

**Coordinating and Advisory Report to the Permanent Board of New England Yearly Meeting of Friends
in preparation for the Permanent Board Meeting on May 10, 2025**

The Coordinating and Advisory Committee continues to meet on the first Tuesday of every month via Zoom. In addition, we gather for working retreats three times a year in fall, mid-winter and early summer. We will be holding our annual early summer retreat on June 3 to 5, 2025 and planning for that is in progress.

Current members of our committee are: Marian Dalton (NEYM treasurer), Susan Davies (clerk of the Permanent Board), Scott Drysdale (clerk of the Finance Committee), Sarah Gant (clerk of the Accompaniment Group), Rebecca Leuchak (clerk of the Coordinating and Advisory Committee and Yearly Meeting presiding clerk), Noah Merrill (Yearly Meeting Secretary), Jackie Stillwell (clerk of the Nominating Committee), Nia Thomas (Yearly Meeting Program Director), and Carl Williams (clerk of Ministry and Counsel). Both the rising presiding clerk of the Yearly Meeting, Phil Veatch, and the rising clerk of the Nominating Committee, Sadie Forsythe, have joined the Committee.

These committee members represent the breadth and width of our region and the monthly and quarterly meetings of our Yearly Meeting, and each of us holds aspects of the Yearly Meeting's activities as our specific area of service and attention. This diversity: regional, monthly meeting, and service role, affords us an aggregate and rich perspective on how Spirit is living among Friends in New England. And this range of perspective is engaged actively as we strive to fulfill the purpose of our committee to shepherd the work of the Yearly Meeting in alignment with the core purpose and the priorities articulated by the Yearly Meeting, and to advise and coordinate the various committees, quarterly meeting leadership, staff, and other initiatives within the Yearly Meeting.

We continue to support and coordinate the initiatives of the Yearly Meeting and the work of our many committees, working groups, and resource groups. The revisioning process for our Annual gathering and the planning for this summer's gathering in August, supporting the evolving structures and work of our Yearly Meeting's Ministry and Counsel, the progress in planning for Yearly Meeting development efforts, the convening and encouragement of quarterly meetings in periodic gatherings, the ongoing work of oversight of our Yearly Meeting finances and the building of a sound annual budget, our youth programs, support of the health and prospering of our monthly meetings, care for the process of nominations to Yearly Meeting service and concern for the adequate populating of the Nominating Committee in order for it to do its work. We are collaborating with and in the process of reviewing the purposes, procedures and charge of the Right Relationship Resource Group, Earth Care Witness, Puente de Amigos Committee, and the Noticing Patterns of Oppression and Faithfulness Working Group. What follows are a few brief updates on some of this work:

Yearly Meeting Support of Quarterly Meetings

C&A has supported the efforts of the Permanent Board Clerk, Susan Davies, and others to foster connection and community among the quarterly meeting leadership and the committee is encouraged by plans for a visioning process which Salem Quarter is initiating. Recent gatherings of clerks of quarters have been well attended and well received.

Sessions Visioning 2026 and Beyond

Following up on the Visioning Day members of C&A met to reflect on the day of helpful sharing, listening, and learning that came out of this highly consultative process. All agreed that this project in visioning achieved its

purpose of engagement, inclusion of different perspectives on possible plans to develop, and mutually beneficial dialogue.

The summary of what was learned, as well as a proposal for a plan for Sessions 2026 will be brought to Sessions this August. Committee members noted that historically Sessions was the only time of year Friends from across the Yearly Meeting got together. But that is no longer the case. We have now a rich menu of gatherings on offer throughout the calendar year and in locations across the Yearly Meeting. But we haven't quite internalized this shift and fully lived into the power of gathering to build and strengthen community. How can we help raise up the fullness of our now established Annual Cycle of Yearly Meeting Gatherings and Worship Opportunities? In addition, how do we factor in the potential and importance of Friends' reconnection through their Quarterly Meetings?

Support of Budget 2026 Planning and Evolving Development Initiatives

C&A is holding the Finance Committee and the clerk in care as they prepare to bring a proposed 2026 budget forward to Sessions. The task is notably challenging as we are in the process of revisioning Sessions which, as a major part of the budget, entails considerable financial implications. Concerns for the Yearly Meeting's financial health encourage creative thinking and C&A lends support to the work developing a fund-raising initiative that will be productive towards ensuring fiscal health.

Purposes, Procedures, and Charge Review Process

C&A supports a periodic cycle of reviewing the purposes, procedures and charge of the entities that do our work within the Yearly Meeting. Currently the Right Relationship Resource Group, Earth Care Witness, Puente de Amigos Committee, and the Noticing Patterns of Oppression and Faithfulness Working Group are in stages of collaborative review. We are blessed in our Yearly Meeting by the talents and energy of many Friends who serve on our committees, resource groups, and working groups.

Transition of Servant Leadership

C&A is caring for the transition of Friends serving in the roles of Yearly Meeting presiding clerk, clerk of Yearly Meeting Nominating Committee, and clerk of Ministry and Counsel so that responsibilities, knowledge transfer, and smooth onboarding is achieved. It is the practice of the Committee to have rising clerks shadow the current clerk and to invite them to join the Committee for one year prior to taking up their new role. The request for approval of a new clerk of Nominating Committee clerk will be presented to the Permanent Board on Saturday.

You will learn more about all of the above as topics of presentation/update/discernment during our time together on Saturday. We have in our Yearly Meeting, as in any complex organism, simultaneous, multifarious, ongoing areas of activity. Spirit is alive and synergistic in it all. Energy is moving in many directions. We are blessed by Spirit with the ongoing fullness of our challenges and the strength of the call to be faithful. The members of the Coordinating and Advisory Committee are keenly aware that in these unpredictable times, our moment so filled with uncertainty and change, it is important to hold to our center, to listen deeply to what Spirit is revealing to us.

Our purpose is to bring forth in our community the most propitious avenues for the Divine to work in and through us to bring about a better world.

Rebecca Leuchak (Providence (RI) Friends Meeting)
Clerk, Coordinating and Advisory Committee