

Advance Documents — 2026 New England Yearly Meeting

Spring Forth O Well, and Make Us Whole

Phillip Veatch, Presiding Clerk, New England Yearly Meeting
Fresh Pond Monthly Meeting

Welcome Friends, to the 366th gathering of New England Yearly Meeting!

These advance documents contain reports from the committees, boards, groups, quarters, representatives and staff sharing the good work that they have done since we last met in August 2025. The reports provide much of the context for the business that is before us this week. They deserve close attention.

As we work together this year, my hope is that we hold close these words that former presiding clerk Bruce Neumann wrote during the depths of COVID:

... I realized that we are hopefully working on (at least) two levels for any given agenda item. There is the outer, more obvious question of “How is God leading us with this concern?” which is the more apparent part of what’s going on. But underneath the outward work is the underlying transformation of hearts to become a people more aligned with the way God wants us to be. In the listening and the striving to love all, we are being molded by the Divine. Jesus certainly advised us to work for the needy, but much of his message was about finding the kingdom of heaven within us. Can we do both?

My heart is full with the joy of us being together again as a gathered body. Let us do the hard work, listening with open hearts to the often contentious different truths that we each carry, and let us share our pain, our peace, and our pleasure as we travel together through these oft peculiar times.

Phillip Veatch (Fresh Pond Monthly Meeting)
Presiding Clerk

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2026 Annual Sessions Schedule Spring Forth O Well, and Make Us Whole

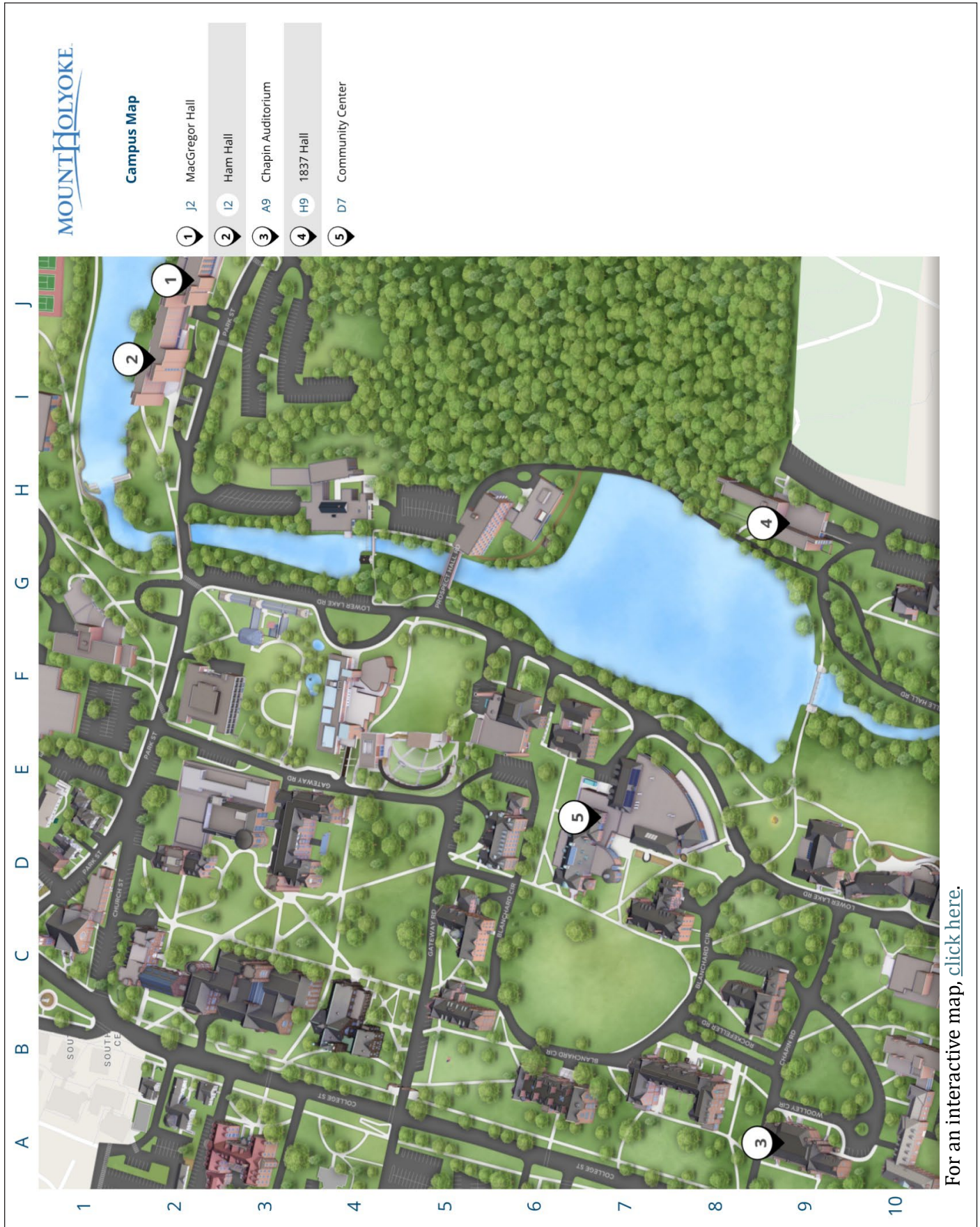
	Friday 7/31	Saturday 8/1	Sunday 8/2	Monday 8/3	Tuesday 8/4
6:30 to noon		6:30–7:15 Early Morning Worship 7:15–9:00 Breakfast			
		9:00–10:15 Opening Celebration/All-Ages Worship* 10:30–11:30 Bible Half Hour*	8:30 Bible Half Hour* 9:30–11:15 Meeting for Business*	8:30 Bible Half Hour* 9:30–11:15 Meeting for Business*	
Noon to 3:00	12:30–4:00 Extended Worship (Great Rm, Community Ctr) See nevym.org/Friday for Friday activities Check-in hours are shown at right.	11:30–2:00 Lunch			
3:00 to 7:00		1:15–3:15 Meeting for Business* 3:30–5:00 Choices ¹	1:15–2:45 Plenary* 3:00–5:00 Meeting for Business*	1:15–2:45 Choices ¹	1:15 Closing Celebration Tentative Check-in hours Friday: 3:30–5:00 p.m. 7:00–9:30 p.m. Saturday: 8:30 a.m.–noon For other times, call the Registrar, 207-402-1773
		5:00–7:00 Dinner			
		6:00–6:20 Vespers	6:00–6:45 Vespers		
7:00 to 10:00	7:00 Song circle and other activities— See nevym.org/Friday	7:00 Quaker New Years Celebration ² * 7:00 Choices	6:30–8:00 Memorial Meeting* 7:00 Coffee House* 7:00 Choices ¹		

Items marked with * will be hybrid events held in the Chapin Auditorium. Locations of other events will be posted in the *Yearly Meeting News*.

¹Choices is a period for workshops and reflection groups at Sessions. These 90-minute offerings provide an opportunity for Friends to explore our Quaker faith and make meaningful connections. Choices are posted at <https://nevym.org/choices>

²An all-ages opportunity to celebrate life milestones and new beginnings while gathered in the Chapin Auditorium
Bookstore hours will be posted in the Yearly Meeting News.

Campus Map



2026 Sessions Coordinators, Officers, Speakers and YM Staff

Access Needs Coordinator	Jana Noyes
Accounts Manager	Frederick Martin*
Bible Half Hour Speaker	Adria DiCapua
Bookstore Managers	Gretchen Baker-Smith, Karen Sargent
Children & Family Ministries Coordinator	Kara Price*
Clerks	Phillip Veatch (presiding), Fran Lightsom and Mark Conley (recording), Jesse Pradhan and Sarah Bickel (reading)
Housing Coordinator	Heidi Babb
Info Desk Coordinators	John Wojtowicz, Kathleen Wooten
Operations Assistant	Matthew Swinton*
Operations Director	Elizabeth Hacala*
Operations Director's Assistant	Jessica Sheldon
Office Manager	Sara Hubner*
Pastoral Care	Janet Hough, Ken Jacobsen, and Buddy Scott
Program Director	NiaDwynwen Thomas*
Plenary Speaker	C. Wess Daniels
Registrar	Martha Hinshaw Sheldon
Sessions Planning Clerk	Kristin Wilson
Shuttle Coordinator	Maille Wooten
Tech Team Coordinators	Neil Blanchard and Naren Roy
Volunteer Coordinator	Michelle Wright
Worship Coordinator	Kristina Keefe-Perry
Yearly Meeting Treasurer	Marian Dalton
Yearly Meeting Secretary	Noah Bishop Merrill*

* = YM Staff

2026 Youth Program Coordinators and Staff

Under-5s

Coord: Kara Price

Asst Coord: Amy Howland

Carol Baker

Minga Claggett-Borne

Peter Colby

Beth Collela

Heather Gray

Sarah Johnson

Shoshanah Kay

Nancy Marstaller

Lynn Taber

Allison Tracy

Junior Yearly Meeting

Coord: Kara Price

Asst Coord: Amy Howland

Karen DaCosta

Melissa Becce

Rebecca Edwards

Tyler Green

Stephanie Hebert

Newell Isbell-Shinn

Craig Jensen

Katy MacRae

Amie Saulnier

Martha Schwope

Emily Smith

Junior High Yearly Meeting

Coord: Amy Rose-Schweppe

Anne Anderson

Tristan Athearn

Buddy Baker-Smith

Dave Baxter

Cami Buba

Merritt Bussiere-Nichols

Chris Fitze

Katie Poynter

Young Friends

Coord: Xinef Afriam

Isaiah Grace

David Green

April Merleaux

Laura Sawyer

Kristin Sprague

Heather Watkins-Shepherd

Elders serving to support ministry at Sessions this year

In Friends tradition, an Elder supports, encourages, and challenges the minister and helps them to be faithful. During preparation and during our week together, these individuals are holding and grounding specific Friends in their work and ministry.

Elders for Noah Merrill: Jackie Stillwell, Julia Forsythe, John Leppman, Sadie Forsythe, and Sarah Gant

Elders for Phillip Veatch: Melissa Foster, Regina McCarthy, and Bruce Neumann

Elders for Adria DiCapua: Peter Blood-Patterson

Elders for C. Wess Daniels: Brian Drayton

Guide to Business at Yearly Meeting Sessions

NEYM Sessions are larger than our other experiences of discernment, and again we will be hybrid, so a few reminders may help us proceed gracefully.

We encourage Friends who are joining us online to become familiar with Zoom before Sessions; you can find an instruction video on the Yearly Meeting website at <https://neym.org/zoom-how-tos>.

The physical room and the Zoom “room” will open for worship about 15 minutes early. Friends are asked to enter silently, to confirm that you are muted if you are on Zoom, and to sit in worship with the Friends gathered.

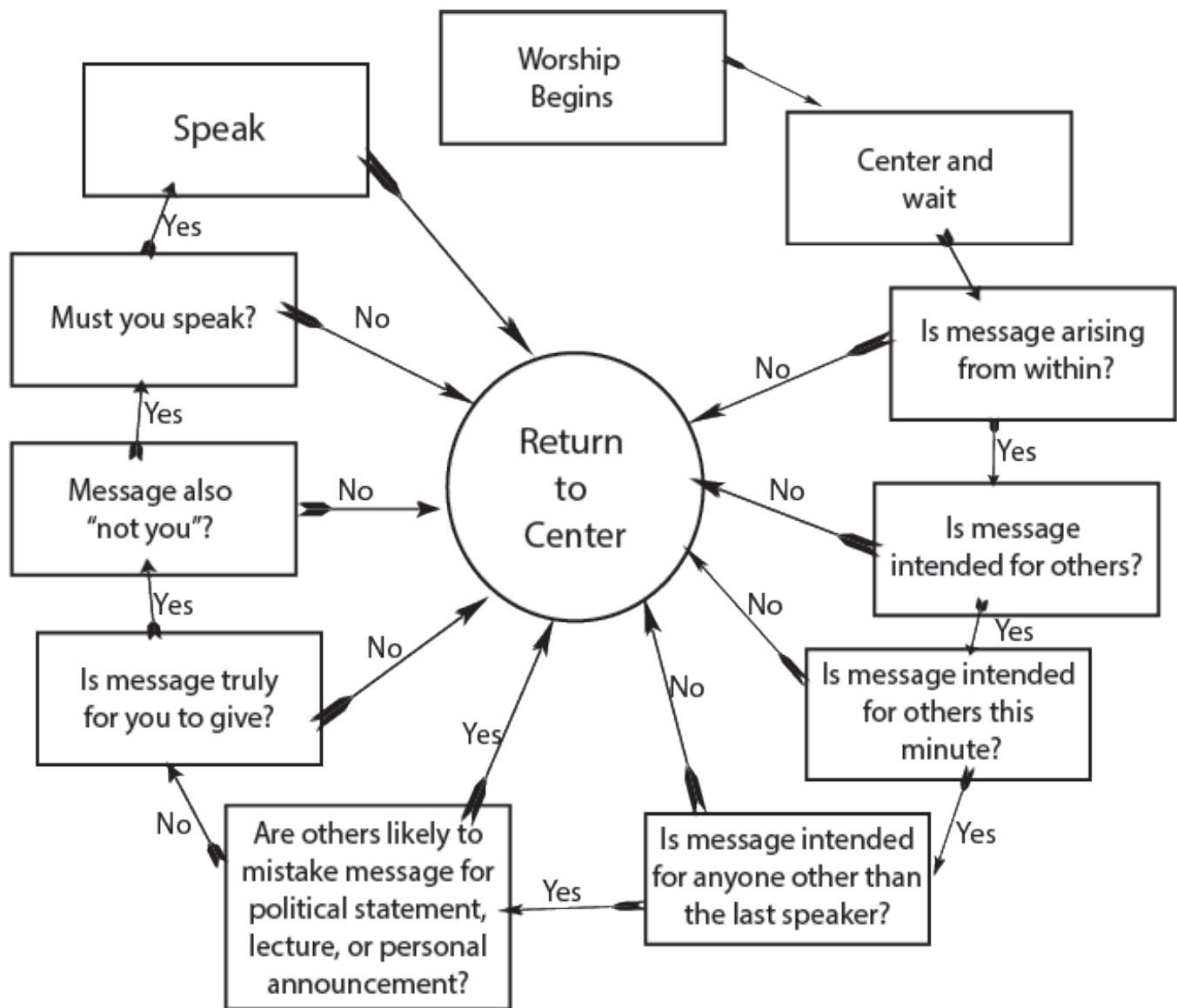
Worship with a concern for business:

- The Spirit may speak through a less familiar voice if our oft-heard Friends refrain from the urge to speak too quickly.
- The order of business items is subject to change, depending on the Holy Spirit and Friends’ self-discipline.
- We seek not compromise nor a grumbling “well, OK,” but clarity on what God calls us to do here and now, knowing that we may be led later to some further action, understanding, and love.
- Please look for text being presented. If it was ready by press time, look in these Advance Documents. Otherwise, it will be displayed on screen.
- The doors to the physical room will be closed to late-comers for 5 to 10 minutes while Friends settle into worship. Please wait quietly outside the plenary room. Please silence your cellphone. If you are on Zoom, please silence your cellphone, landline, and any other potential disruptions.
- For those joining worship with a concern for business in person:
 - Enter quietly!
 - Sit toward the front and center of the hall.
 - Leave room on the ends of the rows for late arrivals.
 - Reserve the wheelchair-accessible space for those who need it.

During worship with a concern for business:

- Stand (or raise your hand high) to be recognized. Use “Raise Hand” in Zoom (on the Reactions menu) to be recognized (on the phone, press *9).
- Remember that the clerk does not always call on people in the order in which their hands appear.
- When the clerk has called on you, wait for the wireless microphone to come to you. For those on Zoom, unmute yourself (on the phone, *6).
- Say your name and meeting.
- Speak slowly and briefly, limiting your remarks to the question at hand.
- For those in person, please be seated while someone else is speaking. For those on Zoom, consider lowering your hand—the person speaking may address your concern.
- Ordinarily a person should speak only once to an item of business, unless to answer a direct question or to signal a significant change of heart.

- If you are a Friend who does not speak easily, be bold if called. Your leading may be the way the Spirit has chosen to speak to us.
- Please do not try to argue the clerks (or anyone else) into your position.
- While the clerks are trying to formulate a minute, help by holding them in prayer. Remember that the minute will rarely be worded precisely as you would have said it.



2026 Sessions Business Agenda

Saturday afternoon

1:15 to 3:15 p.m.

- Faith & Practice Revision Committee: Chapter on Testimony 2nd reading
- Introduction of Unity Agenda, including the nominating slate
- Yearly Meeting Secretary's message
- Testimonies from individuals on how they are being led in these times
- Open worship—the state of the world and our place in it

Sunday Morning

9:30 to 11:15 a.m.

- Waiting worship
- Yearly Meeting Nominating Committee report
- Gifts Committee minute re: grants for supporting indigenous relations
- Begin year-long discernment of living into our commitments for reparations and relationships

Sunday Afternoon

3:00 to 5:00 p.m.

- Waiting worship
- How We Work Together: all year round—people, meetings, quarters, Yearly Meeting
- Living Stream Travel Team report
- Permanent Board clerk's report
- FUM representatives report
- Finance: Treasurer's report and first reading of the budget

- Bridget Moix, FCNL
- State of Society report

Monday Morning

9:30 to 11:15 a.m.

- Anna Hopkins, Friends Camp
- How We Work Together: committees, resource groups, and working groups
- Awareness and reflection: Retrospective Justice Working Group
- Awareness and reflection: Conflict Response Team
- Quarterly meeting organizing

Monday Afternoon

3:00 to 5:00 p.m.

- Final approvals: budget, Unity Agenda
- Faith and Practice: preliminary approval of Testimony chapter
- Karla Jay, Ramallah Friends School
- How We Work Together: where ministry & counsel are done
- Our leadings for these times
- Sessions Epistle first reading

Tuesday Morning

9:30 a.m. to 11:15 a.m.

- Unfinished business
- Review of tasks that Sessions has given Permanent Board, Coordinating & Advisory, et al. to do this year
- Sessions Epistle final reading
- Operations Director's report on Sessions

Unity Agenda

The items on the Unity Agenda are proposed for consideration on Monday afternoon. Before then, Friends are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the Unity Agenda, to read the information pertaining to each item, and to consult with the Friends named for each matter, if need be. General questions can be brought to the Presiding Clerk, Phillip Veatch. If there are significant concerns that remain, items can be removed from the Unity Agenda for further corporate discernment earlier in the week.

Decisions and Actions Concerning...	See	Friends Available for Consultation
Accepting staff reports	page 40	Staff
Accepting board, committee, working & resource groups, and representative reports	page 45	Report authors
Accepting Memorial Minutes	booklet	Janet Houghs, Ministry & Counsel clerk
Approving the Purposes, Procedures, and Composition for the Gifts Committee	page 11	Susan Davies, Permanent Board clerk
Approving nominations from YM Nominating Committee	page 35	Sadie Forsythe, Nominating clerk
Approving bank resolutions	page 13	Doug Keith, Finance clerk
Approving clerks' authorization to make edits and corrections	page 15	Phillip Veatch, Presiding Clerk
Accepting time-sensitive statements	page 15	Phillip Veatch, Presiding Clerk; Noah Bishop Merrill, Yearly Meeting Secretary

2026 Sessions Business Materials for Gathered Discernment

Faith and Practice Revision

The Faith and Practice Revision Committee will present a chapter on Testimonies, which you can read here: <https://neym.org/sites/default/files/2026-07/Testimony%20Chapter%20for%20Preliminary%20Approval%207.3.26.pdf>

Gifts Committee Minute on Grants for Indigenous Peoples Projects

The Gifts Committee may consider grants to persons or local meetings that are building relations with indigenous tribes, in efforts to heal harms done by NEYM. The grants may be used by the grantee to provide funding for the work of the tribes. When requested by the meeting or individual, and where the laws of gift-giving allow it, the Gifts Committee may fund gifts instead of grants. Specifically, we are trying to live in the light of New England Yearly Meeting minutes 2013-52 and 2024-62, among others. The Gifts Committee will utilize its current processes and rely on the income as received at present.

Treasurer's Report

If you are an avid reader of the Yearly Meeting's financial reports, you may notice a few changes in our end-of-year reports for FY25. We have planned for several years to initiate an audit of our books, but after consultation with a few accounting firms, we decided we would be better served by hiring an accountant to consult with on specific questions. As a result certain reports, especially the

“All Activities” report, have a slightly different layout. We are trying to increase the transparency of our financial activities by more fully indicating which of our resources are unrestricted, which are designated by the Permanent Board for a particular use, and which are temporarily or permanently restricted in their use by their donors.

To represent the overall health of our finances, in recent years we have been monitoring the value of our “reserves,” that is, unrestricted funds retained from income in current and prior years. The last page of the FY2025 financial report (<https://neym.org/sites/default/files/2026-07/Revised%20FY25%20Financials.pdf>) shows our reserves were nearly \$56K, which is slightly more than double the total at the end of FY2024. Note, however, that that increase was the result of the \$51K we received in federal ERTC (Employee Retention Tax Credit) funds in FY2025, which came from payroll tax refunds we were eligible for due to lost Sessions income during the pandemic.

Another way of measuring our financial health in this fiscal environment might be to focus on net operating income. Since the pandemic, we have yet to recover a balance between operating income and expenses. The net operating income for NEYM was \$ -63K in FY2023, \$ -57K in FY2024 (despite that being the first year of not sending donations to “external” organizations of which we are members), and \$ -22K in FY2025. It’s been a difficult few years, as the graphs accompanying the budget show. Decreasing deficits over the past three years gives us hope we can pull out of this pattern.

Reduced attendance at Sessions for several years following the pandemic contributed heavily to these deficits. The financial reports suggest additional contributing factors:

- Preparing for Sessions is a large financial commitment, taking about a third of staff time in recent years. In addition, we have offered about \$30K per year in discounted fees to Sessions attendees who fill key roles.
- Inflation increases our costs each year, including staff expense (which is a significant portion of our budget), but our income may not increase at the same rate.
- We have budgeted increases in donations that haven’t materialized: not that donations haven’t been going up, but they haven’t reached the levels we have budgeted.
- Program fees as a portion of our income have not fully met our budgeted goals for some time.
- Travel reimbursement for Yearly Meeting representatives to annual conferences has been fully covered in the past but may need to be reduced in order to fit within budgets.

As a result of our concern about deficits, Yearly Meeting took actions both last year and early in FY26 to address recognized financial challenges.

- Knowing that the location of last year’s Sessions at UMass Amherst was an expensive option, Permanent Board approved releasing up to \$75K from the Future Uses Fund (a board-designated fund) to cover Sessions losses in FY2025. While the eventual release of \$59K was a necessary move, this was not new income and masked the actual operational losses.
- To focus on new income, we have begun working with a development consultant (Michael Wajda of Bennington Monthly Meeting). We have seen encouraging trends in both individual and monthly meeting donations to date in FY2026, following the fundraising mantra that you have to ask in order to receive donations.
- The Living Stream Travel Team is on the road, reaching out to local meetings with a mission to communicate what we as Friends make possible together through the Yearly Meeting and to listen to what local meetings need. There is recognition that this type of conversation needs to be ongoing.
- Yearly Meeting staff have been evaluating program fees in order to discern fee structures that are sustainable.
- A new Sessions location was found, and an abbreviated Sessions schedule is being experimented with in hopes of reducing expenses and increasing accessibility and attendance.
- Changes in the structure of Yearly Meeting staff may provide efficiencies.

Even with these changes, the Finance committee has as yet been unable to prepare a budget that re-establishes support for our “external” organizations (AFSC, FCNL, FUM, FGC, etc.) or to fund sabbaticals and other paid leave called for by our personnel policies.

In summary, we need to continue paying attention both to our development program and to monitoring our expenses. This fiscal year (FY2026) we have one more year of pandemic-related reimbursements to help us recover from the income/expense patterns of the last few years. Early in the fiscal year we received our last payment (\$52K) from the Federal ERTC program. The Camp also received their remaining payment, and then graciously refunded back to the Yearly Meeting \$20K that was given to them during the pandemic to help them cope with the temporary camp shutdown. Between this gift and the last ERTC payment, this year will be the last year we can count on outside funds to help support our net operating income figure. Although actions already taken appear to be setting the stage for recovery, it will take ongoing attention and commitment to ensure that Yearly Meeting finances are back on a stable footing.

MARIAN DALTON

Budget Commentary

For the Finance Committee this has been a year of transitions. The new clerk has been attempting to learn, with lots of help, what a host of unfamiliar Yearly Meeting acronyms actually mean and how our Yearly Meeting systems work.

The committee also welcomed two new members. Martha Mangelsdorf brings great experience as both a longtime business editor and journalist and as the Finance clerk for New Bedford Monthly Meeting—and if that weren't enough, she tells me that she has recently been recruited by Friends Meeting at Cambridge to serve on their Finance Committee to get involved with fundraising communications. Travis Belcher returned to Finance, where he had been the clerk who helped to hire Frederick Martin as our Accounts Manager. Travis has had to adjust to all the changes in the way we do business, best exemplified by the fact that our meetings are no longer organized around Committee Days but are instead on computer screens. Tom Corindia continued on the committee, bringing his training as CPA and experience working as a finance officer in the healthcare industry. Also sitting in on our meetings were Chris Gant as our “shepherd” from the Nominating Committee and Elizabeth Hacala, who provided great help with scheduling our meetings and contributing insights into the changes coming from our new Sessions location. With our ex-officio members including the Yearly Meeting Treasurer Marian Dalton, Accounts Manager Frederick Martin, and Secretary Noah Merrill, we were able to discuss aspects of the draft budget we were considering from a variety of perspectives.

What all of us shared was a keen awareness of the need to keep our expenses aligned sustainably with our income after the disruptions of the covid era so that we can return our reserves to the Yearly Meeting policy of being at one fourth of our actual expenses. Frederick's line chart covering the time from 2023 to 2025 (Figure 1, **page 33**) illustrates well how the pandemic affected our income and expenses and in Figure 2 (**page 33**), the unsettling drop in our reserves, which was more complicated than just what was happening to our income and expenses.

After two budget sub-committee meetings in February and March, the 2027 Fiscal Year budget (10/1/26–9/30/27) was approved by the Finance Committee on April 9th, projecting a tiny surplus. Frederick's notes on this budget (**page 30**) describe the assumptions and uncertainties behind many of the lines.

For the 2027 budget proposal, we have tried to be realistic/conservative in estimating our projected income from individual and monthly meeting contributions by leaving them flat from this year's budget, though there have been encouraging responses from ongoing outreach to meetings and individuals. And now that our 2026 Sessions is set for Mt. Holyoke with good reason to hope we will

be able to continue using that site in coming years, our cost structure should be much more predictable, making it easier to decide how to set our fees and fee waivers for future Sessions.

A matter of great regret is that we continue to be unable to propose restarting our “Support of Other Organizations” for obvious budgetary reasons. If the hopeful developments mentioned above make resumption of this support feasible, there will still need to be a process to implement the recommendations the Contributions Criteria Working Group presented to Permanent Board in December of 2024. Another disappointment in this budget is that we make no contributions to our sabbatical and paid leave fund, even as our staff work to identify ways to reduce our expenses and faithfully serve us in so many ways. We eagerly look forward to when our Yearly Meeting’s finances return to a more healthy condition and we can resume making both types of these contributions.

DOUG KEITH, CLERK OF FINANCE

The budget appears on **page 26**.

Unity Agenda Materials

Yearly Meeting Nominating Report

The nominating slate appears on **page 35**.

Bank Resolutions

The following resolutions are brought by the Finance Committee:

1. That Marian L. Dalton be appointed New England Yearly Meeting of Friends (NEYM) Treasurer until a successor is appointed and qualified.
2. That Marian L. Dalton, NEYM Treasurer; and Noah Merrill, NEYM Secretary, be individually authorized to open and close bank accounts in the name of NEYM as needed.
3. That Noah Merrill, NEYM Secretary; Marian L. Dalton, NEYM Treasurer; and Phillip Veatch, NEYM Presiding Clerk, be designated as alternate signers, individually, of all bank accounts in the name of NEYM.
4. That Kate Thornburg Monahan be appointed Friends Camp Treasurer until a successor is appointed and qualified.
5. That Kate Thornburg Monahan, Friends Camp Treasurer, and Anna Hopkins Buller, Friends Camp Director, be individually authorized to open and close bank accounts in the name of NEYM for the benefit of Friends Camp as needed.
6. That Anna Hopkins Buller, Friends Camp Director; Kate Thornburg Monahan, Friends Camp Treasurer; and Karin Wagner, Friends Camp Committee clerk, be authorized, individually, as signers of accounts held in the name of NEYM for the benefit of Friends Camp.

Gifts Committee Purpose, Procedures and Composition

Background

NEYM Sessions Minute 2015-27 established the Legacy Gift Fund, administered for ten years by the Legacy Gift Committee. In 2024, NEYM Sessions Minute 2024-62 reconfigured the former Legacy Gift Funds into the Witness and Ministry Fund (W&M Fund), to be administered by the Gifts Committee.

The primary purpose of the Gifts Committee is to fulfill the purposes expressed in Minute 2024-62 by distributing the available income generated by the W&M Fund and other funds assigned to the committee.

Minute 2024-62:

"The purpose of the Legacy Gift Funds is to support the ministries of New England Yearly Meeting Friends, both within and beyond our region.

"Guided by our living testimonies, we seek to strengthen our Witness through the funding of public and released ministry ...

"We seek to nurture our beloved community through the support of education, outreach, released ministry and meetinghouse projects ..."

Available income from the Fund is determined by current NEYM Board of Managers investment policies and NEYM accounting practices. For requests over \$10,000, the Gifts Committee will encourage applicants to first seek other funding sources before the Committee and the Permanent Board consider withdrawal of funds from the principal of the Witness and Ministry Fund. Should special circumstances (such as a large request over \$10,000) make it advisable, the Committee may draw funds from the principal, following consultation with, and approval of, the Permanent Board. Should the Yearly Meeting deem it advisable to withdraw funds from principal for the good of the Yearly Meeting as a whole, that discernment shall be with the consultation and participation of members of the Gifts Committee, and shall be approved by the Yearly Meeting.

The Committee may also seek and encourage additional ways to release and support ministry in New England and beyond, for example, collaboration with the NEYM Ministry and Eldership group, engagement with local meetings/support committees of recipients, or engagement with individual recipients.

Additionally, the Yearly Meeting, in consultation with the Gifts Committee, may request that the Committee administer awards from other grant funds such as the Bodine-Rustin Fund and the Salem Quarter Fund.

Procedures

The Committee sets review and discernment processes and application deadlines in accordance with established, successful, and currently appropriate practices of the former Legacy Gift Committee, and in keeping with the charge of Minute 2024-62.

Detailed guidance on the Application Process appears on the NEYM website at <https://neym.org/legacy-gift/legacy-grants-apply-now>.

The Committee meets regularly throughout the year for the purpose of soliciting and reviewing applications to the Fund and to conduct other business pertinent to its mission. From time to time, the committee may invite guest reviewers to participate in the review process. The Witness and Ministry Fund is not limited to existing balances but can receive additional donations to support the work.

The Committee is required to report back to Sessions directly every year during a Meeting for Business and is encouraged to offer workshops to promote the work of the Committee, the relationship of money to our spiritual condition, and to highlight the ministry and witness of the recipients of these funds.

Witness and Ministry Fund recipients are expected to report annually to the Committee for the duration of their grant, and to consult with the Committee if there are significant changes to their budget or schedule after approval.

Lifespan

The former Legacy Gift Committee process and disbursement of Legacy Gift funds was reviewed, after ten years of implementation, by the Yearly Meeting in 2024. It is recommended that practices of the Gifts Committee, and the stated "vital purposes" of the Fund be reviewed by Sessions in 2034, or sooner if directed by Sessions.

Supports Available

NEYM supports that are available to Friends in service to the Yearly Meeting can be found at: <https://neym.org/support-yearly-meeting-office>. Additionally, the Committee may request guidance and support from the NEYM Treasurer; the Accounts Manager, who will assist in management and disbursement of the Fund; and the Program Director for coordination of programs and outreach. The Ministry and Eldership Resource Group can assist when meetings need help establishing care and oversight committees for recipients of W&M funds.

Composition

The Committee consists of up to nine individuals, including a clerk named by the NEYM Nominating Committee in consultation with the Committee, and approved by the Yearly Meeting. The Yearly Meeting Presiding Clerk, the Permanent Board Clerk, and the NEYM Office Manager serve as ex-officio members to facilitate coordination of activities and resources. Members serve for renewable, staggered 3-year terms. Friends may be appointed for a second term.

Gifts Committee members may include Friends who:

- bring gifts in spiritual discernment and supportive guidance to new applicants
- are gifted in, or called to support witness and ministry among us
- have experience in supporting released ministry (<https://neym.org/read-approved-chapters-faith-and-practice/ministry-and-counsel> section on “Public Ministry and the Released Friend”)
- bring experience in grant writing or awarding
- are previous recipients of the Legacy Gift funds
- 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 (or on Zoom when necessary) for reviews
- will respond to applicants in a fair, timely, and supportive manner
- are able to help the group make decisions about competing priorities
- bring skills in, and are comfortable with, the technology used by the Committee, such as Google Docs, Zoom, and other relevant programs to participate in and share the work of the Committee
- share a bold vision of the possibilities of what these funds could support.

Approved by Permanent Board February 28, 2026

Minute to Authorize Edits and Corrections

Friends authorize the presiding, recording, and reading clerks to make and approve edits, clarifications, and corrections to the minutes of NEYM Sessions 2026.

Time-Sensitive Statements

In September 2025, The Presiding Clerk and Yearly Meeting Secretary signed a statement denouncing all forms of political violence, and supporting freedom of speech and religious liberty. The document can be found here: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfqHfMJGRlsCp6rzYMGfKuyaKyeJbowlT-alZl3xbz3-yBBWA/viewform>

In consultation with the Yearly Meeting secretary, the Presiding Clerk signed a letter on behalf of the Yearly Meeting to the Canadian Prime Minister in support of protections for asylum seekers. The letter can be found here: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1o_bj6jZD6uVY5aWh-Y6Dk-mqbOLLvaQ9qP8b8br2TyfI/edit?tab=t.0

At the request of the called Permanent Board meeting on Gaza on October 18, 2025, the Presiding Clerk signed a joint Quaker organization letter which can be found here: <https://afsc.org/>

sites/default/files/2025-10/quakers-discern-genocide-is-occurring-in-gaza-and-urge-courageous-action-2025-07-25.pdf.pdf

Supporting actions by Mattapoissett Monthly Meeting and Sandwich Quarterly Meeting, the Presiding Clerk, after consulting with Permanent Board and the Yearly Meeting Secretary, wrote to all 12 United States Senators from New England, urging them to support legislation that would continue the Temporary Protected Status of Haitians. The letters looked like this:

Phillip Veatch, presiding clerk
New England Yearly Meeting of Friends
901 Pleasant Street
Worcester, MA 01602

May 22, 2026

The Honorable Edward Markey
255 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Markey,

I am writing to you on behalf of the New England Yearly Meeting of Friends (Quakers). We urge you to support House Res. 965 to maintain TPS status for Haitians living in the United States. Our members from all six New England states have a long-standing testimony of Equality and Peacemaking that calls us to support our recent neighbors who are living in peace.

We strongly oppose the removal of TPS status for Haitians currently living in the USA. Our State Department warns of the widespread dangers and instability still present in Haiti due to rampant gang violence throughout that nation. Our citizens still in Haiti who are outside the embassy are told to shelter in place if they cannot leave. Warnings like Level 4 Do Not Travel—State of Emergency, due to kidnapping, crime, murder, and robbery make it of vital importance for our nation to retain TPS status for Haitians living in the USA until their nation is safe again.

The lack of essential services such as fuel, clean water, medicine, and medical care in Haiti would also threaten the safety and lives of Haitians losing their TPS status if they returned to Haiti now. Returning would likely give these individuals a death sentence. Therefore, we strongly encourage our government to maintain the TPS status for Haitians living in the USA so their lives can be spared.

Yours in Peace,
Phillip Veatch, presiding clerk

Purpose, Procedures, and Composition Documents
Approved by Permanent Board

These are Purpose, Procedures, & Composition documents approved by the Permanent Board for resource and working groups. They do not require Sessions approval but are provided here for information.

Conflict Response Team

From NEYM Annual Sessions Minute 2023-42: Faithfulness demands that we lean in, rather than avoid the hardship of facing conflict. This is an opportunity for healing, learning, deepening, and transformation of relationships. But it demands structure, support, and tender care that is lacking within our body at this time. We need to transform conflict at every level of our body. In particular, we hear that there is a call for a clear structure or path that supports a healthy response to conflicts when they arise outside the structure of the monthly meeting.

Purpose

The Conflict Response Team (the Team) is intended to supplement the policies and practices that already exist within NEYM. The work of the team is to support a healthy response to conflict and help Friends restore meaningful relationships through processes that value all parties and that reach shared understanding and goals. Friends may turn to the Team when other means have not resolved a conflict.

The Yearly Meeting as a whole has a concern for recognizing systemic issues that lie below a particular concern so that we may shift patterns and practices that repeatedly lead to conflict. When the Team observes what it understands to be repeating patterns of harm, injustice, or oppression in the conflicts brought to their attention, it is the Team's role both to respond to the particular situations and to bring the patterns to the attention of the clerk of Permanent Board, for the Yearly Meeting to discern how to address these patterns more broadly.

Procedures

- In situations of unresolved conflict, any individual Friend, the clerk of a monthly meeting or quarterly meeting, or representative of the Yearly Meeting may ask the Conflict Response Team for advice, counsel, or direct engagement. The Yearly Meeting's Accompaniment Group may direct people to the Conflict Response Team and vice-versa.
- In determining whether the Conflict Response Team is the appropriate body to assist with the conflict, the Team will consider what other conflict transformation pathways have been considered or used, including advice in *Faith and Practice*, the document *Pathways and Practices for Responding to Conflict*, and the brief overview in *First Steps in Addressing Conflict*.
- When engaging in direct assistance, the Team will consult with all parties understood to be involved in the conflict to establish that they are willing to take part in a process to address the conflict, with the hope of repairing relationships.
- The Team will ask all parties for background information about the situation to be addressed and will prayerfully consider what steps might be taken to bring all to a table of deep listening and respect.
- The number and manner of meetings will be determined based on the wisdom of the Team with the mutual agreement of the parties involved.
- In all they do, the Team should encourage and foster an atmosphere of trust, respect, and truthfulness so Friends can hear the words of others in an open-hearted way. The Team should attempt to establish a shared commitment to searching self-examination concerning one's part in the conflict and acknowledgement of personal accountability.
- It may be helpful to distinguish between conflicts arising from disagreements over policy and conflicts arising from behavior, and to notice what power imbalances may be present.
- As appropriate, all participants will affirm that confidentiality will be maintained by all involved. In cases where the conflict has been public, there may be a need to inform the larger body that steps have been taken to address the conflict. In such cases, the Team will work with all parties to determine what will be publicly shared and how.
- If conditions for working together are not possible, the Team will inform the original requesting person or body of this conclusion. The Team will report to the clerk of Permanent Board that a request has been made and considered, and that way was not open to proceed.
- If the Team and the parties involved find that a conflict is not currently resolvable, the Team may make recommendations for ongoing pastoral care for the parties so that, if possible, all parties may remain connected to the Yearly Meeting or home meeting, consistent with advice on limits of pastoral care capabilities in the *Faith & Practice* chapter on Ministry & Counsel.
- The Team may recommend other actions, including referring the parties involved to outside services.

- In cases where a member of the Team is named as a party in a conflict, then that member will be asked to step aside from participation in considerations about that particular conflict.
- In general, two or three members of the Team will participate in the response to a particular conflict. The Team may invite other Friends to join in this work as needed, in support of particular situations or needs.

Supervision, Guidance and Support

The Conflict Response Team is under the care of the Permanent Board.

- The Team may seek insight or help from people within or outside of the Yearly Meeting with regard to particular conflicts. This may include the Permanent Board clerk, the Yearly Meeting Presiding Clerk, the clerk of the Accompaniment Group, the clerk of Ministry & Counsel, and/or the Yearly Meeting Secretary, except in the case where one or more of these individuals is a party in the conflict.
- The Presiding clerk, Yearly Meeting Secretary, and clerks of Permanent Board, Accompaniment, and Ministry & Counsel may seek insight from the Team.
- Funding for the Conflict Response Team's work may come from a variety of sources; Committee members' travel would come from a travel fund for committees.
- If members of the Team were to see a need for themselves to get training or for outside professional advice or assistance, and funds were not otherwise available, a request for funds could be made to the clerk of Permanent Board for consideration and possible approval.

Annual Self-Evaluation & Reporting

The Conflict Response Team will report annually to Permanent Board on the nature and progress of their work, including the number and general nature of instances the Team has been called upon. The primary purpose of the reporting is to share what the Team has learned and to make recommendations for ways the Yearly Meeting can corporately improve our skills in responding to conflict. The Team will work to balance both the importance of confidentiality and the benefits of transparency.

When the Team reports on their work to the Permanent Board, at least two team members should be available to provide a brief summary and to respond to questions.

When the Team observes common patterns in the conflicts it is called to address that it understands to be arising from the harm of systemic injustice or oppression, the Team will bring these patterns and their insights concerning them to the attention of the clerk of Permanent Board, for the Yearly Meeting to discern how to address these patterns more broadly.

Continuation of Process or Laying Down the Conflict Response Team

The charge and process will be evaluated after five years of implementation, or earlier if requested by the Team or by Permanent Board. Recommendations for any modifications to the Conflict Response Team's charge and a new timeline based on the evaluation will be presented at Sessions for approval.

When it considers continuation of the Conflict Response Team, Permanent Board will review the annual self-assessments of the Team. The Team will invite evaluation from parties who have engaged with them in conflict response to reflect on their experiences, and if led to do so, communicate these to the clerk of Permanent Board or to someone they trust to speak for them.

Composition

The Conflict Response Team will consist of 4 or 5 people who have gifts and skills in the work of conflict response, named by the Yearly Meeting Nominating Committee and approved by the Yearly Meeting. There are no ex-officio members; however, people in leadership roles may be nominated as individuals. Terms of appointment will be for 3 years, with staggered membership. Members may be reappointed. Nominating Committee will discern a clerk in consultation with the Team, to be approved by the Yearly Meeting.

Additional qualities to be looked for in the Team's membership are listed below. The work may involve sensitive discussion and will need to be held with care that allows for open and honest responses, skillful empathy, and respect for confidentiality.

Derived from qualities lifted up in worship sharing at Yearly Meeting Annual Sessions 2023 [Minute 2023-58]:

- Friends who have relevant training, experience, and skills in holding spaces for trauma-informed mediation, restorative justice, and transformation
- Friends who are comfortable with situations of conflict, who have come to understand and manage their own trauma enough to be able to see others' needs
- Friends who bring a degree of humility and selflessness, and who have the skill and grace to listen to, honor, and respect the pain, the words, and the experiences of others
- Friends with experience recognizing and setting healthy boundaries for all involved in situations that might be experienced as abusive
- Friends who can hold the dynamic of dual narrative—both of which may be true
- Friends who inhabit liminal spaces, and whose identities place them on the margins, such that they can see dynamics that those in the center cannot
- Friends who are able to be present in a way that provides a level of safety and comfort in a difficult time
- Friends who understand the dynamics of power and privilege and how they impact situations of conflict
- Friends who understand how interpersonal conflicts reveal and are shaped by our values (what we believe, our identity, systems, and cultural patterns) and who understand that the intersection of these values affects how we move through conflict
- Friends who are tuned in to somatic awareness—ways of wisdom that are not just intellectual but connected to the body's way of knowing
- Friends with recognized gifts of eldership and oversight
- Friends who are people of prayer

Closing Prayer

This work is intended to create a path for addressing conflict that all in our Yearly Meeting can access. In our community life, we recognize that we all carry, and at times uncomfortably express, the burdens of our humanness. May we live into a bold commitment to learn to love each other because we are the same and because we are different. May the Spirit draw us into a communion of love, hearing each other fully, and working to heal ourselves and each other—together under God's infinite and abiding care.

Approved by Permanent Board, February 28, 2026

Earthcare Ministry Resource Group

Purpose

The Earthcare Ministry Resource Group (EMRG) is charged with inviting New England Friends to consider their spiritual and physical dependence on the health of our planet, question human exceptionalism, and move us toward harmonious living with the fullness of creation. EMRG supports monthly and quarterly meetings as they consider the systemic interconnections between social and environmental justice and whether the human-caused disruption of our natural ecosystems aligns with Quaker values. EMRG works toward change by helping meetings share stories, wisdom, and resources with each other, facilitating mutually life-giving connections related to earthcare. Through education, outreach, and advocacy we support Friends as they may further

this spiritual understanding to protect the rights of all life to clean water, clean air, and a stable climate for current and future generations.

Throughout the year, at its monthly meetings and hosted events, EMRG explores the spiritual basis for the just stewardship of creation, embracing the interdependence of the human and non-human worlds. EMRG provides guidance and accompaniment to Friends and their meetings as it encourages resource sharing toward right relationship with creation.

Procedures

- As invited, offer resources to meetings as they explore and discern their role in earthcare witness
- Invite Friends, as stewards of the natural world, to consider their personal and corporate lifestyles
- Empower Friends to build the Beloved Community—based on economic, social, and ecological justice, resilience and sustainable living practices—through local and regional connections;
- Work with Sessions planners to arrange and host outdoor worship at Sessions
- Offer, in collaboration with event planners, a workshop at Sessions and, when possible, opportunities for earthcare reflection at NEYM-sponsored events throughout the year
- Check in annually with Permanent Board and Coordinating and Advisory to discern whether this work is still needed in this form and if adjustments or further support may be appropriate
- Report annually to Sessions

Additional Yearly Meeting Support May include:

- If appropriate, a page on neym.org with the text of this framing document;
- A neym.org contact email address if needed
- Meetings with NEYM communications staff as needed to integrate communications initiatives with wider NEYM communications strategy. If significant communications efforts with meetings, Friends broadly, or the wider public are a part of the charge, a communications plan developed in partnership with staff and approved by the Yearly Meeting Secretary
- Reimbursement for travel and caregiving costs during meetings and qualifying service. For more info, contact the Office at office@neym.org.

Composition

- The resource group is made up of a clerk and five to seven Friends who together bring a range of qualities, gifts, and experiences needed to complete this charge, including the capacity for deep listening and prayerful holding of conversations, and openness to the diverse perspectives and experiences present in local meetings. Members of the group should have a commitment to meeting Friends where they are and supporting them in their discernment. Within the group there should be Friends with skills in making presentations, communication, and resource sharing.
- Members nominated by the Nominating Committee in consultation with the clerk of the Permanent Board and relevant partners and approved by the Permanent Board. Members serve staggered three-year terms, which are renewable. A Nominating Committee shepherd checks in periodically with the clerk.

Approved by Permanent Board, December 13, 2025

Indigenous Relations Resource Group

Purpose

The Indigenous Relations Resource Group (IRRG) is charged with initiating and shepherding conversation and discernment among worship groups, monthly meetings, and quarterly meetings across the Yearly Meeting about restorative justice and actions—as well as exploring reparations—

with Indigenous communities. The group will invite local meetings to engage in learning and reflection with an aim towards acts of truth telling.

Procedures

The IRRG will provide resources and support to monthly and quarterly meetings as Friends endeavor to build relationships based on reciprocity, and consider meaningful restorative justice and possible financial reparations to Indigenous Peoples, both within New England and in regions where our spiritual forebears were directly involved in acts of forced assimilation and cultural erasure.

The work of the IRRG builds on long-term discernment and actions of the Yearly Meeting, including the distribution of the Apology to Native Peoples in 2021 and the Quaker Indian Boarding School Research Group, which completed its work in 2025.

The IRRG is under the care of Permanent Board, and will report to Sessions annually on its activities and learnings, and how this discernment and engagement is unfolding in local meetings. The IRRG will provide advice and support to the Presiding Clerk and Yearly Meeting Secretary on communications with Indigenous communities.

Ongoing for at least one year, with a review of progress and any needed adjustments or supports to be conducted after one year.

Grounding Documents

This resource group Purposes, Procedures, and Composition document, and a communications plan developed in partnership with staff, approved by the YM Secretary.

Supports Provided

- Nominating providing membership
- A Nominating Committee shepherd checking in periodically with the clerk
- If appropriate, a page on neym.org with the text of this framing document (Purposes, Procedures, and Composition)
- An neym.org contact email address if needed
- Meetings with NEYM communications staff as needed to integrate communications initiatives with wider NEYM communications strategy
- Reimbursement for travel and caregiving costs during meetings and qualifying service. For more info, contact the Office at office@neym.org.

Composition:

Five to seven Friends who together bring a range of qualities, gifts, and experiences needed to complete this charge, including the capacity for deep listening and prayerful holding of difficult and painful conversations, and openness to the diverse perspectives and experiences present in local meetings. Commitment to meeting Friends where they are, and supporting further discernment. Skills in making presentations, communication, and resource sharing. Friends who are actively engaged in building relationships with Indigenous communities and organizations, and familiarity with a variety of approaches to anti-racism, restorative justice and reparations.

Members serve for 3-year terms and may serve two consecutive terms.

Members nominated by the Nominating Committee, in consultation with the clerk of the Permanent Board and relevant partners, and approved by the Permanent Board.

Approved by Permanent Board, September 27, 2025

Israel-Palestine Resource Group

Purpose

The purpose of the Israel-Palestine Resource Group (IPRG) is to serve as a resource to monthly and quarterly meetings, to help them and the Yearly Meeting to live into the spirit of the 2017-46 minute, and of YM Minute 2019-36: Requests from Northwest Quarter Concerning Gaza and the West Bank, addressing the Israel/Palestine conflict. IPRG will provide expertise, guidance, and accompaniment, as called upon, or offer programs to meetings on its own initiative; it may also track and periodically report to Yearly Meeting on trends and areas of need. YM Minute 2017-46 specifically charges individuals and local and quarterly meetings to:

- Support and learn from the many organizations that bring Israelis and Palestinians together for justice and peacemaking
- Examine how antisemitism, Islamophobia, racism, and privilege affect our understanding of the conflict

The IPRG offers help for meetings in their efforts to take to heart Yearly Meeting minutes of action, and to be part of the movement to bring peace with justice in Israel-Palestine. The IPRG provides resources of insight, experience, and expertise to assist individuals or groups who are led to exercise their faith publicly, through travel, in solidarity or witness, to the people of Israel and Palestine. The IPRG may assist with networking and coordination with other organizations carrying a concern for the Israel-Palestine conflict.

Procedures

The IPRG assembles and shares links to resources on the Israel-Palestine conflict, recruits subject-matter expert speakers, and offers speaker programs for local and quarterly meetings which may be shared more widely via hybrid technology. Resource group members may visit local meetings to bring programs and facilitate meeting conversations. IPRG may sponsor book-reading discussion groups, workshops, breakout groups, and sponsored conversations at YM gatherings. When the IPRG plans significant communications initiatives with meetings, Friends broadly, or the wider public, a communications plan will be developed in partnership with staff and approved by the Yearly Meeting Secretary.

The IPRG brings periodic reports to Permanent Board and to YM Sessions, and is under the care of the Permanent Board.

Resource groups are reviewed by Coordinating & Advisory at least every three years, or when there is a perceived need to discern whether the work is still needed in this form, or if adjustments or further support may be appropriate.

As a resource group, IPRG lifespan is variable, with periodic, as-needed check-ins with a Nominating shepherd, and review by Coordinating and Advisory every three years (see Procedures).

Supports Provided

- The Nominating Committee provides candidates for membership
- A Nominating Committee shepherd periodically checks in with the clerk and/or the full committee
- The Permanent Board receives reports and is available to assist with discernment as needed
- The Yearly Meeting Office Manager assists with maintenance of a page on neym.org, with the text of this framing document
- An neym.org contact email address will be provided, if needed
- Meetings with NEYM communications and program staff, as needed, to integrate communications and programmatic initiatives with wider Yearly Meeting outreach protocols
- Reimbursement for travel and caregiving costs during meetings and qualifying service. For more information, contact the Office at office@neym.org.

Composition:

The IPRG consists of five to seven individuals, nominated by the Yearly Meeting Nominating Committee and approved by the Permanent Board. In consultation with the Resource Group, the clerk is named by the Nominating Committee and approved by the Permanent Board.

Members serve for staggered, 3-year terms. Friends may be appointed for a second term. The Nominating Committee appoints a shepherd to facilitate coordination and support for the resource group. For the purpose of coordinating activities, resources, and recommendations pertaining to Yearly Meeting as a whole, the Yearly Meeting Presiding Clerk and the Permanent Board clerk serve as ex-officio members of the IPRG.

IPRG members may include Friends who:

- Have traveled in Israel and/or Palestine, or have studied the Israeli-Palestinian conflict
- Carry a concern for conflict transformation and forging peaceful resolution to conflict
- Have gifts or training in non-violent communication
- Have the ability to listen with compassion and authenticity to conflicting perspectives, and who understand that multiple things can be true at once
- Are led to help discern and support the ministry and witness of others

Approved by Permanent Board, May 9, 2026

Retrospective Justice Working Group

Purpose

The near-term goal of the Retrospective Justice Working Group is to prepare the way, through historical documentation and development of an action plan, for Friends in New England Yearly Meeting to deeply engage with our complicity in past practices of chattel slavery, and past and current oppressive actions and behaviors towards people of color. The overarching goals are ultimately for NEYM to take meaningful steps towards healing the harm caused by the actions of NEYM Friends, and to provide a foundation to enable meaningful reflection among Friends across NEYM, in a way that positively impacts the choices we are making today.

The historical part to this work should consider the role (arc of involvement, actions) of New England Friends in chattel slavery and systemic racism. This includes the involvement of individual Friends, and also any involvement of NEYM institutionally.

Without presuming that we (the Yearly Meeting) know what is the best approach for retrospective justice, the group is charged with reaching out to affected communities to learn their understanding of what retrospective justice requires, and bringing possibilities for meaningful action back to monthly meetings across our region, with the recognition that effective accompaniment requires relationships.

Procedure

The working group is under the care of the Permanent Board.

Historical Work

The group will:

- review current and previous efforts towards reparations undertaken by New England Yearly Meeting and create a summary of these efforts
- Produce a historical summary of the role of New England Friends in chattel slavery and systemic racism, including individual Friends, monthly meetings, quarterly meetings, and the Yearly Meeting (as evidenced in our minutes, committee structures, and finances). The purpose of this summary is not an exhaustive piece of research but an overview with sufficient detail with the primary goal of making the information easily accessible to New England Friends of different ages and backgrounds.

Present Day Work

- Develop relationships that can provide understanding of desired retrospective justice actions from communities affected by the actions of individuals and organizations within the Yearly Meeting. Such outreach might include outreach and engagement with people of color within NEYM and other Quaker organizations, African American leaders of faith communities, leaders of social and racial justice organizations, and those who have engaged in truth and reconciliation efforts from other contexts.
- Consult with existing groups such as the Indigenous Relations Resource Group and the Black-Quaker Project who have experience in similar work.
- At 2027 Sessions, the group will bring a report of their work and suggestions for possible meaningful actions that the Yearly Meeting and local monthly and quarterly meetings can take to further relationship-building with affected communities and to advance retrospective justice. If the working group finds that they require more time, the report at 2027 Sessions will be an update of what they have done and a timetable for completion of their work.

Composition:

Five to seven Friends who together bring a range of qualities, gifts, and experiences needed to complete this charge, including the capacity for deep listening and prayerful holding of difficult and painful conversations, and openness to the diverse perspectives and experiences present in local meetings. Familiarity with a variety of approaches to anti-racism, retrospective justice and reparations. Those with gifts or skills in historical research. Commitment to meeting Friends where they are and supporting further discernment. Skills in making presentations, communication, and resource sharing. Friends who are actively engaged in building relationships with BIPOC communities and organizations.

Members will be nominated by the Permanent Board clerk in consultation with the Nominating Committee and approved by the Permanent Board.

Definition of Retrospective Justice

Retrospective justice is a term referring to attempts to administer justice decades or centuries after the commission of a severe injustice or series of injustices against persons, communities, nations, or ethnic groups—in this case, a series of continuous historical events, including the transatlantic slave trade, chattel slavery, and the legacy of continued oppression, exploitation, and humiliation through Jim Crow against people of African descent in the United States (from “A Proposed Plan for Retrospective Justice” by Harold D. Weaver in *Friends Journal*, January 3, 2021).

Plan for Laying Down of Working Group

It is hoped that the working group will be able to complete their work and present their findings to Sessions in 2027, with the recognition that they may request an additional year before presenting their final report. The group will be laid down after delivering their final report to Permanent Board and Sessions, with the expectation that ongoing work of engagement with monthly and quarterly meetings will be accomplished by the creation of a resource group to carry the work forward.

Foundational Minutes for this Working Group

1. Sessions minute 2025-49:

“We also asked Permanent Board (informed by wisdom from the Right Relationship Resource Group, members of the outgoing Quaker Indigenous Boarding School Research Group, the Coordinating & Advisory committee, the BlackQuaker Project, and any other relevant Friends) to discern a structure to support continuity in the reparative relationship-building and knowledge-sharing that has already begun. This should be the foundation for next steps we take toward retrospective justice.”

2. Following Sessions 2025, Permanent Board asked the Right Relationship Resource Group to take up this work for all BIPOC people. The Right Relationship Resource Group (now called the

Indigenous Relations Resource Group) prayerfully discerned that they needed to maintain their focus on Indigenous relations and asked Permanent Board to find another way for carrying out the Sessions minute 2025-49 charge for all others. Permanent Board, after consulting with the Right Relationship Resource Group, the Coordinating & Advisory committee, the BlackQuaker Project, and other relevant Friends, approved the creation of this Retrospective Justice Working Group at its meeting on Jun 24, 2026.

Approved by Permanent Board, June 24, 2026

Budget

New England Yearly Meeting									
FY2027 Operating (Non-Camp) Budget - Proposed - Summary									
Draft 5A - 4/8/2026 - approved by Finance Committee									
Category	Actuals		Budgets			Δ FY26 to FY27 Budgets	FY2027 Draft Budget		Sessions break-out
	FY2019	FY2025	FY2019	FY2025	FY2026		FY2027 draft budget total	Notes	
Income									
4010 Individual Contributions Total	210,194	212,545.06	212,000	228,000	239,000	-	239,000		27,000
4020 Monthly Meeting Contributions Total	333,257	353,484.47	373,000	345,000	362,250	1,000	363,250	3	10,000
4030 Organizations Contributions	1	250.00	0	0	500	-	500		
4050 Interest and Dividend Income	9,303	4,760.76	4,000	11,000	5,712	(962)	4,750	5	
4060 Admin Fee Income					10,873	(56)	10,817	4	
4070 Books & Other Sales Income	20,077	6,024.36	16,000	10,500	8,800	(2,000)	6,800	6	6,500.00
4080 Retreat Program Fees	44,618	28,796.65	50,000	37,500	41,350	(3,350)	38,000	7	
4085 Sessions Program Fees (net of contra-revenue below)	202,936	196,313.65	185,000	214,895	201,000	(18,229)	182,771	2	182,771
4090 Change in Fair Market Value	960	-7.00	0	0	0	-	0		
4099 Net Assets Released To/From	660	0.00	8,500	0	0	-	0		
Total Income	822,005	\$ 802,167.95	848,500	846,895	869,485	(23,597)	\$ 845,888		\$ 226,271
Expenses									
Total 5000 Staff	379,198	495,659.60	363,915	516,314	517,758	8,825	\$ 526,583	8	
Total 5100 General & Administration	89,142	\$ 100,358.34	133,511	87,449	93,650	2,750	\$ 96,400		\$ 15,500
Total 5300 Travel & Conferences	32,007	\$ 17,576.61	36,000	22,300	23,000	-	\$ 23,000	12	\$ 2,000
Total 6000 Programs	243,348	\$ 206,085.76	259,020	213,850	227,700	(33,860)	\$ 193,840		\$ 165,140
Total 6140 Books & Other Sales Expense	17,447	\$ 4,828.49	14,500	8,000	7,000	(1,000)	\$ 6,000	6	\$ 6,000
Total 6200-6590 Support of Other Organizations	43,471		45,975	0	0	-	\$ 0		
Total 6600 Publications	3,522		4,000			-			
Total Expenses	808,137	824,509	856,921	847,913	869,108	(23,285)	\$ 845,823		\$ 188,640
Net Operating Income	13,868	(22,341)	-8,421	-1,018	377	(312)	65		37,631
Other Income									
9940 Other Income - Transfers from other funds	32,072.22	60,009							
Total Other Income	32,072.22	60,009							
Other Expenses									
9950 Other Expense - Transfer to other funds		8,607						0 14	
Total Other Expenses		8,607						-	
Net Other Income	32,072.22	51,402						-	
Net Income	45,940.46	29,061					65		

New England Yearly Meeting FY2027 Operating (Non-Camp) Budget - Proposed - Detail Draft 5A, 4/8/2026									
Category	Actuals		Budgets				Δ FY26 to FY27 Budgets	FY2027 Draft Budget	
	FY2019	FY2024	FY2025	FY2019	FY2024	FY2025		FY2027 draft budget total	Sessions break-out
Income									Notes
4010 Individual Contributions									
General Fund Contributions	188,088	179,020.78	173,361.06	191,000	198,000	201,000		212,000	1
Pay-As-Led / Equalization Contributions	22,106	27,686.00	39,184.00	21,000	25,000	27,000		27,000	2
4010 Individual Contributions Total	210,194	206,706.78	212,545.06	212,000	223,000	228,000		239,000	27,000
4020 Monthly Meeting Contributions									
General Fund Contributions	317,286	333,973.47	339,935.47	350,000	333,000	336,000		353,250	
Equalization Contributions	15,971	10,695.00	13,549.00	23,000	9,000	9,000		10,000	10,000
4020 Monthly Meeting Contributions Total	333,257	344,668.47	353,484.47	373,000	342,000	345,000		363,250	10,000
4030 Organizations Contributions	1	1,450.00	250.00	0	0	0		500	
4050 Interest and Dividend Income	9,303	7,172.34	4,760.76	4,000	12,000	11,000		5,712	(962)
4060 Admin Fee Income								10,873	(56)
4070 Books & Other Sales Income	20,077	8,677.41	6,024.36	16,000	10,500	10,500		8,800	6,500.00
4077 Consulting Fee Contribution									
4080 Retreat Program Fees	44,618	30,422.00	28,796.65	50,000	37,500	37,500		41,350	
4085 Sessions Program Fees (net of contra-revenue below)	202,936	161,365.50	196,313.65	185,000	249,475	214,895		201,000	182,771
Volunteer etc fee waivers		30,132.00	28,160.00					0	
Pay-As-Led usage discount	960	72.07	-7.00	0	0	0		0	
4090 Change in Fair Market Value	660	0.00	0.00	8,500	5,000	0		0	
4099 Net Assets Released To/From									
Total Income	822,005	\$ 760,536.58	\$ 802,167.95	848,500	879,475	846,895	(34,414)	\$ 835,071	\$ 226,271
Expenses									
5000 Staff									
5010 Salaries & Wages	284,515	360,924.10	316,110.87	267,426	380,988	389,236		330,235	8
5037 Housing Allowance			60,000.20					60,000	
5020 Payroll Taxes	21,100	27,077.77	23,495.36	20,511	29,146	30,195		25,723	
5030 Benefits									
5033 Health Benefits	39,036	52,982.14	55,193.12	41,785	49,199	51,796		58,399	8
5035 Retirements	30,106	36,435.95	38,137.48	26,743	38,099	38,924		39,424	
5040 Disability	1,402	983.41	1,036.08	1,800	1,100	1,013		1,057	
5045 Workers' Compensation	812	682.00	647.00	700	760	600		620	
5050 Spiritual Retreats		727.00	150.00	1,200	1,200	1,200		1,200	
5060 Staff Development	2,228	1,257.03	789.49	3,750	3,250	3,250		1,000	
5070 Sabbatical & Paid Leave		100.00	100.00		100	100		100	
Total 5030 Benefits	73,584	93,167.53	96,053.17	75,978	93,708	96,883		119,206	8
Total 5000 Staff	379,198	481,169.40	495,659.60	363,915	503,842	516,314		526,583	
5100 General & Administration									
5110 Administration									
5120 Bank Expense	7,280	8,530.37	9,734.47	6,000	7,000	7,000		6,750	5,000

Category	Actuals			Budgets			Δ FY26 to FY27 Budgets	FY2027 Draft Budget	
	FY2019	FY2024	FY2025	FY2019	FY2024	FY2025		FY2027 draft budget total	Notes
5130 Contracted Services	18,702	28,655.71	20,225.00	60,396	18,000	18,000	(2,000)	20,500	9
5135 Accounting Services	4,000			4,000	0	0	-	0	
5140 Legal Services	7,771	2,500.00	2,500.00	7,750	2,500	2,500	1,000	2,500	10
5145 Infrastructure					0	0	1,000	1,000	
5150 Liability Insurance	4,071	6,835.49	7,852.49	4,000	5,250	5,250	1,000	8,000	
5160 Payroll Service	5,229	7,518.60	8,593.75	4,500	5,500	5,500	1,000	8,500	
5170 Recruiting Expense			1,25	500	0	0	-	0	
5180 Rent	9,350	9,350.00	9,350.00	9,350	9,350	9,350	-	9,350	11
5190 Misc. Expense	488	467.93	766.81	0	0	0	-	0	
Total 5110 Administration	56,880	\$ 63,858.10	\$ 59,147.52	96,496	47,600	47,600	5,000	\$ 59,600	\$ 11,500
5200 Office							-		
5220 Archives Office Expenses				0	0	0	-	0	
5220 Cleaning Services	264	300.00	300.00	265	299	299	-	300	
5230 Maint - Equip & Hardware	0	89.99	86.80	1,250	500	500	-	100	
5240 Postage	3,218	2,200.39	1,844.46	3,750	3,750	3,750	-	3,600	100
5250 Office Equipment	331	237.55	2,381.32	3,250	1,500	1,500	-	1,000	
5260 Office Supplies	1,376	1,539.57	1,588.90	2,500	1,600	1,600	-	2,000	500
5270 Printing & Copying	14,614	7,415.95	8,146.87	14,500	9,500	9,500	(250)	5,100	2,500
5280 Software & Updates	9,128	23,017.05	22,095.72	7,000	19,000	19,000	(2,000)	20,700	700
5290 Telephone	3,179	3,833.26	4,651.50	4,500	3,700	3,700	-	4,000	200
5295 Misc. Office	142	112.20	115.25	0	0	0	-	0	
Total 5200 Office	32,252	\$ 38,745.96	\$ 41,210.82	37,015	39,849	39,849	(2,250)	\$ 36,800	\$ 4,000
Total 5100 General & Administration	89,142	\$ 102,604.06	\$ 100,358.34	133,511	87,449	87,449	2,750	\$ 96,400	\$ 15,500
5300 Travel & Conferences							-		
5310 Travel - Committee	7,217	1,536.36		3,000	1,400	1,400	-	1,500	
5320 Travel - Clerk	3,552	4,990.75	3,554.10	5,000	2,500	2,500	-	3,000	
5330 Travel - Programs	1,460	3,853.02	798.49	4,600	3,100	4,100	-	3,800	
5335 Travel - Representatives Travel	4,746	8,299.70	2,059.63	5,000	2,000	2,000	-	2,400	
5350 Travel - Staff	15,032	12,455.81	11,164.39	18,000	12,900	11,900	-	11,900	2,000
5360 Travel - Ministries				400	400	400	-	400	
Total 5300 Travel & Conferences	32,007	\$ 31,135.64	\$ 17,576.61	36,000	22,300	22,300	-	\$ 23,000	\$ 2,000
6000 Programs							-		
6110 Sessions Room & Board							-		
6112 Retreats - Room & Board	173,649	127,106.70	139,021.78	170,000	169,442	135,570	(29,360)	142,140	2
6114 Room Rental							-	0	
6150 Food Expense	17,625	13,988.00	12,498.00	20,000	10,000	10,000	-	11,700	
Total 6112 Retreats - Room & Board	15,130	9,413.65	13,073.81	18,000	10,000	10,000	-	9,450	
6125 Program Expenses	32,754	\$ 23,401.65	\$ 25,571.81	38,000	20,000	20,000	-	21,150	\$ 0
6105 Honoraria - Speakers/Wkshp Ldrs							-		
6107 Honoraria - Volunteer Leadership	15,814	16,796.92	17,177.00	16,500	24,000	21,000	-	18,000	14,500
6115 Equipment Rental	5,412	11,250.00	9,750.00		15,000	15,000	(4,500)	0	13
6121 Supplies and Other Expenses	5,078	7,708.79	3,379.70	6,000	6,500	6,500	-	4,000	4,000
		8,068.30	4,554.16	9,300	9,000	5,000	-	5,400	3,000

Category	Actuals			Budgets				Δ FY26 to FY27 Budgets	FY2027 Draft Budget	
	FY2019	FY2024	FY2025	FY2019	FY2024	FY2025	FY2026		FY2027 draft budget total	Sessions break-out
6165 Pre-Sessions Expense	1,406	1,403.44	1,429.66	1,000	1,500	1,500	1,500	-	1,500	1,500
Total 6125 Program Expenses	27,710 \$	45,233.45 \$	36,290.52	32,800	56,000	49,000	33,400	(4,500) \$	28,900	\$ 23,000
6130 Committee Expenses - General	5,838	2,100.00	1,685.61	11,700	6,350	4,400	1,250	-	1,250	
6134 Childcare	788			2,000	2,000	2,000	400	-	400	
6137 Committee Day Expenses				500	0	0	0	-	0	
Total 6130 Committee Expenses - General	6,626	2,100.00	1,685.61	14,200	8,350	6,400	1,650	- \$	1,650	
6160 Program Support										
6163 Friends Camp	2,309	3,240.00	3,512.00	2,220	2,220	2,880	0	-	0	
6167 Religious Education & Outreach	300		4.04	1,800	0	0	0	-	0	
Total 6160 Program Support	2,609 \$	3,240.00 \$	3,516.04	4,020	2,220	2,880	0	- \$	0	
Total 6000 Programs	243,348 \$	201,081.80 \$	206,085.76	259,020	256,012	213,850	227,700	(33,860) \$	193,840	\$ 165,140
6140 Books & Other Sales Expense				0	0			-		
6142 Books	10,068	3,568.64	2,130.81	14,500	8,000	8,000	3,600	(500)	3,100	3,100
6145 Other Items for Sale	1,660		762.4	0	0	0	0	-	0	0
6147 Consignment Sales	5,730	3,175.11	1,935.28	0	0	0	3,400	(500)	2,900	2,900
Total 6140 Books & Other Sales Expense	17,447 \$	6,743.75 \$	4,828.49	14,500	8,000	8,000	7,000	(1,000) \$	6,000	\$ 6,000
6200 Support of Other Organizations										
Total 6200-6690 Support of Other Organizations	43,471	0		45,975	0	0	0	- \$	0	
6600 Publications										
6610 Yearly Meeting Minute Book								-		
6620 New England Friend (Sessions Issue)	3,522			1,000	0		0	-	0	
Total 6600 Publications	3,522	0		3,000	0		0	-	0	
Total Expenses	808,137	822,735	824,509	856,921	877,603	847,913	863,108	(23,285) \$	845,823	\$ 188,640
Net Operating Income	13,868	(62,198)	(22,341)	-8,421	1,872	-1,018	377	(11,129)	-10,752	37,631
Other Income										
9940 Other Income - Transfers from other funds	32,072.22	5,000	60,009							
Total Other Income	32,072.22	5,000	60,009							
Other Expenses										
9950 Other Expense - Transfer to other funds			8,607						0	14
Total Other Expenses			8,607						-	
Net Other Income	32,072.22	5,000	51,402						-	
Net Income	45,940.46	(57,198)	29,061						-10,752	

Notes for FY27 NEYM operating budget proposal – 4/8/2026

By Frederick Martin

The columns in the spreadsheet show FY2019 as a benchmark for comparison to levels before the pandemic, particularly contributions and Sessions income. Below these notes, three line graphs show longer-term trends over the past 20 years. In the first graph, note that one significant reason for recent operating deficits was low Sessions income/attendance while we maintained full Sessions capacity/expenses; as we went back to in-person Sessions at the end of the pandemic, expenses rebounded, but Sessions income did not rebound as fast. It has kept growing slowly, but only approached pre-pandemic levels in 2025. The second graph tracks our reserves since 2003, showing that they have recovered a little since the low in 2024. The third graph shows that staff expense adjusted for inflation has remained flat since 2017—in other words, staff expense has increased only to keep pace with inflation—and FTEs (full-time-equivalent staff positions) have slightly decreased for 2026 and are lower than they were in 2013.

1: 4010-100 Individual Contributions—General: Proposed flat budget between FY26 goal–FY27 goal. Historical perspective: actual growth rates FY22–FY24 averaged 9.4% per year. FY15–FY19 (during a campaign) was 13.7%; within that, FY16–19 averaged 17.6% per year; FY17–FY18 saw 42% growth in one year. Longer term: FY15–FY24 was 5.6%, and FY2008–FY2024 was 6.5%

2: Sessions-related: Pay-As-Led individual donations (4010-730): Ballpark figure, due to anticipated lower costs and our lower requested fees in new venue. \$12K reduction from FY25 actual, around the same as FY24 actual.

Sessions 2027 budget is now based on Mt Holyoke contract.

The last column breaks out "placeholder" Sessions numbers; the FY2027 Budget column still includes Sessions.

Sessions income goal now set at less than halfway between FY24 and FY25 actual income. Elizabeth's initial estimates support a higher potential income, but we are lowering our requested fees.

Pay-As-Led "utilization" requested by Budget Subcommittee 1/10/2025: the aggregate amount paid less than Traditional Fee (among those who paid less). FY27 is necessarily a rough estimate.

Fee waivers calculated at 64 Sessions roles (volunteers/staff/speakers) with waivers, at the Limited Income Fee each. Separate from Pay-As-Led usage, which does not include fee waiver roles in its calculation.

Sessions expenses:

Line 6110 Sessions Room & Board is where the whole site invoice goes (Castleton, UMass, Holyoke, etc).

Sessions cost estimate: From Elizabeth's "Sessions 2027 Cost Narrative"

Assumes: 490 attenders on campus and 119 online, same as 2025.

For FY26: \$135,371. Assume 5% increase to FY27: \$142,140—an increase of \$6,769

Other lines in 6125 Program Expenses, and other lines in the Sessions column, are round numbers based on 2025.

In 2014–2019, the Sessions budget (which does not include staff time) had an average actual surplus of \$31,700 each year; 2019 Sessions surplus was \$35,700

The model is that Sessions pays for part of the staff time needed to organize it, while unrestricted contributions cover the rest. While the proposed surplus is slightly larger than average, we believe that the change of venue combined with the higher fees realized last year can make this a realistic goal.

3. 4020 Meeting contributions for FY26 were set at a 5% (or \$17,250) increase over the \$345,000 budgeted for FY25. Actual FY25 was \$353,484, \$8,500 above goal, or \$347,250 (still above the goal) not counting one-time windfalls like a meeting laid down, lawsuit, or special Equalization contributions.

This FY27 budget keeps meeting contributions at the FY26 level. Based on information MMs have given us as of end of March, FY26 is expected to reach \$352,100, or \$10K short of the goal.

MM Equalization: FY25 = \$13,549, but of that, \$3,600 was a one-time contribution.

4. Admin. Fee Income: In original FY26 budget this line was in 4025 Unallocated Income. Continue an admin fee of 0.6% on our Pooled Funds investments. Admin fees are common for nonprofits; they support accounting & associated programs. Alta & DeBurlo's combined expense rate is about 0.79%; if we had drawn 0.6% for FY25 it would be \$10,873. Several staff spend many days of work each year on investment-related admin.

Total investment income actual FY25: \$66,540

Total Pooled Funds (NEYM) value 12/31/25: \$1,802,834; 0.6% of that: \$10,817

5. 4050 Interest Income based on FY2025 actual.

6. Bookstore at Sessions, roughly based on last year's results, includes about \$500 of profit.

7. 4080 Retreat Program Fee income: Increased relative to FY25 actual, based on plans in progress with program staff. Decreased relative to FY26 budget because of unrealistically high goal.

8. 5000 Staff salary/benefits: Note that staff expense adjusted for inflation has remained flat since 2017, and FTEs have decreased slightly since the 2016–2019 period.

Increase salaries by cost-of-living-adjustment (COLA) of 1.6%, January 2026 CPI average of Boston metro (1.4%) & New England (1.8%). Recent previous COLAs have been: FY26 3.0% (avg 12-mo 2025), FY25 2.0%, FY24 6.1%, FY23 6.3%, FY22 0.5%, FY21 2.22%. Change of position structure in FY27 lowers cost of salaries/wages considerably, but...

5033 Health Benefits (insurance) increases cost: We assumed (guessed) a rate of health insurance increase at 9%. Actual increase FY25-26 was 9.2%; FY24-25 was 10%! We have not received any forecast information from Friends Mutual Health Group.

5070 Sabbatical returned to zero.

9. 5130 Contracted Services: FY27 budget reduced relative to FY26 budget to just above FY25 actuals, primarily because Archivist used less in FY25 than FY24.

10. 5140 Legal Services: Increase by \$1,000 due to anticipated increased usage.

11. 5200 Office: Office cost-savings efforts ongoing, new Operations staff in FY27 will offer opportunity to re-evaluate tools. \$2,000 reduction in software probably achievable within 6 to 9 months.

5180 Rent (actually in 5100 Admin, not Office): consider renegotiating space use and rent cost with Worcester Meeting.

5270 Printing & Copying: reduced relative to FY25 actuals because c. \$4,000 of development mailings can be taken from Future Uses Fund.

5280 Software/apps—about 25 of them. Reduce by \$2000. Example annual costs of some more expensive components: Basecamp \$450/year, Zoom \$5,800, Airtable \$3,000, QuickBooks \$3,120, Slack \$880 for 12 seats, etc. Electronic billing and paperless recordkeeping could also reduce costs.

5290 Phone includes wifi/internet at Worcester office, and cell phones which also provide hotspots for operations and payment processing at events (Spectrum, \$2,600). The two Verizon hotspot lines have been cancelled, saving \$1,400 of the planned \$2,000 in 5280.

12. 5300 Travel: Assumes management of travel expenses. 2026 is a Triennial year for FUM, usually meaning higher Reps Travel usage (so FY2027 may be lower). YM can negotiate number of reps we fund.

13. 6107 Honoraria for Volunteer Leadership ended, following the minute on laying it down.

14. 9950 Other Expense: removed the \$1,000 for reserves proposed in a previous draft budget.

Restarting Support of Other Organizations now would bring discernment questions for which the Finance Committee may not be suited (or ready): which organizations to fund, and how much? It may be better to minute a request for that discernment to continue.

Figure 1

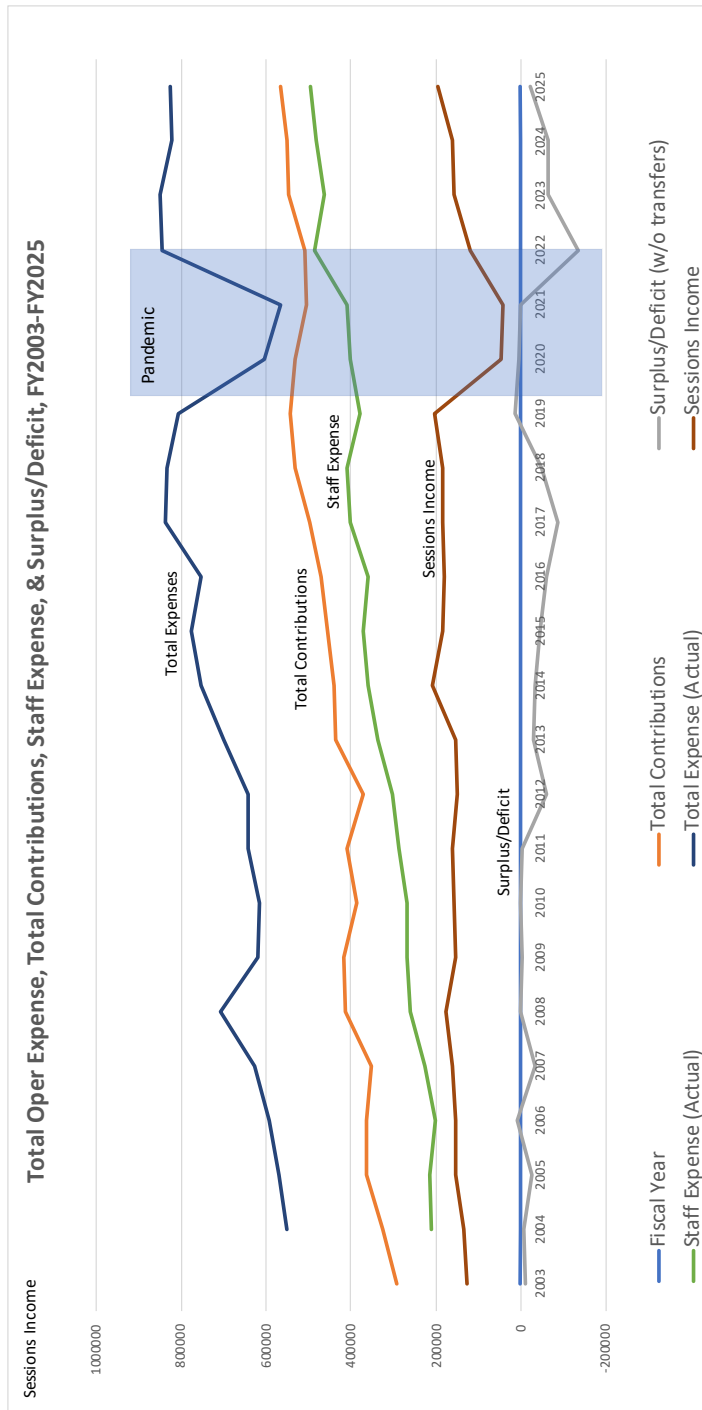


Figure 2

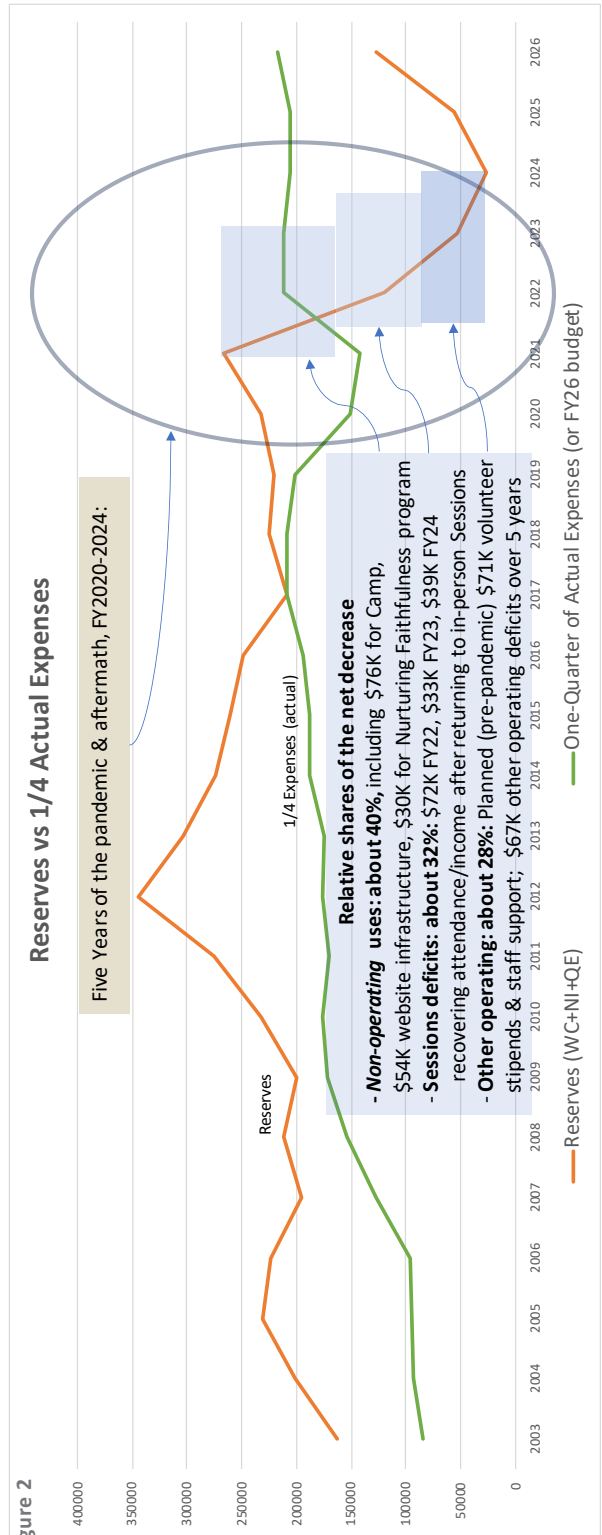
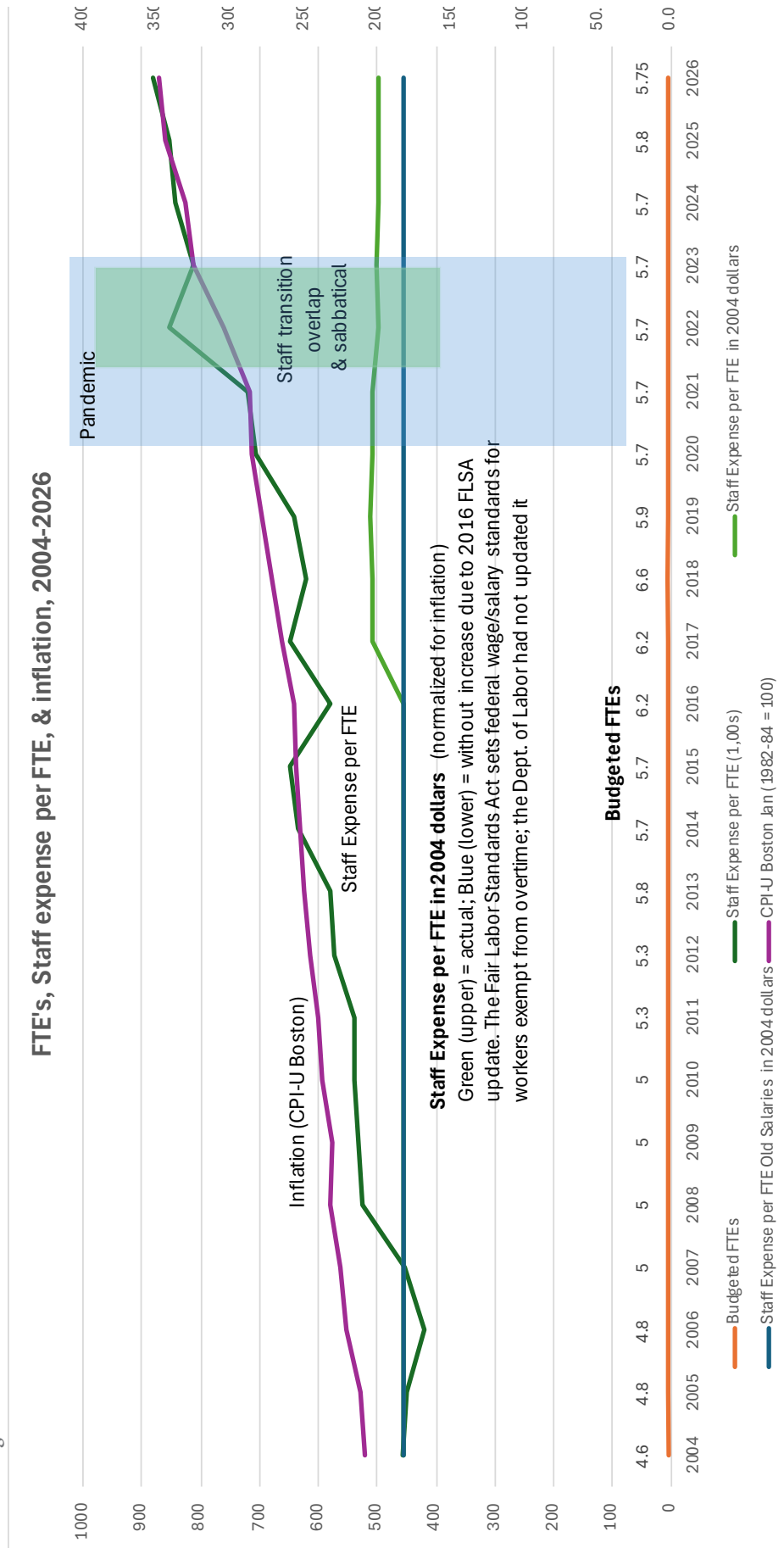


Figure 3



Nominating Slate

For full descriptions of the committees, see <https://neym.org/committees>.

These nominations are from the Yearly Meeting Nominating Committee. Please be in touch with the Yearly Meeting Nominating Committee clerk, Sadie Forsythe (nomclerk@neym.org or 215-360-1815) if you wish to discuss any nominations.

American Friends Service Committee Corp. (4)

2027

Eaton, Bob (Bruns)

Woodrow, Peter (Port)

2028

2029

Hal Weaver (Wells)

Archives & Historical Records (6)

2027

Cazden, Betsy (Prov)

Wojtowicz, John (Wport)

2028

Grannell, Andy (Port)

2029

Barker, Mark (Conc)

Kohlhoffer, Merrill (Nshor)

2030

Barnard, Charlie (Worc)

2031

Board of Managers of Investments & Permanent Funds (10)

Ex-officio: Yearly Meeting Secretary, Treasurer, Finance Committee clerk

2027

Eastman, David (Han)

Hackman, Matthew (Prov)

Ridgeway, John (Mt. Toby)

2028

2029

2030

Bennett, Doug (Durh)

2031

Malin, Kathy (Smith)**Mangelsdorf III, Paul (Wfal)**

Clerks' Table

2026

Pradhan, Jesse (Bhill), Reading

2027

Veatch, Phillip (Fpon), Presiding Clerk

Conley, Mark (Prov), Recording

2028

Bickel, Sarah (Bhil), Reading

Lightsom, Fran (Wfal), Recording

Conflict Response Team (4–5)

2027

2028

2029

Abigail Matchette (Bur)**Carole Rein (Nshor)**

Earthcare Ministry Resource Group (5–7)

2027

2028

Charpentier, Gail (Fpon)

Zwirner, Rod (Sand)

Cameron, Tom (Hart)

2029

Blanchard, Neil (Fram)

Lanan, Maureen (BHill)*

MacKenzie, Reb (QCity)

Faith & Practice (16)

Athearn, Marian (Wprt)	Hilles-Pilant, Carolyn (Bhil)
Bishop Merrill, Honor (Put)*	McCosker, Phebe (Han)
Edmondson, Maggie (Wnth)	Neumann, Bruce (Fpon)
Edwards, Eric (Wfal)	Parkes, Alana (Bhil)
Godway, Eleanor (Hart)	Reilly, Sue (Port)

Finance (10)*Ex-officio: Yearly Meeting Secretary, Accounts Manager, Yearly Meeting Treasurer*

2027	2028	2029
Corindia, Thomas (Han)	Belcher, Travis (Mon)	Mayer, Phil (Smith)
	Keith, Doug (Hart)*	
2030	2031	
Mangelsdorf, Martha (Nbed)	Forsythe, Carol (Putn)	

Friends Camp (7 to 15)

2027	2028	2029
Baker, Carol (Wrly)	Baker, Hannah (Wrly)	Marion, Katie
Bingham, Ben	Kelsey, Emily	Monahan, Kate, Camp treasurer
Jacobs, Allyson (NYYM)	Marstaller, Mimi (Durh)**	Rosenberg, Kathryn
Keller, Edie (Vass)		Wagner, Karin (Port)*
O'Connor, Bob (Vass)		Widzowski, Stephanie
Sawyer, Laura		

Friends Camp Nominating (5) (3 named by NEYM Nominating, 2 named by Friends Camp Committee)*Ex-officio: Friends Camp Director*

2027	2028	2029
Baker, Carol (Wrly)*	Reuthe, John (Vass)	
Natalie Bornstein, appointed by Friends Camp Committee		

Friends Committee on National Legislation (6)

2027	2028	2029
Fletcher, John (Wrly)	Grace, James (Port)	Drysdale, Scot (Han)
Smith, Sara (Conc)	Matt Southworth (Hart)	Telenar, Kaj (Wells)

Friends General Conference Central Committee Representatives (2)

2027	2028	2029
Dakota, Barbara (West)		
Farneth, Sally (Port)		

Friends Peace Teams Project (3)

Claggett-Borne, Minga (Camb)

McManamy, Em (Prov)

Friends United Meeting 2023 Triennial Representatives (8, appointed to serve until the 2026 Triennial)

Fogarty, Maggie (Dov)	Walker, Stefan (Nham)	Weinholtz, Diane (Hart)
Heath, Ruth (Conc)	Weaver, Hal (Wells)	Weinholtz, Donn (Hart)

FUM General Board Representatives (3, appointed to attend 2023 Triennial and serve until the 2026 Triennial)

Keefe-Perry, Kristina (Fpon)

Smith, Jennifer (Conc)

Friends World Committee for Consultation Representatives (5)*Ex-officio: Yearly Meeting Secretary*

2027

Hopkins, Mary (Fpon)

2028

Goldberger, Judy (Bhil)

2029

Thomas, Nia (Nham)

Gifts Committee (9)*Ex-officio: Presiding Clerk, Permanent Board clerk*

2027

Kohrman, Adam (Bhill)

Reixach, Karen (Keene)

Vogel-Borne, Jonathan (Camb)

2028

Burt, Andy (Mid)

Christopher, Megan (Wells)**

2029

Candib, Lucy (Worc)**Degen-Monroe, Stephanie (Nlon)****Indigenous Relations Resource Group (5 to 7)***Ex-officio: Presiding Clerk*

2027

2028

2029

Bugbee, Gordon (Bhill)**Campbell, Don (Mtob)****Claggett-Borne, Minga (Camb)****Grant, Andrew (Mtob)****Schell, Suzanna (Bhill/3Riv)****Smith, Sara (Conc)****Zwirner, Mary (Bhill)****Israel & Palestine Resource Group (5 to 7)***Ex-officio: Presiding Clerk, Permanent Board clerk*

2027

2028

Manning, Leslie (Durh)***Schiel, Skip (Camb)****Watt, Bob (Prov)**

2029

Doan, Petra (Brun)**Jenkins, Linda (Nsan)****McKnight, Steve (Wells)****Yager, Martha (Prov)****Meeting Accompaniment Group (5 to 7; 5-year terms)***Ex-officio: Yearly Meeting Secretary, Presiding Clerk, Ministry & Counsel Clerk***2028**

Baker-Smith, Gretchen (Wprt)

Gant, Sarah (Bhil)*

McArthur, Hugh (Han)

Wilson, Morgan (Fram)

Woodrow, Honor (Putn)

2029

Stamm, Liesa (Hart)

2030

Ministry & Counsel Clerk

2028

Hough, Janet (Cob)

Ministry & Eldership Group, Thriving in (5 to 7)*Ex-officio: Ministry & Counsel clerk, Meeting Accompaniment clerk, Yearly Meeting Secretary*

2030

Drayton, Brian (Wells)

Isbell Shinn, Jennie (Mtob)

Lyons, Jim (Mtob)

Monroe, Bill (Prov)

Nominating Committee, Yearly Meeting (15)*Ex-officio: Program Director*

2027

Hansen, Beth (Wrly)****Link, Mary (Mtob)**

Manning, Leslie (Durh)

2028

Drayton, Darcy (Weare)

Forsythe, Sadie (Putn)*

Meadows, Lucy (Han)

Wooten, Kathleen (Lawr)

2029

Gant, Christopher (Bhil)**Nurturing Friends Education, Committee for (12)** (6 nominated by Providence Mtg, NEYM; 6 nominated by Moses Brown)*Ex-officio: Presiding Clerk or Permanent Board clerk, Moses Brown Board clerk*

2027

Bourns, David (Prov)*

2028

German, Jamie (Prov)

Hopkins Buller, Anna (Well)

Monroe, Bill (Prov)

2029

Permanent Board (50)

2027

Brenner, Tom (Worc)

Davies, Susan (Vass)

Drayton, Darcy (Wells)

Hansen, Beth (Wrly)

Jordan, Carolyn Lamar (Wfal)

Klepack, Meg (Port)

2028

Forsythe, Martin (Bhill)

Mair, Edward (Ames)

Randall, Allison (Keene)

Taber, Willa (Fpon)

2029

Belcher, Travis (Mon)

Stamm, Liesa (Hart)*

2030

Kincaid-Brown, Connie (Han)

Lightsom, Fran (Wfal)**

McDonald, LouAnne (Hart)

Vaccaro, Palma (Hart)

Wilson, Morgan (Fram)

Wooten, Kathleen (Lawr)

2031

Bennett, Dulany (Han)

Personnel Advisory Group*Ex-officio: Yearly Meeting Secretary, Permanent Board clerk, Supervisor to the YM Secretary*

2027

Bennett, Dulany (Han)

Murray, Robert (Bhil)

Puente de Amigos (9)

2027

Stone, Carolyn (Well)

2028

Bolshaw, Kim (Durh)

Colbert, Hanna (Port)

Jorgensen, Chris (Camb)

Lindo, Richard (Fram)

Watt, Bob

2029

Quaker Earthcare Witness (1)

Blanchard, Neil (Fram)

Retrospective Justice Working Group (5–7)**Sessions Planning***Ex-officio: Operations Director, Yearly Meeting Presiding Clerk*

2027

Wilson, Kristin (Fram)*

Supervisor to the Yearly Meeting Secretary

2027

Jacqueline Stillwell (Monad)

Theme and Speakers Team, Sessions (5; two-year terms)*Ex-officio: Sessions Clerk**

2027

Drayton, Brian (Well)

Rein, Carole (Nshor)

Ulrich, Genna (Port)

2028

Youth Ministries (6)*Ex-officio: Children & Family Ministries Coord., Teen Ministries & Outreach Coord., Program Director*

2027

Becce, Melissa (Hart)*

Corindia, Nancy (Han)**Schwope, Martha (Wells)**

2028

Noyes-Dakota, Jana (Wrly)

Wooten, Maille (Lawr)

2029

Staff Reports

Secretary

The Yearly Meeting Secretary's report will be presented at Sessions, and a text will then be available.

Accounts Manager

My work this year has focused mostly on bookkeeping and reporting – the core of managing our finances. Last year I asked to scale back my job responsibilities slightly, to give me more time to care for my aging parents, and I was grateful that our organization could arrange for this flexibility.

Happily, working primarily on bookkeeping fit well with a major goal of the Finance Committee, as Treasurer Marian Dalton and I began working with a consulting accounting firm, requesting their feedback on our accounting practices, the formats of our reports, and other financial management practices. Meeting over several months, we confirmed the appropriateness of many of our procedures, revised some of them, and worked out several valuable revisions to the formats of our annual financial statements, particularly in the All Activities report and the Revolving Funds report, which now both clearly distinguish between board-designated and temporarily-restricted funds in the activity reports. Two other significant improvements are a more detailed presentation of Sessions activity, and a new column (“released to/from other funds”) showing money transferred into and out of our operating activity, from and to our various board-designated and donor-restricted funds, including Pay-As-Led and Equalization donations and other funds.

Each year in my staff report, I try to repeat the refrain that the foundation of my work is truth—truthful, accurate and clear reports on the financial life of our yearly meeting—in the service of love—loving action and service to our local meetings, our wider communities, and the world. This has been a year with a simple focus—hopefully the simplicity on the other side of complexity, as the saying goes—and as always, I am happy to have a small role in sustaining the flourishing of the Quaker movement in New England.

—FREDERICK MARTIN

ARCH Coordinator

For three years ARCH (Aging Resources Consultation and Help) has provided grounding experiences to support mutual accompaniment for aging. New England Quakers explore living with an awareness of death close by. We share stories and build relationships that carry us through diminishments, grief, and the ordi-

nary work of growing older—learning together that mortality is not something to face alone. Our process:

NEYM's Framework for Pastoral Care

- is informed by an understanding of “antifragility”: that humans thrive, not through being insulated from challenge or adversity, but through encountering and engaging it fruitfully
- affirms the value of ongoing exploration and learning
- holds what is shared in sacred trust

End of Life Reflection Group, monthly online: Participants share daily realities and spiritual deepenings, received with attentive listening. On alternate months we engage in open sharing focused on personal experiences of living with aging and disabilities or reflecting on death-related readings. The group decides what to read; members lead discussion on some sections. Some have become buddies out of this group's connections.

We are currently reading *A Tender Time: Quaker Voices on the End of Life*, published by Baltimore Yearly Meeting. Some monthly meetings have formed discussion groups to explore its wonderful queries and resources.

Growing Collaborations: The book's co-author, Patti Nesbitt of BYM, and I are currently collaborating to develop workshops to support local meetings to care for our members with aging brains and dementia. This new focus grew out of relationships started at FGC's 2024 Gathering. Friends Foundation on Aging, our funder, is building connections among organizations that share a focus on Quakers' aging issues. Philadelphia Yearly Meeting is rebuilding its website for Quaker aging resources to include input from many of us. I meet regularly with NY Yearly Meeting's ARCH team and members of both regions intermingle at Zoom events.

Workshops

- Advance Planning Series
Last winter I again presented a 3-part series online on planning for serious illness, death, and remembrance. This was well attended; some attended with their meeting supporters. Questions from participants helped hone my PowerPoint with a focus on Quaker values in decision-making for healthcare and death-care.
- Sessions
Please look for ARCH workshops and a lunchtime gathering at this year's Sessions—an annual opportunity to connect with others as we explore the spiritual challenges and deepenings of aging together.
- Monthly meetings and other gatherings
It is a joy to be welcomed into local Meetings. This spring Allen's Neck hosted members from three meetings to a day-long advance planning workshop. Attendees and I presented from our areas of expertise

interspersed with group sharing of fears, hopes, and support.

What is your Meeting doing to encourage advance planning for serious illness and deathcare? Do you offer clearness or support committees for caregivers, those needing care and those grieving?

I would be glad to visit your Meeting to support and strengthen your caring plans. Please reach me at 339-223-3300 or arch@neym.org.

—PATRICIA MULDOON

Children and Family Ministries Coordinator

The core of NEYM youth programs continues to be the weekend retreats for 2nd-6th graders in Junior Yearly Meeting (JYM) and 6th-8th graders in Junior High Yearly Meeting (JHYM). These retreats are an opportunity for young people to explore Quakerism, by focusing on a given theme, while building community with each other. The weekend activities create a variety of inlets for participants to access the Divine Light within.

We have been blessed with 9 new volunteers between the two programs, including 3 new cooks. Each weekend had 20 to 26 JYMers or 10 to 20 JHYMers in attendance. This year we welcomed a total of 17 new young people to the retreat program, most of which have already attended their 2nd or even 3rd retreat. The JHYM program in particular has seen a lot of growth, with additional 12 former JYMers trying their first JHYM retreat, and 5 JHYMers joining us for the first time. A total of 60 children attended at least one of these retreats this year. Watch your mailboxes this summer for a postcard with the 2026-27 retreat dates or visit <https://neym.org/attend-event/youth-ministries-retreats> to register on-line. You can also receive email updates about youth retreats and other programs by subscribing to the quarterly Children and Family Ministries Newsletter at <https://neym.org/newsletter-signup>. Please pass this information onto families at your meeting!

The NEYM mid-year gathering, Living Faith, was held at the Friends School of Portland this year. There were a total of 16 children in attendance who were 13 & under, 10 of whom participated in an experimental JHYM move-up retreat held the same weekend. There were increased opportunities for young people to integrate with the adults through workshops in singing, song-writing, and public witness. There was also a Faith & Play story and plenty of free play and snacks.

Friends working with young people in their meetings have continued to hold supportive sessions quarterly on Zoom under the acronym LYMSE, which stands for Local Youth Ministers Supporting Each Other. These sessions have spotlighted topics such as Coming of Age rituals, Godly/Faith & Play curriculum, and immigration resources. A total of 11 people have participated in these virtual sessions this year, and we

look forward to meeting in person for the first time during NEYM's annual gathering at Mt. Holyoke this summer. Registration for future sessions will be posted at <https://neym.org/support-youth-your-meeting> and reminders will also be included in the quarterly Children and Family Ministries Newsletter, which you can subscribe to at <https://neym.org/newsletter-signup>. You can also email kara@neym.org to be added to the LYMSE-specific email list.

I am eager to see what unfolds for the future of Sessions, with respect to the youth program in particular. Sessions is a unique opportunity for our young people to observe and participate in Quakerism on a large scale and nurture connections with their wider Quaker family. I'm looking forward to having all the youth programs in one building again for Sessions 2026 because it allows for more cohesion between volunteers and coordinators who make the program possible, and all the young people who make it worthwhile.

I am honored to be trusted with these precious and divine lights, blessed to have this path illuminated by such a wise and devoted volunteer staff, and grateful to God, the source of all things bright and beautiful.

—KARA PRICE

Friends Camp Director

I am writing this from a cluttered camp office on a hot Thursday in early June. This past Sunday, staff members started arriving from across the United States, the United Kingdom, Jamaica, and Spain. We are encountering our typical opening-season adjustments: the mini-vans are in worse shape than we thought they were, the kitchen team thought dinner was an hour earlier than everybody else did, and we can't find the specific wrenches we need to install the docks. Someone's flight was dramatically delayed and they slept in the airport, three people didn't pass the lifeguard test, and it might rain for our camping trip to Acadia National Park on Monday.

But there are delights, too. A staff member who was last here as a 13-year-old camper is all grown-up and ready to be a camp counselor. Dinner tastes better when shared with a new friend. This counselor can identify every single tree at camp. In my tenth summer as the Friends Camp Director, not much that has happened so far at staff orientation has shocked me.

But even though so much of this pattern repeats year-after-year, one thing has felt particularly different this spring and early summer. This year, I have felt growing engagement from Friends across New England, in a new way. Friends have supported our new Campership Endowment Fund, 100+ people volunteered for our Work Weekend, our Camp Committee is more engaged than ever. Again, this year we will join Vassalboro Monthly Meeting with our entire staff for this Sunday's worship. We have many camper families

who are newer attenders at Meetings throughout New England. Friends from Portland Meeting jumped at an opportunity to pick up and host late airport arrivals from Jamaica. Yearly Meeting Staff Nia and Xinef will join us at staff orientation to host a meaningful session for counselors. This is just the beginning of the list—we are more connected than ever.

In just a few weeks, the main event begins: 100 campers and 8 Rising Leaders (counselors-in-training) will arrive to build community together. As every year is, this will be an experiment in living peacefully and simply together, connected by the Spirit, laughter, and enduring friendships. Over the course of the summer, we will host about 450 campers and 70 staff members.

Being the Camp Director can feel like an enormous responsibility, especially while parenting and growing my own family. I care deeply for each of the 450+ campers who will attend camp this season, and I look forward to seeing the ways in which they grow and how they care for each other. The support of the Friends Camp Committee, Wellesley Friends Meeting, many long-time camp employees, and the Yearly Meeting Staff makes it possible to carry the weight of this responsibility; I could not do it alone. I am deeply grateful for the privilege of being your Camp Director; thank you.

—ANNA HOPKINS BULLER

Office Manager

My last annual report! Twelve years, already!

For the past year I have been documenting my various tasks—a challenging job in itself—hoping I haven't overlooked anything. I've taken on a number of tasks over the 12 years in this job, and the person who is stepping into this role won't be stepping into this role. Some of the tasks, such as database management, are being taken on by other lucky staffers.

Also over the past year, I have worked with Noah and members of the Personnel Advisory Group to update our personnel policy manual, which is still a work in progress as I write.

The unfinished work—well, it will either get finished by others, or wasn't essential.

I've learned a lot in this job and I'm grateful for my co-workers who have modeled patience, groundedness, and flexibility for me. I regret that I didn't consistently have a support committee to listen and advise.

Things I won't miss: creating name tags for Sessions, U-Haul trucks, the attic at Worcester, Zoom meetings, unfinished projects, driving Route 495, breakfast on the road, a home office filled with Yearly Meeting supplies.

Things I will miss: writing thank-you notes, telephone calls from Friends, helping other staff and committees, staff worship and check-ins at Worcester, and seeing my coworkers more or less regularly.

Nevertheless, I'm very much looking forward to being a "civilian" again and enjoying Annual Sessions as a time of refreshment rather than stress and frustration. Bible Half-hours! Worship-sharing! Conversations over meals! I also hope to visit distant meetings in New England, hard though it is to be away from my own small meeting.

I will close with something that's been on my heart of late. Not too long ago, a weighty Friend spoke with my meeting about the tradition of recording Friends in the ministry, and as he spoke, I became sensible of what a precious and rich tradition has been gifted to us, this belief in and nurturing of our direct experience of the Holy Spirit. I feel called to return to that depth of spiritual life.

How extraordinary, to seek God's will for us in our meetings for business, clearness committees, pastoral care conversations, worship, and everywhere in our daily lives. To simply use the language of our tradition is to stay on the surface. To truly believe that there is an Eternal Being that loves us, wants a relationship with us, and wills good for us, offers depth and meaning to my life. I want to learn to listen.

—SARA HUBNER

Operations Director

This year saw a significant change in my work with the Yearly Meeting. After several years as the Events Coordinator, I began working full-time as the Operations Director starting in October of 2025.

This new role contains all the responsibilities of my prior role with an additional focus on support for the Living Stream Travel Team, focusing on fundraising and handling some of the operational details of the Yearly Meeting.

Last year our wonderful Office Manager Sara Hubner announced she would retire at the end of the current fiscal year. As is the case with many highly skilled people, Sara's role grew over her many years of work to include a kaleidoscope of tasks that made putting a new person into her role daunting if not impossible.

After Sara announced her planned retirement, Noah approached me about the possibility of using my prior database and fundraising experience in broader service to the Yearly Meeting to pick up some of the responsibilities Sara currently carries. The result of that conversation was in this new role.

During this past year of transition, I have been helping the Living Stream Travel Team get up and running and hold visits with monthly meetings around New England. I have been learning our database and other tools in greater detail and worked to help pick up those tasks from Sara. I have become more versed in the finances of the Yearly Meeting and helped coordinate the fundraising work. I have also been involved in

a broader array of meetings with Yearly Meeting committees as appropriate for this role.

It has been a year of expansion and learning; however, this is the time of the year I settle back into my long-honed skills of coordinating Sessions logistics. It has been good to go back to some familiar systems, tools, and techniques during this time of planning. This second year of moving Sessions has allowed me to use many of the lessons learned from last year in our planning. I am exceedingly grateful to all the people who say yes to seasonal staff and volunteer roles for Sessions. The work could not be done without them. Many of them are listed in the front of your Advance Documents. They are part of how we, as a community, spring forth the well of care, service and Spirit and seek to make ourselves whole.

I look forward to being with many of you at Sessions this year.

—ELIZABETH HACALA

Program Director

What does it look like to cultivate the connections and capacities needed for the long-term health of the Quaker movement in New England? That question guides everything we do programmatically. Our local meetings are our spiritual villages—places of collective belonging, practice, and formation. Our Yearly Meeting serves as a village of villages: the gathering place for faith communities to learn from one another, support one another, and grow together across all their differences of size, context, and season of life.

As we've leaned more fully into this vision in recent years, the cohesion of our programmatic offerings has grown. As our program flow has matured, we've identified guiding principles that apply across event types:

- **Non-displacement:** Complement and enrich the life flowing from local and quarterly meetings rather than replacing or bypassing it.
- **Honor capacity limits:** Trust that doing some things well matters more than attempting everything.
- **Maintain a margin:** Leave room to respond to the unexpected movements of Spirit and to new possibilities along our growing edges.
- **Foster mutual accompaniment:** Develop programs where Friends share wisdom with one another rather than merely receiving one-size-fits-all instruction from outside experts.
- **Feed whole communities:** Design programs to offer something valuable for participants to bring back to their faith communities, rather than focusing solely on individual growth.
- **Build trust through communication:** Share about our programs consistently and clearly so that more Friends can find the opportunities that would nourish them.

This past year, alongside the programs for youth and focused on aging-related topics covered in reports from our youth ministries staff and Aging Resources

Coordinator, we offered a full cycle of events for adults and Friends of all ages. A few highlights:

This fall's **Meeting Care Day** was our largest yet, with 67 registrants from 29 meetings and worship groups participating in workshops on corporate discernment, welcoming newcomers, and emerging conversations in ministry and eldership.

Monthly Meeting Leader Calls remain one of our strongest offerings, sometimes drawing over 50 participants. Recent topics have included immigration witness, worship as a corporate practice, sharing leadership, the ministry of presence, reflections on clerking, and "show and tell" stories from meetings trying new approaches to outreach, religious education, witness, and engaging newcomers.

The **Young Adult Friends Midwinter Retreat**, exploring the theme "Nourished by Presence," drew over 40 participants—including 15 newcomers attending their first Yearly Meeting event.

In March, it was a joy to be with Friends from Cobscok (ME) Meeting as they joined 11 other Quaker meetings and churches from across the Americas in the **Quaker Connect** program, a congregational renewal initiative offered through Friends World Committee for Consultation with support from our Yearly Meeting. Stay tuned for details about applying to join the next cohort.

This spring, over 140 Friends gathered for **Living Faith** at the Friends School of Portland, exploring the theme "Spring forth the well: Lives shaped by witness." We continued our approach of designing the day as a "meeting for learning," where Friends of all ages worship and learn from one another. Thank you to Portland and Durham Meeting Friends for their support and hospitality!

In April, about 50 Friends from across our eight quarters gathered for a rich day-long **Visioning Day** exploring what thriving can and does look like for quarterly meetings.

This June, we held our fourth annual **Meeting for Listening: The Spiritual Life of Meetings**. For the first time we gathered at Hanover Meeting in New Hampshire (as well as on Zoom). Focused on how meetings have been "leaning into experimentation," it was a joy to bring a new cross-section of Friends into sharing and deep reflection. Almost half of the participants had never attended a Meeting for Listening before, and a handful had never been to a Yearly Meeting-sponsored event.

The continually new mix of Friends at our events—many of whom hear about these opportunities by word of mouth within their meeting—affirms the power of both personal invitation and rotating our gathering locations across the region. If you helped spread the word, carpooled with someone, came to something new, held Friends in prayer, or offered hospitality over the last year: **thank you**.

Beyond coordinating our own offerings, the Program Director role is also very much one of partnership and connection-making. If your meeting or quarter is developing programming and is seeking a thought partner or examples from similar efforts elsewhere, I would love to hear from you (Contact Nia@neym.org).

As this service year closes and a new one begins, I remain grateful for the connections made possible through our programs. Within our regional spiritual body, we have meetings and worship groups experiencing the full range of what our shared life can offer. This includes communities growing in numbers and communities with fewer members than before, each wrestling with its own challenges and possibilities. Across this full continuum, we have so much to offer each other. What does it look like to cultivate the capacities needed for the long-term health of the Quaker movement in New England? It looks like each of us, turning to God and turning to each other—again and again.

—NIADWYNWEN THOMAS

Teen and Outreach Ministries Coordinator

Dear Friends,

My name is Xinef Afriam and I serve as the Teen and Outreach Ministries Coordinator here with NEYM. It has been a great honor and privilege to have been able to step into this role and upon this Sessions, will have concluded this year's retreat season, the first with me in this role.

For context, I have, for the greater part of the last decade, been a steadfast participant in Young Friends youth retreats as a volunteer staffer—a resource person—or RP, as we call them. The dedication I have felt to this community over these years has had very little to do with me and my own ambitions and so much more to do with the community itself, which, through it all, has remained one of the most life-giving, rejuvenating, deepening, and joyous communities I've been blessed to be a part of.

Thus, when the need arose for someone to step into the role of coordinator, I went into discernment if I would be able to meet the need for this community I love so much. After this past year of retreats, my main priority was to witness the shape of the community as it has stood and to see where traditions still held life and where new energy was being called forth. The narrative that emerged was one where “just stay afloat” was becoming “we are ready to tread new waters”.

It is no secret that while the whole world has been irreparably impacted by our years of isolation during the pandemic, our youth community have been perhaps among the most affected, as important developmental milestones have been robbed from them. Here stands the first cycle of youth who have not known the

historied variations of our teen programs before the shut-down, and thus, they are our pioneers of this new world. I look to them to help me see the bright light through the shadow of what is possible here. They are the seeds from which what comes next will grow.

And so I look towards the horizon to see where, organically, we are headed. And I see a few initiatives (or “new nishes” as I call them) emerging. Among these new initiatives is a desire to truly see bridges built between our youth programming, bringing in communities such as Friends Camp, JHYM, and even recent grads into young adult aged Quakers into more alignment. Without losing the uniqueness of each group, I vision less siloing and an opportunity to share resources and to be intentional with the ways that we collectively support the nurturing of the youth of our collected body both in education, justice orienteering, and spiritual deepening. I'm hoping that this Bridge Building can create a new scaffolding of unity and togetherness that may help us all walk out from that time of darkness together.

The life is there. I witnessed at the teen retreat with Living Faith a sense of pre-established camaraderie that I believe can bring a continued flow of new life into these programs. I witnessed at my visit to Friends Camp that there was a rich readiness to build robust community rooted in lifting up and empowering their fellow youth. I witnessed at the Young Adult Friends Midwinter Retreat a bold and exciting energy to strengthen and grow their community, to meet more, to bring their energy towards local meetings and to gather at more events, perhaps re-establishing the “YAF-MOBs” of yore (when a group of young adults would coordinate a visit to a local meeting to join them for worship and then get lunch together as a group). The life is there.

Among this witness and other visions for the future, I am excited to simply be present with our communities of youth, to meet the need, and to bring about a spirit of change as we grow into what we might become. This can include opportunities to strengthen relationships with youth programming among local meetings, and extend our hand to Quaker-curious youth yet to be engaged with, for as I mentioned when I first began this process in this new role, I see the letters of YF (Young Friends) equally to mean “Your Future.” I sit in excitement to see that future unfolding in our present and look forward to sharing in this journey with you all.

If you have any excitement about participating in this programming either as a youth participant, a volunteer staff (resource person, cook, host, etc), workshop leader, or as an advocate for your local meeting, I excitedly encourage you to reach out for more information. You can reach me at xinef@neym.org

—XINEF AFRIAM

Committee and Board Reports

Permanent Board

The members of Permanent Board (PB) have been nominated, and serve on behalf of all NEYM Friends, to implement the decisions and priorities of the Yearly Meeting as directed by Sessions, when the Yearly Meeting is not in Session. Our work of collective spiritual discernment is dependent upon both our human efforts to fully engage in that work, as well as our individual and collective commitment to Spirit-led discernment and deep Listening. Permanent Board meetings are hybrid and open for Friends to attend as visitors, either in person, or by Zoom. We welcome your interest and participation. General information and background documents pertaining to Permanent Board, and a link to register to attend, are on the [Yearly Meeting Permanent Board web page](#), and minutes of previous PB meetings are on the [Decisions and Discernment web page](#).

Our regular meetings this year began, and ended, holding a concern for the humanitarian and political crisis in Cuba, with PB's endorsement of travel for Noah Bishop Merrill and Jackie Stillwell among Cuba Yearly Meeting Friends in September, and receipt of a heartfelt and spiritually compelling report of travel to Cuba from Benigno Sanchez-Eppler, and from Richard Lindo, clerk of Puente de Amigos in May. Our Yearly Meeting is blessed with faithful and inspiring Friends who travel in the ministry to bring spiritual nurture, fellowship and practical support to others, on behalf of all of us.

In October, as charged by Sessions 2025, PB sponsored a Called Meeting with a concern for Gaza, clerked by Phil Veatch, Yearly Meeting Presiding Clerk, and guided by the work and recommendations of the Israel-Palestine Resource Group. Approximately 80 Friends participated. Minutes of that meeting are on the Decisions and Discernment page, for the October 18, 2025, PB meeting.

The Quarterly Meetings have been an important focus for Permanent Board, facilitating interconnections among QM leadership via two PB-sponsored Evening Conversations; sponsoring a large, and successful, all-day sharing and encouragement at the QM Visioning Day in April; and hearing a thoughtful update from leadership of the Salem Quarterly Meeting (SQM) about the status of their ongoing hiatus of administrative activities. Although PB continues its role in overseeing administrative functions of SQM, it was uplifting to see that the greatest number in attendance of any quarter at the April QM Visioning Day was Friends from SQM! A core of SQM Friends, sponsored by their monthly meetings, are committed to re-imagining the future of SQM, assisted by a working group of PB

members. PB continues to offer support as SQM discerns its path forward.

At every meeting PB accepts the memorial minutes of Friends who have died throughout the Yearly Meeting. Hearing these names—and the *many* names this year—of these beloved Friends, is an occasion for sorrow at our loss, as well as an occasion of deep gratitude for the inspiring examples expressed in these moving memorial minutes. We are grateful, as well, for the faithfulness of the local meetings in carrying out the tender task of remembering and witnessing to the gifts of the Spirit expressed through these beloved Friends.

—SUSAN DAVIES, CLERK

Earthcare Ministries Resource Group

The group formerly known as the Earthcare Ministry Committee is now called the Earthcare Ministry Resource Group (EMRG, quite fitting to be called “emerge”).

As we meet online each month, we grow deeper in our knowledge of each other and have enriching discussions. We begin with worship, followed by check-ins about our lives since we last met. We learn from one another and bring new learnings to share with the group.

At Sessions last year we hosted the early morning outdoor worship, as we have done for the last several decades. This year we had a large attendance and were often told how important it was for people to begin their day in worship outdoors.

We also hosted a well-attended workshop titled, “Bringing Sustainability Home.” According to the description, “This workshop will encourage participants to discern, through interactive activities, our inward—spiritual, bodily, gut-level—responses to the state, national, and global issues that are concerning us. Together we will imagine the spiritual and concrete ways we can respond to these issues in our personal lives, neighborhoods, and communities.”

Throughout the time at Sessions, we gathered with others to share and listen about the concerns facing the future of this beautiful, sacred planet. We found that many were deeply concerned and were trying to find ways to make a difference.

During the winter we hosted an online book discussion, using the book *Alfie & Me, What Owls Know and What Humans Believe*. The discussion was lively, heartfelt, and spiritually enriching. The author, Carl Safina, agreed to visit with us via Zoom after we finished our six weeks of discussion. He was delightful, answered questions thoroughly and with much wisdom, and brought us up to date about the continued wild life of

the screech owl Alfie and her connection to Carl and his wife.

As members of EMRG, we continue our commitment to work as led on behalf of planetary health for all. We welcome Friends to discern what the Holy Spirit is calling you to contribute to our resource group and learn what we can offer you as we join together to make a difference as members of our individual communities and as the Religious Society of Friends.

—RUAH SWENNERFELT, CLERK

Indigenous Relations Resource Group

The Indigenous Relations Resource Group (formerly Right Relations Resource Group) revised our Policies and Procedures to clarify that our focus has been with Indigenous peoples beginning with the Apology in 2021–2023. We also considered whether it was time for Yearly Meeting to start an Indigenous Relations Committee as the previous Indian Affairs Committee was laid down in the early 2000s.

Since 2025 we have led workshops on Reparative Justice at Framingham, North Shore, and Fresh Pond Monthly Meetings, and at Sessions 2025. In April, 2026 members led a workshop for Dover Quarterly Meeting. In most settings, Friends express deep remorse for the harms of our spiritual ancestors, but feel overwhelmed with what to do. We acknowledge the complexity of past Friends who were following what they thought was God's leading but were also blinded by their own sense of cultural superiority.

We share what we have learned about how Friends are engaged in building relationships and undoing past harms through steps such as “Real Rent”—direct payment to neighboring tribes for the use of their land; donating a percentage of the sale of real estate to a neighboring tribe; supporting Land Back and Language Reclamation efforts, getting to know our Indigenous neighbors by attending local events such as Powwows, the National Day of Mourning, and Pokumtuck Homelands Festival; Wabanaki Reach, Friends Committee on Maine Public Policy and more.

Immediately following Sessions 2025, we collaborated with members of the Quaker Indigenous Boarding Schools Research Group to propose that Yearly Meeting become an affiliate member of the National Boarding School Healing Coalition (NABS). Although Friends felt clear to become Affiliate Members, we were unable to agree on a financial contribution towards healing past harms.

We continue to discern how to respond to the minutes from 2024 and 2025:

- Minute 2024-62 “If NEYM becomes clear to make financial reparations, a significant draw from the Witness & Ministry Fund and/or the undesignated funds could be used for this purpose.” (from Legacy Gift Committee 10-year review).

- Minute 2024-41”...“to open communications with the Indigenous Peoples of Ottawa and Pottawatomie Counties, Oklahoma (what had been the Quapaw and Sac and Fox Agencies), to explore opening communications towards offering a collective apology and asking what first steps might be acceptable in their view.”

In March, Gordon Bugbee, Mary Zwirner and Suzanna Schell traveled to Oklahoma for a third time, where they met with the Ioway, Modoc, Wyandotte, Eastern Shawnee, and Seneca-Cayuga and worshiped with Friends at Hominy Friends Church, a predominantly Osage congregation, and Council House Friends Church on Seneca land. **Please see the account of their trip for reflections on the experience.**

For more than 14 years, our Yearly Meeting has been discerning how to engage in repair and healing. We have repudiated the Doctrine of Discovery, made a formal Apology, and researched our role in the Quaker Indian Boarding Schools. But we have not yet been able to move from acknowledging past harms to engaging in substantive steps towards repair and healing, particularly when it involves money.

During their meeting with the Ioway Nation, the chairman accepted our apology for harms done by our spiritual ancestors. When asked, “How can we help?” Chairman Keyes responded that they need help restoring their language as the last heritage language speaker died in the 1930s.

That leaves us with the question, “Is there no substantial way for the Yearly Meeting to help?”

—SUZANNA SCHELL, CLERK

Ministry & Eldership Resource Group

The primary work of this group is to nurture the culture and practice of recognizing and upholding ministry among Friends in New England, and of acknowledging and sustaining Friends' tradition of supportive elders. According to Faith and Practice, care and accountability of ministers is rooted in the local monthly meeting, with additional responsibility and support held by the Ministry & Counsel of quarterly meetings. The role of the yearly meeting, and specifically of the Ministry and Eldership Resource Group, is to support monthly meetings and quarters in these vital responsibilities. [PB Minute 2024-102]

The Ministry & Eldership resource group was approved at Sessions 2024; the first members were appointed at Sessions 2025. We are available to nurture, inspire and offer support; to share wisdom that is not evenly shared and understood; to affirm there is a tradition and to help people find access to it through trust and relationship.

Our first year has been spent seeking to become aware of the conditions in the yearly meeting. In February, we wrote a letter of introduction to all monthly

and quarterly meetings, including queries. We have engaged with four meetings, and we look forward to more inquiries.

We offered workshops lifting up emerging conversations around ministry and eldership in the fall at Meeting Care Day, and the spring at the Living Faith Gathering and Quarterly Meeting Visioning Day. These were widely attended by Friends concerned with strengthening understanding and practices around ministry and eldership in their meetings, as by individuals feeling calls to ministry.

We are specifically asked to “report annually on the group’s sense of some of the growing edges of ministry and eldership within the yearly meeting.”

We see and have heard

- Curiosity and expanding understanding concerning ministry and eldership in our meetings. Interest in how to respond to someone experiencing a call to ministry, when this is something unfamiliar to the meeting.
- Without shared clarity, Friends from different meetings experience widely different support, with gifts sometimes going unnoticed and un-nurtured.
- Friends are struggling to hold conversations about gifts of ministry and eldership, when some in the meeting are eager while others resist.
- Concerns to nurture Spirit-led vocal ministry in meeting for worship.
- Interest in meetings for conversations about healthy eldership.
- Small but growing numbers of individuals with sustained calls to Gospel ministry (ministry that draws people deeper into the Divine life: transformational, encouraging, instructing, nudging, and sometimes admonishing) are receiving support from their meetings, while others are not.
- Meetings are recognizing and finding ways to support individuals with calls to public ministry outside of the meeting, including direct service, social witness, and outreach ministries.
- It is a true joy to exercise one’s gifts!

Friends in the past took seriously that spiritual gifts are poured out on the meeting community, not just the individual. Having a call to ministry was part of the normal metabolism of the meeting community. The Ministry & Eldership Resource Group is seeking to re-enliven a culture where Quaker ministry and eldership thrive.

—JANET HOUGH, MINISTRY & COUNSEL CLERK

Archives & Historical Records

The Archives Committee continued its work tending the archival records of NEYM and its constituent meetings, overseeing the work of UMass Special Collections staff, and serving as a liaison with local meetings.

We held a well-attended workshop at UMass during NEYM 2025, where a UMass archivist did an informative presentation about the archives and displayed sample items from the collection. Two members of the committee contributed to the clerks’ workshop at

Meeting Care Day in November. We put periodic items into the NEYM Newsletter. We regularly respond to inquiries from meetings on how to submit materials to the archives, how to retrieve information, and best practices for maintaining digital and/or hard copy files.

A major project this year was compiling an index to help researchers locate the records of a particular meeting. The list includes records at repositories other than UMass and meetings that have been laid down. Tamara Gaydos and Charlie Barnard had particular responsibility for this project, which is now live on the NEYM website and will be updated as needed. We have some concerns about the difficulty in locating and accessing our materials on the NEYM website.

We welcome invitations to speak to meetings or quarterly meetings about the Archives and respond to your questions on file retention, formatting of records, etc. We can be reached via archives@neym.org.

—BETSY CAZDEN, CLERK

NEYM Outreach Archivist

Records Transfers: Facilitated donation and transfer of records from North Fairfield, Weare, Providence, and Hartford Monthly Meetings and materials from individual donors.

Web page Updates: Collaborated with Charlie Barnard and Sara Hubner to update the web page identifying repositories that hold Yearly Meeting records. Helped arrange for SCUA’s periodic archiving of the Yearly Meeting website.

Professional Engagement: Participated in the 2025 workshop at UMass, engaging with Friends regarding archival questions and research interests.

Reference and Outreach: Responded to research inquiries from Monadnock and Beacon Hill Monthly Meetings and from several individuals.

Policy and Documentation Updates: Revised and updated the Records Retention Guidelines on the website.

—TAMARA GAYDOS

Curator of Collections UMass Libraries (SCUA)

SCUA received and accessioned records—both paper and digital—from several meetings; materials were added to the appropriate collections, and the findings aids were updated. Meetings include Providence, Weare, North Fairfield, Acadia, and Belfast Area Friends as well as the Yearly Meeting.

SCUA had a change in leadership beginning in fall 2025. Aaron Rubinstein stepped down as Head of SCUA. Danielle Kovacs and Caroline White are currently serving as Interim Co-Heads of the department. The search for a permanent head was just completed, and we’re excited to welcome Moira Fitzgerald, of the Beinecke Library at Yale, to SCUA on July 1.

In his new role as Digital Initiatives Archivist, Aaron Rubinstein just started the process of adding the digitized Yearly Meeting volumes to SCUA's digital repository, Credo. These materials have been available online for several years through the Internet Archive, but they can be challenging to find. Once in Credo, they will be significantly easier to access.

—DANIELLE KOVAKS

Board of Managers

We are pleased to present our Annual Report for the Board of Managers of Investments and Permanent Funds for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2026. This year the Board of Managers increased the number of tools used to facilitate corporate research. Several of the Managers are using Artificial Intelligence to assist in discovery, and we also initiated a relationship with the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility (ICCR) to access their vast data storage of corporate resolutions.

Fiscal Year 2026, ending third month 31, 2026, was fraught with volatility brought on by geopolitical events and the message broadcasting eccentricities of POTUS. The Russian-Ukraine war is now in its fifth year. The Israel-Hamas War is well into its third year. And POTUS continues to announce major political and economic changes over Truth Social while disparaging reputable news agencies. Throughout all the chaos, the New England Yearly Meeting Pooled Funds delivered on their objective of investing consonant with Friends' testimonies.

The Pooled Fund is a professionally managed investment fund which the Yearly Meeting supports and makes available to its member meetings and other Quaker or Quaker-like tax-exempt organizations. As of March 31, 2026, 39 meetings and Quaker-based organizations have total investments of \$13,208,933.69 in accounts ranging from under \$10,000 to over \$1,000,000.

In Fiscal Year 2026, annual income distributed to constituents from the Pooled Funds was \$0.01719486 per unit paid in monthly installments for an annual distribution of 3.84%. The unit value increased from \$5.3029 to \$5.3692 or 1.25% over the year. When combined with the distributions this resulted in a total return of 5.04% for the year.

Income distribution is based on a 3-year average unit value so the distribution for FY2027 (April 1, 2026, to March 31, 2027) will increase slightly to \$0.02152358 per unit. It will be paid at a rate of \$0.017936318 per unit each month.

Total expenses during the fiscal year amounted to \$112,720 or 0.82% of the average value of the fund for the year.

For the benefit of the constituents, the Board of Managers manages the portfolio to provide income for our constituents and competitive appreciation in the value of the investment. The Board achieves this by investing in companies whose businesses are aligned with Quaker values. The Board seeks companies that are making a positive contribution to the world's need

for goods and services and are providing work in a healthy, equal opportunity environment. Furthermore, the Board of Managers avoids investments that are inconsistent with Friends' testimonies, including companies that depend upon war materials, alcoholic beverages, tobacco or gambling, and companies that conduct unfair employment practices or pollute the environment. The policies and procedures are described in the Board of Manager Investment Guidelines & Procedures page which is [available online](#).

The Board of Managers reviews each company proposed by the deBurlo Group, our financial advisor, prior to purchase based on these principles. All holdings (including preferred stocks and bonds) held in the portfolio are re-screened when data indicates a movement away from core Quaker values to ensure continued suitability.

The Board remains committed to investing a portion (approximately 2 to 3%) of the Pooled Funds in locally controlled community development funds throughout the New England states. These investments support affordable housing, small businesses, community facilities, education, farms, and fisheries.

—ERIK PHILBROOK, CLERK

Coordinating and Advisory

The Coordinating and Advisory Committee (C&A) advises and coordinates the work of the various committees, quarterly meeting leadership, staff, and other initiatives within the Yearly Meeting. C&A takes on work as requested by Sessions or the Permanent Board (PB) and may bring concerns, recommendations or proposals to PB. It is important to note that significant policy changes suggested by C&A are sent on to Sessions or Permanent Board for final discernment.

The committee membership consists of the Presiding Clerk of the Yearly Meeting, clerk of the Permanent Board, clerk of Ministry and Counsel, clerk of the Finance Committee, clerk of the Nominating Committee, clerk of the Meeting Accompaniment Group, Yearly Meeting Treasurer, Yearly Meeting Secretary, the Yearly Meeting Secretary's supervisor, and the Yearly Meeting Program Director. C&A meets monthly via Zoom and gathers in person for working retreats three times a year.

Some of the shepherding work we engaged in this year:

Ministry and Counsel: Ongoing support for the flourishing of initiatives for care of the Yearly Meeting's spiritual health including the unfolding strengths of the Meeting Accompaniment Group and the formation of the Ministry and Eldership Group. We provide encouragement and a sounding board for planning events such as the Meeting for Listening Day and the Day of Discernment, which afford Friends the opportunity to share our understandings of, and aspirations for, our faith community.

Fiscal priorities and drafting of the Annual

Budget: This is a standing responsibility to support the Finance Committee and Yearly Meeting treasurer in their work and in gathering input on what Friends consider to be priorities with potential impact on the budget.

Development initiatives: Overall concerns for fiscal prudence and responsibility have necessitated creative thinking about the stewardship of the organization through sustainable, creative ways of fund raising.

Purposes and procedures: A standing responsibility of C&A is the periodic review of the purpose, procedures, and composition (PP&C) documents of each of the standing committees and resource groups of Yearly Meeting, as charged by Sessions minute 2019-46. Permanent Board is charged with the final discernment of a PP&C language.

Nominating: We recognize the vital role of this committee within the Yearly Meeting in helping us all live into our vision. We are keenly aware of how substantial volunteer service is essential for the health of our faith community. Friends who step in to help, connect and enrich us and strengthen our community.

Sessions planning for 2026 and beyond: Sessions visioning over the past two years has been an evolving and broadly consultative process supported by C&A. The process has given Friends in the Yearly Meeting the opportunity to engage with each other in deep discernment and imagining of new forms.

Witness committees: Support of current and emerging forms of witness (such as resource groups and mutual support opportunities) continues to be a part of C&A's work. We have had a number of conversations about how witness is (and sometimes is not) supported around the Yearly Meeting. How can our approach to witness better integrate with and build upon the discernment of local and quarterly meetings?

Quarterly meetings: Nurturing the life of quarterly meetings through planned gatherings of clerks to share news, resources, and concerns has been a key initiative of the Permanent Board this year, which C&A has supported through consultation and advice. We strive to hold a perspective which is Spiritually grounded and holistic, remaining keenly aware of the need for all Friends of New England Yearly Meeting to discern how each of us might support our Quaker community and nurture the presence of God's infinite love.

—PHILLIP VEATCH, CLERK

Faith & Practice Revision

Faith and Practice Revision Committee began the year with our two new members from 2024 well settled in and familiar with the flow of the work. We are grateful for the fresh vision that they bring to the committee. F&P is planned as a committee of 16 Friends from across New England bringing together different

experience of the Quaker Faith. For the last 10 years the number of committee members has hovered at about 10, often dipping down to just 9 members. It has been difficult recently to work on more than two chapters at a time.

Last fall, F&P sent the draft chapter Testimony to the monthly meetings for input. By the end of February, twenty monthly meetings and four individual Friends had sent in their responses to the chapter. Some responses were just a page, others were extensive, including suggested rewording. Many meetings sent in extracts which they wished to see included. Meetings were in close agreement on where the chapter needed work. Many meetings reported that their discussion of the chapter gave space for meeting members to explore together the basis of their faith in a rewarding way.

F&P reviewed the responses and used them as a guide for re-writing sections of the chapter. This year we are bringing the Testimony chapter back to the Yearly Meeting asking for preliminary approval. There will be time together at sessions for feedback from Friends and a chance for the committee to make final changes before the chapter comes to the body for preliminary approval.

There are three chapters left to complete the book. Faith & Practice has a draft chapter on The Meeting as a Spiritual Community which it plans to send out to the monthly meetings in the fall. The committee will then continue work on the rough draft of a chapter on the personal spiritual journey. Permanent Board has been working on by-laws for the Yearly Meeting and the current chapter on the structure/organization of the Yearly Meeting will be re-written in conjunction with those by-laws.

The work remains challenging and rewarding. In the committee, we work hard to write chapters that speak to the variety of belief within the committee. And then, with the Yearly Meeting's input, we work to re-write sections to more closely meet the concerns expressed by the monthly meetings. We feel blessed to be supported by this work of the monthly meetings.

PHEBE MCCOSKER, CLERK; MARION ATHEARN, CAROLYN HILLES-PILANT, MAGGIE EDMONDSON, BRUCE NEUMANN, ERIC EDWARDS, ALANA PARKES, ELEANOR GODWAY, SUSAN REILLY

Gifts

The Committee continues to transition from its original focus to a broader scope. Our Purpose, Procedures and Composition was revised and approved by Permanent Board. The name of the committee is now Gifts Committee, emphasizing our role in nurturing the gifts of applicants. Permanent Board also approved a memorandum of understanding to continue our administration of Salem Quarter Fund. The Committee continues to shepherd the Witness & Ministry Fund,

the Bodine-Rustin Fund, the Salem Quarter Fund, and the Peacemaker Fund.

In the fall of 2025 and spring of 2026 the Witness and Ministry Fund provided the following grants:

- a time sensitive grant to Peter Blood for travel in Britain Yearly Meeting
- Belfast Meeting Friends, to offer cooked meals and supervision for the new Family Harbor House (offering transitional housing for homeless families)
- Wade Boswell, Putney Monthly Meeting, to release his ministry to nurture and support trans spiritual leadership and community
- Puente de Amigos Committee, to assist Cuban Friends to repair or replace their decrepit 2004 van and 1994 car used to transport Friends among the 12 rural churches in eastern Cuba and Havana
- Jacqueline Stillwell, Monadnock Quaker Meeting, to release Jackie to partner with Mayan Guatemalan students who are learning English so they can further their professional education and improve their communities
- Worcester Friends Meeting, to support a talk by Cristina Rathbone, author of *The Asylum Seekers*, about her experiences with the immigration system at the U.S./Mexico border
- A time-sensitive grant to Suzanna Schell, Beacon Hill Meeting, to travel as an elder with Gordon Bugbee and Mary Zwirner, to visit among the 13 Indigenous Tribes and Nations most directly affected by NEYM's involvement in the Indigenous Boarding Schools of the late 19th century
- Mt. Toby Meeting, to assist in replacing the roof on the Meetinghouse with a new metal one
- Disability Theology Project, to release Greg Woods to convene listening sessions and conversations with Friends exploring the intersection of disability and Quaker faith and practice and begin to develop resources to help meetings engage disability justice.
- Friends Forum, to release Erica H. Adams to produce a Zoom speaker series with up to four, hour-long programs a year on topical issues that inform, inspire activism, and connect communities of Quakers and the public in dialogue. Beacon Hill Friends House will provide tech support
- Family Violence: Sarah Allen, Friends Meeting at Cambridge, to connect with Friends in ministry related to Quaker family violence, healing from trauma, and conflict transformation.

Two grantees have funds remaining from previous funding cycles and will use them to continue their ministries.

Over the summer the Committee will address funding through the Bodine-Rustin fund.

We will also publicize the Peacemaker Fund to release individuals led to witness to our peace testimony.

Permanent Board has asked Indigenous Relations Resource Group to offer a proposal for reparations to tribes and nations affected by past and present harms. A Retrospective Justice Working Group is being proposed to deeply engage with our complicity in past practices of chattel slavery, and past and current oppression of African Americans. Gifts Committee will be available to help develop proposals on how the resources of the Committee can foster the work of both these groups.

The next full funding cycle deadline is October 18, 2026, for applications up to \$10,000. Time-Sensitive applications for up to \$1,000 are available on a rolling basis. See our NEYM web page for details and forms.

—KAREN REIXACH, CLERK

Meeting Accompaniment Group

Meeting Accompaniment Group is one of the several interconnected groups that serve key functions in the nurture of the spiritual life of New England Friends. Members of Accompaniment Group, approved at Sessions 2022, are called to be consistently focused on “walking with” monthly and quarterly meetings as they find their way in addressing challenges. We, together, have grown in this work.

At the request of a meeting clerk or M&C clerk, Accompaniment Group visits with meetings to listen. Depending on needs, Accompaniment Group provides prayerful and practical support through shared resources. While offering spiritual guidance and consultation on sometimes complex congregational challenges and pastoral needs, the emphasis of our engagements is to support the meeting as it finds its own gifts and capacities on its path. This way of accompaniment upholds the inherent strengths and gifts of the local meeting and respects the context of that meeting's history.

Over this most recent year, arising from the active to-dos of our engagements, we have been invited to more actively consider the variety of shapes and ways of our worshipping bodies—worship groups, monthly meetings and quarterly meetings—seeing them more clearly as structurally distinct, living and vibrant, and mutually supportive linkages that sustain Quakerism.

We also have seen a commonality often underlying a meeting's invitation for our engagement. While the details vary greatly, at the heart of the issues that we are invited to address is often the challenge of discernment. Continuing the work of the April 2025 Living Faith: Discernment Day, Accompaniment Group has reflected on how our worshipping bodies create space for deep listening for Truth, the transcendent that rises beyond opinion, or well-reasoned and well-articulated argument.

How might the ways we engage with one another invite the possibility of Truth cracking us open beyond our reasonable perceptions and logical reasoning? How might Friends come, over the years of the regular activities of our worshipping bodies—the pot lucks and work days, singing and book discussions, providing rides and meals as needed—to trust each other enough to believe that any one of us might be the vehicle of Truth arising from worship?

When members of Accompaniment visit meetings and worship groups, we experience Spirit present among those gathered, that Friends are, indeed, truly seeking to hear how Spirit is leading. We marvel at how the simple presence of an outside listener and witness might support the ongoing work of Quaker bodies by asking: How are Friends paying attention? How are meetings tending to the gifts of deep listening, openness and trust?

—SARAH GANT, CLERK

Nominating

When I think of leadings, I think not so much of what I have done outwardly, but on the inward process of discernment by which I try to be faithful to my Inner Teacher. The reason I want to be more faithful is because nothing else gives me such a deep sense of joy in being alive, of having integrity in the deepest sense. Integrity for me means my outward actions line up (like a plumb line) to God who is present in my deepest Center. — Jan Hoffman in Friendly Woman, Fall 1992

Nominating Committee has had a busy year, engaging in Spirit-led discernment of what gifts are needed in this particular time, and who among us may feel called to serve. We seek to nurture and encourage spiritual gifts among Friends, and accompany individuals in discernment of leadings. We began our year with an in-person retreat at Monadnock Quaker Meeting, providing a valuable opportunity for us to deepen our connections to each other, and our work.

With help from the Coordinating and Advisory committee and Permanent Board, we have been working to clarify committee structures and nominating practices. We have been seeking a large number of committee clerks, and are finding it increasingly challenging to find Friends who feel clear to serve in this role. We are curious about this trend and are exploring how committee clerking could become manageable for more Friends across different life stages. Nominating Committee is actively engaged in discerning a nominee for NEYM's next presiding clerk to begin in 2027, as well as discerning nominees for the newly approved Conflict Response Team, among other roles. We also began a nominating corner in the NEYM newsletter this year, hoping to highlight the ministry of one committee at a time.

Our outreach to Friends has brought powerful Opportunities (in the old Quaker sense of that word—Opportunities for what may arise spontaneously when gathered deeply together). We have heard the many ways Friends are actively engaged in ministry in their local meetings and communities. Friends are tending to spiritual deepening, welcoming new seekers, as well as responding faithfully to the many intersecting and interrelated social crises of our time. It is enlivening for us to hear of these leadings and investments in local communities—even when it means Friends are not available to join a Yearly Meeting committee!

We want to express our deep gratitude for the contributions of Tim Lamm and Martha Schwope, who are completing their terms on nominating, as well as to Sara Hubner for the myriad and essential ways she has supported the work of this committee over the years. With these departures, we are seeking Friends who may be called to join our committee. Please talk with us if you have questions about this or other opportunities, or know a Friend we should connect with.

With appreciation and care,
SADIE FORSYTHE, CLERK

Nurturing Friends Education at Moses Brown School

Moses Brown School's efforts to engage with the world as a Friends school—prioritizing reflection, discovery, discernment, and action—are enriched and supported through its active engagement with Friends. The Committee for Nurturing Friends Education (NFE) is tasked with maintaining connection between NEYM and Moses Brown School's Board of Trustees. As we discerned last year, our committee is seeking to broaden and deepen our relationships with New England Yearly Meeting and its members so that our network continues to extend beyond the immediate Providence area. We look forward to being at Sessions this summer to connect with Friends, and plan to offer a lunchtime Q&A session for families, alumni, educators, and all who are interested in learning more about the school.

Next year, the Board of Trustees will modify its meeting schedule in order to make attendance at meetings more accessible to non-local Trustees. The proposed changes would shift Board meetings to longer weekend retreats rather than weekday evenings, and meetings would occur four times annually, rather than five to six times. With these changes, Moses Brown will actively seek the contributions of more Friends outside the immediate Providence area to participate in governance work.

Implementation of these changes will require amendment of the school's bylaws, with partnered approval of NEYM's Permanent Board. This is also an opportunity to consider simplifying current guidelines for nominating Friends to Moses Brown governance

positions. NFE welcomes the participation of NEYM and Friends in this process.

Any Friends who are curious about opportunities for involvement with Moses Brown School, including visiting classes, sharing experiences with students, participating in programming, helping create service opportunities, or serving on governance (Board and Board committees), are encouraged to reach out to Jen McFadden, Director of Friends Education, at jmcfadden@mosesbrown.org.

—JENNIFER MCFADDEN, DIRECTOR OF FRIENDS EDUCATION

Moses Brown School Report

In 2025-26, Moses Brown School made important steps toward its next strategic vision, Light the Way, which will shape its work over the coming years; and embraced several opportunities to deepen its connections to Quaker values. Among this year's highlights:

- Publishing Moses Brown School's Guide to Quaker Faith and Practice, with the support of the Obadiah Brown Benevolent Fund. This guide will provide a common introduction to Quaker principles and practices for all members of the Moses Brown community. A version for small children will be in development next school year.
- Hosting the Quaker Youth Leadership Conference (QYLC), an annual student-led gathering for Friends schools. A team of about 25 Moses Brown students led a conference on "Creat(iv)e Change" for 200 visitors from across the eastern US and Canada. The group spent two days in early January learning about connections between the arts and community organizations' work for justice.
- Offering training on clerking and Quaker corporate discernment to leaders across the school-house, including new employees, students in various upper school organizations (Student Senate, athletics captains, disciplinary council members, leaders of affinity groups) and leaders of the Parents' Association and Alumni Association
- Inviting Quaker House leader Curt Torrell to speak with upper-schoolers about conscientious objection and its relevance to young people today
- Engaging in intensive school-wide discussion about Artificial Intelligence and the challenges and opportunities it poses for our Friends school and for the society we live in
- Replacing Advanced Placement courses with new Advanced Seminars, courses designed by Moses Brown faculty to allow students to explore more specialized topics in great depth. New Advanced Seminar offerings in fall 2026 include Peace Studies; Civics: Midterms 2026; Artificial Intelligence; Ecology & Agriculture.
- Developing an innovative new Teacher Leader Program. Through a prestigious E.E. Ford Grant, Moses Brown School has created a program to encourage teachers to continue to grow while also

remaining in the classroom. As part of our Light the Way Strategy, a fellowship program will promote training for new teachers and offer deeper exposure to the philosophy of Quaker education.

- Establishing a new Upper School academic scholarship. A generous legacy gift from members of the class of 1965 has created two new four-year scholarships to incoming ninth graders.
- Benefiting from opportunities offered by Friends Council on Education programming, including:
 - o Two administrators—O.J. Martí, Head of Lower School, and Luke Anderson, Director of the Rustin Center for Peace and Belonging—will take part in a two-year FCE program supporting Quaker educational leadership.
 - o Jen McFadden, Director of Friends Education, was to take part in a FCE-led trip to Israel/Palestine in March 2026 for Friends educators and Quakers. The trip was deferred due to the outbreak of war in Gaza in February. The group of 16 travelers now anticipates a March 2027 departure.

Friends who would like to hear more about how Friends values ground and animate Moses Brown School's educational mission are encouraged to reach out to Jen McFadden, Director of Friends Education, at jmcfadden@mosesbrown.org.

Puente de Amigos

This has been a difficult year for the Puente de Amigos Committee as we accompany our Cuban Friends through severe hardship caused by our government's oil blockade.

Our relationship was strengthened by the visit of Kirenía Criado, pastor of Havana Friends Church, to last year's Yearly Meeting Sessions. For many years, our government has prevented Cuban Friends from visiting us in person. Kirenía's deeply spiritual messages, playful humor, and honest account of the hardships in Cuba brought the relationship to life in a way that travelers' reports cannot. As a result, interest grew in Yearly Meeting's more than 30-year relationship with Cuba Yearly Meeting and in the work of the Puente de Amigos Committee. More than 30 people attended our interest group meeting at Sessions.

As a result of that meeting, Mt. Toby Meeting began exploring a sister relationship with the church in Bocas. We were delighted when they found clarity to move forward with that commitment. Ten other sister-meeting relationships exist, some active and others dormant, and the committee hopes to help strengthen and renew them. We continue to seek a New England meeting to have a sister meeting relationship with the church in Pueblo Nuevo.

In January, the United States imposed an oil blockade on Cuba, deepening the country's suffering.

Recently, Jorge Luis Peña, clerk of CYM, sent a sobering update. Fuel is scarce and prohibitively expensive. Prices for basic goods continue to rise, and food is both limited and costly. Electricity is available for only about two hours in the early morning, leaving little time to cook and do laundry and making reliable refrigeration impossible. Without fans or air conditioning, sleeping in the heat is difficult. Schools and many hospitals have closed; hospitals lack medicines and basic supplies. Cuban churches have had to be creative with solar panels and batteries.

In November 2025, Noah Merrill and Jackie Stillwell went to Cuba to help Cuba Yearly Meeting celebrate the 125th anniversary of the arrival of Quakers in Cuba. In March 2026, Benigno Sanchez-Eppler of Northampton Meeting was led to travel to Cuba for ten days to support our Cuban Friends. At our April meeting of sister-meeting liaisons, he shared his experience, joined on Zoom by Jorge Luis Peña and Kirenía Criado. It was a deeply moving gathering in which Benigno spoke of the spiritual depth and tremendous deprivation among Cuban Quakers. We plan to invite Jorge Luis and Kirenía to future meetings, and if there is electricity, they will be able to attend.

Because conditions in Cuba continue to worsen, no Yearly Meeting delegations are planned for the foreseeable future; our presence would be a burden. This makes it harder to sustain our spiritual relationship and to provide financial support to Cuban churches. Although Friends have given generously, the only way to get contributions to Cuba is in cash and in person. Puente and CYM leadership are working together to find other ways to transfer funds. We are grateful that Zoom, WhatsApp, and Facebook Messenger help us maintain connections.

—CAROLYN STONE AND RICHARD LINDO, CO-CLERKS

Sessions

For the second year in a row, the Sessions planning team began our work without knowing where we would be meeting this year. There is a considerable amount of extra work involved in shifting our gathering to a new location, and there is a certain amount of anxiety around how to make Sessions feel familiar in a new space. Despite these challenges, we set to work planning for Sessions 2026.

The Theme and Speakers team reviewed feedback from our most recent time together, and spent numerous hours in prayerful discernment as we considered a variety of potential speakers and settled on the theme “Spring Forth O Well, and Make Us Whole.” Our Program Team has thoughtfully made some adjustments to our schedule, finding ways to fit all of our work into a shorter time frame while still allowing for robust youth programs and allowing for ample shared worship and informal gatherings. We are hopeful that

the shortened schedule might make it easier for more Friends to attend.

It has become clear that finding a site that allows for more Friends to commute makes it possible for more folks to participate in person. We had quite a large number of commuters at UMass Amherst in 2025; however, for a variety of reasons, it wasn’t possible to return there again this year. We are fortunate to have found what seems to be an excellent location for this year—Mt. Holyoke College in South Hadley, Mass. They have so far been terrific to work with, being very responsive to our requests for information while having the flexibility to help us shape our time on campus.

Friends will once again have an opportunity for extended worship on Friday, as this proved quite successful last year. We also continue to look for ways to welcome everyone, both newcomers and Sessions veterans, on Friday evening. As is always the case, Sessions cannot succeed without the numerous volunteers who come forward each year to offer their gifts, both on campus and ahead of our time together in August. Please reach out if you are led to get more involved in this process.

I look forward to welcoming you all to Sessions 2026, whether you’re a commuter, a Zoom participant, or residing on campus!

—KRISTIN WILSON, SESSIONS PLANNING CLERK

Youth Ministries

The Youth Ministry Committee (YMC) is intended to support youth ministries for New England Quakers 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 seeks to encourage ministries that provide a foundation of Quaker faith and experience, fostering an active spiritual life.

YMC members in 2026 included committee clerk Nancy Corindia, continuing members Newt Barletta and Melissa Becce, and new members Jana Noyes and Maille Wooten. We are grateful for the work of Heather Gray, who has stepped down from the committee. This committee also includes ex-officio staff members Nia Thomas (Program Director), Kara Price (Children & Family Ministries Coordinator), Anna Hopkins (Friends Camp Director), and Xinef Afriam (Teen and Outreach Ministries Coordinator).

This year the committee was actively engaged in a Listening Project to connect with and hear from local meetings around opportunities and needs in youth ministry. YMC members reached out to nearly three dozen meetings across New England Yearly Meeting who were believed to have active youth ministries. YMC received responses from 20 meetings representing five of the eight NEYM quarters.

Nearly all of the meetings contacted by the Youth Ministries Committee reported families and children among their active attenders. There was clear and broad agreement across meetings that families and children add richness and joy to the meeting community. Many meetings are using creative ways to reach and involve families in the life of the meeting. Meetings are also focusing on intergenerational activities and involving teens and college students in meeting work. Nearly every meeting reported fluctuating or unpredictable attendance from children and families. There was also wide variation across meetings in their policies and practices around child safety.

Many meetings reported children and youth in their meetings were attending Yearly Meeting retreats, Ses-

sions, or Friends Camp. The Local Youth Ministers Supporting Each Other (LYMSE) Zoom calls, facilitated by Children and Family Ministries Coordinator Kara Price, were highlighted as a helpful support for youth ministers. As we wrap up this Listening Project cycle, we are heartened by the emergent and persistent life of youth and family ministries throughout our region. The next phase of our work will include responding to needs identified through the Listening Project and planning for potential visits to local meetings to see youth ministry in action.

—NANCY CORINDIA, CLERK

Reports of Representatives to Other Quaker Organizations

American Friends Service Committee Corporation

In her April 2026 report to the AFSC Corporation, General Secretary Joyce Ajlouny noted, “Recent years have brought profound loss and strain. Deepening inequality, expanding wars and genocides, democratic backsliding, and the climate crisis have taken a heavy toll on many communities, and on those who accompany them. In the United States and globally, the rise of authoritarian governance has intensified fear, exhaustion, and grief. These realities are undeniable. But they are not the whole story. Alongside harm, there has been resistance. Alongside grief there has been care and courage. AFSC’s witness has never been rooted mostly in outrage, but in faithful action. Accompaniment that refuses dehumanization and insists on dignity. Change most often emerges in steady collective acts, lived now, even under constraint.”

In this tumultuous year, AFSC programs have shifted to meet current challenges, providing crucial humanitarian assistance in Gaza, standing with immigrant communities in the United States, and continuing to resist democratic erosion at home and abroad.

Thankfully, AFSC finds itself on stable financial footing, although uncertainties in the economy can always bring surprises. AFSC staff and Board are addressing risks on the financial front and ensuring duty of care for staff working in perilous environments.

Friends are encouraged to visit the AFSC website (afsc.org), which provides a lot of information on local, regional and international programs—and presents multiple ways that Friends can engage with AFSC. —BOB EATON, REBECCA STEALE, HAL WEAVER, PETER WOODROW

Friends General Conference

FGC is currently part of an interfaith lawsuit to protect religious freedom; follow details on fgcquaker.org under “News.”

A new 65-page resource with anti-racist clerking advices is available on the website to help support Friends business meetings.

A working group is writing a grant proposal for a Christian Practices Initiative to be submitted to the Lilly Endowment. This grant would allow FGC to strengthen its offerings and serve all Friends who are affiliated with FGC as well as seekers who are looking for a spiritual home.

FGC is hosting an all-ages, in-person gathering in Burlington VT, July 7–12, 2026.

An Outreach Conference is being planned for September 25–27, 2026. Details will be shared when known.

Melissa Rycroft asks Friends to consider what would you like to see FGC start, stop, or consider doing in the next 3,5,10 years?

FGC supports Friends and meetings in confronting racism and healing the effects of white supremacy. Go to fgcquaker.org/mor to learn how:

- White Friends can attend the White Friends Confronting Racism online worship group.
- Friends of Color can sign up for a hybrid or in-person retreat and attend worship spaces specifically for Friends of Color and BIPOC womxn.
- Individuals and meetings can support the new Vanessa Julye Fund, which sustains the Ministry on Racism programs, and organize a community read of Vanessa’s book *Fit for Freedom, Not for Friendship*, co-written by Donna McDaniels.

The Spiritual Deepening program offers ways to explore Quaker faith and practice including eRetreats, resources for newcomers and children, and invitations to join discussion groups designed for new, Gen X and Neurodivergent Friends.

QuakerBooks supports learning and outreach with publications and other educational resources. Friends can purchase books on QuakerBooks.org.

Nearly 900 donors supported FGC last year with gifts of all sizes. Please consider donating to FGC to support the spiritual vitality of Friends. A new Outreach & Visibility Committee has formed to help share the Quaker faith and build connections among people and meetings. To learn more about this committee and other ways to help, fill out the Volunteers Skills and Interests survey on the FGC website.

—SALLY FARNETH, BARBARA DAKOTA

Friends Peace Teams

Come volunteer with Friends Peace Teams—bring your justice and peace ministry to support ministries locally/globally. We work directly with Peacemakers world-wide. FPT overhead is extremely low, so donations go directly to the work.

Spirit lives in direct relationships among people and the natural world, flowing throughout with love and conscience.

In 2024, FPT was invited by gang leaders to a Philadelphia neighborhood. Nadine facilitated this AVP Basic. The participants found it exciting and begged her to return. They wanted to give AVP trainings with other gang members to reduce gun violence.

- We address global justice/reparations. Follow a region—Africa, Asia/West Pacific, Europe/Middle East, North America, or Latin America. Share their news;

invite them to speak; join their monthly Regional Team meeting. Offer a donation to a region or to FPT as a whole.

- *Conscientious objectors seek counseling with FPT.* Write and publish your statement.
- *We build relationships among Native and non-Native communities.* Look for webinars. Contact us to become a facilitator.
- *AVP facilitators find agendas/demo videos at our website.* Other workshops offered in many countries: Power, Trauma Resiliency, Liberation from Oppression
- *FPT introduces justice/peace to families.* Find bold, lively children's storybooks on website being used by librarians in Indonesia and Rwanda and Latin America. Stories are in 9 languages. The Power of Goodness shares brilliant stories of children surviving war all available for FDS classes.
- In Latin America where AVP soars in schools, juvenile detention, and churches. Address trauma in Cuba, El Salvador, Guatemala, and other countries. This year, FPT accepted Cuba's AVP program as one of its projects, taking the load off NEYM's Puente Committee.

Friends Peace Teams welcomes you to dedicate a few hours a month. Read current stories at FriendsPeaceTeams.org.

—MINGA CLAGGETT-BORNE AND EM MCMANAMY, REPRESENTATIVES

Friends United Meeting

FUM's ministries continue to matter deeply, even amid financial constraints and organizational strain. Through Ramallah Friends School, FUM remains connected to a long-standing Quaker educational ministry serving Palestinian students in an extraordinarily difficult context, where the work of teaching, student support, and institutional stability continues under the pressures of occupation, war, and economic uncertainty. FUM's relationship with Cuban Friends continues to represent an important bond of spiritual kinship and practical support, even as changing regulations and banking limitations have made that support more complicated - including several deliveries of medical supplies and food in the last year. In East Africa, Friends Theological College continues the work of preparing pastors, teachers, and leaders for service among Friends, while peacebuilding efforts seek to support communities affected by conflict, poverty, displacement, and regional instability. Alongside Belize Friends and other ministries like the girl-child education and Samburu and Turkana ministries, these relationships remind us that FUM's story is not only an institutional or financial one; it is also a story about living ministries, long-standing commitments, and relationships across the wider Quaker world that many Friends continue to value and uphold.

FUM also holds a significant position as the organization that brings together Orthodox Friends across the globe: both Quaker and Christian. At a time when evangelical Quakerism is growing, and unprogrammed

Quakerism is shrinking—FUM holds an important middle.

At the same time, FUM has been moving through a serious period of financial and organizational difficulty. In June 2025, FUM leadership identified a significant cash-flow crisis. The concern was not only that giving had declined or that expenses had risen, but also that basic financial controls had not been functioning as they should. In particular, monthly account reconciliations had not been consistently practiced, which meant that the board and staff may not have had reliable financial information for decision-making. For many of us, this raised significant concern about board oversight, financial accountability, and trust.

FUM has also had to absorb the effects of Indiana Yearly Meeting's withdrawal. While it is difficult to quantify exactly how much that has affected operations, fundraising, and institutional morale, it remains part of the context in which FUM is trying to stabilize and discern its future.

Since the 2025 financial alarm was raised, there do appear to be signs of repair. The Executive Board and Finance Committee have been meeting more frequently. A financial task force has been involved. Reconciliation work has been underway. Reporting formats appear to be improving. The "Encourage One Another in Love" campaign has also made strong progress, with over \$500,000 raised toward the \$650,000 goal as of early June 2026.

The Ministry Support Fund appears to have improved in the short term, and cash flow through May 2026 looks better than it did during the acute crisis. However, the FY27 budget still projects a deficit, several revenue lines remain under budget, and some program areas continue to rely significantly on transfers from Richmond. It is also unclear from the documents how much unrestricted cash is truly available for operations, as distinct from restricted or board-designated funds.

FUM appears to have moved out of the most acute phase of the 2025 cash-flow crisis, and there are encouraging signs of fundraising and governance repair. The ongoing ministries remain meaningful and worth supporting. However, FUM is in a "liminal" season. The question before us is not only whether FUM has enough cash today, but whether it has the governance structures, financial controls, staffing capacity, and strategic clarity needed to sustain its ministries going forward. Underlying structural concerns have not disappeared. FUM remains in a vulnerable transitional period, and our role as board members is to continue asking clear, faithful, and specific questions about financial controls, transparency, sustainability, and mission priorities. What information should NEYM representatives continue to request and review?

—JENNIFER SMITH & KRISTINA KEEFE-PERRY, GENERAL BOARD REPRESENTATIVES

Friends World Committee for Consultation

The worldwide Quaker movement spans a rich diversity of regional cultures, beliefs, and styles of worship. Friends World Committee for Consultation brings Friends of varying traditions and cultural experiences together to express our common heritage and our Quaker message to the world.

In service of these and other ministries of connection, this year FWCC Americas launched an updated searchable digital English/Spanish Quaker Glossary and offered training for Quaker interpreters. The updated World Quaker Map of meetings and churches across our hemisphere is now searchable by travelers and others who want to learn more about the wider world of Friends at fwccdirectory.org.

World Quaker Day is coming right up on October 4: "Let Peace Be Among Us" (Heb 12:14). Resources for your local meeting to take part, including a poster, songs, and queries, are already available for download at worldquakerday.org. The World Office is also planning a global online meeting for worship that day. It's not too early to begin thinking with your meeting about how to mark the day!

Many New England Friends attended this year's virtual gathering of the Section of the Americas, together deepening our understanding of the theme "Love Your Neighbor." Mark your calendars for next year's hybrid Section meeting, March 18, 2027, online and in person in Syracuse, IN.

Quaker Connect, FWCC Americas' program bringing together local meetings and churches to explore new experiments in faithful community life, has completed its first two cohorts. Each cohort journeys together for two years, seeking to deepen connections, broaden outreach, and more fully live into their unique callings, with technical assistance and spiritual support from FWCC Americas. Applications for the 2026–2027 cohort open this summer. Ready for renewal? Check

out QuakerConnect.org for information and the link to apply.

Looking ahead, the World Office has confirmed the queries for our 2027 Global Online Conference, "Sowing Seeds of Justice" (Matthew 13:1-23, Sept 29–Oct 3, 2027). FWCC invites us to a deep and Spirit-led exploration of our role in healing a world broken by the historic and ongoing harms of exploitation, colonialism, and slavery.

For more information about FWCC and how you and your meeting can take part in weaving the tapestry of connection, speak with any of the New England Friends currently taking part in FWCC's many ministries of connection: Judy Goldberger, Mary Hopkins, Noah Bishop Merrill, or Nia Thomas.

—JUDITH GOLDBERGER AND MARY HOPKINS, REPRESENTATIVES

Quaker Earthcare Witness

Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW) held their Fall Gathering at Powell House from October 16–19 2025; with Friends from many parts of the country. There were over forty Friends there in person, and nearly as many attended via video conference several times during each day. This was my first QEW gathering, and not knowing what to expect, I realized that a lot of work has been done. QEW is functioning like a "mini" yearly meeting! The work being done is based on our deep concerns about human-caused climate change and for environmental justice. QEW has four staff people, a Steering Committee and seven other committees, and five working groups, including Mini-Grants.

QEW Steering Committee members, volunteers, and supporters meet in person once a year for our annual Fall Gathering. This year from October 15–17, we will come together at Prairiewoods Franciscan Spirituality Center, in Hiawatha, Iowa.

Visit QuakerEarthcare.org

—NEIL BLANCHARD

