

Nominating Committee Report to Sessions – August 2023

In order to help Friends answer God's call, the Nominating Committee identifies, encourages, and nominates Friends with the gifts and skills needed to serve in a wide variety of volunteer roles on behalf of the Yearly Meeting. In this work, the Committee seeks to remove barriers to the full expression of the spiritual gifts and skills given through each Friend, to support the building up and thriving of local Friends meetings.

This work includes, in its fullness, understanding the vision of the Yearly Meeting and what is needed to live into it; leadership development and capacity-building; nurturing a culture of healthy evaluation and feedback; and expressing gratitude and recognition for faithful service in its many forms.

This second year of Nominating Committee integration has been an opportunity to continue learning new ways of doing our work together. While our committee membership has diminished to 7, our work continues to be Spirit-led while prioritizing the health of our yearly meeting. In doing this work together, we have found both great joys and some huge challenges, recognizing that God is in charge while each of us do our best to live into what we are called to do with the time and energy available to us.

Realistically in a changing culture with fewer people available to volunteer, there are pieces of work we haven't been able to attend to because there are not enough people sharing the work. We are especially grateful to LouAnne McDonald, Willa Taber and Honor Woodrow for their diligent and faithful service on Nominating Committee; they will be rotating off this year to serve in new ways.

One of our biggest joys this year was launching the Meeting Accompaniment Team. We also offered two workshops on Best Practices in Nominating, and created a 10 minute video describing the wholistic components of nominating work that was shared at the monthly Meeting Leader Check-in [call](#) in April. Resources for nominating can be found on the NEYM website [here](#).

Writing a description for each opportunity of service that includes the job description, current situation, and gifts desired has provided clear communication to support us in raising up names, and for individuals in seeking clearness to serve. We hope this practice will ripple out to everyone who has not yet discovered it.

What are some of the challenges? Over time and with changes in the yearly meeting, the work of the Youth Ministries committee has evolved. Therefore, the committee has been on pause since August 2022 while the Purposes, Procedures and Composition have been under review. A revised draft was shared with members of Youth Ministries, Coordinating & Advisory and forwarded to Permanent Board. The revised Youth Ministries Committee PP&C is linked [here](#) for your consideration. We anticipate that it will be forwarded to NEYM sessions for final approval.

We have encountered a similar situation with the Racial, Social and Economic Justice Committee. This committee has been on pause as the yearly meeting works together to better understand our collective vision for this work. The Permanent Board Antiracism Consultation working group is earnestly seeking a consultant to help us more clearly understand and define this work as a yearly meeting. Friends have offered to serve on RSEJ committee, however no

action will be taken until the new definition emerges with an updated PP&C so that nominating is clear what gifts and service are needed.

The over-abundance of Nominating Committee work has been balanced with a healthy practice of gratitude for what we have accomplished, clear focus on next steps, and letting go of some exciting opportunities until the future. We are enormously grateful to staff for the support with record keeping, planning events, and introducing new Friends to us to cultivate gifts.

As a committee we love our work and are looking for ways to promote a general awareness among monthly meetings of what opportunities for service are available with the yearly meeting. This doesn't have to mean accepting a huge job; taking on a small role can be very helpful. Working groups and specific projects also need your gifts.

Nominating Committee work requires a broad variety of gifts and skills. Might you be called to serve on the NEYM Nominating Committee? For a complete description see the [Purpose, Procedures & Composition](#) on the NEYM website.

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 Light and Love,
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