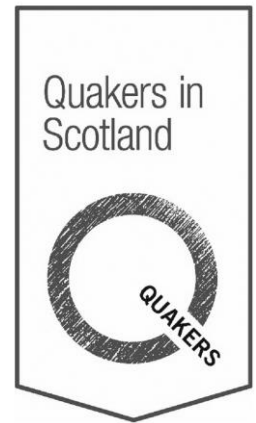


GENERAL MEETING FOR SCOTLAND

12th March, 2022



22/03/01 Worship

We have spent time together in worship, during which we heard read an extract from the testimony to the grace of God as shown in the life of Pat Lucas.

22/03/02 Welcome to all present

We welcome all Friends who are with us today, to General Meeting for Scotland, held by Zoom.

We are meeting online as provision for a blended meeting could not be made this time.

The total numbers of those present are:

East Scotland	15
South East Scotland	26
North Scotland	11
West Scotland	20

Total: 74 including 6 attenders and 2 visitors

22/03/03 Elders for this meeting

We are grateful to East Scotland Area Meeting for appointing two Friends 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.

22/03/04 Reporter of this Meeting

We appoint Graeme Beale from South East Scotland Area Meeting to report on this meeting to *The Friend* and the *Scottish Friend*. We ask East Scotland Area Meeting to report on GM on 11th June 2022.

22/03/05 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:

To serve from 1st January 2022 to 31st December 2024

Parliamentary Engagement Working Group

Tanya Jones (Dundee LM) (1st triennium)

Scottish Faiths Action for Refugees

Lynne Barty (Central Edinburgh LM) (1st triennium)

Northern Friends Youth Events Charitable Trust

Genevieve Orr (St Andrews LM) (2nd triennium)

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

Elizabeth Allen, Clerk

Michael Hutchinson, Assistant Clerk

Adwoa Bittle, Assistant Clerk

22nd December 2021

Nominations

GM Nominations Committee has made the following request:

GM Trustees

To extend the service of Michael Hutchinson (Glasgow LM) as GM trustee from 1st January 2022 until the end of December 2022, at the latest.

We agree by between-meetings procedure to extend Michael's service, as requested.

Elizabeth Allen, Clerk

Adwoa Bittle, Assistant Clerk

27th January 2022

22/03/06 New members, transfers and deaths

From area meeting minutes since General Meeting on 20th November, 2021, we record the following:

TRANSFERS OF MEMBERSHIP – IN

Zoe Prosser from North East Thames AM to SESAM
Stephen Prosser from North East Thames AM to SESAM
Hilary Prosser from North East Thames AM to SESAM
Rosie Horsley from Brighouse West Yorkshire AM to WSAM
Hilary Patrick, from SESAM to WSAM
Judith Rogers, from Northumbria AM to WSAM

TRANSFERS OF MEMBERSHIP - OUT

Kim Mawer NSAM to Cumberland AM
Tom Kearney WSAM to South Wales AM

NEW MEMBERS

Liz Dennis (ESAM)
John Quenzer (SESAM)
Leilani Rabemananjara (WSAM)

DEATHS

Renie Mudie (ESAM) on January 2nd 2022
Ian Paterson (SESAM) on October 6th 2021
Juliet Norris (SESAM) on October 7th 2021
Elsbeth Smith (WSAM) on August 23rd 2021
Myra MacGregor (WSAM) on October 12th 2021

RESIGNATION OF MEMBERSHIP

Clare Devereux (WSAM)

22/03/07 Testimony to the grace of God in the life of Pat Lucas

South East Scotland Area Meeting has sent us a testimony to the grace of God as shown in the life of Pat Lucas. To share this testimony with Friends in Scotland, it was circulated with the papers for this meeting.

We receive and endorse this testimony and ask that it is posted on the Quakers in Scotland website.

We send this minute to the Recording Clerk of Britain Yearly Meeting.

22/03/08 Nominations

Please see minute 22/03/05 for appointments by between-meetings procedure.

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

GM Assistant Treasurer and Treasurer

Katrina McCrea (Portobello and Musselburgh LM)

To serve as assistant treasurer from June 2022 to December 2022 and as treasurer from January 2023 to December 2025 (1st Triennium)

GM Trustees

Robin Waterston (St Andrews LM)

To serve from March 2022 to December 2024 (1st Triennium)

Katrina McCrea (Portobello and Musselburgh LM)

To serve from June 2022 to the end of December 2022 after which as GM Treasurer, Katrina will continue to be a GM trustee ex-officio.

GM Parliamentary Engagement Working Group

Carol Jennings (South Edinburgh LM)

To serve from March 2022 until December 2024 (1st Triennium)

Peace and Justice

Mary Alice Mansell (Glasgow LM)

To serve from March 2022 until December 2024 (1st Triennium)

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

We note that General Meeting for Scotland will be represented at Scottish ecumenical events as follows:

Mary Woodward will attend the United Reformed Church National Synod of Scotland on 11th – 12th March 2022.

Elizabeth Allen and Mary Woodward will attend the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland on 21st – 26th May 2022.

Mary Woodward will attend the Scottish Episcopal Church General Synod on 9th -11th June 2022.

22/03/09 Tabular Statement 2021

We have received the tabular statement for 2021 and note the following numbers of members, attenders and children at 31st December, 2021. The 2021 figures are those reported by area meeting clerks to Britain Yearly Meeting (BYM). The number of members includes Friends recorded as international members (i) and members of BYM outwith Scotland (d).

	2021			2020			2019	2018	2017
	Members*	Attenders: adults	Attenders: children	Members*	Attenders: adults	Attenders: children	Members	Members	Members
East	81	55	8	81	52	11	83	86	88
North	139	102	17	136	101	18	135	135	134
South East	239	200	61	235	200	70	250	257	243
West	228	193	22	226	197	20	199	209	220
Total	687	550	108	678	550	119	667	687	665

SEP All members shown in the 2020 & 2021 columns are adults.

22/03/10 Proposed dates and host meetings for GM in 2023/ 24

We suggest the following:

11th March 2023 West (already agreed)

10th June 2023 South East

9th September 2023 North

11th November 2023 East

9th March 2024 South East

We hope that we will be able to meet in person and that where possible these will be blended meetings. We ask each area meeting to confirm the acceptability of their proposed date and to find a local venue equipped for a blended GM.

22/03/11 Report from General Meeting Working Group to identify options for change in the way we work which would benefit Quakers in Scotland

Further to minutes 21/03/19 and 21/09/11 the report of the “Options for Quakers in Scotland” Working Group was circulated to Friends in Scotland with the papers for this meeting. Lesley Richards, convenor of the working group, has presented the report to us today and answered our questions.

We receive this report and will consider the suggested steps we can take now and what we might do in the future to address the main issues for Quakers in Scotland, and to strengthen our Quaker Community in keeping with the vision expressed in BYM's 'Our Faith in the Future'. We are grateful to the group for listing what they see are the current opportunities, for each opportunity giving their analysis of the benefits and difficulties of implementing it, and for a similar analysis of possible changes we might contemplate in the future.

In small, facilitated groups we have considered the following:

For some time now we have been seeking to strengthen our Quaker community in Scotland. Some Friends have expressed the need for radical change, and others the need to maintain our traditional ways of doing things, as far as possible. Today we have heard suggestions of how we might do things differently. What are your thoughts about the need for change? Has the way you feel about it altered?

Following our small group discussions, together we have responded to the report and the working group's recommendations. We welcome this report and recognise that it is a working document, which is part of a continuing process. At this point, it is timely to look at the opportunities which are available now to help us work together more effectively. The report identifies seven:

1. Establish and support role holder networks across Scotland (building on current practice).
2. Encourage and support the formation of networks of Friends with particular interests, which might also be a resource for the Parliamentary Engagement Working Group.
3. Encourage GM to appoint time-limited working groups, pulling together Friends from across area meetings to consider issues of common concern.
4. GM might reflect on whether there are other ways in which it can fulfill its role as described in *Quaker faith & practice* 5.03a.
5. GM and AMs might hold residential events for Friends across Scotland.
6. AMs might consider if there is any advantage to changing boundaries allowing local meetings to move from one area meeting to another.
7. General Meeting, area meetings, and role holder networks might actively consider whether there are any aspects of their duties, which would benefit from a collaborative approach. This could be Scotland wide or between two or more area meetings.

We agree that General Meeting for Scotland should work with the four area meetings to consider which of these seem most appropriate and helpful, and to work out a plan for implementing them together.

We are open to more radical change in our structures, if its purpose and the way it will bring about improvement are clear. We recognise that the pandemic has pushed change upon us and we have adapted to it. We are not alone in contemplating simplifying our structures: within BYM much work is being done on this, and other churches are also engaged in simplifying their structures. It is wise to learn from others and to share our skills. We have been reminded that fundamentally we come together to listen to the leadings of the spirit and to act on them. Our structures should support this, and release us to focus on spiritual growth, community building and witness in the world. We agree to do more exploratory work on possible future structural changes to simplify the way Quakers in Scotland function, starting with the three suggestions listed in the report.

To take things forward, we agree to set up a Working Group to serve for one year, with the following remit:

- 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 ask our GM nominations committee to bring forward the names of 6 Friends to serve on this group, plus a convenor. It would be helpful if there were some overlap with the membership of the 'Options for Quakers in Scotland' Working Group.

We thank the 'Options for Quakers in Scotland' Working Group for its report and Lesley for presenting it.

Since this group has completed its service, we lay it down and thank the members and the convenor for the considerable work they have done in generating options for us to consider.

22/03/12 General Meeting Trustees Annual Report 2021

In his capacity as a General Meeting Trustee, Michael Hutchinson has presented their annual report 2021, which was approved by trustees on 22nd February 2022. The report was circulated in advance of this meeting. It highlights the business items trustees have spent time on last year, most of which have already been discussed by GM.

Search for new trustees

GM Trustees have alerted us to the difficulty GM Nominations Committee is having in finding a Friend to serve as a GM Trustee from each of the four Scottish AMs. The legal requirement for GM to have a minimum of five trustees has been met temporarily but the situation is still critical: there is an AM Trustee vacancy; another AM Trustee who had completed his service agreed to stay on for a further year, to allow more time for a replacement to be found; and the Clerk of Trustees completes his service at the end of this year. Trustees are searching for a new approach to finding Friends to serve. It is proving helpful to identify Friends to serve in advance, to allow for a smooth handover. On GM Trustees' request, earlier today we appointed the incoming GM Assistant Treasurer to serve as a trustee from June.

Trustees have urged GM to give the issue urgent attention. We agree to set up a Zoom meeting for Quakers in Scotland, which will aim to demystify our Quaker roles, including trusteeship.

We thank Martin Burnell for preparing the report, Michael Hutchinson for presenting it, and GM Trustees for the work they do on our behalf.

22/03/13 Parliamentary Engagement Working Group report

We receive the report of our Parliamentary Engagement Working Group (PEWG) with gratitude for the work undertaken on our behalf. Richard Raggett has answered our questions.

Richard has thanked the whole group for enabling himself and Carolyn to find their way as new convenors. He conveyed his gratitude to Andrew Tomlinson, our Parliamentary Engagement Officer, for his dedicated and professional work and commended him to us. Richard has updated us on the work currently on-going. PEWG are aiming to be more proactive, looking at the long haul, not to just be reactive. In particular with reference to the peace education work in schools, Richard updated us on the building of partnerships with other churches and organisations, and the PEWG's sense that such alliances will truly enhance and enable their work.

We are reminded and encouraged to follow all this work and additionally that of Andrew Tomlinson on the Quakers in Scotland website where all that happens is constantly updated. We look forward to working with area meetings on the review of the PEWG's priorities. This discernment comes to GM in November 2022. It has always felt important to truly own this work. Therefore, Friends are encouraged to give full support to their AM representative on PEWG when they are

approached, and we are encouraged to join Andrew Tomlinson at AM discussions over the coming months.

We thank Richard for his report and the group for its work.

22/03/14 Meeting for Sufferings report

Ann Kerr has written separate reports of the last two gatherings of Meeting for Sufferings, which were held on 4th December 2021 and 4th to 6th March 2022. These were circulated in advance of this meeting as Papers B and D.

Ann has highlighted the links, in her December report, to the Book of Discipline Revision Committee's work and recommends that we take a look!

She has also encouraged us to consider our own sustainability standards particularly with consideration to transport and highlighted her admiration for European and Middle East Section of Friends World Committee for Consultation's work on this.

Ann was moved by Oliver Robertson's reflections that led the prayerful time at the March Meeting for Sufferings, on the distressing events in Ukraine. Ann points us to his words which are attached to the Meeting for Sufferings' minutes which can be found on the BYM website.

We thank Ann for her report and remind Friends that they are welcome to contact her for more information on any Meeting for Sufferings business.

22/03/15 Hearing from GM representatives on our ecumenical and interfaith bodies

In preparation for this meeting we have received written reports from our representatives on the following ecumenical and interfaith bodies (paper C):

Action of Churches Together in Scotland (ACTS)

Adwoa Bittle represents GM on ACTS. In her report she again updated us on the progress of the transition to the Scottish Christian Forum (SCF), which is being set up as a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation. Progress remains slow on the dissolution of ACTS and the transition to the Scottish Christian Forum (SCF). It looks like a members meeting will be called to discuss the way forward. Adwoa will keep us updated.

Both the Ecumenical Officers' Forum and the Church Leaders' Forum (CLF) have continued to meet. Adwoa feels we would be better served by having an ecumenical officer who could attend the Ecumenical Officers' Forum on our behalf. The CLF, representing the Christian Churches in Scotland, is very active, with opportunities to engage with the Scottish Government and to hear from well placed outside speakers. We regularly receive letters through CLF, inviting us to consider adding a Quaker signature, and these are passed to our GM clerk for her discernment.

Adwoa has responded to questions. She would like to hear from Friends interested in service with ecumenical work. It is important that we are there.

Iona Community Board

Bob Dixon represents GM on the Iona Community Board and his written report updates us on its work, although Bob has not been able to engage personally with meetings during the pandemic. The Abbey itself is now open again and Bob told us that the Community's spaces, including their cottages, were available, free of charge, to those in greatest need, who had struggled the most during the pandemic. This was through the Unlocked programme and a total of 63 people were able to enjoy this during 2021. Presently the Iona Council is working hard on a deficit reduction programme, but with good will and remarkable generosity of the membership the Community was not only able to survive but see signs of flourishing by the end of 2021. In September 2021, the Community leader, our Friend Ruth Harvey, was joined by a new Executive Director, Callum Orr, who has brought many relevant skills and leadership experience to the Community. There is a full programme arranged for 2022.

The report by the Board to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland has six areas of focus:

Emergence

Living a vision

Islands centres

Common concerns and the historic legacy of slavery

Environment and future

Bob commented on the latter two of these as being particularly significant to us.

World Day of Prayer, Scottish Committee

Margaret Roy is GM representative on Scottish Committee of the World Day of Prayer (Formerly the Women's World day of Prayer). The World Day of Prayer has been greatly affected by the COVID pandemic

lockdowns. The main purpose of the organisation is to facilitate church services on the first Friday in March each year for the purpose of prayer centred on one of the 150+ participating countries. One country, the writing country, composes the service adding information on their country, a Bible Study and activities for young people. This year the writing 'country' is England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Margaret's report focused on how the Committee operated during the pandemic, which has limited direct personal contact in services and resulted in a fall in donations and a feeling of let-down in the working groups. However, there have been positive sides too, with 'global conversations' on Zoom, one led by the Scottish Committee at the time of COP26 on the climate emergency and climate justice. Next year, the writing country will be Taiwan. In view of the political activities there, Quakers may be especially interested in this as an opportunity to learn more about the country and to pray for the situation. Margaret has told us how her personal involvement has grown with the opportunities to work on inequality and injustice as it affects women, her West Scotland AM concern. All in all it has been a rewarding experience for Margaret as she reaches the end of her period as representative, and we are grateful to her.

Adwoa has read to us an email from Margaret describing how it was to serve on this group.

Interfaith Scotland

Barbara Potter has reported to us on the very full and extensive events supported by Interfaith Scotland, through its 17 local groups and nationally. Bárbara's report lists many of the latter held online during 2021. With COP26 taking place last November much of the focus for 2021 was around climate, with some 70 associated events on the subject, alongside the conference.

There are now 17 interfaith groups around Scotland which Interfaith Scotland continues to support, these organise local activities to bring people of different faiths together in a variety of ways. Events organised by Interfaith Scotland themselves were mostly online last year. Maureen Sier, as Director of Interfaith Scotland, has been invited to speak at a number of events this year. Her contacts with peoples of the Pacific Islands, made through her PhD studies there, have brought speakers who give a different dimension of the effects of Climate Change to groups meeting online in Scotland.

Barbara told us that the COP26 organisers felt the strength of interfaith engagement was the most they have known at these events: a tribute to Interfaith Scotland.

22/03/16 Hearing news of our Children and Young People

Our Children and Young People's Co-ordinator, Mary Troup, has shared news of the children and young people in Quaker meetings in Scotland.

She encourages us to uphold them and their families in everything we do, and she updated us on the wide range of activities and events being held. Mary has met with Children and Young People's Advocates from across Scotland, and is aware how hard Meetings are working to find ways for children and young people to meet again in person. Meetings are being very resourceful in finding ways to do this. When children and young people meet, they become engaged, and we look forward to the Families Weekend coming up at Pitlochry 17-19 June. So, work with children and young people is very much alive, and Mary can be contacted for further information. We encourage information on children and young people's activities to be included on our website.

We thank Mary for updating us and for the work she is doing on our behalf.

22/03/17 Correspondence and other Business

Friendly FolkDancers

Further to minute 21/11/18 Correspondence and Other Business, local and area meetings were consulted about hosting the proposed Scottish tour of Friendly FolkDancers. The feedback received was mixed. Although Friends could see the benefit of such a visit, there was concern about the environmental impact of the dancers' long-haul flights, but overall insufficient interest was shown by meetings to merit GM supporting this tour.

22/03/18 Notices

Trauma, Justice and Imprisonment - Day of Quaker Reflection Saturday 26th March, 10.00 am to 3.00 pm, at Glasgow Meeting House, and online.

If you wish to attend, to receive the Zoom link, or if you have further questions, please email Anneke anneke.kraakman@gmail.com

Members of the Scottish Quaker Community Justice Network have organised this event. It will be a day of discussions around trauma-informed practice and criminal justice from the perspective of Quakers in Scotland and will cover topics such as the effects of adverse childhood experiences, therapeutic alternatives to prisons, the Scottish context for trauma-informed practice, and prison abolition. There will

also be a 'self-care healing' session led by a member of the group Capacitar.

Preparation for the 2022 Swarthmore lecture on Race and Privilege to be given by Helen Minnis

Friends are encouraged to do some thinking and preparation about this topic in advance, so as to come to the lecture with an open mind and heart. Glasgow Meeting's White Privilege Group has resources and questions for two study sessions, which can be undertaken individually or in groups, and are happy to share these and other resources more widely. For more information please contact Ann Kerr.

Yearly Meeting 2022

Friends with children are encouraged to join BYM this year (27th- 30th May). The Children's Programme still has space.

22/03/19 Closing Minute

We record our thanks to the Friends who set up and hosted this GM by Zoom.

There being no further business to bring before General Meeting, we conclude, intending to meet next on 11th June, 2022, if nothing occurs to prevent.

Elizabeth Allen,
Clerk