**Quakers in Yorkshire**

**Group to Reinvigorate and Simplify Structures and Processes (GRASP)**

**Minutes of meeting held on 30 December 2019 at Carlton Hill Meeting House, Leeds**

**Present:** David Bunney (CY), Alison Clarke (York), Steve Hallett (P&H), Jim Ledwidge (BWY), Tracey Martin (Leeds), David Olver (C&K & Convenor), Rosie Roberts (S&B), Barbara Windle (QiY Trustees)

**Prevented:**  Richard Hawkes (Leeds Alternate)

**We began our meeting with worship.**

**1. Agenda**

We agree the agenda for today.

**2. Minutes**

The minutes of our meeting held on 30 November 2019 have been circulated.

**3. Members update on relevant matters which have happened since our last meeting.**

We heard from each of us on developments since we last met. These include:

* An AM considering asking Elders and Overseers to act as the Nominations Committee;
* Progress with using professionals to take on some of the accounting functions and the tensions this exposes between adopting a more business-like approach compared to the tried-and-tested ways;
* Update on the likely time-scales for the next phase of local-development workers;
* A group of AM Trustees are planning to hold a threshing meeting on how to “future-proof” the resources in the AM.

**4. Quaker Business Method**

We have discussed the perceived tensions which can arise between using business techniques to simplify and the Quaker heritage of being spirit-led. Good communication is always necessary to try to ensure constructive dialogue to listen and understand different viewpoints.

There is also the issue of Quakers and non-Quakers working together.

**5. Strategy for the rest of our work**

We agree that the role of GRASP should continue after we have produced our reports. Our collective experience can be valuable to Friends and Meetings as they discuss reinvigoration and simplification. It will help if we pose questions in our Interim Report which can prompt Friends in both area meetings and local meetings to decide how they wish to engage with our ideas.

The first stage will be to send our interim report to area meeting clerks, emphasising that we are not a decision-making body. When we have responses, we can then start to produce a final report.

We agree that, following this meeting, we should brief our AM Clerks to ask for time on the AM Agenda.

**6. Interim Report**

We have discussed the draft Interim Report produced by David Olver. The general approach is right. We have been through the draft report and made comments and suggestions. David will now produce a revised report which will be agreed by email, and will include questions.

The Interim Report will be introduced at Quakers in Yorkshire on 18 January 2020 and sent to AM and LM clerks.

**9. Date of next meeting**

We agree to meet on Monday 16 March 2020 at Carlton Hill Meeting House, 10.30 to 13.00.

David Olver

30 December 2019