



NEW ENGLAND  
YEARLY MEETING  
OF FRIENDS  
QUAKERS

July 30, 2016

Dear NEYM Committee Clerks,

I hope this finds you well. I have enjoyed speaking with many of you in preparation for our upcoming NEYM Sessions at Castleton University.

In the past month, I've also been making efforts to share with you some news from the last Permanent Board meeting, when it was decided that we would discontinue committee day events for the coming year. Many of you were also were at that PB meeting and were part of that discernment.

This decision was not made lightly. As NEYM Events Coordinator I have seen that fewer and fewer committees are able to meet on that day and monthly meetings struggle to provide hospitality. None of our meetinghouses are equipped to hold a gathering of all our committees, leading to the additional expense and difficulty of renting a suitable space. We have received many requests for options that might better support the vital and time-sensitive work of Yearly Meeting committees.

As we move forward in that important work, I'm writing to ask for your input. We are currently revising the "Committees and the YM" document (current version attached) to provide more detail on supports available to your committee at present. In the coming year, we hope to better address the needs of those who have asked for additional help.

Some of the ways we hope to do this include (but are not limited to):

- Assisting with conference calls
- Helping coordinate in-person meetings of 2 or 3 committees who share work
- Assisting with posting news and events on our NEYM website and with other publicity
- Providing space for committee meetings at Annual Sessions
- Maintaining a go-to list of due dates for Yearly Meeting business and NEYM publications submissions and other important deadlines for the work of NEYM
- Providing financial information and updates for your committee budget and spending
- Maintaining/providing YM committee rosters and updated contacts
- Supporting mass mailings, graphic design and communications
- Promotion events and sharing concerns via social media

Current supports can also be found on the Committee Resources page at the NEYM website, [neym.org/resources/committees](http://neym.org/resources/committees)

## **New Steps to Improve Communication and Coordination This Year**

This year we are planning two electronic “Go-to-Meeting” conference calls in September (with the same content) for Yearly Meeting committee clerks with the Presiding Clerk and YM staff, to offer clear support and clarify procedures for the upcoming year. The Presiding Clerk will also help us understand the process for revising YM Committee Purposes & Procedures, which will be done this year. The conference calls will be recorded for sharing with your committee members and for future reference.

It would be very helpful if you as committee clerk could let me know what supports you think will best support your work on behalf of Friends this year. We would be very grateful for suggestions from you and members of your committee.

I’m happy to arrange a phone conversation (in late August, after Annual Sessions) or I can be reached by email.

I look forward to working with you all in the coming year, and hope to connect with many of you at 2016 Sessions!

In faith and service,

Kathleen Wooten  
Events Coordinator  
events@neym.org  
781-640-1269

cc: Fritz Weiss, presiding clerk  
Noah Baker Merrill, Yearly Meeting secretary  
Sarah Gant, clerk of Permanent Board