

## Summary of how Possible Pattern /Option 4 might work

Quakers in Scotland could be made up of worshipping communities. These may be geographically based Local Meetings (LMs) or Worshipping Groups, e.g., Nairn WG, or they may be online e.g., WSAM Sunday Evening Meeting or a group such as Glasgow Young Friends.

Assuming all AMs agree to join, they would all be part of a single AM (Quakers in Scotland - QiS), would be where membership is held and which would be the main meeting for worship for church affairs. The names of all members would be recorded as well as those attenders who wished to be included.

Friends from those communities could, as sometimes happens at present, join together at

- residential events, e.g., Pluscarden, Wiston weekend, Away Days and West Coast Friends Gathering,
- learning events, e.g., Woodbrooke courses, in person, hybrid and online,
- joint meetings for worship
- joint meetings for worship for church affairs for matters affecting their local area
- social events, and
- outreach events.

They could connect in a variety of combinations and patterns as suits them.

Groups of worshipping communities that know one another well or share common circumstances, may wish to join together as an Intermediate Meeting (IM) to handle some items of delegated AM business, such as applications for membership, appointing a chaplain for a local hospital, arrangements for marriage, nominating elders and pastoral care friends as appropriate to the grouping.

For an IM to conduct AM business it would need to comply with certain requirements of QF&P.

It would need to:

- Be organised by a team comprising some mixture of Elders, Pastoral Care Friends, and LM clerks to ensure Gospel order.
- These Friends must come from at least three different communities to avoid congregationalism.
- A Friend must be named to act as clerk so that there is a clear responsibility for managing the business.
- The meeting, with its agreed agenda, must be advertised and open to all Friends in the AM to permit any Friend to attend if they are so led.
- The minutes would be full minutes of QiS and would need to be sent to the QiS clerk as soon as practicable.

There is much more rationale and many further details in the Possible patterns (PP) paper that was circulated in August.