



Yearly Meeting of the
Religious Society of
Friends in Britain

**At a Meeting for Sufferings
held in London
7 February 2009**

S/09/02/ 2: The Nature and Mission of the Church: Introduction

Further to our minute S/8/09/5 of September 2008 and our discussion then, we have heard a brief introduction to the revised draft response from Quaker Committee for Christian & Interfaith Relations to the World Council of Churches document: The Nature and Mission of the Church (paper S/09/02/A).

We have also received an additional paper including minute 09/11 of the Quaker Committee for Christian & Interfaith Relations meeting held from 30 January to 1 February 2009 recording their approval of the response.

Whilst concern was expressed from within our meeting that the document might be misinterpreted as a statement of what all Friends believe today, our lengthy discussion led us to a sense that we should embrace the spirit of this response.

We have heard that the time may be right for a new ecumenical agenda seeking a "unity based on love, rather than intellectual agreement" (from section 4.4 of the document).

We offer this document humbly to other churches, acknowledging that it does not represent the beliefs of all our members, and that we will continue to wrestle with its challenges ourselves.

Signed
Susan Seymour
Clerk

Meeting for Sufferings is the standing representative body for Quakers in Britain.