



# GENERAL MEETING FOR SCOTLAND

10 March 2018  
Edinburgh

## Min. 1 Worship

We began with worship during which parts of Qf&p 3:10 and 3:11 were read. We were led to consider how we play a part in Meetings for Worship for Business.

We are glad that we have Elders present who are willing to uphold our Meeting for Worship.

## Min. 2 Welcome to all present

We are glad to welcome everybody, including 5 attenders and 1 observer, to GM in Edinburgh.

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

East Scotland	14
South East Scotland	21
North Scotland	6
West Scotland	15

**Total: 56**

## Min. 3 Reporter of this Meeting

We appoint Juli Salt from North Scotland AM to report this meeting to *The*

*Friend* and the *Scottish Friend*. We ask South East Scotland AM to report on GM in Inverness in June.

## Min. 4 New members and deaths

We record the following new members and since our last meeting from Area meeting minutes:

Alice Curteis ESAM  
Bob Manderville WSAM  
Gwen Johnstone WSAM  
Angela Stather WSAM  
Peter Morton WSAM

We record the following deaths from Area Meeting minutes:

Ursula Carson ESAM 02/09/17  
Jim Anderton WSAM 11/01/18  
Marianne Ferguson Rice SESAM 17/12/17

### **Min. 5 Dates and Venues for 2017-18**

Dates GM 2018/19

16 <sup>th</sup> 2018 June	Inverness
15 <sup>th</sup> 2018 September	Glasgow
17 <sup>th</sup> 2018 November	Perth
9 <sup>th</sup> 2019 March	Glasgow

We ask that the Area Meetings concerned inform our clerk of the venue and the contact details of the person nominated to oversee the local arrangements.

### **Min. 6 Why we do things the way we do.**

Our clerk has introduced newcomers to the right holding of a Quaker Meeting for Worship for Church Affairs.

### **Min. 7 Ecumenical and Interfaith links**

We have considered our Ecumenical and Interfaith links and representations. We have heard of the joys and difficulties of being in these roles.

Lynne Barty brought us up to date on her role on Faith in Community Scotland Action Fund. We ask that she publishes this report in Scottish Friend as more people need to hear of her interesting and fulfilling experiences. We encourage any Friend who attends such events to find a way to communicate that experience. Please use our website, Local and Area meeting newsletters, the Scottish friend and sometimes verbal reports at GM. We are keen to enable these links and relationships to continue and flourish. We agree that the following plan will go ahead. A small group will work together to create a form to invite Friends to join an Interfaith email group. This sub group will ask people interested about their areas of concern, availability, travel possibilities and more. We will end up with a two-tier system. One group of Friends who can attend formal appointments (when someone may need to speak on behalf of Scottish Quakers) and one group of Friends who can attend more informal events that just require interest. These two lists may have some of the same names on both.

We expect that those who attend any event on behalf of GM can claim expenses as required. We also agree that the GM Clerk's role will now encompass receiving invitations to events and disseminating them. We are content that the proposal to create a clear bank of people willing

interested and able to attend events on our behalf and the formalisation of GM Clerk receiving and dissemination invitations means that the concept of GM Representative Friend has been developed.

Friends are reassured that our GM Nominations will still nominate people to the roles required and be involved in the finding of names for the email list/ bank of names of interested people. We are keen that we enable Friends new to this witness to attend alongside those with more experience.

Kate Arnot has agreed to be the contact person for all Interfaith and Ecumenical interested people, GM nominated or not, and to organise yearly get togethers. We are keen that these gatherings enable better communication, transparency and openness.

We agree to review this new way of working at GM in September 2019 to see how we are getting on.

### **Min. 8 Our Logo**

GM has received a letter from Nik Dadson of the Communications Department of Friends House, regarding a potential new logo. This is a highly emotive issue that we hope we can keep in perspective. We support David Sterratt's offer to try to make the new logo work on our website with Friends House staff. We want to be able to communicate outwardly under a heading that shows we are part of Britain Yearly Meeting. We hope to live adventurously and begin to use this new logo on GM outward going papers. We will practice with all three versions and also ask our clerk to ask Nik Dadson if we can make it smaller in light of comments that this will take up a substantial piece of agendas etc.

We realise that we may come across problems along the way – or maybe even joys.

### **Min. 9 Nominations**

We release Marion Fairweather from her appointment as our Representative on the ACTS group on Human Trafficking with immediate effect.

### **Min.10 GM Nominations Clerk**

We need to form a search Group for a GM Noms Clerk as Alyson Buchan's term finishes at the end of 2018. In worship we considered people for this role. We appoint Piers Voysey (stc) NSAM, Ian MacDonald (stc) WSAM, Elizabeth Allen SESAM and Joyce Taylor ESAM to be on this group. We appoint Alyson Buchan to this search group. We ask Alyson to convene the first meeting.

*Ian has agreed.*

### **Min. 11 Annual Report and Accounts 2017**

We have received the annual report and examined accounts for 2017 from our Treasurer, Nigel Dower.

Regular income from area meeting quotas, donations, grants from Britain Yearly Meeting

and the Camfield Trust, and trading receipts in relation to the Book of Members and Quaker activities totalled £28,717.

In addition we received a legacy of £24,933 from Jenny Auld, bringing total income for the year to £53,650

Of the £16,000 contributed by Area Meetings, £6000 was earmarked to meet our commitment to part-fund the post of Parliamentary Engagement Officer, and a further £4000 was drawn from general funds.

This is the final year in which we drew on reserves to meet our contribution to the costs of this post.

Payments totalled £31,161, giving an overall surplus for the year of £22,489, although this would have been a deficit of £2444 without the Jenny Auld legacy, which we have agreed should not be used for day-to-day expenditure.

Our reserves, excluding the Jenny Auld legacy, now stand at £16,835 which is approximately 6 months' normal expenditure.

We thank our treasurer for this work done on our behalf.

We authorise the Clerk to sign the Annual Report.

The report and statement of accounts is attached to these minutes.

## **Min. 12 Parliamentary Engagement**

We are very grateful for the work of Parliamentary Engagement Working Group and agree their recommendations for their priorities. We commend their report, attached with these minutes, to all Friends in Scotland.

## **Min. 13 Sufferings Report**

Alyson Buchan has circulated some copies of her report and it is attached to these minutes. It is a large, and (hopefully) rewarding, commitment to travel to London on such a regular basis to represent us on Sufferings. We are grateful for the time and effort given to this role over the years by Friends in Scotland.

## **Min. 14 Report on GM report to Meeting for Sufferings**

Our clerk has reported on the report she gave to Meeting for Sufferings on our behalf last December. Adwoa would like to thank everyone who replied to her request for photos of Scottish Quakers, they really helped create an engaging PowerPoint which would have been impossible to make without them. After her initial feelings of misgiving the feedback has been very positive and this type of report will now be sought by Sufferings on a triennial basis

### **Min. 15 GM and Younger people**

Nine young people met this morning and spent time in a parallel and very fruitful business session. Their ages ranged from 9 to 18. We are glad to receive the minute from this group, it feels like their work was integral to ours. We welcome their thoughts on all aspects of the agenda that they worked on, notably their work on PEWG priorities especially their focus on education.

On the subject of YP's at GM (including Young Adults) we are glad that there is a feeling that from now they will meet when GM meets and in conversation with clerks decide which parts they would like to be part of and at which points they would like free time. We ask that they are involved in the agenda setting and for this new venture to not just be a token gesture. We ask they use social media to alert each other to travel plans etc. We hope this is the beginning of some very real links of involvement and sharing. We thank Madeleine Harding for organising and enabling this work, today, to happen.

Their minute is attached.

### **Min. 16 Future GM Dates**

We agree to meet on the following dates in 2019 and 2020.

March 9<sup>th</sup> 2019 Glasgow (already agreed)

June 8<sup>th</sup> 2019 South East AM

September 14<sup>th</sup> 2019 North Scotland AM

November 16<sup>th</sup> 2019 East Scotland AM

March 7<sup>th</sup> 2020 Southeast Scotland AM

### **Min. 15 Closing Minute**

We record our thanks to South East Scotland Friends for being our hosts at this GM and look forward to meeting again on 16<sup>th</sup> June in Inverness.

Adwoa Bittle  
Clerk

### **Plan for future reports to GM**

16<sup>th</sup> June 2018 Inverness, Barbara Potter - Interfaith Scotland

15<sup>th</sup> Sept. 2018 Glasgow, Shindig participants

17<sup>th</sup> Nov. 2018 Perth David Somervell - Edinburgh Peace and Justice Centre

9<sup>th</sup> March 2019 Glasgow Mary Kennedy on AVP

**Please send ideas of topics you would like to see considered at GM with names of good speakers/ presenters.**

## General Meeting for Scotland, 10th of March 2018

With an agenda that mirrored the adult's meeting upstairs, young Friends from across Scotland met to bring a fresh perspective to the discussions on the relationship between Quakers and members of other religions, the relationship between Quakers and our government, and what young people mean and can bring to General Meeting.

Discussing interfaith links, we explored the different religions and cultures of our peers, and what they mean in terms of our interactions with them as people with differing points of view and opinions. We also explored the label of being "Christian" and whether this is something we embrace or reject. We came to a general conclusion that, as ever-evolving people in an increasingly secular age, the label of "Christian" doesn't sit well with us. Whilst we recognise this may not be the case for all young Friends, we seemed to feel that we connect with the parts of Faith and Practice, and Quakerism as a whole that move away from weighted words like "Lord", "Jesus", and an involved omnipotent male God.

When discussing the Parliamentary Engagement Group, we focused solely on education. We expressed an intense desire for more support, appreciation, and opportunity for the subjects that aren't in the STEM group. To clarify, the subjects that fall under science, technology, engineering, and maths are very heavily emphasised in schools, with subjects like the humanities, arts, and others are almost an afterthought. This is in both primary and secondary schools, and there are many government-funded/supported initiatives for the STEM subjects, and little left over for the others, in both terms of time, funding, resources, and appreciation.

We also wanted to come up with a scheme which covers basic everyday skills such as money management, public speaking and interview skills, etc where people from the age of 14 onward are given information and advice on things that, we feel, we're just expected to know.

The final discussion was on children and young Friends in General Meeting and how we want to proceed in the future. We felt as if there were many benefits to being invited to such events - the social and the “political” aspect. This being, we greatly enjoy reconnecting with people we have met at other events and are unlikely to see outwith Quaker meetings, and we also enjoy being involved and listened to in the make-up and runnings of General Meeting. We feel that, whether it’s us just becoming older and more aware of things, or whether Quakers have started a new chapter wherein children and young adults are at the forefront of the organisation, our voices are being heard and valued just as those of adults.

Maddie Orr