



GENERAL MEETING FOR SCOTLAND

20 June 2009

Glasgow

Min. 1 Reading

During Meeting for Worship we heard a reading from *Quaker Faith and Practice 20.16* reminding us of the spiritual basis of our testimonies and our way of worship.

Min. 2 Welcome

We welcome 1 attender to this GM.

We will be welcoming Gillian Ashmore, Recording Clerk of BYM who will speak to us this afternoon.

We also welcome as a visitor Dr Bill Reid, Connexional Officer for Methodists in Scotland and a member of the Members Meeting of ACTS.

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

East Scotland	4
South East Scotland	13
North Scotland	5
West Scotland	10
Total:	32

Min. 3 New members and deaths

We record the following new members since our last meeting:

- Meg Murray (SE)
- Alistair Trainor (W)
- Rosemary Morgan (W)
- Emma Dummett (SE)
- Simon Jackson (SE)
- Seonag Robertson (N)

We record the following death since our last meeting:

Marcella Althaus-Reid (SE).

Min 4 Reporter

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

Min 5 Report from Representative Friend

Pamala Mc Dougall, GM Representative Friend has reported on her activities since we last met.

We are urged to consider whether we have names to offer as potential Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (CTBI) trustees, under the restructuring of that body.

The section of the report relating to recent developments on the subject of Human Trafficking aroused our particular interest.

Pamala has also reminded us that the Climate Change (Scotland) Bill will be debated in Parliament next week. On our behalf she was signatory with Christian Aid, SCIAF and others to a letter to MSPs supporting this bill.

Her written report is appended to the minutes and will be published in Scottish Friend. We thank Pamala for her report and for her work on our behalf.

Min 6 ACTS Church and Society Network

Barbara Potter, who represents GM on the ACTS Church and Society Network has given us a report.

Barbara is a new representative and found the meeting arranged by the Representative Friend for all our ACTS representatives particularly helpful.

In addition, a handover meeting with the previous representative alerted Barbara to the probable need to be selective as the remit for this group is very wide.

She spoke briefly of the main topics of the Church and Society Network she attended.

We thank Barbara for her report

Min 7 Quaker Housing Association, Scotland

Kate Arnot has provided a brief update on the plans for this project, as described in Scottish Friend, April 2009, which have recently and unexpectedly accelerated.

Kate asked for our prayerful support as the group deals with this opportunity, and, in addition, works towards its original vision for accessible housing with a communal area.

We look forward to receiving further news as the project progresses and thank Kate for her update.

Min 8 Report from the Kindrogan Conference

The Kindrogan Conference took place on the weekend of 12 /14 June 2009. Margaret Gladden has given us a 'first impressions' report.

We are glad to hear of a happy and successful event, and are heartened by the number of families who participated.

We note that it may be necessary to look at some of the detail of providing free places for children and teenagers.

We look forward to reading a full report in SF and thank Margaret for her brief report today.

Min. 9 Annual Report and Accounts 2008

Our treasurer Daphne Wassermann has presented the Annual Report and Accounts for 2008. These have been approved by Trustees. We note that our overall bank balances have increased from £7713 to £12761. Receipts for 2008 were £25453 and payments £20405 giving a surplus of £5048.

We agree to make an additional grant of £100 to the Scottish Churches Racial Justice Group.

We ask that the Report and Accounts be available to Friends planning to attend GM ahead of the meeting. This can be done via AM clerks, the Administrator or the GM treasurer, and a reminder will be included in the Scottish Friend preceding the June GM.

We thank Daphne for her report and for her work on our behalf.

Min 10 Review of our Function Group Structure

Beryl Milner has introduced a draft proposed new Function Group structure, following discussion by Central Committee. An earlier draft has been circulated to AM clerks. A copy of the draft is attached to the minutes.

We have had an opportunity to discuss and comment on this draft. Comments have been noted, and can also be forwarded to the clerks after this meeting.

We ask Central Committee to produce a final version taking our comments into account, and bring it to our meeting in September for decision.

Central Committee will also look carefully at Quaker Faith & Practice section 5.03 revised to ensure that the proposed new structure is compatible with it.

Min.11 Dates and venues for 2010-11

We confirm the following GM dates and venues for 2010/11:

- West – 13 March 10 (Glasgow)
- North – 5 June 10 (Inverness)
- South East – 11 Sept 10 (Edinburgh)
- West – 13/14 Nov 10 (Dunblane)
- East – 5 Mar 11 (Montrose)

Min 12 Book of Members and Attenders

Further to Minute 9 of our last meeting, Bronwen Currie, our Administrator has reported on the responses to the discussion paper/questionnaire included in SF April 2009.

We have been invited to take a copy of her report and send any additional comments we have to the group c/o the Administrator.

We expect to receive a proposal from the group for decision in September.

We thank Bronwen for speaking to us today.

Min 13 Appointments and Representatives

a) Mary Latham, Convenor of the Nominations FG has brought to us names for release./appointment.

We agree to the suggestion that the GM Assistant Treasurer (ex officio) should act as treasurer to the Horniman Trust and the Adult Education and Conference Group.

RELEASE -

GM Assistant Clerk – Beryl Milner – from end 2009

APPOINTMENTS

		Period of appointment	First appointed
1.	GM Assistant Clerk – Kevin Franz (E)	Jan10 to Dec12	
2.	GM Treasurer - Daphne Wassermann (W)	Jan10 to Dec10	Jan00
3.	GM Assistant Treasurer- Pamela Brunt (E)	Jan10 to Dec12	Jan04

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| 4. | Horniman Trust Secretary- Jane Mitchell (W) | Jan10 to Dec12 | |
| 5. | Horniman Trust Treasurer-GM Assistant Treasurer
(currently Pamela Brunt (E)) | Jan10 to Dec12 | |
| 6. | Adult Education and Conf. Function Group Treasurer
GM Assistant Treasurer (currently Pamela Brunt (E)) | Jan10 to Dec12 | |
| 7. | Scottish Churches Racial Justice Group
Rachel Frith (SE) | Jan10 to Dec12 | Jul06 |
| 8. | Archive Group
Paul Burton (W) , Lindesay Burton (W)
Eva Deregowska (N) , Robin Davis (W) | Jan10 to Dec12 | Jan07 |
| 9. | Newsletter Editor - Margaret Peacock (W) | Jan10 to Dec12 | Sep05 |
| 10. | Webmaster - Neil Turner (SE) | Jan10 to Dec12 | Jan04 |
| 11. | Representative on ACTS Members' Meeting
Leslie Stevenson (E) | Nov09 to Dec11 | |
| 12. | Representative to Church of Scotland Guild,
Margaret Boland (W) | | Sep09 |
| 13. | Representative to Scottish Episcopal Synod
David James (N) | | Jun09 |

These names being acceptable, we appoint those named and thank the Friend released for her service.

b) We agree to appoint a Search Group for a convenor of the Nominations FG with the following membership:

Mary Latham (W) and Alison Burnley (SE) and Nigel Dower(N).

c) Pamala Mc Dougall has alerted us to the fact the Nominations Function Group has been unable to find a successor for her in her role on Representative Friend. We note that Leslie Stevenson is willing to serve as representative to the ACTS Members Meeting, which forms part of this role.

We ask Central Committee to consult with the Representative Friend to explore different models that would enable the tasks encompassed in this role to be fulfilled.

Min 14 “Is the Society in rude health” Presentation by Gillian Ashmore.

Gillian Ashmore, Recording Clerk of Britain Yearly Meeting has spoken about her broadly optimistic view of the health of the Society.

In small groups we have discussed how we in Scotland stand in relation to Gillian's measures of health:

Spiritual Enquiry; Community; Organisation; Witness; Influence; Courage.

She has also invited us to discuss what measures we would use. Discussion was lively. Together we have shared some of the content of our group discussions.

The needs of Quaker children were considered, especially when there are only one or two in the Meeting. Families have changed over the years and often only one parent is a Friend. We must ensure that all children know of the various events for them.

We would like more courage to speak out about our own beliefs. We hide behind 'health and safety'. It is hard to speak on behalf of Friends generally. Quaker Quest is a good opportunity to show others the depth and breadth of Quaker belief.

Gillian had also pointed out that there may be space in the centrally managed work for new work to be taken up now that Circles of Support and Accountability has devolved into two independent charities. This raised the question, "Does GM for Scotland need a project to put its energy into?"

We thank Gillian for taking to us and stimulating our discussion.

Min. 15 Closing Minute

We thank Mary Latham for her service as assistant clerk today.

We record our thanks to West Scotland Friends for being our hosts at this GM, and look forward to meeting again in Dundee on 12 Sept.

Beryl Milner
Acting Clerk