Faith and Practice Revision Committee – Report to Representative Committee - 2018

The F&P Revision Committee has met twice in person, and twice by conference call since last year’s gathering. We are busy making drafts of possible new materials or revisions, of getting stronger at our abilities to use google docs to generate drafts, determining interest group options, and preparing our presentation for Representative Committee in March. Carl Magruder, co-clerk, will present with technical help from Mica Estrada.

As Friends know from our report to the gathering last year, we have been seasoning a new way for the Yearly Meeting to revise its Discipline. This new process is based on the Quaker understanding of continuing revelation, as well as on new technologies that make it possible for us to revise the document incrementally, rather than generating an entirely new book every 20-25 years. As new sections are finalized, they can become available immediately. Periodic on-demand copies can be generated every few years, for Friends who want to have copies in hand. Once the process is fully laid out at Representative Committee in March, 2018, we can begin posting drafts for Meetings to season and share input to the committee immediately. Various examples of such drafts will be on display when Carl gives our report.

The drafts we have concentrated on recently are:

Description of the Youth Program Coordinator position
A new section on Leadings
Earthcare and Sustainability
Queries on Reaching Out
Advices and Queries on Personal Relationships
Streamlining the Mechanics of Transfer of Membership

So far we have concentrated on sections that have been brought to our attention because of concerns or a sense that an issue has evolved and needs updating. We anticipate that that will continue to happen and our hope is that this new structure will allow us to be nimble in meeting the needs.

--- Carl Magruder and Laura Magnani, co-clerks, Faith and Practice Revision Committee