

## **NEYM Nominating Committee Report to the Permanent Board**

February 23, 2026

**In keeping with current tradition of the Permanent Board - these advance documents are used as the first reading for nominations to be approved at the coming meeting. Please contact me as soon as possible if you would like to discuss any of these nominations.\***

The nominating committee has been working diligently to anticipate which committees and roles will have some turn over this year, to give us time to be in conversation with committees about what gifts and skills are needed, and who among us may be called to service.

As always, we invite Friends to consider who in your own circles may be interested in increased yearly meeting involvement through committee service. We are happy to make “get to know you” calls with individuals you recommend, so that we may hear about their leadings, and share about the work of the yearly meeting to explore where there may be a match. We are also striving to be present at yearly meeting events to have informal Opportunities with Friends who may not already be on our radar. I was grateful to be invited to visit the Young Adult Friends midwinter gathering at Woolman Hill this month, and appreciated the opportunity to hear what was stirring among those gathered.

This year, our looking ahead to transitions includes the clerk of Permanent Board as Susan Davies will conclude her service in this role at Sessions in August. With grateful acknowledgement of all that Susan has brought to this role, we have been discerning who might serve as a rising clerk allowing for a time of overlap to support this transition, and are grateful to have a name to offer for your consideration now. As I shared with the nominee, it is, as always, a delight when discernment of gifts, skills, and right timing aligns among those called to nominate and those nominated to serve.

### **Permanent Board, clerk:**

The Clerk of the Permanent Board serves as the presiding officer at meetings of the Permanent Board and as such serves an essential leadership role for the Yearly Meeting between the annual sessions of the full body. As it is the governing body of the Yearly Meeting between Sessions, including being given oversight for personnel, property and legal matters that arise during the year, the Clerk of Permanent Board is the final authority on personnel concerns and the designated signatory for legal documents. The Clerk of the Permanent Board oversees the work of bodies under the care of the Permanent Board. They serve as a member of the Coordinating and Advisory Committee. In partnership with the Presiding Clerk and Yearly Meeting Secretary, they are responsible to speak and act for the organization as needs arise, consistent with the policies of the Yearly Meeting.

**Permanent Board, clerk - Liesa Stamm (Hartford Monthly Meeting) to begin August 2026, class of 2029**

Liesa brings a deep spiritual grounding, and a simultaneous interest in organizational structures, with an ability to hold both attention to detail and the big picture. She currently serves as a member of Permanent Board, and of the Meeting Accompaniment Group, and has found this service deeply meaningful while deepening her own connection with Friends community. She brings an enthusiasm for the support of quarterly meetings. Previously, Liesa served on the board of Woolman Hill, and she currently serves on the board of the Obadiah Brown Benevolent Fund. If approved, she will work alongside Susan Davies as a rising clerk, and begin clerking Permanent Board following sessions in August 2026.

**Friends World Committee for Consultation:**

Friends World Committee for Consultation–New England (FWCC–NE) encourages fellowship among all the branches of the Religious Society of Friends, connecting Friends, crossing cultures, and changing lives. FWCC–NE brings Friends of varying traditions and cultural experiences together in worship, communication and consultation, to express our common heritage and our Quaker message to the world. The NEYM FWCC Committee represents NEYM in the work of the international Friends World Committee for Consultation, and promotes and interprets FWCC’s work within the Yearly Meeting. FWCC–NE facilitates visits within New England of Friends from other parts of the world, including cooperating with Puente de Amigos.

FWCC–NE meets during Yearly Meeting Sessions and several times during the year, in person or by conference call. The committee designates six of its members to represent NEYM at meetings of FWCC Section of the Americas. Some of these representatives also serve on Section committees. The committee recommends delegates to represent NEYM at periodic worldwide and sectional FWCC meetings.

**Friends World Committee for Consultation - NiaDwynwen Thomas (Northampton Friends Meeting) to begin immediately, class of 2029**

NiaDwynwen Thomas is a member of Northampton Friends Meeting and serves as Program Director for NEYM. Over the last few years, she has worked with Friends from FWCC on the development, implementation, and evaluation of the Quaker Connect program, a congregational health & renewal program for Quaker congregations from across the Americas.

Thank you for your consideration of these nominations, and for your own service among Friends as a member of Permanent Board. Please contact me directly as soon as possible with any questions about these nominations.

With appreciation and care,

Sadie Forsythe (Putney/also attending Mt Toby)  
Clerk, NEYM Nominating Committee  
[nomclerk@neym.org](mailto:nomclerk@neym.org) or 215-360-1815

Nominating Committee members: Beth Hansen, recording clerk (Westerly), Chris Gant (Beacon Hill), Darcy Drayton (Weare), Kathleen Wooten (Lawrence), Tim Lamm (Worcester), Martha Schwope (Wellesley), Leslie Manning (Durham), Lucy Meadows (Hanover), Sadie Forsythe (Putney)

\* The process for approving nominations by the 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. 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, or withdrawn from the nomination. Depending on the situation, there may be a brief mention of the concerns and response.