



GENERAL MEETING FOR SCOTLAND

12 Sept 2009

Dundee

Min. 1 Reading

During Meeting for Worship we heard a reading from *Quaker Faith and Practice* 2.66 on the nature of Ministry.

Min. 2 Welcome

We welcome 2 attenders to this GM.

We also welcome as visitors Elspeth Davey of the Scottish Episcopal Church and Marian Liebmann, our speaker for this afternoon.

We will record the total numbers of all present and add them to these minutes.

East Scotland	14	
South East Scotland	4	
North Scotland	3	
West Scotland	<u>6</u>	
Total:	27	plus 2 visitors

Min. 3 Reporter

We appoint Daphne Wassermann from West Scotland AM to report this meeting to *The Friend* and the *Scottish Friend*. We ask East Scotland AM to report on the next GM.

Min. 4 New members and deaths

We record the following new members since our last meeting:

Wendy Fyfe (SE)
George Baines (W)
Judith Baines (W)
Rachel Howell (SE)
Anne Burdge (E)

We record the following death since our last meeting:

Peggy Potts (SE)
Joanna Henderson (SE)
Nancy Selkirk (SE).

Min. 5 Review of our Function Group Structure

Further to Minute 10 of 20 June 2009, the clerk introduced the redraft of the General Meeting Function Groups structure dated September 2009. The redraft takes into account comments and points made when this subject was discussed at our June 2009 meeting.

We agree that in the case of the Conference Function Group, the GM treasurer or the assistant GM treasurer may keep income and expenditure records should there be no mem-

ber of the Function Group willing to do this specific task. We ask the General Meeting clerks to ensure that all our Function Groups report in appropriate ways and as required to General Meeting.

We accept this revised structure with the points noted above and append a copy, as amended, to these minutes.

Min. 6 Book of Members and Attenders

Further to Minute 12 of 20 June 2009, the Assistant Clerk has introduced a proposal regarding a more sustainable and cost-effective way of producing the Book of Members and Attenders.

The proposal is to produce a full Book every second year in the current wire-bound format. In intervening years a list of amendments would be produced and distributed electronically to Local Meeting Clerks for local printing and distribution as required. This will require a slightly larger than usual print run of the full Book to allow for additional demand in the intervening year.

We accept this proposal, subject to review in 2013. We ask that information about how to get extra copies of this year's Book while supplies last be made available by the Administrator.

Min. 7 Post of Representative Friend (ACTS)

The clerk introduced a proposal that would enable us to fulfil representative functions in relation to Action of Churches Together in Scotland (ACTS) and other bodies that fall outside membership of the ACTS Members Meeting, and that are currently undertaken by our Representative Friend, Pamala McDougall.

Leslie Stevenson was appointed in June 2009 to represent us on the ACTS Members Meeting, from November 2009. He is also willing to act as a liaison person for additional events and meetings, and be equipped with a list of Friends willing to attend such events. This list of Friends will be prepared by Nominations Function Group and approved by General Meeting.

We accept this proposal and appoint Leslie Stevenson to this role.

Min. 8 Reports from Yearly Meeting Gathering

Yearly Meeting gathering took place in York at the end of July. We heard reports from two participants at the event.

Adwoa Bittle spoke of the excellent organisation of the children's programme. The fact that the business sessions were spread over a whole week allowed a much deeper discernment of the issues. The business was presented carefully and gently, and there was time for the Meeting to be led by the Spirit. The Clerks really had been the servants of the Meeting, which had felt truly gathered.

Beryl Milner was at residential Yearly Meeting for the first time. She felt glad to have been present. There was a strong sense of inclusiveness. She felt part of the larger worshipping community. It was also a working community – the business sessions were well attended in spite of the range of other options on offer. She was also glad to have been present to be part of the experience of decision-making on committed relationships. This was an

expression to the world of our testimony to equality as it applies to the recognition and celebration of same-sex committed partnerships.

Beryl read for us the closing Minute from the Gathering.

In discussion we have been reminded of the section in Minute 23 from the Gathering concerning the need for tenderness towards those who will find this change difficult, and the importance of continuing loving dialogue.

Min. 9 Appointment

Nominations Committee have brought forward the name of Colin Millar as a member of the Ury Working Group to replace Michael Baker. We agree to this, with immediate effect.

Min. 10 Restorative Justice

Marian Liebmann, a member of Redland Meeting, has wide experience of working with victims of crime and with offenders. She has introduced us to the principles, processes and history of restorative justice in modern times. Her accounts of several case studies have brought the theory alive. She has also spoken of work in schools, with adults, and in prisons.

Restorative Justice involves both victims and offenders, and sometimes the community. A reformed justice system would include the principles that:

Victim support and healing should be a priority.

Offenders should take responsibility for their actions.

There should be dialogue to achieve greater understanding.

Efforts are needed by the offender to put things right.

There should be attempts to avoid reoffending.

There is a need to reintegrate both offender and victim into society.

Marian described various projects in prisons, including Cornton Vale which aspires to be a prison which uses restorative methods in disputes. SACRO is piloting a project called TASC – “talk after severe crime” – intended to assist victim-offender dialogue. These approaches can produce real transformation in human relationships and potential healing of deep trauma.

What can we do? Marian described opportunities for individual initiatives in both Quaker and other projects, as well as lobbying and letter-writing to the media. Can we help to create a climate in which for example a Scottish “Circles of Support and Accountability” programme can be launched with public support?

We have been stimulated to think deeply about the nature of our justice system, the possibilities and challenges of restorative approaches, and how we as Quakers may engage with this.

We thank Marian for her wide-ranging and authoritative presentation of this important topic.

Min. 11 Closing Minute

We record our thanks to Dundee and East Scotland Friends for being our hosts at this GM, and look forward to meeting again in Aberdeen on 21-22 November when our special topic will be the World family of Friends.

Robin Waterston
Clerk

New structure for GM Function Groups, Sept 2009

Name	Membership	Remit
Agenda FG	Convenor – Asst GM Clerk GM Clerk One rep from each AM – appointed by AM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify the topics and speakers for GMs • Keep AMs aware that they can send items to GM
Children and Young People's FG	Convenor – appointed by GM One rep from each AM – appointed by AM, preferably the CYP Advocate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discern and advise on the spiritual needs of children and young people • Provide/support training for Friends working with children and young people, as required • Keep up to date with child protection policies and regulations • Provide input/advice for events like the “Kindrogan” summer gathering • Advise on policies and procedures for GM events with children and young people
Communications and Outreach FG	Convenor – appointed by GM Two members – appointed by GM Representative Friend (ACTS) Newsletter Editor Webmaster Administrator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To implement / co-ordinate national outreach activities including those for National Quaker Week • Ensure the effective use of the Scottish website for communicating with Quakers, publicising activities and for the purpose of outreach • Identify opportunities for GM to engage with the current media and political agenda (eg Scottish Government consultations) • Support and advise GM on issues of publicity and media relations • Advise and assist in the dissemination of views and information from GM to local meetings, Quaker publications and external bodies (eg ACTS) • Liaise with Outreach and media relations staff at Friends House

Conference FG	<p>Convenor – appointed by GM</p> <p>Asst Convenor – appointed by GM</p> <p>A Friend experienced in work with young people – appointed by GM</p> <p>One rep from each AM – appointed by AM</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be responsible for arranging and co-ordinating the 'Kindrogan' event • Appoint hosts who take bookings, allocate rooms and are a welcoming presence throughout the weekend • Ensure programmes for adults, teenagers and younger children are provided • Invite speakers to the adult events • Keep income and expenditure records and pass on to GM treasurer (preferably by a FG member, otherwise by the GM assistant treasurer or the GM treasurer)
Nominations FG	<p>Convenor – appointed by GM</p> <p>One rep from each AM – appointed by AM</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bring forward names of Friends able and willing to serve GM on its various bodies, as well as for appointments to one-off occasions • Hold and update information on all posts and tasks and maintain a list of past and present postholders • With the help of AM reps, gather and maintain a list of possible future postholders, with their respective skills and interests

Each convenor is appointed by GM for a three year term and is a member of Central Committee. (Clerk, Representative Friend (ACTS), Treasurer, Newsletter Editor and GM Meeting for Sufferings representatives are also members of Central Committee).

Function Groups may co-opt additional members if required.

Approved by General Meeting for Scotland, 12 Sept 2009