Appendix:

Glossary

Afterword(s) Some Quaker meetings have a short period immediately following meeting for worship, enabling comments which may be called 'afterwords'. This provides a space for Friends to voice thoughts or reflections that they did not feel were ministry. Sometimes this is known as 'sharing time'.

All-together/all-age worship Worship intended to foster a sense of a full worshipping community by bringing all ages together. To help children become involved with the worship, some meetings may include themes, planned readings, activities or music.

Area meeting (also known as area Quaker meeting) The term is used in two ways:

1. **Organisation.** With a geographical prefix, it refers to the organisation which brings together the local meetings in a particular area, and which supports and oversees their life and witness.

2. **Event.** Meeting for worship where decisions affecting the life of the area meeting and its constituent local meetings are made.

Attender A person who worships regularly with Friends, but who is not formally a member of the Religious Society of Friends.

Book of discipline (also known as book of faith and practice) It seeks to express in words the workings of the Spirit as experienced by Quakers for more than three hundred and fifty years. It is both an anthology of Quaker thought and guidance on the right ordering of Quaker affairs. It is revised every generation to reflect the continuing revelation and understanding of the Spirit.

Britain Yearly Meeting (organisation) also known as Quakers in Britain The religious community of Quakers in England, Scotland, Wales, the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands brought together through shared

spiritual practice, insights and experience, composed of constituent Quaker meetings.

Also, the national registered charity by the same name which carries out our centrally managed work. See also Quakers in Britain.

Business meeting Quaker decision-making happens in a meeting for worship for business, where we come together to discern and act as a community. It is also known as 'meeting for worship for church affairs'.

Business method (sometimes called the Quaker business method) This is the discipline of discernment which Quakers use when making decisions. It relies on all present being open to the Spirit, listening for the promptings of love and truth to guide us as a community. The clerk at this meeting will seek to listen for unity on an issue which may not be unanimity. Quakers in a business meeting do not vote.

Celebration of commitment Some couples may wish to have a meeting for worship in loving support of their commitment, without the legal requirements of a wedding. Such meetings are under the care of elders, but they should liaise with the registering officer, so it is clear that the meeting for worship does not confer the legal status of marriage.

Chaplain Working in a variety of settings, including prisons, universities and hospitals, Quaker chaplains offer friendship, pastoral care and spiritual support to people of all faiths and none.

Church In Britain, we Quakers are part of one church, the Religious Society of Friends. Our religious community is brought together through shared spiritual practice, insights and experience.

Church government The structures and processes by which Quakers organise their community life and make collective decisions, distinctively through discernment in worship rather than voting. Encompasses the roles of appointed Friends (elders, pastoral carers, clerks), the relationship between local, area, national and yearly meetings, and the spiritual discipline of corporate decision-making.

Clearness This describes the sense of 'seeing the right way forward', in relation to a desire to identify and follow God's purposes in a particular manner.

In a meeting for clearness, a small group of Friends gathers in worship to support someone with their discernment.

Clerk The clerk is responsible for guiding the business meeting's discernment and identifying the potential unity called '**the sense of the meeting**'. This requires careful listening for divine guidance in the spoken ministry, and sensitivity to when the meeting may be ready to unite in a decision.

Concern If a leading calls someone to a major life commitment in service to the community or the world, their Quaker community may recognise it as a 'concern' which is a spiritual call to action. It is entrusted first to an individual but often needs the support of a wider group. If a concern is recognised as **Spirit-led**, the whole Quaker community, or some Friends within it, may discern a shared calling to support and uphold it.

Convincement A revelatory spiritual experience in which an individual Friend comes to perceive themselves, the world and their relationship with the Spirit in a completely new light. This can lead to a fundamental change of direction towards a more authentic, faithful and compassionate way of living.

Crynwyr Cymru Quakers in Wales (CCQW) has national responsibilities on behalf of Britain Yearly Meeting, to represent and advance the life and witness of Quakers living and worshipping in Wales. It promotes spiritual life and witness, facilitates contact between Friends of all ages, and responds on behalf of Britain Yearly Meeting to matters raised by the Welsh government at the Senedd in Cardiff.

Discernment The practice of making decisions by opening our hearts to a source of wisdom that can guide our actions. The practice of discernment can be used for both individual and group decision-making. In both cases we bring the same intention: to find the right

course of action at that time by listening to the Spirit and to each other.

Discipline Quaker discipline or discipleship is a way of self-surrender which lays self aside and allows ourselves to be led by the spirit into a fuller life of sharing and service.

Elder (noun)/ Eldership/spiritual care The ministry of supporting Friends' spiritual needs. This includes ensuring that meetings for worship, meetings for worship for business and meetings for special occasions, such as funerals, memorials and weddings, are held in accordance with Quaker practice. Meetings may appoint Elders for a specific time but we all remain responsible for the spiritual health of our Quaker community. Elders are also known as Spiritual Carers.

Elder (verb) Nurturing and supporting a Friend to live into the fullness of their faith and ministry. Also, the process of gentle redirection of a person by an elder back on to the path of right ordering.

Epistle A letter issued at the close of Yearly Meeting, often addressed to 'all Friends everywhere', which reflects the matters considered and the experiences of those present. Early Friends' letters, particularly printed and public ones, were often labelled as epistles.

Evangelical Friends Evangelical or Pastoral Friends are the largest group of Quakers world wide. They emphasise the authority of the Bible and the atonement and resurrection of Christ. Their worship is usually facilitated by a pastor, and often involves Bible readings, hymn singing and personal testimony.

Experiment with Light A structured meditation practice (developed by Rex Ambler in 1996) based on early Friends' writings, guiding participants to notice inner discomfort, face truth calmly, wait for spiritual insight, and accept what emerges.

Faith & practice A book that sets out the spiritual understanding and experience of a group of Friends (usually a yearly meeting) and its ways of doing business. See also *Quaker faith & practice* (below), Britain Yearly Meeting's version (published in 1995).

Friend A term used interchangeably with 'Quaker' to describe someone who belongs to the Religious Society of Friends.

Friends House Location of the central offices of Quakers in Britain, on Euston Road in London.

Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) This body exists to bring fellowship to all Quakers around the world and speak on behalf of Quakers in international spaces such as the United Nations. It is through FWCC that Britain Yearly Meeting takes part in international ecumenical and interfaith work, and in international relations.

Gathered meeting A meeting for worship that has a deep sense of unity and collective connection among those present.

Gospel Order This term is often used to refer to the local, regional and national structures of Quakers in Britain, and the processes by which they operate.

Holding in the Light A phrase which Quakers sometimes use when wishing to prayerfully support someone in need, or a cause or an event which needs upholding.

'Hope so!' A phrase used by British Quakers to express our hope that we have discerned the way forward which the minute faithfully records.

House group or home group Small and intimate gatherings of Quakers who meet regularly in private homes, local venues or online, often to deepen relationships and explore spiritual life beyond individual local meetings for worship.

Intervisitation see Travel in the Ministry.

Junior Yearly Meeting (JYM) An annual national residential gathering run by young British Quakers for young British Quakers and other young people interested in Quakerism (aged 15–18) to build community, explore spiritual practices, and discuss faith-led action.

Lay down To terminate a committee or concern when its work is completed or no longer felt necessary. A meeting may be laid down when it is no longer functioning.

Leading When Quakers listen inwardly to the Spirit, we are often moved to act. These promptings to action, known as 'leadings,' may come as a sudden call or a gradual sense of being drawn towards a particular activity, place, or people.

Light, the (the Inward/Inner Light, the Light Within, the Light of Christ) A term used by Quakers to denote the source of leading and inspiration, to be found through the silence of personal or corporate worship. (It also symbolises the intrinsic spiritual value of each person – the light that is in us all.)

Local meeting A community of Friends in a particular locality. It meets regularly, in a physical location and/or online, for public worship and other activities. It is part of the formal structure of Quaker meetings in Britain. Area meetings are responsible for overseeing and supporting local meetings.

Meeting (as community in general) A group, community or gathering of Quakers meeting for worship, friendship or other activities. The basic organisational unit of the Religious Society of Friends, comprising the gathered people who worship together regularly, conduct business collectively, and provide mutual spiritual and pastoral care.

Meeting for Sufferings Until 2026, the standing representative body entrusted with the care of the business of Britain Yearly Meeting through the year, deciding the priorities and setting the direction of the Yearly Meeting, reviewing and testing concerns referred to it by area meetings, and giving guidance on policy issues.

Meeting for worship A time when Quakers come together to worship– often occurring on a Sunday morning – although it can be held at other times of day or week. It often takes place in a meeting house, but it can occur anywhere. Most Quakers will talk of 'going to meeting' rather than 'going to church'. Also, the name given to the

group who meets – see Meeting (as community in general) above.

Meeting for worship for church affairs **(also known as meeting for worship with attention to business, meeting for worship for business, meeting for business, business meeting, or meeting for church affairs)**. A meeting for worship concerned with decisions to do with the life of the Meeting, such as finance, property and community activities. No votes are taken, but the clerk prepares a minute reflecting the sense of the meeting. **See** business meeting.

Meeting House A building where Quakers gather to worship and to offer the use of its rooms to other communities.

Member Someone who is in formal membership of the Religious Society of Friends.

Memorial meeting A Quaker memorial meeting is an opportunity to give thanks for the life and service of a Friend who has died. It is a public meeting for worship, including silent waiting on divine leadings and vocal ministry. A memorial meeting is held separately from the funeral. It may be before or after the funeral, on the same day or a later date. There is no time limit for holding a memorial meeting. It may take place in a meeting house or in another suitable venue. More than one memorial meeting may also be held in different locations, for example when a Friend belonged to several Quaker communities.

The area meeting is responsible for arranging a memorial meeting, or for authorising a local meeting or other group of Friends to do so.

Ministry, spoken/vocal, minister (verb) A worshipful offering of words, song or silence, shared, usually by an individual, in meeting for worship.

Ministries Various forms of service to which the gifts and talents of an individual may be matched.

Minute A written record of each decision, called a 'minute', is agreed during the business meeting by everyone present. It is drafted, finalised and signed in the meeting by the clerk(s).

Nominations The process to find Friends to serve in roles or to fulfil other duties as required within our Quaker communities. Sometimes this work is done through a Nominations committee.

Nominations committee One is appointed in all but the smallest meeting to take responsibility for recognising the gifts and leadings of Friends in their community and discerning whom to suggest for specific forms of service. Nominations committees do not appoint Friends to roles. This decision is made by the whole community in its meeting for worship for business.

Opening A moment of unexpected enlightenment, inspiration or revelation. A sudden insight, new understanding, or a way opening in life that aligns with divine will. It is a spiritual prompt rather than just an intellectual decision. See Leading.

Outreach Any activity involved in making the Quaker way available to others who might be interested, providing the necessary contacts, information, and support.

Pastoral care Helping to create a loving community and being aware of Friends' individual needs. We are all responsible for the pastoral care within our individual Quaker communities but Pastoral Friends may be appointed to ensure this takes place.

Pastoral Friends/Pastoral Carers Individual Quakers appointed to minister to those in their meeting or gathering who are in need of support and assistance. Their service can be to help co-ordinate pastoral care across the meeting.

Prevented A word used by Quakers to record the absence of a person who was expected to be part of a business or other meeting.

Programmed worship This describes a meeting for worship that has an order of service and is typically led by a pastor. Meetings for worship in Britain are unprogrammed, but four fifths of Friends worldwide belong to yearly meetings that hold programmed meetings.

Quaker Used interchangeably with 'Friend' to describe someone who belongs to the Religious Society of Friends.

Quaker faith & practice (Qf&p) This was the main title of the book of discipline of Britain Yearly Meeting that was first published in 1995.

Quakers in Britain (also known as Britain Yearly Meeting) The religious community of Quakers in England, Scotland, Wales, the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands brought together through shared spiritual practice, insights and experience, composed of constituent Quaker meetings. The national registered charity by the same name carries out our centrally managed work and reports to Yearly Meeting in session.

Quakers in Scotland (formerly General Meeting for Scotland) has national responsibilities on behalf of Britain Yearly Meeting, to represent and advance the life and witness of Quakers living in Scotland. It promotes spiritual life and witness, facilitates contact between Friends of all ages, and provides opportunities for training and mutual support for those with special responsibilities. It acts on behalf of Britain Yearly Meeting in relation to Scottish faith groups and the Scottish parliament.

Quaker Recognised Body (QRB) An independent group of Friends (and others) who explore a common interest or carry out witness. A QRB seeks affirmation and is recognised by Britain Yearly Meeting as a Quaker organisation because its Quaker roots or practice are part of its identity.

Queries A question or a series of connected questions used for contemplation, reflection and self-examination.

Recording Clerk The Recording Clerk is the senior employee of Britain Yearly Meeting. The role may include:

- leading the staff
- acting as secretary to Yearly Meeting and Britain Yearly Meeting trustees, servicing those bodies and ensuring that their work is carried out

- being "keeper and interpreter" of our church government
- maintaining contact with meetings throughout Britain Yearly Meeting
- representing Britain Yearly Meeting to certain outside bodies.

Registering officer Appointed by each area meeting to make sure wedding ceremonies take place according to Quaker practice and the law.

Release Friends who are unable to continue in their appointed role should ask to be released from service by the appointing body, which should agree to this request.

Religious Society of Friends The formal name for the organisation to which Quakers belong.

Resident Friends Experienced Quakers living on-site at Quaker meeting houses or retreat centres. They foster a calm, spiritual atmosphere, offer a welcoming presence, provide pastoral care, and often manage practical, day-to-day operations of the facility.

Right ordering The correct manner of doing things, in keeping with Quaker tradition and practice. A body of wisdom and insights that has evolved over three hundred and fifty years of seeking the guidance of the Spirit and is partly captured in the book of discipline.

Seasoned Friend (or weighty Friend) An informal term for one who is an experienced Quaker and who has earned a reputation for wisdom.

Semi-programmed worship Worship that has part unprogrammed worship (with silence and space for those to speak who feel moved to) and part programmed worship through song, readings, or other prepared ministry.

Sense of the meeting When a shared understanding of what might be a way forward is within reach during a meeting for worship for business. See discernment.

Silent/unprogrammed/waiting worship Worship that is based on silence where Quakers will, if they feel moved by God,offer vocal ministry in many forms such as an insight, reference to scripture, singing or praying out of the silence.

'Speak truth to power' A phrase coined in the 1950s. Quaker faith invites us to challenge injustice in love.

Spirit, the Quakers tend to use this term experientially rather than doctrinally. It points to the direct, unmediated animating presence, accessible to everyone, that moves in gathered stillness, prompts speech or action, and guides discernment – understood by different Friends as God, as mystical presence, or simply as the name for what is experienced in a gathered meeting. Friends use several terms interchangeably for this reality – God, the Spirit, the Light, the Divine, the Seed, 'that of God in everyone' and many more.

Spirit-led Central to Quaker faith is the conviction that the divine Spirit is directly available to every person, and to meetings gathered in worship. Actions, decisions, and ways of living that arise from attentiveness to that guidance, rather than from habit or convention alone, are described as Spirit-led.

Spoken ministry See Ministry.

Stewardship Using our resources to support the life and witness of our communities, as well as holding them in trust for those who come after us.

Swarthmoor Hall Originally the home of Margaret Fell and family in the 1650s which became an important meeting place and organising centre for early Quakers.

Swarthmore Lecture An annual lecture set up by Woodbrooke which has been given in Britain since 1908. It contributes to the development of Quaker thought and theology.

Testing (a concern, leading or discernment) Testing is the process a Quaker community uses to discern whether something is Spirit-led

and what response is needed, recognising that not every good idea is ours to do.

Testimony Quaker testimony is the whole way of life that testifies to our experience of God. Our testimony is the message we communicate with our lives. The whole Quaker community is called to share it with the world, in actions as well as in words

Testimony (to the Grace of God shown in the life of a Friend) A written testimony for a Friend who has died is a record of thankfulness for the divine grace shown in their life. It is not a formal obituary or eulogy, but it may express something of the unique personality shown in their life and ministry.

Threshing meeting These are meetings at which an issue can be 'threshed out.' No decisions are made. It is used to explore the range of opinions and feelings about an issue and to share information and different perspectives. It is useful preparation for discernment at a later meeting for business, particularly when the issue is complex.

Travel in the ministry The practice of visiting meetings beyond one's own, undertaken in response to a felt leading of the Spirit rather than for incidental reasons. A Friend travelling in the ministry typically comes with a particular concern or message to share and would traditionally have had their calling recognised and endorsed by their home meeting.

Treasurer Treasurers are responsible for recording and reporting on the community's finances, and the payment and receipt of its funds. A treasurer serves their Quaker community by informing and advising on financial matters, but significant financial decisions are made by the whole community in its meeting for worship for business.

Trustee, trusteeship A responsibility given to some Friends to act on behalf of the area meeting or other appointing body for a set time. Trustees are responsible for the governance of Quaker charities. They ensure that all legal requirements are met, and assets are cared for and used appropriately.

Unity A shared perception in a business meeting that a minute arrived at through corporate worship is Friends' best understanding of the divine leading for them.

Uphold To support a person, group, or concern in a sustained, attentive way – practically where possible, and spiritually where that is what one can offer. It may mean prayer, intercession, or holding in the light, or simply faithful presence, patient trust in their own connection with the Spirit, and the love that requires no particular action. See also holding in the light.

Unprogrammed worship see Silent/unprogrammed/waiting worship

Vocal or spoken ministry see Ministry.

Wardenship Wardens are appointed to look after some of our meeting houses. In many cases they also live on the premises. Wardens may also manage lettings to other groups, enabling our meeting houses to be more widely used for the benefit of local communities.

Way will Open – see Opening, and Leadings.

Witness Quaker witness is the action we are led to take to embody God's purposes for the world. It is for peace, integrity, and the flourishing of humanity and the whole of creation. This often requires us to witness against violence, injustice and oppression.

Woodbrooke An international Quaker learning and research organisation based in Britain.

World Plenary Meeting/World Conference A major gathering held every 7-8 years by the Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC), bringing together Quaker representatives from its worldwide sections for worship, fellowship, and business.

Worship Can refer to our individual response to an encounter with the Light. It also means the Quaker practice of stilling and centring oneself to experience this connection. For Quakers, it is most often used in the context of meeting for worship, which includes both of these meanings.

Worship, Meeting for see Meeting for Worship

Worshipping Group A smaller, often newer, set of Friends who meet regularly for worship, but who are not always recognised as a formal meeting. Sometimes these groups only meet online.

Worship sharing When Quakers come together in small groups to worship and focus on a prepared set of queries or concerns, allowing them to begin discernment on some topic and get to know each other better. Unlike in unprogrammed worship, all participants are encouraged to speak, though no one is required to.

Yearly Meeting (event), Yearly Meeting in session The gathering at which members of a Yearly Meeting (organisation) come together for worship, discernment, and decision-making on matters affecting the whole body, seeking the sense of the meeting using the Quaker business method.

Yearly Meeting (organisation) An organisation composed of constituent Quaker meetings within a geographical area. In Britain, 'Yearly Meeting' without a qualifier refers to Britain Yearly Meeting. There are around 100 other yearly meetings worldwide.

Yearly Meeting Gathering (YMG) A residential gathering, held periodically, which combines the formal business of Yearly Meeting in session with a wider programme of worship, learning, and community. Where the regular Yearly Meeting is relatively compressed, a Gathering provides more time and space for sustained exploration of concerns, in groups and other formats, at a less pressured pace. It is open to Friends and attenders of all ages and is understood as an opportunity to strengthen relationships and shared momentum across the breadth of Quakers in Britain.

Young Friends in Britain (YFIB) The national community for young adult (aged 18-35) Quakers in Britain. Formerly Young Friends General Meeting (YFGM).