

The following handbook page will be presented for a first reading.

ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE

Ministry Section

Revised 2013 at Fall Sessions

Purposes and Objectives

1. To disseminate widely an awareness of the faith, practice and testimonies of Friends and to encourage their observance by monthly, quarterly, and regional meetings and by members of the Yearly Meeting.
2. To reach out to seekers.
3. To knit Friends and Friends meetings more closely together.
4. To encourage outreach and growth in existing meetings, to undergird and strengthen weak meetings, and to help new worship groups.

Functions and Activities:

1. To promote inter-visitation among meetings.
2. To arrange for conferences, seminars, and similar activities for study and consideration of Friends' principles by members and attenders.
3. To find or prepare articles, leaflets, books, and other sources, either print or electronic, by and about Friends and to make them available to meetings and individuals.
4. To assist in the organization of new monthly meetings.
5. To arrange meetings and to speak to interested groups outside the Society about Friends' principles and concerns.
6. To distribute funds made available by the Yearly Meeting Trustees, the Yearly Meeting Operating Budget, and New York Quarterly Meeting, for repairing meetinghouses, for training meeting workers, and for assisting Friends to attend Spring, Summer, and Fall Sessions of Yearly Meeting, and other Friends' gatherings.

In addition to the functions and activities of the committee as a whole, there is an individual responsibility of members to nurture their own local and regional meetings and to travel in the Yearly Meeting and to groups of seekers with Friends' message of peace, love, and healing.

Organization and Method of Appointment

The committee appoints a clerk, an assistant clerk (alternatively two co-clerks), and a recording clerk. The committee may appoint other clerks or subcommittees as it deems necessary, such as a literature clerk, and a representative to the Ministry Coordinating Committee. The committee may comprise anywhere from 10-20 members appointed by the Yearly Meeting for three-year terms, with approximately one-third appointed each year.

Meeting Times and Places

The Committee meets during Yearly Meeting Summer Sessions and at the time of Fall and Spring Sessions. Other meetings may be held at other times during the year.

Finances

The work of the Advancement Committee is financed in part by the Operating Budget and in part by the income from certain trust funds. The committee is responsible for distributing the income of the following trust funds:

1. Martin Leach Fund – This is for the general work of the committee.
2. Lafayette Avenue Meeting House Fund – This is for training present or potential meeting workers. This fund comes from part of the proceeds of the sale of the Lafayette Avenue Meeting House in Brooklyn, NY. The trustees of New York Quarterly Meeting distribute this fund to the Advancement Committee.
3. Lockport-Brinkerhoff Fund – This is for the repair and maintenance of meeting properties. The Advancement Committee receives requests from meetings and makes recommendations to the Yearly Meeting for its final approval.
4. Women's Fund – This fund is to help women attend Yearly Meeting sessions.