

GENERAL MEETING FOR SCOTLAND

11th June, 2022

A blended meeting held in Glasgow at the Quaker Meeting House, 38 Elmbank Crescent, and by Zoom



22/06/01 Worship

We have spent time together in worship, during which we heard read *Quaker faith and practice 20.10*. We are reminded that prayer leads us to an inner place of quiet strength.

22/06/02 Welcome to all present

We welcome all Friends who are with us today, to General Meeting for Scotland, held in Glasgow Quaker Meeting House and by Zoom.

The total numbers of those present were:

East Scotland	11 (9 on Zoom, 2 in person)
South East Scotland	14 (7 on Zoom, 7 in person)
North Scotland	8 (8 on Zoom)
West Scotland	22 (9 on Zoom, 13 in person)
QCCIR	11 (2 on Zoom, 9 in person)
Visitors	2

Total: 68, including 4 attenders

22/06/03 Elders for this meeting

We are grateful to West Scotland Area Meeting for appointing two Friends to serve as Elders for this meeting. Their duties are listed on the back of the agenda. We remind Friends that we all share the duties of oversight and spiritual care of our Meetings, not just those appointed to carry them out.

22/06/04 Reporter of this Meeting

We appoint Jill Tutton from East Scotland Area Meeting to report on this meeting to *The Friend* and the *Scottish Friend*. We ask West Scotland Area Meeting to report on GM on 10th September 2022.

22/06/05 Recording between-meetings decisions

We note that the following appointments were made by between-meetings procedure:

Nominations

GM nominations committee has brought forward the following names:

Central European Gathering of Friends 2022

Busa Cochrane-Muir (St Andrews LM) to attend the 2022 Central European Friends Gathering from 2nd to 5th June, representing General Meeting for Scotland.

This name being acceptable, we appoint Busa by between-meetings procedure. She will attend the Gathering online.

Elizabeth Allen, Clerk
Michael Hutchinson, Assistant Clerk
Adwoa Burnley, Assistant Clerk

23rd April 2022

GM Working Group 2 on Options for Quakers in Scotland (See GM Minute 22/03/11)

To serve from 1st May 2022 to 10th June 2023:

Lesley Richards (Worcester & Shropshire AM) - Convenor
Kate Gulliver (Ayrshire LM)
Brian Ashley (Shetland LM)
Robin Davis (Dunblane LM)
Gisela Creed (Glasgow LM)
Peter Christy (Ayrshire LM)
Pam Apted (Dundee LM)

These names being acceptable, we appoint the Friends named by between-meetings procedure.

Elizabeth Allen, Clerk
Michael Hutchinson, Assistant Clerk
Adwoa Burnley, Assistant Clerk

26th April 2022

22/06/06 New members, transfers and deaths

From Area Meeting minutes since General Meeting on 12th March, we record the following:

TRANSFER OF MEMBERSHIP - IN

Chris Holmes, from Nottinghamshire & Derbyshire AM to ESAM

TRANSFER OF MEMBERSHIP - OUT

Bridget Holtom, from SESAM to Sheffield & Balby AM

NEW MEMBERS

Jacob Frankau (SESAM)

Carolyn Urquhart (SESAM)

DEATHS

Margaret Berwick (ESAM) on April 3rd 2022

Hilary Davies (SESAM) on April 3rd 2022

Michael Otter (NSAM) on April 5th 2022

Dilys Otter (NSAM) on April 24th 2022

RESIGNATION OF MEMBERSHIP

Josephine Friederich-Thomas (WSAM)

22/06/07 Confirmed dates and host Area Meetings for GM in 2023/ 24

We agree to change the proposed date of GM in September 2023 from 9th to 16th, to avoid a clash with the Wiston Weekend.

The following dates have been confirmed:

11th March 2023 West (already agreed)

10th June 2023 South East

16th September 2023 North

11th November 2023 East

9th March 2024 South East

22/06/08 Options for Quakers in Scotland report - update on recommendations

Further to minute 22/03/11, Area Meeting and General Meeting for Scotland Clerks met on 25th April 2022 to consider the recommendations of the Options for Quakers in Scotland Working Group in their report to GM in March 2022. The clerks focused on the list of current opportunities for working together more effectively, several of which recommend expanding current practices. Notes of the meeting, including the clerks' response to each of the seven suggestions for action have been circulated in advance of this meeting, as Paper A, and sent to the Options Working Group 2 for information.

22/06/09 Mechanism for deciding Local Development Worker's annual priorities

Our Local Development Worker (LDW) for Scotland, Zoe Prosser, has been in place for over a year. The remit of the LDW is based on the BYM document, 'Our Vision for the Future'. It is wide and includes work for Britain Yearly Meeting, as well as supporting Quakers in Scotland. It would be helpful for the LDW if we could set annual priorities for the work. Along with the LDW, Area Meeting and General Meeting for Scotland Clerks drafted a possible procedure for doing this, which was circulated for our consideration, as paper B.

Local Development Work in Scotland

Procedure to determine the annual priorities of the work

1. Each year in mid-August, General Meeting for Scotland (GMS) will invite the Area and Local Meetings in Scotland and Scottish Friends to submit suggestions by mid-September, for the priorities of the Local Development Worker's work in Scotland for the following year.
2. Suggestions will be passed to the Local Development Worker (LDW) for sorting and if necessary distilling, in preparation for a meeting to select the suggestions to be brought to GMS.
3. In mid-October GM Committee, the 4 Scottish AM clerks, the LDW, and the LDW's line-manager will consider the suggested priorities and select two to bring to GMS in November.
4. At GMS in November, these suggested priorities will be put before Friends for their consideration and agreement.

We accept the proposed mechanism on the understanding that it can be amended if necessary.

22/06/10 Nominations business

See minute 22/06/05 for appointments made by between-meetings procedure.

GM Working Group 2 on Options for Quakers in Scotland

Further to minutes 22/03/11 and 22/06/05, discussion has been held between the GM clerks and the clerk of GM Nominations Committee over the lack of a Friend to serve on the group from South East Scotland Area Meeting, since all other area meetings are represented. Nominations Committee was aware that the names were not as diverse geographically as they would have liked, but had some reassurance that they were asked to focus on the skills required for the group rather than getting a geographical spread across the area meetings.

General Meeting is asked if it would wish Nominations Committee to seek a name for an additional member of the group from South East Scotland Area Meeting, to bring it up to seven members. We agree to this. South East Scotland Area Meeting is asked to assist our Nominations Committee in this task.

We ask that in future the normal practice will be for all four area meetings to be represented on such groups and committees.

We remain grateful for the work of our GM Nominations Committee.

22/06/11 Quaker Committee for Christian and Interfaith Relations

The Quaker Committee for Christian and Interfaith Relations (QCCIR) is a standing committee of Britain Yearly Meeting. It is meeting in Glasgow this weekend and we are pleased to welcome its members to General Meeting for Scotland this morning, in person and online.

Elaine Green, clerk of QCCIR, has spoken about their current and future work and what difference it is making for BYM to be part of the ecumenical and interfaith communities.

QCCIR can be seen as serving a peace-building mission for Quakers in Britain: they look outwards and build bridges with other churches and faiths. This might include approaching uncomfortable differences without giving way on who we are as Quakers, and where we stand on an issue. This also gives us deep connections. QCCIR adopts a diplomatic language to allow us all to listen to others and to one another.

Although we are a small church, it is important that we contribute to the major dialogues of our day. Perhaps one of our most valuable contributions is being there – a ministry of presence. We stay the course, and faithfulness is our gift to all those with whom we work.

Much Quaker ecumenical and interfaith work is done locally and is not shared with QCCIR. Today, Friends were invited to speak about their involvement with this work.

At a national level in Scotland Action of Churches Together in Scotland (ACTS) is transitioning to the Scottish Christian Forum and this is proving to be a slow process, which hinders ecumenical work at this level. However, the Church Leaders Forum has met very effectively over the past two years and Adwoa Burnley represents us on this body.

We have shared our experience of the rich diversity of local ecumenical and interfaith work going on in Scotland. Much of this is community based and many of us are part of our local as well as our Quaker community. We might start by building connections through dialogue, but this leads to friendships, shared meals and walks together, and to working together on the issues that concern us. We started working with friends of other faiths in preparation for COP26 and that work is continuing.

QCCIR see the need to find ways to connect with and enhance local ecumenical and interfaith work. We have been invited to tell them about any issues we are having with this. To help enrich our work, they are offering topic-based webinars. Two online events are being planned for later this year: in September, a joint meeting with Woodbrooke on how faiths and churches are responding to the climate crisis and how Quakers can work with people from other spiritual traditions locally to bring about positive changes; in November, a webinar on the subject of becoming an anti-racist church. Continuing with this format, in future the committee plans to set up opportunities for Friends across Britain to learn about and consider ecumenical and interfaith topics together. We have been asked to reflect on what issues might be most relevant for us and we will consult local meetings about this. We have also been asked to consider making a blog, with QCCIR assistance, about some of our local ecumenical or interfaith work.

To date General Meeting has been unable to offer the name of a Friend from Scotland to serve on QCCIR. Through the committee's visit to Glasgow this weekend, their work has been put in the spotlight, and we hope this might help GM Nominations Committee find a Friend to give this service.

We thank Friends from QCCIR for being with us today and for inviting some Friends and representatives of the ecumenical and interfaith communities in Scotland to join them at various points in their agenda this weekend. We remind Friends that QCCIR provides resources, help and advice for Quakers to become more engaged in Christian and interfaith relations.

22/06/12 GM Annual Report and Accounts 2021

The General Meeting for Scotland Annual Report and examined Accounts for 2021 have been circulated with the papers for this meeting. They were approved by GM trustees at their meeting on 9th May 2022.

Nigel Dower, our treasurer, has presented the report and accounts, drawing out particular details in the accounts and answering our questions.

The accounts continue to show the effects of the pandemic restrictions on our activity over the last two years. Income during 2021 was £19,405.18 and expenditure £24,695.11. Although the accounts show a significant deficit of £5,689.93* (since they operate on a 'payments and receipts' basis), if adjustments are made for sums vired/ transferred from the previous year, there was in fact a surplus of about £3,300.

*The final accounts will be corrected to show the deficit for the year as £5289.93 instead of £5689.93.

A question has been asked as to why Scottish CND is listed twice on page 3 and Nigel will go back to correct this, as necessary.

The Auld Legacy is a fund that can be used at the General Meeting's discretion as there are no conditions in the bequest that restrict its use. In 2017 we agreed to use £12,000 from the fund over three years to 2021 to support the Parliamentary Engagement Officer's post. Apart from this, there has been no other commitment of these legacy funds. GM agreed that at future meetings it would review its priorities and agree how the legacy can best be used to support special initiatives.

The Trustees have raised the point that we need to discern a proper way of using up the Auld Legacy, together with a new legacy of £10,000 we have recently received. We will return to this matter.

We receive and accept the General Meeting Report and Accounts 2021, with corrections raised, and ask our clerk to sign them on our behalf. We thank our trustees for their work and Nigel for his preparation and presentation of these documents.

22/06/13 Parliamentary Engagement Working Group report

The report of the Parliamentary Engagement Working Group (PEWG) was circulated in advance of this meeting as Paper D. Carolyn Burch (co-convenor) has spoken to it, emphasising how well the work has been going. She referred in particular to: the opportunity raised by the forthcoming meeting with Patrick Harvie; as mentioned in the report, the roundtable talks to establish the new Scottish Peace Institute; and the continuing work on the peace education and opportunities within Parliament at Holyrood to take this further.

The partnership of the group with our Parliamentary Engagement Officer, Andrew Tomlinson, continues to give a very active result. Since

the March GM a response to Scottish Government consultations on the government's draft rented sector strategy has been submitted and Andrew also wrote advocacy guides for Friends' use in the approach to the local elections in May. PEWG held two special 'guest meetings' in March and April, with Justin Kenrick, a Friend from Portobello and Musselburgh Meeting who has worked in political advocacy for Extinction Rebellion; and with Ruth Harvey, co-convenor of the Scottish Climate Citizens Assembly, Quaker, and leader of the Iona Community.

Work continues with the three current priorities - Climate emergency, Economic Justice and Land Reform, and Peacebuilding - and the report updates us on these areas. Andrew Tomlinson's trial appointment as Convenor of Stop Climate Chaos Scotland's Policy and Advocacy Group has enhanced our work with the group.

Other continuing work focuses on:

1. Response to the Scottish government's Heat in Buildings Strategy ;
2. Peace-building, through dialogue with the Minister for Business, Trade, Tourism and Enterprise, on stronger conditionality attached to Scottish Enterprise funding of companies whose products have military purpose or applications

Andrew and BYM colleagues have also been contributing to round-table planning discussions on the formation of a new Scottish Peace Institute. The group continues to work with Quaker Peace & Social Witness on peace education and to build support for peace education with MSPs.

Currently, Andrew is visiting all AMs to speak about our current work, and to invite input from all Scottish Friends as we work towards the discernment of our future priorities at November's GM. Friends also have opportunity to contribute to this discernment individually through the AM representatives on the group or directly to Andrew Tomlinson.

We have had opportunity to ask questions and make comments. Friends pointed out how fortunate we are to have good relations with the Scottish Government, as well as the good work of Andrew Tomlinson our Parliamentary Engagement Officer.

We thank Carolyn for her report and the group for its work.

22/06/14 Scottish Quaker Community Justice Working Group

The report of the Scottish Quaker Community Justice Working Group was circulated in advance of this meeting as Paper E. Kate Philbrick, convenor, has spoken to it. Andrew Tomlinson, Parliamentary Engagement Officer, has been helpful in pointing to opportunities to respond to the Scottish Government.

Members of the working group, Anneke Kraakman (ESAM), Bob Mandeville (WSAM), Trish Rogers (NSAM), Jennifer Copsey (SESAM), as well as Kate, have described movingly and from personal experience why the group is seeking help from all Quakers in changing the prevailing punitive approach to offending.

The group was established at our June meeting last year (minute 21/03/11 refers) and works with the wider Scottish Quaker Community Justice Network. The report updates us on progress since then and poses two questions to us:

How can we achieve justice that transforms lives and fosters peace and inclusion in society?

Should Quakers in Scotland consider in the future adopting a minute like the Canadian one leading towards prison abolition?

These questions relate to the group's current consideration on how to hold the Scottish government to account on its welcome new and ambitious 'Vision for Justice', including its plans to offer restorative justice nationally.

We hope Friends locally will start engaging with these questions, using the booklet 'Breaking Chains and Building Change', produced by members of the Scottish Quaker Community Justice Network, and come back to the group with the results. This booklet will be available shortly on the Quakers in Scotland website.

Comment has been made that we need to define carefully what we mean by prison abolition. We are aware of the injustice and oppression seen in the increasing poverty in our society and in the prison system. We have heard how the adverse effects of childhood and other trauma can result in a lifetime of damage but that appropriate support can allow their lives to change.

We have the opportunity to reaffirm that the Light is in everyone and to unite with the worth of all. We are very grateful to the group for bringing these concerns before us. We affirm it.

We look forward to returning to these issues in the next year.

22/06/15 Hearing about the Quaker Housing Trust

Mark Bitel, clerk to Trustees of Quaker Housing Trust (QHT) has spoken to Paper F, circulated in advance of this meeting, which

describes the work of the Trust. We note that the housing crisis is worse now than it was in 1967.

Quaker Housing Trust was set up by Yearly Meeting in 1967 to take forward Friends' concerns on housing and homelessness. It takes action on Friends' behalf by providing grant and loan funding for social housing projects to those in genuine housing need, typically supporting small to medium charities to provide housing for vulnerable people. It also supports projects that have high energy-efficiency standards, so that the running costs for tenants are lower, fulfilling our sustainability testimony. The paper reviews the effects of the current housing crisis as a background to QHT's work.

QHT is in the process of revising its strategy, which includes having a new strand of work assisting Quaker Meetings and Quaker bodies to repurpose and transform some of their little used assets into social housing with advice and financial support. It will be consulting with Local Development Workers and other Quaker bodies to help it shape this new strand of work to create maximum impact.

15 of the 52 grants (29%) have been awarded to projects in Scotland. This is partly due to structural differences in land values in Scotland being lower than in southern England and partly due to there no longer being the 'right to buy' in Scotland, as well as having stricter energy efficiency standards for newly built housing. However, only a small proportion of QHT donations and income are derived from Scotland.

Mark has challenged us on how we put our faith into action. One example Mark gave is how many Quaker homeowners gain potential wealth by the rise on property values – what are the implications of this? The paper closes with suggestions on how we might respond.

We are grateful for this opportunity to hear about QHT and thank Mark for speaking to us.

22/06/16 Hearing from GM representatives on bodies focused on social witness

General Meeting for Scotland extends its social witness through linking with organisations focused on specific issues. In preparation for this meeting we have received written reports from our representatives on the following bodies:

Faith in Community Scotland

Part of the work of Faith in Community Scotland is giving grants of up to £500 for projects, which meet their set criteria. The GM link person,

Kate Arnot, is responsible for interviewing applicants for grants then making recommendations to the trustees. Criteria for the previous round of grants related to COP26 and focused on 'Greener Spaces, Fairer Places'. The current round of grants, 'Faithful Welcome', is a partnership between Faith in Community Scotland and Scottish Faiths Action for Refugees. It is about welcoming refugees and asylum seekers and helping them integrate into community life.

Interfaith Group on Domestic Abuse (Ifgoda)

Ifgoda thanks General Meeting for Scotland for its financial and other support. The group is resuming regular meetings and activities, which were disrupted by the pandemic. They have received a substantial donation from a charity and are using it to set up new interactive work with young people. Domestic violence increased during lockdown. Faith communities are providing valuable support for those fleeing domestic abuse but some communities still uphold the concept that women and children should be submissive to the men within their household. Women are still being asked what they did to make their husbands angry.

Scottish Faiths Action for Refugees (SFAR)

The new GM link person, Lynne Barty, has provided us with notes of the co-ordinating meeting in April, which she attended. The current focus of activity for SFAR is welcoming Ukrainian refugees to Scotland and it has become part of the Third Sector Response Group in Edinburgh, which supports local authorities to manage the arrival of the refugees. SFAR has recently appointed a part-time worker to support churches across Scotland with work about the Ukrainian crisis. Several member churches raised their concern about the Nationality and Borders Bill, which would enable people to be stripped of their UK Citizenship and others to be sent to Rwanda to be processed if they arrive in the UK through an unauthorised route.

Together Scotland

General Meeting for Scotland is part of the alliance of Scottish charities that make up Together Scotland, which works to promote understanding and implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). Through Together Scotland we have been able to raise our concerns with the UK government about recruitment of 16-year olds into the military, and the part military visits to schools play in this. Together Scotland strongly supported the UNCRC (Incorporation) (Scotland) Bill passed by the Scottish Parliament a year ago and is frustrated at the delay caused by the UK Supreme Court judgement. They are pressing the Scottish Government to set a clear timeline for

the reconsideration of the Bill, to bring it within the Scottish Parliament's competence.

International Development Education Association of Scotland (IDEAS)

IDEAS supports all learners in Scotland to become engaged as global citizens and to play their part in tackling the root causes of the urgent issues in the world. Their members are actively involved in resourcing the 'Learning for Sustainability' section of the Curriculum for Excellence, through which United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 4.7 is delivered. Through Ellis Brooks from the BYM Peace Education team, we have contributed resources and thinking into the training that IDEAS are offering in response to the war in Ukraine. IDEAS have helped promote the BYM Peace at the Heart report. Andrew Tomlinson, our Scottish Quaker Parliamentary Engagement Officer is on the IDEAS Advocacy Group, which is discussing links between Global Citizenship Education and Peace Education.

Today, Richard Raggett has spoken about our work with Together Scotland and IDEAS. As an update on the work of Together Scotland, we have heard that the Scottish Government is about to bring forward the necessary amendments to UNCRC (Incorporation) (Scotland) Bill to make it possible to bring this back before the Scottish Parliament.

Richard emphasised the importance of peace education in preparing young people well, to become the adults of the future. It gives them the right to speak for themselves, and some tools to help them resolve their conflicts. Richard recommended that we watch the videos linked to 'Peace at the Heart: A relational approach to education in British Schools', which can be seen on the Quaker in Britain website by following links *Peace, Peace Education, Peace education case, building peace in schools*.

To make change happen, we need to build and work with our alliances.

We thank our representatives for the work they do on our behalf and for their written reports. We thank Richard Raggett for speaking to us today.

21/06/17 Notices and Correspondence

Geoffrey and Elisabeth Carnall Peace Award, September 21st, 2022 - the International Day of Peace

We have received an email from Heather Kiernan of Peace and Justice informing us that the recipient of this year's Carnall Peace Award is Professor Emeritus of Peace Studies at Bradford University, Paul Rogers and that the provisional title of the event is Ukraine and Global

Human Security. To mark this award, Peace & Justice have invited Yuri Sheliashenko, executive secretary of the Ukrainian Pacifist Movement and member of the Board of Directors of World BEYOND War and Alexander Belik, coordinator and lawyer from Movement of Conscientious Objectors in Russia to take part in a round table discussion with Paul Rogers. We have been asked to support this event by publicising it and by making a donation towards the costs: hiring of the Quaker Meeting House in Edinburgh and paying for the three speakers.

We support this event and agree to donate up to £500 to help with costs.

Climate Festival in Alnwick, 23-26 June

The festival has an inspiring programme and is organised by the charity *What a Wonderful World*.

Details are on the website is: <https://whataww.org/festival-june-2022>

21/06/18 Closing Minute

We record our thanks to West Scotland Area Meeting Friends for being out hosts today and for setting up the equipment that enabled this blended meeting. We also thank our Zoom host for this GM.

There being no further business to bring before General Meeting, we conclude, intending to meet next on 10th September, 2022, if nothing occurs to prevent.

Elizabeth Allen,
Clerk