

State of Society Process 2017-2018

Please direct all State of Society questions to nyymstateofsociety@gmail.com

DEADLINE: April 9, 2018

Please note that reports that do not meet this deadline may not be considered for the larger State of the Society report. Please refer to the suggested timeline on page 2 and start the process early!!

QUICK SURVEY: In order to present the most specific and accurate data, we ask for a representative from your Monthly Meeting or Worship Group to complete this TEN question, five-minute survey: <https://goo.gl/forms/SUliPl62Fvqq45ui2>

QUERY: *What is the current state or condition of your Meeting (or Worship Group)?*

Guiding Questions: If you are in need of additional structure, we offer five guiding questions. These are not required but may assist your Meeting or Worship Group in finding direction.

1. *What is the spiritual condition of your meeting, committee, or worship group? Where is there light? Where is there darkness?*
2. *Are meetings for worship and business held in expectant waiting for divine guidance? How do we feel about the quality of our worship and ministry?*
3. *How are love and unity fostered among us? If differences arise, how do we endeavor to reconcile them in a spirit of love and truth? How well do we do?*
4. *How do we make ourselves available in a tender and caring way when we sense a need for assistance in time of trouble? Do our members and attenders trust each other enough to make their needs known to others in the meeting, committee, or worship group?*
5. *How do we acknowledge the oneness of humanity and foster a loving spirit toward all people? Do we honor Friends' traditional testimony that all people are equal? How do we work to make these ideals a reality?*

Consider how you will involve folks of all ages in your SoS discernment process

HOW TO SUBMIT

1. Save your report electronically in **Microsoft Word** or **PDF** format. It is difficult to convert other formats. If you need help saving in one of these formats, please let us know.
 - When saving your report, please use naming convention: "MeetingStateofSociety2017"
Examples: AlbanyStateofSociety2017 or IndianAffairsStateofSociety2017
2. Send report to nyymstateofsociety@gmail.com and copy Helen at office@nyym.org
3. If necessary, hard copy reports will be accepted. Hard copy reports should be mailed to the address below:
Marissa Badgley
123-35 82nd Rd. Apt. 2N
Kew Gardens, NY 11415

COMMITTEE SUPPORT

Should your meeting like advice or help from the State of Society Committee, it can reach out to nyymstateofsociety@gmail.com. Committee members will be available to brainstorm structures and strategies to be successful throughout the SoS process and will also be available to help facilitate SoS discussions as requested. **Any requests for help with formal facilitation must be made by January 15.**

RECOMMENDED PRACTICES

1. One opportunity for worship will likely not be sufficient. We recommend that meetings provide at least 2 scheduled times for discernment. These sessions should take place at various times (morning, evenings, weekends, and weekdays) to make sure that all interested parties are able to participate.
2. Meetings and worship groups may think about alternative ways to solicit responses from members and attenders.
 - If it is difficult to meet in person, think about how to use platforms like Google Drive or Google Forms to allow people to contribute.
 - Think about how you might incorporate art or music for people who are not as comfortable with words.
 - Think about who is unlikely to attend a SoS meeting and invite to small one-on-one conversations.
3. Include children, youth, and young adults in the process whenever possible. This will likely require an explicit invitation and might require a separate space or time for meeting. State of Society activities for First Day School can be requested from Melinda Wenner-Bradley or Marissa Badgley.

SUGGESTED TIMELINE

December 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Discuss and determine process and timeline for completing State of Meeting Report <input type="checkbox"/> Identify a person or people who are responsible for convening and facilitating future conversations and writing the report <p>If your Meeting has decided NOT to write a formal report this year, please email nyymstateofsociety@gmail.com so we know not to expect a report from you.</p>
January 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Meeting convenes for formal worship sharing experiences. Meetings are encouraged to use the format that is most authentic for the community (worship sharing, focus group, meal conversation, art project, etc.). You can consult with the SoS Committee if you are looking for ideas.
February 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Compile notes from all meetings into one place <input type="checkbox"/> Assemble a few members of the meeting to identify themes and trends <input type="checkbox"/> Draft a formal report for presentation at Business Meeting in late February or early March
March 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Bring drafted reports to Meeting with a Concern for Business. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ If approved, save report to Microsoft Word or PDF format and send to nyymstateofsociety@gmail.com. ○ If not approved, revise report and bring back to the next Meeting with a Concern for Business. <p><i>Meetings might want to consider ongoing revision processes that do not require waiting until the next Business Meeting to approve reports. According to a meeting's level of comfort, it may be that a small group can be appointed to guide the process OR a draft can be approved with the expectation that revisions will be completed. Meetings may choose to meet with members of the SoS committee to provide insights and ideas.</i></p>
April 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Second or third drafts should be brought for final approval by April 17 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ If approved, save report to Microsoft Word or PDF format and send to nyymstateofsociety@gmail.com.
DEADLINE	APRIL 9, 2018