

NYYM Clerk and Committee Guidelines

Dear Friends:

Contained within this *Handbook* are the descriptions of the New York Yearly Meeting, its sections and the committees under the care of each section. This section includes advices to clerks of Yearly Meeting committees and coordinating committees. Last but not least, you will find guidelines and a schedule of events for typical committee work.

While we do not intend that there be any rigid pattern of committee organization to which all committees are required to adhere, nevertheless, experience has suggested certain guidelines.

There is a great deal of information here. We hope you will read with care and find it useful.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. GUIDELINES FOR COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- 1-A] So, You've Been Asked to Serve on a Committee!
- 1-B] Your Nomination & Yearly Meeting Approval
- 1-C] Now That You Are a Committee Member
- 1-D] Being a Good Committee Member
- 1-E] Committee Officers
- 1-F] Selection of Officers & Other Appointees
- 1-G] Representation at Section Coordinating Committee Meetings
- 1-H] Committee-Related Expenses
- 1-I] Re-Nominations
- 1-J] Resignations & Requests for Release
- 1-K] Co-opting Members for Committees
- 1-L] Focus Person

2. YEARLY MEETING RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO COMMITTEES

- 2-A] Use of Space in Yearly Meeting Office
- 2-B] Staff Services
- 2-C] Yearbook

2-D] Coordinating Committee

3. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE COMMITTEE CLERK

3-A] If You Have Been Asked To Serve As Clerk

3-B] Upon Being Approved As Clerk: First Things First

3-C] The Spirit of the Committee Meeting

3-D] Committee Work & Membership

3-E] Criteria to be Applied in Considering Action

3-F] Proposing Minutes for Yearly Meeting Consideration

 3-F] 1. Minutes From YM Committees

 3-F] 2. Minutes From a Monthly And Quarterly/Regional Meeting

3-G] Committee Reports to the Yearly Meeting

3-H] Committee Records and Expenditures

3-I] Representing the Committee

3-J] Yearly Meeting Spring or Fall Sessions

3-K] Yearly Meeting Summer Sessions

3-L] Preparing the Annual Review and Advance Report Using the Accountability Queries

3-M] Laying Down a Committee

3-N] Preparing Committee Papers and Minutes for Archiving

3-O] Typical Committee Calendar

4. SECTION CLERKS

4-A] Additional Responsibilities for Coordinating Committee Clerks

4-B] Proposed Minutes from YM Committees or Monthly Meetings

4-C] Section Budget

4-D] Annual Review of All Committees Under the CC's Care

5. FINANCES

5-A] Committee Financing

5-B] Budget

5-D] Reimbursement

6. YEARLY MEETING EVENTS/DEADLINES CALENDAR

1. GUIDELINES FOR COMMITTEE MEMBERS

1-A] So, You've Been Asked to Serve on a Committee!

Before accepting nomination to any committee or agreeing to clerk, read carefully the guidelines below, along with the appropriate *Handbook* descriptions of the committee and its coordinating committee. You might also consider asking for a Clearness Committee from your Monthly Meeting.

In general, prior to nomination, feel free to attend committee meetings and talk with committee members. You might also read the committee's annual reports in several *Yearbooks*, including the most current, and the *Faith & Practice* section that pertains to the spiritual base of your committee. It is best to have the fullest possible knowledge of a committee before agreeing to serve in any capacity.

As part of your considerations regarding serving, keep in mind the stipulated term of membership, the description of the committee and its responsibilities, and consider seriously any other obligations you may have for that period. In particular, serving on more than one coordinating committee – for instance as an at-large member for one and as representative to another – guarantees that you will be unable to meet your obligations to both. Serving on two or more committees, will almost always mean disappointing some committee obligations.

1-B] Your Nomination & Yearly Meeting Approval

Once you agree to be nominated, try to attend the Yearly Meeting session when your nomination to the committee will be considered. Assuming your nomination is approved, this is the time to begin attending committee meetings. Once approved, you will receive a notification card from the NYYM Nominating Committee and your information will be included in the next *Yearbook*, which includes a list of committee members and their street address, phone number, and email address. Please be sure your committee clerk and the Yearly Meeting office have the correct information.

1-C] Now That You are a Committee Member

Your committee clerk will send you a packet of committee minutes and other pertinent information. Please read thru this information carefully so that you are aware of the work the committee has already done and the work now before you. The clerk will also inform you of the committee meeting times and send you the committee's annual calendar of events so you can anticipate the work and rhythm of the year. It is your responsibility to attend and participate in

the activities and decision-making of the committee in a prepared manner. If you are unable to attend, send regrets to your clerk and be sure to read the minutes of the meeting you missed.

1-D] Being a Good Committee Member

What, beyond attendance at meetings, makes a good committee member? Here are some of the characteristics:

- A personal interest, or even better, a leading to support the work of the Committee;
- A clear understanding of the role of the committee as expressed in its charge by the Yearly Meeting and described in this *Handbook*;
- A willingness to serve as a conduit of dialogue and information between the Yearly Meeting and your regional/quarterly meeting and your monthly meeting;
- An ability to see the place of the committee in the overall work of the Yearly Meeting.

Committees exist to carry out the will of the Yearly Meeting as led. In so serving the committee members find spiritual fulfillment.

1-E] Committee Officers

Typically, each committee has three officers: a clerk, assistant clerk and a recording clerk. In addition, committees must name a representative to their section's coordinating committee (who may or may not be the clerk). A few have a financial secretary and other appointees for whom experience has shown a need. Some have representatives to other committees, for example, Sessions Committee.

1-F] Selection of Officers & Other Appointees

Committees should appoint an internal nominating committee in the spring that will report during Summer Sessions with recommendations for officers, representative to the coordinating committee, and as many other appointees as necessary. Whenever possible, an incoming clerk should be identified a year before the present clerk steps aside from that role. Ideally, this person serves as an assistant clerk and walks with the clerk throughout that time period.

Committees usually meet during Summer Sessions to organize the new year, welcome in new members just approved by Yearly Meeting, and approve officers and representatives. The Yearly Meeting office will provide the committee clerk with a form indicating appointments to be made by that committee and asking for names and phone numbers of the appointees. This information will be included in the *Yearbook*.

Committees which represent separately incorporated bodies such as Oakwood Friends School or Powell House may decide on officers for the next year at a designated annual meeting.

1-G] Representation at Section Coordinating Committee Meetings

Since the coordinating committees must make broad decisions that affect the whole section, it is

essential that each committee be represented at all coordinating committee (CC) meetings. Once named to the position of representative (rep) by your committee, the coordinating committee clerk (or designee) will send you a packet of CC minutes and pertinent information, along with a schedule of CC meetings. Again, please read through this information carefully so that you are aware of the work the CC has already done and the work now before them. Reps should find an alternate if they are unable to attend a particular CC meeting. The designated rep should follow up with the alternate after the meeting and before the next meeting of the committee.

1-H] Committee-Related Expenses

Most committees have funds for expenses, but membership on a Yearly Meeting committee will probably require some financial outlay for travel, telephone, and the like. No one should decline nomination to a committee they feel called to serve on because of financial concerns. See more on finances below in Section 5.

1-I] Re-Nominations

Friends may be re-nominated for a second term on a committee but not for a third term without at least one year intervening. Such a practice allows for both continuity and the opportunity for new members to contribute to the work of the committee.

1-J] Resignations & Requests for Release

If you find yourself unable to continue as a contributing member of the committee, consider requesting release so that another Friend who can be more active may be named. Letters of resignation go to the clerk of the Yearly Meeting, in care of the Yearly Meeting office, with a copy to the clerk of the committee and to the clerk of the Nominating Committee.

1-K] Co-opting Members for Committees

Any committee may co-opt a member at any time. The co-opted person need not be a Friend. Co-opted people serve for one year and are generally chosen because they have a particular skill or area of expertise needed by the committee. An example would be Powell House co-opting an architect during a remodeling project; another would be the Sharing Fund co-opting an experienced fund raiser. As co-opted members, they may not be clerk or financial clerk, neither should they participate in executive meetings of the committee or make financial decisions.

1-L] Focus Person

A Focus Person is essentially a clerk without a committee who serves under a coordinating committee and reports directly to same. The focus person is a conduit for information about a particular issue of importance to Friends. If the need arises for an action, the focus person may bring the concern to the coordinating committee which may recruit a task group if Friends are willing to serve. The focus person can be named by the coordinating committee, appointed by

NYYM Nominating Committee or co-opted; if co-opted, they should be appointed in the following year.

2. YEARLY MEETING RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO COMMITTEES:

2-A] Use of Space in the Yearly Meeting Office

Clerks wishing to use the office at 15 Rutherford Place for evening or weekend committee meetings should consult Yearly Meeting Office Use. (Page 81 of this *Handbook*.) [NOTE: Verify page number!]

2-B] Staff Services

Staff services may be available for specific section projects. Contact the General Secretary with your request.

2-C] Yearbook

The *Yearbook* is published in the fall of each year. It contains the minutes of the previous year's sessions, lists of committee members and their addresses, and names, addresses and officers of all monthly and regional meetings as well as of the Yearly Meeting.

2-D] Coordinating Committee

At Large coordinating committee members and clerks are available to advise and support the committees under the care of their respective sections. In addition, coordinating committees have the responsibility and authority to support and hold accountable their constituent committees in their designated functions. The clerk of the coordinating committee shall ensure there is an annual review by each committee for the purpose of honoring these responsibilities.

3. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE COMMITTEE CLERK

3-A] If You Have Been Asked To Serve As Clerk

As mentioned earlier, committees generally gather their nominations for officers in the spring and consider the slate at Summer Sessions for approval. If you are asked to serve as a committee clerk, reread section 1-A, above, and be sure to carefully weigh any obligations you already carry. Most importantly, remember that the duties, organization, and usual meeting times and places of each committee are described in this *Handbook*.

3-B] Upon Being Approved As Clerk: First Things First

If you accept the nomination and it is approved by your committee, then the out-going clerk will have a collection of materials for you at Summer Sessions, which should include committee minutes covering at least the past three years, reports, budgets, expenditures, notes from interest or study groups, etc. While it will be time consuming, it is important to read through these materials as soon as possible.

Along with the materials you receive from the previous clerk, be sure to gather the contact information for all your committee members, including any new members approved at Summer Sessions, before you leave Summer Sessions. Send this information along with your new slate of officers to the NYYM office as soon as possible, as you will need this information in order to honor your responsibilities as clerk — starting off with sending the required information packet to any new committee members. The packet should include the NYYM *Handbook* description for the committee, minutes of the past two years, and any important committee documents, including a clear and concise history of the committee, so they can see the movement of the committee and decisions do not need to be revisited. (Many of these items can be easily gathered together from the materials you now have.)

The previous clerk should also hand on to you a more detailed calendar of committee events, covering the timely requests for items for the agenda and for budgets, etc. Keep in mind that clerks should regularly inform the Yearly Meeting office of their committee times and dates.

In early autumn, the Yearly Meeting clerk is responsible for facilitating a day-long session for all coordinating and committee clerks to provide an opportunity for Friends to share information and guidance, and to prepare for the work of the year ahead. All new and returning clerks should be prepared to attend.

3-C] The Spirit of the Committee Meeting

Clerks help to foster a religious fellowship within the committee. Meetings should begin with a time of worship and sharing, and continue in that spirit of worship. Encourage your committee members to read “Setting the Table” or other similar documents to prepare for their work together. (Find the full text of “Setting the Table” in Appendix A or at NYYM.org.)

Committees should meet regularly and as often as their responsibilities require. Most especially, you may want to consider an annual committee retreat and additional meeting times outside of Yearly Meeting sessions. In these ways, your committee will be able to consider their business responsibly, and members, through regular opportunities for work and worship together, can come to "know one another in that which is eternal."

3-D] Committee Work & Membership

All action of Yearly Meeting committees should be the result of a corporate seeking of unity in the manner of Friends, under guidance of the Spirit. In some cases, committees may find it useful and desirable to delegate specific parts of their responsibilities to subcommittees that may be

able to act effectively and quickly in the areas assigned to them.

Committee membership should be large and broad enough to reflect the Yearly Meeting as a whole. However, even when a committee is small, its work should reflect the thought and leadings of several Friends and should not be the work solely of its clerk.

As committees meet to consider the work before them, they may find the following helpful:

3-E] Criteria to be Applied in Considering Action

1. Does this project have its basis in the spirit and teaching of Friends? Is it something we are led to do by the Spirit and that we are committed to?
2. Is this something that needs to be done by a New York Yearly Meeting committee rather than by a monthly meeting or regional meeting? Does it fall within the committee's functions as defined by the Yearly Meeting? Is there any other Yearly Meeting committee that would more appropriately carry out the project? Could it be better done by another Quaker body?
3. To what extent does the project have the possibility of receiving support and participation from monthly meetings of New York Yearly Meeting and of Friends outside the committee?
4. Is this something that will help and educate others?
5. Is this something that is realistic, given the available resources? Are people available who are willing to carry out the concern?
6. Is there a clear plan of action?

When hesitations on these questions are expressed, the appropriate coordinating committee should be consulted before the project is undertaken.

Forethought and judgment are also important in another area. Communications from a committee may be mistakenly interpreted as coming from all Friends or reflecting the position of the Yearly Meeting. Therefore, whenever such misinterpretation of communications might be possible, a committee should seek the advice of its coordinating committee.

(Note [1973 decision]: All correspondence from New York Yearly Meeting to outside the Yearly Meeting is sent under the signature of the NYYM clerk. "Committees of the Yearly Meeting are intended to be instruments of the Yearly Meeting and not independent operation entities. Their principal functions are to help implement approved action of the Yearly Meeting and to propose for Yearly Meeting consideration areas where action seems indicated.") [Note: Verify minute number and date.]

3-F] Proposing Minutes for Yearly Meeting Consideration

There are two avenues by which proposed minutes are seasoned and brought before the Yearly Meeting body for consideration and possible approval and action.

(On occasion, the Yearly Meeting has experienced a third way — the rising of a minute from the floor. This happens when the Spirit is moving powerfully and the ground has been prepared during Meeting for Business, but this is also a rare occurrence, organic in nature, and therefore not addressed here.)

3-F] 1. Minutes From YM Committees

Often, Yearly Meeting committees may have concerns they wish to bring to the Yearly Meeting body in the form of a proposed minute. The following queries can help clarify a committee's thinking on such a minute.

- a. Has the subject of the minute been seasoned? Has it had prayerful consideration? Has it generated discussion and enthusiasm? Have Friends who may disagree had an opportunity to consider the minute and its implications? In some cases, it may be reasonable to season a minute through a Monthly Meeting, and it's Regional Meeting.
- b. Does this support an individual or group leading? Will the proposed action support and move forward the work of others in new ways? How does this relate to previous Yearly Meeting activities? Have other alternate methods for accomplishing the work been explored?
- c. In bringing the minute forward, what action do you expect the Yearly Meeting to take? Do you want the Yearly Meeting to thresh through the issue? Are you asking for corporate witness? The YM clerk's signature? Is the minute time-sensitive? Your request and expectations of the Yearly Meeting must be clearly stated.
- d. If action is being asked of the Yearly Meeting, what resources will be needed? What follow-up activities or responsibilities are anticipated? Are there Friends who have already indicated a willingness to take on some of these responsibilities?

Once a committee has written and approved a minute, and written a cover letter regarding the committee's intent for the minute, a copy must be given to the appropriate coordinating committee clerk, for the consideration of that body. If approved by the coordinating committee, the minute will be sent to the Yearly Meeting clerk and, per the YM clerk's discretion, will then be included on the business session's agenda.

Please be sure to follow carefully and respond in a timely manner to any requests made of your committee regarding the minute.

3-F] 2. Minutes From a Monthly And Quarterly/Regional Meeting

In order to bring a minute to the body of the Yearly Meeting, a Monthly Meeting first brings their minute to their Quarterly / Regional Meeting for seasoning and approval. Once the minute has been endorsed by the region, it may then be forwarded to the Yearly Meeting clerk. On occasion, a Monthly Meeting or region may bring such an endorsed minute to an appropriate Yearly Meeting committee or coordinating committee first, for further seasoning and clarification of the next action. Yearly Meeting practice does not require that this be done,

however if this is the case, the minute should be given the same thoughtful consideration as committee minutes and if approved, forwarded to the Yearly Meeting clerk.

According to the discretion of the Yearly Meeting clerk, the minute will then be included on the business session's agenda.

3-G] Committee Reports to the Yearly Meeting

Beyond any minutes a committee may want to bring before the Yearly Meeting, you, as committee clerk, may feel there is committee work which is timely and spirit-led, and which needs to be reported to the wider body. In this case, you or your committee's CC representative should contact the coordinating committee clerk to request time on the next Business Session agenda. Per the YM clerk's discretion, your committee may be asked to report. Once confirmed, please be sure to submit a written report to the CC and YM clerk as soon as possible. Subsequently, follow carefully and respond in a timely manner to any requests made of your committee regarding the report.

3-H] Committee Records and Expenditures

1. The clerk (or designee such as recording clerk) sees that committee minutes, records, and resource materials, including a copy of this *Handbook*, are maintained in a form that can be transmitted to succeeding officers. The clerk or designee sends copies of all minutes to committee members, to the Yearly Meeting office and to the coordinating committee clerk, except when clearly inappropriate. (An example of an inappropriate minute would be one where confidentiality is of concern, i.e. Personnel Committee or Ministry and Counsel.)
2. The clerk (or designee such as the financial secretary) authorizes expenditures of funds allocated to the committee. Reimbursement forms are available from the Yearly Meeting office or web site. The Yearly Meeting treasurer and the clerk of General Services Coordinating Committee advises committees on bookkeeping procedures. (See specific guidelines on committee financing and travel expense, pages 76-77, and the Finances section of committee descriptions.) [Note: Confirm page #.]
3. The clerk (or designee such as the financial secretary) must submit a budget request to the appropriate coordinating committee following the timeline detailed by the CC clerk and Financial Services Committee.
4. Read carefully Section 5. FINANCES below.

3-I] Representing the Committee

The clerk is:

1. Expected to attend the Clerk's Workshop in the fall, as arranged by the clerk of the Yearly Meeting.
2. Encouraged to attend Budget Saturday (typically in September).
3. Invited to attend the Sessions Committee planning weekend and/or communicate with

the Sessions Committee.

4. Expected to attend the March weekend meeting of all coordinating committee members of all sections, along with the committee's named CC representative.

3-J] Yearly Meeting Spring or Fall Sessions

Clerks are asked well in advance if they wish to have a committee meeting at the time of Spring or Fall Business Sessions. Respond in a timely manner to requests for display and meeting space (including the number of people expected to attend), etc, at those sessions.

3-K] Yearly Meeting Summer Sessions

In March, each clerk is asked by the Yearly Meeting office to respond to certain questions or requests for the summer sessions. It is important to respond in a timely manner to requests for space and any special considerations at these sessions.

1. Committee meetings at Summer Sessions: number and time.
2. Interest and/or study groups at Summer Sessions: number, topic, and responsible person.
3. Annual Report of the committee: Contact NYYM to confirm due date for *Advance Reports*. (Typically due in mid-April.)

3-L] Preparing the Annual Review and Advance Report Using the Accountability Queries

Committee clerks shall initiate an annual review using the following committee accountability queries and submit the report to their coordinating committee. This review can also be the basis for the required *Advance Report*. As part of the review, clerks should also consider whether the size of the committee is suitable to its good functioning.

1. Can nominees be found to fill each class of service?
2. Is there an active clerk? Does he or she feel led to further the committee's work?
3. Is the purpose and charge of the committee being fulfilled? Where is the life of the Spirit taking the committee?
4. Does the committee's representative to the coordinating committee attend those meetings regularly to take part in the CC's work and keep the CC apprised of the committee's work?
5. Is the committee's budget created and presented to its coordinating committee in a timely way?
6. Is the committee's prior year's budget substantially spent on the activities listed in that budget?
7. Is a committee's proposed work accomplished and reported in a timely way?

8. How does the work of this committee directly serve or impact the life of the Monthly Meetings?
9. What has not been asked, but should be known?

3-M] Laying Down a Committee

If the answering of the accountability queries raises questions regarding the function of a committee, guidance should be sought from the coordinating committee. Together, the clerks should not be reluctant to recommend that the committee be laid down. All are reminded that laying down a committee can help clear a path to a renewed, spirit-led initiative.

3-N] Preparing Committee Papers and Minutes for Archiving

As the committee's clerk, you have the greatest responsibility for the continuing care of the committee's minutes, reports, and important papers. Even if your committee has a recording clerk, it is up to you to work with this person to make sure the following items are taken care of:

1. All new committee members must receive the packet of information outlined in section 3-B.
2. All important papers, minutes and reports must be collected in an organized fashion and passed along to the new clerk at the start of their term. These materials should include the more detailed calendar for the clerk so that s/he may plan in a timely fashion the sending out of requests for items for the agenda and for budgets, etc.
3. On an annual basis, the minutes and important documents of the committee should be printed on acid-free paper and sent to the Yearly Meeting office.

3-O] Typical Committee Calendar

New terms and clerkships begin at the end of Summer Sessions.

August: Send information packets to new members, and committee membership information to the Yearly Meeting Office.

September: Attend Budget Saturday, and Clerk's Workshop.

October: Prepare for Fall Sessions by collecting agenda items, reserving committee meeting space and encouraging all committee members, including yourself, to attend and register by the deadline.

November: Attend Fall Sessions. Request Interest and Study Groups for Spring consideration. Consider preparing a committee retreat.

December: Distribute minutes from Fall Sessions.

February: Consider attending and encourage your CC rep to attend the Coordinating Committee Weekend in March. Discuss any committee work which needs to be reported.

March: Follow-up with CC rep on March weekend if you were unable to attend. Prepare for

Spring Sessions by collecting agenda items, reserving committee meeting space and encouraging all committee members, including yourself, to attend and register by the deadline.

April: Attend Spring Sessions. Begin review of accountability queries in preparation of Advance Report. Nominate Naming Committee for internal nominations. Prepare budget request for coming year.

May: Distribute minutes from Spring Sessions.

June: Prepare for Summer Sessions by collecting agenda items, reserving committee meeting space and encouraging all committee members, including yourself, to attend and register by the deadline.

July: Attend Summer Sessions. If this marks the end of your clerkship, be sure to bring with you all your minutes, reports and committee materials from your tenure as clerk.

4. SECTION CLERKS

4-A] Additional Responsibilities for Coordinating Committee Clerks

Along with the responsibilities listed above and those in each section's coordinating committee (CC) description in the *Handbook*, CC clerks:

1. Are *de facto* members of Liaison Committee and Sessions Committee;
2. Must submit proposed committee minutes, reports, etc., to the Yearly Meeting clerk well in advance of the next business session. Proposed minutes and reports included on the agenda (per the YM clerk's discretion) should be distributed in advance of the business session by such means as InfoShare and SPARK, and made available to attendees prior to the business session when the matter will be considered.
3. Must make sure that each committee in the section has answered the accountability queries, meeting with each committee clerk to evaluate whether or not there is demonstrated spiritual life.

4-B] Proposed Minutes from YM Committees or Monthly Meetings

In general, two kinds of minutes will come to a coordinating committee in preparation for consideration by the Yearly Meeting. The first and most typical minutes are presented by a committee under the care of the CC. The second kind of minute is presented to the coordinating committee by a Monthly Meeting or Regional Meeting. In all cases, minutes brought before the CC should be considered along the lines of Section 3-F. Most especially, Monthly Meeting minutes must be endorsed by the appropriate regional meeting before coming to the CC. Time constraints may sometimes complicate this proper process, in which case, the CC must carefully consider whether it is suitable for the Monthly Meeting's minute to move forward without regional consideration.

If a minute brought before the CC is also approved by the CC, it is the CC clerk's responsibility to make the Yearly Meeting clerk aware of the minute and request that it be included in the next YM business session agenda. Again, this inclusion is at the discretion of the YM clerk.

4-C] Section Budget

CC clerks must gather budget requests from all the committees, bodies and any Focus Persons under their care, and submit them in a timely manner to the Financial Services Committee. CC clerks should then attend Budget Saturday (typically in September) to speak to their section's work and respond to questions regarding their budget lines.

4-D] Annual Review of All Committees Under the CC's Care

Coordinating committee clerks shall ensure there is an annual review of all the committees under their care, working with the committee clerks and using the committee accountability queries found in section 3-L. This review can also be the basis for the required *Advance Report*.

These queries focus on evaluating each committee's work over the past year. The responses may indicate that a committee is lively and answering needs of the Monthly, Regional and Yearly Meetings. Responses may point to the need for the coordinating committee to help the committee better facilitate the work of the Spirit in the committee.

Finally, the responses may acknowledge the lack of life of the Spirit in the committee, which would point to the need to lay it down. After laboring with such a committee over its answers to the accountability queries, the coordinating committee is empowered to recommend the laying down of the committee, forwarding this request to the Yearly Meeting for discernment. If this committee's work is truly needed, it will find new form as the Spirit leads.

5. FINANCES

5-A] Committee Financing

Under the present operating budget, most yearly meeting committees have a specific expense line within its section. If a new line is needed, a committee must seek the permission and approval of its coordinating committee. While the coordinating committee is ultimately responsible for all the expense lines within its section and for the financial reporting of same, the work begins within the committees.

Committees are asked to propose their own budgets with appropriate backup information for their expenditure(s) and send these materials to the coordinating committee. After all the constituent committee requests are submitted and approved, the coordinating committee approves its total budget request, sending it on to the Financial Services Committee. Subsequently, during Yearly Meeting Summer Sessions, Financial Services frames a draft expense budget for the entire yearly meeting which is then sent to monthly, regional/quarterly meetings in August for seasoning. At Budget Saturday, a day-long meeting hosted by Financial Services to which all members of New York Yearly Meeting are welcome to attend, a final proposed expense budget with expected income, including covenant donations, is approved and

then printed in the next issue of *SPARK*. This proposed budget is brought to Fall Sessions of the Yearly Meeting for consideration and discernment.

Expenses are managed through a voucher system (see section 5D). Properly prepared and documented vouchers are processed by the Yearly Meeting Office before being sent on to the bookkeeping firm which does the accounting, prepares the checks, and mails them to the treasurer of the Yearly Meeting. The treasurer then signs the checks and the YM staff distributes them. This generally means a two to four week a lag time before the requester receives a check. The process can proceed in a timely fashion if proper documentation and approval accompanies the voucher when it is first sent.

Reports regarding individual committee spending are sent out every other month to committee clerks. Questions may be addressed to the Yearly Meeting Office.

5-B] Budget

In preparation for a spring meeting of the committee, the clerk or designated person organizes a proposed budget for the next calendar year using the budget request form. *Budget request forms* will be sent to committee clerks early in each fiscal year, for use during the following year. They will be sent out by the clerk of Financial Services with a letter covering the budget-planning timetable and guidelines for committee clerks. The committee discerns together to approve a proposed budget. *A budget is a plan, a statement of intention.* But it is not to be taken lightly, nor exceeded. It is sent, with a short written explanation, to the coordinating committee for consideration, according to the timetable.

The coordinating committee considers all the committee requests and any other items in the section. The coordinating committee looks at the overall preliminary budget and may adjust the numbers to allow changes in priorities of the Section. The Section's preliminary budget is sent to Financial Services Committee so that an overall preliminary budget can be reported at the appropriate business session.

After budget approval at Fall Sessions (Sharing Fund goals are reported in July), the committee, with coordinating committee approval, may adjust the individual terms so that the approved line items equal the anticipated expenditures.

5-C] Spending

All expenses, especially travel expenses, must be approved in advance by the appropriate committee person. Funds are limited.

Individual committees may reallocate expenses within their approved budgets, but may not exceed their budget line. A committee may not exceed its budget line unless it has brought the matter to the attention of the coordinating committee responsible for its care. In such a case, the coordinating committee may be able to find another committee within its section which agrees to under-spend its budget line, transferring the funds to the first committee. Therefore, committees may agree to under-spend budget lines if monies are needed to pay for unforeseen expenses in another account. The account actually charged should reflect the nature of the expense rather

than the identity of the requestor or the beneficiary. A written request for the agreement between accounts should be provided to both the Administrative Secretary and the Treasurer.

5-D] Reimbursement

Referring to our Handbook, page 79 [Note: Verify page number.]: Friends are reminded that no one should be prevented from doing the work of the Yearly Meeting because of financial limitations. However, NYYM's funds need to be used frugally and equitably. It is important to be mindful that every dollar spent for committee work has to be raised from individuals, contributions from monthly and regional meetings and the Yearly Meeting. Friends who are able to pay their own travel expenses, wholly or in part, are expected to do so. Friends are encouraged to document their un-reimbursed expenses for the purpose of deducting them on their income tax returns if they itemize their deductions.

Reimbursable expenses include the cost of travel at the most reasonable fare. Friends are urged to seek approval for travel reimbursement prior to making travel arrangements since funds are limited. When using air travel, Friends are asked to contact the Yearly Meeting Office for the number of a Friends' travel agent who will ensure that the lowest possible fare is obtained and who will bill the Yearly Meeting directly, not the individual. Changes in travel arrangements, if necessary, are more easily facilitated by following this procedure. The cost of reasonable meals and lodging (including Powell House) may also be reimbursed, as may copying, mailing, and telephone expenses.

Please note that all vouchers for any purpose must be accompanied by receipts for expenses and committee minutes authorizing payment of funds, and must be approved by the clerk of the committee. Note that the person approving the voucher must not be the person receiving the money or a member of the payee's family or household. In that situation the approver must be the appropriate Friend as outlined in #4 below. If necessary documentation or approval does not accompany the voucher, there will be a delay in payment until the necessary process is complete.

Friends are also encouraged to seek financial support from their individual monthly and regional meetings.

1. A voucher system has been set up to assure that all payments are properly charged.
2. *Vouchers for payment of expenses* and instructions for their use are available from the Yearly Meeting office or web site.
3. For any payment, completely fill out a copy of the section's voucher. Attach original receipts and/or other substantiating information and any appropriate minute. Also see "Guidelines for Travel Expense Support." [Note: Verify page #.]
4. Committee members then send this packet to the committee clerk. The committee clerk signs their approval to the reimbursement and sends everything on to the Yearly Meeting Office. (Vouchers must be approved by the person with the spending authority for a particular account. Make sure who gets the voucher if your committee has a Financial Secretary.) However, individuals may not approve their own expenditures, or those of a relative or significant other. Thus the clerk of a committee must submit their vouchers with substantiating information to their coordinating committee clerk. Coordinating

committee clerks must have their vouchers signed and approved by the General Secretary or another coordinating committee clerk.

5. Once approved, the voucher and all materials is mailed to the Yearly Meeting office. PLEASE NOTE: Bills will not be paid without a completed voucher, substantiating materials and the approval of the appropriate clerk.
6. The bookkeeping service prepares checks bimonthly. All correctly processed vouchers received in the Yearly Meeting office by the last business day of the month will be processed and a check mailed by the 15th day of the following month. Those received by the 15th day of the month will be processed and a check mailed by the last business day of the month.
7. If the payment is a donation to another organization, attach a transmittal letter or the check will be sent to the clerk to forward.
8. For checks written for purposes other than expense reimbursement, i.e., for scholarships, the social security number of the individual is required by the IRS.
9. Periodic financial reports are prepared by the bookkeeping service and will be sent regularly to section clerks. Please be sure to match these reports with your records of approved vouchers to ensure agreement with Yearly Meeting records.

5-E] Funding from Outside Sources

What follows is a policy statement approved by Representative Meeting in 1980, on Requests by Yearly Meeting Committees for Funding from Sources Outside the Yearly Meeting. It is applicable to all Yearly Meeting committees except for those that are separately incorporated, such as Oakwood Friends School, Powell House, and The McCutchen, which are encouraged to develop their own guidelines for seeking outside funding. [Note: Verify minute number and date.]

Friends are committed to expressing faith in action. We show our commitment by putting our own time, our own energy, and our own money into activities that demonstrate our beliefs. New York Yearly Meeting funds its concerns in part through the Yearly Meeting Operating Budget and trust funds of the Yearly Meeting, and the rest from the Sharing Fund. When an emergency exists, or a significant opportunity for a contribution to human welfare appears that is beyond our financial resources at the time, outside funding may be considered.

Because of the danger that seeking outside funding may become an end in itself and the possibility that projects funded by such grants may become primarily interested in their own survival, it is important that there be clear guidelines for the grant applications. The following considerations should precede requests for outside funding:

- a. A clear definition of the project should be developed by the originating group, showing the aims, the amount of money needed (according to budget categories, not just total), the time for the project's completion, and the disposition of the project once the portion to be funded is completed.
- b. Friends should be clear on the nature of the organization from which funds are being

requested.

- c. Grants should be requested in the name of New York Yearly Meeting. They should be administered in such a way as to maintain the project's Quaker origin, character, and identity and to be thought of as New York Yearly Meeting projects.
- d. For any staff to be added as a result of project expansion due to outside funding, the Personnel Committee of the General Services Section shall review and must approve the proposed job descriptions, supervisions, salary, etc, for consistency with the Yearly Meeting personnel policies.
- e. It is suggested that in any one year, total grant requests from any section not exceed the total section budget for that year.
- f. Certain projects supported by Yearly Meeting funds may be encouraged to seek independent status or other affiliation, in order that they may continue to grow and that the way may be open for Yearly Meeting committees to venture forth into other areas of endeavor. Such modifications should be made by the originating group in consultation with the section coordinating committee and the Financial Services Committee.
- g. The proposal developed in accordance with the guidelines above shall be considered by the appropriate section coordinating committee. It shall be considered first on its merits, then for its relationship to other funding interests of committees in the section and for the appropriateness of seeking outside funding. If the coordinating committee approves, the proposal will be considered in its financial aspects by the Financial Services Committee in relation to grant applications from other sections and to the Yearly Meeting financial status. Clearance by Financial Services Committee is needed for any grant request that exceeds \$5,000.
- h. All money from grants will be held by the Yearly Meeting treasurer in a Grants Budget. The treasurer will have the responsibility for proper administration of these funds. An audit will be required after the project's completion.
- i. Responsibility for oversight of the funded project rests with the committee that originated it, and its general oversight with the section coordinating committee.

6. YEARLY MEETING EVENTS/DEADLINES CALENDAR

August	1	List of new committee officers to Yearly Meeting office or hand deliver to the New York Yearly Meeting desk at Silver Bay
	1	Meeting and committee information to office for <i>Yearbook</i>
	1	September <i>Spark</i> deadline
September		Preliminary budget discussions by Financial Services Clerk's Workshop, under the care of the YM clerk

October	1	<p>November <i>Spark</i> deadline</p> <p>Sessions Committee meets to review recent Summer Sessions, approve a draft program plan, and consider speakers for the following year</p> <p>Registrations for Fall Sessions</p> <p>Committees request meeting space for Fall Sessions from host</p>
November	Fall Sessions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Yearly Meeting on Ministry and Counsel meets 2. Coordinating committees meet 3. Nominating Committee assigns committee members responsibilities to find Friends willing to serve
December	1	January <i>Spark</i> deadline
January		Session Committee approves Week at a Glance for Summer Sessions
February	1	March <i>Spark</i> deadline
SPRING		Regional meetings appoint persons for Yearly Meeting Nominating Committee classes
March		<p>Coordinating Committee Weekend at Powell House</p> <p>Interest / Study Group Proposals due for Summer Sessions</p> <p>Committees request meeting space for Spring Business Session from host</p>
April	1	May <i>Spark</i> deadline (Summer Sessions program, registration, etc.)
	1	Committees send annual financial report to Financial Services and Yearly Meeting office
Spring Sessions	(not Easter wkend)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Committees appoint Nominating Committee for next year's committee officers 2. Committees approve their annual report for <i>Advance Reports (Yearbook)</i> 3. Committees approve budget request for the next calendar year
May	1	<p>Committees' annual reports to Yearly Meeting office for inclusion in <i>Advance Reports</i>. A copy of the reports should also go to the appropriate coordinating committee clerks.</p> <p>Nominating Committee weekend at Powell House to review possible appointment to offices and committees</p>

		Meetings receive forms for input of information for <i>Yearbook</i>
June	1	Committee meeting time requests for Summer Sessions printed program to Yearly Meeting office
July	10	Audiovisual requests for Summer Sessions due
	10	Requests for display space for Summer Sessions due
	15	Membership statistics to office for <i>Yearbook</i>
	16	Guests of committees and authorization for payment of expenses due at Yearly Meeting
Summer Sessions	Usu. last wkend	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Worship, business, committee meetings, interest groups 2. Yearly Meeting on Ministry and Counsel 3. Section meetings -- time for questions on effort and priorities of section and committees in the section 4. Coordinating committees review and approve preliminary budgets for next calendar year and send them to Financial Services 5. Committees approve committee officers and give lists of officers and appointees to staff BEFORE leaving Silver Bay 6. Appointments begin at end of last business session