

## Ministry Coordinating Committee Annual Report 2014-2015

Ministry Coordinating Committee (MCC) focused this past year on deepening the Spiritual life of our Yearly Meeting. We spent much time in worship in our meetings listening to Spirit for guidance in ways we might live into this work. The sharing during these times of worship was often deep and rich.

This process was especially helpful as we discerned ways to support the work of the Priorities. Questions that arose from our worship together included: How do we listen to one another across our faith experience? How can we stay open to the leadings of Spirit and deeply grounded in our faith and also be deeply gathered into one body? How can we hold a deep understanding of the joy of mutual accountability in our thinking about how to be transparent and accountable to one another from monthly meetings to the yearly meeting?

Friends were heartened by the developing intervisitation that connects Friends and meetings and lessens the sense of isolation or insularity among some meetings, creating reason for hope. As members of MCC, we are invited into intervisitation, inviting those we meet into the more. Towards this end we approved several new Friends to serve on the Intervisitation Working Group.

Friends noted that we need to take the filters off our hearts that result in lack of diversity and asked how we might take under our care the fostering of a spirit of welcome and hospitality. How can we invite those we meet into deeper relationship?

We spent some time discerning how the State of Society report reflects the Spiritual life of our Yearly Meeting and how to support the committee in its work. We were clear that the report should be a synthesis rather than a summary. This work is still in process as we discern our way forward.

We approved changes to the process of Recording Gifts in the Ministry for Faith and Practice which was brought to Spring Sessions for a first reading. We also approved changes to the section in Faith and Practice on Covenant Relationships which will come to the Yearly Meeting in summer sessions for a first reading.

The committees under our care continued to do good work throughout the year. We heard reports from the Task Group on Racism, the Advancement Committee, The Committee on Conflict Transformation, The Committee to Revise Faith and Practice, Ministry and Pastoral Care, The Spiritual Nurture Working Group and Worship at Yearly Meeting Sessions as well as the ad-hoc committee to Record Margaret Webb in the Ministry. The reports on all of this work reflected the ways each committee lives into their role of supporting the Spiritual life of our Yearly

Meeting.

To this end the Spiritual Nurture Working Group has been planning a retreat series at Powell House (Tending the Garden, which began January 2015) that will be accompanied by offerings of regional and local retreats starting Fall 2015. The Working Group also collaborated with Advancement on a weekend retreat for members of Advancement, Ministry and Pastoral Care, SNWG and Young Adult Concerns Committee.

MCC supported the Task Group on Racism's request that the Yearly Meeting sponsor the White Privilege Conference in Philadelphia in 2016; held the Committee to Record Margaret Webb in the Ministry in the Light as they worked to find times to meet together; and approved an addition to the Handbook page for the Committee on Conflict Transformation that reflects additional financial resources for their on-going work in and out of NYYM.

In conclusion, this was a year of movement of the Spirit. Ministry Coordinating Committee spent much time listening to how we can best lead our Yearly Meeting forward and connect each other through that which is eternal.

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