The following list includes decisions made by the NPYM Coordinating Committee and by Executive Committee from July 2012 through June 2013.

To begin the list with our July, 2012 meeting, Coordinating Committee approved the site of the 2015/16 Annual sessions: Whitworth University in Spokane.

We also approved changes in several job descriptions, and created a formal description for the Annual Session Planning committee. These approvals did not change any Yearly Meeting functions, and often merely incorporated changes approved by Annual Session in the previous two years.

To aid discernment on job modifications, we created an advisory committee to check that any modifications of responsibilities do not cause duplication with other positions or leave some responsibilities unassigned, and that uniformity of formatting is not lost. It is expected that in the future, most changes will be approved by Executive committee, as Coordinating Committee considers these approvals an administrative function not normally requiring its discernment.

Coordinating Committee itself approved a few interim appointments, but many were approved by Executive Committee when Nominating Committee brought them to us. The goal remains to present most nominations to Annual Session, as Nominating Committee has been able to do this year.

Executive Committee is responsible for checking requests by other Quaker groups to use the Directory database. For several years, including this past year, executive committee approved a single use by the Friends Committee on Washington Public Policy. Another decision by Executive Committee that Friends may find significant was to approve moving the Yearly Meeting funds to a Credit Union.

What follows is a verbal picture to describe how we have tried to fulfill our primary purpose: supporting all aspects of the Yearly Meeting through cooperation and coordination. The way the committee functions may depend in part on the style of the current CC Clerk, but is also heavily influenced by the thirteen responsibilities enumerated in the committee's job description.

Coordinating Committee has primarily functioned as a forum for discussion – The agenda has consisted of a series of proposals that individual committees would prepare for us to help season. The proposals were reflected on, and the various suggestions were either referred back to the committee that raised the issue or handed to a new ad hoc committee, usually composed primarily of Coordinating Committee members who were present. We have rarely been successful in recruiting ad hoc committee members from the Yearly Meeting at large.

One issue that has been of concern to Coordinating Committee is fostering Annual Session. Ad hoc committees have researched and sought divine guidance on the financial issues of AS, another began to research ways to store Annual Session property and Yearly Meeting Archives, a third wrote a job description for Annual Session Planning committee, which had previously operated on the combined guidance on the descriptions for the various Planning committee offices. This committee raised the issue of how to share the costs of Annual Session equitably. This committee needs to draw additional members from a wider cross-section of Friends than those who attend Coordinating committee members. It's initial focus will be on assessing the perception of Annual Session among Monthly...
Meetings.

If the issues of costs and other barriers to AS attendance interest you, there will be an opportunity to express willingness to join the committee during one of the plenaries.

Unfortunately, we have been unsuccessful in creating a sense of mutual support from the method of operation described above. My sense is that for a significant proportion of the group, any given issue feels unrelated to their role in the YM and in the committee or meeting to which they belong.

It was originally envisioned that Coordinating Committee would be held over two days, in part to allow Friends more time for connections that were not task-oriented, and to support one another in informal ways. However, committee members balked at this schedule, first eliminating the Friday evening portion, and later finding that concentrated discernment becomes impossible near the end of a twelve hour stretch. We now meet from 8:30 AM to 6 PM, or 9 ½ hours, including times allocated to settle in, for breaks and for lunch.

It has been difficult to allow sufficient time for both seasoning on the individual issues of concern and worshipful exploration of what issues we face in common during the time we have. We have also been unsuccessful at framing the issues that we do seasoned in a way that can be shared easily with Friends who did not attend Coordinating Committee. This has left the committee members appointed by Meetings at a loss as to how to serve either Coordinating committee or their Meeting.

There is another challenge in the current arrangement. Although we reduced our carbon footprint by meeting less often than Steering Committee, the meetings taking place twice a year may actually serve to inhibit committee work.

Committees often move slowly in their seasoning of their leadings until shortly before Coordinating Committee meets. Final seasoning becomes hurried and we have repeatedly experienced a flood of reports written a couple of weeks or less before the Coordinating Committee meets. The last-minute communication forfeits the opportunity for in-depth discernment by the other CC members and decreases the sense of mutual coordination.