

NORTH PACIFIC YEARLY MEETING

OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

January, 2017

Dear Friends,

After a decade of mutual labor, a full draft of our revised *Faith and Practice* is ready for review.

When NPYM was formed in 1972, it initially relied on the *Faith and Practice* of Pacific Yearly Meeting. By 1978, NPYM was ready to create a Discipline Committee and develop its own book. In 1986, NPYM accepted a newly published *Faith and Practice*. As NPYM found that it was not in unity with the text that defined marriage as between a man and a woman, that book underwent further revision. The Discipline Committee worked with the yearly meeting as a whole to make that language more inclusive. The changes were approved in 1993.

In 2003, a call went out to again revise our *Faith and Practice*. Friends noted that NPYM's practice had changed in many ways since the publication of the last volume. The Faith & Practice Committee (originally called the Committee on the Discipline) was reconstituted, and the work of revision began. It took some time to settle on an appropriate method of work. Eventually the committee developed the process of consultation through which we have been led to the draft you have before you now.

The committee's practice was to prepare revised drafts of the various chapters, based on comments from Friends or changes to NPYM structure. The committee circulated the drafts for comment to monthly meetings and other groups within yearly meeting. The committee considered all comments carefully and revised the draft accordingly, taking as a guide the yearly meeting's advice that the book should be descriptive, not prescriptive. This process brought the NPYM community closer together as it examined the previous text and suggested changes. Many local meetings and worship groups spent thoughtful hours spiritually engaged in discussing the materials and providing feedback. Sometimes, when there were substantial changes, the committee circulated a second draft to Friends for further comment. In addition, the committee held an interest group at each Annual Session, welcoming Friends' input on its current work.

The Faith & Practice Committee thanks the many groups and individuals who have given their time and ideas to this Spirit-led effort. Your contributions and support have been vital.

We hope this new version of our *Faith and Practice* will justify the wait. We offer it as a celebration of our lives as Friends and our identity as an independent yearly meeting. We offer it to our yearly meeting, to the Religious Society of Friends, and to the world, as an expression of our living faith.

Please review this full draft before it comes to NPYM for acceptance at Annual Session 2017. As you read it and use it, please let us know of any striking errors you find, bearing in mind that all of the material has been reviewed already several times by Friends. We will consider suggestions received before May 20, 2017.

Thank you for your help in this last review process.

From the NPYM Faith & Practice Committee:

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