Dear Quaker Life Rep,

It has been a while since the update in May.  Since then, Quaker Life Central Committee (QLCC) have met and considered QLRC and minuted as follows:

***QLCC 24.52 Quaker Life Representative Council***

*Further to minute QLCC 24.41 we have considered the future of Quaker Life Representative Council, due to the fact that we have taken the decision not to hold the event this year and in acknowledgement of the struggles experienced by the planning group.*

*We asked ourselves the following questions during our discernment:*

*What do we consider the main function of Rep Council to be? In what ways does it meet that function? In what ways has it struggled to meet that function currently?*

*What is needed to help QLRC meet its function? Is this achievable?*

*QLRC provides a link between Quaker Life Central Committee and Area Meetings. Holding the event online is different to meeting face-to-face and this function feels better met at in person events.*

*Quaker Life Rep Council historically provided one of the only opportunities for the Quaker Life [staff] team to meet with and talk to Quakers, and this is no longer the case with the introduction of Development Workers. However, there is still a desire for communication across Friends beyond what can be achieved by Development Workers. We are reminded that Rep Council is a body of QLCC for education, inspiration and consultation across our Quaker Communities. Rep Council has also provided a good opportunity to newer Friends to become better acquainted with our structures and the work done on our behalf.*

*We are invited to think about Rep Council as a body instead of the event itself as this can open up possibilities which would otherwise feel overwhelming or impractical. This could also help to build a sense of community amongst the Council itself and lay some groundwork for the Council potentially thinking about its own function and needs going forward, for example considering how best to report back to area meetings in an effective and impactful way.*

*...*

*We have drawn the conclusion that there are exciting opportunities for what Rep Council can be used for and how it can be organised. We feel we have good reason to continue with it in the potential new form as long as we have a fully resourced planning group who feel able. With this in mind we ask our staff and planning group to endeavour to plan for Rep Council for 2025.*

From this I hope you can see that there are plans to meet in 2025 but that the way that might happen and when are not yet finalised.

The QLRC Planning Group currently consists of Jen Neal co-convenor, and Susie Tombs, QLCC Rep.  Ideally the planning group would also include another co-convenor (serving for three years) and four others, usually but not essentially current QL Reps, who give service initially for one year but can continue for longer.  If you might offer service in this way, you could complete a [Quaker Service Information Form (offer of service)](https://www.quaker.org.uk/documents/serving-with-quakers-guidance-and-form-final) or email to let us know.  If names of other Friends occur to you, you can also let us know via qladmin@quaker.org.uk. QLCC have a Nominations group who discern names to bring to QLCC for the Planning Group.

In Friendship

Jen Neal       Sophie Smith

Convenor      Team Leader – Spiritual Nurture

QLRC           Quakers in Britain

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