the search group & E/Os are tasked with finding names for Nominations Committee; • We have taken on and paid for additional finance support to make the treasurers role less onerous; • 2 local meetings became worship groups (Nairn & Banchory) and there are worship groups in Dingwall, Brora and Caithness; • Forres Local Meeting now meets every Sunday; •

We have tested and will continue to test the effectiveness of video conferencing, noting that the AM planning committee has asked GM to advise on the most appropriate VC to use.

Minute 19/11/08 Scottish Quakers: How do we liberate ourselves to focus on spiritual growth, community building and witness in the world?

Our clerk has introduced us to the work already completed on this issue. We have moved into smaller groups to consider the suggestions made by Area Meetings. We ask our treasurer to free up a sum of money (suggested £1000) from the Jenny Auld legacy for the purposes of our following actions:

Communications

We agree to strengthen our GM Communications Group (Joyce Taylor, Ann Kerr, Anna Mitchell) which has been working for nearly a year by asking them to co-opt a few new members to include Friends from all Area Meetings. GM clerks will assist in this co-option. We ask the group to report to GM in March.

Role Holder Support

We ask our GM clerks and GM trustees to explore how best we might support and enable our role holders across Scotland.

We ask that GM clerks together with clerks of GM working groups consider how to enable yearly gatherings for role holders to share their learning and concerns on a rolling basis.

Community Building

Community building has been a strong theme throughout this discussion. We can all see the value in strengthening our relationships through shared meals and social events all age activities etc. We see value in GM providing a space for Friends to share their experiences and ideas on community building. We ask our clerks to work on this for us and report to a future GM.

Minute. 19/11/09 Nominations

We are grateful for the work of our GM nominations committee. They have brought us the following names;

Clerk to GM Trustees – Martin Burnell 2nd Triennium January 2020 until December 2022

GM Trustee SE - Jacqueline Noltingk. On a yearly basis until December 2020

Treasurer & Trustee ex-officio - Nigel Dower. 2nd Triennium January 2020 until December 2022

Assistant Treasurer – Pam Brunt. On a yearly basis until December 2020

Interfaith Scotland – Barbara Potter. 3rd Triennium January 2020 until December 2022

These names being acceptable we appoint them accordingly

Minute 19/11/10 Receipt of Minute 2019 09 07 from Yearly Meeting Agenda Committee

At the September meeting of YMAC, Central Committees and groups from all round BYM are invited to send a representative to share what they feel is bubbling up for Quakers. We are grateful to Joyce Taylor for attending this meeting on our behalf and for the report that she presented. We receive the following minute from YMAC.

2019/09/07 Discernment of agenda topics for Yearly Meeting Gathering 2020: part 2

We have worked together in groups to develop our thinking on agenda topics for Yearly Meeting Gathering 2020, starting to develop ways in which the emerging themes might evolve into an agenda.

The themes which we started to discern at Yearly Meeting in 2019 remain with us. We need to find a way to combine these, drawing the links between them out and developing our consideration. We are reminded that we are not required to plan for a particular conclusion, but that our preparation for the yearly meeting gathering must simply allow space and time for the spirit to speak.

We need to help friends to prepare to be together in community. We want to get excited about welcoming friends to our meetings, and to our yearly meeting.

We have heard that Quakers have some tools and established methods for engaging with difficult questions. How can we create arenas of trust in which those questions can be engaged with, and how can we help friends to move away from polarised debates in which issues are perceived as win or lose? Could we start from a position which sets out what we do know about these difficult questions, as a way of starting out positively? Can we find a way of sequencing learning, upskilling and discernment effectively, to move towards meaningful action?

We have heard some names of friends who will be invited from other yearly meetings to join us at our gathering. We hope that they will be able to join us. How can we make best use of their methods, their insights and their gifts, both before

and during our gathering? We make up a small part of the world family of friends, and we should not be afraid to ask for help in our corporate discernment.

We have heard several times about ideas for panel sessions which allow consideration of particular issues from an international, national and local perspective.

We thank the representatives of committees and other bodies for sharing in the discernment today. YMAC will take what has been produced and discussed and continue to work on it as we move towards yearly meeting. We send this minute YMAC 2019 09 07 to the committees and other bodies represented, noting that our discernment will continue over the coming months.

Minute 19/11/11 Experiments in Faith

Following on from the success of the meeting-centred approach of the Vibrancy in Meetings pilot programme, Britain Yearly Meeting and Woodbrooke Trustees are working together to re-shape the way these bodies serve our Quaker community in Britain. This decentralised way of working aims to have a local development worker within reach of every meeting in Britain, within the next five years, and to open several regional staff hubs. Transition plans are to appoint four development workers in 2020 and to set up a trial staff hub in a location other than London or Birmingham.

We agree to the suggestion of GM Trustees to express our interest in hosting a development worker and a regional staff hub. This needs to be sought by 1st December.

Minute 19/11/12 Enquirers' Day

We record that 17 Friends attended our 2019 Enquirers' Day, which took place on 12th October in Stirling Baptist Church.

We are grateful to Rici Marshall Cross, Mariot Dallas and Henry Thompson of South East Scotland Area Meeting for organising and facilitating this event on our behalf.

Minute 19/11/13 Scottish Peace Network

We are happy to agree to support the Scottish Peace Network at the cost of £30 per year and that Mary-Alice Mansell is our contact person.

Minute 19/11/14 Budget 2020

In addition, we request that the treasurer draw down a further £1000 from the Jenny Auld legacy for the purposes indicated in minute 19/11/08 and in accordance with budget note 10.

On behalf of GM Trustees, Nigel Dower, our treasurer, has introduced the GM budget which has been approved by our GM Trustees. We appreciate the clarity of this budget and are happy to accept it. We are keen to encourage people to apply to the Treasurer for financial support to attend GM. This year a sum of £500 has been allocated in the Budget for this purpose. Please make this known in your Local Meetings. The Budget is attached to these minutes.

Minute 19/11/15 Donations and Affiliations

We receive the paper detailing our GM affiliations and donations. We considered each item individually and we agree to renew all the grants. There are two groups that we ask our clerks to make further enquiries about. Namely AVP Scotland and Jubilee Scotland. We ask our clerks to report back to us during 2020. We are content that our clerks will prioritise reviewing the GM system for receiving reports from our contacts on these groups.

Minute 19/11/16 Independent examiner

We agree to recommend the appointment of Gordon Mackay to act as Independent Examiner for the 2019 accounts.

Minute 19/11/17 Jenny Auld Legacy

We note receipt of part of Minute 78/19 of WSAM (below) and refer to minute 19/11/08 and 19/11/14 of this meeting.

d) We also receive minute 14 of General Meeting held 14th June which asks Area Meetings for suggestions for the further use of their Jenny Auld legacy by their November meeting. We suggest using the funds to invest in supporting the inclusion of children and young people at General Meeting events and activities. We will return to the discernment of what to do with this generous legacy at a future GM.

Minute 19/11/18 Parliamentary Engagement Working Group report

We receive and are grateful for the work of our PEWG and for their most recent report which has been circulated with documents in advance of this meeting and is attached to these minutes. Please look at Mairi Campbell-Jack's annual report which is being sent to all Local Meetings.

We record our thanks to Mairi for all the work she has undertaken on behalf of “her” Quakers!

Minute 19/11/19 COP26 United Nations Climate Change Conference 2020 COP26

We are glad to receive minute 101/19 from WSAM detailing the setting up of a hub group (including the terms and conditions for the group) to facilitate communication and ongoing work for the COP26 event to be held in Glasgow in November 2020. This document was circulated with the documents in advance of this meeting and is attached to these minutes. We are encouraged to attend Area Meeting in Glasgow on 11th January to hear more and meet Friends’ House staff who are involved in this work.

Minute 19/11/20 Representation on Scottish Churches Parliamentary Office Advisory Group

We record that the following decision was made using our between-meetings procedure on 30/10/19.

Further to Minute 8 of GM held on 8/6/2019, we ask our Parliamentary Engagement Working Group to take on the responsibility of representing GM on the Scottish Churches Parliamentary Office Advisory Group, from this date forward. The convenor of the PEWG will act as GM contact with the SCPO. Members of the PEWG will share the task of acting as representative at SCPO meetings.

Minute 19/11/21 Meeting for Sufferings

We are grateful to our Meeting for Sufferings representative, Ann Kerr, for the report that was circulated with documents in advance of this meeting and is attached to these minutes.

Minute 19/11/22 Record of thanks to our GM Administrator

We record our thanks to Marion Sharkey for all the work she has undertaken as administrator on behalf of Scottish Quakers. We are happy that Marion can stay on until a replacement is appointed.

Minute 19/11/23 General Meeting for Scotland, clerk

Our Friend Adwoa Bittle finishes her service as clerk of General Meeting for Scotland on 31st December.

We thank her for being our clerk for the past three years and for working tirelessly to gather and support our community of Quakers in Scotland. Her shared love and joy have been a blessing to this meeting. We wish her well.

Minute 19/11/24 Closing Minute

We record our thanks to East Scotland Friends for being our hosts at this GM.

There being no further business to bring before General Meeting, we conclude, intending to meet next in Edinburgh on 7th of March 2020 if nothing occur to prevent.

Adwoa Bittle
Clerk