



### Committee on Clerks: appointment

Twelve Friends to serve until Yearly Meeting 2005 with David Saunderson, nominated by the Committee on Clerks to serve as clerk

#### Renominations:

Christine Davis	West Scotland MM
Nicholas Evens	Gloucester & Nailsworth MM
Silvia Hilken	East Devon MM
Keith Redfern	Colchester & Coggeshall MM

#### Nominations:

Jennifer Barraclough	Hampstead MM
Paul Bowers Isaacson	Devonshire House & Tottenham MM
Rosie Carnall	Balby MM
Vera Dolton	Kendal & Sedbergh MM
Ian Neale	Northampton & Wellingborough MM
Donald Southall	Hertford & Hitchin MM
Peter Speirs	North Wales MM

one more name to come

### Yearly Meeting Elders

To serve as Elders during this Yearly Meeting:

#### Renominations:

Howard Gregg	Kingston & Wandsworth MM (Convenor)
Rosemary Moore	Worcestershire & Shropshire MM
Susan Sawtell	Northampton & Wellingborough MM

#### Nominations:

Judith Barasel	Hereford & Mid Wales MM
Malcolm Bowker	York MM
Susan Hibberd	Ratcliff & Barking MM
Simon Risley	Westminster MM
John Sheldon	Warwickshire MM
Alex Wildwood	Gloucester & Nailsworth MM
Barbara Windle	York MM

### Epistle Drafting Committee

To serve as and Epistle Drafting Committee during this Yearly Meeting

#### Nominations:

Gerard Benson	Brighouse MM (Convenor)
Anita Thistlethwaite	York MM
Trish Carn	Hampstead MM

### Yearly Meeting Agenda Committee

Three Friends to serve until Yearly Meeting 2005:

#### Renominations:

Gay Pilgrim	Warwickshire MM
Joyce Trotman	Purley & Sutton MM

#### Nomination:

Julia Gordon	Northumbria MM
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#### Release:

Ruth Hustler

One Friend to serve until Yearly Meeting 2003:

Valda Dagnell	Hampstead MM
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### Yearly Meeting Special Needs Group

One Friend to serve from Yearly Meeting 2002 until the end of Yearly Meeting 2005:

Nomination:

Lindsay Parr                      Cheshire MM

These names being acceptable to the Meeting, we appoint these Friends accordingly.

### **Minute 5      Summer Gathering 2003 Planning Committee**

We note and confirm the following changes in the membership of this committee.

Magnus Ramage                  Luton & Leighton MM

Simon Risley                      Westminster MM

Judy Penaluna                    deceased.

### **Minute 6:      Pastoral Care at Yearly Meetings**

Yearly Meeting Agenda Committee has considered several aspects of the care of Friends at Yearly Meetings and has recommended an experiment for two years with the appointment of Yearly Meeting Overseers with responsibilities as given on page 12 of *Documents in advance*. It has also recommended an increase in the size of Yearly Meeting Special Needs Group from four to six Friends. We accept these recommendations which are to be reviewed by Agenda Committee after Yearly Meeting 2003.

The following Friends have been nominated to serve as Overseers for this Yearly Meeting by Quaker Life Committee on Eldership and Oversight at the request of Yearly Meeting Agenda Committee.

Barbara Aynsley Smith	Woodbridge MM
Yvonne Awbery	Hampstead MM
Marjorie Ball	Lancaster MM
Margaret Bryan	York MM
Mervyn Dobbin	Luton & Leighton MM
Ruth Errington	Luton & Leighton MM
Ken Hutchinson	Hereford & Mid-Wales MM
Jane Pearn	Hardshaw West MM

These nominations being acceptable to this Meeting, we appoint these Friends accordingly.

We agree to add to the list of nominations sought from Nominations Committee: 8 - 10 Overseers to serve Yearly Meeting 2003, one to act as convenor, and two additional Friends for the Special Needs Group.

### **Minute 7:      Nominations Committee (Yearly Meeting 2002 – Yearly Meeting 2003)**

By minute 43 of Yearly Meeting 2001 David Blamires (Hardshaw East MM) was appointed to serve as clerk of Nominations Committee 2002 – 2003.

The following additional Friends are appointed to serve on the Yearly Meeting Nominations Committee during this yearly meeting and until Yearly Meeting 2003:

Jean Jenn	Hampstead MM
Peter Todhunter	Cheshire MM
Claire Norton	Worcester & Shropshire MM
Janet Lynch	Cornwall MM
Michael Perks	South East Scotland MM

Magnus Ramage      Luton & Leighton MM  
Rachel Phillips      Hampstead MM  
Rodney Mahon      Reading MM

The appointed Nominations Committee is asked to nominate to a later session:

a clerk of Nominations Committee to serve from Yearly Meeting 2003 - Yearly Meeting 2004;

one more Friend to serve on the Committee on Clerks from Yearly Meeting 2002 - Yearly Meeting 2005;

one more Friend to serve on the 2003 Summer Gathering Planning Committee;

and to nominate to Yearly Meeting 2003:

Yearly Meeting Arrangements Committee: one to two Friends, to serve with the three Yearly Meeting clerks and the three other members from Yearly Meeting Agenda Committee;

Epistle Drafting Committee: five to seven Friends to serve as an Epistle Drafting Committee;

Yearly Meeting Agenda Committee: three Friends to serve until Yearly Meeting 2005;

Yearly Meeting Special Needs Group: three Friends to serve Yearly Meeting 2003 – Yearly Meeting 2006, and one Friend to serve Yearly Meeting 2003 – Yearly Meeting 2005;

Elders for Yearly Meeting 2003: six to ten Friends, including one to serve as convenor.

Overseers for Yearly Meeting 2003: eight to ten Friends, including one to serve as convenor.

We ask Agenda Committee to consider the process we use for appointing our Nominations Committee.

**Minute 8:      Committee to examine minutes**

We appoint the following Friends to arrange by rota for two of their number to examine the minutes of this Yearly Meeting at the close of each session, and to correct any slight inaccuracies:

Carol Gardiner	Hampstead MM
Margaret Gravely	York MM
David Irwin	Ratcliff & Barking MM
Sally Juniper	Hampstead MM
Jennifer Kavanagh	Westminster MM
Stevie Krayner	South Wales MM
Tony Marsh	Northumbria MM
Sarah Richards	Northumbria MM
Joolz Saunders	Worcester & Shropshire MM
Chris Skidmore	Reading MM

If any substantive alterations appear to be required, they are to be proposed at the next session prior to further business.

**Minute 9:      Annual Report of Meeting for Sufferings 2001, and Report & Accounts of the Yearly Meeting Funds**

The Annual Report of Meeting for Sufferings and its committees for the year ended 31 December 2001, as printed in *Quaker work in 2001*, and the *Quaker financial report and accounts* of the Yearly Meeting Funds, have been received and laid before us.

**Minute 10: Epistle from Ireland Yearly Meeting**

The Epistle from the Yearly Meeting of Friends in Ireland, held in Friends' School Lisburn from 4<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> April 2002, has been read as follows:

TO FRIENDS EVERYWHERE

Greetings from Ireland Yearly Meeting gathered in Friends' School Lisburn from 4<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> April 2002. We are happy to be gathered again having missed 2001 due to the Foot and Mouth Crisis when we were all challenged to make sacrifices, especially in our movements around the country. Our thoughts and prayers were with the affected farming community whose livelihoods and way of life were put at risk.

We are concerned with a World much changed by the events of 11<sup>th</sup> September 2001 and our thoughts and prayers have been with Friends in the United States of America who were seriously challenged by the response of the Administration to this event.

We are deeply worried by the subsequent events in Afghanistan and the effect on its people and the implication for a wider conflict, all of which are contrary to our peace testimony. More recent events in the Middle East have further exercised our minds in the same manner. We have heard that European and Middle-East Young Friends have written a letter of support to Friends in Ramallah Meeting. We also feel deeply about the people in Afghanistan following the recent earthquake, and indeed with those throughout the world who continue to suffer from natural disasters.

Since we last met as a Yearly Meeting we have made the decision to dispose of the Bloomfield Hospital complex and Swanbrook House and plans for moving to our new home at Stocking Lane, Dublin are progressing.

As a Yearly Meeting we have been strengthened by our experience at the Public Lecture when three Friends shared their thoughts with us. They spoke about Friends in former times who had faced adversity in their lives and who had been able to overcome personal crisis through their strong Christian belief. This theme of Light overcoming Darkness was also reflected at other sessions and in the Interest Groups.

In spite of the improving situation in Northern Ireland following the ceasefires and the Belfast Agreement, conflict between the two communities remains a problem. Quaker House, Belfast continues to seek a peaceful outcome to these disputes.

Young Friends joined us on Saturday evening, having come from their own Yearly Meeting held in Newtown School, Waterford. Their enthusiastic vibrancy affected the whole meeting, encouraging us to look at ourselves in new ways. Reports were introduced on their involvement with Young Friends, not only in Ireland but also in Europe and the Middle East, and their attempts to reach out to all Friends in this age group.

*"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!" Psalm 133.1*

Signed in and on behalf of Ireland Yearly Meeting  
J. Muriel Cameron, Clerk

**Minute 11: 350 years**

We have reflected on the faith and service of Friends over the last 350 years. We give thanks for the Grace of God which has shone through these Friends, and for the blessings that we have each received.

We pray that we will each have the faith to be true to this tradition, following the leadings of the Spirit.

“For all that has been, thanks. To all that will be, yes.”

*Dag Hammarskjöld*

*Saturday 4 May 2002*

**Minute 12: Letter of Greeting**

A letter of greeting from Friends World Committee for Consultation has been read.

**Minute 13: Yearly Meeting Overseers**

Further to minute 6, the Yearly Meeting Overseers have now met and have nominated Ken Hutchinson to serve as convenor. We agree to appoint this Friend.

**Minute 14: Epistle**

Part of the Epistle received from Lake Erie Yearly Meeting (pages 11-13 of *Epistles & testimonies*) has been read.

**Minute 15: Epistle Procedure**

Martin Ward, clerk to Yearly Meeting Agenda Committee, has explained the new procedure for preparing the Yearly Meeting Epistle this year (see *Documents in advance* page 21).

**Minute 16: Under-19 Programme**

Jane Dawson has informed us of the programmes being run for Yearly Meeting participants aged under 19. We send greetings to all those participating; we look forward to meeting and worshipping with them at various times during the weekend, and receiving their minutes on Monday.

**Minute 17: Gospel Order**

As preparation for the main business before this Yearly Meeting, we have heard an introduction to Gospel Order which underpins the corporate life of our Society and should support us all in our worship and witness.

**Minute 18: The Report of Meeting for Sufferings and our Central Work**

We have received a spoken introduction to the report of Meeting for Sufferings and our Yearly Meeting central work. This report highlighted three particular pieces of work: the publication of ‘Meeting Safety’, a code of good practice for Meetings in work with children and young people; ‘Turning the Tide’, a programme of training in non-violence; and Circles of Support and Accountability, a scheme for the rehabilitation of sex offenders.

In reflecting on the spoken and written reports, questions have been raised about the balance of our work, between work on peace and work on social witness, between work responding to the needs of the world and work supporting the needs of the Religious Society of Friends, between new work and long-standing work, and between the work which needs to be done centrally together and work we can do individually or locally.

Friends have rejoiced in the work that is being done on our behalf, particularly the radical new projects which have been highlighted, and in the committed service of those who do it.

We offer thanks for this work and acknowledge that we are each challenged to seek the guidance of the Spirit in how we are to play our part in it.

**Minute 19: Testimony**

Part of the Testimony to the Grace of God as shown in the life of William James Barcroft, who lived from 1801 to 1878, has been read. This was printed in the *Annual Monitor* for 1880.

**Minute 20: Charitable Status**

We have explored and reflected on issues around the matter of charitable status in preparation for considering specific proposals later in the Yearly Meeting.

**Minute 21: Reflection**

In the stillness of a quiet hour of worship we have reflected on our relationship with God, how we respond to the leadings of the Spirit and how we express our faith. We pray that we will each know God's blessing and be given the strength to be fully ourselves.

*Sunday 5 May 2002*

**Minute 22: Testimony**

Part of the Testimony to the Grace of God as shown in the life of Maureen Phillips (pages 69-70 of *Epistles & testimonies*) has been read.

**Minute 23: Charitable Status 2**

Further to minute 20, we have received minute 8 of Meeting for Sufferings of December 2001 (pages 41-42 of *Documents in advance*) and have considered the recommendations in the report on the Charitable Organisation of Meetings in Britain Yearly Meeting (pages 56-63 of *Quaker work in 2001*).

We accept the recommendations in the report that a Yearly Meeting umbrella body be established to support our meetings in their stewardship and to co-ordinate the relationship between Yearly Meeting and those administering charity law. This builds on what we already have, extending the mutual support between Yearly Meeting and monthly meeting to financial affairs. This also enables us to be clear that our own house is in order. To implement this recommendation we ask Meeting for Sufferings to prepare proposals for Yearly Meeting on how this can be carried out bearing in mind sections 22, 23, 24 and 25 of the report.

It is still not clear whether our 'excepted status' will continue in England and Wales, or whether we shall be expected to register. We hope that our 'excepted status' will continue and hope that the steps we are taking to support our meetings in their stewardship of and accountability for resources will achieve this end.

We ask Meeting for Sufferings to respond vigorously to any future consultation by the Government or by the Charity Commission considering changes in the monitoring of religious bodies by the Charity Commission.

At the moment there is a Charity Commission only for England and Wales.

Whilst we are ready to accept such monitoring, we are clear that this monitoring should not influence our decisions about actions we are called to. If at some future date 'excepted status' were to be removed so that we would in law be required to register, we ask Meeting for Sufferings to consider further the implications of registration and to report to Yearly Meeting before completing any registration process.

**Minute 24: Epistle**

Part of the Epistle of London Yearly Meeting held in 1952 has been read.

**Minute 25: Our response to current conflicts in the world**

We have reflected on our response to current conflicts in the world since the attacks in the United States on 11 September. We have heard of the work carried out by Quaker Peace & Social Witness including the support of individual Friends and local meetings in making their response (see pages 139-140 of *Quaker work in 2001*). We have heard of the response of one local meeting.

We rejoice in these endeavours and the way in which over many years Friends have contributed to the peace movement in a wide variety of ways. We also rejoice that it is not only the Religious Society of Friends which is working for peace and justice. Yet this work seems to have so little impact. There is a widespread wish for peace but at the same time there is a growing imbalance of power leading to new threats and challenges. We are distressed at the current involvement of our own country in armed conflict and the inadequate accountability for that involvement.

Let us find new ways of empowering Friends under concern, enabling them to contribute more effectively to the Quaker response. It is often better to work locally or regionally. Let us find new ways of expressing our peace testimony. What is our prophetic ministry for this time?

We are disappointed that we have not achieved more this session. There is much more to do and this requires us to be faithful. Let us strengthen each others will to goodness.

**Minute 26: Junior Yearly Meeting Epistle**

The Epistle of Junior Yearly Meeting held 3 - 7 April at Sibford School has been read as follows:

Dear Friends,

**Do we have to hit back to be Equal?**

Junior Yearly Meeting 2002 brought together a diverse group of young Friends drawn from across Britain Yearly Meeting to explore this theme of topical significance. Throughout our time together we explored the issues surrounding conflict and its effects on us as people in an ever changing world. We were aided on our individual journeys of understanding by the personal stories and experiences shared with us by our stimulating speakers. These both inspired and challenged Friends, leading us to question our own beliefs and opinions and the choices we make which may lead us into conflict.

The opportunity for further worship and the intimacy of our small group sessions, with the acceptance of every aspect of one another, led to a calm and trusting community in which people felt free from judgement and cherished as individuals.

Collective seeking, common goals, and shared experiences provided strong motivation, leading us to take direct action in the form of letters written to Jack Straw highlighting our deep concern for the use of child soldiers in Sierra Leone, and also a letter to Tony Blair expressing anxiety over the possible attack on Iraq. This letter urged his government to turn instead to practical peace building, and was accompanied by a copy of *Quaker faith and practice* signed by participants at JYM.

We leave Sibford with a feeling of oneness, having been reminded of the support offered by the Society of Friends. This in turn has led to a feeling of empowerment and strength in dealing with conflict arising in today's complex and intricate society and also in our personal relationships.

We have been strengthened in our beliefs and feel encouraged to work for peace. We have gained the confidence to explore and be challenged by our Quaker values. We send greetings from the one

hundred and forty-three young Friends and continue to hold those working for peace and greater universal understanding, in the Light.

*Signed in and on behalf of Junior Yearly Meeting  
Ellen Holmes and Ian Nicholls, Clerks*

**Minute 27: Quaker Work & Witness**

In a session in which Friends of all ages have participated, through a ‘talking wall’, and through an exhibition of children’s work, we have shared our experience of living in our communities. Friends have spoken of the challenges they face and of their efforts to reach out to others. We have been glad to hear of much that Friends are doing and we have been moved by stories of social exclusion. Some exclusion can be close to us and difficult to see.

It has been good to listen to one another and we encourage Friends in their local meetings to share what they are doing and to uphold one another.

**Monday 6 May 2002**

**Minute 28: Testimony**

Part of the Testimony to the Grace of God as shown in the life of Bill Allchin (pages 37-38 of *Epistles & testimonies*) has been read.

**Minute 29: Local & Regional Groupings Working Party Interim Report**

Further to minute 30 of Yearly Meeting 2000 we have received an Interim Report from the Local & Regional Groupings Working Party established by Meeting for Sufferings, and this has been introduced to us.

This report has grown out of a sequence of open, unstructured meetings attended by nearly 600 Friends over half of whom were able to share their experiences and hopes for the future. We have reflected briefly on the specific recommendations in the report. The creativity in the report has been welcomed and we are grateful for the work done so far. Doubts have been expressed about some of the specific proposals and there is a desire that any changes which are implemented will be rooted in our Gospel Order. Friends have spoken of the value they have found in our present structures.

We wish this work to continue. We ask Meeting for Sufferings to revise the terms of reference of the Working Party (and possibly its membership) and provide an appropriate budget, so that it can consult further with a view to bringing specific proposals to Yearly Meeting in due course.

Meeting for Sufferings may need to consider the relationship between this process and other matters under consideration such as representative councils and membership.

We authorise the Working Party:

- (i) to consult with monthly meetings, preparative meetings, general meetings, other local and regional meetings, Young Friends General Meeting and central committees on its recommendations;
- (ii) to convene, in consultation with the Recording Clerk, area meetings to discuss local changes to groupings where there have been indications that an independent body might facilitate change;
- (iii) to pursue their search for a better way of achieving representation and communication between individual Friends, our local meetings, central committees and Meeting for Sufferings.

We hope that this process can now move ahead steadily.

The Spirit does not have one structure and form but we trust that in this process we will be led to structures which are serviceable for our time.

**Minute 30: Testimony**

Part of the Testimony to the Grace of God in the life of Jack K Nutley (pages 63 –66 of *Epistles & testimonies* has been read).

**Minute 31: Meeting for Sufferings: interim membership changes since last Yearly Meeting**

The following changes to the membership of Meeting for Sufferings have occurred since Yearly Meeting 2001:

<i>Added</i>	<i>Released</i>	<i>Nominating body</i>
	Alison Tyas	Cambridge & Peterborough MM
Stella Howard		Cambridge & Peterborough MM
	Sue Mallory	Shaftesbury & Sherborne MM
	Wendy Ward*	Southampton & Portsmouth MM
David Lewis		Southampton & Portsmouth MM
	Joan Gripton	Staffordshire MM
	A. David Olver*	Devonshire House & Tottenham MM
Paul Bowers Isaacson		Devonshire House & Tottenham MM

\* David Olver remains on Meeting for Sufferings as a representative of Quaker Finance and Property Central Committee and Wendy Ward as a representative of Quaker Communications Central Committee.

	Eileen Williams	Chichester MM
Leslie Fuhrmann		Chichester MM
	Eric Hulland	Leeds MM
Veronica O'Mara		Leeds MM
	Norman Richardson	Leicester MM from 31 December 2001
Malcolm Elliott		Leicester MM from 1 January 2002
	Gillian Turner	Purley & Sutton MM
Barbara Cairns		Purley & Sutton MM
	Peter Bevan	Ratcliff & Barking MM
David Irwin		Ratcliff & Barking MM
	Raymond Thorne	Settle MM
Rowland Dale		Settle MM
John Lipscombe		Shaftesbury & Sherborne MM
Alan Moss		Staffordshire MM
	Norman Frith	Swarthmore MM
	Penelope Cummins	Thaxted MM
John Capper		Thaxted MM
	Richard Ogden	York MM
	Michael T Still	Dorking & Horsham MM
Sarah Freeman		Dorking & Horsham MM
	Jean Twine	Lewes MM
Isabel Evans		Jordans MM
Marian Hand		York MM
	Zee Zee Heine	Hampstead MM
Ruth Tod		Hampstead MM

Trevor Jaggard	Simon Pollitt Sandy Horsfall	Westminster MM Westminster MM Westminster MM
Barney Smith	Sue Dicks Elmay Kirkpatrick Janet Sturge Matt Foreman	Cambridge & Peterborough MM North Somerset & Wiltshire MM West Kent MM Quaker Life Central Committee Quaker Life Central Committee
Mary Jo Clogg	Richard Waldmeyer	Quaker World Relations Committee Quaker World Relations Committee
Caroline Nursey	Caroline Nursey	Quaker Peace & Social Witness Central Committee Assistant Clerk, ex-officio
Ann Brennan	Helen Millward	Leicester MM from Yearly Meeting 2002 Leicester MM from Yearly Meeting 2002
Beryl Milner	Noel Hustler Sandra Roberts	Southwark, Lewisham & Bromley MM Kendal & Sedbergh MM Quaker Peace & Social Witness Central Committee
Brian Batchelor Mary Cozens		Westminster MM Cambridge & Peterborough MM

**Minute 32: Meeting for Sufferings: appointments Yearly Meeting 2003 – Yearly Meeting 2006**

This is the year in which monthly meetings are asked to begin the nomination process for representatives on Meeting for Sufferings to serve from Yearly Meeting 2003 until Yearly Meeting 2006.

In accordance with section 7.05 of *Quaker faith & practice* we agree the schedule of representation on Meeting for Sufferings for the triennial period beginning Yearly Meeting 2003. Representation will be on the basis of two Friends per monthly meeting, with additional representation for every 300 members or part thereof in excess of 300, based on the Tabular Statement for 2001.

The following monthly meetings are listed as having more than 300 members but less than 600, and hence are asked to nominate 3 representatives:

Luton & Leighton	Ratcliff & Barking
Reading	Westminster
Witney	Cambridge & Peterborough
North Somerset & Wiltshire	Norwich & Lynn
Notts & Derbys	Chichester
Northumbria	Gloucester & Nailsworth
Southampton & Portsmouth	Pickering & Hull
Hampstead	York

The following monthly meeting is listed as having more than 600 members but less than 900, and hence is asked to nominate 4 representatives:

Warwickshire

**Minute 33: Amendments to *Quaker faith & practice***

(a) **Listed Informal Groups** We have received Minute 12 of Meeting for Sufferings held 5 May and we agree to the recommended amendment in *Quaker faith & practice* as follows:

To follow after section 13.18 (the end of ‘Concern: faith in action’), with subsequent sections being renumbered accordingly:

## THE LISTED INFORMAL GROUPS

13.19 The Listed Informal Groups are independent bodies through which Friends may share common interest, seek affirmation or carry out witness. The groups are seen by their members as arising from their Quaker faith and provide a way in which conviction and witness can be explored and developed outside our more formal structures – but perhaps returning to them when concern has been tested by action or reflection.

The informal groups at present in action within and around the Society are all concerned, in one way or another, with the renewal of Quaker tradition and insight or with the application of these to contemporary issues in a way that is inspired and guided by our perception of God's leadings. If this is so, then their credentials are established, and whilst the activities of individual groups may seem to some odd or eccentric - in some cases even inappropriate - their intent must be respected as a striving to seek new light. We need to remember that spiritual development for many of us entails trips along cul-de-sacs, and that these sometimes, surprisingly, turn out to be highways. Whatever the outcome in any one instance, the courage to explore them with an open but not uncritical heart is a hallmark of both spiritual and intellectual integrity.

Hugh Valentine, 1979

The recognised Listed Informal Groups are listed annually in the Book of Meetings, and the criteria for recognition may be obtained on application to the Recording Clerk. Being independent bodies outside the formal structures of Britain Yearly Meeting, the Listed Informal Groups have no right of communication by minute with them.

Groups using the name ‘Quaker’ or ‘Friends’ in their title are reminded of the responsibility that incurs to uphold our testimonies, and that care is needed in case the work and witness of the group is understood to be part of the Yearly Meeting’s corporate activity when it is not.

- (b) **Sojourning membership:** We have received Minute 11 of Meeting for Sufferings held 1 December 2001 and agree to the proposed amendment as follows:

### **Proposed text amendment to replace section 11.34 of *Quaker faith & practice*.**

A monthly meeting may at its discretion accept as a sojourning member a Friend maintaining membership outside Britain Yearly Meeting who wishes to be associated with the monthly meeting while residing temporarily within its compass. Sojourning members are expected to share as fully as they are able in the life of the monthly meeting, and to live under the Discipline of Britain Yearly Meeting. Sojourning membership is not a category of membership for those who move permanently into the geographical area of Britain Yearly Meeting.

The request shall be supported by a minute or certificate requesting the association from the home monthly meeting of the Friend concerned (or Friends World Committee for Consultation if the Friend is on the international membership list).

Decisions on sojourning membership shall be recorded by the monthly meeting in its minutes and the number of sojourning members entered on the annual Tabular Statement (see 4.07h &

6.07). The monthly meeting is advised to review the status of its sojourning members regularly to ensure it does not become permanent.

The monthly meeting shall inform the home monthly meeting (or Friends World Committee for Consultation if the Friend is on the international membership list) when the sojourning Friend has left the compass of the meeting, or has become inactive, and shall record this termination by minute. Sojourning membership will also be terminated if the Friend's membership is later transferred into the monthly meeting (see 11.28 – 11.29), as remains the normal recommended practice.

(See also 4.37 and 6.14).

**Consequential changes:**

DELETE the reference after 11.34 "See 13.20-13.27".

ADD at the end of the first paragraph of 4.37:

"However, any Friends who have been accepted as sojourning members of the monthly meeting (11.34) are expected to share as fully as they are able in the life of their preparative meeting."

ADD to the end of 6.14:

"However, Friends in sojourning membership of a monthly meeting (11.34) are exempt from this requirement."

Note: *cross references use the renumbering of sections in chapter 6 as approved by Yearly Meeting 2001.*

**(c) Quaker marriage procedure**

Various amendments are required to chapter 16 of *Quaker faith & practice* following changes in the regulations for marriage law in England & Wales in 2001. All these proposed changes reflect factual changes in the law, and not the principle or process of the Quaker elements of our marriage procedures. They reflect amendments to the Marriage Act 1949 covering the civil preliminaries to marriage in England and Wales.

We agree to the following amendments

*16.07 (c)*

Replace "the certificate or licence"  
by "the certificates".

*16.07 (f)*

After (form D) delete "is" and replace with "and any duplicates required are".  
Change "registrar" to "registrar(s)".

*16.22 paragraph 1, lines 3 to 5*

Replace "... a certificate or certificates obtained. The certificate(s) or certificate and licence, as the case may be,"

by "... a certificate obtained by each party. The certificates..."

*16.22 paragraph 2, lines 2 and 3*

Replace "... certificate(s) or certificate and licence..."  
by "...certificates..."

*16.22 paragraph 2, lines 6 and 7*

Delete “or licences”

*16.22 paragraph 2, lines 9 and 10*

Replace “the certificate (or certificate and licence)”  
by “the certificates”

*16.25 a.*

Delete the first sentence of the first paragraph, and replace by:

‘Each party must give notice of the intended marriage, in person, to the superintendent registrar of the district in which he or she resides, and has resided for at least seven days.’

*16.25a paragraph 1, line 7*

Replace “twenty-one”  
by “fifteen”

*16.25a*

Delete the second paragraph.

*16.26 (a)*

Delete all five paragraphs of this section, and replace by:

“The procedure of marriage by licence in England and Wales in order to reduce the time required under the procedure by certificate was abolished by amendment of the Marriage Act (1949) in 2000. Nevertheless, there are provisions for certificates to be supplied under the authority of the Registrar General in a period shorter than fifteen days under certain exceptional circumstances.”

*16.30, lines 8 and 9*

Replace “the certificate(s) or certificate and licence”  
by “the certificates”

*16.46 (a) line 4*

Replace “certificate or licence”  
by “certificates”

*16.50, paragraph 1, line 6*

Delete “and licences”

**Minute 34: Yearly Meeting Nominations Committee clerk (2003 – 2004)**

The Friends appointed by minute 7 bring in the name of Janet Lynch (Cornwall MM) to serve as clerk of Nominations Committee for Yearly Meeting 2003 – Yearly Meeting 2004. This name being acceptable, we appoint her accordingly.

**Minute 35: Nominations**

The Friends appointed by minute 7 bring in the following names:

Committee on Clerks

One more Friend to serve from Yearly Meeting 2002 until Yearly Meeting 2005

Michael Booth            Westminster MM

2003 Summer Gathering Committee

One more Friend to serve on the 2003 Summer Gathering Committee

Sally Wilkins            Witney MM

These names being acceptable, the Friends are appointed.

**Minute 36: Epistles from other Yearly Meetings**

Further to minute 14, we have received Epistles from 25 Yearly Meetings (pages 4-34 in *Epistles & testimonies*), an extract from 1 of which was read in our sessions.

**Minute 37: Testimonies**

The following Testimonies to the Grace of God as shown in the life of deceased Friends, in addition to those from which extracts have been read in our sessions, have been received:

<i>Names</i>	<i>Epistles &amp; testimonies</i>	<i>Names</i>	<i>Epistles &amp; testimonies</i>
Betsy M Murison or Aitken .....	p. 36	Jenny Pegler .....	p. 68
Rosa Luisa Aylward .....	p. 38	Stella Pudles .....	p. 71
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**Minute 38: Welcome to overseas visitors**

We have welcomed visitors from other yearly and monthly meetings as follows:

Elizabeth Duke	Aotearoa / New Zealand YM
Veronica Maxey	Aotearoa / New Zealand YM
Helen Bayes	Australia YM
David Nourish	Australia YM
Laura Nell Obaugh	Baltimore YM
Kjeld Lings	Belgium & Luxembourg MM
Gwen Middleton	Belgium & Luxembourg MM
Bronwen Thomas	Belgium & Luxembourg MM
Bernardo Alhucema	Chile
Kimmo Helomaa*	Finland YM
Eric Sonie*	France YM
Jochen Dudek*	German YM
Barbara Johnson	Ireland YM
Rachel M Bewley-Bateman*	Ireland YM
Rosemary Castagner*	Ireland YM
Els Ramaker*	Netherlands YM
Jan Ramaker	Netherlands YM

Liza Savory	New York YM
Nikki Coffey Tousley	North Carolina (Cons) YM
Annis Bleeke	North Pacific YM
Doug Gwyn	Philadelphia YM
Kait Bessing*	Sweden YM
Jackie Leach Scully	Switzerland YM
David Foreman*	Switzerland YM
Nellie Foreman	Switzerland YM

\* denotes representative

**Minute 39: Annual Report of Meeting for Sufferings 2001, and Financial Report & Accounts of the Yearly Meeting Funds**

The Annual Report of Meeting for Sufferings and its committees (printed in *Quaker work 2001* pages 7-141), and the Financial Report and Accounts of the Yearly Meeting and are now accepted.

The report of Yearly Meeting Agenda Committee (pages 143-145) and the Tabular Statement (Supplement 2) are also accepted.

**Minute 40: Receipt of the Yearly Meeting General Epistle**

The Epistle Drafting Committee appointed by minute 3 has submitted an Epistle, which has been read, amended and accepted as the General Epistle.

**Minute 41: Receipt of Under 19 Programme minutes**

We have received minutes from the groups of the Under 19 Programme of this Yearly Meeting as follows:

**0-5s The Foxcubs**

We were delighted to welcome seven little children to the Foxcubs this Yearly Meeting. We spent a lot of time playing and some time learning about Quakers past, present and future.

During our quiet time today the children reflected on their experiences this weekend. Their thoughts revealed:

“Sharing is hard when other children want something we’ve got”;  
 “We’ve all tried to be good to each other”.

We have enjoyed having new children as well as having old friends again. Is this the beginning of a life-long journey?

**5-8s The Pendle Hillbillies**

We made name badges with stickers and cartoon posters about good and bad things in our group. We had fun but got very hungry.

We made all different types of instruments and made up our song.

We will share our collage, but please don’t touch.

We got to take off our shoes and play in the sandpit, go on the zip wire and in the playground at Coram Fields. Some of us saw the animals and they were cute.

Our sweet making is raising money for the people who definitely, definitely need it badly, in Gulu and Bullock. We got lost of tasty fingers. Tiggy took some books and wool and string into Meeting for Worship, where some of us liked the music.

One of us would have liked the big Meeting for Worship to go on longer. Cindy Lou read us a very nice story.

We collected £68.80. Thank you.

### **8-11s The Time Travellers**

We are the Time Travellers (8 – 11 years old) and have been travelling through time to the past, researching the history of Quakers, and into our future. One of our favourite activities around this theme was dressing as past and future Quakers.

We really enjoyed meeting many different adults and children, particularly exploring 'Our Meeting', racism and genetic engineering with Chris Nickolay, Elizabeth Bailey and Chris Skidmore respectively.

We had a lot of fun with our group leaders, having drinks and biscuits, making friends and especially swimming in the out-door pool!

We would like to thank all the under 19s team and helpers.

### **11-14s The Party Posse**

The 11-14 group were staying at Finchley Meeting House. We arrived tired and hungry, but Dawn and Tim had made some really yummy tea. We settled in quickly and started to make new friends. On Saturday we learnt about Quaker history through a quiz with pictures from the Quaker tapestry, and using drama role-plays.

In the afternoon we were joined by Chris Skidmore, who came to talk to us about genetic engineering. He gave us real-life situations to think about, which led to lively discussion.

On Sunday morning we welcomed Finchley's regular Friends for worship, and enjoyed sharing lunch with them.

In preparation for joining the main session at Friends House on Sunday afternoon, we thought about the groups of people who were being excluded at school, home and work. We discussed ways that these people were being helped.

When we joined other Friends in the main session, we were pleased to hear South Wales Link Group shared many of our concerns.

We enjoyed the opportunity of joining in with the whole of Yearly Meeting.

The group enjoyed being able to talk to everyone and the fact that no-one was being left out. This led to making new friends, reunions with old ones and being surrounded by people.

We'll take away memories of laughter, games, friendship bands, secret friends making lanterns and holding epilogue outside.

Everybody enjoyed the whole weekend.

## **14-18s The Waity Friends**

In the 350<sup>th</sup> year after George Fox's vision on Pendle Hill, twenty-seven 13-18 year olds and 4 over 19s spent the weekend of 3 – 6 May 2002 exploring the themes of Yearly Meeting during our stay at Muswell Hill Meeting House.

As young Friends we welcomed the opportunity for some of us to share our sentiments concerning every day exclusivity with Yearly Meeting as a whole. This theme had also been discussed earlier in small groups, as we focused upon taking an active role in challenging exclusive behaviour and promoting equality in society. Consideration of the wider world showed us the possibility to share the spirit of inclusive love.

Over the weekend we celebrated the existence of Quakerism through our community, based on spiritual equality. Highlights of the weekend included tree hugging, messy games and dancing.

Clarity and simplicity were maintained throughout the weekend, helping us to explore our spirituality both practically and creatively. We used Meetings for Clearness to see our problems in a new light.

We appreciated the support of Britain Yearly Meeting in making this weekend possible and we would also like to thank the Friends at Muswell Hill Meeting. We apologise for the flood.

*Signed in and on behalf of the meeting.*  
Hannah Spiers, Luke Waterfield, Lucy White, Clerks

## **Minute 42: Thanks**

We record our thanks to all the people who have worked to enable this Yearly Meeting to take place.

## **Minute 43: Yearly Meeting Epistle**

The General Epistle approved by minute 41 has been read and signed by the clerk on behalf of the Meeting.

It reads as follows:

*Loving greetings to Friends everywhere from Britain Yearly Meeting held in London  
3 – 6 May, 2002.*

In this year, seen as the 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Quakerism, we meet in grateful remembrance of the Friends, known and unknown, who have maintained our Society over centuries; we have been reminded, in epistles received from other yearly meetings, of those who sustain Quaker witness in other parts of the world. We give thanks for them all.

Since the terrifying events of last September, our world seems to have grown more troubled and divided. The challenge for us is to continue working for peace, individually and with others, and to remain faithful witnesses, searching together in the loving presence of God, from whom we derive our strength. All is possible if we have faith.

We have been inspired by the words of Dag Hammarskjöld: *For all that has been – thanks, to all that shall be – yes.* We must not allow fear to prevent us from engaging in the difficult or the apparently impossible, but show courage in continuing the bold experiment which began in the seventeenth century.

We have reflected on the meaning of Gospel Order, an order 'not of man nor by man' but from God, whose Power gathers, guides and orders us, at every level. It begins within ourselves as we experience

Gospel Order in our daily lives. In all our work, we should be true to the principles of integrity, transparency and accountability.

We have been told of radical projects, at home and abroad, such as Turning The Tide, which teaches methods of nonviolent protest, Circles of Support and Accountability working with released sex offenders, and, in partnership with a local Muslim group, supporting children traumatised by the war in former Yugoslavia. These strengthen our faith in the power of goodness and love which transforms people and shows us that there is light in the darkness.

We have been challenged by our younger Friends to recognise and confront problems of exclusion in our local communities by accepting each other as we are and being faithful even in small things. We have heard many stories of individual work with the disadvantaged of our society, homeless people, asylum seekers and others. We recognise the on-going nature of the problems they face. We have been empowered by sharing examples of our local work, which have surprised us by what we can accomplish.

In our response to conflict, how do we speak peace to power? What is our prophetic ministry for this time? We *can* turn the world upside down daily with the weapons of the spirit rather than the addictive tools of war. We can all strengthen each other's will to goodness.

We have come together in prayer, celebrating our joy in relationships, laughing together, openly sharing our spiritual journeys, and seeking vision and guidance, that we may continue to answer the promptings of love and truth in our hearts.

With God's grace may we be able to say, like Isaiah: 'Here am I, send me' and then to persevere cheerfully with the task laid upon us.

*Signed in and on behalf of Britain Yearly Meeting*  
PETER J. ECCLES, *Clerk*

#### **Minute 44: Concluding Minute**

We give thanks for the times of gathered worship which have permeated our weekend and enabled us to listen to one another and to respond to the leadings of the Spirit with love and truth.

“Keep your Meetings in the power of God, and in his wisdom, and in the love of God, that by that ye may order all to his glory. And when Friends have finished their business, sit down and continue a while quietly, and wait upon the Lord, to feel him. And go not beyond the power, by which God Almighty may be felt among you. And so ye come to love Truth, and love Jesus Christ, and love holiness; and by the power ye come to love God, and praise him, and bless him, and magnify him, who lives for evermore. For the power of the Lord will work through all, if that ye follow it.”

*George Fox, 1658*

There being no further business for this yearly meeting, we separate, hoping to meet again in London from 2 – 5 May 2003.

Peter J. Eccles, *Clerk*