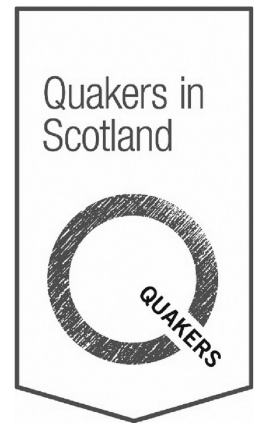


# GENERAL MEETING FOR SCOTLAND

13<sup>th</sup> June, 2020  
Held by Zoom



## 20/06/01 Worship

We have spent time in worship together during which Quaker Faith and Practice 24.49 was read. People matter but we acknowledge that we are all involved in violating human rights, either knowingly or in ignorance. We also acknowledge the contribution made over the years by Friends individually and collectively, to establish and support human rights. We are urged to listen to those who experience oppression and to engage together in the process of liberation.

## 20/06/02 Welcome to all present

We welcome all Friends who are with us today, to General Meeting for Scotland, held by Zoom.

We regret that to comply with Covid 19 restrictions, we were prevented from meeting in person in Elgin, and had to cancel the performance of Journeymen Theatre.

The total numbers of those present will be added to these minutes.

East Scotland	20
South East Scotland	27
North Scotland	10
West Scotland	23

**Total: 80**, including 5 attenders and 0 Young Friends

## 20/06/03 Elders for this meeting

We are grateful to Friends present who have offered to serve as Elders for this meeting. Their duties are listed on the back of the agenda. Names of those serving for today have been noted. We remind Friends that all of us share the duties of oversight and spiritual care of our Meetings, not just those appointed to carry them out.

## **20/06/04 Reporter of this Meeting**

We appoint Katrina McCrea from South East Scotland Area Meeting to report this meeting to *The Friend* and the *Scottish Friend*. We ask North Scotland Area Meeting to report on General Meeting in September.

## **20/06/05 New members, transfers and deaths**

From Area Meeting minutes since General Meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> March, we record the following transfers of membership:

### East Scotland Area Meeting

Transfer in:

Andrew Williams from Cornwall AM, now St. Andrews LM

### South East Scotland Area Meeting

Transfers in:

Judith Ward from York AM, now Kelso LM

Martin Ward from York AM, now Kelso LM

Transfers out:

Anna Levin (Polmont LM) to Cambridgeshire AM

Don Stubbings (Central Edinburgh LM) to Central England AM

### West Scotland Area Meeting

Transfer in

Rob Claxton-Ingham from Leeds AM, now Mull & Iona LM

Transfer out:

Paul Milling (Ayrshire LM) to York AM.

From Area Meeting minutes since General Meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> March, we record the following new members:

### South East Scotland Area Meeting

Ella March (Central Edinburgh LM)

Wade Robertson (Portobello & Musselburgh LM)

Gerard Wilkie (Central Edinburgh LM)

### North Scotland Area Meeting:

Ailish Carroll-Brentnall (Nairn LM)

From Area Meeting minutes since General Meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> March, we record the following deaths:

### North Scotland Area Meeting:

Margaret Brown (Westray LM), on 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2019

John Hebborn (Lochaber LM), on 26<sup>th</sup> February, 2020

### South East Scotland Area Meeting

Trevor Cobain (Central Fife LM), on 28<sup>th</sup> January, 2020

Melville Kerr (Central Edinburgh LM) on 25<sup>th</sup> January, 2020

Andrew Kinnaird (Central Edinburgh LM)

Monica Jackson (Central Edinburgh LM), on 7<sup>th</sup> April, 2020

Erna Webber (Central Edinburgh LM), on 7<sup>th</sup> April, 2020

### West Scotland Area Meeting:

Bill Agnew (Dumfries LM), on 25<sup>th</sup> March, 2020

Rachael Milling (Ayrshire LM), on 20<sup>th</sup> January, 2020

Gill Brooks (Glasgow LM), on 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2020

## **2020/06/06 Confirmed dates and host Area Meetings for 2021/22**

We confirm the following dates and host Area Meetings for GM in 2021/22

6 <sup>th</sup> March 2021	North (already agreed)
12 <sup>th</sup> June 2021	East
11 <sup>th</sup> September 2021	West
20 <sup>th</sup> November 2021	South East
5 <sup>th</sup> March 2022	East

## **20/06/07 Nominations**

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

### GM Assistant Treasurer

Pam Brunt (St. Andrews LM) June 2020 to December 2021  
(2<sup>nd</sup> Triennium, but reappointed on a yearly basis)

### Scottish Friend Editor

Sila Collins-Walden (Inverness LM) June 2020 to December 2023  
(2<sup>nd</sup> Triennium)

### World Day of Prayer Scottish Committee

Margaret Roy (Lanark LM) June 2020 to December 2023  
(3<sup>rd</sup> Triennium)

### Parliamentary Engagement Working Group

Martin Mansell (Glasgow LM) June 2020 to December 2023  
(3<sup>rd</sup> Triennium)

Rosemary Hartill (Central Edinburgh LM) June 2020 to December 2023  
(3<sup>rd</sup> Triennium)

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

### **20/06/08 Central European Gathering of Friends**

The Central European Gathering of Friends in Litomyšl, Czech Republic, has been postponed and is now scheduled for 15-18th October, 2020

Further to minute 20/03/21, our GM Nominations Committee has brought forward the name of Busa Cochrane-Muir to represent GM at this event. We appoint Busa to attend, if Covid 19 restrictions permit travel. If not, we suggest joining some of the sessions by videoconferencing, if this is possible.

### **20/06/09 Training for GM and AM Trustees and role holders**

Further to minutes 19/11/08, GM trustees have agreed to set up the following events:

1. A Zoom event in the summer, with 3 speakers who will talk about how the Society is organised, the role of trustees and other post holders, and the relationship between trustees and Area Meeting. Possible speakers for this event have been approached about their availability.
2. A Zoom meeting, at a later date, for all AM and GM trustees, to share current issues and experience and to encourage ongoing networking.

### **20/06/10 GM Annual Report and Accounts 2019**

The General Meeting for Scotland Annual Report and examined Accounts for 2019 have been circulated with the papers for this meeting. They were approved by GM trustees at their meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> May, 2020.

Nigel Dower, our Treasurer, has presented the report and accounts to us, drawing out particular details and answering our questions. Total income for 2019 from area meeting quotas, grants and donations was £30,818.64 and payments totalled £33,796.08, giving a deficit for the year of £2977.44. Thanks to significant extra scheduled donations from individual Friends, this was less than the budgeted deficit of around £4000, which we planned to take from the Jenny Auld legacy for the Parliamentary Engagement Officer's post.

We accept the General Meeting Report and Accounts 2019 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.

### **20/06/11 Update on Local Development Worker in Scotland**

Further to minutes 19/11/11 and 20/03/08, our clerk has informed us that Scotland is to have one of the first batch of four Local Development Workers. However, with Covid 19 restrictions in place, perhaps for much of this year, it is anticipated that the post will now start in the first quarter of 2021.

The clerks of the 4 Scottish Area Meetings; and the clerk and assistant clerk of General Meeting for Scotland have agreed to meet by Zoom later this month to begin discussions on what our LDW might do.

### **20/06/12 Update on the Scottish Advocacy Job**

Interviews for this post, due to take place in late March, did not go ahead. Britain Yearly Meeting Trustees, with the agreement of General Meeting for Scotland Trustees, decided that we should not appoint at this stage because of lockdown and the implications of the Covid 19 pandemic for BYM.

Grace da Costa, BYM Public Affairs and Advocacy Manager is acting Parliamentary Engagement Officer at the moment.

### **20/06/13 Parliamentary Engagement Working Group report**

The report of the Parliamentary Engagement Working Group was circulated in advance of this meeting, as Paper A. Joyce Taylor, Convenor of the Parliamentary Engagement Working Group, has updated the report and answered our questions.

We are pleased that much of the group's work on the climate emergency is being done with other partner organisations. There is a current focus on how a "green and just recovery" from the Covid 19 pandemic can be achieved. PEWG members are attending many more events organised by the coalition, than would usually be possible, as they are being held virtually.

We note that the group submitted a response to the Scottish Government's Just Transition Commission Interim Report consultation and that copies of the submission were sent to Local Meeting clerks for sharing with Friends. We encourage Friends to make their own submissions by the deadline of 30<sup>th</sup> June. The PEWG also contributed to the Stop Climate Chaos Scotland response to the independent Advisory Group on Economic Recovery. On behalf of GM, our clerk signed a letter from a broad range of Scotland's civil society, to the First Minister of Scotland,

calling for a Just and Green recovery from Covid 19 and detailing the steps which need to be followed to deliver it. A reply has been received from the First Minister herself but there is slight disappointment that it reflects too narrow a response, focusing on climate change alone.

The PEWG has approached the political parties about what Quakers might like to see in the party manifestos for the Holyrood elections next year.

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

## **20/06/14 GM Communications**

### Management of Quakers in Scotland Facebook page

So far, General Meeting has left it to a few interested Friends to sort out the management of the Quakers in Scotland Facebook page. Use has increased during lockdown and those who set up the page would welcome GM taking on responsibility for its management. We agree to do this and thank Clive Potter and Sia Smith for acting as Managers and Connor Watt for acting as Moderator. We hope they will continue in these roles, in the meantime.

We ask our Nominations Committee to bring forward names of two Friends to manage the Facebook page and two Friends to act as moderators. If possible, we ask that these appointments be made by between-meetings procedure.

### GM email lists

The GM email circulation list currently in use comprises all members, plus those attenders who have asked to be included.

To improve communication with and engagement of Friends in Scotland, we agree to expand this list to include attenders for a two-year trial period. We ask that in doing this, appropriate permission is obtained from the Friends concerned, in keeping with current General Data Protection Regulation.

## **20/06/15 COP 26, update**

Further to minutes 16 of GM on 14<sup>th</sup> September, 2019, 19/11/19 and 20/03/13, Martin Mansell has updated us on preparation for COP 26, the United Nations Climate Change Summit in Glasgow, which has been postponed until 1<sup>st</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> November, 2021 because of the Covid 19 pandemic. Martin's West Scotland Area Meeting COP 26 Hub Group report was circulated in advance of this meeting, as Paper B. The Group has done as much preparative work on the Quaker response as it can, for now, and is in abeyance.

Partner organisations acting in coalitions are keeping interest alive in various ways, including public webinars. There is appetite for actions in November, 2020 and it is likely that these will include a Quaker presence. There is also a G20 meeting in November and a G7 meeting next year both of which provide a focus for further campaigning. Friends might find the new Build Back Better campaign of interest, as it combines climate and justice issues.

We thank Martin for his update and West Scotland Hub Group for its work.

### **20/06/16 Scottish Quaker Community Justice network**

Further to minute 20/03/18, 12 Friends have responded to the invitation to re-start the Scottish Quaker Community Justice Network. There have been two Zoom meetings of the network and a further meeting is arranged for later in June.

### **20/06/17 Communications during lockdown**

Lockdown has changed our ways of communicating with each other and we are trying out new methods. The GM Communications Group has taken this opportunity to establish a picture of Quaker communications in Scotland, during this time. A survey was sent to all Scottish Local and Area Meetings asking:

- *How is your meeting communicating since lockdown? What are the purposes of this communication?*
- *What technology are you using? Does it require financing? How well is it working? Are there any issues?*
- *How do Friends feel about these new ways of communicating?*
- *What has worked and what has not worked? What are the advantages and the disadvantages?*
- *Have you any other comments about your use of remote communications?*

Paper C, circulated with the papers for this meeting, is a summary of LM and AM feedback. Joyce Taylor thanked all who responded.

We now need to think about the future. Are there features of what we are doing during lockdown that we would want to continue when we return to having face-to-face meetings? Is there a place for on-line meetings of some kind, including 'blended' meetings, which allow Friends to join a face-to-face meeting, from their own home, using videoconferencing.

Quoting Woodbrooke research, Joyce asked us to reflect on,

“We have a chance now not simply to return to what we did before but to ‘make our own’, creatively and adventurously, what is revealed to us by the light and life we have found.”

Friends present have spoken and Joyce has heard them and noted their comments. In particular we have heard that South East Scotland Area Meeting is looking at the practicalities of installing videoconferencing facilities in Edinburgh Quaker Meeting House, to enable blended meetings. A suggestion was made that some of the Jenny Auld legacy might help fund this. We will also need to look at facilities for videoconferencing, when we hire rooms for GM meetings. There will be financial consequences for this too.

We thank the GM Communications Group for the summary of their survey and Joyce for discussing possibilities for our future communications with us.

### **20/06/18 Correspondence and other business**

#### Notice of Enquirer's Day 2020

A meeting for enquirers and those who want to find out more about Quakers will take place by Zoom on Saturday, 18<sup>th</sup> July, from 10.30 am until 3.00 pm, with a break for lunch.

For further information please email [gillreid3@btinternet.com](mailto:gillreid3@btinternet.com)

### **20/06/19 Closing Minute**

We record our thanks to the Friends who set up and hosted this GM by Zoom.

There being no further business to bring before General Meeting, we conclude, intending to meet next on 12<sup>th</sup> September, 2020, if nothing occurs to prevent.

Elizabeth Allen,  
Clerk