

**Specially Called Permanent Board Meeting**  
*Held over Zoom Video Conference*  
**October 19, 2022**

**PB 22-71: Opening Worship**

Friends opened with a period of worship.

**PB 22-72: Clerk's Welcome**

The PB Clerk explained that the purpose of this called meeting of the Permanent Board was to hear a second reading of nominations to the Theme and Speakers Team for annual sessions 2023 because this committee needs to begin its work immediately. A quorum of 11 PB members is necessary to finalize these approvals.

**PB 22-73: Roll Call**

The recording clerk called the roll:

Leslie Manning, PB Clerk; Susan Davies, PB Recording Clerk; Beth Hansen, Carole Rein, Carolyne Lamar Jordan, Christopher Gant, Darcy Drayton, Ed Mair, Ian Harrington, Jean McCandless, Kathleen Wooten, Liesa Stamm, Kimberly Allen, Martin Zwirner Forsythe, Morgan Wilson, Newell Isbell Shinn, Roger Vincent Jasaitis, Tom Brenner, Willa Taber

**Ex-Officio:** Rebecca Leuchak (Presiding Clerk), Noah Merrill (YM Secretary);

**Regrets:** Aaron Sakulich, Christopher McCandless, Eleanor Warnock, Mary Zwirner

**Visitors:** Marian Dalton; Jackie Stillwell, (Clerk of YM Nominating Committee), Janet Hough, Phil Veatch

**PB 22-74:** With 21 members present the PB clerk declared we can proceed with discernment and approval of the nominations.

**PB 22-75: Names for Approval to the Theme and Speakers Team for Annual Sessions 2023** *(Report appended)*

Jackie Stillwell, Clerk of the YM Nominating Committee, brought forward two names for second reading and approval:

**PB 22-75a**—for the Theme & Speakers Team – Mey Hasbrook, (Durham Meeting) to begin immediately

**Friends Approved**

**PB 22-75b**—for the Theme & Speakers Team Eleanor Godway, (Hartford Meeting) to begin immediately  
**Friends Approved**

**PB 22-76: First Reading of nominations to the Theme and Speakers Team for annual sessions 2023** (*Report appended*)

**PB 22-76a**—for the Theme & Speakers Team: Erik Cleven, (Souhegan Preparative Meeting) to begin immediately

**PB 22-76b**—for the Theme & Speakers Team: Carl Williams, (Plainfield Meeting) to begin immediately.

If Friends have any concerns or affirmations concerning these names, they should be brought to the clerk of Nominating prior to the November 5, 2022, meeting of PB.

*Leslie Manning*

[Leslie Manning \(Feb 23, 2023 11:25 EST\)](#)

Leslie Manning, clerk

## **Preliminary NEYM Nominating Committee report to Permanent Board – 7 October 2022**

Please consider this a report a first reading for the Theme and Speakers Team for annual sessions 2023. Because this committee needs to begin its work immediately, we have requested a called Permanent Board meeting for the second reading as soon as possible. Contact me directly at (603)933-2608 or [jacqueline.stillwell@gmail.com](mailto:jacqueline.stillwell@gmail.com) with concerns or affirmations immediately.

### **Theme and Speakers Team**

#### Description:

The Theme and Speakers Team consists of the Presiding Clerk, the Sessions Clerk and 4-6 other Friends chosen for their connectedness to the wider body of Friends, as well as their ability to prayerfully listen to those Friends' condition.

In September of each year, the Theme and Speakers Team and the Coordination Team will meet to consider the Sessions which just occurred, a process which includes reviewing sessions evaluation forms, to learn from the recent event.

Following this meeting, the Theme and Speakers Team will meet to discern the theme for the next Annual Sessions, taking into consideration their sense of the spiritual condition of the body of Friends who attended the previous Annual Sessions; their sense of how Spirit is moving (or impeded) in the wider body; and wider input. This theme should be a few words or a phrase, which will be a simple reflection of the work they believe the body needs.

The Theme and Speakers Team will also discern what guests should be invited to speak to the gathered body to support and deepen Session's engagement with the theme.

The theme and speakers are presented to and confirmed by the Coordination Team, after which the work of the Theme and Speakers Team is complete.

#### Current Situation:

Last year a new Sessions Planning Purpose, Procedure & Composition was provisionally approved. In that first cycle, the Theme and Speakers Team was not able to convene until December. The experience from the first year will inform this year's work, and help build functionality for the team. Ideally, the Theme and Speakers Team would be named and convened before the end of September 2022.

#### Gifts and Leadings:

The work of discerning a theme and discerning speakers can be considered to halves of a whole, and the Theme and Speakers Team needs Friends who have gifts in both directions. Friends with a sense of what we are yearning for and what we need to hear may bring depth to the discernment of the theme, while Friends connected to wider Quaker communities, like FGC, FUM, other Yearly Meetings, as well as bloggers, elders and mentors, would be helpful in naming and contacting potential speakers.

**First Reading:**

**Theme & Speakers Team – Mey Hasbrook, Durham Meeting to begin immediately**

Mey is a good mentor and elder, who pays attention to the themes that are rising up and has knowledge of the condition of the yearly meeting. She has been attending PB meetings and serves as an elder in the Noticing Patterns working group. Mey attended annual sessions this year.

**Theme & Speakers Team – Eleanor Godway, Hartford Meeting to begin immediately**

Eleanor is a lifelong Quaker and elder who knows a lot about Quaker faith and practice and currently serves on the Faith and Practice Revision committee. She has a strong interest in the discernment of the theme for Sessions and she attended sessions this year.

Additionally, a Permanent Board member who attended sessions this year and is sensitive to the movement of Spirit in the yearly meeting, has offered to assist with the Theme and Speakers work, but declined being formally named to the Team because other responsibilities may intervene.

We are working to identify 2 or 3 additional Friends to serve on this Team. Would you or someone you know be a good match for this? Please let Nominating know asap. We hope to bring additional names to the November Permanent Board meeting.

Respectfully,

Jacqueline Stillwell, Clerk, NEYM Nominating Committee

From: Jacqueline Stillwell <jacqueline.stillwell@gmail.com>  
Sent: Wednesday, October 19, 2022 6:25 PM  
To: permanentboard+managers@neym.org  
Cc: Susan Davies <spdbh@gwi.net>  
Subject: Re: [permanentboard] It's not too late to register for tonight's called meeting of the Permanent Board

Hi Leslie,

After we approve (or not) Mey and Eleanor, I have two more names for first reading tonight, to be approved in November.

Theme & Speakers Team – Erik Cleven, Souhegan preparative meeting to begin immediately

Erik has experience with Friends both here and abroad, including having served as the clerk of Norway Yearly Meeting as well as the clerk of Dover Quarterly Meeting. Erik cares deeply about the experiences of Friends in local meetings, he listens deeply, and we believe his experience as a professor will also serve as a benefit to this team of Friends.

Theme & Speakers Team – Carl Williams, Plainfield Meeting to begin immediately

Carl Served faithfully for many years as a member of Ministry and Counsel of New England Yearly Meeting, as well as the clerk of Northwest Quarterly Meeting. Carl brings a grounding presence, and is skilled at listening for how the Spirit is moving among us.







# 2022-10-19 PB Minutes with attachments

Final Audit Report

2023-02-23

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