

State of Society Query for 2014

Dear Friends

It is time to begin preparing our state of the meeting reports for 2014. This is our annual practice of reflecting on how Spirit has been leading us and how we have followed that leading. It is the time to share where we have prospered and where we have struggled. It is our opportunity to look at our strengths and challenges and how Truth prospered among us even in difficult times. Ministry Coordinating Committee encourages Friends to reflect on these ideas as you prepare the specifics of your reports.

This year Ministry Coordinating Committee invites Friends to use the guidelines in *Faith and Practice* on page 125 for your State of the Meeting reports rather than our usual practice of sending out specific custom queries for reflection. Here is that section of *Faith and Practice*:

STATE OF THE MEETING REPORTS. Once each year, at a time sufficient to meet the request of the yearly meeting, the monthly meeting on ministry and counsel should appoint one or more of its members to prepare and present a report on the spiritual condition of the meeting. This should be reviewed in turn by ministry and counsel and by the meeting for business of the monthly meeting. When the monthly meeting approves it, with or without revision, the clerk should forward the report to a designated person or committee of the yearly meeting's Coordinating Committee for Ministry and Counsel and also, usually, to the clerk of ministry and counsel of the quarterly or equivalent meeting of which the meeting is a part.

The State of the Meeting report should be a searching self-examination by the meeting and its members of their spiritual strengths and weaknesses and of the efforts made to foster growth in the spiritual life. Reports may cover the full range of interests and concerns but should emphasize those indicative of the spiritual health of the meeting. A suggested list of topics for consideration follows:

- quality of worship and spiritual ministry
- efforts to foster spiritual growth
- stands taken on Friends' principles
- personal and family relations
- relations with community and other religious groups
- participation in general activities of Friends
- significant activities or concerns of the local meeting

Those preparing the report may be guided by consideration of the general queries and advices or by any special queries that may be directed to the local meeting from time to time by the quarterly or yearly meeting on ministry and counsel.

Please respond to the sections in *Faith and Practice* that speak to your condition and experience, following the process and suggestions given there.

Please submit your report by March 1st, to office@nyym.org or mail it to New York Yearly Meeting, 15 Rutherford Place, New York, NY 10003, so that the State of Society Committee will have time to include it in the draft of their report to MCC at Spring Sessions.

Thank you!

Irma Guthrie

Clerk, Ministry Coordinating Committee