

Ministry Coordinating Committee

Advance Report, 2012

This has been a rich year for Ministry Coordinating Committee (MCC). We have found that our work benefits from time at each of our meetings for deep worship and sharing. When we slow the pace, shorten the agenda, and maintain our commitment to doing all our business from a place of openness to Spirit, our meetings are rich and we leave with a sense of purpose and gratitude. As a coordinating committee much of the work is done by the various committees and working groups in our section. But when we come together and hear each other and share, we often are inspired and can see the ways in which God is using us all to nurture and enrich the spiritual life of the Yearly Meeting as a whole. We are finding our way to a vision of a vital corporate ministry and exploring the roles each committee and working group plays in that vision. Spirit is active at our meetings and in our work.

After many months of discernment and faithful work by the Task Group on Racism in NYYM, MCC approved an Apology to Afro-Descendants for Quaker involvement in slavery. With a cover letter and queries this was sent out to the monthly meetings. It is our hope that this will be a spark and tool to our ongoing work of racial healing. We have begun to receive reports back from monthly meetings who have used this apology and materials and we have found these responses valuable. It's apparent that this is a difficult issue and the apology brings up many strong feelings. It seems to be valuable as a tool for continuing the work of discussing and listening.

In the course of our work as shepherds of the process of recording gifts in the ministry, we have become aware of concern and confusion about our Yearly Meeting's practice of recording. This has led to several helpful MCC meetings in which we shared our own understanding of the history, process, and reasons behind recording gifts in the ministry with one another. As with all our practices and beliefs, it can be valuable to revisit them periodically to see what value and meaning they have for our Society today. With this in mind MCC is developing a series of opportunities for Friends

across the Yearly Meeting to engage with the issues of recording gifts in the ministry, as well as the life cycle and nurturing of vital ministry in all our meetings. We plan to start this process with a threshing session at Summer Sessions and will continue the discussion through a Powell House weekend and an issue of *Spark*.

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