

**Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Britain**  
**Quaker Meeting House 7 Victoria Terrace Edinburgh EH1 2JL**

**CHARITABLE CONSTITUTION OF THE NORTHERN FRIENDS PEACE BOARD**  
**(Scottish Charity SC024632)**

**Adopted at a Meeting of the Board held in Middlesbrough on**  
**Saturday, the 2nd day of March 1996.**

**Amended Constitution adopted at a Meeting of the Board held in York on**  
**Saturday, the 27th day of February 1999.**

**A. NAME**

The name of the Board is 'Northern Friends Peace Board'. This continues the name with which it was established in 1913. In 1967 it was certified to the Charity Commissioners by the Religious Society of Friends (the Society) to be 'a joint committee of the seven northern General Meetings of the Society of Friends'. The Society is a recognised religious charity.

**B. ADMINISTRATION**

The Board shall maintain a Scottish postal address and its constitution shall be governed by the Law of Scotland. Procedures of the Board and its committees shall follow the general counsel on church affairs set out in the Book of discipline of the Society.

The area of operation covered by the Board shall be primarily that covered by the General and Monthly Meetings of Britain Yearly Meeting in Scotland, North Wales and Northern England.

**C. OBJECTS**

The objects of the Board shall be to advance within its area of operation the religious principles of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) through the education and training of members of the public in matters of justice, peace and the integrity of creation, strictly in accordance with the established testimonies of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) with special reference to that against the occasion of all wars, through the provision of organised courses and programmes in such matters in an environment that shall provide for the spiritual and moral renewal and refreshment of those members of the public.

**D. POWERS**

In pursuance of the foregoing objects (but not further or otherwise) the Board shall have power: -

1. To advise and encourage Friends in the North and through them their fellow Christians and citizens generally in the active promotion of peace in all its height and breadth;
2. To provide and prepare for delivery and holding of lectures, course, meetings, retreats, classes, conferences, training and exhibitions and demonstrations in such places as the Board shall think fit;
3. To appoint and pay lecturers, instructors and other persons of whom none may be Trustees to deliver and conduct such lectures, courses, meetings, Retreats, classes and conferences, training, exhibitions and demonstrations;
4. To employ on a part time or permanent basis and on a residential or non-residential basis and to reward in respect of such employment such persons not being Trustees as the Board deem necessary for the furtherance of the charitable objects;

5. To make contributions to enable the said employees or other persons to attend such lectures, courses, meetings, classes, conferences, training and exhibitions as the Board shall see fit for the furtherance of the charitable objects;
6. To print, publish, issue and commission papers, books, pamphlets, periodicals, and other written works and to make, publish, issue and commission films or video or audio tapes and other forms of visual or audio aid; and to circulate and disseminate such or other types of information;
7. To provide pastoral support through travelling in the ministry in circumstances where it may be helpful;
8. To purchase, take on lease or in exchange, hire or otherwise acquire any heritable or moveable property whatsoever and wheresoever and any rights or privileges necessary for the promotion of the objects hereof to construct, maintain and alter any buildings or erections or other property necessary for the attainment of the charitable objects, and to grant any security, heritable or moveable, over such property;
9. To sell, lease or dispose of all or any part of the heritable or moveable property or rights or privileges of the Board subject to any consents required by law;
10. To borrow money on the security of the property of the Board or without security subject to any consents required by law;
11. To furnish, layout, equip, manage and administer premises and facilities or assist in so doing whether or not vested in the trustees for the accommodation of the said employees or others and for the education, training and relative accommodation of the public in terms of the charitable objects;
12. To charge the public such fees and expenses as the Board shall see fit in respect of the education, training and relative accommodation provided hereunder;
13. To raise funds, conduct appeals for money or other gifts, and receive any voluntary contribution from any person or persons whomsoever (whether corporate or otherwise ) by way of grant, donation, covenant, annual or other subscription, legacy, bequest, endowment or otherwise (whether of heritable or moveable property) provided that the Board shall not undertake any substantial permanent trading activities in raising funds for the charitable objects; and shall conform to any relevant requirements of the law;
14. To establish support or aid in the establishment or support of any charitable trusts, associations or instructions and to subscribe or guarantee money for charitable purposes in any way connected with or calculated to further the charitable objects;
15. To confer and co-operate with other organisations and with individuals (whether within the area of operation or not) who are engaged in work having similar objects as those of the Board;
16. To appoint and constitute such advisory committees or groups as the Executive may think fit;
17. The Board shall have the widest possible investment powers in line with its Quaker religious principles;
18. The Board shall have the power to establish, and discontinue, such Honorary Officer posts, paid or unpaid, as the board at a business meeting shall decide:
19. To do all such other lawful things as are necessary to or expedient in the attainment of the objects or any of them;

## **E. MEMBERSHIP**

Membership of the Board shall be made up of -

1. Each Monthly Meeting within the area of operation of the Board shall be invited to appoint up to two

representatives to attend meetings of the Board and may appoint a deputy(s) to replace its appointed representative(s) to attend meeting of the Board if the appointed representative(s) is unable to attend;

2. The Board shall have the power to invite other Quaker Committees or Meetings to be members of the Board with a right to appoint up to two representatives and deputies from each to attend meetings of the Board;

3. The Board shall have the power to appoint individual co-opted members for periods that the Board at a business meeting shall decide provided that as a result the number of co-opted members does not exceed one third of the total number of members on the Board;

4. The Board shall have power to grant and revoke individual Honorary Membership to such persons as it shall at a Board meeting shall decide;

## **F. EXECUTIVE AND TRUSTEES**

1. The Executive shall consist of all Honorary Officers of the Board, in addition, not less than three and not more than eight ordinary members of the Executive shall be appointed for lengths of service as the Board at a business meeting shall decide. Each Trustee shall sign a declaration of their legal eligibility to hold such office and an acceptance and willingness to act in the trusts of the Board;

2. Members of the Executive shall serve for not more than three years but may then be re-appointed;

3. The Honorary Officers, together with the ordinary members of the Executive, shall act as the Board's Trustees;

4. In so far as more ample powers are not given by these presents the Trustees shall have more powers conferred on trustees by the Trusts (Scotland) Acts of 1921 and 1961 and by any acts amending the same relating to trustees in Scotland (which powers shall not be held at variance with the terms and purposes of this Trust);

5. The Board may pay an honorarium to any member of the Executive for services, outwith those duties of Trusteeship, carried out on behalf of the Board. Trustees shall not normally have a financial interest in any contract entered into by the Board. In such circumstances they shall declare such an interest timeously and not be involved in either its negotiation or its management. In addition, the Trustees shall be reimbursed for all expenses reasonably incurred by them in connection with the administration of the Board without in any way prejudicing their rights, privileges and immunities as Gratuitous trustees including the right to resign;

6. A member of the Executive shall cease to hold office if he or she is: -

(a) is disqualified from acting as a member of the Executive by virtue of the Law Reform (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Scotland) Act 1990, or any successor legislation;

(b) becomes incapable by reason of mental disorder, illness or injury of managing and administering his or her own affairs; or

(c) is absent without the permission of the Executive from all their meetings and/or Meetings of the Board held within a period of six months or notifies to the Executive a wish to resign and the Executive resolve that his or her office be vacated but only if at least three Trustees remain in office when the notice of resignation is to take effect;

## **G. MEETINGS**

The Board shall meet at least once and the Executive at least twice in each calendar year. A quorum for the Executive and ordinary Board meetings shall be four members of whom two are Trustees. In the absence of a quorum within half an hour the meeting shall be adjourned to a new place and time determined by the Trustees or others present. The members present shall be a quorum at such adjourned meeting. A quorum of members representing three quarters of the appointing bodies shall be present before a proposal to wind up or

alter the constitution is considered. Such proposals shall have 21 days notice to each member;

Proceedings of each meeting shall be kept in a minute book which shall be signed by the Clerk at the conclusion of that meeting or at a future meeting if the minutes shall then have been confirmed; As is accepted Quaker practice every matter shall be decided only when all members present are in unity on the decision to be made. All acts and proceedings of any sub-committee shall be promptly and fully reported to the Executive;

## **H. WINDING UP**

Should the Trust Fund be reduced at any time to an amount which in the opinion of the Board is such that the objects shall fail or shall otherwise be incapable of fulfilment or if for any other reason the Board shall consider it expedient that it be wound up it shall then pay, convey or make over the Trust Fund to the said Religious Society of Friends or to such other body or bodies or fund or funds charitable in law with objects similar to those hereinbefore specified as the Board in its sole discretion shall think fit;

## **I. ALTERATION**

The Board may from time to time alter or amend this constitution to the extent (and to such extent only) as in the opinion of the Board is requisite for the purpose of conferring such further or other powers as may be necessary for its better administration and the more effectual execution of the objects, provided always that nothing in this clause shall authorise or be deemed to authorise any departure from, or, modification of the charitable objects or the application of any part of the Trust Fund or the income thereof for any purpose which is not a purpose charitable in law. No alteration may be made to this clause or to the Winding Up or Objects clauses;

## **J. LIABILITY OF TRUSTEES**

The Trustees shall not in any way be liable for any loss suffered as a result of the exercise of the powers given to them by this constitution or for any fall in value of or for the validity and sufficiency of investments, securities and others held by them or on their account whether made or retained by the Trustees or for omissions or for neglect in their management or for one another or for factors, attorneys, solicitors, accountants, stockbrokers, agents or others appointed or employed by them except that they were through habit and repute responsible at the time of their appointment or employment but each for his or her own actual intromissions only, provided always that such investments and management of the Trust are reasonably prudent having regard to the charitable trusts upon which the Trust Fund is held;

## **K. ACCOUNTS**

The Executive shall appoint a Treasurer who shall keep proper accounting records and prepare an Annual Report and Statement of Account for each calendar year. These shall be subjected to an independent examination and to the approval by the Board. The Trustees shall ensure that the Board meets its statutory and other obligations timeously.