

Youth Ministry Committee Annual Report to Sessions

2025

The committee welcomed Newt Bartletta, Melissa Becce, and Heather Gray as new members, and Nancy Corindia as the new clerk. This committee also includes ex officio members Nia Thomas (Program Director), Kara Price (Children & Family Ministries Coordinator), Anna Hopkins (Friends Camp Director), and Collee Williams (Teen and Outreach Ministries Coordinator). A cohesive committee has developed, working in love and light.

The committee's purpose is to support New England Quakers' youth ministries that enable young people to grow into adulthood with a full sense of belonging to both a local circle of Friends and the Yearly Meeting as a whole. The committee encourages ministries which provide a foundation of Quaker faith and experience, fostering an active spiritual life.

There are many ways this is accomplished. This committee is a place of collaboration with local Meetings, Friends Camp and retreats. It continues to use our Listening Project to personally connect with Monthly Meetings regarding the successes with youth ministry and the challenges they face. Committee members have been reaching out to youth ministries contacts across local meetings. Listening and then sharing these ideas and solutions among Meetings, is the goal and the core work of the committee this year.

Many committee members participate in Local Youth Ministers Supporting Each Other (LYMSE), which are regular video calls, facilitated by Kara Price. These calls are a way to begin and continue conversations with youth ministry teachers at Monthly Meetings. Arising from these calls is another initiative of the committee. We are now exploring a resource library using information shared on these calls.

Growing Edges of Youth Ministries Fund, previously developed, has benefitted projects like John Back's Quaker Learning Queries project for children and youth, and the family retreat at Woolman Hill last May.

Going forward, the committee will continue work on the Listening Project, as a way to plan for intervisitations next year.

Youth Ministries Committee

