

Ministry Coordinating Committee Meeting

Fall Sessions 2013
Caldwell College

Agenda

Present: Beverley Archibald, Don Badgley, Mary Pugh Clark, Nathaniel Corwin, Steve Davison, John Edminster, Carolyn Emerson, Charley Flint, Irma Guthrie, Kenn Harper, Lu Harper, Mia Kissil-Hewitt, Elaine Learnard, Sarah Miller, Anne Pomeroy, Emily Provence, Christopher Sammond, Rima Segal, Marvea Thompson

1. Opening Worship: 7:00 p.m.

The meeting began at 7 p.m. with a period of waiting worship.

2. Sharing

Clerk Irma Guthrie invited Friends to share in pairs about something that has taken place this weekend.

3. Agenda Review

The Clerk reviewed the agenda.

4. State of the Meeting Queries.

Irma Guthrie noted that the State of the Meeting Committee is currently without a clerk. In the absence of representation from the State of the Meeting committee, Irma Guthrie read State of Society queries presented at our last meeting:

- a. How would you describe the spiritual health of your meeting?
- b. How does your meeting minister to the needs of individuals? How do individuals relate to the meeting?
- c. How does the meeting function as a body?
- d. How does your meeting engage the wider world for witness, service, and outreach?
- e. How does your meeting understand its connection to the history of Quakerism? How does your meeting understand its Quaker witness today?

Friends felt that a simple query would be most helpful to meetings, and suggested "How are Faith & Love & Ministry evidenced in your meeting?"

5. Approval of Advancement Committee Handbook page. Mia Kissil Hewitt

Mia Kissil Hewitt read the proposed revision of the Handbook page (attached). Friends approved the page, with the deletion of "treasurer" under the Organization & Method of Appointment section. Mia reviewed the process for applying for funds under the care of Advancement Committee. The revised handbook page will be forwarded to the YM for a first reading at Spring Sessions.

6. Update on Margaret Webb's Recording in the Ministry: Mia
Mia Kissil Hewitt reported on the process followed by and continuing discernment of the committee on Margaret Webb's recording in the ministry. Friends received the report.
7. Worship on "Where Spirit is Leading our Yearly Meeting": Anne Pomeroy
Anne Pomeroy invited us to carry a concern for the vitality of the yearly meeting throughout the year, not just at sessions. Referring to the report of the Priorities Working Group from our morning sessions, Anne reminded us that change is already happening, and that we need elders and others to hold us in the yearly meeting's transition, to hold the container for the change. Friends took the concern into worship.
8. Apology Presentation Announcement:
Irma Guthrie reported on a concern forwarded to her about two words used in the apology that might not be familiar to Friends, "manumit" and "chattel." Friends suggested that concerns come to the floor of Business Meeting tomorrow when the Apology comes for its first reading.
9. Report from the Committee to Revise Faith and Practice (depending on work done earlier that day)
The report did not come tonight.
10. Announcement from Worship at Sessions Committee: Irma announced that Worship at Sessions Committee is still looking for a Friend to do the Bible Study at Summer Sessions.
11. Anne Pomeroy announced that the 2nd joint retreat of elders from NEYM/NYYM will be held the 1st weekend in February at Powell House. Space is limited.
12. Irma Guthrie reminded Friends that Coordinating Committee will be January 24-25, 2014 at Powell House.
13. Closing worship.
Meeting closed after a period of worship at 8:40 p.m.

Handbook Entry on Advancement

ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE

Ministry

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.