

At a Meeting for Sufferings held in London on Saturday 1 February 2014

S/14/02/01 Worship

Part of section 1.01 of Quaker faith & practice has been read in our opening worship, and we have remembered former members of this meeting who have recently died.

S/14/02/02 Minutes

The minutes of our meeting held on 7 December 2013 have been signed.

S/14/02/03 Adoption of agenda

We have reflected on issues to be considered during our meeting and have agreed the agenda.

S/14/02/04 Report from BYM Trustees

Jennifer Barraclough, clerk to BYM Trustees, has reported on their work, including a brief review of 2013 and looking forward to plans for 2014; and we have had an update from our treasurer.

We have heard some unease about the additional name of 'The Light' for the Large Meeting House. The clerk to BYMT explained the process of discernment that took place in the Hospitality Board and Trustees. We have also been reminded of the Yearly Meeting 2013 minute on Trust in Trusteeship: 'We all belong to the same worshipping community, we are all working together and it's the same spirit that leads us'.

S/14/02/05 Advocacy: Speaking Out

Janet Quilley, clerk of the Speaking Out Group established by minute S/12/07/15 to review BYM's policy on public statements, has spoken to the report and policy document which was circulated before the meeting (paper MfS2014/02/04). The policy sets out principles and governance for those who speak on behalf of Quakers in Britain, including Britain Yearly Meeting. The term 'Quakers in Britain' is often used now to refer to 'The Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Britain'. In our consideration today we have briefly considered the use of social media and its possible risks.

We welcome the fact that the policy gives guiding principles that can be used by Friends at all levels and in varying situations.

We accept the policy document, and commend it to Friends and meetings for their use. We note that detailed operational procedures based on this policy will be developed by our staff.

We ask staff to produce a shorter version for use by Friends and by local and area meetings.

We lay down the Speaking Out Group and thank them for their work.

We forward this minute and the report to Church Government Advisory Group, and ask them to arrange for the revision of section 3.27 of Quaker Faith and Practice.

S/14/02/06 Revision of the Book of Discipline

Catherine James, a member of Church Government Advisory Group, and Paul Parker, Recording Clerk, have reported on the consultation about whether now is the time to start a revision of the book of discipline.

We have heard from Friends of the value of Quaker Faith and Practice and of the deep spiritual exercises that were prompted by the consultation. We feel that the time is right to start the process of revision and hope to go forward with a smile and a sense of adventure.

We also feel that more testing and threshing would be useful on a number of issues identified in paper MfS2014/02/05. We ask the Recording Clerk to bring questions and proposals to a future meeting, when we will consider who should oversee this process, and what reports should be expected during the exercise.

Meeting for Sufferings recommends to Yearly Meeting that the revision process be initiated. The Recording Clerk is asked to work with Church Government Advisory Group to prepare the necessary briefing documents.

We forward this minute to Church Government Advisory Group and to Yearly Meeting.

S/14/02/07 Vibrancy in Meetings Initiative

Lizzie Rosewood, Vibrancy In Meetings Programme Developer, has introduced herself and explained how the initiative is progressing. This is a joint initiative of Woodbrooke and BYM trustees, helping both Britain Yearly Meeting and Woodbrooke shape their work so as to strengthen and support local Meetings. In the first three months of employment, Lizzie has talked to Friends, reviewed work done so far and drawn up options to take the work forward. She has now been asked to explore possibilities, particularly for regional workers and/or a telephone helpline, with Friends in local Meetings and Quaker groups.

We welcome the initiative and encourage representatives to take this back to their Meetings.

S/14/02/08 Membership and appointments

a) Membership of Meeting for Sufferings

Since our last meeting we have received the following nominations and requests for release for Meeting for Sufferings until the rise of Yearly Meeting 2015:

Nominated:

<u>Area meeting or committee</u>	<u>Representative</u>	<u>Alternate</u>
Bournemouth Coastal	Stuart Yates	
Central England	John Cockroft	Cathy Khurana
Hardshaw & Mann	Jennie Barnsley	Denise Graham
Ipswich & Diss	Elaine Green	Avril Dawson
North Cumbria	David Beale	
Swarthmoor (SW Cumbria)		Rachael Milling
NW London		Elize Sakamoto

Release requests received:

Banbury & Evesham	Jane Burn	
Bournemouth Coastal	Jeff Hunter	
Central England	Anne Ullathorne	John Cockroft
Hardshaw & Mann	Bayo Omoiola	Elizabeth Rowland-Elliott
Ipswich & Diss	Martin Pennock	Elaine Green
North Cumbria	Annie Foster	
Swarthmoor (SW Cumbria)		Marie Hay
NW London		Rachel Solomon Williams

We appoint the Friends named and thank the Friends released for their service.

Visitors invited to represent area meetings/committees in the absence of appointed representative or alternate:

Judy Mason - Banbury & Evesham AM
Ruth McTighe - Central Yorkshire AM
Bessie White- QCCIR

Other visitors:

Jessica Metheringham - Parliamentary Engagement Officer
Lizzie Rosewood - Vibrancy in Meetings Programme Developer
Anne van Staveren - Media Relations Officer

b) Central Nominations Committee

brings forward the names of the following Friends for service or release as indicated:

Friends Trusts Ltd

Minutes of Meeting for Sufferings 01 February 2014

To serve from 1 June 2014 to 31 May 2017:

Colin Hulse - Northumbria AM (second term)

Long Term Framework Working Group

Peter Christy - West Scotland AM

Julia Gordon - Northumbria AM

Seren Wildwood - Banbury & Evesham AM

Quaker Committee for Christian and Interfaith Relations

To serve from 1 May 2014 to 30 April 2017

Nicola Hoskin-Stone - Nottinghamshire & Derbyshire AM (second term)

Mike Glover - Brighouse West Yorkshire AM (second term)

Kate Arnot - South East Scotland AM, serving on behalf of General Meeting for Scotland

Geoffrey Johnson - Sussex East AM

YM Agenda Committee

Release:

Lizz Roe - South Wales AM

BYM Representatives to European Yearly Meetings

German YM 2014 (October 2014)

Jonathan Hodgkin - Mid Essex AM

Ireland YM (24-27 April 2014)

Lee Taylor - Luton & Leighton AM

Alastair Reid- West Scotland AM

We appoint the Friends named and thank the Friend released for her service.

c) Joseph Rowntree Foundation: appointment of trustees

The joint search group brings forward the following names for service as trustees of the Joseph Rowntree Foundation:

Will Haire

Karamjit Singh

These names being acceptable we appoint them accordingly.

S/14/02/09 Young people's participation days

Feedback from young people who participated in the consultation about whether now is the time to revise the book of discipline (minute S/13/10/02) was extremely positive, and we have heard again how inspiring the day was for them. Quaker Life

Central Committee is now proposing to organize an annual day for young people aged 14-18, to take place alongside Meeting for Sufferings (paper MfS2014/02/08).

We support the principles of young people's participation, but hesitations have been expressed, particularly about the supporting role of representatives and alternates. We support the idea of holding young people's participation days, but ask Quaker Life Central Committee to look again at the practicalities, both of timing and accompanying adults, and to bring revised proposals back to a future meeting, if appropriate.

S/14/02/10 Parliamentary engagement

Jessica Metheringham, Parliamentary Engagement Officer at BYM, has introduced herself and updated Meeting for Sufferings on her work. Jessica took on this role in September and sees it very much in terms of speaking truth to power. She has been working on the Lobbying Bill, a briefing on Trident, and a now-withdrawn Bill on the death penalty, among other issues. She mentioned her current work planning workshops for young Friends and planning ahead for the 2015 General Election. She spoke of the importance of engagement with Friends across Britain, and asked Meeting for Sufferings representatives to encourage Friends to contact her on political issues.

S/14/02/11 Government cuts: welfare benefits

Helen Drewery has let us know that QPSW staff have been working with members of QPSW Central Committee and its Economics, Sustainability and Peace Sub-Committee, to draft a statement about increasing inequality in Britain. Their drafting work is not yet complete, but they hope to bring text to QPSW Central Committee in February and to Meeting for Sufferings in April.

S/14/02/12 Clerks for Yearly Meeting 2014

We are informed that the Committee on Clerks will bring forward the names of the following Friends to be nominated Yearly Meeting 2-9 August 2014, to be held in Bath, to serve as clerks:

Clerk:	Chris Skidmore	Craven and Keighley AM
Assistant clerk:	Deborah Rowlands	South Wales AM
Second assistant clerk:	Clare Scott Booth	London West AM

S/14/02/13 Yearly Meeting 2014 Agenda

Yearly Meeting Gathering 2014 will be held in Bath, 2-9 August 2014. Chris Skidmore, clerk of Yearly Meeting, has outlined the planned agenda to us.

Yearly Meeting Agenda Committee (YMAC) does not see 2014 as necessarily a year of big decisions, but rather as the culmination of a three-year process of exploration of 'What it means to be a Quaker today', and the start of another arc of exploration within the yearly meeting on living out our faith in the world.

Worship will be an integral part of all that we do and there will be opportunities both to participate in and to explore the artistic dimension of life. This year there will be a programme of linked sessions on three afternoons to provide a *journey* through the week; a chance to go deeper with a smaller group.

Brochures and booking forms are available online and have been sent to Meetings, and a spiritual preparation document will be circulated to Meetings shortly.

S/14/02/14 Dates of Yearly Meeting in 2016

Further to minute S/11/02/08 which agreed a three-yearly pattern for the dates of Yearly Meeting, we receive minute 2013/11/08 of Yearly Meeting Agenda Committee (YMAC) and agree to the recommendation that Yearly Meeting 2016 be held 27-30 May 2016 at Friends House London.

S/14/02/15 Minutes received not taken elsewhere

a) From Area Meetings

1. Cornwall AM concern regarding drug policy

We receive Minute 13/12/09 of Thaxted Area Meeting held on Sunday 8 December 2013, uniting with the concern of Cornwall AM (paper MfS2014/02/MC1).

2. Communicating within our meetings

We receive minute 9 of Sheffield and Balby Area Meeting held on Sunday 10 November 2013, offering advice for Friends writing or circulating information within the Meeting (paper MfS2014/02/MC2). This has been sent to Meeting for Sufferings in the hope that it may be of use within the wider Quaker community, and representatives are encouraged to share this with their area meetings.

b) From Central Committees and other bodies

1. Arrangements for nominations to Quaker United Nations Committee (QUNC)

We receive minute BYM Trustees' minute 13/12/25 (paper MfS2014/02/CC1), and agree to the request that the three BYM members of QUNC (other than the QPSW General Secretary and the representative from QPSW Central Committee) should from now on be nominated by Central Nominations Committee for appointment by Meeting for Sufferings.

We forward this minute to Central Nominations Committee and to BYM Trustees.

S/14/02/16 Meeting for Sufferings annual report

The draft Meeting for Sufferings annual report was circulated before today's meeting, and we have heard amendments suggested by members. We accept the report with amendments, and forward it to Yearly Meeting.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ethel Livermore". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name "Ethel" and last name "Livermore" clearly distinguishable.

Ethel Livermore
Clerk