**Guidelines for reference**

1. **Background**
   1. At Quakers in Yorkshire’s April 2019 meeting, Paul Parker, Recording Clerk of BYM spoke on the subject ‘*Reinvigorating Quakerism’* as part ofBritain Yearly Meeting’s *Simpler Meetings* Pilot Project. This aims tosimplify our structures and processes in order to release time and energy so that Friends can focus on the power of the Spirit to transform our individual lives and thus the Society’s spiritual life and future. He saw Yorkshire Friends as having a significant role. QIY’s continuance as a distinct regional group gives it the potential to serve as a model for reinvigoration of other meetings across BYM through cooperation on a regional basis.
   2. A wide range of suggestions came out of the lively group work and open discussion which followed. The final minute expressed the meeting’s clear hope that Friends would ask that their Area Meetings should each appoint a Friend to join a small working group, to be set up to take the initiative forward.
   3. Although Quakers in Yorkshire is not part of the governance structure of BYM and its constituent AMs, as the sole Yorkshire-wide body of Friends it is in a position to facilitate this important work in the first instance, and to be a forum for future discussion, as required. The ~~terms of reference~~ guidelines for this group follow.
2. **Purpose of working group**
   1. To explore ways in which our seven AMs might simplify structures, governance and proceedings and work together where appropriate, so as to create conditions that help meeting communities to grow, thrive and flourish.
3. **Composition of the group**
   1. Membership will consist of one keen person from each of QIY’s seven AMs. The clerk of QIY trustees (QIYT) will convene the first meeting. The group members will choose a convenor and determine the mode of clerking for the duration of the work.
   2. The group may co-opt up to two members if appropriate
   3. Including such co-option(s), there shall not be more than two members from any one Area Meeting
4. **Responsibilities/remit**
   1. The group is encouraged to think broadly, radically, laterally, as led. This thinking may include, but not be confined to the following areas, which are given only as examples:
   2. streamlining of administrative tasks within AMs, sharing tasks between neighbouring AMs where appropriate, or employing paid staff.
   3. organising care for the spiritual health of meetings, such as eldership,oversight, nominations, welcoming practices and scope for sharing ideas between AMs
   4. Making recommendations for the practical implementation of proposed changes and the next steps to be taken.
   5. It is assumed that during the process members of the group will consult with relevant post-holders in their own AMs.
5. **Overall**
   1. To consider principles as well as structures, and to think laterally (not simply same structures, bigger scale), and how could simplifying help in practice to grow Quaker numbers?
6. **Duration and Reporting**
   1. Ideally, to produce, within four months of the group’s first meeting, a brief progress report to the clerk of the trustees of Quakers in Yorkshire.
   2. Ideally, to produce, within six months of the group’s first meeting, a paper which would be the basis for wide consideration by those Area Meetings (including their trustees) that are members of Quakers in Yorkshire.
7. **Meeting**
   1. Initially to meet in person, thereafter as agreed by the group. Travel costs to be reimbursed by area meetings.
8. **Links**
   1. Group members will keep in close touch with their own Area Meetings and their own AM trustee member of QIYT
   2. The Group will keep in touch with QIY trustees through QIYT clerk. To keep in touch with QIY as and when requested by QIY.

* 1. Notes from small groups at QIY meeting in April 2019 will be available.

1. **Larger Parameters**
   1. Our Quaker principles and testimonies in their deepest and broadest interpretation
   2. Underpinning of the regulatory charitable framework for good governance and

practice

1. **Duration of task**
   1. This will depend upon the outcome of the consideration by Area Meetings after six

months (Para 6.2 above). Extension beyond six months will be a decision of these AMs.

1. **Future role, if any, of Quakers in Yorkshire/QIYT**
   1. This will only become apparent in the light of the working group’s report, its reception by the participating AMs and the implications of any changes agreed by them.

BW 20.5.2019