

**YEARLY MEETING
OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS) IN BRITAIN**

**AT THE YEARLY MEETING
HELD IN LONDON AT FRIENDS HOUSE
26 - 29 May 2006**

Friday 26 May 2006

Evening

Minute 1: Clerks

The Yearly Meeting Committee on Clerks nominates the following Friends to serve as clerk and assistant clerks for Yearly Meeting 2006:

Clerk:	Martin Ward
Assistant Clerks:	Richard Ogden Lis Burch

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

Minute 2: Permission for non-members to attend

Permission has been given for the attendance of 72 non-members, and we welcome them to this Yearly Meeting.

Minute 3: Matters arising

Most of the matters from Yearly Meeting 2005 that required follow up action are referred to in sections 5.5, 6.1 and 6.2 of the Report of Meeting for Sufferings for 2005 (See *Quaker work in 2005*, pages 13 and 14), or will be elsewhere on the agenda for this Yearly Meeting.

Further to minute 22 of Yearly Meeting 2003, the review of the work of the Quaker Stewardship Committee scheduled for Yearly Meeting 2006 has been postponed a year by Yearly Meeting Agenda Committee, as it did not seem appropriate or possible to undertake a review whilst heavy demands had been placed on the committee by Yearly Meeting since 2003. YM Agenda Committee recommends that the review be undertaken by Meeting for Sufferings, which has noted this request, and would report to Yearly Meeting in 2007. We agree to this recommendation.

Further to minute 3b of Yearly Meeting 2004 (Experimental appointment of overseers), YM Agenda Committee's Pastoral Care group continues to review overall provision for pastoral care at Yearly Meetings. However, YM Agenda Committee does see a continuing present role for YM overseers and we shall return to this matter in our next item.

Further to minute 25 of Yearly Meeting 2004 (Ecumenical and interfaith visitors). YM Agenda Committee has reviewed the practical and financial implications of inviting such visitors following the experience of Yearly Meeting 2005 and agreed to repeat invitations for Yearly Meeting 2006.

Further to minute 50 of Yearly Meeting 2005 (Annual Report of Meeting for Sufferings, etc.) the Tabular Statement for 2004 was received by Meeting for Sufferings in December 2005 and thus included in the published *Proceedings* of Yearly Meeting 2005.

Further to minute 35 of Yearly Meeting 2005 (RECAST report), Yearly Meeting in 2009 is expected to review the arrangements for trusteeship and representation within the central organisation of Britain Yearly Meeting as established or confirmed in Yearly Meeting 2006.

The *Quaker faith & practice* Drafting Group is to bring back recommendations to Yearly Meeting in 2007 arising from sections 2, 3 & 4 of the RECAST report (local, monthly and general meetings). Meeting for Sufferings, with Quaker Life, is to bring back recommendations relating to paragraph 103 (revision of church government sections of *Quaker faith & practice*) of the RECAST report to Yearly Meeting in due course.

Further to the minute from the Rekindlers (17-18 year olds), recorded in minute 54 of Yearly Meeting 2005, which supported the development of a 'Transitional Group' for 19-25 year olds attending Yearly Meeting, we are pleased that appropriate arrangements have been made and welcome the six young Friends who make up the resulting group this year.

Minute 4: Yearly Meeting elders and Yearly Meeting overseers

Further to minute 3b of Yearly Meeting 2004 (Experimental appointment of overseers), we receive minute 05/47 of our Agenda Committee held 4 September 2005, which recommends that in future, to ensure cohesion and continuity, elders and overseers should be appointed for two years at a time on a rolling basis, so that half their number are replaced each year. We agree to this recommendation. Nominations for elders and overseers will be published in *Documents in advance*, with the convener named. Elders and overseers will then be able to meet before Yearly Meeting and start work as soon as Yearly Meeting has begun. With Agenda Committee's recommendation in mind, our Nominations Committee has asked half of the proposed elders and overseers if they would be willing to serve for two years instead of one.

Minute 5: Report of Yearly Meeting Nominations Committee (Yearly Meeting 2005 – Yearly Meeting 2006)

Further to minute 10 of Yearly Meeting held 30 July – 6 August 2005, the Nominations Committee appointed at Yearly Meeting 2005 brings forward the following nominations:

Yearly Meeting Agenda Committee

To serve until Yearly Meeting 2009

Renominated:

Anne Gee	Luton & Leighton MM
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Nominated:

David Lewis	Southampton & Portsmouth MM
Carol Robinson	York MM

Yearly Meeting Arrangements Committee

To serve during this Yearly Meeting

Karen Coffin	Southampton & Portsmouth MM
Liz Eddington	Lancaster MM

Yearly Meeting Accessibility & Support Group

To serve from Yearly Meeting 2006 to Yearly Meeting 2009

Renominated:

Alan Johnson	Warwickshire MM
Pól Ó Ceallaigh	Westminster MM

Nominated:

Gill Reid	South-East Scotland MM
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Yearly Meeting Publications Group for *Quaker faith & practice*

To serve until Yearly Meeting 2009:

Renominated:

David J Hall	Cambridge & Peterborough MM
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Epistle Drafting Committee

To serve during this Yearly Meeting

Alison Leonard	Wirral & Chester MM
Gill Westcott	East Devon MM
Stevie Krayner	South Wales MM
Geoffrey Carnall	South-East Scotland MM
Anne Ullathorne (convener)	Warwickshire MM

Yearly Meeting elders

Richard Hilken, convener (East Devon MM), was appointed at Yearly Meeting 2005 to serve from Yearly Meeting 2006.

To serve for Yearly Meeting 2006

Nominated

Gavin Burnell	Cambridge & Peterborough MM
Jim Putz	East Devon MM
Alan Quilley	Wensleydale & Swaledale MM

To serve to the end of Yearly Meeting 2007

Nominated

Howard Gregg	York MM
Jeremy Greenwood	Ipswich & Diss MM
Tina Helfrich	Warwickshire MM
Helen Rowlands	Warwickshire MM

Yearly Meeting overseers

Julia Aspden, convener (North Wales MM), was appointed at Yearly Meeting 2005 to serve from Yearly Meeting 2006.

To serve for Yearly Meeting 2006

Nominated

Liz Anderton	West Scotland MM
Margaret Gravely	York MM
Betty Sear	Kingston & Wandsworth MM
one name to come	

To serve to the end of Yearly Meeting 2007

Nominated

Henry (Hank) Eynatten	Kingston & Wandsworth MM
Marjorie Gaudie	Guisborough MM
Rosmarie Hill	Cambridge & Peterborough MM
Shelagh Robinson	Staffordshire MM

Committee on Clerks

release

Simon Best	Young Friends GM/Warwickshire MM
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To serve until Yearly Meeting 2008

Nominated

Robert Card	Warwickshire MM
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These nominations being acceptable to the Meeting, we appoint the Friends named accordingly.

We thank the Friends released for their service.

Minute 6: Quaker Stewardship Committee – appointments

Further to minute 16 of Yearly Meeting held 30 July – 6 August 2005, the following appointments were made by Meeting for Sufferings (minute 8b of 5 November 2005) to serve on an enlarged Quaker Stewardship Committee and are hereby confirmed:

To serve until the end of Yearly Meeting 2006:

Nominated

Tom Heydeman	Reading MM
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To serve until the end of Yearly Meeting 2007:

Clare Scott Booth	Westminster MM
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The following nominations are forwarded to Yearly Meeting by Meeting for Sufferings (minutes 5 of 1 April 2006 and 8b of 6 May 2006):-

To serve as clerks from Yearly Meeting 2006 until the end of Yearly Meeting 2007:

Nominated as clerk

John Phillips	South-East Scotland MM
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Re-nominated as assistant clerk

Donald Southall	Hertford & Hitchin MM
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To serve from Yearly Meeting 2006 until the end of Yearly Meeting 2008:

Nominated

Deborah Rowlands	South Wales MM
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To serve from Yearly Meeting 2006 until the end of Yearly Meeting 2009:

Re-nominated

Tom Heydeman	Reading MM
John Welton	East Devon MM

Nominated
Virginia Pawlyn

Banbury & Evesham MM

These nominations being acceptable to the Meeting, we appoint the Friends named accordingly.

Minute 7: Yearly Meeting Summer Gathering Planning Committee: appointments

The Yearly Meeting Summer Gathering Planning Committee informs us of the following co-options, which we confirm:

Jessica Beck
John Walton

Pontefract MM
attender at Wandsworth PM

Minute 8: Yearly Meeting Nominations Committee (Yearly Meeting 2006 – Yearly Meeting 2007): appointment

By minute 46 of Yearly Meeting 2005 Margot Lunnon (Westminster MM) was appointed to serve as clerk of Nominations Committee 2006-2007.

The following additional Friends are appointed to serve on the Yearly Meeting Nominations Committee during this yearly meeting and until Yearly Meeting 2007:

Nessa Grimes
Pat Lucas
Brenda Rigby
William Waddilove
Trefor Howorth
Laurie Michaelis

Warwickshire MM
South-East Scotland MM
Pickering & Hull MM
Warwickshire MM
North Wales MM
Witney MM

The appointed Nominations Committee is asked to bring the following nominations to a later session:

- a clerk of Nominations Committee to serve from Yearly Meeting 2007 to Yearly Meeting 2008 (only if the setting up of the new Central Nominations Committee is delayed);
- Yearly Meeting elders: a Friend to serve as convener for Yearly Meeting 2007;
- Yearly Meeting overseers: a Friend to serve as convener for Yearly Meeting 2007;

The Committee is asked to bring the following nominations to Yearly Meeting 2007:

- Yearly Meeting Agenda Committee: three Friends to serve until Yearly Meeting 2010;
- Yearly Meeting Arrangements Committee: one or two Friends, to serve with the three Yearly Meeting clerks and three Agenda Committee members;
- Yearly Meeting Accessibility & Support Group: one Friend to serve from Yearly Meeting 2007 to Yearly Meeting 2010;
- Yearly Meeting Publications Group for *Quaker faith & practice*: one Friend to serve until Yearly Meeting 2010;
- Yearly Meeting Epistle Drafting Committee: 5 to 7 Friends to serve at Yearly Meeting 2007, including one to act as convener;

- Yearly Meeting elders: four Friends to serve for two years from Yearly Meeting 2007;
- Yearly Meeting overseers: four Friends to serve for two years from Yearly Meeting 2007.
- Such other names as may be requested later in our meeting.

Minute 9: Committee to examine minutes

We appoint the following Friends to arrange by rota for two of their number to examine the minutes of this Yearly Meeting at the close of each session, and to correct any slight inaccuracies:

David Solloway	Kendal & Sedbergh MM
Howard Boyd	Warwickshire MM
Jenni Stephenson	Lancaster MM
Michael Booth	Westminster MM
Barbara Cairns	Purley & Sutton MM
David Firth	Hampstead MM
Wendy Sender	Westminster MM
Terry Winterton	Wirral & Chester MM

If any substantive alterations appear to be required, they are to be proposed at the next session prior to further business.

Minute 10: Epistle from Ireland Yearly Meeting

The Epistle from the Yearly Meeting of Friends in Ireland, held at The High School, Rathgar, Dublin from 20 to 23 April 2006, has been read as follows:

To Friends everywhere

We send warm greetings from Ireland Yearly Meeting gathered in The High School Dublin from 20th to 23rd April 2006.

Epistles from Yearly Meetings throughout the world have informed us of the blessings received in visits and communications from other Quakers. We would very much like to hear from more Yearly Meetings. We long to hear from you and of your progress in the truth we also seek.

We welcomed representatives from other churches and other faiths to an opening ceremony for our new administrative offices in Dublin. The premises include a purpose built historical library for the safe keeping of manuscript and printed records which themselves can serve as a part of outreach in the present time. The year has also seen the completion of a Quaker conference centre at Moyallon in Northern Ireland.

Much of the business of this Yearly Meeting has concentrated on the consideration, begun in 1998, of a successor to the 1962 printing of our book Christian Experience. Our deliberations showed Ireland Yearly Meeting's determination to see to what extent it would prove possible to produce a new book that would truly express our positions in the journey of faith - but not compromise faith as it is presented in the Bible. We should not settle for or be satisfied with comfort zones prompted by personal opinion only. Hallowed religious language embodies, for some, religious truth and should not be readily disposed of for doubtful novelties. It must be recognised that the living truth will forge a way to inform our

lives. Faith must rewrite our lives and not our lives rewrite our faith, and we need not compromise true insights.

Forthright exchanges on cruxes of belief important to Friends led to appeals that we should take stand-aside positions that would let other Friends honestly define the place they stand - rather than insisting on the deletion of writings that do not command universal acceptance within our Society. We were reminded of the wide spectrum of traditions and views held within Ireland Yearly Meeting, that rich diversity is God-given and can be Ireland's gift to the wider world of Quakers as a sign that different views can exist within a fellowship of love under the governance of the spirit of Christ.

The question whether to include or not any reference to homosexuality in the new proposed book has been a matter of deep concern. The contemporary world gives sexual gratification and fulfilment a central position. It was felt that undue emphasis on such themes might unbalance consideration of the wider corporate concerns of the Yearly Meeting. There can be no ministry to others on the need for God's healing grace if we cannot communicate openly and lovingly with those whose views and lifestyles may differ from those that we as individuals find or believe to be acceptable. Instead of judging each other, we should leave judgement to God.

At the heart of Ireland Yearly Meeting is the Ministry and Oversight Meeting, where Elders and Overseers share in a public way with the wider membership. It focussed on the consideration of the meaning embodied in certain Queries. A sense of renewing insight emerged, that we seek to be open to and obedient to the life of Jesus Christ within. We are part of the rich web of humanity implicated in the banality of evil, but yet can pray for the building up of the church in faith, hope and love and to bring all the world under the ordering of the gospel of love and peace, to proclaim Christ's message and to seek his leadings.

Our Friend Helen M S Haughton in the Yearly Meeting Public Lecture gave us an account of her spiritual journey and the impact of the Book of Ecclesiastes, of the Gospels and of George Fox on her life and work.

We heard from Barbara Flynn of Pacific Yearly Meeting of the work of Friends in Bolivia where the large Quaker community and other people are being helped by Irish Friends and many others in improving their health and welfare by the provision of a hospital, together with education and agricultural services.

We have been blessed by the presence of many young people, children and young adults. The children enjoyed a programme of reflective and athletic activities. The young adults have made a notable contribution to our sessions. We thank God for their bright presence and the feeling of assurance that it gives us for the future of our Society.

We look forward to welcoming the Triennial Meeting of Friends World Committee for Consultation to Dublin in 2007.

Signed on behalf of Ireland Yearly Meeting,

Rachel M Bewley-Bateman
Clerk

Saturday 27 May 2006

Morning

Minute 11: Epistle

Part of the Epistle received from Philadelphia Yearly Meeting (pages 18-20 of *Epistles & testimonies*) has been read.

Minute 12: Yearly Meeting overseers

Further to minute 5, the Yearly Meeting Nominations Committee (Yearly Meeting 2005 – Yearly Meeting 2006) brings in the name of Dot Hull (Warwickshire MM) as an additional YM overseer to serve for Yearly Meeting 2006. This nomination being acceptable to the Meeting, we appoint her accordingly.

Minute 13: Quaker business method and the matters before us

We have heard an explanation of how and why the main points on the agenda have been brought to this Yearly Meeting, and how they link with the different elements of the vision which was presented last year in the RECAST report. We have also reminded ourselves of some points of discipline which experience has shown to be helpful for conducting business in a meeting for worship. We pray that we may have the humility and discipline to listen to one another as we seek to co-operate with the loving purposes of God and to trust one another's discernment. Let love be over all.

Minute 14: Reports and accounts received

The annual report of Meeting for Sufferings and its committees for the year ended 31 December 2005 and the annual reports of Yearly Meeting committees, including that of the Quaker Stewardship committee, as printed in *Quaker work in 2005*, the *Trustees' annual report and accounts* and the Tabular Statement for the year 2005 have been received and laid before us.

Minute 15: Under-19 Programme

Simon Best has informed us of the programmes being run for Yearly Meeting participants aged under 19, complementing the agenda which is before adult Friends. We send greetings to all those participating; we look forward to meeting and worshipping with them at various times during the weekend, and to receiving their minutes on Monday.

Minute 16: The report of Meeting for Sufferings

We entrust to Meeting for Sufferings care for our centrally managed work between Yearly Meetings. We have heard an introduction from the clerk of Meeting for Sufferings to the written reports in *Quaker work in 2005*.

We welcome confirmation that the new guidelines for monthly meetings to consider when sending minutes to Meeting for Sufferings are meant to facilitate and enable effective communications and ensure that Meeting for Sufferings knows what the monthly meeting wants to achieve by sending the minute. They should not inhibit monthly meetings from communicating.

We note that a full report of decision-making processes is in preparation following the interim report presented to Meeting for Sufferings earlier in 2006. Consideration will be given at that

stage as to how widely the report should be made available.

We are excited by the three themes of the plan for the centrally managed work (page 72 of *Quaker work in 2005*):
confident Quaker voices;
working for peace and social justice in the world;
a firm footing for the work.

We hope that Friends around the Yearly Meeting will feel inspired to engage with this work and uphold all those through whom God's work is done.

We welcome the report from a consultant printed on page 17 onwards of *Quaker work in 2005* which, by providing a sympathetic perspective from someone outside the Society, has strengthened our work with children and young people and enabled Junior Yearly Meeting to be resumed in 2006 after a one year gap.

We are grateful for this report and all the work that has been done on our behalf by Meeting for Sufferings and its clerks, its committees and our staff.

Our prayers will be with the outgoing clerk of Meeting for Sufferings as she takes on new challenges in Sudan.

Afternoon

Minute 17: Testimony

Part of the Testimony to the Grace of God as shown in the life of Joyce Plater (pages 73-76 of *Epistles & testimonies*) has been read.

Minute 18: Constitutional issues – trustees for Britain Yearly Meeting

Minute 35 of Yearly Meeting 2005 asked Quaker Stewardship Committee to prepare proposals for Yearly Meeting 2006 describing the proposed relationships between a small body of trustees, the representative meeting, and Yearly Meeting. It sought reassurances and safeguards to ensure that authority could be exercised over the trustees.

We receive a report from Quaker Stewardship Committee as printed on pages 8-13 in the *Constitutional Issues* Supplement to *Documents in advance* which outlines the roles and responsibilities of a small body of trustees and a representative body (Meeting for Sufferings) as requested.

We are grateful for the work done on our behalf in developing these safeguards and reassurances and clarifying the relationships between the proposed trustee body, Meeting for Sufferings and Yearly Meeting. We think it possible that we may be able to agree to the formation of a small trustee body later in this yearly meeting. However, we would like our clerks to draft a further minute describing some of the adjustments and clarifications which we feel are needed in the various documents which set out those relationships and we ask them to present it to us at a later session.

Sunday 28 May 2006

Morning

Minute 19: Epistle

Parts of the Epistle received from Baltimore Yearly Meeting (pages 3-6 of *Epistles & testimonies*) have been read.

Minute 20: Constitutional Issues – Trustees for Britain Yearly Meeting (continued)

Further to minute 18 we have returned to the question of safeguards and reassurances for the accountability of a small trustee body. We were reminded in our session yesterday afternoon that all the members of Britain Yearly Meeting are responsible for the work done in our name: for supporting and holding to account those who carry it out on our behalf. We are all called to be better Friends, giving more attention to the issues that arise and are set before our decision-making meetings. But we cannot all scrutinise all aspects of centrally managed work: ensuring the health and safety of our staff and volunteers; agreeing terms and conditions of employment; checking the financial health of the organisation. For this detailed scrutiny the membership needs to trust a smaller body. Meeting for Sufferings currently exercises that function.

We have heard from some members of Meeting for Sufferings who feel that as this is a representative body it keeps responsibility spread relatively widely in the exercise of the trustee function. However, other members of Meeting for Sufferings do not feel qualified to act as legally responsible trustees, and we have been reminded that concerns about the fitness for purpose of Meeting for Sufferings to carry out effective trusteeship long predate the RECAST proposals which recommended a small trustee body.

We recognise that change is risky and can be painful. Some of those faithfully carrying out the trusteeship functions at the moment fear that Meeting for Sufferings will lose its purpose if this power passes to another body, while others have reminded us how much more there is to the Yearly Meeting than the centrally managed work, and recalled the vision presented last year of how Meeting for Sufferings, freed from its trusteeship responsibilities, can discern a vision for the future and develop this in long-term plans.

We are thankful for the work that has been done by Quaker Stewardship Committee and others on developing safeguards and reassurances, and in clarifying the relationships between the proposed small trustee body, Meeting for Sufferings and Yearly Meeting. We are in a better position now to make an informed decision than we were last year. Nevertheless, some anxieties remain. Therefore while accepting the principle of a small trustee body and agreeing to make the necessary appointments, we ask that a number of points are kept in mind by those responsible for the detailed implementation of the arrangements and for final revisions of the relevant documents.

In our minute 35 of Yearly Meeting 2005 we asked for reassurance that our representative meeting would be able to exercise appropriate authority on behalf of the Yearly Meeting over the small body of trustees. However, we have now been advised that we cannot make trustees accountable to Meeting for Sufferings without transferring the trusteeship function to the members of Meeting for Sufferings. Therefore, authority over the trustees will have to be exercised by Yearly Meeting directly.

Trustees will be accountable to Yearly Meeting. Yearly Meeting will be assisted by Trustees in its oversight of centrally managed work, and by Meeting for Sufferings in its scrutiny of the

work of the Trustees. Meeting for Sufferings will be able to advise Yearly Meeting on how it might respond to its Trustees' reports.

Trustees' minutes, other than those dealing with confidential issues, shall be available to members of Meeting for Sufferings. Trustees will endeavour to answer any questions from Meeting for Sufferings on their work and may, themselves, address questions to Meeting for Sufferings which Meeting for Sufferings will endeavour to answer. We note that Meeting for Sufferings will be consulted on major issues, but that further work is needed on defining criteria for determining when an issue falls into this category. Trustees will all be members of Meeting for Sufferings, but in the unlikely event that Trustees and Meeting for Sufferings disagree on a major issue it would be referred to Yearly Meeting, to which both bodies are accountable.

We see the safeguards listed in paragraph 7.04 of the draft working text for *Quaker faith & practice* as critical, and would like adequate cross-reference to this section from other relevant documents.

Further work will need to be carried out on a positive future role for Meeting for Sufferings as a crucible for sharing and testing all the witness that is going on throughout the Yearly Meeting and a bridge between local meetings and central work. This will also need to embrace the roles of the central and other standing committees and the other parts of our structures. We will need to find ways to support our Trustees in carrying out the tasks laid on them, and will need to know that they are adequately insured, especially in the case of any trustees providing advice in a professional capacity.

We recall the decision at Yearly Meeting 2005 that the size of Meeting for Sufferings should be reviewed for the next triennium in 2009.

We agree that a review will also be needed of the functioning of the trustee body within a few years of its establishment, assessing the effectiveness of the arrangements against the risks which have been identified during the process of reaching this decision. A review will also be needed at some point to consider whether Meeting for Sufferings has developed into the new role envisaged for it. The timing for these reviews needs further thought and will be decided at a future Yearly Meeting.

Ultimately, our trust is in God, who can work through small groups as well as large. We are confident that, whatever their number, our Trustees are, and will continue to be, a worshipping group of Friends who find it a natural and normal activity to seek the leadings of God's Spirit.

Minute 21: Trustees: appointment

Further to minute 20, we receive the following nominations of Friends to act as Trustees for Britain Yearly Meeting, to serve with the assistant clerk of Meeting for Sufferings and the clerk of Quaker Finance & Property Central Committee:

Nominated by Committee on Clerks:

To serve from YM 2006 until YM 2007

Clerk:	Gillian Waddilove	Warwickshire MM
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Assistant Clerk:	Helen Rowlands	Warwickshire MM
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Nominated by Meeting for Sufferings Nominations Committee and Yearly Meeting Nominations Committee:

To serve from YM 2006 until YM 2007:

Fiona Burt	Westminster MM
Donald Robertson	Luton & Leighton MM
Alan York	South Wales MM

To serve from YM 2006 until YM 2008:

Andrew Burns	South Wales MM
Christopher Denman	Bristol & Frenchay MM
Gethin Evans	Hereford & Mid-Wales MM
Sandy Horsfall	Westminster MM
John Lewis	Colchester & Coggeshall MM

To serve from YM 2006 until YM 2009:

Jonathan Fox	Lincolnshire MM
Rowena Loverance	Westminster MM
Beryl Milner	Leeds MM
Michael Perks	South-East Scotland MM
Patricia Roberts	Purley & Sutton MM

These nominations being acceptable to the meeting we appoint the Friends named accordingly.

We also receive minute 11 of Meeting for Sufferings held 6 May 2006 recommending that the handover of trusteeship responsibilities from Meeting for Sufferings to the new trustee body should take place on 1 January 2007. We agree to this, and to the recommendations that the Trustees be invited to meet with Meeting for Sufferings Committee during the remainder of this year, and that Trustees be able to invite the clerks and other members, as appropriate, of Meeting for Sufferings Committee to attend Trustee meetings from 1 January 2007 until Yearly Meeting 2007.

We ask our Nominations Committee (YM 2006 - YM 2007), working with Meeting for Sufferings Nominations Committee, to bring forward nominations for Trustees to Yearly Meeting 2007, pending the setting up of the Central Nominations Committee.

We ask our nominations committees to bear in mind when bringing forward new names of trustees for future Yearly Meetings, the wish expressed in the RECAST proposals that a significant proportion of the trustees should be members of Meeting for Sufferings. We are, however, aware of the major demands which would be placed on a Friend serving both as a trustee and as monthly meeting Representative.

Afternoon

Minute 22: Letter of Greetings

A letter of greetings from Hong Kong Monthly Meeting has been read as follows:

Dear Friends,

Hong Kong Friends send you our loving greetings, you are in our thoughts and prayers as you meet for Yearly Meeting.

British Friends may not know it but Friends outside Britain look to you as guides, be it your testimonies or our use of your Faith & Practice.

Over the past century Friends have seen achieved much that our traditional testimonies stood for. Now we Friends are faced with new challenges both social and natural. In a society in which the only constant is change and where the most important change, natural or environmental change, is beyond our control, perhaps we Friends can bring light to the challenges of change with a witness to a loving and inclusive path of managing change.

Your work and efforts during Yearly Meeting are in our hearts and prayers. We wish you joy and success in your fellowship!

With loving greetings for and on behalf of
Hong Kong Monthly Meeting

Julian Stargardt
Clerk

Minute 23: The Membership Procedures Group Report

Further to minute 30 of Yearly Meeting held 28 July – 4 August 2001, Meeting for Sufferings asked Quaker Life Central Committee to set up a Membership Procedures Group. Meeting for Sufferings, by minute 10 of its meeting held 5 November 2005, has endorsed and forwarded the group's report, as found on pages 76 to 85 in *Documents in advance*.

The Membership Procedures Group was asked to produce detailed proposals on:

- the processes for acquiring and transferring membership, which should be made as simple and undaunting as possible;
- the possibility that membership, once acquired, might be held in a way that is not specific to a geographic meeting, provided satisfactory arrangements can be made for the maintenance of an appropriate list and the oversight of those on it;
- all age groups should, as far as possible, be treated in the same way, in particular enabling children and young people to enter into membership when the time is right for them.

Yearly Meeting in 2001 affirmed its commitment to membership, and the group's remit was to consider the processes of membership.

The group has given three recommendations to us which follow as printed in their report:

1. "Our main recommendation is that the membership sections of *Quaker faith & practice* should be reorganised so as to shift the emphasis from the process of acquiring membership to a set of principles underlying this process. The procedures which monthly meetings establish for acquiring membership stem from these principles. This change allows for both flexibility and variation in practice and the retention of well-tested processes for acquiring membership. The principles apply to everyone. The procedures stemming from them can be adapted so as to enable children and young people to enter into membership when the time is right for them.
2. "With regard to transfer, we recommend keeping the present process. It seems to us that the main problem is that many Friends do not understand our current procedures. For this reason we recommend that the relevant section of *Quaker faith & practice* is amended so

that it includes separate sub-sections with instructions to (a) the Friend whose membership is to be transferred, (b) monthly meeting clerks and (c) overseers. Use can be made of electronic media.

3. "We do not recommend the setting up of a system by which membership can be held non-geographically outside monthly meetings. It is clear that satisfactory arrangements cannot be made for the maintenance of an appropriate list and the oversight of those on it. However, membership procedures and oversight could draw on an individual's wider Quaker community beyond the geographic limits of the monthly meeting."

We agree these recommendations and ask Meeting for Sufferings to ensure that the necessary changes to *Quaker faith & practice* be drafted along the lines suggested in the report, by the Church Government Advisory Group and returned to us at a future Yearly Meeting.

We note the comment that the possibility of parents applying for membership on behalf of their children means that, in this respect, applications for membership of those of all ages are not treated in the same way. We ask Meeting for Sufferings to report back to us, with recommendations, on this matter, including how to involve the children and young people associated with the Yearly Meeting in the consultation process.

Our recording of membership status is a recognition of a living spiritual reality which is already present before we decide how to record it.

Membership is both a gift and a task, a gift of God and a task which brings responsibility to respond to the love of God in the service of the Society.

Minute 24: Constitutional issues – central nominations

Minute 35 of Yearly Meeting 2005 asked our Agenda Committee to arrange for the proposals in paragraphs 66 and 67 of the RECAST report to be implemented at Yearly Meeting this year. We were not clear at that stage whether to accept the recommendation from RECAST that all central appointments should be made by Yearly Meeting. Our *Quaker faith & practice* Drafting Group has consulted widely and recommends that the volume of appointments would be better handled if it were divided between Yearly Meeting and Meeting for Sufferings (as the representative meeting), so that appointment of Trustees, Quaker Stewardship Committee, other Yearly Meeting committees and Yearly Meeting representatives on our Agenda Committee continues to be carried out by Yearly Meeting, while appointment of central and other standing committees, on behalf of Yearly Meeting, and Meeting for Sufferings' representatives on Agenda Committee continues to be carried out by Meeting for Sufferings or its successor.

We also agree that all members of the Yearly Meeting Nominations Group (other than the Convenor) should be appointed from the floor of Yearly Meeting in session. Since the nominating group will not have to work during Yearly Meeting, we hope that their appointment might be done over a longer period during the Yearly Meeting rather than entirely at its first session. This will give more opportunity for those Friends named to reflect on their willingness to serve and the meeting more time to reflect on their suitability and the appropriate balance in the nominated group. We agree that the size of the Nominating Group should be 6-8 Friends.

We agree to the proposed amendments to *Quaker faith & practice* which would implement these changes, as printed on pages 63-65 of the "Constitutional Issues" Supplement to *Documents in advance*, with the exception of "Trustees for centrally managed work" in the

second paragraph which should read “Britain Yearly Meeting Trustees” and “for centrally managed work” at item c) of 6.19 which should be deleted, so this just reads “Trustees”; and 6.22 first paragraph which will read: The group consists of six to eight Friends appointed in a Yearly Meeting session each year; a convenor nominated by the previous Nominating Group and the remainder on nomination from the body of the meeting”.

We agree that the appropriate means of appointing the clerks of Meeting for Sufferings should be reviewed along with the review of the size of Meeting for Sufferings for the 2009-11 triennium. We have been reminded that all our nominations committees need our prayerful support, as they carry out their very responsible tasks on our behalf.

The full text of the amended sections of *Quaker faith & practice* follows:

Committee on Clerks

6.19 The Committee on Clerks is responsible for considering the short, medium and long term clerkship needs of the Yearly Meeting.

The Committee on Clerks acts as the nominating body for clerks of Yearly Meeting, Meeting for Sufferings, Britain Yearly Meeting Trustees and Summer Gatherings. It brings forward

- a. to Yearly Meeting, annually, names of a Friend to serve as clerk and two Friends to serve as assistant clerks of Yearly Meeting;
- b. to Meeting for Sufferings, annually, names of Friends to serve as clerk and assistant clerk of Meeting for Sufferings;
- c. to Yearly Meeting, annually, names of Friends to serve as clerk and assistant clerk of the Trustees;
- d. to Yearly Meeting, two years before each Summer Gathering, names of Friends to serve as clerks of the Summer Gathering.

The Committee on Clerks consists of 13 members, including a clerk appointed by the committee from within its number. One-third of the members other than the clerk will retire annually at the rise of Yearly Meeting, and are eligible for reappointment. These Friends shall serve for no more than six continuous years. The clerk is appointed for a three-year period and may serve for a maximum of nine continuous years on the committee.

Central Nominations Committee

6.21 The Central Nominations Committee is a standing committee appointed by Yearly Meeting (see 6.22) to bring forward names for service as required both by Yearly Meeting in session and by Meeting for Sufferings. It consists of twenty-seven members, with one third of the members retiring annually at the rise of Yearly Meeting and not eligible for immediate reappointment. The clerk and assistant clerk are appointed by the committee from within its number and may serve a further year beyond the initial appointment period.

The Central Nominations Committee brings forward names to each Yearly Meeting for the following appointments.

- a. Yearly Meeting Agenda Committee: three Friends to serve for three years (6.18).
- b. Yearly Meeting Arrangements Committee; two Friends to serve during the period of Yearly Meeting (6.20).

- c. Epistle Drafting Committee: five to seven Friends to serve during the period of Yearly Meeting, including one to act as convener (6.22).
- d. Yearly Meeting Elders as required by the Yearly Meeting.
- e. Yearly Meeting Overseers as required by the Yearly Meeting.
- f. Yearly Meeting Accessibility and Support Group: numbers required by the terms of reference (which may be obtained on application to the Recording Clerk).
- g. Yearly Meeting Publications Group for *Quaker faith & practice*: one Friend to serve for three years.
- h. Quaker Stewardship Committee: three Friends to serve for three years (14.29);
- i. Trustees: five Friends to serve for three years (new cross reference).

When due or required, it also brings in names of Friends to serve on the Summer Gathering Planning Committee (6.25), on ad hoc groups or for any other appointments requested by Yearly Meeting.

When interim appointments to any of these bodies are required, Central Nominations Committee may bring forward names to Meeting for Sufferings, which acts on behalf of Yearly Meeting.

The committee works closely with each body on which vacancies arise in order to clarify the requirements, which may include the need for representatives from other bodies. The Central Nominations Committee acts for Meeting for Sufferings, in bringing forward names for appointments of Meeting for Sufferings representatives to Yearly Meeting Agenda Committee (6.18); for appointments to the central committees, standing committees and Trusts appointed by Meeting of Sufferings (8.03 – 8.10; 8.14 - 8.20); and as representatives to various bodies, for service on ad hoc groups or for any other appointments requested by Meeting for Sufferings (8.15).

Yearly Meeting Nominating Group

6.22 Nominations for appointment to the Central Nominations Committee and the Committee on Clerks are made by the Yearly Meeting Nominating Group. The group consists of six to eight Friends appointed in a Yearly Meeting session each year; a convener nominated by the previous Nominating Group and the remainder on nomination from the body of the meeting. The group meets and consults as necessary during the period up to the next Yearly Meeting, including with the Central Nominations Committee and the Committee on Clerks, to enable it to bring nominations to that Yearly Meeting, as follows:

- a. annually, four Friends to serve on the Committee on Clerks for a three-year period from the rise of the Yearly Meeting (6.19).
- b. annually, nine Friends to serve on the Central Nominations Committee for a three-year period from the rise of the Yearly Meeting (6.21).
- c. Friends to fill casual vacancies on these two bodies.
- d. one Friend to serve as convener of the next Yearly Meeting Nominating Group.

Minute 25: Power, trust and inclusion

For this Yearly Meeting the Agenda Committee invited Friends to reflect on how the dynamics of power, trust and inclusion are reflected in our individual lives, in our meetings, in the Yearly Meeting and in our Quaker witness.

We have heard this afternoon a number of presentations from Quaker Peace & Social Witness staff and committee members who are working in situations where issues of power, trust and inclusion arise and where powerlessness, distrust and exclusion are experienced: Circles of Support and accountability for released sex offenders; a placement with Peace Brigades International which places protective accompaniers in situations where they can help hold state power to account; working with government officials on incremental changes to the way state power is used in relation to asylum seekers and refugees; facilitating networking between peace groups in South Asia so they can learn from each other; working at the Geneva Quaker United Nations Office helping developing countries to play a fuller and more effective role in international negotiations to go some way to redress the huge imbalance of power between different negotiating partners.

Minute 26: Epistle from Junior Yearly Meeting

The Epistle of Junior Yearly Meeting held 9-13 April 2006 at the Royal Russell School, Croydon has been read as follows:

To all Friends everywhere,

A very anticipant group of young people met for Junior Yearly Meeting in Croydon to explore the theme:

“Who am I? Exploring the self in an unselfish way, living truthfully in challenging times and developing our identity.”

We felt that the theme was particularly appropriate because we are at a stage in our lives where we are searching for our identity and making important choices. We became more aware of the complexity of the theme as we grew together within the security of JYM. What started out as a simple question turned out to have many layers.

The team of under 20s and over 20s, who came together for 24 hours before the event, became pillars on which the community was built. The programme was varied, allowing time for discussions, speakers and a simulation. Base group meetings helped to spread a sense of belonging with a supportive, trusting atmosphere.

Through a role-play exercise we were able to take on identities different to our own, and were faced with the task of finding those who shared our new identity. We found that it was difficult not to stereotype in order to match ourselves up, and we discovered that lots of different types of people have the same values.

Interactive speaker sessions gave us the opportunity to hear people's own experiences around the theme, and we learnt that it can be difficult to put religion into our own lives, especially for those whose work can challenge who they are and what they believe. We found the small group speaker sessions insightful and were able to explore more about identity and how it related to more specific topics that interested us.

We felt a strong sense of worship throughout the event. This created a basis on which to learn about our identities both individually and as a whole. Deep and powerful epilogues provided time and space for spiritual reflection in which many of us were moved to minister.

It shone through how included people felt within the Religious Society of Friends by coming to JYM. During a business session we considered the questions, “What do we as young Friends feel about our engagement in and our influence on the Religious Society of Friends?”

How can this be strengthened?”. The minute written reflected the understanding we have as we make the journey towards adulthood.

The packed programme was complimented in the evenings by lively and fun social sessions. The ceilidh encouraged mixing through energetic dancing, and a base group challenge night strengthened connections.

We go home tired but spiritually refreshed and challenged to become more involved within the Society.

Signed in and on behalf of Junior Yearly Meeting 2006
Martin Clarke and Helen Sladen, *Clerks*

Monday 29 May 2006

Morning

Minute 27: Epistle

Parts of the Epistles received from the World Gatherings of Young Friends held in 2005 in Lancaster (United Kingdom) and Mombasa (Kenya) (pages 36-39 of *Epistles & testimonies*) have been read.

Minute 28: Constitutional issues – charitable status

Minute 30 of Yearly Meeting at York in 2005 recorded Yearly Meeting's agreement to register with the Charity Commission (for England and Wales), and asked Quaker Stewardship Committee to bring to Yearly Meeting 2006 the Governing Document required for registration which we now receive as printed on pages 39-46 in the Constitutional Issues Supplement to *Documents in advance*. Most of the draft Governing Document is taken directly from existing passages in *Quaker faith & practice*. We note the clarification published in the final Supplement to *Documents in advance* with the addition of the words underlined in section 8b which now reads:

- b. receiving interim reports for information, and as appropriate for consultation and guidance, from the body of trustees constituted in Clause 12 of this governing document.

We approve this document in principle for the purposes of registration with the Charity Commission and with the office of the Scottish Charity Regulator. A number of minor textual alterations have been proposed to Quaker Stewardship Committee, and we have asked Quaker Stewardship Committee to check again that the text of the Governing Document is compatible with our minute 20. We would also ask Quaker Stewardship Committee to revisit the layout and wording of paragraph 13 to give less emphasis to the legal eligibility of trustees, without changing the sense.

A final draft will be presented by Quaker Stewardship Committee to Meeting for Sufferings, for them to check and approve on our behalf, before registration takes place.

Thereafter the Governing Document will be kept under regular review. Future amendments will be brought back to Yearly Meeting every three years, initially after the proposed review of Meeting for Sufferings in 2009.

The preparation for registration with the Charity Commission by monthly meetings will include the appointment of trustees and preparation of accounts in an appropriate form. Quaker Stewardship Committee has prepared a template of a governing document which local meetings may modify according to local needs and then adopt before registration (see pages 49-57 of the *Constitutional Issues* Supplement to *Documents in advance*). However, Quaker Stewardship Committee notes that only those monthly meetings with an income above £100,000 in 2006 will in fact be legally required to register in the first wave of registrations of previously excepted charities from October 2007. Others may be required to register at a later date. Quaker Stewardship Committee has also prepared advice for Friends in Scotland, the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands. It is ready to give help and advice concerning registration to other charitable Quaker bodies that have hitherto been covered by Britain Yearly Meeting's excepted status.

We endorse Quaker Stewardship Committee's recommendation that monthly meetings should prepare for registration with the Charity Commission and ask monthly meetings, as part of that preparation, to give careful consideration to the template which has been prepared by Quaker Stewardship Committee, once they have it amended in the light of points raised during this Yearly Meeting.

Minute 29: Constitutional Issues – Trustees continued
***Quaker faith & practice* working text and terms of reference**

Further to minute 20, we endorse as working text for *Quaker faith & practice*, and as terms of reference for the Trustees, respectively, appendices 3a and 3b of the *Constitutional Issues* Supplement to *Documents in Advance* (pages 16-36). We ask the Yearly Meeting *Quaker faith & practice* Drafting Group to review these documents once more to ensure they are compatible with minute 20, and then present any amendments to Meeting for Sufferings to approve provisionally on our behalf before the small body of trustees takes up its responsibilities. The final version of these documents will be brought to Yearly Meeting 2007 for acceptance.

Minute 30: Quaker Stewardship Committee - Certifying compliance to Yearly Meeting

We receive minute QSC 06/05/8 of Quaker Stewardship Committee held 16-17 May 2006 which reads as follows:

Certifying compliance to Yearly Meeting

We are not yet able to certify compliance to Yearly Meeting. A prerequisite for certification will be the submission by Monthly Meetings of Annual Reports and Accounts in a timely fashion and in an adequate format, and the verification of property records. We are aware that a number of Monthly Meetings are struggling and we are seriously concerned that there are some Monthly Meetings from which we have had no returns at all. It is proving difficult to help these Monthly Meetings which have not responded to the Committee. We know that there are people both from the Committee and from other resources [such as the Woodbrooke training team] who might be available to help. We will write to the Clerks of the three Monthly Meetings who have not yet responded before our next report is made to Yearly Meeting.

Christine A.M. Davis, Clerk

Minute 31: Acceptance of Reports and Accounts

The annual report of Meeting for Sufferings and its committees for the year ended 31 December 2005 (printed in *Quaker work 2005* pages 7-166 & 173-187) and the Trustees' annual report and accounts 2005 are now accepted.

The report of Yearly Meeting Agenda Committee, Quaker Stewardship Committee and other Yearly Meeting committees (pages 166-172) and the Tabular Statement are also accepted.

Minute 32: Testimony

Part of a Testimony to the Grace of God as shown in the life of Percy Lovell (pages 65-66 of *Epistles & testimonies*) has been read.

Minute 33: Recording Clerk

We receive minute 6a of Meeting for Sufferings held 1 April 2006 which reads as follows:

Minute 6: Recording Clerk**a) Retirement**

We are informed that Elsa Dicks wishes to retire as Recording Clerk on 31 May 2007 or soon after. We will have an opportunity nearer the time to express our thanks for her service.

We have agreed the arrangements for appointing a new Recording Clerk, which are set out in part b) of this minute. We encourage Friends to send comments to John Batt at Friends House with ideas about the responsibilities of the new Recording Clerk. These will be used by the Recording Clerk Recruitment Group.

We forward part a) of this minute to Yearly Meeting 2006 for information.

Caroline Nursey
Clerk

Minute 34: Process for amendments to *Quaker faith & practice*

We receive minute 11 of Meeting for Sufferings held 3 September 2005 concerning the process for amendments to *Quaker faith & practice*. Following concern initially raised during Yearly Meeting 2003 the process has now been documented to ensure its integrity and openness. Both Meeting for Sufferings and Yearly Meeting Agenda Committee have approved the statement of process included as an appendix on pages 91-94 of *Documents in advance*.

We agree the following amendment as an insertion in section 6.06 of *Quaker faith & practice*:

- b. proposals for amendments to our Book of Discipline forwarded by Meeting for Sufferings or Yearly Meeting Agenda Committee in accordance with the process currently approved. Details of this process may be obtained on application to the Recording Clerk;

The existing sub-sections b – i are to be re-lettered c – j , and consequential changes made to the sub-section references in the remaining text of 6.06.

Minute 35: Amendments to *Quaker faith & practice*

We agree the following amendments in *Quaker faith & practice*.

- a) On the recommendation of the Yearly Meeting Publications Group for *Quaker faith & practice* by its minute YMPG 05/19.

The YM Publications Group was asked by minute 16 of Yearly Meeting held 30 July – 7 August 2005 to draft the changes to *Quaker faith & practice* section 14.29 made by Yearly Meeting to the membership of the Quaker Stewardship Committee.

The text revised below increases the number of Friends appointed by Yearly Meeting from six to nine, with three rather than two retiring annually:

14.29 The Quaker Stewardship Committee shall comprise the following:

- a. Nine Friends appointed by the Yearly Meeting, from names submitted by Meeting for Sufferings on the recommendation of its nominations committee, for a three-year period beginning and ending at a Yearly Meeting, three members retiring annually though eligible for reappointment for a second term and exceptionally for a third;
- b. Clerk and assistant clerk appointed by the Yearly Meeting annually from names submitted by Meeting for Sufferings on the recommendation of its nominations committee; together with the Recording Clerk and General Secretary of Quaker Finance and Property, ex-officio.

In case of a vacancy, Meeting for Sufferings is authorised to make an interim appointment up to the next Yearly Meeting.

- b) On the recommendation of Meeting for Sufferings, by its minute 5 of 4 February 2006. Following the adoption of the paper *Handling monthly meeting minutes* (appendix C to the Meeting for Sufferings report as printed in Quaker work in 2005 pages 53 – 61, adding to *Quaker faith & practice*, the following amendment is made as an addition at the end of section 4.15:

A monthly meeting considering whether to send a minute to Meeting for Sufferings is encouraged to consult the advice in the current statement of guidance to monthly meetings on preparing minutes for Meeting for Sufferings, and of good practice in the handling of such minutes. This document is available from the Recording Clerk.

Minute 36: Receipt of the Yearly Meeting General Epistle

The Epistle Drafting Committee appointed by minute 4 has submitted a draft Epistle, which has been read and accepted after amendment as the General Epistle.

Minute 37: Meeting for Sufferings: interim membership changes since last Yearly Meeting

The following changes to the membership of Meeting for Sufferings have occurred since Yearly Meeting 2005:

Added	Released	Nominating Body
Peter Smith		Norwich and Lynn MM
	Paul Bowers Isaacson (Co-opted 7 June 2003)	Devonshire House & Tottenham MM
	Janie Whitaker	Pardshaw MM
Jane Holmes		Pardshaw MM
Jane Robinson		Marsden MM
Bill Rowland		Gloucester & Nailsworth MM
	Dawn Rossiter Smith	Gloucester & Nailsworth MM
	Christine Willmore	Bristol & Frenchay MM
Phyllida Parsloe		Bristol & Frenchay MM
Susan Garratt		Witham MM
	Richard Bush	Bournemouth & Swanage MM
	Rosemary Furzer	Southampton & Portsmouth MM
	Simon Best	Young Friends General Meeting
John Dodwell		Bournemouth & Swanage MM
Sue Johnson		Southampton & Portsmouth MM
Imogen Wedd		Ipswich & Diss MM
Catherine Brewer		Quaker World Relations Committee
	Sally Ashe	Balby MM
	David Bartlett	Marsden MM
Maryfaith Autumn		Marsden MM
David Feickert		Balby MM
Colin Billett		Quaker Life Central Committee
Phil Lucas		Quaker Life Central Committee
	Rachel Arnold	Young Friends General Meeting
	David Harris	Swarthmore MM
Rachael Milling		Swarthmore MM
Laura Wirtz		Young Friends General Meeting
	Eileen Wragge (deceased)	York MM

Minute 38: Meeting for Sufferings: appointments, Yearly Meeting 2006 – Yearly Meeting 2009

Further to minute 45 of last Yearly Meeting, nominations from monthly meetings for representatives to serve on Meeting for Sufferings are listed below, as are nominations for representatives of the standing committees of Meeting for Sufferings or of other bodies, according to section 7.04 of *Quaker faith & practice*. Ex-officio members are also listed for reference and completeness.

To serve from Yearly Meeting 2006 until Yearly Meeting 2009 (26-29 May)

BEDFORDSHIRE

Hertford & Hitchin (2)
Roger Jarvis
Orion McKibbin

Luton & Leighton (3)

Richard Errington
Sue George
Linda Wood

Jordans (2)

Ann Fox
Jeanne van Zetten

Northampton & Wellingborough (2)

Ron Barden
Derrick Whitehouse

BERKS & OXON*Banbury & Evesham (2)*

Janice Johnson
Sheila Legg

Reading (3)

Josephine Rado
Gil Skidmore
Bernard J. Skillerne de Bristowe

Witney (3)

Jill Green
Laurie Michaelis
Fred Sessa

BRISTOL & SOMERSET*Bristol & Frenchay (2)*

Ben Barman
Phyllida Parsloe

Mid-Somerset (2)

Roger Iredale
Richard Porter

North Somerset & Wilts (3)

Enid Smith
Vacancy
Vacancy

Shaftesbury & Sherborne (2)

Beryl Shilton
Ken Smith

West Somerset (2)

Susan Hammond-Lovatt
Martin Wall

CUMBERLAND*Carlisle & Holm (2)*

David Beale
J. Trevor Green

Pardshaw (2)

Jane Holmes
Geoffrey Braithwaite

DERBYSHIRE, Lincs & NOTTS*Lincolnshire (2)*

David Taylor
Vacancy

Notts & Derbys (3)

Jenny Gordon
Bernice Taylor
Vacancy

DEVON & CORNWALL*Cornwall (2)*

Janet Lynch
Lesley Moreland

East Devon (2)

Ann Davis
Vacancy

West Devon (2)

Diana Brace
Sally Rogerson

DURHAM*Darlington (2)*

David Dargue
Mary Waldmeyer

Guisborough (2)

Susan Wood
Vacancy

Northumbria (3)

Judith Catty
Michelle Caulkett
Sue Lawson

Wensleydale & Swaledale (2)

Angela Le Grice
Janet Quilley

ESSEX & SUFFOLK*Colchester & Coggeshall (2)*

Audrey Hind
Peter Whiteley

Ipswich & Diss (Formerly Woodbridge) (2)

Imogen Wedd
Vacancy

Thaxted (2)

John Capper
Janet Dodsworth

Witham (2)

Jonathan Hodgkin
Susan Garratt

HAMPSHIRE, ISLE OF WIGHT & CHANNEL ISLANDS

Bournemouth & Swanage (2)

John Dodwell
Euranis Neile

Southampton & Portsmouth (3)

Cathy Eglington
David Heathfield
Sue Johnson

KENT

East Kent (2)

Dorothy Douse
Catherine Kemp

West Kent (2)

Dana Adler
Pat Thomas

LANCASHIRE & CHESHIRE

Cheshire (2)

Annique Seddon
Hazel Todhunter

Hardshaw East (2)

Elizabeth Bailey
G. Emily Dale

Hardshaw West (2)

Jane Pearn
Vacancy

Marsden (2)

Maryfaith Autumn
Jane Robinson

North Wales (2)

Elaine Miles
Vacancy

Wirral & Chester (2)

Christine Cannon
Jane Laxton

LONDON & MIDDLESEX

Devonshire House & Tottenham (2)

Margaret Amor
Lisa Bowers Isaacson

Hampstead (2)

John Roycroft
Vacancy

Kingston & Wandsworth (2)

Philip Hills
Alick Munro

Purley & Sutton (2)

Ethel Livermore
Mary Jakeman

Ratcliff & Barking (2)

Rosalie Bridge
Ann Mason

Southwark, Lewisham & Bromley (2)

Hazel Arlidge
Brian Rodmell

Westminster (3)

John Hewitt
Margot Lunnon
John F. Marshall

NORFOLK, CAMBS & HUNTS

Cambridge & Peterborough (3)

Sheila Gatiss
David Hall
Mick Langford

Norwich & Lynn (3)

Peter Smith
Peter Varney
Vacancy

SCOTLAND

East of Scotland (2)

Peter Kennedy
Vacancy

North of Scotland (2)

Mary Dower
John Melling

South-East Scotland (2)

Margaret Mortimer
Marion Morton

West Scotland (2)

Bill Agnew
Margaret Peacock

SUSSEX & SURREY

Chichester (2)

Rebecca Grove
Vivienne Ross

Dorking & Horsham (2)

Christine Knott
Ann Rainforth

Guildford & Godalming (2)

Liz Andrews
Margaret Doubell

Sussex East (2)

Joan Frik
Freda Mansfield

WARWICK, LEICESTER & STAFFS

Leicester (2)

Vacancy
Vacancy

Staffordshire (2)

Elizabeth Morris
Shelagh Robinson

Warwickshire (4)

Marlène Cantan-Taylor
Joy Evans
Martin Hadley
Alison Ironside

WESTERN

Gloucester & Nailsworth (3)

Colin Gerard
Bill Rowland
Vacancy

Hereford & Mid-Wales (2)

Libby Hudson
Lynn Moseley

South Wales (2)

Stevie Kraye
Alan York

Worcester & Shropshire (2)

Richard Bartholomew
Charles West

Representatives of certain standing committees:

Quaker Committee for Christian & Interfaith Relations (1):

Janet Scott

Quaker Communications Central Committee (2):

Jenny Buffery
Roger Turner

WESTMORLAND

Kendal & Sedbergh (2)

Ken Randall
Stella Solloway

Lancaster (2)

James Eddington
John May

Swarthmore (2)

Rachael Milling
Vacancy

YORKSHIRE

Balby (2)

David Edmonds
David Feickert

Brighouse (2)

Gerard Benson
Deborah Rolland

Leeds (2)

Joanna Dales
Malcolm Whalan

Pickering & Hull (2)

Brian Fellowes
Brenda Rigby

Pontefract (2)

Arthur Pritchard
Walter Storey

Settle (2)

Alan Lygo-Baker
Patricia Wilson

York (3)

Theodore Bacon
Peter Jarman
Vacancy

Quaker Finance and Property Central Committee (2):

A. David Olver

Vacancy

Quaker Life Central Committee (2):

Colin Billett

Phil Lucas

Quaker Peace & Social Witness Central Committee (2):

Miriam Branson

Vacancy

Quaker Employment and Service Central Committee (2):

Vacancy

Vacancy

Quaker World Relations Committee (1):

Catherine Brewer

Young Friends General Meeting (2):

Laura Wirtz

Vacancy

To serve *ex-officio*:

Clerk of Yearly Meeting

Martin Ward

Clerk of Meeting for Sufferings

Rachel Carmichael

Assistant Clerk of Meeting for Sufferings

Michael Phipps

Clerk of Meeting for Sufferings Committee

Esther Boyd

Trustees not already representatives (as listed in minute 21)

Members of Meeting for Sufferings Committee ex-officio (where not serving as representatives):

Jeffrey Dean, Diana Morrison-Smith, James Putz, Eric Rigby, David Saunderson,

Wendy Ward

Recording Clerk

Elsa Dicks

Assistant Recording Clerk

Michael Hutchinson

Other members of the Management Meeting

Linda Craig (Quaker Peace & Social Witness)

David Holmes (Quaker Finance and Property)

Michael Hutchinson (Quaker Life)

These nominations being acceptable to the meeting the Friends named are appointed accordingly.

Minute 39: Appointments

The Nominations Committee appointed by minute 8 brings in the following renominations:

As convener of Yearly Meeting elders for Yearly Meeting 2007:

Richard Hilken, (East Devon MM)

As convener of Yearly Meeting overseers for Yearly Meeting 2007:

Julia Aspden, (North Wales MM),

These nominations being acceptable to the meeting, we appoint the Friends named accordingly.

Minute 40: Summer Gathering Planning Committee

Further to minute 9 of Yearly Meeting held 30 July – 6 August 2005, the following nominations were received:

From General Meeting for Scotland to serve on the Yearly Meeting Summer Gathering Planning Committee until Yearly Meeting 2008:

Andrew Farrar (South-East Scotland MM)

Luisa Piluso (attender at Milngavie RM)

From Quaker Life Children & Young People's Committee:

Margaret Stocks (Kendal & Sedbergh MM)

These nominations being acceptable to the Meeting, we appoint the Friends named accordingly.

Minute 41: Appointment of Yearly Meeting Nominating Group

We appoint:

Janet Scott (as convener)	Cambridge & Peterborough MM
Judith Baresel	Hereford & North Wales MM
Peter Fishpool	Warwickshire MM
David Heathfield	Southampton & Portsmouth MM
Sylvia Hilken	East Devon MM
Mary Latham	West Scotland MM
Louise Rendle	Hampstead MM
Roy Stephenson	Lancaster MM

as the first Yearly Meeting Nominating Group to operate under the new arrangements set out under minute 21. We ask them to bring to YM 2007:

Nine Friends to serve on the Central Nominations Committee from Yearly Meeting 2007 to Yearly Meeting 2008.

Nine Friends to serve as the Central Nominations Committee from Yearly Meeting 2007 to Yearly Meeting 2009.

Nine Friends to serve on the Central Nominations Committee from Yearly Meeting 2007 to Yearly Meeting 2010.

One of the Friends to be responsible for convening the first meeting of the Central Nominations Committee.

One Friend to serve as convener of the Nominating Group for YM 2007 to YM 2008.

Minute 42: Ecumenical and interfaith visitors

We have been pleased to welcome to this Yearly Meeting:

Douglas Nicol of the Board of National Mission of the Church of Scotland

Daniel Otieno-Ndale who serves on the Interfaith Network for the UK Committee from the Minority Ethnic Christian Affairs Reference Group of the Churches Together in Britain and Ireland /Churches Together in England.

Minute 43: Epistles from other yearly meetings

We have received Epistles from 21 yearly meetings and other bodies (pages 3-39 in *Epistles & testimonies*), extracts from four of which have been read in our sessions.

Minute 44: Testimonies

The following Testimonies to the Grace of God as shown in the life of deceased Friends, in addition to those from which extracts have been read in our sessions, have been received:

<u>Names</u>	<u>Epistles & testimonies page no</u>
Pat Ashcroft	42
Ian Stuart Ashford	43
Irwin James Barnes	46
Walter Barr Birmingham	48
Alex Bryan	50
Ruby Bryant	51
Hilary Clark	52
Selby Clewer	54
Alun Madoc Davies	55
Arthur Hewlett	58
Maurice Howard Hughes	60
Lewana Joan Hiles Jackson	61
William Gordon King	63
Linda Lee	64
Mark Monger	67
Jane O'Brien	68
Else Pickvance	70
Bethany Joy Shea	75
Peter Harold Stoodley	77
Allan West	78

Minute 45: Welcome to visitors from other Yearly Meetings

We have welcomed visitors from other yearly meetings and other Friends' groups as follows:

Central & Southern Africa YM	Duduzile Mtshazo
East Africa YM North	Gladys Kang'ahi
East Africa	Moses Musonga
France YM	Mike Zipser (representative)
German YM	Eike Strapman
Hong Kong MM	Kenneth Co Ching Po
Illinois YM	Elizabeth Mertic (Friday night only)
India YM	Dilawar Chetsingh
Ireland YM	Aidan McCartney

Ireland YM	Irene Ni Mhaille(representative)
Ireland YM	Simon C. Lamb (representative)
Nairobi YM	Reuben Shibutse
Netherlands YM	Irene Visser
New England YM	Patricia Vann
North Pacific YM	Tom Head
North Pacific YM	Nancy Irving
North Pacific YM	Barbara K Spring
Norway YM	Marit Kronberg (representative)
Ohio Valley and Wilmington YMs	Thomas C.Hill
Philadelphia YM (residing in Chile)	Martín Gárate
Philadelphia YM	Marcelle Martin
Philadelphia YM	Thomas Swain
Russia (unattached)	Natalya Bushinka
Sweden YM	Torbjörn Söderquist
Switzerland YM	Ellen Mouravieff-Apostol (representative)

Minute 46: Thanks

We record our thanks to all the people who have worked to enable this yearly meeting to take place.

Minute 47: Receipt of Under 19 Programme minutes

We have received minutes from the groups of the Under 19 Programme of this yearly meeting as follows:

Under 19s minutes, Britain Yearly Meeting 2006

Bouncing Beans, 0 – 5s

We have had fun playing together in our room and with our new sand and water toys on the balcony. We've stuck things, painted, sung and had lots of stories. We have been good at sharing and patient when we've had to wait for our turn.

At the end of each session we've had worship time. First we wriggle then we settle – there are oil timers if we want something to look at. We have been to Meeting for Worship with all the Under 11s which was “difficult but good”.

We have helped each other, looked after the babies and kept them safe. We'd like to thank all our dedicated volunteers who have worked really hard!

We've enjoyed being the Bouncing Beans especially being 'happy beans' in our Bouncing Beans game and we hope you've had as much fun as we have at Yearly Meeting.

Sparkey Sparrows Minute, 5 – 7s

We enjoyed making little paper people, badges, flying sparrows and collages.

We played sparrow tag and acted as bugs and sparrows.

We liked playing with lego, playdough, dolls, jigsaws and reading books.

We went into the quiet big Meeting House with the adults.

We enjoyed snacks in our room, and with the Lighthouse Keepers and Bouncing Beans after our meeting together. At the beginning the Bouncing Beans showed us how to wiggle, and then we drew pictures of light.

Peggy (who is 84) came to talk to us and we asked her questions. She is older than Friends House. Friends House is 80.

We went to Camley Street Natural Park. We didn't like falling over or sneezing with the tree fluff.

We liked looking for money on our way so we could donate it in a compost bin. We liked looking at the poor stick insect with broken legs.

We came back on a tall red bus. Lots of us felt tired.

We liked everything.

The Lighthouse Keepers, 7 – 11s

Hello, we are the Lighthouse keepers aged 7 – 11 and we would like to tell you a bit about what we've been doing this weekend.

On Saturday morning we started off with getting to know one another by playing name games and chatting. We also toured Friends House, you may have heard us.

On Saturday afternoon, we were blindfolded and walked down the main stairs, it was pretty hard but don't worry our Core Team made sure we were safe. This exercise helped us think about ideas of trust and who might or might not trust within Britain Yearly Meeting and the outside world.

On Sunday morning we held a Meeting for Worship for all the Under 11s and one 84 year old. We used drawing and writing to express our worship and feelings. We were worried that the Bouncing Beans would be restless but they sat wonderfully still so it was peaceful.

In the afternoon, we went to Coram Fields, we were excited to be free and wild. There were lots of things to do and we had a great time. We made sure every adult had a child so they could get in toe and enjoy the fun.

This morning our theme was the power of the people. Nico came from Quaker United National Office to talk to us about fair trade. By trading chocolate we realised life isn't always fair and sometimes we have to except what we are given. It also helped us realise that international trade is unfair and fair trade seemed kinder.

We've all enjoyed being here at BYM and sad to be going. We've made lots of Friends and hope to stay in contact. We've also experienced some of the adult processes and if you think the nominations process can be long you should come to one of ours.

Finches, 11 – 13s

This is the minute for the 11-13 year old group, 'The Finches' that stayed at Finchley Meeting House. We had an extremely enjoyable yet thought provoking period of time while staying there.

Most of us met on Friday afternoon here at Friends House and were introduced to one another and leaders before setting off on our journey to Finchley. Many people were nervous because they knew no one, but the journey gave us an opportunity to connect and interact with the rest

of the group. Name games helped also and by the end of the day we were all more relaxed around each other.

On Saturday we went on a scavenger hunt which allowed us to work as a team and cooperate with one another which prepared us for more serious tasks such as cooking and cleaning. We then went to the park and got slightly damp while playing football and eating acid sweets. We then heard from our speaker named Marisa Johnson who travelled to the West Bank as an ecumenical accompanier. Her talk was powerful and moving and helped us realise the conditions that some have to go through to stand up for what they believe in.

On Sunday we met with Finchley Friends in semi-programmed meeting. For some of us this was our first full meeting and was less painful than expected. We then shared a lunch and games with Finchley Friends which was a valued experience for all. We then went swimming which was a highlight of the weekend for many before drying off and going to Friends House. We enjoyed The Leavers production of *George and the Chocolate Factory* and played a key part in the cross-age epilogue.

Madness at Muswell, 13 – 15s

Three days ago 24 eager young Quakers were sitting at breakfast knowing that they would have to miss both Big Brother and Dr Who for the next few days. Instead they would be spending the weekend with some of their closest friends and meeting plenty of new ones at Britain Yearly Meeting 2006.

Over this time we discussed issues of power and trust with the help of 2 visitors from relevant Quaker organisations. We found these sessions helped us to understand our own interpretation of these words.

Amongst these sessions we watched the deeply moving film of *Rabbit Proof Fence* while consuming an unusually large amount of jelly babies (no one was sick though!). Other occasions included a barbeque, swimming and a trip to Covent Garden market.

On Sunday we joined with Muswell Hill's local Quaker Meeting. We watched an excellent performance of The Leavers *George and the Chocolate Factory* and led a cross-age worship with the Finchley Finches. We enjoyed making each other cosy glows at the end of the weekend.

We would like to thank Muswell Hill Meeting for allowing us to use their facilities - we hope it doesn't smell too much! Also a massive thank you to our core team: Mic, Margaret, Mary, Kealan and everyone else who made this weekend possible – you rock, we love you guys.

Rydym eisiau diolch I gyfarfod cyngor Bryn Muswell am adael i ni aros yn eu Radeilad. Gobeithiwn nad ydyw yn aroglu yn rhy ddrwg. Hefyd diolch yn fawr i Mic, Margaret, Mary, Kealan. Chwi yw'r gorau, rydym yn ddiolchgar i chwi gyd.

The Hammers, 15-18s

This year, the 15-18 age group, also known as "The Hammers" enjoyed exploring the themes of power, trust and inclusion through various activities and speaker sessions. On Saturday we were visited by Debbie Taylor, a Quaker Prison Minister. Through an informative session we gained an insight into what her job entailed and the relevance of power, trust and inclusion in her work with the prisoners.

Saturday afternoon found us splashing through Camden Market in the pouring rain. We managed to include unbelievable numbers beneath the limited umbrella space. Similarly we broke further records by addressing the question of "how many Quakers can you fit in the tube

station lift?" We found the Swarthmore Lecture very moving and enjoyed the opportunity to meet the speakers the following day. We were able to ask questions regarding marriage and its relevance to our generation in a more intimate discussion with them.

On Sunday morning we were pleased to attend Hampstead Meeting. The local Friends were particularly welcoming. Although we attended the main sessions we did not feel as connected to the main event of Britain Yearly Meeting as in previous years. We feel it would be good if Young Friends were able to be more involved in the decision-making processes of Britain Yearly Meeting.

Throughout the weekend regular epilogues and inspirational readings have helped us to engage with our spirituality. A particular highlight was an all-age epilogue at Friends House led by us which many found powerful.

Overall, the weekend has been thoroughly enjoyed by all. Creativity with clay, kitchen raves, fun and games, catching up with friends from the Transitional Group and very little sleep compiled to make Britain Yearly Meeting a lasting experience. Not only did we address the themes of power, trust and inclusion, but we particularly felt their presence in the many friendships made over the weekend.

We leave empowered and truly hammered!

We are grateful to these groups for their preparation and presentation of these minutes.

Minute 48: Receipt of minute from the Transitional Group

We have received a minute from our 19 – 25 year old transitional group as follows:

Six young Friends between the ages of 19 and 25 joined together this weekend to form the Transitional Group. This is the first year this type of programme has run. Even though we were small in numbers, we found that we bonded into a very tight, harmonised community.

During Yearly Meeting we have attended sessions, shared a social evening with 'The Hammers', and enjoyed the atmosphere of Britain Yearly Meeting.

We have also spent time together reflecting, sharing and worshipping. We discussed the future of this group and gained valuable input from older and younger Friends.

We have discerned that there is a definite need for a transitioning group within Yearly Meeting. Without it we feel that we wouldn't have come to any or all of Yearly Meeting.

Between the ages of 19 and 25 we are in one of the most transitional periods in our lives. We leave home and forge our independent paths in this world. We feel that this Transitional Group will help facilitate our continuing spiritual journeys and growth during this time of change. This group fills a void and ensures that we don't get lost in a spiritual wasteland. We are pleased that Yearly Meeting recognises and supports this and hope that they will continue to help us grow.

As a group this weekend we have felt empowered by bringing this group to life and planning for its future. We formed a bond of trust that created a feeling of safety and security.

We have felt included in our community and the wider community of Britain Yearly Meeting.

We leave Britain Yearly Meeting feeling encouraged by this year's success and looking forward to the development of the Transitional Group.

We are grateful to the group for the preparation and presentation of this minute.

Minute 49: Yearly Meeting Epistle

The General Epistle approved by minute 36 has been read and signed by the clerk on behalf of the Meeting.

It reads as follows:

To all Friends everywhere,

Take heed, dear Friends, to the promptings of love and truth in your hearts. Trust them as the leadings of God.... *Advices and queries* 1

Greetings from Britain Yearly Meeting, held at a newly-cleaned Friends House, while it is celebrating its eightieth birthday.

From the start, we have felt a strong sense of common purpose, of abiding in the power of the Spirit. With helpful guidance from our clerks and our elders, there has been a willingness among us to work within our listening discipline, which is not a constraint but a channel to receive the guidance of God.

During this Yearly Meeting, we have tried hard to avoid negative 'murmurings' that would undermine our corporate discipline.

We have returned to the question of trusteeship of Britain Yearly Meeting. Last year we were unable to reach unity on the question of appointing a small trustee body, such were the anxieties about issues of power and trust. The delay has proved a blessing, as we have had time for a thorough threshing of a matter which has profound implications for the life of our community.

Trust is not something that can be forced; it must be worked on over time. We are thankful for the work on safeguards and accountability over the past year that has enabled us to take the risk of a new way forward. We are now ready to entrust a small group with the specific responsibilities of trusteeship, remembering that these responsibilities are grounded in terms of service, not of power. We, the Yearly Meeting, carry the authority and we *all* share responsibility for our work and witness, whether present in session or not. We commit ourselves to upholding our trustees and all others who undertake work on our behalf - not least by maintaining an interest in it.

Now that we have relieved our representative body, Meeting for Sufferings, of the detailed work of trusteeship, we have freed it to take on a visionary and prophetic role for the life of the Yearly Meeting, to draw our whole community together and to release the synergy we create, to work better for the world.

Committee members and staff of Quaker Peace and Social Witness inspired us with stories of their work. They apply Quaker insights, with patience and quiet confidence, in seemingly intractable situations, through support for international accompaniment, training in nonviolence, in trade negotiations and mediation in conflict situations. Working with those who have been convicted of sexual offences and making modest but significant practical interventions in our

political process both demonstrate the importance of building trust. We are painfully aware of the time we have necessarily spent this year on internal matters and of our need to return in future Yearly Meeting sessions to the threats to life on earth and the challenges to our faith.

In cross-age epilogue, we heard how geese in flight share the responsibility of leadership, care for one another in difficult times and help one another to fly. Learning from them, we leave this Yearly Meeting ready to fly, with a new sense of direction and a renewed commitment to cooperating with the loving purposes of God.

‘Love is a constant challenge, not a resting place’. (Swarthmore Lecture 2006)

Signed in and on behalf of Britain Yearly Meeting
MARTIN WARD, *Clerk*

Minute 50: Concluding Minute

We have been led to important decisions over this weekend. Those to whom we are entrusting new responsibilities and those who are relinquishing responsibility faithfully undertaken need our prayerful support.

There being no further business for the Yearly Meeting, we separate, abiding in the power of God, and hoping to meet again in London from 4 – 7 May 2007.

MARTIN WARD, *Clerk*