

Proposal to consider the establishment of a new permanent committee, the Development Committee, in the General Services Section.

Spring Sessions 2012

Minute number 201201-02 of the GSCC meeting of January 28, 2012, minuted approval for GSCC to recommend to you today the establishment of a Development Committee in the General Services Section. A committee *Handbook* entry is under development, but is not yet approved for presentation at this time; however, the establishment of a committee in advance of approval of its *Handbook* entry is a relatively common practice. If you approve the establishment of the committee, a *Handbook* entry is expected to be ready for your consideration at our next gathering at Summer Sessions.

At Summer Sessions 2011 the Financial Services Committee recommended that GSCC establish the committee; however the need was very timely, so GSCC established a working group, which it could do immediately. The recommendation for the establishment of the committee arose from Working Group, which has been actively functioning since it was established.

The primary purpose of the Working Group and the proposed committee is to establish an organized approach to assuring adequate material and financial support for the work of the Yearly Meeting, and also to support the work of constituent monthly and regional meetings in meeting their own financial needs.

The current version of the Purposes and Objectives section of the *Handbook* entry reads in part:

Working with the Yearly Meeting treasurer and assistant treasurers, the Yearly Meeting's trustees, the Financial Services Committee, and the committees involved in resource development for the Sharing Fund, Powell House, and the Oakwood Friends School, the Development Committee will advise the Yearly Meeting and its ... regional and monthly meetings on appropriate means, approaches, and activities to develop the financial resources ... to carry out their respective missions and operations.

...the committee may develop specific fundraising goals, plans, programs and materials to support both covenant donations from monthly meetings, and any additional programs such as annual giving, major gifts, and planned giving. It may advise the Yearly Meeting on the development and implementation of a gift acceptance policy, especially regarding the permitted or designated uses of restricted gifts.

... the committee may recruit, train and supervise the work of volunteers and others engaged in training, consultation, prospecting and solicitation activities on behalf of the Yearly Meeting. It may ... provide training, consultation and advice to representatives of regional and monthly meetings ... in development and stewardship work on behalf of their ... meetings.

It may also provide these services to representatives of Powell House, Oakwood School and other NYYM affiliated Friends organizations at their request.

It is proposed to consist of no fewer than six at-large members, appointed two each year by the Yearly Meeting for rotating terms of three years. Pending appointments by the Nominating Committee, the current members of the Working Group will continue to serve. They include Jeffrey Aaron, Peter Baily, Sandra Beer, John Cooley, Ted First, Robin Gowin, Steve Ross, and Christopher Sammond.

As part of its work to date, the Working Group researched the existence of development committees or staff members committed to development work in other yearly meetings and found that the lack of any such organized work in our yearly meeting may be unique.

A draft of the *Handbook* entry, similar to what is likely to be presented for your consideration at Summer Sessions, is available with more details.

GSCC requests your consideration of this recommendation.

Jeffrey Aaron, Clerk, GSCC