

Membership Under the Care of New York Yearly Meeting

Criteria for Applying

- Friend is actively involved in New York Yearly Meeting business, committees, communities, worship, events, or sessions;
- Friend's life circumstances make it difficult or impossible to regularly attend or find home at a Monthly Meeting (people in remote locations, caregivers, incarcerated Friends, etc.); or Friend feels as though New York Yearly Meeting is their spiritual home;
- Friend is able to give resources of time and/or money to the work of the Yearly Meeting or the entities therein (committees, Powell House, Sessions, etc.);
- Friend is committed to enter wholeheartedly into the spiritual and corporate activities of the Society and willingly assumes responsibility for both service and support as the way opens.

Process within Ministry Coordinating Committee

1. The Ministry and Pastoral Care Committee of Ministry Coordinating Committee considers requests for membership under the care of New York Yearly Meeting.
2. The designee of Ministry and Pastoral Care, with the help of a well-connected Friend, considers application letters and appoints a Clearness Committee of at least three people for each applicant. When selecting Clearness Committee members, attention is paid to geography, needs of the applicant, familiarity, diversity and inclusiveness, and representation from multiple bodies within New York Yearly Meeting.
3. Should the Clearness Committee find the applicant clear for membership under the care of the Yearly Meeting, the Clearness Committee reports back to Ministry and Pastoral Care committee with their recommendation that the applicant be approved as a member under the care of the Yearly Meeting. Upon unity with the recommendation of the Clearness Committee, the Clerk of Ministry and Pastoral Care advises the clerk of Ministry Coordinating Committee and the Yearly Meeting offices to record the new Friend as a member.
4. On final approval, the new member is welcomed appropriately and is matched with an agreed upon Friend (or two) to guide the new member. The Friend(s) are responsible for support, advice and oversight of the new member, and are expected to maintain contact with their designated Friend regularly for the first two years of membership.
5. Ministry and Pastoral Care Committee receives an annual check-in letter from the Friend and responds as led.

Process for Prospective Members

1. The potential Friend seeking membership writes a letter of application addressed to the clerk of Ministry and Pastoral Care. The letter should include:
 - a. why membership under the care of NYYM is sought at this time;
 - b. why this process was selected by the applicant instead of applying through a Monthly Meeting;
 - c. how the applicant is in unity with Quaker or NYYM principles and testimonies;
 - d. ways that the applicant anticipates involvement in the Yearly Meeting;
 - e. whether the applicant is interested in being a member in perpetuity or for a set period of time; and
 - f. suggested Clearness Committee members.
2. The prospective member is contacted by Ministry and Pastoral Care, to consider the application letter and appoint a Clearness Committee of at least three people. When selecting Clearness Committee members, attention is paid to geography, needs of the applicant, familiarity, diversity and inclusiveness, and representation from multiple bodies

within New York Yearly Meeting.

3. The Clearness Committee meets with the applicant (the Clearness Committee may find it necessary to meet without the prospective member at some point).
4. Should the Clearness Committee find the applicant clear for membership under the care of the Yearly Meeting, the Clearness Committee reports back to Ministry and Pastoral Care committee with their recommendation that the applicant be approved as a member under the care of the Yearly Meeting. Upon unity with the recommendation of the Clearness Committee, the Clerk of Ministry and Pastoral Care advises the clerk of Ministry Coordinating Committee and the Yearly Meeting offices to record the new Friend as a member.
5. The new member is welcomed appropriately and is matched with a Friend (or two) to guide the new member. The Friend(s) are responsible for support, advice and oversight of the new member, and are expected to maintain contact with their designated Friend regularly for the first two years of membership.
6. The new member submits an annual check-in letter to Ministry and Pastoral Care to let them know what has been going on for the past year, whether they need any kind of specific support, or if they would like to adjust their membership status in any way.