

# Areas of Focus

NEYM Secretary

October 2019-September 2020

**Foundation:** Prayer practice, relationship, exercise, retreats & recreation. Work 5 days/week. Monday Sabbath, flexible additional day. Schedule multi-day time away. Mid-January retreat. Plan & prepare for sabbatical to begin fall 2020. Nurture relationships. Celebrate progress. Cultivate courage, resilience, faith, and trust. Engage “almost dones” as accountability partners. Look for opportunities to be proactive.

Work with Staff and C&A teams to 1) facilitate more shared and strategic vision of the work; 2) improve collaboration, integration, and coordination; 3) Invite and promote clarity of our intention in particular decisions, and provide context to inform present actions; 4) increase space for initiative, risk-taking, and growth. With staff and C&A support, focus attention on the work below.

## 1. Encourage and Liberate Ministry in Local Meetings

- a. Travel in ministry, visiting local meetings for worship, consulting with and encouraging those who serve their meetings
- b. Consult, encourage and convene Friends active in public ministry who promote spiritual growth and nurture the life of local meeting communities
- c. Ensure opportunities for mentoring and accompaniment for those with emerging gifts
- d. Partner with working group and C&A in review of NEYM support for ministry and spiritual life, where gaps exist, and what would serve
- e. Help local meetings connect with Friends active in public ministry

## 2. Strengthen Volunteer Service

- a. Prioritize opportunities to support those who serve their local meetings
- b. Support implementation of clerking practices & structures recommendations
- c. Promote inclusion, remove barriers to participation, starting with barriers relating to age/life stage/family responsibilities, economic status, race
- d. Support opportunities for mentoring, leadership development and training
- e. Through the Purposes, Procedures, and Composition review process, focus on designing for effectiveness/health of the culture and practice

## 3. Foster Religious Education

- a. With a priority on serving those who serve in local meetings, ensure consistent availability of meaningful opportunities for spiritual formation, leadership development, and training in Quaker practice (such as *Nurturing Faithfulness*), supported by evaluation, consultation, and reflection

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Ask:

*Does this support the thriving of local meetings? How?*

*What's the hardest part?*

*What context would be helpful for us?*

- b. Articulate next steps for consultation and learning about needs/new directions in key areas of work, including: a) lifespan spiritual formation, b) outreach & welcoming, and c) planting new meetings
- 4. Lead Development Program**
- a. Visit local meetings to share and interpret the ministries of New England Quakers, listen to Friends' hopes and concerns, report on the progress their gifts—of all kinds—have made possible, invite their increased engagement and support, and seek accompaniment from Friends as traveling companions
  - b. Propose and convene exploration of endowments as a carrier for vision
  - c. Develop and try new practices to engage Friends serving as volunteers in meaningful and integrated ways in our development ministry
  - d. Plan, manage, and integrate annual fundraising efforts for FY2020
  - e. Promote communications, programming and resources to cultivate a stewardship worldview among New England Friends
  - f. Prototype print materials: strengthen your local meeting, nurture youth, planned giving materials(+)
- 5. Focus and Integrate Communications**
- a. New neym.org: Promote engagement and continue development of content
  - b. Develop and implement integrated (internal) communications calendar, including web, social, email, and print communications
  - c. Prototype and ensure consistent adoption of style and communications guides to support effective, aligned communications, cultivating a more consistent and compelling *voice* for NEYM
  - d. Support improved evaluation for NEYM-sponsored events, including Sessions
  - e. Solicit and feature guest writers for email newsletter
  - f. Create space to write for wider audience on key issues/challenges/learning, describing challenges and articulating emerging alternatives, with a focus on vision and purpose
  - g. Improve data gathering and focused/personalized use of data to support engagement and publicity for events and training opportunities

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