



Suggested amendments to *Quaker faith & practice*

Yearly Meeting November 2026

On behalf of:	Church Government Advisory Group
Date:	01.09.2026
Submitted to:	Yearly Meeting
Purpose of paper:	For decision
Questions to be considered by Yearly Meeting:	• Is the amended text appropriate?
Recommended action(s), if any:	• Approve the proposed amended text

Summary

This matter comes to Yearly Meeting because only Yearly Meeting can approve changes to the text of *Quaker faith & practice*.

Church Government Advisory Group was asked to review various parts of the church government text in *Quaker faith & practice*, and to suggest amendments. The proposed new text is contained in this paper.

There are three areas to consider:

- Changes relating to Crynwr Cymru – Quakers in Wales
- Changes relating to Quaker Life Representative Council
- Changes relating to the Annual Conference of Treasurers

Anyone can share concerns or questions in advance of Yearly Meeting via email to rco@quaker.org.uk. If no issues are raised then this matter will be taken on draft minute at the Yearly Meeting session in November.

This paper shows the proposed new text only. Anyone wanting to see the old and new text side by side should refer to the paper on the website called “Appendix to Qfp amendments paper”.

(i) Crynwr Cymru – Quakers in Wales

Church Government Advisory Group suggests changes to sections 5.04 and 5.05 which describe the role of Crynwyr Cymru – Quakers in Wales. The aim is to bring the wording up to date with current practice.

Key proposed changes are:

- Swap the second and third duty to make the words flow better.
- Use numbering rather than using letters for the duties.
- Explain the role of Cymar, which is a new trustee body.

We thank Crynwyr Cymru – Quakers in Wales for providing the Welsh wording.

Proposed new text

Qf&p section	Proposed text
5.04	Crynwr Cymru – Quakers in Wales has national responsibilities on behalf of Britain Yearly Meeting, to represent and advance the life and witness of Quakers within Wales. The meeting consists of all Friends who live in Wales or who are members in local meetings within Wales. Provision is made for members of other meetings and attenders to be present at meetings as in 4.08. The responsibilities of Crynwyr Cymru – Quakers in Wales include: (i) promoting spiritual life and witness, facilitating contact between Friends of all ages, and providing opportunities for training and mutual support for those with special responsibilities, in conjunction with associated area meetings and Quaker bodies; (ii) encouraging communication from associated area meetings on matters which in their judgement merit interchange of views (see 4.18), including testimonies to the life and service of deceased Friends, discerning whether the latter be forwarded to Yearly Meeting for the benefit of the Society as a whole (see 4.27–4.30); (iii) representing Britain Yearly Meeting in Wales, including: the appointment of Friends to serve on Cytûn (Churches Together in Wales) and its committees (see 9.09–9.12), communication with the Senedd Cymru (Welsh Parliament) and with other public and voluntary organisations in Wales, especially those concerned with social witness, peace and interfaith relations; (iv) responding to issues which relate to living in a bilingual society, including outreach in Wales and commissioning, translating and publishing Quaker material in the Welsh language; (v) representing Wales to Britain Yearly Meeting, liaising with yearly meeting committees and departments where appropriate. Crynwr Cymru – Quakers in Wales will provide information and nominations or appointed representatives to Quaker and other bodies when required. The meeting may communicate by minute with Yearly Meeting through its Agenda Planning

	Committee (6.08) as well as with area meetings which include parts of Wales. It also has the obligation to receive minutes from these bodies. Crynwyr Cymru - Quakers in Wales and associated area meetings form the constituent bodies of the charity Cymar (The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Wales and the Marches - Cymdeithas Grefyddol y Cyfeillion (Crynwyr) yng Nghymru a'r Gororau CIO) which manages all trustee functions.
5.05	Mae gan Crynwyr Cymru – Quakers in Wales gyfrifoldebau ar ran Cyfarfod Blynyddol Prydain, i gynrychioli ac hyrwyddo bywyd a thystiolaeth y Crynwyr yng Nghymru. Mae'r cyfarfod yn cynnwys pawb o'r Crynwyr sydd yn byw yng Nghymru neu yn aelodau o gyfarfodydd lleol yng Nghymru. Gwneir darpariaeth i aelodau o gyfarfodydd eraill fynychu cyfarfodydd yn unol â 4.08. Mae cyfrifoldebau Crynwyr Cymru – Quakers in Wales yn cynnwys: (i) ar y cyd â chyfarfodydd rhanbarth perthnasol a chyrff Crynwrol eraill hybu bywyd a thystiolaeth ysbrydol, hwyluso cyswllt rhwng Cyfeillion o bob oed a chynnig cyfleoedd am hyfforddiant a chyd gefnogaeth i'r rhai sydd â chyfrifoldebau arbennig; (ii) annog cyfathrebu oddiwrth y cyfarfodydd rhanbarth perthnasol ar faterion sydd, yn eu tyb hwy, yn haeddu cael eu cyd drafod (gweler 4.18), gan gynnwys tystiolaethau i fywyd a gwasanaeth Cyfeillion ymadawedig, gan ddirnad os dylid anfon rhain at y Cyfarfod Blynyddol er lles y Gymdeithas gyfan (gweler 4.27–4.30); (iii) cynrychioli Cyfarfod Blynyddol Prydain o fewn Cymru, gan gynnwys: penodi Cyfeillion i weithredu ar Cytûn (Eglwysi Ynghyd yng Nghymru) a'i bwyllgorau (gweler 9.09–9.12), cyfathrebu gyda Llywodraeth Senedd Cymru a gyda chyrff cyhoeddus a gwirfoddol eraill yng Nghymru, yn enwedig y rhai sydd yn ymwneud â thystiolaeth gymdeithasol, heddwch ac amlfffydd; (iv) ymateb i faterion sydd yn ymwneud â byw mewn cymdeithas ddwyieithog gan gynnwys ymestyn i'r gymuned yng Nghymru a chomisiynu, cyfieithu a chyhoeddi deunydd Crynwrol yn y Gymraeg; (v) cynrychioli Cymru i Gyfarfod Blynyddol Prydain, gan gysylltu â phwyllgorau ac adrannau y cyfarfod blynyddol fel bo'n addas. Fe fydd Crynwyr Cymru – Quakers in Wales yn darparu gwybodaeth ac enwebiadau neu benodiadau i gyrff Crynwrol a chyrff eraill yn ôl y galw. Gall y Cyfarfod gysylltu trwy gofnod â Chyfarfod Blynyddol Prydain trwy ei Bwyllgor Cynllunio Agenda (6.18), ac hefyd â'r cyfarfodydd rhanbarth sy'n cynnwys rhannau o Gymru. Mae hefyd yn ofynnol i'r cyfarfod dderbyn cofnodion gan y cyrff hyn. Mae Crynwyr Cymru a'r cyfarfodydd rhanbarth perthnasol yn ffurfio cyrff cyfansoddol yr elusen Cymar (The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Wales and the Marches - Cymdeithas Grefyddol y Cyfeillion (Crynwyr) yng Nghymru a'r Gororau CIO) sy'n rheoli holl swyddogaethau ymddiriedolwyr y cyrff hwnnw.

(ii) Quaker Life Representative Council

In November 2025, after a period of consideration, consultation and discernment, Quaker Life Central Committee made the decision to lay down Quaker Life Representative Council (QLRC). This was reported to Meeting for Sufferings in March 2026, which approved the request to lay down QLRC. Meeting for Sufferings asked Church Government Advisory Group to recommend appropriate changes to *Quaker faith & practice* (MfS/26/03/15).

In the current edition of *Quaker faith & practice* there are two paragraphs which directly relate to QLRC (8.09 and 8.10), as well as a number of other references elsewhere. The proposal is to omit 8.09 and 8.10, and to remove other references to QLRC.

Proposed new text

Qf&p Section	Proposed text
4.10 <i>End italic section</i>	<i>Reference should also be made to the following paragraphs concerning other responsibilities of area meetings: representation and attendance at Yearly Meeting (6.12); assistance in the amicable settlement of disputes (4.23); discernment in concern (13.05–13.07 & 13.09–13.18).</i>
4.17	An area meeting is required to appoint Friends to serve, normally for a period of 3 years, as representatives at yearly meeting sessions to provide continuity of representation and help keep the work flowing smoothly. (See 6.16). Area meeting business should give a high priority to preparation of its representatives and receiving reports from them. The functions of Yearly Meeting and the duties of the area meeting representatives should be made clear to those being appointed. Conferences and other occasional gatherings which provide further opportunities for wider communication and fellowship will benefit from a wide representation from area meetings.
8.08	Quaker Life Central Committee's purpose is to support and strengthen Quaker life throughout the yearly meeting, a remit which covers faith and practice: both spiritual nurture and the practical tasks required for the running of our Quaker meetings. It is responsible to Britain Yearly Meeting Trustees for support, advice and training in the following areas: a. the right holding of meeting for worship and meetings for church affairs, including for those taking special responsibilities as clerks, for eldership, oversight and pastoral care; b. other aspects of support for meetings, such as for meeting employees and trustees on compliance and good practice in Quaker employment, for librarians, for registering officers, for nominations work or in other ways; c. spiritual development and religious learning, both with and for adults and children and young people, including membership matters, publications and providing opportunities to empower meetings and individual

	Quakers so as to deepen their spiritual lives and refresh their sense of vitality; d. the outreach activities of Friends in their meetings, and for those seeking information about Quakers. Where appropriate, it responds to meetings' requests to work with them directly. It seeks to build the wider Quaker community by involving as many Friends as possible directly in its processes, working through the staff of the Quaker Life Department, its functional committees and working groups. It is responsible for the holding of Junior Yearly Meeting.
Heading above 8.09	<heading deleted>
8.09	<i>Omitted</i>
8.10	<i>Omitted</i>

(iii) Annual Conference of Treasurers

The Annual Conference of Treasurers no longer meets and Church Government proposes the removal of paragraph 14.43, which explains the role of the Annual Conference of Treasurers, and the removal of the reference to it in 13.44.

Proposed new text

Qf&p Section	Proposed text
13.44	Every meeting which holds funds or handles money should appoint a treasurer, who should be in membership (3.24.i). Some meetings find it helpful to appoint an assistant treasurer or 'collector' to encourage and assist Friends in their giving. More details can be found in chapter 14 Finance. Whilst continuity and experience are important in financial matters, the appointment of a treasurer should be reviewed triennially and the length of service should not be unduly extended. It is good practice for a meeting to plan ahead for the timely release of its treasurer, possibly appointing an assistant who will prepare to take over the task. A handbook is available on the BYM website (new window) and advice can be sought from Britain Yearly Meeting staff.
heading above 14.43	<heading deleted>
14.43	<i>Omitted</i>