

## **Possible Committee structure and nominations process suggestion**

The following is an attempt to describe what the main structure of Quakers in Scotland could look like in terms of the committees that would be needed to for it to function, and how the nominations process fits into this. Much of what is described here is presented in two diagrams after the text, which some Friends may find helpful. In any case Friends may wish to have a look at them before reading the text.

The two main kinds of body are the many worshipping communities, and the body called Quakers in Scotland, which, like General Meeting before it, has a clerking team, has regular meetings in session open to all Friends, represents BYM in various ways and as a charity has various functions. Worshipping communities are Local Meetings as before along with online groups and very small worshipping groups that do not have a formal meeting structure but are attached to a local meeting. Local Meetings which were before answerable to Area Meetings will now be answerable to QiS and, if for instance they have financial accounts, these are consolidated within the QiS accounts.

Local meetings will have their own committees, groups or teams, appointed (through an appropriate nominations process) and these may include LM Children & Young People team, LM Communications team, LM Health & Safety team, LM Nominations committee, MH Property committee and a LM Safeguarding team.

Quakers in Scotland, as a charity will have a body of Trustees charged with ensuring that all aspects of good governance are adhered to such as financial accountability and the management of property and as such the two committees - the QiS Finance Committee and the QiS Property Committee would support them in this work, and report to the Trustees directly. Other aspects of charity compliance cover things like data protection, Safeguarding and Health & Safety but the latter two are in practice the work of two committees - the QiS Health & Safety Team and the QiS Safeguarding Team which are appointed by QiS, and report to trustees

QiS is also responsible for appointing other groups such as a Nominations Committee, a Pastoral Care Team, an Eldership Team, a Communications Team, a QiS Community Justice Working Group, an Outreach Team, the Parliamentary Engagement Working Group, the Registering Officers Team and a Prison Visitors Team. It will also appoint representatives to be on other bodies, Quaker or otherwise, or to attend particular events (as GM and AMs have done).

QiS Nominations Committee will have a central role in finding names for all these positions (except itself which is done a special nominating group), and the expectation is that it will both welcome & seek names from Local Meetings and also in the case of areas where LMs have their own groups and committees, nominate from amongst Friends in those roles in Local Meetings for a QiS committee; in particular it is anticipated that the QiS Property Committee will have at least one member from each LM that has a Meeting House/Property Committee and QiS Finance Committee will have treasurers for larger meetings who hold

their own bank accounts. Nominations Committee may, with the agreement of QiS, on some occasions delegate particular nominations tasks to an intermediate meeting.

In some areas of activity it may be the case that some of the tasks of these teams, groups and committees will be delegated to ongoing intermediate meetings perhaps covering what had happened in existing regions. For instance Pastoral care Friends could be appointed by local meetings, whilst a Pastoral care support team be appointed by QiS. The local Pastoral Care Friends would report to the QiS Pastoral care team and the support team would provide connections and support in particular areas .

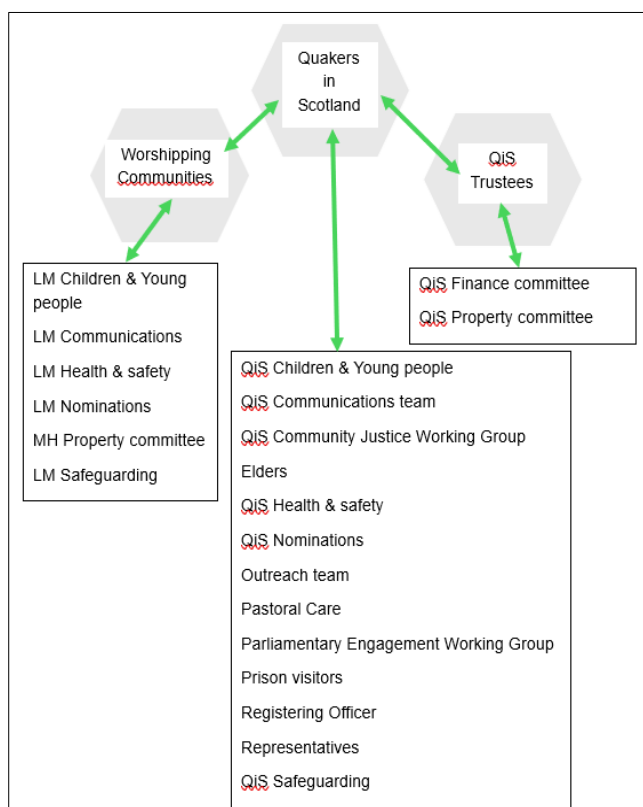
How far such intermediate meetings, set up for particular occasions or set up as an ongoing meeting to carry out QiS business, develop is yet to be seen.

But alongside the formal structure outlined above, there may well be quite a number of groups of local meetings that are set up on the initiative of Local Meetings themselves (not acting on behalf of QiS to do QiS business), for various reasons such as for mutual learning and study or to have residential meeting together. These may well develop within or outside existing AM boundaries. It is an aspect of our new vision of a flexible and fluid way in which Friends can relate together in Scotland.

**Diagram1.** tries to show the 3 possible groupings of committees: LM committees, QiS committees and Trustee committees

**Diagram 2.** tries to show which body would nominate and appoint Friends to serve on each committee

**Diagram 1.**



**Diagram 2.**

