

Young Friends General Meeting

YOUNG ADULT QUAKERS IN BRITAIN

Documents in Advance part II

Hearts & Minds Prepared

Young Friends General Meeting 17th - 19th October 2025

This is the second part of Documents in Advance for YFGM's October 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.

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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:

- Elders Committee
- Pastoral Committee
- Nominations Committee
- Planning Weekend Newcomer
- Representative to Quaker Rainbow
- Representative to European and Middle Eastern Young Friends (EMEYF)

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>

Session

Do we have a Concern?

Saturday, 14:00-18:00 with breaks:

(Note: those wishing to attend this session must be there from the beginning)

YFGM has always discerned leadings in the living spirit of the Quaker testimonies. Over the past 8 or so years, this has taken the form of [several minutes around trans and non-binary inclusion](#), as well as minutes to support greater inclusion within YFGM more widely. Developing from discernment that took place at our Bristol Meeting, we find now is the time to discern whether a Concern for inclusion is alive within our community and to gain a greater understanding of the direction in which we are being led.

This is the first time that we will be discerning whether to adopt a Concern in over 10 years. In our session on Concerns in Bristol, we considered the nature of a Quaker Concern:

“When we bring a concern to meeting [...] we are asking Friends to recognise the content of the concern as reflecting something fundamental to our community of Friends - core to our witness in the world.” ~Jane Pearn, *Language of Leadings*

Due to the gravity and depth of discernment required, we have centred the weekend around worship on this question for our Meeting.

For Friends who would like to learn more about the nature of a Concern, further information can be found in [Chapter 13 of Quaker Faith and Practice](#). You can also find the materials from Bristol's Concern session here [\[part 1\]](#) [\[part 2\]](#).

The aim of this session is to test whether we hold a Concern and, if so, what form does this take. The session will start with Meeting for Worship where Friends can give ministry on this question. We will open with prepared ministry to provide more information and context. During this worship, the clerks will be gathering a sense of the Meeting. If the Meeting is so led, we may come to a minute, but this is not the purpose of the session.

The structure of this meeting is new for us, and we hope we can uphold one another in this experiment in the Light.

This session is for all Friends within our Meeting, whether this is your first or your fifty-first, and all who wish to attend are encouraged to do so. We ask that all Friends attending do so from the beginning of the session so that the Meeting may be gathered together and aware of all the context and ministry given.

If you plan to attend, please do *not* sign up for door-keeping, lunch clear or dinner prep during the session.

We ask those who prefer not to attend to uphold this discernment. Friends can do this by taking on the small group tasks and door-keeping.

Meeting for Worship for Business

Introductory business and session 1: Saturday, 10:00-11:00

Concern session: Saturday afternoon

Session 3: Sunday, 12:00-13:00

Session 4: Sunday, 14:30-15:30

In our business sessions, we make decisions together as a community about things we care about, using the Quaker business method which is rooted in Quaker worship.

We'll start on Saturday morning with an introduction to how the Quaker business method works, along with some shorter items of business.

We will share what items will be discerned in each business session at the weekend, both verbally and on a written agenda, but this may change at short notice so listen out for announcements. 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. 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.

clerks@youngfriends.org.uk

elders@youngfriends.org.uk

Reports

In sessions 1 and 3 we will hear reports from members of the YFGM community, including:

- [Trustee report](#)
- Switchboard report
- Meeting for Sufferings report
- Report from our Planning Weekend Newcomers

Updating our Constitution


In 2021 YFGM minuted to bring in an upper age limit of membership to 35 years old. Our Constitution does not currently reflect this change. In this session we ask whether YFGM should update its constitution to reflect our minutes.

Please find the draft changes [here](#).

Concern session (see above)

Accounts for 2024

Our accounts for 2024 were accepted at May's YFGM pending independent examination. The accounts have since been reviewed by an independent examiner, who had no concerns regarding our accounts. As per the minutes from May, the accounts should now be presented to the meeting at our October gathering for final approval, to enable Trustees to submit them to the Charity Commission at the end of October. The accounts for 2024 can be found using the following link:

 [YFGM Accounts 2024 - APPROVED](#) .

Budget for 2026

Our Finance Committee has prepared a draft Budget for 2026. Following a SIG, this business session will discern on this draft and whether any changes need to be made.

Circulation of the budget will follow at a later date.

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.

Noms to Noms

This business item is part of our nominations work, in which we do our own nominations discernment aiming to appoint Friends to our Nominations Committee.

Although the Nominations Committee don't bring nominations for these roles, you can suggest yourself or others using the [online nominations form](#) or the noms box at the weekend.

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 co-ordinator volunteers. All meals are vegan/vegetarian suitable.

The menu for YFGM is composed of the following:

Friday Evening - Blind scouse (vegan stew)

Saturday Lunch - Tacos/nachos/wraps with bean chilli/veggie mince

Saturday Evening - Pasta and tomato sauce

Sunday Lunch - Baked potatoes and leftovers