

Pacific Yearly Meeting Discipline Committee Report to Annual Session 2021

SUMMARY

1. Committee discernment as to the purpose of the committee.
2. Work on revising the section on Death and Dying.
3. Interest group development.
4. Arrangements with Western Friend to make available copies of the 2001 Faith and Practice via print-on-demand.

REPORT

Greetings from the Discipline Committee of Pacific Yearly Meeting.

Since RepCom, our committee has wrestled with our charge and charter. In consulting minutes from PYM's annual sessions, there is no formal record of our becoming a "Revision Committee", although in recent years the name has informally changed, leading to the understanding of some that we are actively revising Faith and Practice rather than simply tracking what things should be updated and proposing occasional "rolling updates" to the PYM web site. After discernment as to our current charter and an examination of PYM minutes, the committee asks the body to spend the next year in discernment as to whether there is unity in charging the committee with the responsibility of revising Faith and Practice, and if so, to augment the committee with the additional members needed to do the work and so charge us at the 2022 Annual Session.

In the meantime, we have been working on several areas. Our work on changes for the web site to the section on Death and Dying are nearing completion after your timely comments on early drafts. We anticipate publishing this later this summer or in the early fall. Following that, we will turn our attention to a backlog of smaller items that have been brought to our attention, including small revisions to Web site pages on our relationship with Quaker organizations, the transfer of membership section, and other items. The committee is also led to begin making notes as to ways that we could improve the introductory section of Faith and Practice.

We anticipate other input from you, both at this annual session and throughout the year. We are hosting an interest group to hear how you and your meetings use Faith and Practice, and to better understand what you see are the strengths and limitations of both the text and its current formats. We are also holding an interest group on "The Vitality of the Spirit in Our Experiences of Zoom", exploring in what ways Zoom has enriched our Meetings as well as the implications for membership of participation in Meeting of geographically distant Friends. This discussion will help inform our thinking as to what online meeting for worship may mean to meeting life, including membership, service to meetings, and the care of our members and attenders. Planning for this interest group has taken a significant portion of our time; we expect that with your participation it is well worth our effort.

Finally, it has been brought to our attention that the inventory of printed copies of the existing Faith and Practice has dwindled, and with the approval of PYM's clerk we have entered into an agreement with Western Friend to enable us to continue to make available copies for sale on the Western Friend website for both individual and bulk purchase via the print-on-demand printer they currently use for other publications.

We hold all of you in the light.

The committee consists of James Anderson, Margaret Mossman, Diego Navarro, Patricia Portillo, Jan Tappan (ex officio), Sarah Tyrell, Ray Rischpater & Sue Scott, co-clerks.