



# Call for appointments: Yearly Meeting representatives

As part of the changes to the holding of Yearly Meeting, we are asking all area meetings plus Crynwyr Cymru – Quakers in Wales (CCQW), Quakers in Scotland (QiS), and Young Friends General Meeting (YFGM) to appoint Yearly Meeting representatives.

## What are we being asked to do?

Meetings are being asked to appoint Yearly Meeting representatives. You should make the appointment and then notify us of the name of your representative(s). BYM will pay the cost of travel and accommodation (where necessary) for appointed representatives attending Yearly Meeting.

## What is a Yearly Meeting representative for?

The changes to the holding of Yearly Meeting sessions are intended to support greater participation in decision making (all Friends can be involved in the discernment), greater engagement (making the discernment feel relevant to Friends across the yearly meeting), and more diversity (where the full spectrum of Quaker experience can be present).

We need Friends to come to Yearly Meeting sessions and to feel connected to the community and business of the yearly meeting. By asking meetings to appoint representatives we hope to:

- Create some continuity of attendance – making sure there is a group of Friends committed to attending most or all sessions
- Strengthen connections between local Friends and the yearly meeting as a whole – making sure that there is someone in the local Quaker community who knows what is happening at Yearly Meeting sessions, and who can encourage Friends to attend sessions and to use the preparation materials
- Better reflect the diversity of Quaker experience – ensuring Friends are present from across the yearly meeting and hopefully with a range of experience to share

Remember – all Friends are welcome to attend Yearly Meeting. Appointed representatives will have their expenses paid from BYM funds. Your meeting is free to pay expenses for additional Friends to attend.

This is a new role. We haven't tried to produce a definitive role description because we recognise that different meetings will have different circumstances that they need to consider. However, we offer the following suggestions:

- We hope that representatives might be appointed for a three year term with the expectation that they will aim to come to the majority of the Yearly Meeting sessions scheduled in that time (see dates below)

**Quakers in Britain** | [www.quaker.org.uk](http://www.quaker.org.uk)

Friends House, 173 Euston Road, London NW1 2BJ | T: 020 7663 1000 | E: [enquiries@quaker.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@quaker.org.uk)

Britain Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) | Registered charity number 1127633

- You can appoint a Friend of any age, or with any amount of Quaker experience, provided they are willing to engage, learn and participate
- Yearly Meeting representatives do not need to have been to a lot of Yearly Meeting sessions before – they will need to be enthusiastic about YM and willing to engage with Friends locally about how they can get involved
- We want representatives to reflect the physical, spiritual, geographical and cultural variety within our yearly meeting – as part of their discernment your nominations committee may like to think widely about what diverse perspectives you have within your meeting
- You can appoint an attender as a Yearly Meeting representative if you wish although Yearly Meeting may close any part of the meeting to non-members if it feels the need to do so

### When & where are Yearly Meeting sessions taking place?

2026: 1-4 May in Friends House; 18 July in Manchester; 21 November in FH

2027: 20 February in Friends House; 1 May in Friends House; 24-28 July outside London; 20 November in Friends House

2028: 19 February in Friends House; 28 April-1 May in Friends House; 22 July outside London; 18 November in Friends House

### How many representatives are required?

We are asking every area meeting and QiS to appoint at least one Yearly Meeting representative (see below for more details). We are asking CCQW to appoint one representative. We are asking YFGM to appoint at least one and up to three representatives.

For area meetings and QiS:

- If you have 1-6 local meetings in your area, please appoint 1 representative
- If you have 7-12 local meetings in your area, please appoint 2 representatives
- If you have 13-18 local meetings in your area, please appoint 3 representatives
- If you have 19-24 local meetings in your area, please appoint 4 representatives
- If you have 25-30 local meetings in your area, please appoint 5 representatives
- And so on...

### Do we need an alternate as well as a representative?

We are not asking you to appoint an alternate. That's because we hope that your representative will attend consistently and not take turns with the alternate. Of course you may find there are some times when your representative cannot attend YM – in that case please do send another Friend instead and let us know that they are there instead (so that we can approve and pay expenses).

### When does it need to be done by?

We want representatives to be in place and to attend the July 2026 session of Yearly Meeting. We will pay the expenses of representatives from that session.

### When will we stop needing Meeting for Sufferings representatives & alternates?

The last meeting of Meeting for Sufferings (MfS) will be on 7 March 2026 and we expect that MfS will be laid down by Yearly Meeting in May 2026. All representatives and alternates will be released from service at that time.

### Can we just ask our Sufferings representative to take on this new role?

It is for your meeting to decide who to appoint. However, as this a new role you need to check whether it is right for your current Sufferings representative, who was appointed to do something different. The main requirements for a Yearly Meeting representative are enthusiasm and willingness to encourage communication among Friends. There will be a need to prepare for each Yearly Meeting session but this will not be about reading a lot of papers.

### What if we have questions?

Please feel free to get in touch – you can use the [rco@quaker.org.uk](mailto:rco@quaker.org.uk) email address for any questions.