To the Clerk and Coordinating Committee:

Friends,

The Nominating Committee proposes that the position of Annual Session Registrar be expanded to three people for the year 2015.

Our reasons for this: the task is currently too large for a single person and, perhaps as a result, it has been impossible to find people willing to take on the job. Barbara Goldfeder, our registrar in 2014, had a tremendous struggle in getting the job done. To her great credit she succeeded; however, it required massive amounts of time, energy, and patience. The registration software, home-built by members of North Pacific YM, was difficult to learn and use, requiring continual contact with the software's designers. Friend Barbara also took the time to put together a handbook of the registrar's duties, which runs to twenty pages in length. Having survived the year, Barbara resigned. Ordinarily she would have served another year, and then her assistant registrar would have taken over; but as no assistant could be found in a year of searching, and as Friend Barbara is unable to continue, this cannot happen.

With these reasons in mind, the Nominating Committee recommends the following:

- That for 2015, the position of Registrar should be expanded from one person to three people. We will endeavor to nominate three people as soon as possible, ideally before the end of the year, for approval by Executive Committee.
- That this change be reported widely by the attenders of the Coordinating Committee meeting, as Nominating will need to begin recruiting immediately, and news of this change may help.
- That those Friends concerned with reviewing job descriptions should review the duties of Registrar carefully, and propose ways to make the job smaller and less onerous.
- That the current registration software be replaced with off-the-shelf registration software that is easier to use.
- That for 2015, the position of Assistant Registrar be suspended, being redundant.

The last proposal may seem contradictory. If the job is too large, why eliminate help? The Assistant Registrar is intended to help with the job while learning the job for the future; but it seems probable that the three people working together as Registrars will be learning together anyway, so it would be “the blind leading the blind.” Also, as we hope the duties of Registrar
are significantly reduced following 2015, the current position of Assistant would mean learning a job that is about to significantly change, making the training aspect of the position less relevant. Moreover, we hope that this collaborative, three-person approach will provide help enough.

Friends may also wonder why Nominating Committee thinks we can find three registrars when finding one (and an assistant) has proved too hard. Our answer is that the job itself is too hard, and making it easier may be exactly what’s needed to bring in more people.

We do not propose to make this a permanent change—though if it is highly successful and there is a great call for this “Registration Committee” to continue, we are open to that possibility. What we currently hope is that one of the three Registrars we nominate will remain in the role for 2016, with an Assistant Registrar appointed for that year as well, resuming the usual cycle.

We are aware that this is a disruption of our standard practice. We do not propose it lightly or only to ease our task of nominations. It has become apparent, however, that the position of Registrar is a tangle, and before we settled on this proposal, we could not find anyone willing—moreover, we wondered how any one person could do the job, as Barbara Goldfeder had described it. Finally, one Friend has pointed out that there is precedent for this change in the current clerkship of Eugene Friends Meeting. We therefore urgently ask that we, the Nominating Committee, be given the authority to nominate three people for Registrar for 2015.

Paul Christiansen, Clerk
On behalf of Nominating Committee