

Faith and Practice Revision Committee Report to PYM Annual Session 2018

SUMMARY

(none provided)

Following the “go-ahead” from Representative Committee in March, the Faith and Practice Revision Committee has been preparing drafts of several sections of the book for posting on the PYM website. 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. We are living into this “experimentally” as our forebears might have said. You should be able to find three drafts for your consideration: Leadings, Advices and Queries on Reaching Out, and a description of the Youth Program Coordinator position, which was not in the old version of the Faith and Practice because it is a new position.

We are asking Meetings, as well as committees or other entities of the Yearly Meeting (for instance JYM, or YAF), interested in any of these topics, to discern together about the proposed new language and send your feedback to the committee at PYM.FPRevision@gmail.com by **October 15, 2018**. If you reach unity on suggestions on the materials, let us know. If you struggled with a section and can give us input on the issues that came up, that is also welcome. We are asking that individual Friends NOT send comments because it will be difficult for the committee to know whether significant numbers of Friends had similar responses.

At the same time we will again be sponsoring interests groups at Yearly Meeting Gathering to generate discussions on various issues before us. One such interest group will be on Testimonies: What are they? How can we grow beyond SPICES, which may not be serving us as well as had been hoped. What new testimonies might be arising? Also we will have an interest group related to the Personal Relationships Queries and Advices, with special attention to the Me Too Movement and to the growing understandings of Restorative Justice. What do respectful relationships look like? What could healing look like when boundaries are crossed? For several years important the committee has sponsored important conversations on key issues and we are able to take the energy and wisdom from these sessions into our revision work.

We want you to know that other Yearly Meetings are asking to use the materials they have found in the current F&P edition, as they craft their own Disciplines. We have been consulting, for example, with a newly forming Northwest yearly meeting (unsure of their official name), as they attempt to express their own faith and practices. Because the published edition is explicitly not copyrighted, so that it can be useful to others, we are free to share it widely and gratified that Friends are finding it helpful.

Laura Magnani and Carl Magruder, co-clerks