

**Permanent Board Working Group
To Examine Our Support for Ministry and Spiritual Life**

Minute 2019-7.9: [The correct reference is 2019-46, item number 6—ed.]

We ask Ministry & Counsel to offer support to Permanent Board in creating a working group charged with exploring & naming how NEYM currently supports ministry and spiritual life. The working group will identify where support for ministry and spiritual life currently happens and where gaps exist, and then offer recommendations for structures, practices and manageable leadership roles that would best serve the current needs of Friends.

Charge: We ask this working group to explore where and how support for ministry and spiritual life currently happens among New England Friends and offer recommendations for structures, practices and leadership roles that would best serve the current needs of Friends.

Report: To Permanent Board at their May 16 meeting

Processes to Consider:

- Review current job description of Clerk of Ministry & Counsel
- Review the current Purpose, Procedure, and Composition for NEYM's M&C and make recommendations to C&A about what might be added or taken out of the charge
- Review the document summarizing the work of M&C (based on recent M&C and Sessions minutes) and consult with current members of Ministry & Counsel including the Clerk of Ministry & Counsel as well as recent former Clerks of Ministry & Counsel to learn where and how this work is currently happening within that structure and what challenges exist
- Consult with members of M&C to explore how they perceive their work in relation to the YM; possibly by interviewing a random subset of M&C members and/or by engaging in dialogue with M&C during an M&C meeting
- Consult with other regional bodies to explore various structures, practices, and roles that are used to support ministry and spiritual life
- Consult with New England Friends currently and recently traveling in the ministry or otherwise publicly sharing their ministry to identify the supports they currently utilize and where gaps exist
- Consult with a variety of local meetings to learn more about how NEYM's support for ministry and spiritual life is impactful and where gaps exist
- Consult with a variety of local meetings to learn how they support ministry and spiritual life.
- Consult with the Yearly Meeting Secretary and other leaders and staff about how current and proposed structures impact or would impact other aspects of NEYM's functioning

Questions to Consider:

- What current structures, practices and roles are effective in supporting ministry and spiritual life?

- What concrete changes (such as structures, practices, and roles) might simplify or improve the function of the Yearly Meeting in regards to supporting ministry and spiritual life?
- What concrete changes (such as structures, practices, and roles) could NEYM take to strengthen the vibrancy of local meetings?
- What functions need to be performed at the Yearly Meeting level for a vital Quaker movement in New England?
- Are there opportunities to lay down or reassign any responsibilities currently carried by NEYM Ministry & Counsel?
- How might NEYM better identify and support emerging ministries?
- What kind of culture in relation to ministry do Friends in New England seek to nurture?