

New England Yearly Meeting of Friends

The Religious Society of Friends in New England

From the 2007 minutes

Faith and Practice

07–19. Jan Hoffman (MTob) introduced members of the *Faith and Practice* Revision Committee. Following a time of worship, she explained the updated process for consideration and approval of the revised *Faith and Practice*. The committee will submit working papers for various chapters at YM Sessions for Friends to consider and offer comments, without seeking approval. When the committee can affirmatively answer the question, “Is this good enough to stand as NEYM’s understanding of a given topic?” then the chapter will be submitted for preliminary approval at YM Sessions. Once a chapter receives preliminary approval, Friends are asked to take it back to their MMs and use it, sending any feedback to the committee. The chapter may then be considered for final approval at a future YM Session. It is the committee’s intention to wait until several chapters have received preliminary approval before submitting any for final approval, thus allowing Friends to consider the chapters in a broader context prior to final approval.

Members of the committee took turns reading the proposed Chapter 2: Worship. Time will be taken later in the week for worship and reflection on the chapter.

See Minute 45 for the continuation of this business item.

07–45. *Faith and Practice* Revision Committee clerk Jan Hoffman reported that the committee had met to consider responses to the proposed chapter on worship as presented at these Sessions. She read paragraphs that had been substantively changed to address concerns raised after the first reading. Out of worship, Friends had the opportunity to respond to the text, listen to each other, and be carefully heard by the committee. These responses will inform the committee’s discernment on further changes to the proposed chapter to be presented tomorrow for preliminary approval.

See Minute 65 for the continuation of this business item.

07–65. Jan Hoffman, clerk of the *Faith and Practice* Revision Committee, presented the chapter on worship as revised at these Sessions. The committee was heartened by yesterday’s comments and thanks us for our trust in them. Friends gave preliminary approval to the chapter on worship. The chapter will be posted on the website and will be mailed to monthly and quarterly meetings.

A working paper for Chapter 9: A Brief History of Friends in New England will also be mailed to meetings. Friends were asked to review this chapter and give comments to the committee by February 1, 2008.