

The following item is presently slated to come to the Yearly Meeting for consideration and possible approval on Wednesday, July 20, 2011.

Questions and comments should be addressed to the Meetings for Discernment Steering Committee clerk Janet Hough, [janet.hough@verizon.net](mailto:janet.hough@verizon.net).

### **Proposal from Meetings for Discernment Steering Committee**

Since March 2008, NYYM has held twice-yearly, day-long Meetings for Discernment on an experimental basis. These have been times of extended corporate worship with attention to one or more queries, focused on individual or corporate experiences and leadings. Informed by our experience of living into this experiment in faithfulness, the Steering Committee for the Meetings for Discernment proposes that the Meetings for Discernment be made an ongoing body of the Yearly Meeting, in a form and structure substantially as established by the Yearly Meeting in 2007.

- ❖ We recommend that the primary purpose of the Meetings for Discernment continue to be to provide opportunities for Friends from all parts of the Yearly Meeting to come together for extended worship to discern the presence and movement of God/Spirit/Light—in our hearts, in the lives of our Meetings, and in the life of the Yearly Meeting as a whole.
- ❖ We recommend that the Meetings for Discernment continue to be held at least twice a year, for at least a full day, once in the winter or early spring, and once during Summer Sessions, open to all who want to attend.
- ❖ We recommend that the Meetings for Discernment continue to be a body of the Yearly Meeting that is rooted in the monthly meetings and worship groups, by having the body of the Meeting for Discernment continue to be made up of individuals appointed directly by their monthly meetings.
- ❖ We recommend that the Meetings for Discernment remain independent of the four sections of the Yearly Meeting (Ministry, Nurture, Witness, General Services) and that connections with the Yearly Meeting committee structure continue through the participation of Friends representing the Yearly Meeting committees and leadership in the Meetings for Discernment.
- ❖ We recommend that a Steering Committee continue to do the necessary work of planning for, and reporting on, each session; that the steering committee continue to be made up of six at-large members appointed by the Meeting for Discernment body from among those who have participated, plus the Yearly Meeting clerk, assistant clerk, and general secretary; and that the clerks (or named representatives) of General Services, Ministry, Nurture, and Witness Coordinating Committees continue to be invited to serve on the Steering Committee.

A first presentation of the proposed *Handbook* page for the Meetings for Discernment will be available in paper form at Summer Sessions, pending approval of the steering committee's recommendations.

*Janet Hough (Chappaqua), clerk, Meetings for Discernment Steering Committee*