

Governance Gold

No. 3: March 2015

Attendees at Yearly Meeting



For the attention of area and local meeting clerks

Governance update from the Recording Clerk's Office

Quaker faith & practice gives us full guidance as to how to be in right ordering for our church affairs. Our faithfulness in following our agreed process upholds our Quaker community. In these papers we are highlighting matters for your attention and action. Please keep these papers for ongoing reference.

Action requested

Attending Yearly Meeting is the highlight of the Quaker year for many Friends. However, please remember that adult attendees need formal permission to attend Yearly Meeting. It will be helpful for members of a meeting to actively support any attendees who come to Yearly Meeting during the weekend. A letter from an elder, or a meeting clerk if there are no elders, should be sent to RCO at Friends House or emailed to ym@quaker.org.uk giving the name, address and meeting of the attendee. Different arrangements apply in the case of Yearly Meeting Gatherings.

Why

Quaker faith & practice states that permission for the attendance of non-members at one or more sessions may be given at the discretion of the clerk. Attendees often find it helpful to experience Yearly Meeting in session as part of their journey with Friends.

Quaker faith & practice:

6.02 We did conclude among ourselves to settle a meeting, to see one another's faces, and open our hearts one to another in the Truth of God once a year, as formerly it used to be.

6.11 (part) *Mary Hughes (1860–1941) comes with heart and mind prepared:* Anyone who lived with her during April and May knew how intensely Friends' Yearly Meeting was on her mind. It was as important to her as 'going up to Jerusalem'.

6.15 Permission for the attendance of non-members at one or more sessions may be given at the discretion of the clerk, if satisfied that their presence is likely to be of service to the Society. Such permission should be sought well in advance of Yearly Meeting and should be supported by one or more elders to whom the applicant is well known. Last-minute requests should not be made. Elders supporting applications should ensure that non-members receive suitable support and guidance to enable them to be of service and to benefit from attendance at Yearly Meeting. If called to speak in a Yearly Meeting session, non-members should be sensitive to the fact that they are not in membership and should make this known.