

# Yearly Meeting 2018

Introduction: Friday 4 May – Session 1

## **Agenda Introduction – Ursula Fuller: Quaker Stewardship Committee**

Good evening Friends. It is my pleasure to introduce the Quaker Stewardship Committee report to you. It was lovely to have the opportunity to talk to some of you during the Centrally Managed Work Fair this afternoon.

During the year, Quaker Stewardship Committee communicates mainly with area meeting treasurers and trustees. We were delighted to talk to 100 or so Quakers at Meeting for Sufferings last April and, through Sufferings representatives, to area meetings. This evening I have the opportunity to speak directly to even more of you, and I would love to know a bit more about you. So, would you please raise a hand:

- If you are currently, or have ever been, a trustee of an area meeting or other Quaker charity
- If you are currently, or have ever been, the treasurer of a local or area meeting or other Quaker charity
- If you have ever been at a Quaker business meeting that has made decisions about financial resources and property
- If you are responsible for the stewardship of our resources [Some encouragement may be needed here to get all hands raised]

Friends, we are ALL stewards for our Quaker work. As 14.01 of Quaker Faith & Practice says

“A fundamental principle of ... our church governance is corporate integrity. All Friends share responsibility for upholding this principle. At every level Friends, personally and corporately, must be seen to be above reproach in our handling of finance and property.

... all our assets ... are held in trust, by all Friends, for now and for the future. How we handle them is an important part of our religious witness.”

And Quaker Stewardship Committee is part of the support for this witness.

One of the reasons for me to talk to you now, rather than just leaving you to read our printed report, is to update you on developments since it was written. *Our Faith in the Future* includes “Quakers work collaboratively”. Quaker Stewardship Committee is currently seeing the benefits of working with

- Woodbrooke – Quaker Stewardship Committee members have been involved in piloting two online courses: one for trustees and others on Writing Brilliant Reports and one for treasurers on the basics of being a Quaker treasurer. We hope that these will help to improve the confidence

and competence of role holders for whom it is inconvenient to travel to Birmingham.

- Britain Yearly Meeting Trustees – through the legacy funded property pilot, which you can find out more about in tomorrow's Special Interest Group
- Quaker Life Central Committee – through the brand new simpler meetings legacy funded project that will make it easier for area meetings to produce the policies and procedures they need and streamline their business processes; and working with QL
- to provide support for a small number of AMs having particular difficulties with meeting their compliance requirements.
- The Association of Church Accountants and Treasurers – mainly with materials and training for treasurers but also for trustees more widely.
- Through this work we are aiming to make a difference that produces
- Improved area meeting annual reports and accounts
- More confident and competent area meeting trustees
- The availability of a full suite of policies and procedures for adoption and adaptation by Area meeting trustees helping them to feel less burdened and more able to focus on the spiritual development of area meetings.

If you have questions, please come along to our Special Interest Group tomorrow 12:30- 13:30 in Drayton House. This is focussed on our main property resource: our meeting houses but QSC members will be there and I am sure will be delighted to talk to you more widely about our work on an individual basis.