



GENERAL MEETING FOR SCOTLAND

4 June 2011

Aberdeen

Min. 1 Reading

During Meeting for Worship we heard a reading from *Quaker Faith and Practice 3.02* concerning the discipline of silent waiting in our meetings for business.

Min. 2 Welcome

We welcome 1 attender to this GM. We also welcome as a visitor Helen Hood, a Trustee of ACTS, and Rachael Swancott, Ged Manning and Maurice Nagington of Young Friends General Meeting.

We will record the total numbers of all present and add them to these minutes.

East Scotland	3
South East Scotland	10
North Scotland	15
West Scotland	<u>5</u>
Total:	33 plus visitors.

Min. 3 Reporter

We appoint Angela Arnold from East Scotland AM to report this meeting to *The Friend* and the *Scottish Friend*. We ask North Scotland AM to report on the next GM.

Min. 4 New members and deaths

We record the following new members since our last meeting:

Douglas Shaw (W)
Myra McGregor (W)

We record the following deaths:

Pat Graeme (E) (18th February 2010)
Dibby Greig (E)

Min. 5 Dates and venues for 2012-13

We confirm the following GM dates and venues for 2012-13:

East – 3 March 12
South East – 9 June 12
North – 8 Sept 12
East – 17/18 Nov 12 (note change from previous proposal)
West – 2 Mar 13

Min. 6 Donations

We have considered our annual donation to FiSCAF (Faiths in Scotland Community Action Fund) which was £300 last year. We agree to increase this to £500 per year from 2011 onwards.

Min. 7 Financial Report 2010

We have received the annual report and accounts for 2010 from our former treasurer Daphne Wassermann. Total receipts were £24 367, payments were £19 131. Overall balance is £16 523, an increase of £5 236. We note that the Conference Function Group Account has been closed and a sum of £2 433 transferred into the General Fund.

We also note that the Wigton Trust is a possible funding source for events involving young people and for travel expenses for young people. We ask Madeleine Harding, convenor of Children and Young People Function Group, to investigate this, and also whether there is a similar Ayton Trust, and to circulate the information.

The consolidated statement of receipts and payments is attached to these Minutes (Appendix 1). We thank Daphne for her outstanding service as Treasurer for very many years.

Min. 8 Report from Trustees

Daphne Wassermann has presented a report from Trustees for the period Nov '09 to June '11. We acknowledge the valuable work of Trustees in ensuring that the GM financial and legal responsibilities are properly carried out.

We support the recommendation for a meeting for Treasurers in Scotland, taking account of current support arrangements, and we ask John Phillips, our new Treasurer, to organise such an event. We also agree to receive an Annual Report from Trustees each June.

The report is attached to these Minutes (Appendix 2) and will be posted on our website.

Min. 9 Minute 11.31 from East Scotland Area Meeting

We have received Minute 11.31 from East Scotland AM expressing opposition to the manner in which Osama Bin Laden was killed, and asking GM to consider making a representation.

As Quakers, we regret the killing of Osama Bin Laden and the lack of opportunity for a fair trial. We feel it important to respond to this event by reaffirming our belief in the sanctity of life and that of God in everyone. We agree that we should communicate to Friends in America through Friends World Committee for Consultation our support for them in representing these Quaker values to their Government and in particular to their President. We will send this Minute to FWCC.

Min. 10 Appointments and Representatives

Nominations Function Group have brought forward the following names and we agree to these appointments:

Rep to Church of Scotland Guild (Dundee 27 August)

Alyson Buchan

Rep to Church of Scotland General Assembly (Edinburgh 21-27 May)

Alison Burnley (retrospective)

Rep to Scottish Episcopal Church Synod (Edinburgh 9-11 June)

Margaret Peacock

Representative Friend triennium Jan 2012- Dec 2014

Leslie Stevenson

Same-Sex Marriage Group triennium June 2011- May 2014

Pam Currie

Christian Aid Scottish Advisory Committee Jan 2012-Dec 2014 (2nd triennium)

Martin Mansell

Convener, Communications & Outreach Function Group June 2011-Dec 2012

Pete Stuart

ACTS Personnel Committee Jan 2012-December 2014 (continuation)

Martin Burnell

ACTS Church & Society Network Jan 2012-Dec 2014 (2nd triennium)

Barbara Potter

ACTS Faith Studies Network Jan 2012-Dec 2013 (to complete 2nd triennium)

Christine Davis

ACTS Group on Human Trafficking June 2011-May 2014

Clunie Conochie

Min. 11 Looking at how we do business

We have welcomed our speakers Rachael Swancott, Maurice Nagington and Ged Manning from YFGM who have facilitated a session on Quaker business methods.

In a business meeting role play, we identified a large number of examples of bad practice. Most involved poor discipline, whether individual or corporate, or a failure of effective clerking. We worked in groups, responding to queries around integrating and inducting new members, how we share good practice, and how we deal with frustrations in business meetings.

We have been stimulated to think more deeply about aspects of our decision-making that are too easy to take for granted, and about how to improve our practices. Some issues can be delegated to committees or working groups.

We thank Rachael, Maurice and Ged for their presentation today, and for sharing YFGM's enthusiasm for and commitment to the Quaker business method as a valued corporate discipline.

Min. 12 Church of Scotland General Assembly

We have received a report from Alison Burnley on the recent General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. She quoted the Moderator as saying “In conflict, there is no them and us, there is only us.”

One of the major issues arose from the report of the special commission on ordination of persons in a same-sex relationship. It was narrowly agreed to support this, pending the report of a further theological commission.

Another issue was the organisation of presbyteries, trying to reconcile the needs of urban and rural congregations, taking account of opportunities for effective working using new technology. In the end, the proposal was narrowly rejected. A large number of other issues were discussed, including the safeguarding of vulnerable people.

Alison found the whole occasion very stimulating, “an amazing and exhausting week”. We thank Alison for her enthusiastic report.

Min. 13 Scottish Churches House

The Assistant Clerk has read a statement from Members Meeting of ACTS noting that a special members meeting is to be held on 15 June to consider proposals for possible future uses of Scottish Churches House. We have heard that there is a strong feeling of dissatisfaction by some Friends about aspects of the process so far.

We recognise the difficulty of the decisions facing the Trustees, and wish to uphold them as they prepare for the forthcoming meeting.

Min. 14 Scottish Churches Housing Action

Kate Arnot has presented a report on SCHA. There are concerns about the likelihood of increased homelessness especially of young people as a result of changing legislation nationally. She urged local meetings to consider giving a donation to SCHA in view of the important work it undertakes in this area.

Min. 15 Response to Meeting for Sufferings re Israel/Palestine

The Clerk has indicated that there is likely to be an agenda item at September GM on how Quakers in Scotland are responding to the Meeting for Sufferings decision on the boycott of goods from Israeli-occupied territories. Clerks of Local Meetings are requested to pass on information about this to the GM Clerk well in advance of next meeting.

Min. 16 Closing Minute

We record our thanks to North Scotland Friends for being our hosts at this GM, and look forward to meeting again in Glasgow on 10 September when our speakers will be John and Diana Lampen on “Experiment with Light”.

Robin Waterston, Clerk

General Meeting – 4 June 2011 in Aberdeen

Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)
GENERAL MEETING for SCOTLAND (Scottish Charity Number SC 012281)

Consolidated Receipts and Payments Account for Year Ended 31st December 2010

Totals		General	Conference	Totals
2009		Fund	Function	2010
£		£	£	£
	GROSS RECEIPTS			
10.85	Interest	5.53	1.31	6.84
8065.00	Grants	7665.00	50.00	7715.00
7800.00	Quotas from AMs	11000.00	0.00	11000.00
203.37	Donations and legacies	672.74	0.00	672.74
5458.70	Trading Receipts	496.55	2042.50	2539.05
1000.00	Other Receipts	2433.87	0.00	2433.87
22537.92	Total Receipts	22273.69	2093.81	24367.50
	GROSS PAYMENTS			
0.00	Bank charges	0.00	0.00	0.00
8286.66	Administration	6672.30	0.00	6672.30
3400.00	Scottish Friends Newsletter	3595.12	0.00	3595.12
7261.85	Trading	9.07	2146.50	2155.57
3200.00	Grants and Subscriptions	3080.00	0.00	3080.00
1863.54	Other payments	1194.65	2433.87	3628.52
24012.05	Total Payments	14551.14	4580.37	19131.51
	GROSS RECEIPTS			
-1474.13	LESS PAYMENTS	7722.55	-2486.56	5235.99

**Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)
General Meeting for Scotland**

**Report on the work of General Meeting Trustees for the period from November 2009 –
June 2011.**

The last occasion on which Trustees reported to General Meeting was November 2009. Trustees wish to suggest that they report annually to General Meeting in June.

Since 2009, Nigel Dower has been released from service as a Trustee and Daphne Wassermann is no longer a Trustee ex officio, having handed over as General Meeting Treasurer. We have been joined by new Trustees David James (North of Scotland Area Meeting) and Robin Davis (West Scotland Area Meeting) and by John Phillips in his capacity as General Meeting Treasurer.

Trustees have continued to consider accounts before they are presented to General Meeting and to formally sign off the General Meeting Report and Accounts before they are submitted to OSCR. To assist in this process a set of guidelines setting out the steps in the process has been adopted.

Trustees have also continued to monitor the work of General Meeting and its function groups. Nothing untoward in the operation of General Meeting has been identified through this monitoring process.

New procedures have been drawn up for General Meeting, have been the subject of appropriate consultation, and were adopted by General Meeting on 13 November 2010, as follows:

- Capability Procedure
- Disciplinary Procedure
- Grievance Procedure

Work is continuing on a Safeguarding Policy. This matter is complex and the related legislation on the Protection of Vulnerable Groups (PVG) and child protection is in process of change. Through the clerk of Trustees, there is a link to the Scottish Churches Safeguarding Representatives' Meeting. General Meeting Trustees have been asked by West of Scotland Area Meeting to prepare a policy and procedures suitable for adoption by General Meeting and Area Meetings in Scotland. Work to this end is continuing in cooperation with Friends in each Area Meeting.

Trustees are responsible for employment matters and health and safety. They have received regular updates on changes in employment law, including the national minimum wage, from Martin Burnell and have initiated any necessary action. A health and safety risk assessment has been undertaken in conjunction with GM Administrator, and a short health and safety policy statement is in preparation.

The annual review of the work of the Administrator is undertaken by GM Clerk, with provision for Trustees to do a triennial review. This is due later in 2011.

An online handbook for Trustees is in preparation, containing the governing document and other key documents, with a link to Friends House material for Trustees.

Following a request from GM Administrator we have agreed that she should give some support to the Coordinator of Northern Friends Summer Shindig in the run up to this annual event, subject to ongoing monitoring. General Meeting has supported this arrangement.

In considering our responsibilities for financial oversight we have noted that the support given to Quaker Treasurers by Friends House can feel a little remote to Quaker treasurers in Scotland and we have identified the need for a gathering in Scotland, to which a Friends House representative might be invited. Such an event could be convened by GM Treasurer. We seek the agreement of General Meeting to such a meeting if it is in agreement that it would serve a valuable function.

Trustees have taken the view that they are appointed to satisfy the governance requirements of the State in respect of voluntary organisations, and that their role is a background one which in no way detracts from the manner in which Quakers conduct their business.

Philip Bryers
Clerk of GM Trustees, May 2011.