

Children and Youth Field Secretary
Report to New York Yearly Meeting
Fall Sessions: November 12, 2016

In the months since our Summer Sessions, I've been engaged in communication and visitation across the yearly meeting and worked on several different projects related to supporting children and families as well as First Day School and yearly meeting programs.

1. Monthly Meeting Partner Project:

- Following the October 15 deadline and receipt of several thoughtful applications, members of the NYYM staff and Youth Committee reviewed these applications in a discernment process. The first two partner meetings will be Montclair Meeting and Wilton Meeting.
- In addition to the applications received, there were conversations with seven other meetings who engaged in some level of discernment with the application questions and may apply in years two or three.
- The survey tool for the project, which will also be shared yearly meeting-wide, has been a big task. It measures both experiences of life in meeting communities and the demographics of "who we are" as a monthly meeting/worship group/yearly meeting. We're working with Alan Krieger, a consultant, and NEYM counterparts on this jointly developed piece of the project. Gratitude to Melanie-Claire Mallison, for her work on setting up and formatting the survey tool (there were many edits!), and to Old Chatham Meeting for helping us to test the survey and focus group model with our facilitators.
- In addition to completing the survey, partner meetings will engage in focus group discussions to delve more deeply into their survey responses and helps us to understand what works (and what doesn't) with outreach and welcome, programs and inclusion. We'll listen to the wisdom from our meetings about where they are, as well as for yearnings and hopes as we engage in this work. At the end of each year of the project, we'll do the survey and focus groups again, and see where there has been growth and what we have learned.
- Seven Friends from across the yearly meeting are part of a "facilitation team" for the project, who will lead the focus groups in partner meetings over the next three years. They have received facilitation training from Alan Krieger (consultant) and most of them were able to attend the day spent testing our survey/focus group questions. We are grateful for their service.

2. Support for Local Meeting and Worship Group Communities:

- I'm developing themes and content for quarterly e-newsletter cycle for RE/FDS clerks with an emphasis on resources and tools for religious education programs and practitioners and information to share with families in the meeting community. With other staff, considering the creation of a separate list for NYYM families and how this would also be useful for communication about events and programs.
- Visitation: the Monthly Meeting Partner Project includes an expectation that I'll visit twelve meetings in the first year of the program; this is an intersection with my work to support meetings and worship groups. I want to be sure these visits are spread across the nine quarters/regions. Since Summer Sessions, I've visited seven monthly meetings in five quarters/regions/half yearly meetings and scheduled two more.
- Programs for Meetings: This fall, programs at monthly meetings have focused on building multigenerational spiritual community and introducing Godly Play/Faith & Play stories as a tool in

FDS programs. I've also supported meeting FDS/RE committees with planning for their 2016-17 programs.

- At the invitation of a Quaker Life committee supported by Friends from Westbury Meeting and others, led a "Quakerism 101" professional development session for faculty at Westbury Friends school; addressed families at Back to School Night about Quaker history, faith and practice.
- **NEW PROGRAM!** "Parent Meetups" are an opportunity for spiritual and social fellowship and refreshment with other parents in the YM. **First one: Saturday, December 3rd, 3:00-5:30pm at 15th Street Meeting** (childcare provided). In addition to this first event, we are planning a series of four more in NYQM in 2017, and I hope to bring events to 3-4 other quarters/regions in 2017 as well. Glad to be working on this with Gabi Savory Bailey and Emily Provance.
- Traveling Resource Library: My hope is to come to Fall Sessions with these resources somewhat refreshed. I'm working on a new system to catalog and share what's available.

3. Staff, Powell House and Committee Collaboration:

- Working with Steven Davison on reorganizing, refreshing and adding to the YM website pages for children and youth.
- Working with Chris DeRoller and Mike Clark on two 2017 Youth Institutes:
 - Farmington-Scipio Regional Meeting will host a Youth Institute on March 4 at Rochester Meeting. The hope is to build a community of practice in FSRM of Friends who are interested in supporting youth and working on planning program for the Spring Gatherings in the region, and together develop clear outlines and expectations for that planning.
 - April 21-23, at Powell House — YI 2017 will include workshops from the "REnewal and REsources" program I developed with Beth Collea, my staff counterpart in NEYM. This includes support and resources specifically for Friends working with First Day programs. We're excited about the pairing of YI and RE+RE, and the places in the weekend where we'll intersect and share our learnings.
- I had a lovely, generative conversation with a staff person for youth in Britain YM. They are doing similar work to the Partner Project, and we expressed a shared hope for continued communication and learning together.
- Spoke at the NYYM Fall Fundraising dinner about the work of the CYFS and the Partner Project.
- Serving on the "steering circle" of the Outreach Working Group under MCC care.

4. Yearly Meeting Sessions:

- Helped with children and youth program planning for Fall Sessions; created and distributed flyers for children and teen programs.
- An idea is taking shape, to create a "Fall/Spring Sessions Task Group" model where a core group of Friends provide leadership for planning children/youth programs at these gatherings, working each time with representatives from the host quarter/region. This is a developing idea, but one that seems like it would be helpful for program continuity and success, and support for sessions host committees.

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