

# Young Friends General Meeting

YOUNG ADULT QUAKERS IN BRITAIN

## Documents in Advance part II

### Hearts & Minds Prepared

#### Young Friends General Meeting 29<sup>th</sup> April – 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2022

This is the second part of Documents in Advance for YFGM's May 2022 gathering, which will be held in Liverpool, UK.

This document provides information on the items on our agenda for the weekend. It should be read in conjunction with part I of Documents in Advance, which covers information & practicalities about the weekend.

#### Table of Contents

Nominations, Roles, and Communications	1
War in Ukraine	2
Other items of business	3
Nominations required	4

#### Nominations, Roles, and Communications

YFGM events happen because we make them happen; we, the people who turn up and take part. We rely on members of the community to take on roles to support the community.

We saw last YFGM that we have a severe shortfall in the time and energy required to run YFGM as we are currently structured - see our [minute 2022.02.09](#) from February.

Our current roles list would require about 25 appointments to be made this weekend - frankly, this is unrealistic both from the perspective of the people and energy that our community currently has, and the time our nominations

committee has available. We wish to consider ways forward, and how we can best enable our community to continue.

We will consider this in two sessions at this gathering. On **Saturday**, we will introduce the topic, and begin to consider ideas for how we might change how we do things, so that we can achieve what we want to with the people and time we have available. This might include thinking about quite radical changes, such as laying down roles or committees, or changing their responsibility.

It might also include immediate practical actions to reduce the pressure and burden around nominations this weekend, by laying down or pausing appointments to certain roles. Subject to discernment, this could include vacant representative roles along with our Outreach and Media committees.

On **Sunday**, we will return to this topic, as we consider the names which the Nominations Committee have brought forward. This discernment may be informed by what roles the committee have been able to find names for - for some roles, if nobody can be appointed, we will need to find an alternative way forward, due to the problems caused by leaving them vacant.

In this session, we will consider how to make better use of what energy people are able to give, and how we get there. This session might include making decisions about big changes, although we may not be able to implement it all straight away.

## War in Ukraine

The outbreak of war in Ukraine in February has caused untold suffering. Tens of thousands of deaths, military and civilian, have been caused and millions have fled their homes in the hope of escaping the violence.

Even as many open their hearts and homes to refugees, the UK government has provided military support for the defence of Ukraine, and many in politics and the press have called for increased military support. Meanwhile, share prices for arms companies rose by more than 20% in the days following Russia's invasion.

What is our response to war, as Quakers and as human beings? What does it mean to champion non-violence locally and internationally? What can we say to those who take up arms in self-defence? How can we help those in need?

On **Saturday**, part of our programme will include a consideration of the war and our response to it. This will begin with a spirituality session, continue with a Special Interest Group on practical actions to help, and conclude with Saturday's epilogue. We will also have a short business item on this topic, to consider any collective statement or action we may feel led to make.

## Other items of business

- **Trustees' Report:** Jenny, our Convenor of Trustees, will be giving a report to the General Meeting about the work of trustees since the last YFGM, including an update on the internship arrangement with Britain Yearly Meeting.
- **Planning Weekend Report:** Becky Shriley will be giving a report about our last Planning Weekend, held online from 19-20 March 2022.
- **Consideration of the 2020 & 2021 accounts:** James, our Finance Trustee, and Thomas Bell, our Treasurer, will present revised accounts for the year 2020 and draft accounts for the year 2021.
- **Nominations Returns:** We will receive nominations brought forward by the Nominations Committee, and discern whether to make the suggested appointments.
- **Nominations to Nominations Committee:** We will also be seeking to appoint new members to the Nominations Committee. Could you serve in this role? We will carry out the whole discernment process as a meeting, to avoid Nominations Committee bringing forward suggestions for its own membership.

## Nominations required

Nominations is a key part of Quaker process, and while much of it takes place behind closed doors, it is central to the life of any Meeting. Almost every role within YFGM is appointed following a nomination by Nominations Committee.

As such, all of the work of YFGM depends on this being done well. While the key work of discernment is done by the Nominations Committee, the whole Meeting is responsible for nominations, and needs to support the committee in doing their work.

As a Quaker organisation, YFGM uses the Quaker nominations process to find people to fill volunteer roles within the Meeting. You can read more about nominations [here](#).

At this YFGM gathering, the Nominations Committee will be seeking suggestions for Friends who might be willing and able to serve in the following roles, with a particular focus on those bolded. If you are interested in serving, or wish to make a suggestion of somebody you think would be good, you can [submit names in advance here](#) - or just put a name in the Noms Box at the weekend!

- **Finance Trustee:** Trustee leading on managing our finances, including preparing a budget and similar work, alongside our Treasurer and Fundraiser.
- **Co-clerk:** Clerking our business meetings, being a face of YFGM between meetings, and being on our trustee body (all alongside another co-clerk).
- **Planning Weekend Newcomer:** Someone who hasn't previously attended a YFGM planning weekend, who attends, feeds in, and provides a report to YFGM on their experience.
- **Fundraiser:** Ensuring sustainable funding for YFGM's activities e.g. by seeking out donations and grants, working alongside our Finance Trustee and Treasurer on financial matters and planning, and as part of our Outreach committee on maintaining relationships and visibility among the wider Society of Friends.
- **Logistics Committee:** Responsible for handling the practicalities of YFGM meetings, online or in person (as a committee of 5 people).
- **Eldership Committee:** Nurturing the spiritual life of YFGM and supporting the right holding of worship (as a committee of 5 people).
- **Nominations Committee:** Identifying and discerning the right individuals to perform roles on behalf of YFGM. These include members of YFGM committees, participants at YFGM-related activities and YFGM

representatives to other bodies.

- Outreach: YFGM's Outreach committee handles the promotion of YFGM to potential participants and funders
- Media: YFGM's Media Committee produces YFGM's outward facing media. This includes 'The Young Quaker' magazine (TYQ), as well as any other formats the committee feels are worth taking on (e.g. podcasts, social media, etc). Ideally this gives some voice and space for YFGMers within the Quaker community and wider communities (including some level of outreach/promotion by virtue of spreading our voices - working with Outreach and our Communications Trustee).
- Meeting for Sufferings Rep: Meeting for Sufferings (MfS) is the standing representative body entrusted with the care of the business of Britain Yearly Meeting (BYM) through the year. It has a visionary and direction-setting role, as well as fostering communication across BYM, testing concerns, receiving regular reports from trustees, giving guidance on policy issues, and handling BYM matters between Yearly Meetings.
- Pollard and Dickson Trust Distributor: To provide grants to members of the Religious Society of Friends or YFGM with grants for hardship or travelling in the ministry. *Note: This is not a YFGM appointment; YFGM provides a nomination for the role, and the Trustees of Pollard and Dickson will then consider it as such, and may or may not make the appointment.*
- Northern Friends Peace Board Rep: To act as a two-way channel of communication between Young Friends and NFPB, bringing the peace concerns of Young Friends to NFPB and raising awareness of NFPB's work among YFGM. NFPB is a Quakers organisation in the north of Britain set up to support "the active promotion of peace in all its height and breadth".
- Quaker Life Council Rep: Quaker Life is one of the central departments of the Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Britain. It is responsible for deepening the spiritual life of Friends and Meetings throughout the Yearly Meeting.

If you have any questions about any business items ahead of the gathering, please feel free to contact [yfgmclerk@gmail.com](mailto:yfgmclerk@gmail.com) with "business item" in the subject line.