



GENERAL MEETING FOR SCOTLAND

11 Sept 2010

Edinburgh

Min. 1 Reading

During Meeting for Worship we heard a reading from *Quaker Faith and Practice 23.04* concerning the need for balance in the inward and outward aspects of our lives.

Min. 2 Welcome

We welcome 5 attenders to this GM. We also welcome as a visitor Val Brown from Christian Aid.

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

East Scotland	9
South East Scotland	30
North Scotland	3
West Scotland	<u>9</u>
Total:	51

Min. 3 Reporter

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

Min. 4 New members and deaths

We record the following new members since our last meeting:

Gregory Norminton (SE)
Genevieve Orr (E).

There have been no deaths of members since our last meeting:

Min. 5 Conference Function Group

Having decided at our last meeting (Minute 11 of 5 June 2011) to lay down the Kindrogan summer gathering, there is no continuing purpose for the Conference Function Group. We agree to lay it down.

Min. 6 Residential General Meeting

We have considered our pattern of annual meetings, with particular reference to the timing of our residential GM.

We agree that we have an opportunity for considering new ideas about the purpose and programme of the residential meeting. We will ask Central Committee to prepare a short discussion paper for circulation to Area and Local Meetings to stimulate imaginative thinking. We will return to the matter in March 2011.

Our programme for 2011 will remain unchanged.

Min. 7 Ecumenical Accompaniers Programme in Palestine and Israel

We have heard from Phil Lucas about his experiences earlier this year as an ecumenical accompanier with the World Council of Churches programme EAPPI.

Phil has given us a vivid account of the impact of the Israeli occupation on the lives and livelihoods of Palestinians, the growth of illegal settlements and the building of the separation wall. We have been deeply moved by the insights Phil has given us into the suffering of Palestinian families as they attempt to carry on their normal lives while subjected to land grabs, house demolitions and the indignities of checkpoints. He has also described his meetings with members of Israeli peace organisations. We are urged to do whatever we can to raise public awareness of these issues.

We thank Phil for his compelling presentation.

Min. 8 Appointments and Representatives

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

<u>GM Clerk</u>	Robin Waterston	January 2011 - December 2013
<u>Representative Friends Pool</u>	Margaret Boland Alison Burnley David James Pamala McDougall Margaret Peacock	January 2011 - December 2011 (all for a 2nd year)
<u>Examiner of GM accounts</u>	David Crosbie	January 2011 - December 2011
<u>Iona Community Board</u>	Alastair McIntosh	Jan 2011- Dec 2013 (2nd triennium)
<u>Christian Aid Scottish Advisory Committee</u>	Martin Mansell	Jan 2011- Dec 2011 (to complete 2nd triennium)
<u>World Day of Prayer Scottish Committee</u>	Alison Chalmers	Jan 2011- Dec 2012 (to complete 2nd triennium)
<u>Scottish Interfaith Council</u>	Anne Davies	Jan 2011- Dec 2013
<u>Scottish Churches China Group</u>	Margaret Anderson	Jan 2011- December 2013

Min. 9 The work of the Scottish Churches Parliamentary Office

We have welcomed Chloe Clemmons, the Scottish Churches Parliamentary Officer, as our speaker. The Office was established by a broad range of Scottish churches in 1999 with the task of building a fruitful relationship initially with the Holyrood parliament, and now also with that in Westminster.

It operates in two main ways: building knowledge through providing briefings, and building capacity by offering practical advice and help to churches and groups lobbying politicians.

Chloe has reminded us of the process by which legislation in Holyrood is passed, and given us examples of effective influence over the outcome in matters such as climate change and criminal justice.

The current political landscape, with a coalition administration in Westminster and a minority administration in Holyrood, has brought a measure of unpredictability to political life. Regular communication channels become particularly important at such a time. The relationship does not always have to be about lobbying. However, the impending comprehensive spending review, welfare reform and the elections to Holyrood next May all offer significant opportunities for shaping the impact of political decisions upon our society.

In a group exercise we have experienced some of the dynamics of lobbying, what it can mean to be a 'seed of change'.

We thank Chloe for her presentation and for stimulating us to think afresh about our political engagement.

Min. 10 Closing Minute

We record our thanks to South East Scotland Friends for being our hosts at this GM, and look forward to meeting again in Dunblane on 13-14 November when our topic will be the work of Friends in the Quaker centre in Brussels.

Robin Waterston
Clerk