

Nominating Committee report to Annual Sessions 2021

Nominating Committee calls forth individual gifts to serve our yearly meeting faith community. When inviting someone to serve we endeavor to explain what the service entails, what qualities are needed, and what gifts and skills a person could offer. Would you like to offer your gifts in service to the yearly meeting? Contact Nominating Committee at nominating@neym.org Our small team of seven (two of whom are monthly meeting representatives) meets monthly throughout the year and will be delighted to speak with you about possibilities.

In the past year our activities included facilitating virtual consultations in support of MMs on “Best Practices and Challenges of Nominating” and clerking. Check the NEYM website for nominating resources: <https://neym.org/strengthen-your-local-meeting/care-one-another/nominators> as well as many resources for clerks, recording clerks, virtual clerking... Another aspect of our work is to support healthy committee composition, functioning and transitions. Interviews are conducted with clerks to gain insights into what works well and what might be needing attention.

New ways of supporting the work of the yearly meeting are emerging. There is an increase in the use of working groups and ad-hoc committees allowing Friends to serve for specific tasks with a shorter time frame rather than a three year committee commitment. Some standing committee structures are in the process of review - Sessions, Ministry & Counsel, Earthcare Ministry and Racial, Social & Economic Justice committees. How do we best support individual and monthly meeting ministry and witness? These changes are both exciting and unsettling as we discover new unknown ways of being and serving Spirit together.

The clerks of Internal Nominating, Clerk’s Table Nominating, and NEYM Nominating committees meet several times with the Quaker Practice and Leadership Facilitator. This resulted in two specific actions: implementation of Airtable to better coordinate communication at many levels, and a proposal to consolidate the work of these three committees. After careful consideration with Coordinating & Advisory and Permanent Board, a proposal including a revised Purposes, Procedures and Composition is on the Sessions agenda.

Thank you to each of you for sharing your gifts. We look forward to connecting with you and growing together during the coming year.

With gratitude and joyful anticipation,
Jacqueline Stillwell
Clerk, NEYM Nominating Committee