

AREA MEETING NOMINATIONS

For the past year Area Meeting nominations matters have been managed by a representative group who met three times in 2021. The group was convened by the Area Meeting Clerk but it is agreed that this should not automatically be the responsibility of the Clerk.

A group of five Friends involved with local nominations groups met on Zoom on February 17 to discern the best way to manage nominations in 2022. The following proposal is experimental in nature and, if accepted by Area Meeting, should be reviewed in November 2022. We are also aware that at least one neighbouring Area Meeting is struggling to manage the nominations process and we hope that this is an area where we will be able to have support from our Local Development Worker.

The group feels that our present method of making and reviewing appointments is unnecessarily cumbersome given the size of the Area Meeting. We propose dividing appointments into two types which would be dealt with differently.

The core appointments are:

Trustees

Clerks

Treasurer

Safeguarding Coordinator (Trustee) and Deputy Safeguarding Coordinator

Children and Young People's Conveners

Meeting for Sufferings Representatives

These appointments will normally be made for a triennium and come to Area Meeting in the usual way.

The administration around the other supporting roles is currently cumbersome. We suggest that open-ended appointments are made to the following posts and Friends make a request to be released when they feel the time is right. This will avoid a great deal of 'chasing up' at the end of each year. These posts are:

Funerals Coordinator

Friend to authorise Burials, Interments & Scattering of Ashes

Registering Officer

Assistant Registering Officer

Registrar

Assistant Clerk (membership)

Custodian of Records

Tabular Statement Assistant

Website manager

Quaker Work Fund Coordinator

We have been unable to find a Friend this year who is willing and able to take on the role of Convener of the Nominations Committee. We also question whether a committee is necessarily the most effective way of finding people to take on roles. We propose this year that the four local meetings with nominations committees each take responsibility for managing one group of appointments:

Meeting 1 Trustees, Safeguarding and Children & Young People's Convener

Meeting 2 Clerks

Meeting 3 Supporting roles (*in italics above*), Meeting for Sufferings Representatives

Meeting 4 Quaker Life, QPSW and conferences

We suggested that for 2022 Meeting 1 would be Hertford, Meeting 2 Hitchin, Meeting 3 WGC and Meeting 4 Letchworth. Responsibilities could rotate each year.

Local meetings do not have to find Friends to fill vacancies themselves, but are responsible for communicating with the other meetings in order to find suitable Friends who are ready and able to give service. We feel the process needs to be much more open and transparent.

We hope that Friends will give this proposal serious consideration.