Proposed additions to NPYM *Faith and Practice*,
Chapter 8, “The Yearly Meeting”

As presented to NPYM Coordinating Committee, 4/2/2016
Proposed deletions are shown in strike-out text. Proposed additions are underlined.

1. Proposed changes re: Pre-Nominating Committee

EXISTING LANGUAGE IN THE “STANDING COMMITTEES” SECTION

**Coordinating Committee**

The Coordinating Committee (CC) supports and enriches the life of NPYM. It is the venue where NPYM standing committees and monthly meetings share about their work and inspiration. The committee identifies and links converging and emerging issues, and offers support to groups within NPYM. In addition, the committee provides support and oversight to NPYM standing committees and appoints a Pre-Nominating Committee each spring (see Nominating Committee, below).

The Coordinating Committee handles decisions that do not involve changes to policy, that are necessary to carry out the work of the yearly meeting, and that do not require full NPYM attention at Annual Session. The first step is to determine if the decision should be referred elsewhere. Discernment is necessary to identify which decisions can be handled at Coordinating Committee and which decisions rightly belong at Annual Session or in an NPYM standing committee, monthly meeting, or quarterly meeting.

**Nominating Committee**

The Nominating Committee carefully considers the needs of the yearly meeting positions and asks appropriate people if they will accept nominations to yearly meeting and Annual Session positions. The Committee prepares as full a slate as possible for approval at Annual Session. At other times of the year, nominations may be approved by the Coordinating Committee or the Executive Committee.

**Pre-Nominating Committee.** The Nominating Committee does not nominate itself. Instead, a Pre-Nominating Committee proposes new members of Nominating Committee to be approved at Annual Session. The Pre-Nominating Committee is an ad hoc group chosen by the Coordinating Committee in the spring of each year. It consists of two or three experienced Friends, usually members of Coordinating Committee, who carefully consider the needs of the Nominating Committee and NPYM as a whole. Each year’s Pre-Nominating Committee is laid down after the new members of the Nominating Committee have been approved.

2. Proposed changes re: revisions to *Faith and Practice*

EXISTING LANGUAGE IN THE “STANDING COMMITTEES” SECTION

**Committee on the Discipline**

The Committee on the Discipline is responsible for the development and subsequent revision of *Faith and Practice*, our book of discipline. The yearly meeting conceives of *Faith and Practice* not as a finished product and final word, but as an evolving document, representing the growing experience of North Pacific Yearly Meeting Friends in seeking to know and follow the Inner Light. Members are encouraged to study, use, and appraise *Faith and Practice* in this spirit.
Suggested changes, which may in time be incorporated in a future edition, may evolve through the actions of monthly and regional meetings, and of the yearly meeting; or through the suggestions of committees, or individual Friends. These suggestions should be given in writing to the Committee on the Discipline for consideration.

The Committee on the Discipline reviews the entire book regularly in light of current NPYM practice, organizational changes, and minutes passed by NPYM in Annual Session. The committee also considers comments received from other NPYM committees, quarterly meetings, monthly meetings, preparative meetings, worship groups, and individual Friends.

The committee will express and represent the diversity of our yearly meeting in geography, spiritual expression, and size of meeting. The committee grows and shrinks in size as the needs of the yearly meeting warrant. A small committee, meeting annually, may be sufficient during the years between substantive revisions of *Faith and Practice*.

See “Revisions to NPYM’s *Faith and Practice*” below.

**PROPOSED NEW SECTION TO ADD TO THE END OF THE “YEARLY MEETING” CHAPTER**

**Revisions to NPYM’s *Faith and Practice***

North Pacific Yearly Meeting conceives of *Faith and Practice* as a gift and a living, evolving document rather than a finished product and final word. It reflects the growing experience of NPYM Friends as we seek to know and follow the Inner Light. Friends are encouraged to read and use *Faith and Practice* in this spirit.

Changes to *Faith and Practice* come about in different ways. Revisions in Part I (Faith, Chapters 2-4) may arise from emerging spiritual disciplines and testimonies and from new Light on how we describe our experiential faith.

The Committee on the Discipline ensures that Part II (Practice, Chapters 5-11) accurately reflects structural changes in NPYM (offices, standing committees, etc.). Other revisions in Part II may arise from evolving practices within NPYM on issues such as membership or formation of new meetings, or from new challenges facing the Quaker community.

Any Friends group or individual within NPYM may suggest changes to NPYM’s *Faith and Practice*. Suggestions that have been seasoned through group discernment are particularly valuable. All suggestions are given in writing to the Committee on the Discipline for consideration.

The Committee on the Discipline collects minor “housekeeping” edits to *Faith and Practice* and, when there are enough such changes to warrant an update to the book, presents them to the Coordinating Committee. If the Coordinating Committee discerns that wider review is needed, the Committee on the Discipline follows the pattern for substantive changes.

When the Committee on the Discipline discerns that substantive changes to a chapter of *Faith and Practice* are needed, the committee first consults with the Coordinating Committee and then communicates widely with Friends to prepare an initial draft for review and comment. It may at the same time request additional committee members to aid the work. A chapter may go through several draft-and-review cycles. The committee then presents a working draft of the revised chapter at one Annual Session for seasoning throughout the yearly meeting and again (further revised, if necessary) at the following Annual Session for acceptance. After the revised chapter is accepted, it is incorporated into the print and online versions of *Faith and Practice*. If broader revision of the whole book of discipline is required, the process of draft and review may take considerable time.