

## ***Faith and Practice* proposed revision**

This item received a first reading at Spring Sessions 2016. Several changes were suggested and are incorporated here. Ministry Coordinating Committee will be meeting this week to consider approval of this revised document. Please see Irma Guthrie, clerk of Ministry Coordinating Committee (MCC), with questions or suggested revisions. If approved by MCC, this item will be brought to the body as a second reading, for approval, at a business session toward the end of this summer sessions.

### **USE OF TECHNOLOGY IN THE CONDUCT OF BUSINESS**

The use of digital communication systems in the conduct of Friends' business has great benefits and has also created challenges for Quaker business process. The use of technologies such as video conferencing and electronic mail makes it possible to reduce the need for travel, and thereby expands participation by distant Friends. Our business can be responsive to the fast pace of developments in the world. Many Friends expect to use these technologies as they engage in the life of the Society. On the other hand, we must be mindful that among us are Friends who cannot or choose not to use these technologies freely.

When use of these technologies replaces or augments face-to-face meetings, we must maintain discipline so that corporate worship, spiritual discernment, and the presence of the Spirit in our meetings and assemblies is retained. Each Yearly Meeting body that uses these technologies should establish agreements and protocols to ensure inclusivity and full participation, protect privacy and confidentiality, maintain collegiality, and support openness to Spirit.

Committees and other Yearly Meeting bodies seeking to conduct business by ways other than physical meetings should do so only upon formal approval at a face-to-face meeting. While they may choose to use asynchronous digital communication for scheduling meetings or distributing documents, they are advised not to use it to share ministry, respond to proposals, or engage in substantive discussions. These activities are best suited to synchronous communication such as physical meetings or telephone or video conferencing.