

Faith and Practice Revision Committee Annual Report 2021

Since Yearly Meeting sessions 2020, like many NEYM committees, the *Faith and Practice* Revision Committee continued its regular meeting schedule by Zoom. We were grateful to be able to offer our usual May retreat in person since all of us had been vaccinated. Two of our members joined the May retreat by Zoom. Our successful experiences with Zoom meetings and Zoom/in person combination meetings have encouraged us to plan to do many of our meetings next year on Zoom.

In the fall of 2019 F&P sent a draft chapter on Marriage to the monthly meetings. A number of meetings sent us their responses to the chapter before Covid -19 disrupted so many meeting schedules. We were able to have a Listening Session on the chapter at Sessions in August 2020. As we worked with this input, it became clear that the committee needs to develop a new section of the chapter to meet the request for a discussion of faithful sexuality. This work is continuing.

Last spring we took up the revision of the Pastoral Care draft that had gone out to the monthly meetings the fall before. As we looked at the responses of the monthly meetings to Pastoral Care and at their responses to our questionnaire on how their meetings organized the work of Ministry & Counsel, we decided that the chapter on Pastoral Care needed to be better integrated with our work on Ministry & Counsel. We have moved some of the Pastoral Care text into the Ministry & Counsel chapter. We then spent most of this year working on M&C, which is likely to be the longest chapter in the revised Faith and Practice. The committee is well aware that the Yearly Meeting is looking at ways to organize the work of the YM Ministry & Counsel to better support the spiritual life of our monthly meetings and the YM. Permanent Board had specifically reached out to F&P asking the committee to write on Ministry & Counsel. We have attempted to write on this topic in a way that does not confine meetings to particular structures. We will send this document to the monthly meetings in September 2021.

Two members of the committee have worked with the office this year to find ways to make the committee's work more accessible. Along with a few articles in the NEYM monthly newsletter and a survey of Friends interested in talking about their experiences with Quaker organizations, one of our members recorded the Personal Spiritual Practices document which is now ready for preliminary approval. The recording is available on the F&P page on the NEYM website.

This year the Committee was grateful to welcome a new member. Though our authorized size is 16 members, we continue our work as a committee of ten Friends.

We continue in faith,
Phebe McCosker, clerk

