



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

At the Yearly Meeting held at Kings House, Manchester, and online
(18 July 2026)

Saturday 18 July 2026

Substantive minutes

Saturday 18 July, 09.30-13.00: Yearly Meeting Session 8

Minute 60: New ways into membership

For more than ten years we have been considering how to make it possible for Quakers who cannot easily feel part of a local or area meeting to enter into membership of the Religious Society of Friends in Britain. Our initial focus was on younger Friends and on those who moved around the country, and whose Quaker community was not primarily associated with a geographic location. In the last five years, we have seen increasing development of online Quaker communities, some of whose members do not feel a sense of belonging to any other Quaker meeting.

A working group of Quaker Life Central Committee has considered three main areas:

- How to fully include people who are not fully included by a geographic-only system of belonging.
- How to include non-geographic Quaker worshipping communities within the structure of Britain Yearly Meeting.
- The potential for an individual's membership of specific groups associated with Quakers to be sufficient basis for membership of the Religious Society of Friends in Britain.

The group reported to Meeting for Sufferings in July 2025, proposing that the guidance on membership in chapter 11 of *Quaker faith & practice* could be just as relevant to non-

geographic Quaker communities as it is to area meetings. Meeting for Sufferings endorsed this view.

We have heard prepared ministry: a Friend's personal response to this matter, and an introduction from a member of the QLCC working group. We welcome the opportunity to enable Friends who have found a spiritual home in Quaker worship, but who are not attached to a geographic meeting, to come into membership. We expect to recognise two new kinds of Quaker community in our formal structures:

- A 'home meeting', equivalent to a local meeting, but without a stable geographic location: these meetings may worship online and/or may come together in different places at different times.
- An 'anchor meeting', equivalent to an area meeting responsible for a group of home meetings, in accordance with chapter 4 of *Quaker faith & practice*. The anchor meeting will be responsible for receiving and considering applications for membership from those attending its home meetings.

As with a new area meeting, an anchor meeting would need to be approved by Yearly Meeting to become a formal part of our structure.

To aid our further discernment, we ask Quaker Life Central Committee, drawing on the experience of existing non-geographic Quaker communities, to work with Agenda Planning Committee and staff on these proposals to be brought to a future session of Yearly Meeting for our consideration. We ask them to:

- Prepare possible guidance on the requirements for being a 'home meeting', drawing upon the requirements of local meetings currently set out in *Quaker faith & practice*, and including worship, eldership, pastoral care and the holding of meetings for worship for business in the manner of Friends.
- Prepare possible guidance on the requirements for being an 'anchor meeting', drawing upon the requirements of area meetings currently set out in *Quaker faith & practice*, and including governance arrangements, safeguarding and how to generate and maintain a worshipping community of Friends and a family of home meetings.

We ask Yearly Meeting representatives to discuss this with Friends in their area meetings and encourage engagement with our future discernment.

Saturday 18 July, 14.00–16.30: Yearly Meeting Session 9

Minute 63: Introduction to reparation

We receive a written progress report from the Britain Yearly Meeting Trustees' Reparation Working Group and we have heard prepared ministry from the co-clerks of this group.

The Group was established in the autumn of 2023, in response to minutes 27 & 33 of Yearly Meeting 2022. The group has been asked to examine the relevant history of Quakers in Britain, including Quaker involvement in enslavement, trafficking, economic exploitation, and colonisation, as well as the legacy of this involvement. The group has been working to consider what reparation requires of us. The group is deliberately using the singular term “reparation”, to signify that this is an ongoing process.

The working group is holding a conference at Friends House and online on 23 October 2026, entitled *Truth and Repair: Our Quaker Journey Towards Justice*. All are encouraged to attend.

We thank the group for their work so far and uphold them in their continuing work. We expect to return to the matter of reparation in Yearly Meeting in session, initially at our November meeting.

Minute 64: Dates for Yearly Meeting sessions in 2029

Agenda Planning Committee has recommended dates for Yearly Meeting sessions in 2029. We agree the following dates:

Saturday 17 February 2029: Friends House and online

Friday 4 - Monday 7 May 2029: Friends House and online

Saturday 21 July 2029: venue to be decided (outside London) and online

Saturday 17 November 2029: Friends House and online

Minute 66: Upholding Friends suffering for their faith

We have spent time in worship upholding those Friends who have been before the courts or otherwise brought into the criminal justice system for matters of conscience.

Minute 68: Receipt of minute from the Children's Programme

We have received and heard read a minute from the Children's Programme of this Yearly Meeting (Friends aged 2-11) as follows:

We gathered together this morning, some people excited to see old friends and some a bit nervous about meeting new people. We settled quickly and made community through snacking and playing together, although it was only for a short time.

We have really enjoyed learning to express our feelings through art, drawing how we feel when we upset someone or someone upsets us. We then learnt how to respond when we're frustrated or angry by reading Peaceful Inside by John Lampen

Fred Langridge

Clerk