

New England Yearly Meeting
***Faith and Practice* Revision Committee**
To Monthly Meeting Clerks

November, 2019

Dear Friends,

Accomplishment

At Sessions this past August, New England Yearly Meeting gave preliminary approval to the documents Membership and Dying, Death and Bereavement. As always, the Faith and Practice Revision Committee is grateful for the work of the monthly meetings in reading the drafts of these documents and sending us feedback. This input from monthly meetings continues to enrich the work of the committee.

In 2009, the Faith and Practice Revision Committee sent each meeting and worship group a binder to hold the texts that had received preliminary approval from the Yearly Meeting. Please file the enclosed Membership text under Tab 5 and the Dying Death and Bereavement text under Tab 6.

New Topic

The Faith and Practice Revision Committee has completed a draft on Marriage. We now need your responses to what we have drafted. We are particularly looking for comments on the content of the document, rather than edits of words or phrases. What conversations about marriage are happening in your meeting that you would like to see reflected in this document? Have we missed anything?

We need your engagement in this. We are trying to write a Faith and Practice that reflects NEYM as it is today, in a way that leaves space for spiritual renewal and fresh spiritual insight. Does this draft create space for you and your meeting to find the way forward together on difficult issues? The more we hear from you, the more our new book of Faith and Practice will reflect the faith and practice of New England Friends.

We appreciate feedback that reflects how the meeting as a community is responding to the text. Please highlight responses that are more widely shared in your group. A number of monthly meetings have taken the time to write minutes that reflected the sense of the meeting concerning the draft. We encourage more of this feedback from the meeting as a body.

We have enclosed the document Marriage along with a Discussion Guide on Marriage to encourage engagement with the topic. There is also a poster for your meeting's bulletin board.

Please email your comments on the Marriage text to fandp@neym.org by February 1, 2020. Comments may be mailed to Phebe McCosker, clerk, PO Box 66, Thetford, VT 05074. The draft on Marriage and the Discussion Guide on Marriage can be found and downloaded at the New England Yearly Meeting website on the *Faith and Practice* Revision Committee page <https://neym.org/texts-currently-under-discussion>. Paper copies may be requested from the NEYM office: 901 Pleasant Street, Worcester MA 06102-1908.

Phebe McCosker, clerk, for the committee

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Rachel Cogbill	Susan Reilly
Susan Davies	
Margaret Edmondson	