



**OUR
NEW ENGLAND
YEARLY MEETING**

**FAITH AND
PRACTICE**

WHAT IS A FAITH & PRACTICE?



A precious
resource book,
an affirmation
of faith, an
inspiration



TWO BRAIDED STRANDS



FAITH

- What is the faith of New England Quakers?
- What are our understandings today?
- How can Faith & Practice help me in my search for Truth?

&

PRACTICE

- How does practice arise out of faith?
- What structures and traditions can help guide our actions?
- How do Quaker lives speak?

HOW DOES A FAITH AND PRACTICE ORIGINATE?



- Each yearly meeting writes its own Faith and Practice to reflect its faith and experience
- We trust in continuing revelation to meet our times
- Currently, we are re-envisioning NEYM's Faith and Practice, rather than revising or adapting the previous edition

THE CHARGE:

to create the text



In 2001, people said:

- **“We haven’t had a new Faith & Practice since 1985!”**
- **“We are changing; we need to reflect this new life.”**
- **“There are lots of new members. How do we share what is important?”**
- **“We need to name our faith and our practices carefully. We need more detail.”**

Permanent Board authorized work on a new edition in 2001.

THE CHARGE:

to widen and deepen the dialogue



The review committee asked:

- How can the process of revising our Faith and Practice deepen our spiritual life—individually and corporately?
- How can the process help the YM to engage with its own book of Faith & Practice?
- How can the process help us gain a sense of where we are now, and how we have changed since 1985?

WHO WILL DO THIS?

The Faith & Practice Revision Committee

16 “seasoned” members, who work well with others, and represent:

- Our wide geographical spread
- Our broad range of spiritual practice
- Both programmed and unprogrammed meetings
- And a diversity of life experience




in conjunction
with

Monthly
Meetings

Quarterly
Meetings

Yearly Meeting
Sessions



Spiritual authority for NEYM Friends resides in our trust that Truth can be discerned in the worshipping community and is shared among the monthly, quarterly, and yearly meetings.

**Faith and Practice sets forth our shared discernment—
leading us forward in the Light from
one generation to the next.**

07.05.2015 11:48

WHAT TO CONSIDER?



WHAT LANGUAGE?

What are our names for the Divine?

How do we incorporate gender-neutral language?

WHAT STRUCTURE?

What content to include?

What to keep from older editions?

What order: should the faith & the practice sections be merged or separated?



WHAT PROCESS?

Where is the living water?

What does our yearly meeting believe? What does it practice?

How do we work with individuals, monthly meetings, committees, and yearly meeting to discern what our YM believes and how to express it?



THE RHYTHM OF WORKING TOGETHER



YEAR	OUR YEARLY MEETING PROCESS <i>The Faith and Practice Revision Committee</i>
1	Researches, drafts document Brings it to YM Listening Session
2	Sends it out to MMs for comment Redrafts
3	Brings it to YM Listening Session Brings it for approval at Sessions
4	Repeats elements if needed

The Spiritual Challenge

What Truths can we hear together at this time?

SOME IDEAS COME TO FLOWER

PREFACE

PUBLICATION OF *INTERIM FAITH & PRACTICE 2014*

**OUR
HISTORY**

WORSHIP

**GENERAL
QUERIES &
ADVICES**

MEMBERSHIP

**HOW TO
MAKE
REVISIONS**

**DYING, DEATH,
&
BEREAVEMENT**



**ILLUSTRATIVE
EXPERIENCES**

**CORPORATE DISCERNMENT
(in meetings for business))**

WHAT ARE THE 2020 TOPICS?



PASTORAL CARE & PERSONAL SPIRITUAL PRACTICES

Both in revision after feedback

MARRIAGE

Ready for comment

HOW CAN YOU PARTICIPATE?

Read & comment

- Give informed feedback
- Give corporate feedback
- Suggest extracts

In the writing stage

MINISTRY AND COUNSEL

with input

From interviews with M&C members
From documents contributed by MM

FUTURE TOPICS



**Are you drawn to work
on any of these?**

FAMILY AND CHILDREN

GIFTS AND LEADINGS

STEWARDSHIP

(financial, property)

LIFE IN THE MEETING COMMUNITY

WITNESS & TESTIMONY

ANSWERING THE CALL

WIDER QUAKER FELLOWSHIP

(FWCC, FGC, FUM, QVS, Right Sharing, AFSC)

ORGANIZATION OF NEYM



ENGAGING IN THE WORK

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

- Help find new members: other Friends? yourself? Send all ideas to the Permanent Board Nominating Committee. We have more documents to write!
- Write to us about subjects on which you have knowledge or expertise.
- Contribute extract suggestions. Write up your own experience or refer us to good quotations from other Quaker voices.
- Suggest Advices and Queries.
- Engage your meeting in discussion of the documents and send feedback.

We are supposed to have 16 people on the committee !

IF it takes 4 people to write 1 topic in a year,

AND 8 people to write 2 topics in a year....

THEN, if we had 16 people, might we write 4 topics a year?

AFFIRMATIONS WE HAVE HEARD

Other Yearly Meetings request & use our texts!



"Our meeting had a great discussion on end of life using your texts."

"I have used THE INTERIM For my devotional reading."

"Traditionally our meeting is using one of your queries every business meeting."

"The membership chapter is invaluable to give to individuals considering membership."

"We loved the chapter on the history of New England Friends."



HOW TO FIND AND USE THE NEW FAITH & PRACTICE

THE WEBSITE (neym.org)

On the Home Page, go to
“What We Believe”/”Faith & Practice”

- Find Table of Contents
- Finished Chapters
- In Progress Chapters
- Parts Yet to be Done
- 1985 Faith and Practice text

INTERIM FAITH & PRACTICE 2014 (with supplements)

- Find a print copy at your meeting
- Find a print copy at YM bookstore... with supplements (ask for the large print)
- Order or download through link on YM website

THE LOOSELEAF NOTEBOOK

Find this in your meeting library
(updates sent as approved)