

ACCOUNTABILITY QUERIES - Witness Coordinating Committee, for 2014

1. Can nominees be found to fill each class of service?

We have only one at-large member of the class of 2016. We are looking for three people for the class of 2017; two members of the 2011 class may be led to serve second terms, but the third member of that class was Newton Garver. Thus to fill all our vacancies, in summer of 2014 we will need three nominees. Names have been suggested to the Nominating Committee.

We also have several vacancies among our representatives to other agencies: to the American Friends Service Committee, Friends Peace Teams, the National Religious Campaign against Torture, and the New Jersey Council of Churches.

2. Is there an active clerk? Does s/he feel led to further the committee's work?

Yes and yes.

3. Is the purpose and charge of the committee being fulfilled? Where is the life of the Spirit taking the committee?

The coordinating committee is responsive to requests for seasoning minutes coming forward from committees, and in 2013 revised its handbook page. It is now laboring to understand the finances of the Sharing Fund, to be more accountable to donors to the Sharing Fund, and to use Sharing Fund money more effectively.

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?

Since this is a coordinating committee, our clerk/appointee to the Liaison Committee attends Liaison Committee meetings and any other meetings which coordinate the work of the four sections of the yearly meeting. The current clerk also serves on Sessions Committee, which plans for spring, summer and fall sessions of the yearly meeting. The coordinating committee clerk doesn't necessarily serve on Sessions, but the CC does need to appoint someone to that committee if the clerk doesn't serve.

5. Is(are) the committee's budget(s) created and presented to its coordinating committee in a timely way?

The Sharing Fund allocations to committees and its goal for the year are set at the January Coordinating Weekend gathering.

6. Is the committee's prior year budget substantially spent on the activities listed in that budget?

Sharing Fund income is distributed according to the allocations decided by the CC in January. Constituent committees vary with regard to the degree with which they spend their annual incomes.

7. Is a committee's proposed work accomplished and reported in a timely way?

Yes

8. Does the work of this committee directly serve or impact the life of the Monthly Meetings?

The Witness Activities Fund, which is administered by the WCC, directly serves and impacts the lives of monthly meetings. Representatives from NYYM to various outside agencies

serve by making our corporate witness more widely known on state and national levels. Our most active committees and working groups are those which serve individuals or small groups outside the yearly meeting: Barrington Dunbar Fund for Black Development, Friends Committee for Black Concerns, European American Quakers Working to End Racism, Prisons Committee, and the Committee on World Ministry. To the extent that the work of these committees makes us better known among non-Friends, they may impact monthly meetings' efforts at advancement.

9. What has not been asked, but should be known?

It should be known that there is a working group on Peace Concerns being developed, which hasn't yet become sufficiently organized to obtain regular Working Group status.