



GENERAL MEETING FOR SCOTLAND

17/18 Nov 2012
St. Andrews

Min. 1 Reading

During Meeting for Worship we heard a reading from Rainer Maria Rilke on the value of being patient with our unsolved questions.

Min. 2 Welcome

We welcome 4 attenders to this GM. We also welcome Jonathan Mason of the Episcopal Church, Michael Hutchinson, Assistant Recording Clerk of BYM and Philip Austin of Northern Friends Peace Board.

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

East Scotland	18
South East Scotland	13
North Scotland	5
West Scotland	<u>8</u>
Total:	44 plus three visitors.

Min. 3 Reporter

We appoint Ann Millar from North Scotland AM to report this meeting to *The Friend* and the *Scottish Friend*. We ask East Scotland AM to report on the next GM.

Min. 4 New members and deaths

We record the following new members since our last meeting:

Ian Beamish (SE)
John Hitchin (N)
Robert Wilson (N).

We record the following deaths since our last meeting:

Catherine Braithwaite (E)
Priscilla Silver (E)
Gillian Massarene-James (N).

Min. 5 Report from Summer Shindig

Roz Currie, Coordinator of Summer Shindig 2012, has given us a report of the event last July. She showed us a DVD made by the young people during the week. There were 51 young people, including 16 first-timers, and participants from Palestine, Holland, Finland and Wales, as well as from Scotland and the North of Scotland, and 16 volunteer staff. The event has a strong Quaker ethos, through the example set by staff, the building of a real sense of community during the week, and the deep involvement of all in the evening Epilogues. We thank Roz for giving us a vivid insight into the excitement and enthusiasm of the young people during the week.

Min. 6 Budget for 2013

Our Treasurer John Phillips has presented budget proposals for 2013. He projects an expenditure of £22 150 with projected income of £20 415. This will result in a reduction in our reserves of £1735 to £20 359. The budget incorporates holding the AM quotas at their current levels and an increased budget for outreach to allow some advertising around Quaker Week.

John has also presented a list of proposed donations for 2012 totalling £4 900, following a very similar pattern to 2012. We agree to increase the donation to Scottish Churches Housing Action from £300 to £500, and to defer a decision on the appropriate contribution to Scottish Churches China Group until March 2013, to give time to seek further information. We accept the rest of the budget, and attach the revised version to these Minutes.

We note that our Assistant Treasurer, Pam Brunt, ends her service in Dec 2012, and we thank her for her service.

Min. 7 GM Fund for Healing

John Phillips has informed us that Trustees have accepted a sum of £2 793 which has been passed to General Meeting on the occasion of the winding up of the Christian Fellowship of Healing (Scotland) last May, and during October. The gift was conditional on it being used for supporting activities by Scottish Friends or attenders within the field of spiritual healing (in its broadest sense) and it has been set aside for this purpose.

Trustees have suggested that this fund should be administered by Jim Pym (South East Scotland AM) and Muriel Robertson (West Scotland AM) on behalf of General Meeting. Applications would be sought following an article in *Scottish Friend*. We agree to this.

Min. 8 Other financial items

Further to Minute 10 of September 2012, we note that John Phillips has been authorised by Trustees to transfer GM reserve funds to Triodos Bank in January. At present it is not possible to link this with a Quaker Housing Trust account.

We appoint David Crosbie as Examiner of the accounts for 2012.

We note that a very successful Treasurers and Trustees Gathering was held in Glasgow earlier this year.

Min. 9 Update on Parliamentary Liaison work

The Clerk has reported that a constructive meeting took place in Edinburgh on 29 October, attended by Paul Parker (Recording Clerk) and Jane Dawson from Friends House, to follow up the minutes of GM in June and September 2012. There was agreement that the

establishment of a part-time post based in Scotland to enable Friends to play a more effective advocacy role in Scotland was desirable, in particular with the Scottish Parliament.

It was agreed that the most appropriate model for such a development was for the post to be a BYM appointment, and for the appointee to be a full member of the BYM team headed by Jane Dawson. The newly established Parliamentary Liaison Function Group would have an important role in helping to define the priority areas to be addressed and in supporting the appointee.

There are many details to be resolved and it was agreed that, as an initial step, GM might invite BYM Trustees to commit to exploring the way forward with us. We agree to do this.

We have also received a report from the new Function Group. They have had a useful initial meeting and are working out their priorities and method of communicating with Scottish Friends. They are proposing that Trident should provide the first focus of work. They will use the newsletter to invite Friends with interest in or knowledge of the issue to contact them.

The Function Group also recommends that GM participate in the parliamentary consultation on the criminalisation of the purchase of sex through the ACTS process but not separately. We agree to this, and encourage individual responses to the consultation.

Min. 10 Report on Ury Working Group

Pamala McDougall has reminded us that the group appointed at GM in September 2007 still has a watching brief on the developments relating to the Ury estate near Stonehaven. The importance to Quakers in Scotland and worldwide is the graveyard and Mausoleum where Robert Barclay is buried and the interest of Quakers has been expressed and acknowledged by the developers and the local authority. GM minute in March 2009 notes that the proposed developments had been delayed due to the recession. Although further plans have been submitted more recently, there has been no further progress. The group consists of Pamala McDougall, Eva Deregowska and Paul. The group will report back when there is any progress on developments.

We invite Paul to write a report for the Scottish Friend on Robert Barclay. We also ask Nominations Function Group to seek an additional member of the Working Group.

Min. 11 Meeting for Sufferings

Jane Pearn has reported to us on the work of Meeting for Sufferings in October. She has drawn our attention to the forthcoming commemoration of the start of “the war to end all wars” in 2014. Meeting for Sufferings is working to contribute a distinctive Quaker voice to the planning for this occasion. We hope to ensure that reflection on the folly of war, the current world situation, and on alternatives to war, will play a significant part of this commemoration.

Min. 12 Appointments

Nominations Function Group has brought forward the following name and we agree to them:

Representative Friends Pool January 2013- Dec 2015

Alison Burnley
David James
Pamala McDougall
Margaret Peacock
Margaret Boland

Quaker representative on Quaker Service Northern Ireland March 2013 -Feb 2016

Mary Alice Mansell (re-appointment)

GM Trustees

Convener (to replace Philip Bryers) Robin Davis March 2013 -March 2016
(2nd triennium on Trustees)

Outreach Function Group

Convener Pete Stuart Jan 2013 - Dec 2015

In addition, the Search Group appointed by GM in June 2012 brings forward the following name and we agree to this:

Nominations Function Group

Convener Alyson Buchan Jan 2013 – Dec 2013.

Ury Working Group

We appoint Colin Millar to join this group.

Min. 13 Peacemaking in Tomorrow's Scotland

Philip Austin has given us an outline of the history of Northern Friends Peace Board since its foundation in 1913.

From the earliest stage, the Board published leaflets and posters opposing war, organising meetings and campaigning. Underpinning it all has been work to strengthen the spiritual basis of peacemaking, and to identify the causes of war and the roots of conflict. From "Orange and Green" on the Northern Ireland conflict in the 1970's to an "Understanding Islam" day in 1991, and in subsequent activities, this has been the underlying motivation. Currently their priority project is "Building Peace in Diverse Britain".

We have been challenged with a number of questions including "What political and practical steps can we take to contribute to a resilient and peaceful society?". Our discussion included descriptions of a variety of personal narratives and experiences, helping us to understand more explicitly the value of Quaker processes and practices in enabling listening and the growth of understanding in situations of conflict.

We have also heard from Janet Fenton and Mary Alice Mansell on their work as members of Scotland's for Peace.

Janet described her experience at a recent meeting of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, linked to the review process of the Non-Proliferation Treaty. There had been a keen interest from many of the delegates in the role of Scotland in relation to nuclear weapons, and the implications of a possible yes vote in the independence referendum. There are positive things going on in Scotland and Janet encouraged us to learn more about them and to get involved to whatever degree we are able.

Mary Alice described the work of Scotland's for Peace, which is a coalition of many organisations working for a more peaceful future. One of its tasks has been to promote discussion of ways in which Scotland could develop policies for human security as opposed to military strength.

In groups and individually, we have discussed a series of questions encouraging us to reflect more deeply on the meaning of security. We thank Philip, Janet and Mary Alice for leading us in the discussions this afternoon.

Min. 14 Turning the Tide

Pam Brunt has introduced the work of Turning The Tide, of which she is a committee member.

This work arose out of the recognition that in protesting against preparations for war or social injustice, the methods and spirit of how we act is of crucial importance. We need training in maintaining non-violence in our actions. Turning The tide is a section of Quaker Peace and Social Witness that runs courses and offers such training to groups and organisations that request it.

They offer facilitators to work with the groups on developing their skills in the methods and principles of non-violence. The groups include non-Quaker as well as Quaker bodies. One request the committee received was from Friends in Kenya to help with peace-building ahead of the 2013 elections.

Alastair Reid has described some of the effects of this training. There are three parts to it – civic education, training of citizen watchdogs to monitor election and pre-election processes using call-in centres, and trauma counselling for victims of violence. One aim is to strengthen the practice of local democracy in communities across Kenya.

The bulk of the work is undertaken by Kenyans, the role of Turning The tide has been to help with the training of local facilitators. Increasing capacity to recognise build-ups of tension and respond creatively and without violence is of crucial importance in helping to prevent future violence.

We thank Pam and Alastair for their descriptions of this important work.

Min. 15 Closing Minute

We record our thanks to East Scotland Friends for being our hosts at this GM, and look forward to meeting again in Glasgow on 2 March 2013 when our speaker will be Paul Burton on what can be discovered about our past from the Scottish Quaker archives.

Robin Waterston Clerk