

Meeting for Sufferings held in London on Saturday 4 July 2015

MfS/15/07/01 Opening worship

Section 3.02 of Quaker faith & practice has been read in our opening worship, and we have remembered former members of this meeting who have recently died.

MfS/15/07/02 Minutes

The minutes of our meeting held on 28 March 2015 have been signed.

MfS/15/07/03 Membership of Meeting for Sufferings

We note the names of Friends appointed as members of Sufferings by Yearly Meeting (minute 39 of Yearly Meeting 2015).

Since Yearly Meeting we have received the following nominations for Meeting for Sufferings:

Central Yorkshire AM	Representative	Ruth McTighe
Central Yorkshire AM	Alternate	Jane Pinder
Cornwall AM	Alternate	Julie Taylor-Browne
Craven & Keighley AM	Alternate	Patricia Saunders
Devon AM	Alternate	Terry Faull
Leicester AM	Representative	Jenny Mattingly
Leicester AM	Alternate	Angela Walker
Manchester & Warrington AM	Representative	Angela Seddon
Manchester & Warrington AM	Alternate	Diane Furber
Meeting of Friends in Wales	Representative	David Jones
Mid-Thames Area Meeting	Representative	Doreen Osborne
Mid-Thames Area Meeting	Alternate	Judy Still
QLCC	Alternate	Linda Murgatroyd
Sussex East AM	Representative	Kim Ashcroft
Sussex East AM	Alternate	Peter Bolwell
West Kent AM	Alternate	Jill Clarke
West Somerset AM	Representative	Kathy Gollin
West Somerset AM	Alternate	Jefferson Horsley
West Weald AM	Representative	Rosemary Elias
YFGM	Alternate	Rici Marshall

We appoint the Friends named until the rise of Yearly Meeting 2018.

Since Yearly Meeting we have received the following requests for release for Meeting for Sufferings:

QLCC	Alternate	Patsy Wilson
YFGM	Alternate	Rachael Swancott

We release the Friends named and thank them for their service.

Visitors invited to represent area meetings/committees in the absence of appointed representative and alternate:

Teresa Belton	Norfolk & Waveney AM
Jen Lerner	Ipswich & Diss AM
Abigail Maxwell	Northamptonshire AM
Linda Davis	North London AM

Other visitors:

David Amos	Kingston & Wandsworth AM (Support Group)
David Connal	Luton & Leighton AM (Support Group)
Elizabeth Gladstone	West Kent AM (Support Group)
Janet Harland	Oxford & Swindon AM (Support Group)
Kate Green	North East Thames AM (Support Group)
Margaret Somerville	Thaxted AM (Support Group)
Graham Spackman	BYM staff, Communication & Services Administrator
Rachel Swancott	Young Friends General Meeting
Anne Wilkinson	BYM staff, Events & Committee Support Manager

MfS/15/07/04 Adoption of Agenda

The clerk has introduced the draft agenda, and we have agreed to this.

MfS/15/07/05 Induction

For this meeting, both representatives and alternates were encouraged to attend. We have spent most of the morning learning about Meeting for Sufferings, its relationship with other parts of our structures, and our roles. This has included:

- The history of Meeting for Sufferings as well as how it works today;
- Introductions to our Arrangements Group and Support Group;
- Hearing about centrally-managed work, including an overview of how committees, departments, BYM Trustees and Meeting for Sufferings work together for Britain Yearly Meeting;
- An introduction to Quaker Business Method in a larger meeting;
- Hearing how Meeting for Sufferings and area meetings communicate with one another, including appropriate sending of minutes/concerns.

Over lunchtime, we have spent time in small groups, organised so that Friends from the same and neighbouring meetings could meet each other and talk together. We thank members of the Handbook Group for updating the Meeting for Sufferings handbook for our guidance.

Mfs/15/07/06

Appointments

a) Yearly Meeting Nominating Group

Brings forward the following names for release:

Central Nominations Committee

Gillian Patton	Northumbria AM
Sarah (Siddle) Richards	Northumbria AM

Committee on Clerks

Jane Muers	Leicester AM
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We release the Friends named and thank them for their service.

b) Central Nominations Committee

brings forward the names of the following Friends for service or release as indicated:

Quaker Life Central Committee

Release:

Patsy Wilson	Northumbria AM
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Revision of the Book of Discipline: Review Preparation Group

Release:

Jane Harries	South Wales AM
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Meeting for Sufferings Support Group

To serve from September 2015 to September 2018:

Gillian Turner	South London AM
Ann Banks	Brighouse West Yorkshire AM
Janet May-Bowles	Chilterns AM
Sylvia Boyes	Craven & Keighley AM
Debbie Cates	Cambridgeshire AM
Angela Pivac	Thaxted AM
Judith Mason	Banbury & Evesham AM
Robert Steele	Chilterns AM

Meeting for Sufferings Arrangements Committee

To serve from September 2015 to September 2018:

Jane Pearn	South East Scotland AM
Sue Goodson	Sheffield & Balby AM

We appoint the Friends named. We release the Friends named and thank them for their service.

MfS/15/07/07 Yearly Meeting 2015

We note the minutes of Yearly Meeting held in London on 1-4 May 2015.

Deborah Rowlands YM clerk designate, has introduced our consideration on Yearly Meeting, in particular putting it in the context of our relationship with Yearly Meeting Agenda Committee.

MfS/15/07/08 Proposed revision of Quaker faith & practice section 3.27

Further to our minute MfS/15/02/16, we receive minute 32 of Yearly Meeting 2015. We ask Church Government Advisory Group to review this section of Quaker faith and practice, regarding our speaking out policy, and to report back to us.

MfS/15/07/09 Call for Equality

We receive minute 36 of Yearly Meeting 2015: Living out our faith in the world – are we ready to meet the challenge’. We also note minute 25: Responding to social inequality and injustice: housing as a tested concern.

Yearly Meeting asked Meeting for Sufferings:

‘... to take the work on social and economic injustice forward, co-ordinating the work of local and area meetings who might wish to become more deeply involved, and encouraging the deep spiritual and intellectual searching that could underpin a ‘true social order’ for our age.’

We have reflected together on these minutes and shared our deep disquiet about housing, economic inequality and climate change, recognising their inter-relatedness.

We ask our Arrangements Group to look at how we might consider these issues at future meetings.

We are encouraged to hear that further to minute YM2015/25 the Quaker Housing Trust is planning a threshing conference to explore how Friends can take forward our concern for housing.

We ask QPSWCC, when it reports to us in September, and QLCC, when it reports to us in December, to let us know how their current work and future plans relate to this call.

MfS15/07/10 Refugees and asylum-seekers

We receive paper MfS2015/07/07a, which contains minute QPSWCC15/12 and minute 9 of East Kent Area Meeting held on 28 March 2015, and paper MfS2015/07/07/a(i).

We have heard a short briefing from Helen Drewery, General Secretary of QPSW, which is available in writing to share with Friends.

We are glad to hear that QPSW is exploring with Quaker Asylum and Refugee Network (QARN) how they can work together more closely.

This is a European-wide issue. We welcome the papers we have received from European churches. We have heard that Quaker Council for European Affairs (QCEA) is looking at these issues and encourage them in this work.

We note that other faith groups as well as NGOs are actively campaigning on these matters, and urge Friends to work alongside and support such initiatives and to challenge the rhetoric where possible and appropriate.

Mfs/15/07/11 Sustainability & new energy technologies

We receive minute 15/20 of Wensleydale and Swaledale AM held on 8 March 2015, expressing concern that Friends need to put more emphasis on adapting to inevitable climate change. The Area Meeting also urges Friends to speak out more decisively and urgently about climate change, and particularly to ask the Government to divert funds from the manufacture of arms to investment in new forms of energy. We forward this minute to BYM Sustainability Group and ask for advice. We also send the minute for information to QPSW Central Committee.

Mfs/15/07/12 Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership

We receive minute PHAQM/AM/2015/9 of Pickering and Hull AM held on 8 March 2015, expressing the Area Meeting's concern regarding the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership.

We have learned that Quakers in Britain are working on this issue through QPSW's Economics, Sustainability and Peace programme, nationally, and that QCEA and QUNO also have a role internationally. We support them in this work and encourage Friends locally to engage with these issues, including taking the matter to their MPs and MEPs where appropriate.

Mfs/15/07/13 WW1 Memorial Meetings for Reconciliation

We receive minute 15.05.06 of Luton and Leighton Area Meeting held on 10 May 2015, expressing the hope that meetings to commemorate World War 1 are multi-national, focusing on reconciliation and committing participants to peace-building. We ask representatives to alert Friends locally to this concern, for them to explore practical possibilities.

We forward this minute to QCCIR for advice.

Mfs/15/07/14 National Memorial Arboretum – Memorial to the Innocent Victims of War

Further to minute Mfs2014/04/13/04 we receive minute 15/38 of Southern Marches Area Meeting held on 9th May 2015, updating us on their progress towards the establishment of a memorial to innocent victims of war, at the National Memorial Arboretum.

We agree to return to this at a future meeting.

Mfs/15/07/15 Representatives to Friends World Committee for Consultation

We receive minute QWRC/15/06/07, regarding representation at the Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) plenary in Peru in January 2016. As two of our appointed representatives are prevented, we agree that Liz Scurfield and George Thurley should represent us, for this meeting only.

Mfs/15/07/16 Book of Discipline Review Group Terms of Reference

We receive draft revised terms of reference for the Book of Discipline Revision Preparation Group (paper Mfs 2015/07/08).

We approve the revised Terms of Reference, as amended in the meeting.

Mfs/15/07/17 Meeting for Sufferings Support Group Terms of Reference

We receive draft revised terms of reference for the Meeting for Sufferings Support Group (paper Mfs 2015/07/09).

We approve the revised Terms of Reference, as amended in the meeting.

Mfs/15/07/18 Report from BYM Trustees

We receive and note the minutes of a meeting of BYM Trustees held on 29-31 May 2015.

Ethel Livermore
Clerk