

**A Discussion Guide  
for  
Dying, Death and Bereavement, draft text, NEYM Sessions 2018  
October 2018**

Dear Friends,

New England Yearly Meeting is engaged in writing a Faith and Practice that reflects the yearly meeting as it is today, in a way that encourages spiritual renewal and fresh spiritual insight. The more the Faith and Practice Revision Committee hears from you, the more our new book of Faith and Practice will reflect the faith and practice of New England Friends. The committee needs to know if the draft texts encourage you and your meeting on your spiritual path. Does the text provide guidance for you to find the way forward together on difficult issues?

The usual feedback from a monthly meeting on a text is a list of things said by those who attended the discussion. It is very helpful to the committee to hear the range of individual responses to what is written and you often point out to us what we have missed. We can hear in your reports that you have engaged with the work and spoken openly and lovingly with one another. However, what is often unclear, is how the meeting as a community is responding to the text. This often leaves the committee uncertain as to whether we have written in a way that supports the life of the meeting. In contrast, a number of monthly meetings have taken the time to write minutes that reflected the sense of the meeting concerning the draft. We encourage more of this feedback from the meeting as a body.

Please use the enclosed Draft to make hard copies as needed. The document is also available on the NEYM web site at [neym.org/fp-revision/text-currently-under-discussion](http://neym.org/fp-revision/text-currently-under-discussion).

Below are a series of queries on the various sections of the Dying, Death and Bereavement draft that may be helpful in guiding a discussion on the text. When you send in your responses to the text, please let us know how much of the text your group reviewed. Did you just review the paragraphs of descriptive text? Did you discuss the Extracts? Advices and Queries? Did you get as far as reviewing the Appendix?

- 1) Does the discussion on death, mortality and the Eternal in the first four paragraphs describe what is true in your meeting? What needs to be added to this section?
  
- 2) Is the discussion in paragraphs 5 – 11 helpful to your meeting? Does it raise issues in a way that might help the meeting address concerns surrounding dying, death and bereavement? What else might be helpful to you?

3) Does your meeting have practices that might be included in the section Meeting Responsibilities?

4) Are there other Extracts you might suggest?

5) As your meeting goes through the Advices and Queries, is there anything missing?

6) Will the information in the Appendices adequately support your meeting when planning workshops on advanced planning, when organizing a memorial meeting or preparing a memorial minute? Is there other information you might suggest?

Please send your meeting's input to Phebe McCosker, clerk of the Faith and Practice Revision Committee. You may email her at [phebe.mccosker@gmail.com](mailto:phebe.mccosker@gmail.com), or email her through the yearly meeting website at [fandp@neym.org](mailto:fandp@neym.org). Hard copies may be sent to: Phebe McCosker, PO Box 66, Thetford, VT 05074.

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