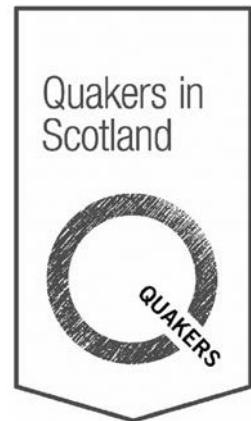


GENERAL MEETING FOR SCOTLAND
At a Meeting held by video-conference on 30th
November 2024



24/11/21 Opening worship

During our opening worship our assistant clerk read from our minute 23/03/19 (Time for reflection: sustaining our Meetings and ourselves), reminding us that can be communities of transformation.

24/11/22 Welcome to all present

We welcome all Friends who are with us today for this special meeting.

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

East Scotland AM	9
North Scotland AM	13
South East Scotland AM	32
West Scotland AM	25
Visitors	1
Total: 80 , including 4 attenders	

We have elders with us and ask them to act for us today.

24/11/23 Correction

The circulated minutes of our Meeting held 9th November 2024 contained a drafting error. The minute in the first line referred to “a brief update from Jane Mitchell”. Jane had been suggested as the Friend to give this update but did not in fact do so, although her name was not removed from the draft. The words referring to Jane were not read out in the meeting. The drafting error will be corrected in the minutes to be archived.

24/11/24 Agenda

We adopt the agenda as amended.

24/11/25 Appointments and Nominations Committee report

Nominations Committee has brought us the following nominations:

GENERAL MEETING TRUSTEE

Neil Turner (SE Scotland AM) to serve 01 01 2025 to 31 12 2027.

PARLIAMENTARY ENGAGEMENT WORKING GROUP

Gareth Rae (SE Scotland AM) to serve 01 01 2025 to 31 12 2027.

We appoint our Friends named accordingly.

Foundation Trustee appointments to the Quakers in Scotland SCIO are found in minute 24/11/26.

24/11/26 Quakers in Scotland: proposals for a single Quaker body

Further to minute 24/11/07, we meet today to review guidance from Area Meetings in response to the Quakers in Scotland Co-ordinating Group (QiSCG) Community Subgroup paper *Possible patterns of relationship between meetings of Scottish Friends*. Minute 24/06/12 also refers. Area Meetings were asked to show preference on possible patterns of relationship between meetings of Scottish Friends, with the options listed as:

1. Maintaining the status quo.
2. The "Welsh model"- keeping AMs as they are within a single charity.
3. No intermediate level between local meetings and a Scotland-wide body.
4. A single area meeting for Scotland with flexible and simpler intermediate levels.

Members of the Quakers in Scotland Co-ordinating Group and its Community Sub-Group who are present, have reminded us who they are by introducing themselves.

We receive minutes and notification as follows:

096/24 (Quakers in Scotland) of West Scotland Area Meeting held 5th October 2024, together with a letter from the clerk dated 25th November 2024 giving a nomination sent through between-meeting procedure;

49/24 (Quakers in Scotland - Alternative ways of working) and 52/24 (Nominations) of North Scotland Area Quaker Meeting held 19th October 2024;

24.11.05 (Nominations) and 24.11.07 (Quakers in Scotland Coordinating Group) of East Scotland Area Meeting held 23rd November 2024;

2024/11/07 (Quakers in Scotland – possible models for the future) and 2024/11/09 (Appointments - in part) of South East Scotland Area Meeting held 23rd November 2024;

East Scotland AM and North Scotland AM endorse option 4, and West Scotland AM suggests that route also. South East Scotland AM has not been able to consider as a meeting the possible models presented, though expects to do so early in the New Year.

From the responses and previous decision, it is clear that options 1 and 3 are not acceptable.

We receive the following nominations of Friends to serve as Foundation Trustees for the Quakers in Scotland Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO):

From East Scotland AM: Adwoa Burnley

From North Scotland AM: Brian Ashley

From South East Scotland AM David Somervell and Elizabeth Allen

From West Scotland AM: Chris Holmes

We appoint our Friends accordingly, to serve from appointment to the end of 2025. These appointments allow the registration of the new charity to go forward. We will review appointments as the situation develops and will aim to have staggered starting points for service as the Trustee body begins to take responsibility.

To help our perspective, Kate Gulliver of the Co-ordinating Group has taken us through a presentation “Quakers in Scotland: Where have we got to and what happens next”. We agreed to record this for reference and to post it on the GM website. The presentation went back to the initial concern as raised in 2015 and how it has progressed until today. ‘Form’ (Quaker structures) depends on ‘function’ (what we need as worshipping communities).

The suggestion is that, once the SCIO is registered, General Meeting for Scotland will be the first to transfer its assets and become ‘Quakers in Scotland’. The four Area Meetings and the Dundee Friends Property Trust will then decide, in due time, whether to make similar transitions.

Lesley Richards, convenor of the Quakers in Scotland Co-ordinating Group, has made a presentation comparing options 2 and 4. She described the ‘Welsh model’, where four area meetings and Crynwyr Cymru - Quakers in Wales are forming a single charity for Wales and part of the English Marches, Lesley compared this model, as shown in option 2 where area meetings are retained, with the ‘intermediate model’ (4). The latter is less precise but more flexible, in that groups of local meetings can work together in various ways.

It is clear that, as we move towards a ‘Quakers in Scotland’, that there is much more to do in establishing how we work together as Meetings, in whichever structural model we end up. The Co-ordinating Group can help us by working further on the

distinctions between options 2 and 4. We will return to the details into next year. We have heard that the Co-ordinating Group will be continuing consultation with the Recording Clerk.

We are reminded that our spiritual life and processes, the basis of our being as a Religious Society, continue the same. The structural change aims to strengthen these. Our meetings for worship, including those for business, rely on our trusting of the leadings of the Spirit. We all have work to do in coming together in our worshipping communities to become familiar with the information we have on becoming Quakers in Scotland and in identifying issues to take further.

We thank Area Meetings and our Co-ordinating Group for their timely working for us all.

Michael J. Hutchinson,
Clerk

Susan Mitchell,
Assistant Clerk