

# Nominating Committee

## Report to Annual Session 2019

**SUMMARY:** We have no minutes of action to bring to you in this, our narrative report. There are requests for a few changes in committee size which we will bring to you with the slate.

### **Report:**

The following words began and set the tone of two of our committee retreats this past year. They are excerpted from *Principle and Testimonies - Why Do We Do Nominations the Way We Do?* from Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre in Birmingham, England

*“Quakers have been called a ‘peculiar people’ and there is perhaps nothing more peculiar than the way we go about pairing up people and jobs. We see our organization, not as a body of people in a hierarchy whose aim is to do a task efficiently, but as a community which is driven by a common set of values which stem from a basic belief, which we have called ‘that of God in everyone’.*

*Nominating someone for a role using the discernment process goes deep and requires careful and prayerful consideration. Underlying all this is the idea of creating and sustaining our community: of nominations being a practical application of faith rather than simply a matter of finding people to do jobs. If we keep in our minds the idea of finding people who will help the community to grow in spirit, then we will be working in a way that is true to our faith.”*

Our committee sees service as a form of ministry. We ground our work in worshipful discernment, both as committee members speaking names from worship and as Friends contacting Friends to discern together where they may be called and when. We are committed to our mission of helping to create the container for our community by finding persons who may have gifts of which they are not aware or who may grow spiritually by developing new skills and understanding. This means that we do not see our work as ‘filling slots’ and, sometimes that may mean an empty position on the slate. At such times, we return to worship again and again to seek the guidance of spirit.

There are open spaces on the slate. Is there a tension between committee work and a life of simplicity that is grounded in the spirit? Some Friends feel so busy that adding committee work can feel it takes away rather than strengthens spirit. It can be hard to find people who are willing to commit to work that is crucial to the operations of PYM and the holding of Annual Session.

Can PYM be a year-round container without a Treasurer? Can we hold an Annual Session without a children’s program or a registrar? Can we have a Youth Programs Coordinator without the support and supervision of a Coordinator Committee? We are being called to look at how we take care of our community, and what part we each play in that care. We are asked to envision new ways that have not yet been revealed, letting go of the security of the old ways, and moving forward in faithfulness. What form of support, or what changes, would make it possible for a Friend to have a confident “Yes” rise in response to the call to serve?

It is important to support those newly appointed to positions, especially newly appointed committee clerks. We are grateful that Ministry and Oversight Committee will address this concern with ongoing clerking support conference calls. We are hoping that committee clerks will also take advantage of the clerking workshop at Ben Lomond Quaker Center at the end of August, an opportunity to learn new skills, refresh old ones and be steeped in the spirit underlying the peculiar process we call “finding the sense of the meeting.”

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Discernment around the evolving role of the Unity with Nature Committee will continue with two Interest Groups available at this annual session. We encourage your participation in understanding the history of this committee, its challenges today, and how it might be more effective and better connected to the YM by interaction with monthly meetings and other groups interested in environmental concerns and climate change.

To do our work it is important to have clear descriptions of all positions and committees—ones which clearly state precisely what the job is. This has been a goal of Nominating Committee for years, but it often takes a backseat to other work. It is a critical component and will be the focus of our fall retreat in 2019. In preparation for this, we ask committees and officers to review their Job Descriptions for accuracy and clarity and send us confirmation or suggested changes.

We hope that all Friends will pick up and fill out a two-sided Service Survey (Pink sheet) and indicate those types of service to which you feel called or drawn either now or at some time in the future, or which you would like to discuss with a committee member.

Members of the committee are Julie Harlow, Heather Levien, Joe Magruder, Jorge Morales, Winnie Sunshine, Kate Watkins and Sue Torrey (Clerk). We look forward to hearing from you.