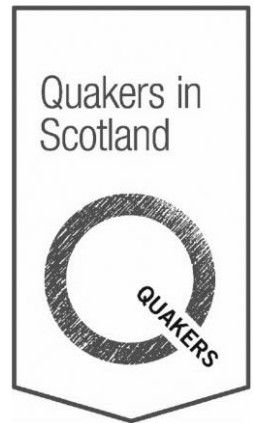


# GENERAL MEETING FOR SCOTLAND

19<sup>th</sup> November, 2022

A blended meeting held in Aberdeen at the Quaker Meeting House, 98 Crown Street, and by Zoom



## 22/11/01 Worship

We have spent time together in worship, during which we heard read *Quaker faith and practice 10.27*, which reminds us that when we work together in God's honour, we serve in different ways and we should respect one another's gifts and contributions.

## 22/11/02 Welcome to all present

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

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

East Scotland	9 (1 in person, 8 on Zoom)
South East Scotland	10 (1 in person, 9 on Zoom)
North Scotland	13 (9 in person, 4 on Zoom)
West Scotland	14 (1 in person, 13 on Zoom)

**Total: 46**, including 3 attenders

## 22/11/03 Elders for this meeting

We are grateful to Nigel Dower and Lesley Reynolds who have offered 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.

## 22/11/04 Reporter for this Meeting

We appoint Kate Arnot from South East Scotland Area Meeting to report on this meeting to *The Friend* and the *Scottish Friend*. We ask North Scotland Area Meeting to report on GM on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2023.

## **22/11/05 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:

To serve from date of appointment until the task is complete,  
GM Working Group to go through Gerald Richards' bequeathed books  
(see GM minute 22/09/15)

Ruth Bacon, Milngavie LM

Margaret Roy, Glasgow LM

Nick Trevor, Glasgow LM

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

Elizabeth Allen, Clerk

Michael Hutchinson, Assistant Clerk

Adwoa Burnley, Assistant Clerk

3<sup>rd</sup> October 2022

## **22/11/06 New members, transfers and deaths**

From Area Meeting minutes since General Meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> September, we record the following:

### TRANSFER OF MEMBERSHIP – IN

June Bradley from Northumbria AM to SESAM

Martin McCaffery from ESAM to SESAM

Becky Riddell from Oxford & Swindon AM to SESAM

Heather Simpson from Hampshire & Islands AM to NSAM

Skye Simpson from Hampshire & Islands AM to NSAM

David Goodban from Devon AM to NSAM

### TRANSFER OF MEMBERSHIP - OUT

Ailish Carroll-Brentnall from NSAM to North Wales AM

Jennifer Wilson from SESAM to Notts & Derby AM

### NEW MEMBERS

Bel Ingham (SESAM)

Joyce Guthrie (SESAM)

Sarah Stuart (SESAM)

Bruce Stuart (SESAM)  
Peggy Minshaw (WSAM)  
Laura McMurtie (WSAM)

## DEATHS

Katie Bishop (SESAM) on October 4th 2022  
Christopher Speirs (SESAM) on October 19th 2022  
Ann Millar (NSAM) on October 23rd 2022  
Peter Arter (SESAM) on October 25th 2022  
Claire Winchester (NSAM) on October 27th 2022

## RESIGNATION OF MEMBERSHIP

Chloe Greenwood (NSAM)  
Jean Rutherford (SESAM)  
Maureen Anderson (WSAM)  
Margaret Gray (WSAM)

## **22/11/07 GM Budget 2023**

Our Treasurer, Nigel Dower, has presented the GM budget for 2023, which was approved by GM Trustees at their meeting on 18th October 2022. The budget projects an income of £30,600.00, and expenditure of £33,795.00\*, giving a projected deficit of £3,195.00\*. As can be seen in the projected year-end for 2022, the General Meeting currently has surplus funds and hence we are aiming to reduce these.

We note that there is no longer a formal agreement between GM and Britain Yearly Meeting to fund the Parliamentary Engagement Officer post, since BYM wants to move to a new funding model for the post (and other work) by directly increased contributions of Friends in Scotland. It was agreed at a meeting of Treasurers with BYM staff that, as part of Scottish Friends' support for BYM work, in particular the work of the PEO and the Local Development Worker, GM would still pay BYM £10,000 with £6000 of this coming from AMs and the rest from GM funds. We are to receive a grant of £8,000 from BYM towards the administrative costs of the General Meeting and hope to receive £1,400 from the Camfield Trust.

We have also received the list of donations and affiliations for 2023. We agree to continue our support for the organisations on the list, including the new one for this year, IDEAS (International Development Education Association of Scotland), which is a network of organisations and individuals across Scotland involved in Global Citizenship Education.

*\* Adjusted figures to include £300 donated to SFAR, as agreed during the meeting and recorded later in this minute*

We agree to give a grant of £300 in 2023 to Scottish Faiths Action for Refugees (and also £300 for this year). This necessitates adjusting the figures in our budget paper accordingly.

We accept the budget, a copy of which will be attached to the minutes of this meeting.

We thank Nigel for his work as our treasurer over the last six years.

### **22/11/08 Appointment of Independent Examiner**

On the recommendation of GM Trustees, we appoint Gordon Mackay to act as Independent Examiner for the 2022 accounts.

### **22/11/09 Priorities for the Parliamentary Engagement Work from 2023 to 2025**

We have received a briefing paper to help us consider the future priorities for our parliamentary engagement work, circulated as Paper A. The co-convenor of the group, Richard Raggett, has spoken to this paper.

Through our parliamentary engagement work, we seek to influence the Scottish Government and Parliament on matters of concern to Quakers in Scotland. The current work of the Parliamentary Engagement Working Group (PEWG) and the Parliamentary Engagement Officer (PEO) is broadly focused on three areas of concern: peace and peacebuilding; the climate emergency; economic justice and land reform. At each General Meeting, we are updated on this work.

It is now time to review the parliamentary engagement work priorities. In preparation, the PEO met with the four Area Meetings in Scotland and to ensure future work is in harmony with BYM advocacy at Westminster, he and the convenors of the PEWG had conversations with relevant BYM staff. Drawing on the conversations and consultations, and keeping in mind the value of building on the current parliamentary engagement work and staying the course, the PEWG has offered the following recommendations for future priorities for the work:

#### **Peacebuilding**

- Promotion of Peace Education in Scottish schools
- Influencing involvement of Scotland's Peace Institute
- Pressing for enhanced controls over Scottish funding of arms manufacturers

## **Climate Justice**

- Advocacy via Stop Climate Chaos Scotland (SCCS) Support of work on Climate Justice and specifically the Loss and Damage Fund and reparations
- Sustainability and equality aspects of the government's Heat in Buildings strategy and the Just Transition Fund

## **Economic Justice**

- Climate Justice – the Loss & Damage Fund – as above
- Fuel poverty (Heat in Buildings strategy)
- Land reform – addressing a new Land Reform Bill (if capacity and knowledge becomes available)

## **Other Areas**

- Working in a spirit of mutual support with:
  - The Scottish Quaker Community Justice Working Group
  - Other Quaker bodies (e.g. Quaker Housing Trust, Quaker Truth and Integrity Group, Northern Friends Peace Board)
  - Any emerging Scottish Quaker Special Interest Groups on issues that arise with strong advocacy leadings
- Engaging with any new Scottish Human Rights Bill; following through via Together Scotland the incorporation into Scots Law of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)

We are happy to accept these proposed priorities for the parliamentary engagement work, for the next three years.

We encourage Friends with an interest in an issue not included in PEWG priorities to consider following the emerging model of small groups of Friends working together on their specific concern, and asking for PEWG help when they wish to take up an opportunity for advocacy.

We are grateful to the PEWG and PEO for the advocacy work they do on our behalf and they enable us to do. We thank them for preparing the briefing paper and Richard for presenting it today.

## **22/11/10 Meeting for Sufferings report**

Ann Kerr has provided us with a written report of Meeting for Sufferings (MfS) held on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2022, which was circulated in advance of this meeting as Paper B. She has spoken to us today, highlighting the following:

- How very well received the verbal report was from our GM clerk, in which Elizabeth Allen updated MfS on all goings-on in Scotland, especially how effective our PEWG Group is.

- An item on a Report encouraging MfS to encourage Central Nominations to be able to approach Friends not in membership to be appointed to Central Committees.
- A report from the Sustainability Group. We are strongly encouraged to search for this report as Ann says there are a number of items in it that are really useful.

By giving agenda items a brief mention here, we hope Friends will be encouraged to follow what is happening at MfS via the BYM website, or with direct contact with their AM or GM MfS representative.

MfS will be dealing with various reviews and constitutional items over the next year or so, looking at our structure, our Book of Discipline, and the journey to simplification that we are on. We hope Friends will be able to keep up to date with the proposals from these groups as they appear. Watch out for preparation sessions leading up to YM.

We give thanks for our BYM staff working on our behalf to enable this work and we can consider both prayerful and financial support for this.

We thank Ann for her report. Friends wishing further information on Meeting for Sufferings are referred to the BYM website: (<https://www.quaker.org.uk/our-organisation/meeting-for-sufferings/papers-and-minutes>)

## **22/11/11 Invitation to join an ecumenical initiative encouraging reflection on Scotland's Constitutional Future**

The Church of Scotland has invited Quakers in Scotland to join an ecumenical project on Christian reflections on Scotland's constitutional future, for which they have been given funding and will act as lead. The concept is to run a series of events, which provide safe spaces for people to have informed and respectful dialogue on this issue. A briefing paper giving an outline of this project was circulated in advance.

To help with our discernment, we were asked to consider:

- Should Quakers in Scotland take part in this project?
- If so, shall we ask GM nominations committee to bring forward the name of a representative for the Project Board?
- What skills and experience might we bring to the project?
- Might we wish to help deliver one or more events? If so, might you be willing to help with practical arrangements for a Quaker facilitated event?

We have discussed this request and agree to take part. We ask our GM nominations committee to bring forward the name of a Friend to serve

on the Project Board and for the appointment to be made by between-meetings procedure. We are keen to widen participation in this project to include other faiths, and any events we offer for the programme will have an interfaith dimension.

### **22/11/12 Nominations business**

See minute 22/11/05 for appointments made by between-meetings procedure.

We are grateful for the work of our GM nominations committee. They have brought us the following names:

To serve from January 2023 to the end of December 2025

#### GMS Clerk

Michael Hutchinson (Glasgow LM) – 1<sup>st</sup> triennium

#### GMS Assistant Clerk

Susan Mitchell (Dunblane LM) – 1<sup>st</sup> triennium

#### Parliamentary Engagement Working Group

Ed Tyler (WSAM) – 3<sup>rd</sup> triennium

#### GMS Safeguarding Co-ordinator

Madeleine Harding (Central Edinburgh LM) – 1<sup>st</sup> triennium

#### Interfaith Scotland representative

Kate Arnot (South Edinburgh LM) – 1<sup>st</sup> triennium

These names being acceptable, we appoint the Friends named accordingly.

### **22/11/13 Shindig – a short video**

Instead of hearing a formal Shindig report, we have watched a video of young Friends sharing their experience of going to Shindig with others who have yet to go.

We are grateful to Mary Troup for producing this video and to the young Friends who contributed to it. It was pure dead brilliant!

### **22/11/14 Local Development Worker - our priorities for 2023**

In June 2022, we agreed the procedure for discerning the priorities for our local development work. Minute 22/06/09 refers.

In accordance with this process, Friends were consulted about priorities and the results reviewed. The following suggestions for priorities for

local development work are now offered for consideration and agreement:

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.

We agree to these. We remain grateful for our Local Development Worker Zoe's presence amongst us.

## **22/11/15 Gender Justice**

Gender justice is an issue of concern to churches, and it was raised by Christian Aid staff at their monthly Zoom meeting with representatives of General Meeting for Scotland. Margaret Roy is engaged with Christian Aid and others in attempts to re-form an ecumenical group on this issue, after the collapse of 'Side by Side'.

In Scotland, the Quaker concern on gender based violence originated in Lanark Local Meeting and it is being carried forward by a small working group set up by West Scotland Area Meeting. To inform us about this issue and what Scottish Quakers are doing, the group prepared a briefing paper, which was circulated in advance of this meeting as Paper D. Kate Arnot has spoken to us today.

This issue has a long history. For Quakers, all forms of gender-based violence are rooted in a denial of 'that of God in everyone' and are a negation of human rights. There is a direct connection to our testimonies to equality and peace. Like all violence, gender-based violence is based on the desire to have power and control over others, resulting in inequality and misery.

The working group is raising awareness of the issue with Friends, and to help with this they have produced a leaflet - 'Weaponising Sexual Violence Destroys Individuals and Destroys Communities'. This will be circulated during this year's UN 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence, which starts on 25<sup>th</sup> November. Their activities have included:

- Organising lectures on Female Genital Mutilisation, underage marriage, and trafficking In Glasgow
- Presenting a statement to the Book of Discipline Revision Committee
- Organising a conference and accompanying booklet on Women and Climate Change during COP26



- Writing a regular page in West Scotland Quaker News
- They are also developing links with other organisations working on gender-based violence.

We thank Kate for explaining more about gender justice and drawing to our attention the work of the WSAM group. Copies of the booklet 'Women do Count' are available from Kate.

The contact for the Friends interested in this issue and in becoming involved with the working group is Wendy Reynolds, Argyll LM.

## **22/11/16 Hearing from GM representative on bodies focused on peace**

General Meeting for Scotland extends its peace witness through linking with: Peace and Justice - Building a Culture of Peace in Scotland; the Scottish Peace Network; and Scottish CND. We have received an update on the work of these organisations, and our connection to them, circulated as Paper E.

### Scottish CND

Individual Friends are active in SCND's campaign about the ever-present risk of nuclear war and of nuclear accidents, including the movement of nuclear convoys on Scottish roads without the public being made aware of the risks. A couple of Friends contributed to the making of a new film about the darkness of the nuclear industry, 'A Guided Tour of the Unacceptable', which was launched at the Hiroshima and Nagasaki commemorations in August and will be touring Scotland in the spring. Of particular interest in the last year is the Ainslie Archives, an on-going project on the Nuclear Information Service, for which donations are still needed.

### Peace and Justice – Building a Culture of Peace in Scotland

This organisation is the successor of the Peace and Justice Centre in Edinburgh. The Centre's high-profile Peace Cranes Project finished in August, after over 20,000 people visited it during its Scottish tour. This year's Annual Carnall Peace Lecture, 'Global Peace and Security After Ukraine' by Paul Rogers, was well attended and a recording is available.

### Scottish Peace Network (SPN)

The SPN is made up of a wide range of organisations working together towards their common vision to oppose militarism and to bring about a more peaceful world through co-operation. Currently the main work of this network is to organise monthly peace vigils to promote peace and engage with the public.

We are glad of this involvement and for Friends in Scotland who are committed to this work on our behalf.

### **22/11/17 Enquirers' Day 2022**

We have received a written report on the 2022 Enquirers' Day, which took place in Dunblane, and by Zoom, on Saturday, 5<sup>th</sup> November. Six enquirers attended and gave very positive feedback: they appreciated meeting with Quakers and enjoyed the friendliness of the group. Two people who had booked places didn't show up on the day - no reason was given but a rail strike would have made travel difficult.

We are grateful to Gill Reid for her report and to those Friends from West Scotland Area Meeting who organised and facilitated this event. We note their suggestion that we consider putting on similar events more often than once a year. We ask the Area Meeting and General Meeting Clerks to discuss this at their next meeting and to consider the practicalities of expanding the hosting responsibilities for the Enquirers' Day to include all four area meetings. They might also think about the format of the Enquirers' Day. We ask them to report back to General Meeting on these matters.

### **22/11/18 Minute from South East Scotland Area Meeting**

We receive the following minute from South East Scotland Area Meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> November 2022, sent to General Meeting for Scotland for information:

*2022/11/10 Living Witness*

*We have heard read the inspiring minute from the Living Witness weekend held at Woodbrooke on 26-29 August 2022.*

*There are no bystanders in the climate emergency. We need to reconnect ourselves as Quakers did in 1895; the insights of climate science are showing an end to the inevitability of growth.*

*In worship, we have considered the implication of this: practical and spiritual, both personal and in community.*

*We can feel despair; we look to our Quaker community to provide inspiration and mutual support. Some of us feel like we live between two worlds, as friends, family and colleagues seem unaware of what to us is obvious.*

*We have felt the value of gathering together, of hearing positive stories and how things can change. 50 years ago, being a vegetarian in Scotland meant eating an omelette in every restaurant you went to.*

*We have considered practical proposals:*

- We agree to organise a meeting for learning on climate justice, so we can consider the issues in more depth*
- We encourage all Friends to support the march for climate justice in Edinburgh on Saturday 12 November*
- We encourage local meetings to hold climate conversations (or other ways) to address mutual upholding and strengthening our resolve*
- We have heard of the partnership work of the Parliamentary Engagement Working Group, particularly with Stop Climate Chaos Scotland, and resolve to support them in this*
- We encourage Britain Yearly Meeting to work towards an interfaith alliance in preparation for the next Westminster general election campaign*
- We encourage AM Trustees to consider what further work can be done to reduce the energy use of our meeting houses; we should seek to be an example to others with old buildings*
- We support the energy and commitment of our young people; we agree to look at way of helping their actions.*

## **22/11/19 Other Business**

We have heard that Christian Aid Scotland is asking member churches to consider if there needs to be more focus on Israel/ Palestine, and if Monthly Prayers for Peace should be revived, perhaps with a changed format which might include talks on the Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel. We understand the idea is to have broad based faith/ ecumenical partnership engaged in this.

We continue to be concerned about the situation in Israel and Palestine and would welcome an increased focus on it by churches and other faiths.

## **22/11/20 Closing Minute**

We record our thanks to North Scotland Area Meeting Friends for being our 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 for a blended meeting in Glasgow on 11th March 2023, if nothing occurs to prevent.

Elizabeth Allen,  
Clerk