



NEW ENGLAND
YEARLY MEETING
— OF FRIENDS —
QUAKERS

November 12, 2020

Dear Friends serving as Meeting Clerks and Ministry & Counsel for your local meeting,

For the past several years, Friends serving on behalf of New England Quakers have been prayerfully focused on how the work of the organization of New England Yearly Meeting can bear greater fruit in the lives of Friends and Friends meetings across our region, and how this service can be more inclusive, responsive, meaningful, and effective.

Now we're writing to share some important news. As part of the Yearly Meeting's continuing efforts to support the thriving of local Friends meetings, in the coming months Friends across our region will be invited to participate in new opportunities intended to support the spiritual practices of ministry and eldership in our Quaker communities.

A series of new, seasonal gatherings focused on spiritual life and ministry are intended to offer opportunities for worship, relationship, nurture, and learning about how Friends in our region are supporting the spiritual life of our meeting communities and carrying our faith into the world in ministry. Specific details of these gatherings will be shared as soon as they're ready.

In order to make space for this new exploration, for the next two years the formal structure and meetings of the Yearly Meeting Committee on Ministry and Counsel will be set aside. Because of this, local meetings are asked to not appoint representatives to serve on the Yearly Meeting Ministry and Counsel Committee for the time being. If your meeting has previously appointed Friends to the Yearly Meeting Committee on Ministry and Counsel, we're deeply grateful to them and to you for sharing these Friends' gifts, time, and energy. We're inviting these Friends, if led, be part of this experiment in new ways.

The work of nurturing ministry and spiritual life that we do in our local meetings is at the heart of this work. Each meeting will be encouraged and invited to prayerfully consider Friends from your meeting with the corresponding gifts and interests who might attend one or more of these seasonal gatherings in the coming months.

In the new year, Friends planning the first gathering will send you a more detailed invitation with more information on the gatherings, to help you discern who from your meeting might especially benefit, and who might bring learning and resources home to your meeting.

We're excited by this new experiment, and hope you'll join us in prayer for the thriving of our meeting communities and those serving in ministry and eldership on behalf of us all.

In faith and service,

Leslie Manning, Durham (ME) Meeting, Clerk of the Permanent Board
Jeremiah Dickinson, Dover (NH) Meeting, Interim Clerk of Ministry & Counsel

*P.S. Interested in further details about this discernment process, and the work so far?
You can read more at: neym.org/ministry-spiritual-life-working-group*