

# Calling Letter



Yearly Meeting of the Religious  
Society of Friends (Quakers) in Britain

## To members of Meeting for Sufferings

22 June 2018

Dear Representatives and Alternates for 2018-2021,

Welcome to the first meeting of the new triennium of Meeting for Sufferings which will be held in the Large Meeting House (also called The Light) at Friends House on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> July.

If you can, try to arrive in good time for our 10am start – coffee or tea and pastries are available in the Waldo Williams suite (the old rooms 7, 8 & 9) and you can leave coats and bags in cloakroom between the Ground Floor toilets. Do consult the booklet *'Meeting for Sufferings Essential Information for the triennium 2018-2021'* which you should have received already and is available [here](#). You will also find there a helpful map if you are unfamiliar with the layout of Friends House. We will be a large meeting on this one occasion as we meet together with both representatives and alternates. Perhaps you would like to contact each other before hand and share the experience!

The agenda for the day is attached and you will see that we shall spend most of the morning introducing each other and learning how Meeting for Sufferings works and considering its relationships with other bodies. We will also consider minutes sent by Area Meetings to us – please think about these, and we have given you some notes to help you.

A sandwich lunch will be provided on this occasion and we will meet in Home Groups and chat about how we work back in our home area meetings – this will also help us get to know members from other areas, as we begin to build our worshipping community.

In the afternoon we will spend time reflecting on Yearly Meeting 2018 and dealing with the minutes that the YM has sent to us, receiving a verbal report from the BYM trustees (the minutes of their recent meeting are included in the papers) and deciding on the registration of groups who have applied to be Quaker Recognised Bodies.

At the start of the afternoon we have appointments to consider – this is usually a tabled (yellow) paper which you can pick up before the meeting. Any comments about the names coming for appointment should be given to your clerks before the lunch break.

At this first meeting, we will need to appoint our own standing nominations group who may be asked to find the names of members to serve us on our Support Group if we

have any vacancies during the triennium. It is also useful to have such a group standing by just in case! We need about 3 people willing to do this so please consider whether there is someone you can suggest and if asked, if you yourself, would be willing. We will need to make these appointments in the afternoon.

If you have any specific comments or queries about any of the papers or supporting documents sent to you, it is helpful if you email [sufferings@quaker.org.uk](mailto:sufferings@quaker.org.uk) before the meeting so that we can respond directly if necessary or at least be better prepared! Our meeting begins and ends with worship together and we look forward to clerking for you.

In peace and friendship,



Anne Ullathorne, Clerk  
Margaret Bryan, Assistant Clerk  
Juliet Prager, Deputy Recording Clerk

### **Papers enclosed with this mailing**

Agenda

MfS Forward Agenda

MfS Arrangements Group May 2018 meeting minutes

MfS 2018 07 06 Minutes received from AMs

MfS 2018 07 07 Home Groups

MfS 2018 07 09 Court and Prison Register

MfS 2018 07 10 Yearly Meeting 2018 minutes and reflections

MfS 2018 07 11 Book of Discipline Revision

MfS 2018 07 12 Quaker Stewardship Committee review

MfS 2018 07 13 BYM Trustees June 2018 minutes

MfS 2018 07 14 Sustainability: reporting on actions

MfS 2018 07 15 Quaker Recognised Bodies

n.b. the following papers will be available on the day of the meeting:

MfS 2018 07 03 Membership

MfS 2018 07 08 Appointments

and a contact list for Meeting for Sufferings members

### **A reminder of how you can prepare for the meeting**

- Register (to help staff prepare rooms and refreshments)
- Go through the 'Essential Information'
- Read the agenda papers in good time
- Contact the other representative/alternate from your area meeting or body
- Consider possible names for a standing nominations group
- Send any comments or questions to the clerks, before the meeting



Britain Yearly Meeting  
of the Religious  
Society of Friends

## Meeting for Sufferings 7 July 2018

Large Meeting House, Friends House, 173 Euston Road, London, NW1 2BJ

### Agenda

	Item	Paper
09.00	<b>Arrivals</b>	
10.00	<b>Session starts</b>	
1	<b>Opening worship</b>	
2	<b>Welcome and introductions</b>	
3	<b>Membership (Tabled Paper)</b>	<b>MfS 2018 07 03</b> (to note)
4	<b>Agenda</b> Adoption and acceptance of the agenda	
5	<b>Induction</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The role of Meeting for Sufferings</li> <li>• How we work: including Arrangements Group; Support Group; the Handbook and other resources</li> </ul>	
	<b>Short Break</b> (please hold the silence in the meeting room)	
	<b>Induction (continued)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BYM Trustees and Meeting for Sufferings</li> <li>• Centrally-managed work</li> <li>• What happens when a minute is sent to Meeting for Sufferings</li> </ul>	
6	<b>Minutes received from AM's</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Central England AM</b> Minute 2018.024 regarding Quaker Life Central Committee strategy</li> <li>• <b>Devon AM</b> Minute 41/2018 regarding Israel/Palestine</li> <li>• <b>Central England AM</b> Minute 2018.051 regarding Circles of Support and Accountability.</li> <li>• <b>Mid-Wales AM</b> Minute 27.18 regarding the deaths of Quakers during the First World War.</li> </ul>	<b>MfS 2018 07 06</b> (for consideration)

<b>12.45</b>	<b>Home Groups</b> • A sandwich lunch will be provided	<b>MfS 2018 07 07</b>
<b>14:00</b>	<b>Session starts</b>	
<b>8</b>	<b>Nominations &amp; Appointments (Tabled Paper)</b> • Record current MfS Representatives/alternates • Appoint the MfS Support Group • Appoint a Standing Nominations Group • Consider nominations brought by Central Nominations Committee	<b>MfS 2018 07 08</b> (for approval)
<b>9</b>	<b>Court &amp; Prison Register</b>	<b>MfS 2018 07 09</b> (to record)
<b>10</b>	<b>Yearly Meeting 2018 minutes and reflections</b> • Yearly Meeting 2018 Substantive Minutes	<b>MfS 2018 07 10</b> (for reflection)
<b>11</b>	<b>Book of Discipline Revision</b> a) minute from Young Friends General Meeting  b) Terms of Reference for the Revision Committee  c) Book of Discipline Revision Preparation Group - recommendations for further work	<b>MfS 2018 07 11</b> (to note)  (for decision)  (to note)
<b>12</b>	<b>Quaker Stewardship Committee review</b> To agree Terms of Reference	<b>MfS 2018 07 12</b> (for decision)
	<b>Short Break</b> (please hold the silence in the meeting room)	
<b>13</b>	<b>BYM Trustees report</b> To receive the minutes from the June BYM Trustees meeting	<b>MfS 2018 07 13</b> (for information)
<b>14</b>	<b>Sustainability: reporting on actions</b>	<b>MfS 2018 07 14</b> (for decision)
<b>15</b>	<b>Quaker Recognised Bodies</b> To register Quaker Recognised Bodies	<b>MfS 2018 07 15</b> (for approval)
	<b>Closing worship</b>	
<b>16.00</b>	<b>Close. Tea, coffee and departures</b>	

# Meeting for Sufferings Forward Agenda – July 2018

The following items are currently proposed or being considered by Arrangements Group for the rest of 2018. These plans may change.

Reports from all four standing committees are scheduled to come to the December meeting - this is an opportunity for MfS to consider all the work together, and should help MfS in its role of setting priorities across the centrally-managed work. This approach is new for 2018 and will be tried for at least two years.

Oct '18	<p><b>Young people's participation day</b></p> <p><b>Diversity and inclusion</b> – taking forward the call from YM 2017 minute 38</p> <p><b>Central decision-making processes in BYM</b> – sent to MfS Arrangements Group in July 2017</p> <p><b>Investments profiting from the occupation of the West Bank</b> - sent to QPSWCC, QCCIR and BYMT in December 2017</p> <p><b>Sustainability</b> - a report of the meeting of committee representatives</p>
Nov '18	<p><b>Residential weekend at Woodbrooke</b></p> <p><b>Reports from:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• QLCC</li> <li>• QPSWCC</li> <li>• QWRC</li> <li>• QCCIR</li> </ul> <p><b>Post-truth world</b> - responses to Southern Marches AM concern</p> <p><b>Church Government Advisory Group (CGAG)</b> - (some implications of the decision to revise the book of discipline)</p> <p><b>Committee on Clerks</b> - Review Group report</p>

## Other matters expected to return in due course:

- **Pastoral and spiritual support to people who are not able to regularly attend local meetings** – sent to Quaker Life Central Committee (QLCC), for advice, in February 2015 (update received Feb 2018)
- **Concern about the poverty of the public services** – sent to QPSWCC in December 2017
- **Payment of taxes for terrorism and war in the UK** – sent to QPSWCC in December 2017
- **Changes to Quaker faith and practice** regarding the appeals process - sent to Church Government Advisory Group (CGAG) in April 2018
- **Support for Quaker Meetings in conflict transformation** - sent to QLCC in April 2018
- **Vibrancy in Meetings** – progress and evaluation update (likely April 2019)



Yearly Meeting of the Religious  
Society of Friends (Quakers) in  
Britain

At a meeting of

## **Meeting for Sufferings Arrangements Group**

Held at Friends House, 173 Euston Road, London NW1 2BJ

21 May 2018

### **Minutes**

**Present: Margaret Bryan (convenor), Ursula Fuller, Gill Greenfield, James Johnson, Juliet Prager, Anne Ullathorne**

**Prevented: Karen Draycott, Sue Goodson**

#### **1. Welcomes and introductions**

**Margaret welcomed Gill to her first meeting of Meeting for Sufferings Arrangements Group.**

#### **2. Reflections on last Meeting for Sufferings**

We noted a range of feedback from the MfS Support Group and some individuals. In general Friends liked meeting in Sarah Fell, though the fact that other rooms were on a different level presented some difficulties for accessibility.

The meeting did feel very well-gathered.

We have received Minute MfS/18/04/06, concerning the recommendations of the Britain Yearly Meeting Sustainability Group Review Group and discussed the challenges presented to MfS in responding to it.

A meeting of representatives and clerks (recommendation two of the Sustainability Review Group) is scheduled for 18 July 2018. This will be ongoing work.

#### **3. Meetings attended by the clerks**

Margaret attended the Quaker World Relations Committee Forum and Quaker Life Rep Council in April.

#### **4. Reflections on Yearly Meeting**

Minutes 14 and 31 lay tasks upon us. Minute 14 concerns the review of the Terms of Reference of Quaker Stewardship Committee and minute 31 Draft Terms of Reference for a Book of Discipline Revision Group came to Meeting for Sufferings in December 2017. They may need to be revised in the light of the Yearly Meeting decision.

#### **5. Forward agenda**

We have reviewed our forward agenda which informs our planning.

#### **6. Agenda planning for the next meeting**

- i) 7 July Induction. We planned the induction programme for the next cohort of reps, adapting the materials used last time
- ii) 6 October Young People's Participation. We will have an opportunity to hear from the new Inclusion and Diversity Project Coordinator.

#### **7. Date and time of next meetings (11-3.30pm)**

30 August & 22 October 2018

Margaret Bryan  
Convenor

**Meeting for Sufferings 2018 07 07 – minutes received**

**Central England AM** - minute 2018.024 of the meeting held on 17 March 2018, regarding Quaker Life Central Committee's strategy.

**Devon AM** - minute 41.2018 of the meeting held on 12 May 2018, regarding Israel-Palestine.

**Central England AM** - minute 2018.051 of the meeting held on 19 May 2018, regarding Circles of Support & accountability.

**Mid-Wales AM** Minute 27.18 from the AM held on 19 May 2018 regarding the unrecognised sacrifice made by many Quakers during the First World War. Also included is the minute of concern from Aberystwyth LM.

## Central England AM held on 17 March 2018

### Min. 2018.024 Quaker Life Central Committee Strategy for 2018-22

Cathy Khurana has spoken to this. The Committee has set out a series of strategic aims for which they are seeking wider discernment from Area Meetings. There are six aims grouped under the headings of 'Our Faith in the Future'. QLCC feel led firstly to focus on:-

- aim 1 (Meeting for Worship is the bedrock of living as a Quaker);
- aim 2 (Quaker communities are loving, inclusive and all-age);
- aim 6 (Quakers are well known and widely understood).

We note that the decision to focus on these is as a logical sequence, not in order of importance. The parallel organisation Quaker Peace and Social Witness is supporting the work of Quaker Life. We support the QLCC's recommendations to focus on the three aims mentioned. We feel we can start with these three aims and try to measure the suggested indicators of success.

We send this minute to Meeting for Sufferings.

Vic Grainger  
co-clerk

#### *Note from Meeting for Sufferings Arrangements Group:*

In February, Quaker Life Central Committee (QLCC) shared the Quaker Life Strategy for 2018-22 with Meeting for Sufferings (MfS/18/02/14). QLCC appreciated MfS' consideration and contribution, and is going forward on the basis of its agreed strategy. Representatives were encouraged to talk within their AMs about the strategy and about Meeting for Sufferings' consideration.

Central England AM's minute records that the AM has done this. Arrangements Group suggests this minute can be received and forwarded for information to Quaker Life Central Committee (QLCC). It has already been sent informally to QLCC's clerks and Secretary.

## Devon Area Meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2018

### Minute 41/2018 Israel-Palestine

In 2012 a group of senior UK lawyers visited Israel/Palestine with the support of the Foreign Office to investigate how Palestinian children were treated by the Israeli military when they were detained and kept in custody.

The lawyers made 40 specific recommendations to improve the situation as it was clear that the children were suffering considerable physical and psychological abuse. A number of politicians are proposing that there should be a follow up visit to see how far the recommendations have been implemented. Devon AM's working group on Israel/ Palestine has been in touch with the Director of Lawyers for Palestinian Human Rights and he has said that the support of Quakers at a National level would add extra weight to the proposal for a follow-up visit, especially because of the experience that Quakers have in the country as a result of the Ecumenical Accompaniment in Palestine and Israel programme.

We encourage Devon AM Israel-Palestine Group to write to The Friend about this matter so that the information is more widely disseminated.

We agree to ask individual Friends and Attenders, as well as Local Meetings to write to their MPs. We agree to ask Meeting for Sufferings to consider sending a letter to the Foreign Office to urge the case for a follow-up visit.

We ask our Clerk to send the Meeting for Sufferings Clerk this Minute.

In friendship

Juliet Morton  
Devon Area Meeting Clerk

#### *Note from the Recording Clerk:*

QPSW staff have advised us that a letter would be in line with existing Yearly Meeting discernment.

QPSW staff have spoken with contacts about this. At present there is no public campaign on this issue, although there have been private conversations with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) about a possible follow-up visit. There seems no harm in writing to the FCO about this and QPSW staff are happy to draft a letter if Meeting for Sufferings discerns this to be a helpful course of action.

In campaigning terms, QPSW and its partners are currently considering the implications of the recent UK Appeal Court decision affirming the government's right to restrict local councils from divesting from companies whose activities they regard as unethical. This includes firms profiting from the UK defence industry, fossil fuel extraction or the military occupation of Palestine.

## Central England AM held on 19 May 2018

### 2018.051 Community Justice Group Concern

We have received a minute from the Community Justice Group (CJG) and Tricia Bradbury has spoken to it.

#### ***Extract from Minutes of a meeting of the Community Justice Group (CJG) held 8 May 2018 at Bull Street:***

##### ***4 Lucy Faithfull Foundation (LFF) news and any update on Circles***

*Howard Saunders brought us up to date regarding LFF withdrawing from Circles in the Midlands due to the Government ceasing its funding for this project. We understand that Meeting Houses around the country are finding that Circles are stopping and this suggests that it is a national issue. CJG will contact Quaker Peace and Social Witness (QPSW) to enquire if this is a concern that has been raised in other parts of the country. A member of CJG will attend a final wash up meeting of the Circles of Support and Accountability (COSA) Board in June. We hope that courses currently running at Priory Rooms - Inform and Inform Plus - as well as the website with a helpline run by LFF, will be able to continue. CJG agreed that this minute of concern be sent by to Area Meeting, as Circles of Support & Accountability have proved over a number of years to be a worthwhile project that has helped reduce reoffending, supporting victims and their families. This is a continuation of a long-standing commitment to community justice issues. Patricia Bradbury, Clerk*

Quakers have had a long-standing commitment and concern with the Circles of Support and Accountability; it originated with Quakers, and Quakers including several in our Area Meeting are currently very involved as volunteers.

For the National Probation Service to suddenly pull their funding in this manner is unacceptable.

We ask Patricia Bradbury to clarify the issue of funding subsequent to the meeting on 21 June 2018 with the Circles of Support and Accountability board, and report back to a future Area Meeting.

We send this minute to Meeting for Sufferings to alert them about this sudden loss of national funding. As Quakers we feel this is vital work that deserves to be continued.

Alison Ironside, Co-Clerk of Central England Area Quaker Meeting

#### *Note from the Deputy Recording Clerk:*

Central England AM's minute prompted BYM staff to explore further and to talk with the national charity Circles UK. A briefing paper setting out the background, the current situation. The Recording Clerk has conferred with the Meeting for Sufferings Clerk who agreed that a private letter should be sent to the Minister before Meeting for Sufferings. The following paper also gives information about how local or area meetings might act, once we have further information.

## Circles of Support and Accountability

### Background

Circles of Support and Accountability (COSA) are an innovative, volunteer-based means of supervising sex offenders, usually upon release from prison. The approach was brought from Canada to England and Wales at the turn of the 21st century. In England, Quakers - reflecting a long tradition of involvement in penal reform - took some of the initiative on this. 'Circles' became a project of Quaker Social Responsibility and Education (QSRE - which later became part of Quaker Peace and Social Witness, QPSW) working alongside statutory and voluntary-sector stakeholders, and funded in part by the Home Office. Staff support was provided by Helen Drewery, then Assistant Secretary of QSRE.

In 2008 the work transferred from Britain Yearly Meeting to a new independent charity [www.circles-uk.org.uk](http://www.circles-uk.org.uk). There are a number of projects currently delivering Circles of Support and Accountability in England and Wales. Funding comes from various statutory and charity sources. 20% of local Circles have received funding from the National Probation Service, which last year provided £256k, nationally.

Locally, Quakers have been involved in different ways with setting up and sustaining circles of support and accountability. Circles Midlands describes itself as a partnership between The Lucy Faithfull Foundation (one of the original projects), the four local area *Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements; Strategic Management Boards*, and Central England Quakers.

### Recent developments

Circles UK has told BYM staff that the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) and the National Probation Service (NPS) had been discussing for around 18 months the potential for an enhanced package of financial support to local Circles, possibly via one national contract. Decisions were repeatedly delayed, and Circles UK have now been told then told that the NPS will withdraw existing funding from local Circles from September.

At the same time, an agreement from MoJ to fund the national umbrella group Circles UK was withdrawn. MOJ has now confirmed that funding will be provided until the end of the current financial year, but there is no indication at present what the approach will be to funding for future years.

According to a report in the Times on 28 May:

*An MoJ spokeswoman said that it was investing money into increasing the number of probation officers and accommodation for offenders, adding that high-risk offenders were rigorously supervised by agencies and Circles were considered an "add on".*

As a result of the uncertain funding position, the Lucy Faithfull Foundation has decided they will no longer deliver local Circles.

Circles UK has secured a meeting with the Minister of State for the Ministry of Justice, Rory Stewart MP which is expected to take place on 16 July.

Although Circles would wish NPS to overturn its decision, realistically this may be unlikely. However, Circles UK is concerned that publicising the decision might lead

others to withdraw funding. They are hoping for a commitment to some level of continued Government funding which they see as crucial to getting continued buy-in from other funding partners.

There is an article on the Circles UK website about this situation, written by John Samuels QC.

#### Possible Quaker response

This is an evolving situation and there may be more news by the time of Meeting for Sufferings. For the time being, Circles UK has asked that messages to the Minister expressing support should be done discreetly, via private letter, in advance of the meeting on 16 July.

Accordingly, the Recording Clerk has sent a private letter. Members of Central England AM, and BYM staff, have also approached people in positions of influence who may be able to add to this pressure.

Depending on the outcome of their meeting, Circles UK may seek more public support. In the meantime, Meetings and individual Friends may wish to:

- find out more about local Circles projects in your area, and whether their funding is at risk;
- speak privately with any key MPs, PCCs, Chief Constables and NGOs who could add to the pressure on Rory Stewart, ahead of the mid-July meeting;
- be alert to developments and consider taking further action if appropriate.

## **Mid Wales AM held on 19 May 2018**

### **Minute 27/18 Concern from Aberystwyth Meeting**

We discussed a Minute of Concern from Aberystwyth Meeting regarding the unrecognised sacrifice made by many Quakers during the First World War, whether as combatants or conscientious objectors.

It is suggested that the creation of a book of remembrance would help to address this, would confirm our commitment to the truth and re-affirm the commitment to liberty of conscience agreed at that time.

We agree to forward this concern to Meeting for Sufferings.

The minute of concern from Aberystwyth is attached to these minutes.

Liza Brown, Clerk

### **Aberystwyth Local Meeting Minute 5/18**

Gethin Evans has been researching aspects of Quaker activity during the First World War for some time. As a consequence he feels a concern that Britain Yearly Meeting should now recognise many Quaker men and some women, members and attenders, involved in the conflict were killed or died as a result.

The Yearly Meeting has never formally recognised the sacrifice made by these people. It is important that we remember every aspect of Quaker involvement in the war, otherwise there is a real danger that we distort our institutional memory. Recovering lost memories is of itself important since forgetting can be dangerous to the well-being of organisations, resulting in misunderstanding and distortion of what went on before. We feel that Gethin is right to pursue this and that he is being led to witness in this matter.

The Yearly Meeting should now recognise the fate of its members during the First World War, either as members of the armed forces, or as members of non-military units, or as civilians witnessing in their own way to the demands of our Peace Testimony.

The creation of a book of remembrance might be one way of bringing this hitherto forgotten group of men to the attention of the world wide Society, reminding it that, even though it is a peace church, that this does not mean that all Quakers were or are pacifists.

The First World War saw London Yearly Meeting, as was, making clear that liberty of conscience was something to be cherished, protected and upheld, and by witnessing to it was able to uphold its own unity at a difficult time, whilst also supporting its combatant and non-combatant members and attenders.

We forward this minute to Area Meeting for further discernment, and hope that it will be able to acknowledge Gethin's concern and forward it to Meeting for Sufferings.

Jon Bell, Clerk

*Note from the Recording Clerk:*

To date Gethin Evans has gathered detailed information on 250 Quakers dead in the war - members and attenders or those associated with the Society of Friends, including members of the military, Friends Ambulance Unit (FAU) and Friends War Victims Relief Committee (FWVRC) and conscientious objectors. This is still work in progress: he is planning to go back to records of 1,800 other men, although he doubts that the figure will increase significantly. In due course, this record can be lodged in the Friends House Library. The question for Meeting for Sufferings is whether to formally recognise and remember Quakers who died in this way.

Gethin Evans will continue his research but will not be able to visit every Quaker Archive in Britain. He would be glad to hear from Friends who would like to support and help with the research.

## **July 2018 MfS Home Groups**

More information will be available on the day.

### **1 – London (Hilda Clark 3)**

Kingston & Wandsworth AM – Keith Walton  
London West AM – Simon Risley & Sandy Horsfall  
North East Thames AM – Margarete Briggs & Anne Smith  
North London AM -  
North West London AM – Ruth Hawthorn & Emily Milner  
South East London AM – Rowena Loverance & Jo-Anne Fraser  
South London AM – Bob Rogers & Eva Kalmus

### **2 - Midlands and East of England (Hilda Clark 1)**

Cambridgeshire AM - Sue Brock-Hollinshead & Hannah Morrow  
Central England AM - Cathy Khurana & Claire Bowman  
Ipswich & Diss AM – Elaine Green & Avril Dawson  
Leicester AM - Fiona Cownie & Chris Myers  
Lincolnshire AM – Mark Lilley & David Howard  
Mid-Essex AM - Deirdre Haslam & Brian Wardrop  
Norfolk & Waveney AM - Jenny Routledge & Silas Price  
Nottinghamshire & Derbyshire AM - Maggie Lightowler Cook & Judith Green  
Southern East Anglia AM – Robert Parkes  
Staffordshire AM - Win Sutton & Rosemary Barnett  
Thaxted AM - Sue Moloney & Margaret Somerville  
Worcestershire & Shropshire AM - Andrew Jameson & David Bowgett

### **3 - North and North West England (Hilda Clark 2)**

Cumberland AM - Bob Pritchard & David Day  
East Cheshire AM - Jacqui Moore & Eleni Burgess  
Hardshaw and Mann AM - Maureen Jackson & Diana Jeater  
Kendal & Sedbergh AM - Chris Bullard & Pamela Coren  
Lancashire Central & North AM - Liz Eddington  
Manchester & Warrington AM - Marion McNaughton & Steven Johnson  
Northumbria AM - Barbara Bone & Steve Pullan  
Pendle Hill AM - Gordon Benson & Pip Swancott  
Swarthmoor (SW Cumbria) AM - Sue Tompkins & Cindy Metcalfe  
Teesdale & Cleveland AM - Mary Wilkinson & Gaynor Hemming  
Wensleydale & Swaledale AM - Edna Rossiter & Ian Hunter Smart  
Wirral & Chester AM - Alan Vernon & Sheila Houldin

### **4 - Scotland and Wales (Waldo Williams)**

(with the option of splitting into two groups)  
East Scotland AM - Alyson Buchan & Robert Thompson  
North Scotland AM -  
South East Scotland AM - Henry Thompson & Kate Arnot  
West Scotland AM - Barbara Robinson & Ed Tyler  
Mid Wales AM - David Jones & Carol Satterthwaite  
North Wales AM - Helen Still  
South Wales AM - Julia Lim & Carole Rakodi  
Southern Marches AM - Julian Rutherford & Maggie Taylor-Sanders

### **5 - South Midlands (Abraham Darby)**

Banbury & Evesham AM - Susie Tombs & Lynne Richardson  
Chilterns AM - Jane Edmonds & Anthony Philpott  
Gloucestershire AM - Colin Brown & Pat Beard  
Hertford & Hitchin AM - Kathy Hindle & Katey Earle  
Luton & Leighton AM - Jayne Meadows & Neil Morgan  
Mid-Thames AM - Doreen Osborne & Jean Scott-Barr  
Northamptonshire AM - Karen Draycott & Sally Lewis  
Oxford & Swindon AM - Bridget Walker & Tina Leonard

### **6 - South of England (Kathleen Lonsdale)**

Bournemouth Coastal AM - Anthony Woolhouse & Kate Mellor  
East Kent AM - Danny Chesterman & Caroline Howden  
Hampshire & Islands AM - sarah coote & Jane Wilde  
Surrey & Hampshire Border AM - Mary Prior & Ivan Hutnik  
Sussex East AM - Peter Bolwell  
Sussex West AM - Colin Holliday  
West Kent AM - Jill Clarke  
West Weald AM - Rosemary Elias & Bryony Elias

### **7 - South West England (George Bradshaw)**

Devon AM - Jacqui Poole & Sally Hartog  
Bristol AM - Heather Lister & Helen Chambers  
Cornwall AM – Julie Taylor-Browne & Glynis Davies  
Dorset & South Wiltshire AM - Jane Fowles  
Mid-Somerset AM - Gill Greenfield & Andy Hall  
North Somerset AM - Shella Parry  
West Somerset AM - Fran Hicks & Kathy Gollin  
West Wiltshire & East Somerset AM - Jane Stephenson & Ruth Cook

### **8 – Yorkshire (Ada Salter 1)**

Brighouse West Yorkshire AM - Rosemary Daley & Ann Banks  
Central Yorkshire AM - Ruth McTighe & Jane Pinder  
Craven & Keighley AM - Richard Vesey & Keith Reeves  
Leeds AM - Martin Ford & Richard Levitt  
Pickering & Hull AM - Sam McNair & Christine Fellowes  
Sheffield & Balby AM - Rosemary Roberts & Craig Barnett  
York AM - James McCarthy & Sarah Allen

### **9 – Central Committees (Ada Salter 2)**

Central Nominations Committee - Gill Reid & David Beale  
General Meeting for Scotland – Ann Kerr & Mike Shilson  
Meeting of Friends in Wales - Gethin Evans  
QLCC - Martin Pennock & Roy Stephenson  
QPSWCC - Deirdre Haslam & Jeff Beatty  
QCCIR - Stephanie Grant & Nicola Hoskin-Stone  
QWRC - Barbara Windle & Ann Floyd  
YM Treasurer – Peter Ullathorne  
YM clerks –Deborah Rowlands & Claire Scott-Booth  
YFGM - Eleanor Fuller & Laurence Hall

## **Court & Prison Register**

### **Introduction**

Meeting for Sufferings (MfS) was established in 1676, to consider the sufferings experienced by Quakers for their faith. Gradually the practice of recording Friends' names in the 'Great book of Sufferings' lapsed; but in 1997 MfS decided to maintain a register of Friends before the courts or imprisoned for matters of conscience. This enables us to record events, as well as to uphold the Friends concerned and to share information about their witness.

In April, MfS recorded that Ian Bray of Brighouse West Yorkshire AM carried out nonviolent direct actions in March; he was charged with criminal damage and was awaiting a court date.

The AM has now sent the following update; MfS may wish to make a new record in the Court and Prison Register.

### **Brighouse West Yorkshire AM held May 2018**

#### **Minute 18/05/05 Court and Prison Register**

We have received minute 18.03.17 from a meeting of Friends from Huddersfield and High Flatts Meetings supporting Ian Bray and also minute 18/04/04 from Meeting for Sufferings.

Ian Bray of Brighouse West Yorkshire AM, with other members of Rising Up, carried out four nonviolent direct actions in 8 days between 19th and 26th March as part of the Stop Killing Londoners, Cut Air Pollution campaign. They were charged with criminal damage and received a conditional discharge and a small fine. The criminal damage was spraying paint on walls.

Ian continues to demonstrate a firm and resolute intention to accept the consequences of his action which comes from his Quaker conviction, 'what does love require of us?'

Ian is clear that he has thought through all the implications of taking or not taking this action.

His support group prayerfully supports Ian in his ministry of nonviolent direct action and holds him in the light.

We are asked to support Ian in his ministry and hold him in the light and to send supporting minutes to Quakers in Yorkshire, NFPB (Northern Friends Peace Board) and Meeting for Sufferings.

We affirm our support for Ian in his action and we agree to forward this Minute as requested to Quakers in Yorkshire, Northern Friends Peace Board and Meeting for Sufferings.

Catherine Putz, clerk

## Yearly Meeting

At the first opportunity after Yearly Meeting, Meeting for Sufferings generally takes time to reflect on our annual national gathering.

The substantive minutes are copied below.

Two matters were sent specifically to Meeting for Sufferings and they are covered in separate papers:

- **Revision of the Book of Discipline** (minutes 16, 21, 24, 25, 27 28 and 31; papers MfS 2018 07 10b and 10c)
- **Review of Quaker Stewardship Committee's Terms of Reference** (minute 14, paper MfS 2018 07 11)

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### Yearly Meeting 2018 - substantive minutes

#### **Minute 16: Is it time to revise *Quaker faith & practice*, our book of discipline?**

##### **Part 1: Receipt of the minute from Meeting for Sufferings.**

We receive Minute MfS/17/12/12 of Meeting for Sufferings, held 2 December 2017, recommending that Yearly Meeting begin a revision of our book of discipline.

Yearly Meeting Gathering 2014 considered a recommendation from Meeting for Sufferings that it was time to begin a revision but was unable to reach unity on whether to do so. Meeting for Sufferings was encouraged to engage the yearly meeting in a period of preparation and threshing and to bring the matter back to Yearly Meeting when it felt the time was right. Meeting for Sufferings established the Book of Discipline Revision Preparation Group to undertake this work and the group presented its final report to Meeting for Sufferings at its meeting held 2 December 2017. An edited version of this report is at appendix D of *Agenda & Notes*.

We will be considering whether to accept the recommendation to revise our book of discipline during several sessions of this Yearly Meeting.

#### **Minute 21: Is it time to revise *Quaker faith & practice*, our book of discipline?**

##### **Part 2: introduction to our consideration**

Take heed, dear Friends to the prompting of love and truth in our hearts. We need love in one hand and truth in the other. We are both excited and fearful as we approach this possible revision.

Are we open to the possibility that revision of the book may be a personal and corporate renewal? Are we open to being vulnerable? Are we ready to plunge in to the deep water and feel invigorated? We need to maintain our work and witness on the issues of the world.

We hope we can engage with the continuing process with open hearts.

We have heard from the clerk of Yearly Meeting Agenda Committee about the thinking behind the planning of Yearly Meeting sessions. We have also heard from members of the Book of Discipline Revision Preparation Group about their work and the journey they have taken, both as individuals and as a group. They have told us why they are

recommending revision and outlined the reasons behind the four recommendations they make:

- the revision should begin with, but not be limited to church government, namely the sections which focus on our procedures and corporate discipline
- the revision should divide material between that in the main body of the book, which lays out principles, and supplementary material, which gives details
- the revision should draw on the richness of theological thought in our yearly meeting, now and historically, seeing diversity as fundamental to our community, not as a flaw
- the Revision Committee be given the freedom to be creative, while remaining in close contact with the yearly meeting.

We will return to these recommendations later in our agenda.

**Minute 24: Is it time to revise *Quaker faith & practice*, our book of discipline?**

**Part 3: parallel sessions**

We have spent the first part of our time this afternoon in parallel sessions exploring in different ways, including through dance and art, our responses to the questions before us. We have engaged with various aspects of the possibility of revising our book of discipline such as: religious difference, church government, and missing identities.

**Minute 25: Is it time to revise *Quaker faith & practice*, our book of discipline?**

**Part 4: What canst thou say? Listening and learning from each other.**

How can we make our religious differences and our varied expressions of our faith a source of strength and richness? We have reflected on the following questions:

- what have religious differences shown you in your Quaker community?
- how has your faith and practice been enriched by these differences?
- how can we find a way to get beyond potentially divisive words?

How we are with the world depends on how we are with ourselves. Do we always put on our best faces? We need to also show our real lived lives.

We should be confident in the language which is right for each of us. Then we can respect, be tender and value the language of others. Some have said that our sometimes archaic language can be a barrier to understanding whilst others have seen that its ambiguity can leave room for personal interpretation.

We are aware of the voices which are missing from the current book including the voices of the younger generation.

Our religious diversity is a richness but it comes at a cost; a social cost as we risk our sense of community, a time cost and an emotional cost.

When we believe in continuing revelation some amongst us are always grieving. However we have also heard of the transformation and deep spiritual experience which can happen when we really listen to one another and ensure that each voice is heard.

**Minute 27: Is it time to revise *Quaker faith & practice*, our book of discipline?**

**Part 5: Reflections**

We have continued our consideration of the question before us by reflecting together. We will take these questions and comments into our further consideration this afternoon.

**Minute 28: Is it time to revise *Quaker faith & practice*, our book of discipline?**

**Part 6: Church Government**

During this session we have considered the Church Government sections of our book of discipline, celebrating and giving thanks for all the work which has gone into updates since 1994. However the passage of time means that these sections of our book of discipline are no longer fit for purpose.

In any future revision, we agree that it will be helpful to separate the core principles, which would be in the book, from the detail which might be in supplementary material. We know that a lot more work is needed to establish clearly where the balance lies. Whatever we do, all this material should be freely accessible to all.

**Minute 31: Is it time to revise *Quaker faith & practice*, our book of discipline?**

**Part 7. Drawing together the threads.**

*Minutes 16, 21, 24, 25, 27 and 28 refer*

Over six sessions we have considered different aspects of the decision of whether or not to revise our book of discipline.

We have received and heard read by one of their clerks, a minute of Junior Yearly Meeting: “Is it time to revise *Quaker faith & practice*?”, which unites with a revision with some urgency.

We have received and heard read (by video) a minute of the Young People’s Programme, which also unites with a revision. We have also received a minute from the Spiritual Adventurers (9—11 year olds) and contributions from the Penn Friends (6—9 year olds) and Fox Cubs (3—5 year olds). These minutes call for simpler more modern language to be added, and for the celebration of our diversity. We are glad that all of these groups have been present for some of our deliberations and worship. We have heard calls from Friends of all ages for young people to be fully involved in a revision process.

We agree that the time is right to start revising our book of discipline. We embrace and rejoice in this decision. Regular revision is an intrinsic part of who we are as a Religious Society of Friends.

As the introduction to our current book of discipline says, “We are seekers but we are also the holders of a precious heritage of discoveries. We, like every generation, must find the Light and Life again for ourselves. Only what we have valued and truly made our own, not by assertion but by lives of faithful commitment, can we hand on to the future. Even then, we must humbly acknowledge that our vision of the truth will, again and again, be amended.”

We accept the four specific recommendations of the Revision Preparation Group (see Minute 16).

- The revision should begin with, but not be limited to, church government, namely the sections which focus on our procedures and corporate discipline.
- The revision should divide material between that in the main body of the book, which lays out principles, and supplementary material, which gives details.
- The revision should draw on the richness of theological thought in our yearly meeting, now and historically, seeing diversity as fundamental to our community, not as a flaw.
- The Revision Committee be given the freedom to be creative, while remaining in close contact with the Yearly Meeting.

We feel an overwhelming sense of gratitude for the work of the Book of Discipline Revision Preparation Group (RPG). The high level of engagement of Friends throughout the yearly meeting, with both the “Reading faith & practice” exercise and the publication of *God, words and us*, have helped Friends to come to the consideration at this Yearly Meeting, prepared in mind and heart.

We look forward with anticipation to engaging further with these issues during the process of revision, accepting that we may expect to be changed, both personally and as a church. We should be ready to feel vulnerable, wounded, renewed or transformed as we engage with issues about our faith, and how we practise it together, with open hearts.

Quakers in Britain are diverse in matters of belief and the language we use to describe them and that is to be celebrated. We also experience in our meetings, unity and oneness in the depths of our worship together.

We should be true to our own beliefs, and listen deeply to other people’s experience, as well as their words. We remember that sometimes ambiguity, and archaic phrases from former times, enable Quakers to search for the meaning for themselves and interpret it as they are led. Who are we, and who do we aspire to be? Can we also offer each other support by sharing honestly our real lived lives, including the parts we are not so proud of?

We ask Meeting for Sufferings to draw up terms of reference for a revision committee, which should be as diverse as possible in its composition. It should include both younger and older Friends. We encourage the group to work flexibly to involve a broad range of contributions of different kinds from Friends.

We ask Meeting for Sufferings to appoint and oversee the work of this committee, expecting to receive regular reports and consultation as necessary at future Yearly Meetings, and in other ways.

With regard to the first recommendation, we recognise that this will not necessarily mean waiting until work on church government elements is complete before moving on to other parts.

We encourage the revision committee appointed to challenge Friends in a wide variety of ways. Our continuing witness in the world should inform this revision, be invigorated and energised by it and not be diminished by it, by either resources or capacity. We ask Britain Yearly Meeting Trustees to make appropriate resources available. In bringing forward revisions to the church government parts of our book of discipline into core principles and supplementary guides, the revision committee should ensure

that there is a consistency and a coherence between the core principles and supplementary material, and within the various parts of the supplementary material. Modern media and technology can be used to help with this. We should use language which is as plain and simple as possible. We want a book which can speak and be accessible to all present and future Quakers.

We encourage the revision committee to be prayerful, joyful, creative and bold. We hope that this book will help us to be more resilient for an uncertain future and that the process of revision will act as a catalyst for renewal.

### **Minute 36: Looking Forward - sustainability and diversity**

The issues of sustainability and diversity continue to engage Friends deeply.

We have heard from two Friends who are engaged in inspiring work on these matters. We are challenged to ask ourselves uncomfortable questions, both as individuals and as meeting communities, and to ask what love requires of us to be a fully inclusive worshipping community. Can we expand our experience of “Who is like me?” Our house cannot be fully in order until we change some of the fundamentals of the world in which we operate.

We expect to return to further consideration of both these topics at our Yearly Meetings, and Yearly Meeting Gatherings over the next few years. This consideration will be deepened and strengthened as we engage with these issues ourselves.

### **Minute 49: Receipt of minutes from the Children and Young People’s Programmes**

We have received minutes from the groups of the Children’s and Young People’s Programme of this Yearly Meeting as follows:

#### New Shoots (0—2 year olds)

We’ve built friendships, told stories from *Quaker faith and practice*, had quiet together, slept, sung, explored, and developed community. To quote Mr Tumble from one of our participants:

Goodbye, goodbye, it’s time to run,  
Goodbye, goodbye, I hope you’ve had good fun,  
I say goodbye, I’m happy that you came,  
I say goodbye,  
Please come back, please come back, please come back again!  
Goodbye

#### Fox Cubs (3—5 year olds)

The Fox Cubs have been exploring stories. We started with the story ‘Perfectly Norman’ which helped us think about respecting people for who they are. The boy in the story had wings and we made our own wings with painting, sticking and clay.

We shared our own stories using something special that we had brought from home. These were things that made us happy, like a teddy bear and a painted mermaid. We drew and wrote our own stories in our journals. Sam Walton visited and told us the story of trying to stop bombs being dropped on Yemen. He gave us stickers of the Yemini Flag and we sent messages back to Sam’s friend Ahmed in Yemen.

We looked at the red meeting book and found out what the adults in the big meeting were talking about. We thought about what we want to see in the future and made a big collage together. We sent this to the Big Meeting.

We had a picnic with strawberries in the park where we played games and collected things from nature. We used these natural things in our worship to help us think about different things we like. We played lots of games together; we really liked juggling and playing with balls and scarves with the Penn Friends.

We looked after ourselves by having some quiet time before our busy afternoon. We also enjoyed our snacks and sometimes we shared these with the New Shoots who were very noisy. Sharing our time with each other and looking after each other made the Fox Cubs fun for all of us.

#### Penn Friends (5—9 year olds)

The Penn Friends, the 5—9 year old group of the children's programme at Yearly Meeting 2018 met over the weekend of 5—7 May. We have done a lot of activities and had fun exploring *Quaker faith and practice* through our theme of Quaker Stories.

On Saturday we heard Sam Walton's story about trying to stop the bombing of Yemen, where his Friend Ahmed lives. We learnt that the UK are selling war planes to Saudi Arabia, and we wrote letters to Ahmed sending our message of support and hope. We also began our Journals, where we could write or draw anything we wanted to remember what did at Yearly Meeting. We enjoyed the sunshine in Tavistock Square, playing parachute games and eating strawberries.

We joined the Yearly Meeting for all-age worship on Sunday. We heard a story and did some singing. We then wrote and created our own stories to share with the Yearly Meeting. These stories included experiences of meeting for worship, creative writing, and paintings. We joined the Fox Cubs for juggling with Michael, we all learnt something new and we all tried our best. We ran a nominations session, in which we focused on speaking truthfully, respecting others, and seeing people's skills, and we learnt that Quaker decisions are not about voting.

Monday started with a 'Godly Play' story with Melinda Wenner Bradley from Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. We discovered that we all have gifts to share, and did an activity to explore our gifts.

Our experience of being part of Yearly Meeting included meeting new Friends, playing games together, sharing our stories, and learning new things.

#### Spiritual Adventurers (9—11 year olds)

Hello, we are the Spiritual Adventurers - 9—11s. This Yearly Meeting, we have been thinking about our Quaker stories and *Quaker faith & practice*. We had a thoughtful time looking at quotes from *Quaker faith & practice* and it was nice that we got to have a say. We shared our own Quaker stories in many different ways and had a go at making our own original stories. Stories are always changing. We explored the language we use to talk about what we believe in.

In worship and meditation, we used postcards and special objects to share our Quaker stories. The silence helped us feel connected.

We developed our team work and friendships through playing games and singing songs of different genres. We liked the opportunities of being in different places, including the park. We enjoyed meeting with the younger children and having visitors. We appreciated making connections with the rest of Yearly Meeting.

#### Young People's Programme (11—15 year olds)

On the 4 of May 2018, 37 young people and 6 adults went to Hemel Hempstead for the Young People's Programme as part of Britain Yearly Meeting.

We spent the first evening having arrived at Felden Lodge getting to know each other through base groups and interactive games as introduction to one another and the event.

On the Saturday, in the morning after meeting for worship we held a Base Group Challenge, helping us to work on our teamwork and bond. After that we started to look at Quaker history, in order to begin looking at the theme of Yearly Meeting. Rhiannon Grant, a member of the *Quaker faith & practice* Revision Preparation Group helped us to get some background and develop our understanding on whether we think *Qf&p* should be revised. We suggested that there should be more material on diversity, recognising different family situations, refugees, and a wider range of spiritual journeys. Later on, the whole of Young People's Programme travelled by train to Friends House to join the Yearly Meeting main session and to attend the thought-provoking Swarthmore Lecture given by Chris Alton.

On Sunday, after meeting for worship, we talked about the Quaker business method in base groups. In our own business meeting we wrote a minute saying we want to embrace diversity, be accessible to all, and that young people should have an active role in achieving these goals.

In small group 'chatrooms' we discussed diversity within Quakerism: LGBTQ+ Community, Religious differences and all age inclusion, which allowed us to consider the issue of diversity in a changing world.

After lunch, to let off some steam after a relatively heavy morning, we went outside to play games and have discussions while enjoying the nice weather. Swarthmore Lecturer Chris Alton joined us for a follow up session on his earlier lecture, where we came up with creative solutions to problems, such as personifying planks of wood to combat deforestation, making the steps to buildings five foot high to highlight their inaccessibility for disabled people, or build a cardboard bus shelter. Melinda Wenner Bradley told us a 'Faith & Play' story about Questions, and we ended the day with a camp fire.

On Monday at Friends House we looked at Quakerism in the future and enjoyed our final sessions together.

The weekend has allowed us to examine and celebrate diversity. There is room for greater inclusion and we want to have an active role in opening our Society to all, regardless of age, belief or identity.

## Minute 50: Epistle of Junior Yearly Meeting

To all Friends everywhere,

Junior Yearly Meeting met between the 4 and 7 May 2018 to explore the theme: 'Quaker faith in practice: What are our beliefs and how can we express them?'

There was a strong sense of community over this weekend. Indeed we learnt from Melinda Wenner Bradley (a Friend from Philadelphia Yearly Meeting) that Community is one of the Quaker testimonies in the USA. In addition to Melinda, we were delighted to welcome into our community Jo Harris from the United Reformed Church, as well as Rhiannon Grant from the Revision Preparation Group.

Worship was one element of the event which helped us feel closer, and gave us space for spiritual development. In particular, we appreciated the diversity in the different ways of exploring our spirituality, such as the guided meditation epilogue which many felt enabled them to open up and be themselves. We gave and heard powerful ministry in our worship, which further inspired many of us to better connect with our spiritual side.

In part due to the speaker's young age, Chris Alton's Swarthmore Lecture about being creative in effecting change in the world, resonated with us well. The lecture was humorous as well as eye-opening and encouraged us to think about how we could make a difference in our communities and our lives or, in his words, 'may we go forth and reshape the world'.

Through our Meeting for Worship for Business we wrote a minute to voice our community's sense that we should revise *Quaker faith & practice*. This was read before Yearly Meeting where the decision was made. We appreciated the chance to be involved in the decision – through our minute and young people's ministry in Yearly Meeting session – and expressed a wish to be involved in the revision itself.

The smaller communities of base groups enabled us to discuss further our thoughts and feelings and of course to have lots of fun and meet new people. Our 'Where am I?' orienteering game and quiz were other sources of great enjoyment and helped us to grow even closer together while the final night's ceilidh was a fitting finale to an inspiring and memorable weekend.

Over the weekend we learnt more about our own beliefs and reflected on how we could express these in Quakerism and the wider world. Friendships were forged and strengthened, and we leave in the knowledge that as a community we can achieve great things.

As one participant said 'JYM is an experience that I'm never going to forget'.

Signed in and on behalf of Junior Yearly Meeting 2018  
Arjun Nanning Ramamurthy      Daniel O'Toole  
Clerks of JYM 2018

**Minute 52: Naming of clerks for Yearly Meeting 2019 and Yearly Meeting Gathering 2020.**

The Yearly Meeting Committee on Clerks expect to bring the following names to serve as Yearly Meeting clerks for:

Yearly Meeting 2019

Clerk:	Clare Scott Booth	London West AM
First Assistant Clerk:	Siobhan Haire	North London AM
Second Assistant Clerk:	Gavin Burnell	Leeds AM

Yearly Meeting 2020

Clerk:	Clare Scott Booth	London West AM
First Assistant Clerk:	Siobhan Haire	North London AM
Second Assistant Clerk:	Adwoa Bittle	East Scotland AM

**Minute 53: Concluding Minute**

“We looked for blessings, and they were poured upon us. We looked for guidance and were given strength. We came for Spiritual refreshment, and in finding it we found responsibility and tenderness for one another and for all. In love there is unity and it is this which became a reality to us.” (Epistle of Southern Africa Yearly Meeting 1962-3, pp 28—29, from *Living Adventurously: Quaker Faith & Practice Central and Southern Africa Yearly Meeting*).

There being no further business for this Yearly Meeting, we separate, hoping to meet again at Friends House on 24—27 May 2019 if nothing occur to prevent.

Deborah Rowlands  
Clerk

# **Book of Discipline Revision**

## **Introduction**

Meeting for Sufferings is asked:

- a) To note a minute from Young Friends General Meeting regarding the revision process
- b) To adopt Terms of Reference for a new Revision Committee.
- c) To note a recommendation from the Book of Discipline Revision Preparation Group

**a) Young Friends General Meeting, Manchester, 25th-28th May 2018  
Minute 2018.16 Inclusion of Young Adult Friends and *Quaker faith & practice* Revision**

We have heard from Tim Rouse about the decision to revise *Quaker faith & practice* at Yearly Meeting this year.

We feel that this process will be an important undertaking in the life of the Yearly Meeting in coming years and recognise that the process may extend for some time. We are excited at what this will bring, look forward to being involved and hope to uphold those working on this process.

We welcome that it has already been recognised that "the membership [of the Revision Committee] should reflect the breadth of the Yearly Meeting in terms of gender, age, ability, geographical location and other factors." Whilst we recognise and wish to uphold the need for continuity, we are concerned that the potential length of service and time commitment of roles on the Revision Committee may make them inaccessible to some. For example we know younger Quakers, those with families, work commitments or health issues may not be able to commit to extended service.

We are at different points in our journeys and may be well placed to contribute in different ways at different times. We feel people may need to be able to be released from roles and new voices brought to the Committee with appropriate handover. We feel the spirit leads us to ask Meeting for Sufferings to find creative and accessible ways to engage with Friends and hope that thought will be given as to how to maintain the energy of the Committee. The Committee must be aware of the mechanisms of support available to them. We are happy to work with Meeting for Sufferings around these points.

We hope Young Friends will be included as equally respected contributors to the process and that there will be regular opportunities for engagement with Young Friends General Meeting, Junior Yearly Meeting, Local Young Adult Friends groups, Children's Groups and others.

We know of previous examples, such as the process around the Junior book of Faith and Practice - "Living our beliefs" which have been felt to be effective.

We hope that if the process continues for some years, space will be made for the voices of children who are becoming teenagers and adults as well as newcomers to the Society.

We ask our Clerks to send this minute to Meeting for Sufferings.

Michelle Dumont  
Co-clerk

## **b) Book of Discipline Revision Committee**

Yearly Meeting's minute 31 records the decision that the time is right to start revising our book of discipline and sent these tasks to Meeting for Sufferings:

*We ask Meeting for Sufferings to draw up terms of reference for a revision committee, which should be as diverse as possible in its composition. It should include both younger and older Friends. We encourage the group to work flexibly to involve a broad range of contributions of different kinds from Friends.*

*We ask Meeting for Sufferings to appoint and oversee the work of this committee, expecting to receive regular reports and consultation as necessary at future Yearly Meetings, and in other ways.*

When the Book of Discipline Revision Preparation Group reported to Meeting for Sufferings in December 2017, it shared draft terms of reference for a Revision Committee in its report to Meeting for Sufferings. In the light of comments made at Meeting for Sufferings and at Yearly Meeting, the Revision Preparation Group now offers slightly revised terms of reference for approval.

If you want to suggest amendments to this draft, please send them before the meeting to reach the clerks as soon as possible and by Friday 6<sup>th</sup> July at the latest. Comments can be sent by post c/o Graham Spackman, or by email to [sufferings@quaker.org.uk](mailto:sufferings@quaker.org.uk)

## **Book of Discipline Revision Committee - *draft* terms of reference**

### **1. Summary of Purpose**

To bring to Yearly Meeting, draft text for consideration for adoption as Britain Yearly Meeting's book of discipline, together with proposals for its publication.

### **2. Authority, Delegation and Relationships**

- 2.1 The Revision Committee is appointed by Meeting for Sufferings on the nomination of the Central Nominations Committee.
- 2.2 The committee should report annually to Yearly Meeting and Meeting for Sufferings on the progress of its work and on any other matters from the perspective of the Revision which require the attention of Yearly Meeting or Meeting for Sufferings.
- 2.3 The committee may communicate by minute with Yearly Meeting, Yearly Meeting Agenda Committee, Meeting for Sufferings, Britain Yearly Meeting Trustees, General Meeting for Scotland, Meeting of Friends in Wales and Young Friends General Meeting, other Central and Standing Committees of Britain Yearly Meeting, the Church Government Advisory Group, and Yearly Meeting Publications Group.
- 2.4 The committee is encouraged to consult widely with individuals, post-holders, groups and bodies within the Yearly Meeting for relevant advice and counsel.

- 2.5 The committee may establish working groups and subgroups as required. The committee is responsible for the work of these groups and each group should normally contain at least two serving members of the Revision Committee.
- 2.6 The committee has the authority to draft, or commission, new material, as well as to draw on existing Quaker writings.

### **3. Duties**

- 3.1 The committee shall undertake work necessary in order to bring to Yearly Meeting draft text, possibly including written, visual and other material, for consideration for adoption as Britain Yearly Meeting's book of discipline, together with proposals for its publication.
- 3.2. In particular, the committee should undertake, in whatever way seems best, a comprehensive revision of the text of church government, resulting in:
  - a core text, carrying the authority of Yearly Meeting as at present, which will describe clearly principles underlying each area of Quaker practice and give a simple description of the practice accompanied by extracts recording the lived experience of Friends in this area.
  - supplementary material, issued in the name of the Yearly Meeting, but approved at an appropriate level, including detailed legal and practical guidance for Friends, which will not form part of the core text, and which may take various forms.
- 3.3. In fulfilling 3.2 above, the committee – consulting as necessary – will need to determine where text is supplementary and thus where its creation, approval and maintenance could be delegated to Meeting for Sufferings, another committee, or entirely to staff. In making such judgements, the committee should balance the need for collective discernment with the need for simplicity and flexibility. Particular care should be taken to avoid burdensome processes for the approval of practical material that can best be produced or commissioned and updated by committees or staff.
- 3.4. Be bold in the rewriting of church government text, bearing in mind:
  - the needs of the whole church in Britain - including (though not limited to) newer Friends unfamiliar with our discipline, and smaller local and area meetings
  - that the rewriting should seek to express our discipline more clearly, rather than to change the nature of that discipline.
- 3.5. When necessary, request new discernment and guidance from Meeting for Sufferings or the Yearly Meeting on matters of discipline, where the Committee judges it is not possible in good faith to produce new text without such consideration, for example because of profound differences between current written discipline and actual practice.
- 3.6. Gather, with the help and participation of Friends across the Yearly Meeting, materials and extracts from Quaker writings that illustrate and illuminate Quaker faith experience, insight, disciplines, practice, structures and governance paying due attention to new Light and new experience that may have emerged since the

last revision, while also recognising the value of familiar and unfamiliar texts from earlier times.

- 3.7 Select and order the anthology materials, with additional introductory, explanatory or linking text as required particularly to aid accessibility and understanding.
- 3.8. Prepare draft text, including church government and anthology materials, for presentation to Yearly Meeting for its consideration and decision. Drafts should be made freely and widely available to Friends, with sufficient time for reading and reflection, prior to consideration in Yearly Meeting sessions.
- 3.9. Consult on, and bring proposals for the format and publication of the final text, bearing in mind:
  - paper and electronic formats available at the time
  - the needs of all Friends, including those who may find accessing some formats difficult, e.g. because of having limited or no sight.
- 3.10. Throughout this process, give due attention to:
  - the need for clear two-way communication with Friends throughout the Yearly Meeting, explaining how the work is developing and how Friends can engage with it, and listening to concerns - particularly from quieter voices
  - the need to build community and trust within the committee itself in order to support each other in this extensive task.
  - the need to allow sufficient time for reflection and discernment on difficult issues, while maintaining momentum with the work as a whole.

#### **4. Membership and resourcing**

- 4.1 The committee will consist of 24 members, with the initial clerk and assistant clerk to be named by the appointing body. At least 8-10 of the members should have the skills, confidence and commitment to convene active working groups. The Recording Clerk may attend ex-officio. The Recording Clerk will name a staff member to act as Secretary to the group.
- 4.2 Special care should be taken that the membership should reflect the breadth of the Yearly Meeting in terms of gender, age, abilities, geographical location and other factors. Committee members should be in tune with the theological diversity of Friends in the Yearly Meeting, but should not be selected to represent any point of view, and should be able to understand and work with and within that diversity.
- 4.3 Within the committee membership, there should be Friends who can bring relevant subject knowledge (e.g. church government, history, theology, testimony/witness, worship/spiritual practice, community/pastoral) technical knowledge (e.g. document management, online and print publication), and familiarity with BYM at national, regional and local level, including experience of different sizes of meetings.
- 4.4 Appointment will be by Meeting for Sufferings. Appointments will be for the full life of the committee or for a shorter fixed term where this helps a range of Friends to serve. Friends may ask to be released at any time. Replacement appointments will not automatically be made if committee members are released from service.

The committee may request the appointment of additional or replacement members, up to a maximum of 28 committee members at any one time.

- 4.5 The Committee may invite other Friends or specialists to work with it on particular issues or to bring perspectives that would otherwise not be heard. The Committee may appoint Friends on to working groups or sub-groups.
- 4.6 BYM Trustees, through the Recording Clerk are responsible for ensuring there are sufficient staff and other resources to support the work of the committee. This includes not only routine administrative support, but also support with specialist activities such as historical research and referencing, information and document management, commissioning and communications.

## **5. Agreement of the Terms of Reference**

- 5.1 The committee shall work within these terms of reference under the authority of minute XX Meeting for Sufferings held 7 July 2018.
- 5.2 The terms of reference may be amended by minuted decisions of Meeting for Sufferings.

## **c) Book of Discipline Revision Preparation Group: Recommendations for further work**

### **Book of Discipline Revision Preparation Group**

held at Swarthmoor Hall and Swarthmoor Meeting House, 8 – 10 June 2018

#### **RPG 18/06/10 Recommendations for other further work**

The process of preparing to revise the book of discipline has opened up discussion within Britain Yearly Meeting about our differing religious understandings. Dialogue needs to be a normal and continuing part of our life together as Quakers both to have deeper spiritual experience and to avoid divisive misunderstandings.

These conversations need to happen both at an in-depth level amongst Friends with particular expertise and passion, and also widely amongst Friends. In our work this has been done by the Theology Think Tank process and the Reading *Quaker faith & practice* project. To continue, this work will need to be encouraged and supported. There is still an anxiety amongst some Friends of the effect of speaking openly about their faith. There needs to be help available to give all Friends the skills and confidence to speak and listen openheartedly about their beliefs. Yearly Meeting minute 31 refers to this need.

We send this minute to Meeting for Sufferings and Quaker Life Central Committee for them to take the matter forward.

Lesley Richards  
Clerk

*Note:*

This matter may need some time, so the clerk suggests that Meeting for Sufferings could return to this at a later meeting. In the meantime we could encourage Quaker Life Central Committee to reflect and hope it might be able to bring practical suggestions back to Meeting for Sufferings in the near future.

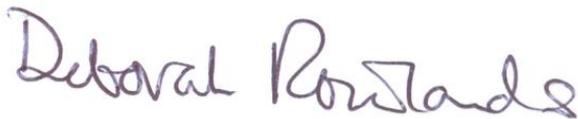
## Review of Terms of Reference for Quaker Stewardship Committee

Yearly Meeting Minute 14 (below) asks Meeting for Sufferings to review Quaker Stewardship Committee's terms of reference.

Meeting for Sufferings is asked to approve the draft terms of reference copied below, and to ask Central Nominations Committee to bring names to us later in the year.

### Minute 14: Review of Terms of Reference for Quaker Stewardship Committee

Minute 22 of Yearly Meeting 2013 accepted revised Terms of Reference for Quaker Stewardship Committee and asked for them to be reviewed again in 2018. We ask Meeting for Sufferings to review this Committee, bringing their recommendations to a future Yearly Meeting when they are ready.



Deborah Rowlands  
Clerk

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## TERMS OF REFERENCE (draft)

### Group to review Quaker Stewardship Committee

Quaker Stewardship Committee is a standing committee appointed by Yearly Meeting (see *Quaker faith & practice* 14.37ff) "to give help, guidance and active monitoring in order to meet the requirements of charity law in the stewardship of finance and property, encouraging openness, accountability, transparency and integrity in all our affairs". (Qfp 14.38)

#### 1. Summary of Purpose

1.1 Yearly Meeting, by minute 14 of YM 2018, has asked Meeting for Sufferings to review Quaker Stewardship Committee, bringing their recommendations to a future Yearly Meeting when they are ready.

1.2 The review should include the relationship between Quaker Stewardship Committee (QSC) and other bodies in our committee structure.

#### 2. Authority, Delegation and Relationships

2.1 The Group to review Quaker Stewardship Committee ('the Group') is appointed by Meeting for Sufferings and derives its authority from Britain Yearly Meeting. It is accountable to Meeting for Sufferings who agree its terms of reference and provide the resources to carry forward its work. It reports to Meeting for Sufferings.

2.2 The Group's meetings and work are conducted in faithful waiting on the spirit, in the expectation of being guided forward. We cannot constrain the spirit. If the Group's leadings would take it out of the area outlined in these terms of reference it should record its leading in a minute to Meeting for Sufferings who may discern the way forward or seek the guidance of Britain Yearly Meeting as appropriate.

2.3 The Group may communicate by minute with Meeting for Sufferings, Quaker Stewardship Committee, BYM Trustees and their subcommittees, other central & standing committees, Central Nominations Committee and Church Government Advisory Group. It may communicate with other bodies through the Recording Clerk.

### **3. Duties**

3.1 The Group is to discern and recommend changes to the current terms of reference of QSC. It is responsible for the following specific duties:

3.1.1 To consider the needs of Britain Yearly Meeting, Meeting for Sufferings, BYM Trustees and trustees of our area meetings;

3.1.2 To review the experience, functioning and composition of QSC as presently constituted and to make recommendations for any changes required.

3.1.3 To consider the staff and other resources currently available to QSC to undertake its duties;

3.1.4 To consult as appropriate with those bodies which are expected to benefit from the work of QSC, and with Friends with experience of service as trustee or treasurer, and with staff whose work brings them into contact with QSC;

3.1.5 To consider whether changes are needed in the relationship between Quaker Stewardship Committee and other committees of Yearly Meeting, Meeting for Sufferings and BYM Trustees;

3.1.6 To make any other recommendations about the ways of working, composition and constitution of QSC as the Group shall see fit;

3.1.7 To consult with Church Government Advisory Group in the event that changes are proposed to church government text in Quaker faith & practice;

3.2 The group should prepare draft terms of reference for timely consideration by Meeting for Sufferings, to allow recommendations to be laid before Yearly Meeting 2020.

3.3 The group should produce a final report on its deliberations for consideration by Meeting for Sufferings and support Meeting for Sufferings through the production of briefing material in advance of Yearly Meeting 2020.

#### **4. Membership and attendance**

4.1 The Group will have three members appointed by Meeting for Sufferings.

4.2 The convener is appointed by the Group from their number.

4.3 The clerk of Meeting for Sufferings and the Recording Clerk (or their nominee) may attend meetings ex-officio.

4.4 Other Friends, specialists or members of staff may be asked to attend by invitation of the convener for specific agenda items.

4.5 The Recording Clerk, or another member of staff designated by the Recording Clerk, will normally attend Group meetings to act as secretary to the Group. Meeting without the secretary will only be by agreement with that person or the Recording Clerk.

#### **5. Frequency of Meetings**

5.1 The Group should meet as frequently as necessary to complete its task; it may meet virtually if required.

5.2 The Group should agree a mechanism for conducting business between meetings.

#### **6. Agreement of the Terms of Reference**

6.1 The Group shall work within these terms of reference under the authority of minute 2018/07/xx of Meeting for Sufferings held 7 July 2018.

6.2 These terms of reference may be amended by minuted decisions of Meeting for Sufferings.

## At a meeting of Britain Yearly Meeting Trustees

Friday 1 to Sunday 3 June 2018 at Swarthmoor Hall

### Minutes

**Present:** Alison Breadon, Sarah Donaldson, James Eddington, Nick Eyre, Ingrid Greenhow (Clerk), Roy Love, Caroline Nursey (Assistant Clerk), David Olver, Steve Pullan, Alastair Reid, Hazel Shellens, Graham Torr, Peter Ullathorne (Treasurer), Frances Voelcker, Chris Willmore

**In attendance:** Helen Drewery, Head of Witness & Worship (except minutes **BYMT-2018-06-17-20**); Paul Grey, Head of Operations (except minutes **BYMT-2018-06-17-20**); Lisa Kiew, Head of Finance & Resources (except minutes **BYMT-2018-06-17-20**); Paul Parker, Recording Clerk (except minute **BYMT-2018-06-20**); Juliet Prager, Deputy Recording Clerk, (except minutes **BYMT-2018-06-17-20**),

**Visitors:** Val Brittin, Clerk of Board of Friends House (London) Hospitality Ltd (Minutes **BYMT-2018-06-12-13**); Jocelyn Burnell, Co-clerk Quaker Life Central Committee (minutes **BYMT-2018-06-09-14**); Douglas Butterfield, Co-clerk Quaker Life Central Committee (minutes **BYMT-2018-06-09-13**); Roger Clark, Clerk, Vibrancy in Meetings Steering Group (minute **BYMT-2018-06-14**); Martin Ford, Member BYMT Vibrancy in meetings Steering Group (minute **BYMT-2018-06-14**); Wendy Hampton, Vibrancy Local Development Worker (minute **BYMT-2018-06-14**); Caroline Kibblewhite, Co-clerk Quaker Peace & Social Witness Central Committee (Minutes **BYMT-2018-06-09-11**).

### **BYMT-2018-06-01 Welcome, agenda check, conflicts of interest check, minutes of last meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 16-17 February and 6 April 2018 have been signed by the Clerk and placed in the minute book.

There are no unrecorded conflicts of interest.

We confirm our agenda.

During our opening worship, we have heard read paragraph 20.20 of Quaker *faith & practice*.

### **BYMT-2018-06-02 Consent agenda (part 1)**

We have received the following documents:

- Annual review of continuing minutes (**BYMT-2018-06-02a**)
- Quaker World Relations Committee minutes 16-18ii18 (**BYMT-2018-06-02c**)
- Quaker Peace & Social Witness Central Committee minutes 23-25ii18 (**BYMT-2018-06d**)
- Quaker Life Central Committee minutes 23-25ii18 (**BYMT-2018-06f**)
- Friends House (London) Hospitality Ltd minutes 8iii18 & 17v18 (**BYMT-2018-06-02g,h**)
- BYMT Finance & Property Committee minutes 15iii18 & 24v18 (**BYMT-2018-06-02i,j**)

- BYMT Employment Committee minutes 28iii18 (**BYMT-2018-06-02k**)
- HS2 Monitoring Group minutes 31v18 (**BYMT-2018-06-02l**)

## **BYMT-2018-06-03 Consent agenda (part II)**

### **(a) Data Protection**

We have received paper **BYMT-2018-06-03a** reminding us of our duty of care towards personal data we have access to through our work as BYM Trustees.

### **(b) Safeguarding annual report**

We receive the annual report on Safeguarding 2017-2018 from Neil Jarvis, BYM Safeguarding Officer (**BYMT-2018-06-03b**).

The report covers BYM safeguarding policy, procedures and guidance; Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse, Ecumenical links, Support to Meetings, Compliance at BYM. The BYM Safeguarding Policy is an appendix to this paper.

We agree no changes are required to the Policy this year.

### **(c) Nominations and appointments**

BYMT Nominations group has brought forward the following names to serve:

#### **Finance and Property Committee:**

Linda Batten to serve from 24 May 2018 until 31 December 2018.

#### **I.T. Systems & Databases Review Project Board**

Alastair Reid to serve from 19 April 2018 up to 31 December 2019 or the end of the project if earlier

#### **Senior Staff Grievance & Disciplinary Group**

Elaine Green (Non-trustee) to serve from 1 June 2018 until 31 December 2021  
Nick Eyre to serve from 1 June 2018 until 31 December 2019

#### **Trustee to prepare Trustees Annual Report and Accounts**

TARA 2018 & 2019 Frances Voelcker

We agree to these appointments.

### **(d) Meeting the auditors**

We take an annual decision as to whether we need to meet with the Society's auditors, Mazars. BYMT Finance & Property Committee and BYMT Audit Committee meet with the auditors every year. We note the Finance & Property Committee are currently considering retendering for our auditing.

We agree not to invite the auditors to a future meeting this year.

### **(e) Employment of Hospitality staff by BYM**

Further to **BYMT-2017-09-02biii** (part) and BYMT Audit Committee's minute **BYMTAC-2017-09-01** we receive paper **BYMT-2018-06-03e** looking at the risks behind the decision to employ all staff of the charity and the Hospitality Company as BYM employees, including reference to the rates of pay outside London.

We are content with the explanation.

We send this minute together with the paper to BYMT Audit Committee.

**(f) Sustainability Group Review report**

Paper **BYMT-2018-06-03f** consists of Meeting for Sufferings minute MfS/18/04/06 on “Report of the BYM Sustainability Group Review Group”, BYM Sustainability Group’s minute BYMS/2018/03/03 and the report of BYM Sustainability Group Review Group (Meeting for Sufferings paper MfS 2018 04 07).

Meeting for Sufferings did not unite with the first recommendation of the report to lay down the BYM Sustainability Group.

It agreed that central and other standing committees should continue to take increasing responsibility for their role in facilitating the movement of our yearly meeting to become a low-carbon, sustainable community. There will be a meeting of representatives from the committees involved, including the Sustainability group, and members of Management Meeting on 18 July at 2.30pm at Friends House to determine how this work will be carried forward.

We appoint Chris Willmore to represent us at this meeting.

**BYMT-2018-06-04 Recording Clerk’s report**

We receive the Recording Clerk’s report (**BYMT-2018-06-04**) covering:

Recording Clerk

- Sustaining Church and faith: Yearly Meeting 2018, Visits to meetings and other Quaker Groups
- Governance: Structural changes and reviews
- External relations: Transparency of Lobbying Act, Reputational Issues

Deputy Recording Clerk

- Impact: ‘Making a difference’ strategic plan, Operational plan
- Operational risk
- Effective management
- Communications: Yearly Meeting, Supporting outreach, Co-ordinating our communications
- Inclusion and diversity

Finance and resources

- Data protection and management, including confirmation that we are currently compliant with the General Data Protection Regulation
- I.T.
- Employment
- Finance

Worship and Witness

- Support for meetings
- Outreach
- All-age community
- Advocacy, campaigning and movement-building

## Operations

- Trading and managed services: Friends House (London) Hospitality Ltd Sales, Friends House feedback, Let's talk green
- Bookshop: Sales, Hay Festival
- Swarthmoor: Accommodation, Café, courses and pilgrimages
- Health and safety
- Facilities: Carbon Reduction Plan 2017-2018
- Committee Services and Events: Yearly Meeting, Hay Festival, Nominations, IT systems and database, Key Travel
- Community: Bake the Difference, Primary school trip

The staffing report was an appendix to this paper.

We have received minutes of Management Meeting for their meetings held on 27 February, 13, 20 & 27 March, 10 & 24 April, 8 & 22 May.

### **BYMT-2018-06-05 Trustees' news**

We receive paper **BYMT-2018-06-05** giving reports from trustees of their work as trustees, in their meetings and other Quaker roles. There is also a report on the NCVO Conference, 16 April 2018, attended by Alison Breadon, Lisa Kiew, David Olver, Paul Parker and Juliet Prager.

### **BYMT-2018-06-06 Finance**

#### **a) Quarterly report**

We receive the Quarterly finance report for the period to 31 March 2018 (**BYMT-2018-06-06**).

We are satisfied that income and expenditure are on track; that liquidity is not an issue; and that financial risks are being mitigated appropriately.

We appreciate the new format of the report and thank Lisa Kiew for her work on this.

#### **b) Audit tender**

We receive minute FP18/33 from our Finance & Property Committee, which sets out the process they are proposing for the appointment of auditors.

We agree that our clerks, the Treasurer and the Clerk of Finance & Property Committee will consult Trustees by email and then take a between-meetings decision to appoint for the audit of 2019 accounts should the need arise.

### **BYMT-2018-06-07 BYMT Audit Committee**

#### **(a) Audit Committee minutes**

We receive the minutes of BYMT Audit Committee held on 15 March (**BYMT-2018-06-07**).

#### **(b) Audit Committee annual report**

We receive the annual report of BYMT Audit Committee covering membership and functioning, business, risk management and effectiveness.

We feel Audit Committee continues to serve a useful function to BYMT. We have reminded ourselves of the functions Audit Committee can do for us and are grateful for their work.

We thank Audit Committee for this report.

We send this minute to BYMT Audit Committee.

### **BYMT-2018-06-08 Yearly Meeting reflection**

We receive paper **BYMT-2017-06-08** highlighting the minutes of Yearly Meeting which relate to our work including appointments, the decision to revise the book of discipline, the receipt of BYM Trustees' annual report and financial statements, and the review of terms of reference of BYM Trustees by Quaker Stewardship Committee.

We receive minute 31 which asks Trustees to make appropriate resources available for the revision of the book of discipline. We will return to this in September.

We have reflected on Yearly Meeting and feel this was successful and well-organised. We have highlighted some practical issues, and the need for prioritisation of work in the run-up to Yearly Meeting.

We appreciate the clerking and the good discipline of the Yearly Meeting.

We thank all our staff for their hard work and good humour throughout Yearly Meeting. **BYMT-2018-06-09** Quaker Peace & Social Witness Central Committee; annual report Caroline Kibblewhite, Co-clerk Quaker Peace & Social Witness Central Committee, Jocelyn Burnell and Douglas Butterfield, Co-clerks Quaker Life Central Committee, are with us for this item.

We receive the annual report of Quaker Peace and Social Witness Central Committee (**BYMT-2018-06-09**) covering strategic development, governance structures, reviewing and reporting, other governance developments, news from the work programmes. Caroline Kibblewhite, Co clerk Quaker Peace & Social Witness Central Committee, has spoken to this report.

We are pleased that QPSWCC is working to its strategic plan and is looking at a strategy for the current three strands of its international work, including why we do this work; what kinds of international work should we do and how do we initiate, refocus or end programmes of work. QPSWCC is also developing a less onerous, light touch system of reviewing and reporting. We are reminded that we have talented and committed staff and we should trust them to do the work.

We note that the new Social and Justice sub-committee which covers the work of the previous Crime, Community and Justice sub-committee and oversees the Sanctuary Everywhere project, has a number of committee members who are not in membership but who are experts by experience. We welcome this initiative and look forward to hearing about this in due course. It is also encouraging that two young adult Quakers have joined QPSWCC and that closer links are being developed with the work of Quaker Life.

QPSWCC is also considering new, more effective ways of working to enable a broader range of Quakers to become involved. We welcome these steps to becoming more inclusive.

We are pleased to hear of the broad spectrum of work being undertaken by QPSW, and we thank the staff and the committee for all their work.

We would welcome hearing more about the impact of the work, and understand this will be feasible as the reviews are completed. We have asked what more could be done if more money were available. In response we have heard that QPSW seeks to respond to the immediate concerns of Friends (e.g. Sanctuary Meetings) while continuing its long-term programmes.

We send this minute to Quaker Peace & Social Witness Central Committee.

### **BYMT-2018-06-10 Quaker Life Central Committee: annual report**

Caroline Kibblewhite, Co clerk Quaker Peace & Social Witness Central Committee, Jocelyn Burnell and Douglas Butterfield, Co-clerks Quaker Life Central Committee, are with us for this item.

We receive the annual report of Quaker Life Central Committee (**BYMT-2018-06-10**) covering: its strategic plan, reviewing its work, planning committee time and reporting, priorities for upcoming work, news of some matters currently being considered by the committee (namely: membership, 'Support for Meetings', Swarthmoor Hall, bookshop, library, Regional Youth Workers project). Jocelyn Burnell and Douglas Butterfield, co-clerks Quaker Life Central Committee, have spoken to this report.

Jocelyn has updated us on the progress of the QLCC strategy and its reception by Meeting for Sufferings in February 2018, which really engaged in the process. We are pleased to hear that QLCC will now be able to devote more time to the work on gender diversity, vulnerable adults, and unattached Friends – which has particular relevance to young adult Quakers.

QLCC is considering how to review work done on its behalf, and how to put its strategic plan into effect, adopting a more proactive role, which will mean saying no to some requests. We support this and encourage QLCC to continue to become more strategic and less operational.

We would welcome hearing more about the impact of the work.

We thank the staff and the committee for all their work.

We send this minute to Quaker Life Central Committee.

### **BYMT-2018-06-11 Support for meetings strategy**

Jocelyn Burnell and Douglas Butterfield, co-clerks Quaker Life Central Committee, and Caroline Kibblewhite, co-clerk Quaker Peace & Social Witness Central Committee, are with us for this item

We receive a paper on initial thinking about a Support for Meetings strategy (**BYMT-2018-06-11**).

We recognise that many meetings receive support from a range of sources, including valuable support from Quaker Stewardship Committee. There is a wide range of ways in which BYM supports meetings, and the work is being done across the whole organisation, by staff and QSC. The Support for Meetings strategy is being developed to help address the problems experienced by struggling meetings, where falling numbers, loss of time, loss of knowledge of Quaker discipline and loss of spiritual depth can lead to Friends feeling overloaded and under-confident.

There is a clear and urgent need for simpler ways of doing things, as discussed at Quaker Life Representative Council in April 2018.

A number of pilot projects are underway to try to address these issues, such as Vibrancy and regional youth work, with external evaluation built into the projects. The findings will feed into the Support for Meetings strategy.

The overall aim is for Meetings to become strong, confident, connected and sustainable.

We support this multi-faceted approach and encourage staff to develop this strategy further, to test it with QLCC and to bring it back to us at a future meeting.

### **BYMT-2018-06-12 Friends House (London) Hospitality Ltd**

Val Brittin, clerk of Friends House (London) Hospitality Ltd Board, Jocelyn Burnell and Douglas Butterfield, co-clerks of Quaker Life Central Committee, are with us for this item.

#### **(a) Annual report**

We receive the annual report of Friends House (London) Hospitality Ltd (**BYMT-2018-06-12a**) covering the 10th anniversary year of the company, the overall financial performance in 2017, Friends House, Restaurant, Swarthmoor Hall, Our values and commitments into action, Our green credentials, Marketing and social media, Brand, The Board, and future financial growth and hopes for the future.

Val Brittin, clerk to Friends House (London) Hospitality Ltd, has spoken to this report. We are pleased to note that the surplus generated in 2017 exceed previous years and enabled a gift-aid contribution to BYM of £965K. Sales reached £4.28 million, of which hiring of The Light was just short of £1 million. Sales in the café and on books have also increased and visitor numbers are now over 357,000.

We appreciate the support given to Quaker Centres.

The Hospitality Company is an exemplar of a Quaker business, treating everyone with dignity. We thank the staff for their work on inclusion and diversity in this respect. Friends House and Swarthmoor Hall have become an important part of our outreach and we thank the staff for their work on inclusion and diversity in this respect. We are also pleased to note the continuing work being done on sustainability in terms of food, water usage, reducing packaging and sustainable procurement procedures.

We are aware of Brexit-related issues around the recruitment and retention of Hospitality staff, and we appreciate support being given to staff affected.

We thank the Board and our staff for all their work. We send this minute to Friends House (London) Hospitality Ltd.

**b) Service level agreement**

We receive a revised Hospitality and Facilities Agreement (**BYMT-2018-06-12b**) adopted by Friends House (London) Hospitality Ltd Board minute 18/16, which we are asked to approve.

We see this service level agreement as an improvement on previous versions and one of a number of documents that will cover the roles and responsibilities of directors. We ask that these include a clear articulation of conflicts of interest.  
We approve this agreement.

We ask our Nominations Group to nominate an additional non-Trustee Friend with the appropriate skills to serve from January 2019 for up to 3 years.

We send this minute to Friends House (London) Hospitality Ltd

**(c) What does the future hold?**

Further to minute BYMT-2017-06-11a, we receive paper **BYMT-2018-06-12c** "What does a bold future look like for our Company and BYMT?" giving options and costings.

We welcome this thinking.

In order for the Friends House Hospitality Board to maintain its contribution to BYM in the future, further investment in our buildings may be necessary and helpful. There may be opportunities at Friends House, at Drayton House when the current lease to UCL expires, and at Swarthmoor Hall, that would contribute to the life of Quakerism and the wider community. We have received outline plans and preliminary costings at this exploratory stage.

We agree to set up a steering group with appropriate representation to look more closely at visions for both Friends House and Swarthmoor Hall and the opportunities set out in this paper. We ask our clerks to prepare terms of reference for this group and to liaise with our Nominations Group to bring nominations to our next meeting.

We send this minute to Friends House (London) Hospitality Ltd and BYMT Finance & Property Committee.

**(d) Friends House restaurant**

Further to Friends House (London) Hospitality Ltd minute H16/64 and BYMT minute **BYMT-2017-06-11**, a survey of the restaurant's customers was undertaken to determine the best course of action to deliver the Trustees' strategic purpose and vision for the space, and to look at ways to reduce the current subsidy. We receive paper **BYMT-2018-06-12d** considering the options emanating from this survey.

We have considered a number of options set out in the paper.

We accept the proposal for investment into making the changes necessary to introduce a new vegetarian and vegan food service, and to create additional internal meeting space within the current restaurant at Friends House which would both reduce the subsidy but also raise some additional income for BYM.

We send this minute to Friends House (London) Hospitality Ltd.

### **BYMT-2018-06-13 Swarthmoor Hall review**

Val Brittin, clerk of Friends House (London) Hospitality Ltd Board, Jocelyn Burnell and Douglas Butterfield, co-clerks of Quaker Life Central Committee, are with us for this item.

We receive the Swarthmoor Hall governance review 2015-17 (**BYMT-2018-06-13**) which is a light-touch review of the governance arrangements and whether these are enabling the planned improvements. The focus of the review was to answer two questions: are the new governance arrangements appropriate and functioning well and are the key objectives set out in the 2015-2020 business plan being met or likely to be met by 2020?

The review finds that the governance arrangements are generally functioning well and are mostly appropriate.

Of the key objectives, those concerned with management and upgrading are being met, as is the projected increase in income.

One of the original propositions was that an overall deficit would be acceptable, given the cost of operating an historic site with limited accommodation. This deficit was to be funded by BYM, on the grounds of the charitable outreach benefit to BYM of the Hall's activities and its existence. The ongoing cost to BYM of continuing to run the Hall as a place of outreach and spiritual nurture, and as an historic site, is likely to be over £60k going forward.

We agree that this sum should be regarded as a cost rather than a subsidy, and agree that such a cost is inevitable and acceptable, while encouraging the Board to explore ways to reduce the overall costs in the long term.

The review suggests there is an absence of clarity around the oversight of the development of the spiritual life and outreach activities. At present the Board submits an annual report on the outreach activities at the Hall to Quaker Life Central Committee. We recommend that this practice be continued. We encourage the Board to continue to develop its vision for this aspect of the work and to include this in its annual report to BYMT, ensuring that its vision is congruent with Quaker Life's strategic plan and that it continues to seek advice from Quaker Life as needed.

We send this minute to Friends House (London) Hospitality Ltd and to Quaker Life Central Committee.

We thank the review group for its work and lay the group down.

### **BYMT-2018-06-14 Vibrancy in meetings**

Roger Clarke, Clerk Vibrancy in Meetings Steering Group, Martin Ford, Member Vibrancy in Meetings Steering Group, Wendy Hampton, Vibrancy Local Development Worker, and Jocelyn Burnell, co-clerk of Quaker Life Central Committee, are with us for this item.

**(a) Pilot Programme update and evaluation report**

We receive an update on the Vibrancy in Meetings Pilot Programme together with “the story so far”, the Evaluation, phase 2 “taking stock” report’s executive summary (**BYMT-2016-06-14a**). Roger, Martin and Wendy have spoken to us about the project and shared with us some of the learning so far.

We expect to begin considering some options for Vibrancy in Meetings beyond the pilot at our next meeting, recognising that there are many bodies which will need to be consulted before we can discern a right way forward.

**(b) Woodbrooke Trustees’ minute**

We receive minute 2018.09 of Woodbrooke Trustees “Vibrancy in Meetings Initiative” (**BYMT-2018-06-14b**).

We send this minute to the Vibrancy in Meetings Steering Group and to Woodbrooke Trustees.

**BYMT-2018-06-15 Risk register**

Further to minute **BYMT-2017-11-10**, we receive a report on the risk register including the entire risk register for review (**BYMT-2018-06-15**).

We ask Management Meeting to consider whether or not inadequate governance of our work should be included as a strategic risk.

We think that the current risk register is too long to be a useful tool and ask that some of the least likely and low impact risks are removed and wonder if some could be combined.

**BYMT-2018-06-16 Strategic planning**

**a) Developing strategic priorities**

We receive a discussion paper on strategic development priorities (**BYMT-2018-06-16**) based on work done by Management Meeting at their Away Days earlier this year. This paper sets out initial thinking and is shared with us as a prompt for further consideration.

The report sees development priorities falling into two categories, themes (work programmes) and ways of working.

We have done some initial thinking on what our strategic development priorities might be for the next 5 years, feeding into a strategic plan that fits below the Our Faith in the Future aims and above our annual operational plan.

**b) Ways of working**

Through a silent “ideas harvest”, we have generated priorities to improve the way we work in ensuring that everything we do is:

- done as one whole, where the whole of BYM owns and supports all of the work within a coherent structure;
- making a difference, incorporating learning and evaluation into all our work and being a catalyst for change;
- linking local and national, including communicating well;
- being Quakers – testing, discerning and ensuring that all we do is spirit-led;

- well-governed, being agile, responsive and fit for purpose.

This list is too long and requires further refinement, but is a basis on which we can build.

We explored what our key themes should be, drawing on what we have been hearing from Friends across the yearly meeting about the needs and where we see opportunities.

### **c) A simple church**

In the historic hall of Swarthmoor Hall, we were led to a vision of a simple church supported by a simple charity to reinvigorate Quakerism. So the priority for BYM in the coming period would be to simplify the governance of the charity and for the charity to support the church in simplifying its structures and ways of working. The revision of the book of discipline provides an opportunity to do this, bringing greater diversity, inspiration, connection and renewal.

We will need to look at all our work through this lens to explore whether or not it is a helpful way to prioritise.

We recognise that much more work is needed. We ask our Nominations Group to bring two names of Trustees to work with Management Meeting on these ideas and the thinking set out in the paper prepared for us by staff. We will explore this further at our September meeting in preparation for Meeting for Sufferings in October.

### **BYMT-2018-06-17 Meeting for Sufferings preparation**

We have discussed our participation in Meeting for Sufferings, 7 July.

### **BYMT-2018-06-18 Reviewing the meeting**

We have reviewed the meeting.

### **BYMT-2018-06-19 Time with Recording Clerk**

We have spent time with the Recording Clerk.

### **BYMT-2018-06-20 Time without staff**

We have spent time without staff.

We part, hoping to meet again on 7-8 September 2018 at Friends House.

Ingrid Greenhow  
Clerk

## Sustainability

### Introduction

Meeting for Sufferings is asked to endorse a proposal to ask area meetings to include information about sustainability actions in their annual reports.

### Background

Britain Yearly Meeting Sustainability Group (BYMSG) is a working group of Meeting for Sufferings (MfS). It works to oversee and encourage progress in relation to the commitment, made at Yearly Meeting in 2011, to become a low-carbon, sustainable community.

For some time, BYMSG has been considering how best to encourage and support local Meetings to monitor and report on carbon use. When the Group reported to MfS in February 2017, the minute (MfS/17/02/06) recorded:

*The Group feels it is important to monitor progress in local meetings as well as centrally managed work but have yet to establish where responsibility could lie for this.*

At the following meeting, in April 2017, Quaker Stewardship reported to Meeting for Sufferings and asked about making wider central use of the information provided in AMs' annual reports and accounts. MfS responded positively and recorded:

*Asking for reports to provide information about, for example, sustainability, would require clear guidelines to enable consistency.*

Quaker Stewardship Committee (QSC) proposes that reporting on sustainability actions could be done through Area Meeting annual reports. BYM supports this proposal and has sent the following minute, along with information about what would be asked.

### Britain Yearly Meeting Sustainability Group

Meeting held at Friends House, London, Thursday 14 June 2018

#### Minute 5 QSC guidelines for area meeting annual reports.

We have returned to paper BYMS 2018/03/3, from our last meeting, containing a draft text for Quaker Stewardship Committee guidelines for area meeting annual reports. We are glad to unite with the draft prepared by the QSC working group, and forward this minute and paper BYMS 2018/03/3 to Quaker Stewardship Committee and Meeting for Sufferings. We hope that Meeting for Sufferings will feel able to encourage or request area meetings to undertake this additional reporting. Members of the Sustainability Group would be prepared to offer assistance to Area Meetings in responding to the questions.

Lis Burch, Clerk

## **Draft text for QSC guidelines for Area Meeting Trustees' reports**

The small QSC group working on this proposes the following guidance to Area Meetings:

Meetings are encouraged to include a statement on their actions on sustainability in their Trustees' Report, specifically:

1. What activities and progress they have made in becoming a low carbon community, and what future action is planned. This might include actions to
  - a) deepen Friends spiritual engagement with the sustainability commitment
  - b) strengthen Meetings' sense of community around the commitment
  - c) support Friends to develop sustainable ways of life
  - d) develop low carbon and sustainable premises and core practices
  - e) work for policy and system change
  
2. Each Local Meeting could choose at least one measure of energy consumption/ greenhouse gas emission that they will track for several years to monitor and motivate progress. The Trustees' Report would then include for each LM at least the current and prior year's consumption/emission. Measures that could be chosen include:
  - a) The energy consumption of the meeting house
  - b) The travel footprint caused by LM activities
  - c) The total carbon footprint of individuals or LMs

Britain Yearly Meeting Sustainability Group can provide assistance with the methodology to be used.

3. QSC is requested to report annually to MfS on the extent of sustainability reporting in Area Meeting Trustee Annual Reports.

## Quaker Recognised Bodies

This paper is in three parts

- 1 An introduction to Quaker recognised bodies
- 2 A list of current Quaker recognised bodies
- 3 Organisations applying to become Quaker recognised bodies.

### 1 An introduction to Quaker recognised bodies

In 2015, Meeting for Sufferings reviewed the former Listed Informal Groups system and adopted a new approach (minute MfS/15/12/17) which aims to recognise the passion and commitment in independent Quaker groups.

Quaker Recognised Bodies are explained in Quaker faith and practice 13.19. A Quaker Recognised Body (QRB) is an independent group of Friends who explore a common interest, seek affirmation or carry out witness; and which wishes to be recognised as a Quaker organisation because its Quaker roots are important to its identity. They can strengthen and deepen Quaker life and breathe energy into more formal structures.

#### Registration

QRBs are registered by Meeting for Sufferings. Registration is intended to be as inclusive as possible.

When a group decides it wishes to register, it lets BYM staff know. (The email address [groups@quaker.org.uk](mailto:groups@quaker.org.uk) can be used for queries or enquiries about becoming a QRB.) Each group has a linked member of staff. Working with the group, they will prepare information which enables MfS to register the group. Once MfS has made a minute granting registration, the information is lodged in the Friends House Library. A list of current QRBs can be found at: [www.quaker.org.uk/our-organisation/quaker-groups](http://www.quaker.org.uk/our-organisation/quaker-groups).

There are four different options:

**External** (regulated externally) - with a constitution, a board or management committee, and regulated by an external body such as the Charity Commission, the Scottish Charity Regulator, Companies House (where a charity is also a registered company), Ofsted, the Care Quality Commission etc.

**Linked** - by minute or appointments to part(s) of BYM's formal structure, such as: area meetings, central committees, MfS, General Meeting for Scotland, Meeting of Friends in Wales etc.

**Free-standing** - Quakers who have come together to learn about or work on a particular topic. Groups are likely to have members who are geographically dispersed; with membership open, but not necessarily restricted, to all interested Friends and attenders.

**Emergent** - new groups can be listed for up to two years, and usually treated as free-standing groups.

Experience is showing us that all groups are different; they don't all fit neatly into these categories, but the system is 'good enough' to be sure that these groups are recognised and celebrated. It also ensures that centrally-managed work can offer support, in a way that's appropriate, useful and transparent.

## 2 A list of current Quaker recognised bodies

Name	Link staff	Date	Review	Type
Association of Talking Friends, The	Assistant to Management Meeting, James Johnson	Dec 2017	Dec 2022	External
China Group (Quakers), The	Head of Worship and Witness, Helen Drewery	Jun 2017	June 2022	External
Experiment with Light Network	Ministry & Outreach Officer, Gill Sewell	Dec 2017	Dec 2022	Free-standing
Friends Community Development Trust (Uganda)	East Africa Peacebuilding Programme Manager, Tobias Wellner	Oct 2017	Sept 2022	Free-standing
Friends Historical Society	Head of Library & Archives, Libby Adams	Jun 2017	June 2022	Free-standing
Friends House Moscow	Quaker Life Support Officer, Marlene Schepers	Oct 2017	Sept 2022	External
Friends of Hlekweni	East Africa Peacebuilding Programme Manager, Tobias Wellner	Oct 2017	Sept 2022	External
Friends Southern Summer Events (FSSE)	Children & Young People's Officer, Lucy Sam	Oct 2017	Sept 2022	External
Friends with Jewish Connections	Head of Peace Programmes & Faith Relations, Marigold Bentley	Jun 2017	June 2019	Emergent (Free-standing)
Give Peace A Chance Trust	Head of Library & Archives, Libby Adams	Dec 2017	Dec 2022	External
Glebe House (Friends Therapeutic Community Trust)	Quaker Life Support Officer, Marlene Schepers	Dec 2017	Dec 2022	External
Living Witness	Sustainability & Peace Programme Manager, Chris Walker	Dec 2016	2021	External
London Quakers	Ministry & Outreach Officer, Jon Martin	Oct 2017	Sept 2022	Free-standing
Non-theist Friends Network	Head of Ministry & Outreach, Alistair Fuller	Apr 2017	April 2022	Free-standing

<b>Name</b>	<b>Link staff</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Review</b>	<b>Type</b>
Northern Friends Peace Board	Head of Peace Programmes and Faith Relations, Marigold Bentley	Jun 2017	June 2022	External
Penn Club, The	Events & Committee Services Team Leader Suze Lidbury	Oct 2017	Sept 2022	External
Quaker Action on Alcohol and Drugs	Head of External Communications, Jane Dawson	Dec 2016	2021	External
Quaker Asylum and Refugee Network (QARN)	Sanctuary Everywhere Programme Manager, Tatiana Garavito	Dec 2017	Dec 2022	Free-standing
Quaker Bolivia Link	Secretary to Quaker World Relations Committee, Lisanne Fridsma	Apr 2018	April 2023	External
Quaker Concern for Animals	Catering Manager, Jamie Scott	Apr 2017	April 2022	Free-standing
Quaker Concern for the Abolition of Torture (Q-CAT)	Head of Social Justice Programmes, Clare Wood	Oct 2017	Sept 2022	Linked
Quaker Decriminalisation Network	Head of Social Justice Programmes, Clare Wood	Oct 2017	Sept 2019	Emergent
Quaker Disability Equality Group	Church Government Adviser, Michael Booth	Dec 2016	2021	Free-standing
Quaker Esperanto Society / Kvakera Esperantisto-Societo	Quaker Life Support Officer, Marlene Schepers	Jun 2017	June 2022	Free-standing
Quaker Fellowship for After-Life Studies	Website & Social Media Manager, Nikolas Dadson	Oct 2017	Sept 2022	Free-standing
Quaker Peace Studies Trust	Head of Peace Programmes and Faith Relations, Marigold Bentley	Dec 2017	Dec 2022	External
Quaker Service Memorial Trust	Head of Library & Archives Libby Adams	Dec 2017	Dec 2022	External
Quaker South Asia Interest Group (QSAIG)	Conciliation Support Co-ordinator, Judith Baker	Oct 2017	Sept 2022	Free-standing
Quaker Universalist Group	Head of Ministry & Outreach, Alistair Fuller	Jun 2017	June 2022	Free-standing
Quaker Values in Education	Head of Social Justice Programmes, Clare Wood	Dec 2016	2021	Free-standing

<b>Name</b>	<b>Link staff</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Review</b>	<b>Type</b>
Quaker Voluntary Action	Economics, Sustainability & Peace Network Co-ordinator, Maya Williams	Oct 2017	Sept 2022	External
Quakers and Business	Head of Operations, Paul Grey	Apr 2017	April 2022	External
The Kindlers	Head of Ministry & Outreach, Alistair Fuller	Feb 2018	Dec 2022	Free-standing
The Quaker Tapestry	Special Collections Curator, Melissa Atkinson	Oct 2017	Sept 2022	External
The Retreat	Assistant Head of Ministry & Outreach, Oliver Waterhouse	Jun 2017	June 2022	External
The Retreat York Benevolent Fund	Assistant Head of Ministry & Outreach, Oliver Waterhouse	Oct 2017	Sept 2022	External
Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre	Recording Clerk, Paul Parker	Feb 2018	Dec 2022	External

### **3 Organisations applying to become Quaker recognised bodies**

The following six organisations have applied to become Quaker recognised bodies.

Three appeared as listed informal groups in the 2016 Book of Meetings:

1. Friends Fellowship of Healing
2. Post Yugoslav Peace Link
3. Quaker Africa Interest Group

This organisation appeared elsewhere at the back of the 2016 Book of Meetings:

4. Claridge House

The following are well-established organisations, beyond the stage of being considered “emergent”, but have not previously been included in the Book of Meetings:

5. Quaker Congo Partnership
6. Quaker Concern Over Population

Staff have looked at the documentation provided by each of the organisations and consider that the criteria for listing them as Quaker recognised bodies have been met. The notes below give key details about each organisation.

## **1 Friends Fellowship of Healing**

**Constitution:** FFH is a registered charity, number 284459

**Governance:** The trustees meet as a committee and report to an Annual General Meeting.

**Type of Group:** External

**Foundation:** Approximately 1930

**Aims:** To promote the relief of sickness and suffering based on the premise of the healing power of prayer and meditation and compassionate listening in accordance with the principles of the Religious Society of Friends.

**Publications and activities:** A magazine: Towards Wholeness, web site, various pamphlets and publications which are listed on the web site.

**Membership:** about 530.

**Finance:** The accounts are examined in accordance with their constitution and are available on the charity commission website. It makes an annual grant to Claridge House.

**Winding up:** The constitution provides provision for this.

**Archives:** Archives covering previous 5 years are retained.

Current public contact details:  
Stephen Feltham, Membership Secretary  
6 Ferris Place  
Bournemouth  
BH8 0AU  
01202 532601  
[friendshealing@gmail.com](mailto:friendshealing@gmail.com)

**Website:** [www.quaker-healing.org.uk](http://www.quaker-healing.org.uk)

**Staff link:** Alistair Fuller, Head, Ministry and Outreach Team, Quaker Life

## 2 Post Yugoslav Peace Link

**Constitution:** A governing document exists, which was agreed in 2013.

**Governance:** The Post Yugoslav Peace Link (PYPL) appoints its own convenor and treasurer. Action Group meetings are held up to three times per year. PYPL uses the Quaker business method to reach decisions. A wider email membership receives regular updates from the PYPL Action Group.

**Type of Group:** Free-standing.

**Foundation:** 2009

**Aims:** Post Yugoslav Peace Link (PYPL) aims to foster mutual relationships of trust and co-operation with locally based peace-building groups in the Post Yugoslav Region and nurture interest amongst Friends and others. Our practical emphasis is to maintain living links and mutual support with community peace builders in the western Balkans, uniting with 'quiet processes and small circles in which vital and transforming events take place' (24:56 Qf&p).

**Publications and activities:** *To Trust A Spark* by Anne Bennett (2016) - This book records the changing nature of the peace-building programme funded through QPSW in the former Yugoslavia during the period 1991-2009.

Regional Summer Retreats give local peace workers the opportunity to gather together and engage with each other for internal renewal and spiritual replenishment from across the post Yugoslav region.

Regional networking facilitates links and support to be maintained between PYPL members and Post Yugoslav peace activists through attendance at conferences, workshops and training across the region as well as in the UK and other European countries.

**Membership:** PYPL Action Group – 10; Wider membership - 40

**Finance:** PYPL appoints a treasurer and it has a bank account, which is annually independently examined. Although it is not a recognised charity, it is registered with the Charities Aid Foundation, which permits it to receive donations via CAF.

**Winding up:** A considered process is in place.

**Archives:** These are held by the Convenor.

Current contact details:

Sally Markwell, Convenor  
14 Belvedere Gardens Seaford BN25 3BQ  
sally.markwell@gmail.com  
07792629049

**Website:** <http://www.postyugoslavpeacelink.com/>

**Staff link:** Judith Baker, QPSW, Conciliation Support Coordinator

### 3 Quaker Africa Interest Group

**Constitution:** None, it is just an informal gathering of Friends who are interested in, or support other work in, Africa, particularly work with Quaker connections.

**Governance:** None, although a secretary is appointed to be the main contact.

**Type of Group:** Free-standing

**Foundation:** arose from work laid down by Quaker Peace and Service sometime in the 1990s

**Aims:** Networking between Quakers interested in or involved in Quaker work in Africa/Quakers in Africa. This includes:

- BYM managed work in Africa undertaken by QPSW with African partners
- Global work in Africa, through FWCC representation
- Work by British AM and/or LM groups in partnership with African organisations
- QWRC's work relating to Africa
- British Quaker work with African partners via independent charities

QAIG members aim to keep abreast of current work, share experiences and initiatives, discover others with similar interests, increase effectiveness by learning from each other and discuss crosscutting issues

**Publications and activities:** The main activity is the annual meeting, which includes regular inputs from FWCC, QPSW and QWRC; presentations on current work; discussion groups on topics of mutual interest and networking. A report of the meeting is produced and published on the website.

**Membership:** About 100 on mailing list; c. 25-30 at annual meetings

**Finance:** The finances are handled by the secretary, and reported to annual meeting (2018 costs were approximately £450).

**Winding up:** not formalised, but would be agreed at an annual meeting

**Archives:** none

Current contact details:

Colin Bartlett, Secretary

QAIG

c/o Milton Keynes Quaker Centre

1 Oakley Gardens

Downhead Park

MK15 9BH

[qaig.uk@gmail.com](mailto:qaig.uk@gmail.com)

<http://quakerafricainterest.org.uk>

**Staff link:** Lisanne Fridsma, Secretary Quaker World Relations Committee

#### **4 Claridge House (known as: Claridge House for rest and renewal)**

**Constitution:** A Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO number 1167155), previously it was a registered charity (number 2281012)

**Governance:** Claridge House has a Trustee Board, at least two-thirds of the board must be Quakers. Their meetings are run on Quaker principles

**Type of Group:** External.

**Foundation:** Claridge House was first established in 1953, it became a CIO in 2016.

**Origin and Purpose:** Claridge House was bought in 1953 by The Friends Fellowship of Healing and set up as a place for healing, rest and renewal. In line with the purpose set out in the original Trust Deed, the objects are “to advance physical and mental health by the provision and maintenance of a centre for healing, rest and renewal in accordance with the principles of the Society of Friends for persons, regardless of their religion or belief, who are under stress or strain or in any condition in which a time of rest and recuperation would be beneficial”

**Aims:** Claridge House is a residential centre for healing, rest and renewal offering courses and group or individual retreats.

**Publications and activities:** To provide a space where people of any faith or none may stay in peace and stillness before returning, rested and renewed, to their everyday lives. Courses are run on various topics and activities; therapies (e.g. massage and spiritual healing) are available. About 60% of those attending Claridge House are not Quakers or attenders, so it is, therefore, a good vehicle for outreach.

**Size:** The trustee body has 10 members. In 2017, over 400 people attended courses, and over 100 took part in day retreats. The mailing list is over 1000.

**Finance:** The accounts are audited in accordance with their constitution. Accounts are available on the charity commission website.

**Winding up:** A winding up procedure exists which takes into account the primary nature of Claridge House. Any organisation receiving the assets must operate in accordance with the principles of the Society of Friends

**Current contact details:**

Liliana Illes, Manager  
Claridge House  
Dormans Road  
Lingfield  
Surrey RH7 6QH  
01342 832 150

[welcome@claridgehousequaker.org.uk](mailto:welcome@claridgehousequaker.org.uk)

**Website:** <https://www.claridgehousequaker.org.uk>

**Staff link:** Suze Lidbury, Team Leader, Events & Committee Services

## **5 Quaker Congo Partnership UK**

**Constitution:** Yes: registered charity number 1159781

**Governance:** The trustee body is largely Quaker

**Type of Group:** External

**Foundation:** 2007. Registered as a charity in 2014

**Aims:** To improve the physical and mental health and the education and relieve the poverty of people in the Great Lakes region of Africa and in particular those in the area of the Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo. Our projects include support to Community Hospital Abeka, clean running water, working for peace and providing psycho-social support, and microfinance with women.

**Publications and activities:** Annual Report, newsletter twice a year  
Fundraising for projects, monitoring of projects.  
The group is involved in the Quaker Africa Interest Group.

**Size:** 8-14 Trustees. Newsletter circulation, about 200.

**Finance:** the accounts are examined in accordance with the constitution and are available on the charity commission website.

**Winding up:** Provision is made for this if needed.

**Archives:** The records of the organisation are kept by the clerks.

**Current contact details:**

Catherine Putz or Margaret Gregory, Co-Clerks  
Quaker Congo Partnership UK  
Friends Meeting House  
Mount Street  
Manchester, M2 5NS  
[quakercongo@gmail.com](mailto:quakercongo@gmail.com)  
0778 306 0088  
<http://www.quakercongo.org.uk/>

**Staff link:** Tobias Wellner, QPSW, Programme Manager - East Africa Peacebuilding

## 6 Quaker Concern Over Population

**Constitution:** The group has a constitution.

**Governance:** There is a steering group which includes a convenor, treasurer and a membership clerk. Decisions are made using the Quaker business method.

**Type of Group:** Free-standing

**Foundation:** 2014

**Aims:** to help Quakers in Britain to appreciate the dangers of global overpopulation and to identify this as an appropriate area of interest for Friends through developing and delivering workshops, a website and other suitable means of spreading our concern. QCOP grew out of Friends' concerns rising from the Canterbury Commitment.

**Publications and activities:** Communications: QCOP website; emailing supporters with details of relevant articles on population issues; occasional newsletters, posters and leaflets. Activities: lectures at Yearly Meeting Gathering; holding meetings and workshops and leading sessions on population concern.

**Membership:** approx. 50 members.

**Finance:** Finance management is in accordance with their constitution; with accounts presented to members at the Annual General Meeting. Annual budget approx. £500; income comes from donations.

**Winding up:** a process is in place if needed.

**Archives:** minutes of the steering group are archived.

**Current contact details:**

Jonathan Riddell (Convenor),  
12 Weydon Hill Road,  
Farnham,  
Surrey GU9 8NX  
01252 712628

[jmrr57@outlook.com](mailto:jmrr57@outlook.com)

**Website:** [www.qcop.org.uk](http://www.qcop.org.uk)

**Staff link:** Suzanne Ismail, Head of Networking & Engagement, QPSW