

Opportunities to discuss Quakers in Scotland integration

Three issues have come up recurrently in discussions about whether or when SESAM might integrate fully with Quakers in Scotland, so that QiS would become the Area Meeting for all local meetings in Scotland. Opportunities to learn more about these three issues – processes, options, and flexibility, and to ask questions or make comments about any of these or other issues, are offered below.

Financial management

- How does this work for local meetings?
- How can existing or new dedicated funds be managed?
- What of future legacies or large donations?

A Finance group has been one of several meeting together in the final hour of the last several QiS meetings, and it is intended that this pattern will continue. Please feel free to join this group, to listen to how things are working and to have an opportunity to ask questions. These might include those above, or your own new ones.

Property management

- Will there still be a local property or premises management committee?
- How will local staff be managed? Who do they call?
- What about terms and conditions for staff transferring to the new employer?
- How will donations or existing funds for meeting houses be protected?

The property management committee for QiS held its first meeting on the 7th July. Edinburgh Meeting House would be the largest property responsibility for QiS and would shape how it operates. As for Finance above, it is expected that there will be opportunities to join a session specifically on property issues in the final session of QiS meetings.

Intermediate Meetings

- Can we continue to consider Membership applications in South East Scotland as we do now? (Yes, that would be an 'Intermediate Meeting')
- What other issues might we consider and make decisions on as a regional group?

The term 'Intermediate Meeting' only usefully applies to gatherings where decisions are taken that must be approved by an Area Meeting. There is no need to re-label existing or new events such as Shindig or Wiston Weekend as Intermediate Meetings. A simplified document lists how to do this.

Central Edinburgh had a discussion on Intermediate Meetings on the 12th April. Many hope to continue to manage Membership regionally, as now. Other aspects of current Area Meetings – discussing issues or simply meeting as Friends – can occur alongside. We can offer QiS trustees to contribute to local or regional discussions, or reply to individual questions – see below.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

QiS is keen to hear details of concerns about these or any other issues related to QiS. Martin Burnell (martinburnell@gmail.com) and Neil Turner (neilturn@gmail.com), both from South Edinburgh local meeting, are QiS trustees from SESAM. We're very interested to hear questions or comments. We will answer questions directly if we can, or pass them on if not, and will collate any comments.