**Meeting for Sufferings (MfS) November to December 2023 Kathy Hindle**

(Reported in The Friend 8 Dec and 15 December 2023).

Britain Yearly Meeting (BYM) was late publishing its accounts for the financial year 2022. They were delivered to the Charity Commission within two weeks of the due date.2 weeks late, due to change of software and added administration. Yearly Meeting (YM) costs rose due to employment of Local Development Workers (LDWs). The 2022 accounts showed a planned deficit. BYM’s income was £9.3mn, a decrease of £0.7mn compared with 2021. Expenditure was £12mn, an increase of £3.2mn.

Book of Discipline Revision Committee is continuing its work. The Committee is planning to deliver a complete draft in 2027.

Review of YM and MfS – to be put before YM in 2024.

MfS representatives heard from the group reviewing YM The proposal is that MfS is subsumed into a continuing Yearly Meeting, which all Friends may attend. As no nominations are necessary, attenders and visitors may also attend. The wish is to have improved community and inclusivity.

More work is needed before unity can be reached.

Non-members in Quaker service

Following MfS in October 2023, some changes were considered, and would have to be approved by YM in 2024.

1. MfS could ask Central Nominations Committee to include non-members among the names it brought forward for roles on central committees (does not apply to BYM trusteeship)
2. Non-members taking Local and Area Meeting (AM) roles – there would have to be an Amendment to Quaker Faith & Practice: this would have to be made by YM (governing documents would need to be amended.) This change was agreed in principle.
3. Before non-members could be considered for trusteeship, governing documents would need to be amended, and this would have to be passed by YM.

Yearly Meeting 2024

YM will take place 26-30 July 2024 at Friends House; some sessions will be available online. Junior Yearly Meeting for those aged 14-18 would take place at the same time, while there will be day programmes for other age groups.

Quaker Committee for Christian and Interfaith Relations (QCCIR)

Annual report was presented showing ongoing work under three headings.

* Interfaith
* Interchurch
* Commissioning work on our spiritual life and theology

Quaker World Relations Committee (QWRC)

Friends received a QWRC report from co-clerk Ruth Homer. The work enriches understanding between British Friends and Friends worldwide.

*MFS Minutes are available from* ***www.quaker.org.uk/mfspapers***