NPYM Ministry and Oversight Committee Report to Coordinating Committee
April 2, 2016

Each year Ministry and Oversight schedules consultation meetings by conference call on topics of concern. These consultations are offered to Clerks of Ministry and Counsel or the equivalent from Monthly Meetings, Worship Groups, and Quarterly Meetings. Our first Consultation was on Sunday, January 17, 2016. Fifteen Friends joined members of Ministry and Oversight and our Presiding Clerk in a discussion about Pastoral Care. We considered how we cultivate an awareness of each other’s challenges, burdens or suffering. How do we determine if we, as individuals or a meeting, have the capacity to meet the expressed needs? How do we encourage Friends to establish their own boundaries. How do we handle confidentiality?

Participants responded carefully and shared with one another. They felt inspired by the queries and the responses. We circulate minutes from these calls among participants but ask that the actual minutes not be shared wider as we consider the content of the calls to be confidential.

The second Consultation was on Sunday evening, February 28th. Six Friends joined members of Ministry and Oversight and our Presiding Clerk. This Consultation was open topic. Friends talked about ways to deepen worship and nurture spiritual life, events happening in their meetings, deaths in the meetings, shrinking size, and incorporating art and music into worship. We were disappointed in the number of participants but the sharing was rich among us.

The next Consultation will be Sunday, May 1, 2016, at 7:00 p.m. PST. We will be considering a suitable topic tomorrow. If you have suggestions, please give to me.

Ministry and Oversight is again searching for an NPYM-Sponsored visitor to Northwest Yearly Meeting. Is there a Friend among you who might have a leading to visit different Monthly and Yearly Meetings? If so, might that Friend consider applying to be North Pacific Yearly Meeting’s sponsored visitor to Northwest Yearly Meeting’s annual session at George Fox University, Newberg, Oregon, July 24-29, 2016. For information about the application process please contact Nancy McLauchlan, NPYM Ministry and Oversight Committee, nancymaemc@gmail.com, 503-970-2512. Application deadline is April 30, 2016.

Ministry and Oversight meets in person on Sunday, April 3rd in Seattle. At that time we will begin making plans for our participation at Annual Session 2016.

Nancy McLauchlan, Clerk, NPYM Ministry and Oversight Committee