

REmail: January 31, 2005

Subject: Statement of Purpose from the CE Committee

Friends,

This has been a year of change and growth for our committee. Below is a statement of the leading which guides us in our work with the children and youth of New England Yearly Meeting. It is a joy to gather with you in carrying out this important work. We look forward to your suggestions and feedback on ways that we can pursue these ends more effectively.

In the Light,

Beth

Christian Education Committee
Minute to New England Yearly Meeting of Friends
10th Month, 9th Day, 2004

The Christian Education Committee calls on New England Yearly Meeting to welcome, nurture, and challenge all our children and youth to live spirit-led lives in the Quaker tradition. To answer this call, the Yearly Meeting will need to give our children and youth the tools they need to:

- build personal foundations of Quaker history, practice, and belief;
- find effective ways to witness to their Quaker beliefs in the world; and
- become spiritually-resilient in a complex and changing society.

In order for this to happen, we believe the Yearly Meeting will need to coordinate and integrate the efforts of all of its child and youth-serving programs and institutions in order to provide a more cohesive experience for those we serve.

The Christian Education Committee's responsibilities in meeting this charge are to:

- promote spirit-based, well-organized children's religious education programs throughout the Yearly Meeting;
- nurture children and adolescents' spiritual development through learning, prayer, and action;
- strengthen families' spiritual growth;
- celebrate the gifts and leadings of children and their families;
- support the participation of children and youth in all aspects of the corporate life of our Quaker communities; and,
- join with other Yearly Meeting child and youth-focused programs to plan and provide a more cohesive and integrated experience for those we serve.

Jean McCandless
Clerk