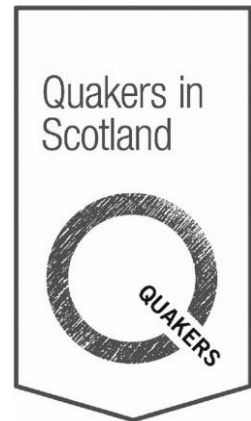


GENERAL MEETING FOR SCOTLAND

At a blended Meeting held at Glasgow Meeting House, Elmbank Crescent G2 4PS, and by video conference, on 8th June 2024



24/06/01 Opening worship

During our opening worship our assistant clerk has read the second two paragraphs of section 10.03 from *Quaker faith & practice* which gives us guidance on developing our Quaker community to enable the shared experience we experience in our meetings for worship and church affairs.

24/06/02 Welcome to all present

We welcome all Friends who are with us today, both by Zoom and in Glasgow.

The numbers of those present for all or part of the meeting were:

East Scotland AM	10 (1 in Glasgow, 9 on Zoom)
North Scotland AM	6 (0 in Glasgow, 6 on Zoom)
South East Scotland AM	18 (10 in Glasgow, 8 on Zoom)
West Scotland AM	19 (8 in Glasgow, 11 on Zoom)
Visitors	0

Total: 53, including 1 attender

We have elders with us, both in the room and online and ask them to act for us today. We ask North Scotland AM to provide Friends to act as elders for our next meeting.

24/06/03 Agenda

We adopt the agenda as circulated in advance.

24/06/04 Reporter to *The Friend* and *Scottish Friend*

We thank Kate Arnot and Alison Burnley for agreeing to report on this meeting for *The Friend* and *Scottish Friend*.

We ask West Scotland Area Meeting to provide the name of a Friend to report on our next meeting.

24/06/05 New members, transfers and deaths

From Area Meeting minutes since General Meeting held 9th March, we record the following membership changes:

NEW MEMBERS

Willow Bevington (SESAM)

Dorothy Moodie (WSAM)

DEATHS

Ian Beamish (SESAM) died 18/01/2024

Peter Christy (WSAM) died 03/05/2024

Iain Oughtred (NSAM) died 21/02/2024

TRANSFERS IN

Felicity (Poppy) Kelsall from Lincolnshire AM to SESAM

Juliet Henderson from Oxford & Swindon AM to SESAM

Susan Walton from Sussex East AM to NSAM

[NSAM = North Scotland Area Meeting; SESAM = South East Scotland Area Meeting; and WSAM = West Scotland Area Meeting]

24/06/06 Proposed dates and host meetings for GM in 2025/26

Further to minute 24/03/07, we confirm the following dates and host area meetings for 2025/26:

8th March 2025 - South East Scotland AM (already agreed)

7th June - North Scotland AM

20th September - East Scotland AM

8th November – South East Scotland AM

7th March 2026 - West Scotland AM

We ask the Area Meeting clerks, in liaison with the GM clerks, to book their local venue and ensure it is suitably equipped for a blended General Meeting.

24/06/07 Change of date for GM in September 2024

We agree to a change of date for General Meeting this September, from 14th to 21st of that month. The venue will be in Inverness, with North Scotland AM being the host.

24/06/08 Families weekend

Mary Troup, our children and young persons advocate, has spoken to us about the Families Weekend held 3rd – 5th May 2024 at the Atholl Centre in Pitlochry. Gathered to continue building our Scotland wide intergenerational

Quaker community were fifteen parents and grandparents and fourteen young people aged 4 – 15 years attended, including families from as far afield as Campbeltown and the island of Mull. The theme for the weekend was hearing, respecting and honouring children and young people's voices regarding rights, democracy and political engagement. Within the broad theme of political engagement, thoughts were centred on the issue of climate change and climate justice.

Our Family Weekends provide a valuable opportunity to be part of a community within General Meeting where all ages can have time together in a safe space to explore and discuss issues that are important to them. A full report of this event will be in the Scottish Friend.

We are grateful to Mary, the other advocates and all involved in organising the event.

We have been reminded of the Wiston weekend 13th-15th September organised by South East Scotland Area Meeting but open to all Friends in Scotland. Information has been sent to local meetings.

24/06/09 Our nominations process

Our Local Development Worker, Zoe Prosser has led us through a consideration of our nominations process. Preparatory Paper B gives us background and ideas about our approach to nominations and the use of discernment. Zoe has explained the principles that Quaker nominating groups need to keep at the heart of their work. Paper B also includes a separate section on "5 reasons why nominations is awesome". The paper is a useful reference resource for us all.

In breakout groups and subsequent plenary, we have discussed together our responses to Zoe's talk. Her suggested principles behind the nominating process are

- 1 It is rooted in Quakerism
- 2 It is rooted in our belief that everyone is equal (before God)
- 3 It is rooted in love
- 4 It is rooted in worship
- 5 It is owned by the whole meeting.

Discernment within a nominations system must be based on strong communities of faith. When we have difficulties in operating the process, in finding Friends to serve, in accepting service, in fulfilling our service, they may be telling us that there are fundamental issues within our Quaker communities that need addressing. The principles operate from our meetings being communities where we know and support each other. Nominations process is the more difficult if we do not know each other,

do not support Friends in the roles in which they serve and don't seek a common responsibility to make things work.

There are practical issues too. Are our meetings for business clear about what they are asking for in seeking Friends to serve? Is the term of service and role description clear? Is there ongoing role support, training or 'apprenticeship' available? Are we communicating with our meetings on the opportunities for service through a schedule of roles?

We are aware of the pressures on all of us that make acceptance of roles difficult and the dwindling number of Friends available. The nominations process can become a burden to those involved, and this too is a warning sign that we need to heed. We can get things wrong. A measure for a successful nominations process is when it becomes a joy, in matching Friends to roles that can develop and show Friends their potential, in building the collective experience and development of all. Service is part of our spiritual journey.

It may be timely to bring together Area Meetings and General Meeting nominations committees to see if there are ways for mutual support and the sharing of experience and need. We ask the clerks, in combination with Zoe, to make arrangements. We are reminded that nominations is a responsibility of us all.

Afternoon

24/06/10 Appointments and Nominations Report

There have been no appointments made by between-meetings procedure since our last meeting.

Nominations Committee has brought us the following nominations:

NORTHERN FRIENDS YOUTH EVENTS CHARITABLE TRUST (Trustees)
Genevieve Orr – to serve for a third triennium from 1st January 2025 until 31st December 2027.

PARLIAMENTARY ENGAGEMENT WORKING GROUP

Richard Raggett - to serve as Joint Conveyor for one more year from from 1st January 2025 until 31st December 2025.

Carolyn Burch - to serve as Joint Conveyor for one more year from 1st January 2025 until 31st December 2025.

Tanya Jones – to serve for a second triennium from 1st January 2025 until 31st December 2027.

Carol Jennings – to serve for a second triennium from 1st January 2025 until 31st December 2027.

We appoint our Friends named accordingly.

Outstanding Nominations

The following Nominations have been outstanding for a number of months and Nominations are struggling. Nominations Committee would really appreciate the help and support of General Meeting with the roles below:

GMS TRUSTEES

There are still no trustees serving from SESAM and ESAM. We want to highlight this as these roles have not been filled for many months now.

MEETING FOR SUFFERINGS REPRESENTATIVE AND ALTERNATE

Ann Kerr is willing to be the Alternate if we can find a representative, but the Representative role still needs to be found.

Nominations Committee would really appreciate friends to approach us with thoughts, questions or support to fill outstanding roles. It will also be seeking to find a GM clerk and assistant clerk in the near future, which are significant roles.

Members of Nominations Committee are:

Anna Mitchell – Clerk

Clive Potter – NSAM

Jill Marshall – ESAM

Margaret Roy – WSAM

Alison Chalmers - SESAM

We thank members of our Nominations Committee for this report and their service.

24/06/11 Trustees Annual Report & Accounts for 2023

Robin Waterston, clerk of General Meeting Trustee, has introduced the Trustees Annual Report and Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2023. The report and examined accounts, with the list of donations and affiliations were circulated with our papers as Papers A1, A2 and A3, and these will be filed with our minutes. These documents have been approved by Trustees and are before us for information.

Income during the year was £31,285.44 and expenditure £35,687.65, with a resulting deficit of -£4,402.21. The deficit was planned, in order to use up reserves.

We thank our trustees and treasurer for their work on our behalf.

24/06/12 Quakers in Scotland Co-ordinating Group

Further to minute 24/04/06, we have had a brief update on the work of the Quakers in Scotland Co-ordinating Group from Martin Pippard. The Group has produced a

summary of the consultation responses for meeting held earlier in the year. It is also looking at how the transition to a single body might work. The Community Sub-Group has sent out a consultation document for Meetings, Quaker groups and individual Friends to respond to on how Local Meetings and other groups of Quakers throughout Scotland see themselves relating to the wider Quaker world, and what they require of Quaker structures to support them. We encourage meetings and individual Friends to respond by the end of this month.

We expect to spend more time on the Quakers in Scotland proposals in September.

24/06/13 Meeting for Sufferings report

We receive the Meeting for Sufferings report (Paper C) from our representative, Ann Kerr, who has spoken to the meeting held 2nd March. Full accounts are given in *The Friend* of 8th March and minutes and papers may be referred to on Britain Yearly Meeting website.

Ann picked out two main matters taken at the meeting, the report of BYM Trustees and the proposals for changes to the BYM governance structures. The latter includes Meeting for Sufferings and Yearly Meeting forming a 'continuing Yearly Meeting that meets four times year'.

We thank Ann for her report.

24/06/14 Minute from North Scotland AM on Ecocide (Paper D)

Further to minute 24/03/18, the clerk wrote, as requested, to Oliver Robertson, General Secretary of Quaker Peace and Social Witness, for advice on signing the Ecocide Manifesto and he has replied:

"In answer to the wider question, then we don't think that meetings signing this will negatively affect other work. This isn't an area where there's others things we are doing that directly oppose it, and QUNO [Quaker United Nations Office] would be okay with it (they don't campaign but are happy for other Quakers to)."

Some Friends had previously raised concerns that signing the manifesto might have negative consequences on other Quaker work. Oliver Robinson's reply indicates there are no drawbacks to General Meeting for Scotland signing the manifesto. Paper D includes the manifesto.

We have been made aware that when difficulties are raised over matters of deep concern like this that we need to remain aware of the fundamental principles behind them. We also are aware that the signing is only the first step in maintaining the work required by doing so.

We agree to sign the manifesto and ask the clerk to do so.

24/06/15 Racial justice

Further to minute 23/09/19, we have returned to the receipt of the West Scotland AM minute on Racial Justice (Paper E). Consideration of this minute has had to be postponed since September owing to lack of agenda time. We are grateful to West Scotland Friends for their work on this matter. We are aware of how important the issue is for us, and how West Scotland Friends have felt stuck on taking matters forward.

We see opportunity for a special event on this topic to open up the issue for us. Two areas have been mentioned in particular: building anti-racist communities and our role in that; and following and supporting the work Britain Yearly Meeting is undertaking on reparations.

We note the list of questions in the WSAM minutes and it has been pointed out that 5 (Support refugees in our country and publicise ways that Friends can get involved, e.g. ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) and work with Refuweege.) is something Friends could work on locally now. All of us have responsibilities to work on what is making us stuck. Links have also been seen to the work on climate justice and with children and young people.

Woodbrooke is running two relevant courses on 18th July and 12th August on Reparations: Faiths for Climate Reparations - Woodbrooke, and in September Racial Justice Dialogues: Implementing Anti-Racism in Meetings - Woodbrooke on Saturday 21st September and Saturday 18th January – the link is <https://www.woodbrooke.org.uk/courses/racial-justice-dialogues-implementing-anti-racism-in-meetings/>

We encourage Friends to attend.

We will come back to what we do next in September.

24/06/16 Update on the Scottish Christian Forum and ACTS

Minute 23/11/16 refers. For some time representatives of the various Christian denominations in Scotland have been working to establish a replacement for ACTS [Action of Churches Together in Scotland]. The idea is to have broader, low key and informal structure for ecumenism. We have been asked to endorse the new proposal for the Scottish Christian Forum as an umbrella body (non-charitable) for the existing bodies of the Scottish Church Leaders Forum and the Ecumenical Officers Forum, in which we already participate (Paper F). We also have, presently on the General Meeting website, the associated paper “Scottish Christian Forum (Nature, Purposes & Aims) January 2024”. Since the agenda was circulated, it has become apparent that matters are not ready for us to consider the papers, and we will return to consider how we fit into the new instruments at a future meeting.

24/06/17 Parliamentary Engagement Working Group report

We receive the Parliamentary Engagement Working Group (PEWG) Report to General Meeting June 2024 (Paper G1), and Carolyn Burch has spoken to it briefly and updated us on current activity. From a context where the national and world situation can be dispiriting, Carolyn has emphasised the positive work that PEWG with the Parliamentary Engagement Officer, Sarah Komashko, can promote.

A Climate and health event at the Scottish Parliament by Quakers and MedAct aimed to inspire MSPs with a clear demonstration that the right climate policies bring the bonus of great benefits for human health. This built on a Time for Reflection given in the Scottish Parliament by Tweeddale Friend Lesley Morrison in April 2023, *Are we being good ancestors?*. “Lesley’s dynamism was a keynote for the event; she had recruited an excellent panel of speakers, and chaired with aplomb:

- Martin Pippard, a Friend from Dundee and a doctor, who spoke on the links between climate and respiratory disease
- Pete Ritchie, executive director of Nourish Scotland who spoke about the impact of our food and farming choices on health and climate
- Bridget Bradley, a social anthropology lecturer from the University of St Andrews, who is currently researching eco-anxiety
- Isabelle, a school student who spoke about the impact that the climate crisis is having on her mental health and how activism is her antidote

Health Minister Maree Todd took an active part in the evening, having clearly read her brief and joining in with the Q+A; in the following weeks Sarah Komashko and Lesley have had a series of useful meetings with MSPs of different parties on the back of the event and the associated resource pack. This was a thoroughly heartening example of PEO supporting Quaker talent from among Scottish Friends to pull off an impactful evening.

The PEWG meeting on 7th May, in the context of a new First Minister and a minority government, gave opportunity “to remind ourselves about the fundamentals of how we do what we do”. Sarah had worked recently with Grace Da Costa of BYM to rework the ‘strategy’ document that is effectively her - and our - workplan. This document is very practically useful for planning PEWG work, “but it’s more than that. We started our meeting with a reading from the introduction to the plan, under the heading ‘The way we do it’. *Working with truth and integrity, and listening as well as asking, are foundation stones of our work. Rooted in the Quaker testimonies, our role is “drawing spirituality out into the political world, to testify to that of God in the community and environment around us. We can get very busy with the details of our work and it was refreshing to come back to these fundamentals. In the conversation we had about what this means in our approach to our work with parliamentarians and with allies we were reminded too of what great people we work with in the group. At a time which could have been somewhat depressing in Scottish politics I think we all came away from the meeting feeling re-energised.”*

In the context of the Land Reform (Scotland) Bill, Sarah Komashko has been working with PEWG member Ed Tyler and recent PEWG member Martin Mansell but also with Friends Alastair McIntosh, Duncan Wallace, Piers Voysey, Justin Kenrick and Alastair Cameron, who have formed an informal 'advisory group' on land reform matters, back in 2022 and again now on this response to the Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee's Call for Views on the Bill. The response will be posted on the GMS website.

As a further update to the written report, Friends in Scotland were circulated on our Parliamentary Engagement Officer's work, with Christian Aid, towards the Scottish Government establishing a Scottish Peace Platform. The Scottish Government's International Development Team is seeking to commission a 3-year, £400,000 annual grant programme to establish a Scottish Peace Platform and support 1325 Women in Conflict Fellowships. The Peace Platform will coordinate, connect, and amplify Scotland's diverse peacebuilding stakeholders and initiatives. The Women in Conflict Fellowships will provide training, capacity strengthening, and networking opportunities for women peacebuilders from conflict-affected regions.

We also note that Mark Bitel of Central Edinburgh Meeting gave his Time for Reflection in the Parliament, on the topic of Truth & Integrity (it can be seen on the GM website).

PEWG is to hold a meeting with Scottish Enterprise to discuss their ethical criteria for funding going to companies, specifically arms companies.

The UK General Election has been called for 4th July. Britain Yearly Meeting website (<https://www.quaker.org.uk/our-work/politicalengagement/general-election-2024>) has a wide range of resources and advice for Friends to tap into.

It is not always easy to find Friends to serve on PEWG, and we suggest to our Nominations Committee that as long as each Area Meeting is represented on it, having two Friends from each is not essential.

We are very grateful for all Friends and others who have contributed to the inspiring work of the PEWG, and also for all the work that Sarah has contributed. We thank Carolyn and the other members of the working group for their service.

24/06/18 Other social witness reports

We receive other reports (Paper G2) on our social witness work as follows. We heard for the Scottish Quaker Community Justice Working Group in March.

[International Development Education Association of Scotland \(IDEAS\)](#)

Richard Raggett has briefed us on work with IDEAS, which is a network of organisations and individuals across Scotland involved in Global Citizenship Education. GM Scotland joined the network in 2021 at the request of the Quaker Peace & Social Witness Peace Education team (Isabel Cartwright and Ellis Brooks), as it is an organisation directly aligned to QPSW's work promoting Peace Education. Ellis acts as our main link and representative with IDEAS.

The "strapline" of IDEAS is "Global Citizenship in the curriculum". This subject is embedded within Scotland's Curriculum for Excellence, as a part of the 'Learning for Sustainability' framework. IDEAS members collaborate on advocacy to influence the Scottish Government on themes related to global citizenship, notably the Learning for Sustainability Strategy, which in theory encompasses all the Sustainable Development Goals. Since last year's report a significant piece of work with IDEAS was the *Peace at the Heart* exhibition and accompanying videos online. The exhibition was at the Scottish Parliament in September 2023; and was shown by local meetings around Scotland. Moreover, on World Peace Day, 21st September 2023, led by Mary Troup, Oakgrove Primary School (Glasgow), performed "Wangari's Trees for Peace" in the Parliament for MSPs. In 2024, IDEAS is exploring the possibility of a resource on Wangari's Trees of Peace based on the Oakgrove experience.

Peace education collaborations with individual Development Education Centres included online training delivered by Quakers on interpersonal peace and conflict resolution, delivered with Highland One World, and sessions on teaching Palestine & Israel with One World Centre (Dundee) and WOSDEC (Glasgow), reaching over 100 Scottish teachers. WOSDEC also contributed a lesson entitled "When Mandela danced in the Square" to the resource *Teach Peace Secondary*, produced by Quakers in Britain on behalf of the Peace Education Network. There is also good practice Quakers can draw on, including on the theme of antiracist education.

Together (Scottish Alliance for Children's Rights)

Richard Raggett has also briefed us on Together, which is an alliance of Scottish children's charities that works to improve the awareness, understanding and implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). Historically, Quaker interests have aligned in respect of military visits to schools. During the public consultation on a petition presented by Quakers in Scotland (QiS) and Forces Watch to the Scottish Parliament in 2017, Together's response was highly supportive of our call for greater scrutiny, guidance and consultation over military visits to schools, and GM Scotland joined the alliance in 2019.

Since then we have supported their championing of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), which includes requirements that all learners get the knowledge and skills needed to promote peace, equality and respect for the

environment. Quakers have been following and promoting the work of Together this year to bring the UNCRC Bill into force, despite the obstacle posed by devolution issues raised, and the diminishment of the scope of the legislation. The membership of Together is now strongly weighted towards service providers/educators and much of the implementation discussion has moved away from areas in which PEWG can usefully contribute. After liaison with Madeleine Harding and Mary Troup (our Children and Young Persons Advocate Support), it is recommended that PEWG steps away from attending regular meetings with Together and submitting annual reports on Together to General Meeting; but that PEWG maintains a watching brief on their advocacy work in case there are good shared advocacy opportunities in future. We agree to this.

We thank Ellis Brooks, Carol Jennings and other PEWG Friends involved in this work.

Scottish Faiths Action for Refugees (SFAR) work in 2023-2024.

Lynne Barty, our representative on SFAR, has sent us a report updating us on the activity and engagement of the group. Much has been focussed on the consequences of the UK Illegal Migration Act (IMA) becoming law in July 2023, despite much opposition from SFAR. The report gives us a helpful, if depressing, analysis of the effects of this Act. The Home Office can now deport anyone who enters the UK in an irregular manner, regardless of their reasons for coming here. These individuals can be deported back to their home country or to a 'safe third country'. However, although the IMA is now enshrined in law, the majority of it, including key sections relating to removal, detention, disapplication of modern slavery provisions, age assessments, and unaccompanied children, have not yet been implemented, and the report gives the background to this situation. Meanwhile the crisis of the asylum system continues: the backlog is estimated to be around 140,000 cases, the number of people having their asylum cases heard within six months has slowed and most people face a waiting time of between two and three years.

There are estimated to be over 5,000 asylum seekers in Scotland; these people, previously housed in flats, are mostly now living in hotel accommodation due to the chronic shortage of housing. SFAR reports that there are seventeen hotels being used for asylum seekers across Scotland. They vary greatly in how they are managed and in the quality of the accommodation. SFAR is engaging with local faith communities around the hotels to provide information and support, facilitating connections with pre-existing projects and the establishment of new ones. It has been observed that some hotels are more receptive to these initiatives than others, even within the same city.

In 2023 the Scottish Government agreed to put aside £2 million from this year's budget to provide free bus travel for asylum seekers accommodated here. The

Scottish Religious Leaders Forum statement played an important role in influencing this campaign. The scheme, not yet implemented, would certainly improve asylum seekers' lives, allowing them to visit places of worship and to access free English classes, for example. Transport Scotland have set up a Working Group with a view to *possibly* starting the scheme this autumn. The amount of free travel will be £8.00 per person per week but this may be reduced after the initial pilot stage.

The Scottish Government's New Scots Refugee Integration Strategy (sometimes referred to as "New Scots 3") was published in March 2024. The Co-ordinator of SFAR contacted the Refugee Unit of the Scottish Government to discuss the strategy last year, the goal being to have the inclusion of faith integration, the encouragement of faith sensitivity and the creation of funding accessible to faith communities.

Sarah Komashko, Parliamentary Engagement Office, recently forwarded a letter from Shirley-Anne Sommerville, MSP, Secretary for Social Justice to James Cleverly, Home Secretary, objecting to recent immigration enforcement operations in Scotland: Immigration enforcement: Letter from Social Justice Secretary to Home Secretary - gov.scot (www.gov.scot) She has not yet received a reply.

Carolyn Burch, Forres Meeting, asks if there is a group of Friends who might jointly write to Shirley-Anne Somerville to thank her and express our support? She has offered to draft a short letter for sympathetic Friends to sign. Please contact her or Lynn Barty if you would like to add your name.

The Refugee Festival Scotland runs from 14th – 21st June with many varied activities happening across the country and it would be helpful to learn of any Quaker involvement.

24/06/19 Reports from other Yearly Meetings

We have been pleased to hear verbal reports from Buša Cochrane-Muir, who represented us at Central European Yearly Meeting held 16th -19th May in Budapest, and Mary Woodward, who represented Britain Yearly Meeting at Finland YM held 3rd - 5th May in Helsinki. They have given us a flavour of those events and the context in which they operate. We are glad that our Friends are building strong relationships with Friends in other YMs. Reports will appear in the Scottish Friend.

23/09/20 Local Development Worker – priorities for 2025

Our Local Development Worker (LDW) for Scotland, Zoe Prosser, works annually with her Britain Yearly Meeting line manager and ourselves to determine her priorities for the coming year. In 2023, General Meeting endorsed a mechanism for Friends in Scotland to contribute to this process.

The Area and Local Meetings in Scotland and Scottish Friends are invited, therefore, to submit suggestions by the end of September, for the priorities of the Local Development Worker's work in Scotland for the following year.

Suggestions will be passed to the LDW for sorting and if necessary, distilling, in preparation for a meeting to select the suggestions to be brought to General Meeting. In mid-October GM Committee, the four Scottish AM clerks, the LDW, and the LDW's line-manager will consider the suggested priorities and select those to bring to General Meeting in November. These suggested priorities will then be put before Friends for their consideration and agreement.

The current priorities agreed by this process last year are:

1. Expanding role-holder networks
2. Supporting Quaker community building - locally, for families, and for everyone
3. Pointing the way to information about available resources and materials, including videos and non-traditional resources, to help Quaker Meetings and role-holders identify what they need.
4. Supporting the Quakers in Scotland Co-ordinating Group to work for change. Friends and Meetings are now invited to consider what help from Zoe do Quaker communities in Scotland require over the next year.

Suggestions may come to us through minutes, messages or emails. General Meeting on 21st September will hear from Zoe on what she has done and what she sees coming ahead which should help the process.

24/06/21 Signing public statements

General Meeting for Scotland is asked frequently to join others in signing statements, petitions, form coalitions for public action and endorse other action. Usually there is an immediate deadline which rarely fits in with business meetings. Paper I (Guidance on public support for public actions, statements, campaigns or coalitions) is presented as a summary of the process and criteria for clerks to use in making such decisions. Where support is given, it would be recorded at a future General Meeting unless responsibility is delegated by minute or through terms of reference to working groups or committees. We adopt the guidance paper and will return to it for discussion of some of the implications for us at a future meeting.

24/06/22 YM Agenda Committee

Every year, the clerk of General Meeting for Scotland is invited to join Yearly Meeting Agenda Committee in September to reflect on what issues and situations are moving amongst Scottish Friends that could usefully be brought to Yearly Meeting the following year. The clerk writes a letter in advance of this meeting, and last year's letter was circulated as Paper J.

Friends are invited to send ideas for Yearly Meeting 2025 to the clerk before the end of this month.

24/06/23 Correspondence and other business

a) Religious Leaders' Statement on Action to tackle Climate Change in Scotland

On 25th April, the clerk signed a statement from the Moderator of the Church of Scotland, drafted in discussion with Christian Aid, about the need to work together and recommit to action on meeting Scotland's carbon reduction targets.

b) Public statement about a proposed new gas power station in Peterhead

The clerk, on 27th April, signed a public statement to the Scottish Government, drafted by Friends of the Earth Scotland, against a proposed new gas power station in Peterhead. Stop Climate Chaos Scotland and Britain Yearly Meeting gave guidance on this issue.

c) Joint letter on the Wellbeing and Sustainable Development Bill

The clerk, on 29th May, signed a joint letter to the Scottish Government, drafted by the Wellbeing Economy Alliance Scotland, supporting the Wellbeing and Sustainable Development Bill at Holyrood.

d) Land Reform Bill

The clerk, on 29th May, signed a letter to the Scottish Government (via the Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands, Mairi Gougeon MSP) on the potential for the Land Reform Bill to bring transformational change across a wide range of policy areas. A broad coalition of organisations and individuals also signed.

e) Crisis meeting on action to curb global warming

The assistant clerk, representing Quakers in Scotland, attended a crisis meeting in Edinburgh on 9th May, joining the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, Sally Foster-Fulton with representatives from several faiths, including Presbyterians, Catholics, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jews, Muslims and Hindus, as well as academics, activists, conservationists and aid workers. The aim was to re-state the needs of the planet in the light of recent Scottish government changes in meeting climate targets. The event, which brought wide publicity, was the public launch of the statement from the Religious leaders as well as those from Scientists and Civil Society. A film of the event including interviews with participants is being made.

24/06/24 Upcoming business

On 21st September we expect to return to the proposals for a single Quaker charity/body (Quakers in Scotland), particularly on ways local meetings might work together under any new arrangements. We will hear updates on our work with children and on climate justice, as well as taking regular agenda items.

24/06/25 Concluding Minute

We record our thanks to West Scotland Area Meeting Friends for being our hosts today, for all the arrangements for our venue in Glasgow and their hospitality that enabled this blended meeting. We also thank our Zoom host, Amer Syed, and our Administrator, Jane Booth for their contributions to this General Meeting.

There being no further business to bring before General Meeting, we conclude, intending to meet next in Inverness and online on 21st September 2024, if nothing occurs to prevent.

Michael J. Hutchinson,
Clerk

Susan Mitchell,
Assistant Clerk