**AGM 2023**

Clerk’s Report 2022-3

The Annual Conference in November 2022 went well. This year we made the experiment to hire a Quaker-led team to run the online conference instead as in past years of running it ourselves. We were short of willing and able people and energy. Although the number of attendees was down on previous years – and we made a financial loss because we had decided not to charge market prices for the tickets – the evaluation and feedback both on the organisation and content were overwhelmingly positive. We saw a small but significant spike in membership inquiries and applications.

The Connections Group has continued to meet regularly twice a week on Zoom. The Tuesday lunchtime meetings have two parts. The first part builds the group by each attendee sharing their experience of the week, which sometimes leads on to deep discussions. In the second part the group are working their way through the sections of Q&B booklet *Good Business*, using each section to start a substantive discussion on each topic. These discussions have been very helpful and informative to the participants and documented on the website.

Making Values Visible monthly seminar series has also continued successfully. It stimulates discussions on ethics and develops relationships with similar-minded organisations and experts in and outside of the Quaker world and Britain. For example, they completed a series from the University of Texas on applying values in the workplace and a session testing the video about oppressive work environments which we made with Ethos.

The Academic Work group is nearing completion. Andy Fincham has completed his doctorate in Quaker business history. His findings have been published in The Friend and he will also present them for discussion in the Spring Gathering in 2023. The second candidate, Nicola Sleapwood, has completed her doctoral thesis after ten years of work and expects to graduate in 2023.

Quaker Bank project stalled due to the pandemic and the present economic situation. However, it is re-starting and there are signs of positive developments including discussions to attract initial investors.

Our website is now hosted on White Fuse and is live and fully operational. The Communications Lead and the Membership Secretary have been indispensable in the transition from the previous platform as well as its ongoing development. Q&B website looks much more up to date while simplifying in-house processes.