

Pacific Yearly Meeting  
**Faith and Practice Revision Committee**  
Report to Annual Session (AS) 2023

Faith and Practice Revision Committee has had a busy year. We have met as a full committee three times for full weekends [most recently, for the first time since COVID arrived, in person] as well as in shorter Zoom meetings. Between these meetings we meet in working groups to share the progress of our revision work. Here is a brief account of what we are working on and what lies ahead.

Working groups

One working group is developing an introductory chapter for the new book. It will provide an introductory account of our Quaker faith and practice that will look ahead to the fuller account the remainder of the book will provide. It aims to present the core of our faith in a way that is accessible to those new to Quakerism yet does not water down the power and radical claims of our Quaker way. There are three different versions of this chapter being drafted, and we hope to move toward a single draft ready for distribution early next year. A second working group is revising some existing sections of the present text, and plans to have two of them ready for distribution by the end of this year and two more early next year.

Design and resources

Our proposal to develop two books was well received last year, and we still anticipate developing this new format. The first book will present fundamental elements of our faith and practice that are enduring and relatively stable, a reference and resource text that hopefully will serve us well for the next decade. The second volume will contain much organizational and reference material, matters more likely to change in the coming years and benefit from revision, and additional miscellaneous material. A small group is working on the organization of material in these two books to provide a working outline for us as we shape revisions. We also have a great deal of past documents that we have worked to organize by topic and revision needs, including feedback from Monthly Meetings on previous drafts, and we will be linking these to this developing outline for efficient reference.

The committee as working community

We have shared among ourselves the importance of this work, the complexity of retaining continuity with our tradition while capturing the shape that our faith has in this time and in this community of Friends. We also struggle. We ourselves carry the diversity of experience of the larger community. We are learning to hear one another with new ears, to respond with informed sensitivity and care, to wait and to see. We also sense that a Faith and Practice revision takes place in a particular historical context, amid a specific set of challenges and issues. Through these our Quakerism in some ways becomes manifest, in its diversity and its abiding elements. Finally, we are aware of the trust the community has placed in us, to create a book that serves us well, and through which we may see ourselves more clearly as Friends.

We have all been challenged in this work on many levels but are committed to bringing a new text forward that is grounded in our faith and our history, engaged with our current experience of that faith and history, and usefully organized and written so that it will serve both new and seasoned Friends as well as our needs as a community. Beyond that, we hope it will be a pleasure to read and study, and a celebration of our Quaker way.

Members of the committee are: Jim Anderson [Chico] and Diego Navarro [Santa Cruz] co-clerks, Margaret Mossman [Berkeley], Alice Sowaal [San Francisco], Ted Selker [Palo Alto, IT Specialist], Patricia Portillo [Sacramento], Sue Scott [Inland Valley], Ray Rischpater [Palo Alto], Jan Tappan [Orange Grove, ex officio Historian Archivist], Joe Magruder [Berkeley], Elena Rosales-Anderson [Redwood Forest].