



Trustee and Treasurers Conference

Memorandum of Understanding
BYM/AM Trustees

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graph LR; A[Quaker Stewardship Committee raised the suggestion in 2020] --> B[Britain Yearly Meeting Trustees, agreed to take it forward in November 2020]; B --> C[Meeting for Sufferings in December 2020]; C --> D[working group got started January 2021]; D --> E[Held a series of open Zoom sessions plus one-to-one calls with some AM clerks of trustees]; E --> F[Focus group of volunteers formed August 2021];
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Focus group of volunteers formed August 2021

Clarify relationship. Not creating a relationship

Bringing into the light what relationship we already have ~ to share the understanding of what are our duties to, and expectations, of each other
BYM:AM, AM:AM

MoU to clarify relationship. Have to be sure the guidance from BYM does not impinge on the independence and decision making of AMs as separate charities, but at the same time respects and reminds them of their liability for their decisions

Clarifying the relationship between charitable bodies of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Britain

The aim of this illustration is to help articulate the relationship of the umbrella body, the Church, and the charitable bodies of the organisation.

We hope this will help strengthen the understanding of the shared mutual duty of care to uphold the purpose and reputation of the Church, and to recognise the responsibilities and accountability between the charities within the Church.

Church Structure

The 496 *Local Meetings LMs* around Britain where Friends meet and form their local Quaker communities for worship and witness. They are the fabric of the Church (*the fabric of the broly*).

The *Area Meetings AMs* draw together Friends from neighbouring LMs to become a wider Quaker community for spiritual and social development, and for membership and administrative purposes (*the pattern on the broly*).

The Church, *The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Britain*, commonly shortened to *Britain Yearly Meeting or Quakers in Britain QiB* is the umbrella body giving the structure of the Church. It provides strength, purpose and identity for Friends, and support for AMs and LMs (*the shape of the broly*).

The direction and vision of the Church is discerned by the members at the annual meeting, Yearly Meeting in session *YM*, or by Meeting for Sufferings *MfS* between sessions. The decisions made at *YM* and *MfS* guide the Church (*the handle of the broly*).

Meeting for Sufferings is made up of members of the LMs appointed to serve in a variety of roles; representatives of *AMs*, General Meeting for Scotland *GMfS*, Meeting of Friends in Wales *MFW* and Young Friends General Meeting *YFGM*, central committee members *CC* and Britain Yearly Meeting trustees *BYMT*. Meeting for Sufferings is supported by staff.

Members share in the responsibility of caring for their own LMs, doing the work at *AM* level and filling the roles for the deciding on the central work. Appointments are made via a nominations process and are usually for a three-year period, a triennium. Friends are sometimes appointed for a second triennium.



Charity Structure

Undereath the umbrella of the Church are 74 charitable bodies whose charitable status is conferred by them being part of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Britain QiB.

Britain Yearly Meeting *BYM*, is the charity responsible for the central work and assets of the Society (*the central body*).

It provides support to all parts of the church, LMs, AMs and regional bodies. And all parts of the church support the central work (*the spokes of the broly*).

There are 70 Area Meetings *AMs* and each is responsible for the work and assets of the area meeting, including those of all the local meetings within it (*the pattern on the broly*).

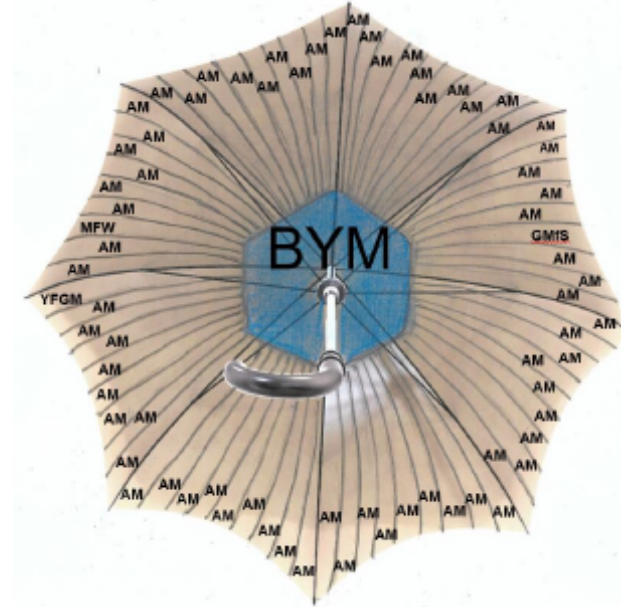
General Meeting for Scotland *GMfS* and Meeting of Friends in Wales *MFW* are regional meetings providing a national body for their respective countries.

Young Friends General Meeting *YFGM* is the national community for young adult quakers throughout Britain.

Whilst each of these charities is a separate legal entity, they are bound together by their purpose and charitable objective to further the general and religious purposes of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Britain, as laid down in our Book of Discipline.

As such they all share the duty of care to uphold the purpose and reputation of the Church.


A failure by any one part could affect and damage the integrity, structure and reputation of the whole church



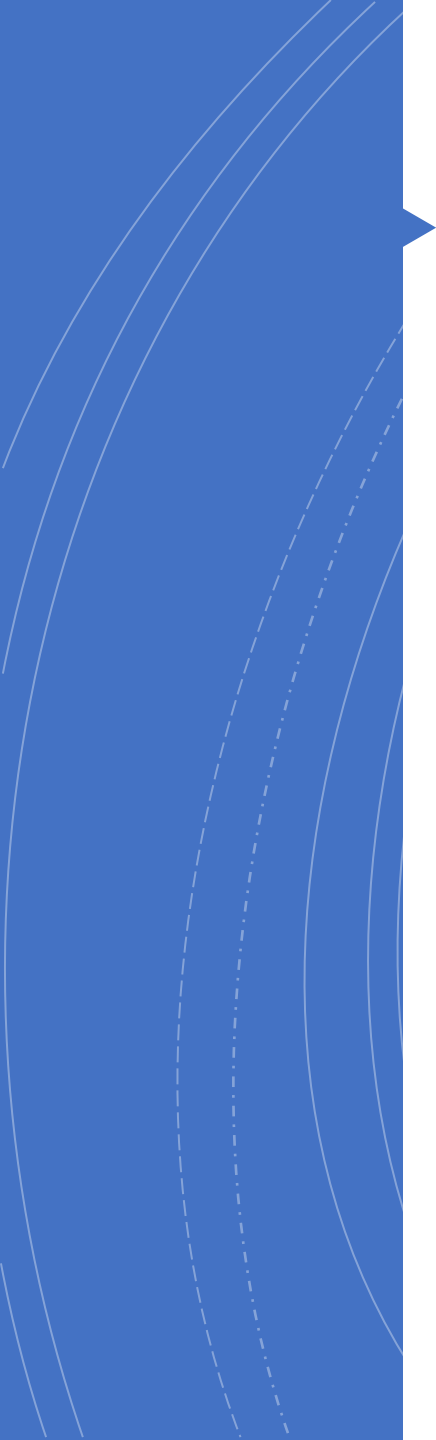
An overarching statement of principle - that the different charities which form our national church are mutually interdependent.



A document which sets out the headings of issues which are of relevance to the relationship between the various charities within the church (the trustee bodies of AMs, General Meeting for Scotland, Meeting of Friends in Wales, YFGM and BYM). This might be called an MoU. It can be developed by BYM Trustees working with AM Trustees and other Friends.



'Toolkit'-type material, with details about how to uphold these mutual responsibilities - which are developed and updated with staff.

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- The church is supported by charities who hold property, and carry out the legal, health and safety, financial and employment work necessary to enable us to meet and worship and witness.
 - Each of those charities is a separate legal entity, but they are bound together by their purpose and charitable objective to further the general religious and charitable purposes of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Britain and beyond, as laid down in our Book of Christian Discipline
 - Our central and local charities within the church exist solely to support our worship and witness as a Quaker community. *Right ordering* requires us to work together to ensure we are best able to support worship and witness, to discern together and to follow the promptings of love and truth. Area meetings must work together with other area meetings and with BYM to uphold the integrity and reputation of the church. That places upon us mutual obligations for Area Meetings, General Meetings and BYM to work together, to ensure we live out our commitments to truth, equality, inclusion, sustainability, peace and provide a safe environment for those who come to our meetings. This includes ensuring we value the uniqueness of each Quaker community, as part of the whole, that we consider the risks to others in the national church community, that we recognise our obligation to raise the funds needed to carry out the work we ask of BYM, to work positively with BYM to address shared challenges, and for BYM to respond to the needs of our diverse Quaker communities.

	Issues	Book of Discipline	<i>MoU/Agreement of Mutual Interest</i>	Tool kit
Governance	Who has a relationship?	Any organisation whose charitable objective is the furtherance of the general religious and charitable purposes of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Britain must comply with the requirements set out by Meeting for Suffering.	In accordance to QF&P ?? all charitable bodies must agree to follow the guidance in the <i>MoU</i>	Guidance for Good Governance
	Dysfunctional trustee body		To provide an effective induction programme for all new trustees to ensure they have a full understanding of their role, responsibilities and legal liabilities	Induction pack