

HANDOUT FOR SATURDAY AFTERNOON BUSINESS SESSION

12:45PM to 2:00PM

Background:

Monthly meetings and worship groups, through the vehicle of the Priorities Working Group, have collectively identified our needs and priorities. The gathered body of NYYM has accepted these priorities as the work of the Yearly Meeting, and we are moving now toward implementing them.

The work of the Yearly Meeting is done by Yearly Meeting staff, and also by Friends who volunteer their time. If we consider the total hours of work performed by staff and volunteers combined, the volunteer hours amount to as much as 75% of the total work performed.

Three things characterize this work and the volunteers who perform it.

- 1) The volunteers are Friends from our monthly meetings, from your meeting and from many other meetings. Thus a substantial portion of work performed by what we call the “Yearly Meeting” is actually done by Friends from monthly meetings. (And, of course, our staff are also Friends from monthly meetings.) This work impacts our monthly meetings, which are both beneficiaries of the work, and the source that supplies the Friends who perform it.
- 2) The work of volunteers from our monthly meetings who serve the “Yearly Meeting” is almost entirely channeled through the NYYM committee structure. The NYYM committee structure provides a means of coordinating this work across our monthly meetings.
- 3) Friends perform the work they are led to perform. The Yearly Meeting cannot simply redirect their work if the Friends who volunteer are not led to do it. Nor will monthly meetings necessarily gain the volunteer hours of a Friend if the Friend no longer works within the Yearly Meeting committee structure. These things may or may not happen, depending on how Friends are led to serve, and not by the direction of either the Yearly Meeting as an organization, or monthly meetings as organizations.

Our monthly meetings have voiced our priorities, and we as a Yearly Meeting as a whole have agreed to work on them.

Queries:

How are Friends from monthly meetings led to help other monthly meetings achieve the priorities our meetings have collectively identified?

How might Friends from other monthly meetings help your monthly meeting?

How can the NYYM committee structure help Friends help each other achieve the priorities we have discerned together?

What are other ways we might help each other live into our priorities?