

Nominating Committee Report to Sessions – August 2026

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 together 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 Schope 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 (Putney)
NEYM Nominating Committee, nomclerk@neym.org

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