

Nominating Committee Report to Sessions – August 2025

Thank you for the opportunity to serve Nominating Committee. The blessings of identifying other's gifts and skills, and encouraging Friends to grow into something new, brings joy to all of us. Each of us does our part to fulfill the vision of New England Yearly Meeting (sessions 2015):

We envision a growing network of transformative, witnessing local faith communities in the Friends' tradition across New England.

New England Yearly Meeting supports and strengthens a vibrant and growing web of monthly meetings, quarterly meetings, and other Friends communities under our care, helping us do together what we cannot do alone. In all our work, we strive to obey the promptings of the Spirit to bring healing, wholeness, and transformation of ourselves and to the world.

From the Nominating Committee PP&C: "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."

What's been happening this past year? We are improving our database to track gifts and skills. We are shepherding a broad network of resource groups, working groups, and teams as well as standing committees and servant leaders. This makes it possible for Friends to serve for specific tasks with varied term lengths. Each opportunity for service includes a job description, current situation, and gifts desired. This specificity supports us when raising up names, and helps individuals seek clearness to serve.

We continue to discover new ways of serving Spirit together. The world around us is changing, each of us is growing and learning, each stage of life has different perspectives and needs with different availability of time & energy. We listen to what works while letting go of what isn't working or could serve in some new way. We do our imperfect best at all times.

What needs attention going forward? Some positions are barely manageable, and some committees are in transition to meet our vision in new ways. In particular we continue to explore new ways to support each other with ministry and witness resources.

Nominating Committee is enormously grateful to Sara Smith, who is ending her term, for her work with our committee, and to NEYM staff for all their support with record keeping, planning events, and introducing new Friends to us to cultivate gifts. We are excited to welcome Sadie Forsythe as our new Clerk. And, a variety of skills are needed for openings on our committee. Might you or someone you know be called to join us?

I am enormously grateful to be connected to all of you, sharing our gifts and reaching for our vision together.

With love and light,
Jacqueline Stillwell, departing clerk (Monadnock)
NEYM Nominating Committee, nomclerk@neym.org

A final note from Nominating Committee:
Please join us in thanking Jackie Stillwell for her many years of stewarding the work of nominating.