Committee on the Discipline report to NPYM Coordinating Committee  
4/2/2016

The Committee on the Discipline has several issues to bring to the Coordinating Committee.

**Two proposed changes to the chapter on The Yearly Meeting**

Please see the attached document for tracked changes about:

1. **Selecting the Pre-Nominating Committee**
   
   In the past there has been some confusion about how members of the NPYM Nominating Committee are themselves nominated. The proposed language describes recent practice (Coordinating Committee appointing a Pre-Nominating Committee in spring). One sentence is added to the description of the Coordinating Committee and a new paragraph added to the description of the Nominating Committee.

2. **Revising NPYM's book of Faith and Practice**
   
   Our 1993 *Faith and Practice* does not include many clues about how to revise it. During the past 10 years the current Committee on the Discipline has had to rely on the memories of prior committee members and other long-time NPYM Friends. We feel it will be a help to future committees to include a basic process outline right in the book.

   The proposed language removes a few sentences from the committee description and expands them into a new section based our current process and how it might be carried forward into the future.

   The new language specifies that the Committee on the Discipline is a standing committee – which in some years will not need many members or meetings, only enough to collect suggestions and do an annual review.

   The new language also distinguishes between “housekeeping edits” (e.g., keeping NPYM committee names up to date) and substantive changes. The former can be brought to Coordinating Committee – which may decide that they need wider review. For substantive issues, the new language calls for wide consultation, at least one draft-review-response cycle, and a significant period of seasoning before revisions are incorporated into NPYM's *Faith and Practice*, both online and in print.

We ask Coordinating Committee to discern whether these proposed changes can be incorporated into the transitional *Faith and Practice* (in the chapter on The Yearly Meeting) or whether they are substantive enough to need wider review among NPYM Friends.

**Timeline for Text Completion**

We have been working hard on Chapter 4, about Friends Testimonies. The draft is very close to ready for circulation: it will go out to Friends shortly after our next committee meeting, April 16. We will hold an Interest Group about Chapter 4 during Annual Session. We will ask for comments back by September 30. If responses are such that we all need another round of review, we will prepare and circulate the revision as quickly as possible in the fall.
At our April and May meetings we will consider all the suggestions received for Chapter 3, about Spiritual Disciplines. We are grateful to all the meetings, worship groups, and individuals who responded to the draft chapter. If it seems that Chapter 3 needs a second review, we will prepare and circulate that revision as quickly as possible, probably late spring/early summer.

We expect to have all the revised chapters complete by the end of calendar 2016 or very early in 2017, depending on the responses to Chapter 4. We will post the completed “transitional Faith and Practice” to the website as soon as possible, allowing for Friends to review the book as a whole. We will announce a “last call for comments on Chapters 3 and 4” widely and clearly.

We still ask for “last call for comments” to all the other chapters by Annual Session 2016, as we announced last summer. These are all in the “transitional Faith and Practice” on the website.

- History
- Friends Experiential Faith
- The Monthly Meeting
- New Gatherings of Friends
- Quarterly Meetings
- The Yearly Meeting (possibly with the additions discussed in CC today)
- Membership
- Marriage & Committed Relationships
- Death & Memorials
- Glossary
- Bibliography

Please remind your meetings and worship groups to look at what’s already available in the transitional document and if possible make time for considering Chapter 4, which you will receive in a couple of weeks.

Production and Publication
We are excited to report that we plan to publish through Western Friend and will be working out the details of an agreement with WF editor Mary Klein for design, production, and distribution of the book. The Friends Bulletin Corporation Board agrees that it would be a good thing for Western Friend to publish the books of Faith and Practice for PYM, IMYM, and NPYM. Western Friend will be able to manage minor updates (via print-on-demand), ordering, storage, shipping, and billing. We expect that publishing through Western Friend will take some burden off the NPYM secretary, as well as making NPYM’s Faith and Practice more widely available in the book-buying world. The purchase price will be split between NPYM and Western Friend.

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