



Registering a Quaker charity with the Charity Commission

Here is some guidance below to help with the answering some of the questions when applying to register an area meeting as a charity. There will be differences if you are applying to become a CIO.

These answers are for guidance only. Also, we cannot be certain what the Charity Commission will find acceptable.

To find the form

- Visit the Charity Commission website CC21b How to register a charity, www.gov.uk/guidance/how-to-register-your-charity-cc21b
- Click on “start or continue a charity registration application”

Please note a little further down there is a link to a pdf “**Applying to register a charity – questions**”. This will go through the information you will be asked for. Most questions are straightforward, but please note:

- Please give you main name as given clause 2 of your governing document.
- You will be asked what sort of governing document you have – it is a **Constitution**.
- You will be asked if the governing document has been issued by another organisation or umbrella body – **yes** – and to choose that organisation from a list – **The Religious Society of Friends**.
- **What the organisation does:** You will need to select one or more charitable purposes from a list and select further options. For religion you will also need to explain:
 - The tenets of faith it advances
 - Any moral or ethical framework promoted by the religion it advances
 - Specific ways the organisation advances religion.

A suggested form of words

The Area Meeting is a constituent body within Britain Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers). The Society arose in the 17th century as one of a number of dissenting groups breaking away from the Church of England. Its beliefs, religious and charitable purposes are set out in the Book of Christian Discipline. It advances religion by the holding of public Meetings for Worship and by other activities in witness of Quaker testimonies.

One area meeting which has successfully been registered gave the following explanation:

How the organisation carries out its purposes

Meetings for worship are regularly held in X, Y...and Z. Premises are maintained or hired for this purpose. Also (as relevant): Education opportunities relevant to the Religious Society of Friends are made available / Grants are made to other charities, organisations and individuals, which are compatible with the principles of the Religious Society of Friends / The meeting supports our members and others to live out our faith in the world