

NEYM Nominating Committee Report to Permanent Board

23 September 2024

Nominating Committee spoke to many Friends during annual sessions about possible ways to serve our faith community. Many of these Friends have decided to step into service and their nominations are below.

The process for approving nominations by Permanent Board during the year is to send **First Readings** in a written report a week or so in advance of the Permanent Board meeting. Any concerns, questions or affirmations should be communicated immediately to the Nominating Committee clerk at nominating@neym.org

The clerk will follow-up with a nominee to share concerns without naming who brought them forward. The focus will be on the concerns and how they may be addressed. Depending on the outcome of this exchange, the nominee will either be brought forward for second reading at Permanent Board meeting, or withdrawn from the nomination. Depending on the situation, there may be a brief mention of the concerns and response.

The following are all **First Readings**. They will come to the Permanent Board meeting on 28 September for Second Reading and hopefully approval. Please send any concerns (or affirmations) as soon as possible.

Sessions Clerk

Description of service for Sessions Clerk: See the description of Sessions Committee [here](#).

- The clerk will need to organize the new vision and develop some of it as it emerges; to both have their own vision, and be flexible to include others.
- As the planning is already underway, the clerk will need to enter the process, accept decisions that have already been made, and be ready to go.
- NEYM is committed to multi-generations, and mindful of making room for everyone. We are asking question: "Who are we excluding?" and discovering ways to change our behavior/culture.
- They'll need to have clarity about where we're headed, and be able to let go of distractions, and to politely redirect others with new ideas when necessary.

Current situation: Annual Sessions will be moving to a yet-to-be-decided new location, and is exploring how annual sessions might grow into new ways of being. This change may be difficult for everyone. The sessions Clerk needs to be comfortable with ambiguity, understand the confusion and stress that may accompany change and keep focused on the goal – producing a gathering with new format, in a new location and venue. The departing Sessions Clerk (also serving as the Rising Presiding Clerk) will support this transition year.

Gifts and Skills hoped for in the Friend serving in this role:

- Cheerful demeanor, energetic, inspirational, flexible, collaborative.
- Feel joy in the work. Be forgiving of oneself and others.
- Be spiritually grounded, and leave a place at the table for God.
- Be a welcoming and inviting person, easy with reaching out to others. Provide spiritual hospitality.
- Be comfortable helping the awkward transition of sessions. Have tact and diplomacy to describe whatever new way it is we are going, and to be caring and compassionate with individuals.
- Hold in their hearts the question of what does the yearly meeting need from the Sessions' experience, and to be mindful to welcome new people as well as returning folks.
- Be a good coordinator and a good communicator; keep track and follow through on things.

Sessions Clerk - Kristin Wilson (Framingham), to begin immediately/2027

Kristin is grounded, unflappable, good humored, practical, has exceptional logistical skills (both having worked in the hospitality industry and as housing coordinator for several years), is a skillful parent, a beloved team member of the Sessions team, and demonstrates a deep caring for Friends participating in Sessions, especially newcomers and families with young children. She has ably served on the Sessions committee for several years.

Sessions Theme & Speakers Team

Description of service for Sessions Theme & Speakers: *This group discerns the theme for the following year's Sessions, and Speakers. It is clerked by the Sessions Clerk. This team will consider what guests should be invited to speak to the gathered body. A full description is linked [here](#).*

Current situation: *Three members from last year will continue. One additional member is in discernment.*

Gifts and Skills hoped for in the Friend serving in this role: *Attendance at annual sessions, openness to new ideas, connection to Friends beyond NEYM, good listener to know how Spirit might be calling the body to learn and grow.*

Sessions Theme & Speakers Team – Minga Claggett-Borne, (Cambridge) 2026

Minga is a long time member of NEYM with wide experience in the Quaker world beyond NEYM. She serves on Friend's Peace Teams, including doing an AVP training for Ukrainians. She currently serves on NEYM Right Relationship.

Faith & Practice

Description of service for Faith & Practice Revision: *See the description [here](#).*

Current situation: *The committee is in the final stages of its work.*

Gifts and Skills hoped for in the Friend serving in this role: *Seasoned Friend with skills writing and editing*

Faith & Practice – Alana Parkes (Beacon Hill) to begin immediately, no term limit

Alana has been interested in this work since the committee's inception, but not had the available time available to serve until recently. She has two decades of professional work that required clear, concise communication (as a label writer for a science museum), and in this past year as an editor for scientific reports for the US Geological Survey, with particular attention to consistency and clarity. She is a well-seasoned Friend who came to Friends at a very early age.

Legacy Gift Committee

Description of service for Legacy Gift Committee: *See the description [here](#).*

Current situation: *With ten years of experience, the committee continues to grow into new ways of supporting ministries within and beyond New England.*

Gifts and Skills hoped for in the Friend serving in this role:

- *Bring experience in grant writing and awarding*
- *Are able to commit to the time expectations of the committee's work*
- *Can actively reach out to applicants, and whenever possible meet them in person*
- *Will respond to applicants in a fair, timely and supportive manner*
- *Are able to help the group make decisions about competing priorities*

- *Share a bold vision of the possibilities of what these funds could support.*

Legacy Gift Committee - Jonathan Vogel-Borne (Cambridge) 2027

Jonathan is a well seasoned Friend who served as NEYM staff for many years. He is familiar with Friends throughout New England and beyond.

Supervisor of YM Secretary

Description of service for Supervisor of YM Secretary: *The Supervisor of the Yearly Meeting Secretary provides ongoing supervision, counsel, and encouragement to the Yearly Meeting Secretary. As a member of the Coordinating and Advisory Committee, the Supervisor serves in a key leadership role in the Yearly Meeting.*

Current situation: *Permanent Board Clerk is serving as interim Supervisor.*

Gifts and Skills hoped for in the Friend serving in this role: *The supervisor should be an experienced Friend familiar with the Yearly Meeting and Quaker practice, and an experienced supervisor of professional staff with knowledge of organizational planning and operations.*

Supervisor of YM Supervisor - Jackie Stillwell (Monadnock) 2027

Jackie is a seasoned Friend who has served as NEYM Presiding Clerk, Representative to FGC, and Clerk of Nominating Committee, as well as with Friends nationally and internationally. Professionally she has led Quaker organizations for several decades. She is a creative systems thinker with experience embracing change and difficult situations.

Representative to American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)

Description of service for Representatives to AFSC: *Serve three years on the AFSC Corporation which meets annually. Attend annual Board meeting if desired.*

Gifts and Skills hoped for in the Friend serving in this role: *Member of Religious Society of Friends who will help carry forward the concerns of Quaker monthly and yearly meetings to guide AFSC programs and activities.*

Representative to AFSC - Bob Eaton (Durham) 2027

Bob served on staff of AFSC as regional director based in San Francisco (1973-1981), then as Quaker Service Laos and Vietnam representative (1981-1985) along with his wife, Wendy Batson. He also served on the AFSC Board of Directors on two different occasions c.1971-1973 and c.2012-2018.

Representative to Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL)

Description of service for Representatives to FCNL: *FCNL General Committee members are responsible to the yearly meeting or other Friends body that appoints them and to FCNL. This responsibility includes attending the Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C., bringing concerns of the yearly meeting to the attention of FCNL, and interpreting FCNL policies and procedures to the yearly meeting.*

Gifts and Skills hoped for in the Friend serving in this role: *It is important that members be cognizant of the secular legislative process, hold a general concurrence with FCNL goals, and have an expectation of seeking divine guidance. FCNL's commitment to diversity requires openness to varying viewpoints and the ability to discuss these viewpoints within one's own yearly meeting as well as at FCNL's Annual Meeting and in other activities.*

Representative to FCNL - Sara Smith (Concord) 2027

Sara has served Concord Meeting and NEYM in many ways over the years. She is very active in Peace and Social Concerns issues in New Hampshire and throughout New England.

Representative to FCNL - John Fletcher (Westerly) 2027

John retired from being a Professor of Botany and Microbiology at the University of Oklahoma and moved with his wife Gail to Peacedale, RI. While a member of Norman Friends Meeting, OK he actively engaged with peace and social justice issues through AFSC and FCNL. Since moving to RI, John has been active in the Peace & Social Justice Committee at Westerly Friends Meeting. This has included community outreach to students at URI and the URI Center for Nonviolence and Peace Studies, assisting in the writing of a recent minute on Gaza, a presentation on FCNL legislative priorities for Westerly Friends, and continues to attend FCNL's Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C. John's wife Gail partners with him in this work.

Representatives to Friends General Conference (FGC)

Description of service for Representative to FGC: See the description [here](#).

Current situation: There has been a lack of presence on the part of NEYM with Friends General Conference governance for several years. In 2026, the FGC Gathering is scheduled to be in Burlington, VT.

Gifts and Skills hoped for in the Friend serving in this role: A wide variety of skills are needed, openness to learning and governing with primarily non-programmed Friends, responsible follow through.

Representative to FGC - Sally Farneth (Portland) 2027

Sally's connection with FGC began as a child attending Gatherings in Cape May NJ. She helped write the First Day School curriculum **Sparklers** 40+ years ago. She has served many years and multiple times on the FGC Religious Education committee. The **Sparkling Still** working group is currently working on Literacy 4 Peace & Justice in the Quaker libraries and schools in Rwanda, and their book collection can be found on Friends Peace Teams or the Transformational Leadership Center (TLC) websites.

Faithfully,
Jacqueline Stillwell
Clerk, NEYM Nominating Committee
(603)933-2608 or nominating@neym.org

Nominating Committee members: Sara Smith (Concord), Beth Hansen (Westerly), Chris Gant (Beacon Hill), Tim Lamm (Worcester), Martha Schwope (Wellesley), Leslie Manning (Durham)