

Young Friends General Meeting

YOUNG ADULT QUAKERS IN BRITAIN

Documents in Advance part II

Hearts & Minds Prepared

Young Friends General Meeting 14th - 16th February 2025

This is the second part of Documents in Advance for YFGM's February 2025

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

Hearts & Minds Prepared	1
Introduction	1
Nominations	2
Business Items	2
Intro to Quaker Business Method (QBM)	3
Intro to Nominations (Noms)	3
Committee Sizes	3
Nominations practice on age	3
Budget	4
Complaints Policy	4
Reports	4
Nominations (Noms) returns	4
Minutes of Record	4
Special Interest Groups	5
Mouths Prepared	5

Introduction

Each YFGM is a mixture, a blend of the perspectives, passions, and thoughts that each person brings. It's a mix of different types of activities - some structured, some more free-form. This document contains information that will help you come to the weekend's sessions with, in the words of Advices & Queries, 'heart and mind prepared'. There are descriptions of the items we expect to consider as a community this weekend.

Nominations

Our nominations committee will be working all weekend to find people willing and able to take on certain roles, and to discern which names are the right ones at this time.

Roles we are looking to appoint to this YFGM are:

- **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.
- **Logistics Committee:** Ensure the smooth running of YFGM events, dealing with practicalities and delegating tasks to YFGMers (as a committee of 5 people)
- **Trustee:** Ensure there is good governance of YFGM, communicate with the charity commission, create policies for YFGM (as a committee of 5 people).
- **Media Officer:** Responsible for communication between YFGMs, publicising our events, and updating our social media channel

Details of the nominations process and how to make suggestions can be found in docs in advance part I and on the YFGM website, and will be given in the intro to nominations.

To submit suggestions:

<https://yfgm.quaker.org.uk/documents-forms/nominations>

Business Items

Session 1: Saturday, 09:45-11:30

Intro to Quaker Business Method

Intro to Nominations

Committee Sizes

Noms practice on age

Session 2: Saturday, 14:15-15:45

Budget

Reports from;

- Future of British Quakerism conference
- Switchboard
- Quaker Rainbow

Session 3: Saturday, 17:30-18:30

Complaints policy

Reports from;

- Planning Weekend Newcomers
- Meeting for Sufferings
- YFGM Trustees

Session 4: Sunday, 13:30-14:30

Nominations returns

Minutes of record

In our business sessions, we make decisions together as a community. We'll start on Saturday morning with an introduction to how the Quaker business method works. We strongly encourage you to attend this introduction, even if you are familiar with the process from elsewhere, as it will include some YFGM-specific practicalities. You can also read more about this on our website:

<http://youngfriends.org.uk/about/explainers/quaker-business-method>

Each session is open to everybody, although it is helpful for discernment if you can be present for the whole of an agenda item rather than coming and going part-way through. Note that we will usually only allow people to enter the room between rather than during business items. We have shared the plan for what items will be discerned in each business session at the weekend on the agenda, and above, but this may change at short notice so please listen out for announcements.

For some items, it will be very helpful to have read the available information in advance - which is what this document is for! If you have questions about any item, please contact the clerks, elders, or the person presenting the item.

Intro to Quaker Business Method (QBM)

This will introduce and explain the Quaker Business Method, used to make decisions in these business meetings.

Intro to Nominations (Noms)

This item will introduce and explain the Quaker Nominations process (often called Noms for short) and the roles we're trying to appoint this weekend.

Committee Sizes

A proposal is being brought by Nominations Committee to change the official size of the Logistics, Elders and Pastoral committees from "5" to "5 to 6". Another option that could be considered is to change the official sizes of all committees except Clerks to have a flexible upper limit of one more than the current size.

This proposal has come about because we feel it would give more flexibility to Nominations to offer people with less capacity (irregular schedules, small children, disabilities, life circumstances) the opportunity to serve, without thereby loading too great a proportion of the committee's work on to other people. The expectation would be that the committees flex between 5 and 6 members depending on the capacity of the people on them, of the Nominations Committee to nominate, and of YFGM as a whole to spread itself over the committees. This would also allow Nominations greater flexibility to nominate to a role slightly early and temporarily increase the committee size to 6 if, for example, we have a YFGM with very few nominations expected followed by a very busy one.

In 2024, Elders and Pastoral were both temporarily upped to 6 and seemed to like having that option available to them. Noms would rather formalise this as something we can do than keep doing it without formalising it, and it seems to us to be a valuable option to have.

Nominations practice on age

In 2021, YFGM minuted that we wanted a clear age limit of 35. Some of the details of this have been in the process of being worked out since, including how it affects Nominations. We want to clarify the current Nominations practice with regards to this and ensure there's an opportunity for discernment on it.

Budget

This item will involve presenting a draft budget to the meeting based upon the recommendations of the finance committee. The finance committee will be providing a short summary on budget items of note, and the budget will then be put to the meeting for approval.

A draft version of the budget can be found here

 [YFGM Budget 2025 - DRAFT](#) .

Should Friends have any comments on the budget prior to the MfB please let the finance committee know by popping us an email (finance@youngfriends.org.uk) or by dropping a member of the finance committee a message on Discord.

Complaints Policy

As part of regular policy review Trustees have drafted a complaints policy for presentation to the Meeting. Trustees ask for any input needed and hope the Meeting will accept this as the YFGM complaints policy.

The proposed policy can be found here:

[Proposed Complaints Policy](#)

Any questions can be emailed to trustees@youngfriends.org.uk

Reports

We receive short updates from Friends who have attended events or been doing work on behalf of YFGM since our last meeting.

- Future of British Quakerism conference - attended last October by several YFGM representatives
- Switchboard - YFGM's "committee of committees"
- Quaker Rainbow - Quaker LGBTQIA+ community
- Planning Weekend Newcomers
- Meeting for Sufferings - attended by YFGM clerks on our behalf
- YFGM Trustees

Nominations (Noms) returns

In this business item we receive nominations brought by our nominations committee from their work this weekend, and discern whether to make the suggested appointments.

Minutes of Record

These are short factual minutes to record certain things that have happened during the weekend, for example co-options to committees and special interest groups.

Special Interest Groups

Special interest groups (SIGs) are smaller sessions running in parallel in different spaces. We usually have quite a variety, with a mixture of discussion-based, movement-based, and creative sessions and different topics to choose from.

At this YFGM we have 2 SIG slots, which will each contain a selection of SIGs.

The SIG sheet is available at [this link](#), it is a live document so may change in the lead up to (and during) the event.

Mouths Prepared

This is for the purpose of preparing you for the meals arranged by our lovely catering coordinator volunteers. **All meals are vegan/vegetarian suitable.** For more information on food please see the Catering Talk Channel on the YFGM discord.

The Menu for YFGM is composed of the following:

Friday Evening - Pasta bolognese with spinach & garlic bread

Saturday Lunch - Traffic light chickpea and cauliflower curry

- Green Spinach and lime
- Korma Masala
- Madras

Saturday Evening - Haggis/Sausages with neeps and tatties (swede and potato)

Sunday Lunch - Three-bean "chilli" served with rice, nachos and wraps