# Church Government Advisory Group

This is an information pack for Friends interested in finding out more about serving as a member of the Church Government Advisory Group. Please find enclosed relevant information pertaining to the role, and the skills and experiences that are currently sought.

Please find up-to-date contact information enclosed with this briefing.
If you have any general queries about nominations or service, our nominations team can be contacted via nominations@quaker.org.uk.

## What is the role of Church Government Advisory Group?

Accountable to Meeting for Sufferings, the Church Government Advisory Group’s (CGAG) role is to identify and draft any church government amendments required to the current Book of Christian Discipline of Britain Yearly Meeting (currently Quaker faith & practice) consulting as necessary.

The group provides advice and where necessary initiates consideration about church government matters, and about the interpretation of passages in Quaker faith and practice, to Yearly Meeting, Meeting for Sufferings (MfS) and the Recording Clerk.

CGAG’s role is distinct from that of the Yearly Meeting Publications Group (YMPG), which is accountable to YM and is responsible for editorial policy, and for the periodic revisions and availability of the current Book of Discipline in a variety of prints and other formats. The two Groups shall have a responsibility to liaise with each other on mutually relevant matters.

(from the Terms of Reference agreed by Meeting for Sufferings minute MfS/15/03/11):

The work of the Church Government Advisory Group (CGAG) is in flux at present. Currently its main role is to suggest changes to the text of Quaker faith & practice. There will need to be some changes the text during the revision process, but these should be minimal. There may be work to be undertaken alongside the Book of Discipline Revision Committee, contributing to their task, but at present, we don’t know what that might be.

Yearly Meeting 2019 agreed that minor changes to *Quaker faith & practice* could be agreed by Meeting for Sufferings and reported to Yearly Meeting, rather than being agreed by Yearly Meeting.

How does the group work?

When the need to revise the text of *Quaker faith & practice* is identified, then generally a pair of CGAG members, working with the secretary, are asked to prepare a paper suggesting what revisions would be desirable. Generally this can be done by email, perhaps with a telephone conversation. The paper is presented to the following CGAG meeting.

CGAG provides advice and where necessary initiates consideration about church government matters, and about the interpretation of passages in Quaker faith and practice, to Yearly Meeting, Meeting for Sufferings (MfS) and the Recording Clerk.

## What skills are required in a new committee member?

Friends who can be precise with language and who have an interest in this area. As well as changes to Qf&p, the Church Government Advisory Group should also consist of Friends who can understand and offer considered advice on Church Government.

Both members and attenders are welcome to serve on this committee.

How much time commitment does the committee require?

It meets between two and four times each year. Generally, some work by email or telephone may be required between each meeting, perhaps only three or four hours.

This committee meets mostly online, so calls are held typically on Zoom.

There may be extra time commitment required if the Book of Discipline Revision Committee decides that it wishes to consult the Church Government Advisory Group.

All expenses are met by Britain Yearly Meeting.

**Interested in this service?**

Complete an Expression of Interest form: <https://forms.quaker.org.uk/suggestnames>

Want to know more? Get in touch: nominations@quaker.org.uk