



# Young Friends General Meeting

YOUNG ADULT QUAKERS IN BRITAIN



## Documents in Advance II Hearts & Minds Prepared

YFGM 26 – 29 May 2017  
Sheffield Quaker Meeting House



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## Nominations Required

Many members of YFGM take on voluntary roles that help facilitate our events and support our community. We use the Quaker nominations process ([Faith & Practice 3.22-3.25](#)) to appoint people to these roles.

At this YFGM, Nominations Committee will be looking for suggestions of names for the roles listed below.

Nominations Required:

- Clerk
- Overseer (x3)
- Outreach committee member
- Quintessential member
- Planning weekend newcomer (x3)

Nomination Opportunities:

- YFGM representative to QLGF (the Quaker LGBT+ fellowship)
- YFGM representative to Quaker Life (x2)
- YFGM representative to the Living Witness Project
- Interchurch/ interfaith secretary

In addition to the nominations listed above, YFGM will be asked to discern the names for:

- Nominations committee member (x3)

A comprehensive guide to what each of these roles involves is available from the YFGM website via this link: <http://yfgm.quaker.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/Nominations-required-and-nomination-opportunities-for-YFGM-in-May-2017.pdf>

For more information on the nominations process at YFGM, please see <http://yfgm.quaker.org.uk/docs/volunteer-roles/> .

Remember that you can suggest names in advance of YFGM, by emailing your suggestions to [noms.yfgm@googlemail.com](mailto:noms.yfgm@googlemail.com)



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## Agenda

### Friday

18.00 onward	Arrivals
19.00-20.30	Dinner
20.30-21.30	Welcome session
21.30-22.00	Time in base groups
22.00-22.30	Epilogue

### Saturday

08.00-09.30	Breakfast	(TOQ meeting at 09.00)
09.30-10.00	Opening worship	
10.00-11.00	Introduction to how YFGM works	
11.00-11.30	<i>Break</i>	
11.30-12.30	Finance session	(newcomers' session running in parallel)
12.30-14.00	Lunch	
14.00-15.00	Speaker session – Veterans for Peace	
15.00-16.00	<i>Free time</i>	
16.00-17.00	Spirituality session I	
17.00-17.30	<i>Break</i>	
17.30-18.30	Special interest groups	
18.30-20.00	Dinner	(newcomers' session starting at 19.30)
20.00-21.30	Entertainments	
21.30-22.00	Time in base groups	
22.00-22.30	Epilogue	



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## Sunday

08.00-09.00	Breakfast	(TOQ meeting at 08.45)
09.00-10.00	Cleaning the meeting house	
10.00-10.30	Preparation for meeting for worship	
10.30-11.30	Meeting for worship	
11.30-12.00	<i>Break for coffee with local Friends</i>	
12.00-12.30	Reports from representatives	
12.30-14.00	Lunch	
14.00-15.00	Spirituality session II	
15.00-16.30	<i>Free time</i>	
16.30-17.30	Speaker session II – Young adult Friends in Philadelphia	
17.30-18.00	<i>Break</i> (newcomers' session running in parallel)	
18.00-19.00	Nominations to the nominations committee	
19.00-20.30	Dinner	
20.30-21.30	Entertainments	
21.30-22.00	Time in base groups	
22.00-22.30	Epilogue	

## Monday

08.00-09.30	Breakfast	(TOQ meeting at 09.00)
09.30-10.00	Prologue	
10.00-10.30	Approval of YFGM report for Meeting for Sufferings	
10.30-11.15	Nominations returns	
11.15-11.45	Closing worship	
11.45-12.30	Cleaning the meeting house	
12.30 onward	Lunch and departures	



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## What's Happening at YFGM?

### Business Sessions

These will involve our usual business, such as an introduction to how YFGM and its processes work, hearing a short report from the Planning Weekend Newcomers, and making appointments to roles based on the nominations of our Nominations Committee.

In addition, we have the following items on our agenda:

- **Finance – YFGM accounts and appointing an examiner**  
How much money does YFGM have? Where does the money come from? How does YFGM spend it? The accounts meeting will give you the chance to have these questions answered, along with any others you might have about YFGM's finances. The session will start with an interactive, open discussion about YFGM's money, before the accounts and the name of our next examiner are formally approved.
- **Approval of YFGM's report for Meeting for Sufferings**  
Meeting for Sufferings is where representatives from all area meetings (and YFGM) meet in order to take decisions on behalf of Britain Yearly Meeting. It is thus an extremely important body within the structures of BYM. Meeting for Sufferings has asked YFGM to give a report at the next Meeting for Sufferings. This will be an opportunity for us to share our recent activities with other Quakers. The report will be drafted by YFGM trustees and our Meeting for Sufferings representatives, but during this business session in Sheffield, you will have the chance to hear the report in advance, and suggest any alterations you may think are necessary. The report can then go to Meeting for Sufferings with the approval of the YFGM community.
- **Reports**  
YFGM has many representatives to other organisations and many choose to share their work through verbal reports at our gatherings. This should also be an opportunity for YFGM participants to ask questions of our reps and learn about the work they do on our behalf. This gathering will be an opportunity to hear several reps' reports, including one from our newcomers at the April planning weekend.



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## Speaker Sessions

### Speaking with young adult Friends from the USA

At their yearly meeting in 2016, young Friends from Philadelphia wrote an epistle 'to all F/friends everywhere'. In it, they spoke in strong and challenging language of the experiences and struggles of being a young Quaker in their context. Many young Friends within YFGM and Britain Yearly Meeting have found that their words have spoken to our own condition, and it would seem that there are many parallels in how young Quakers feel on each side of the Atlantic. Thus, we hope to use this session to spark a discussion with young Friends in America (via video link) about what it means to be a young Quaker today.

### Veterans for Peace

Veterans for Peace UK is a voluntary ex-services organisation of men and women who collectively, have served in every war that Britain has fought since WW2.

They focus their work to:

- Educate young people on the true nature of military service and war.
- Resist war and militarism through non-violent action.
- Stand in solidarity with people resisting militarism and war.

They hope to convince people that war is not the solution to the problems of the 21st century.

In their session, our Veterans for Peace speakers (John Bourton and Michael Elstub) will be looking at why young people might join the army and the possible consequences for many who do. With a focus on the theme of community, they will be examining why veterans may feel a community apart and why many find it so difficult to reintegrate into the wider civilian community. John and Michael will also chart their own journeys into Quakerism and Veterans for Peace.



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## Special Interest Groups

As always, we will be treated to an interesting, stimulating and fun selection of Special Interest Groups led by volunteers from amongst our very own YFGM members (as well as one visiting speaker):

### Unorthodox Meditation

If carving out an hour to sit on a cushion doesn't float your boat, then there are many unexpected ways to meditate every day. In our cosy little workshop we shall discuss and taste some of these alternative styles. So come and join us, bring a cushion and let's get Nirvanard!

Facilitated by Devi Cardero & Gabriel Cabrera.

### Revitalization and Renewal: Exploring the Role of Young Adults in 21st century Quakerism

This session will be used to discuss the place of Young Adult Friends within British Quakerism. We will look at the concerns and joys of being Young Quaker within the wider Quaker community, and how our experiences can be used for the revitalization and renewal of Quakerism.

Facilitated by Chris Venables & Jenny McCarthy

### Home truths: Creating solutions

We all know about the housing crisis, but in this session we will be focusing on what we as Quakers can do about it. Through exploring inspiring examples and our own experiences, this workshop aims empower us to start creating the alternative housing solutions needed to build a more Quakerly housing system.

Facilitated by Laurence Hall (YFGM) and Jenny Brierley (Quaker Housing Trust)

Look out for further details on SIG opportunities over the weekend!



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## Spirituality Sessions

There will be two spirituality sessions this gathering, led by our QUINTY team.

One will take the form of a 'talking café' where YFGMers will be invited to rotate around a number of small, facilitated discussions on a variety of topics. The session should allow you to explore your beliefs through sharing and exchanging them with others in our community.

Details of the other spirituality session have not yet been publically disclosed as QUINTY want it to be something of a surprise... All we know is that they say the session will be 'creative, positive and involves maps'!?! Watch this space!