Committee on the Discipline Report to Coordinating Committee, April 2014

The PRACTICE sections of *Faith and Practice*
The Committee on the Discipline is making substantial progress. By Annual Session we expect to have all of the Practice chapters (plus Introduction and Bibliography) ready for Friends' use.

We have two requests for Coordinating Committee today:

first, for advice about formats and quantities for distributing the Practice chapters. The Practice chapters will be available on the website – but we realize that meetings and worship groups might want and need something more tangible at times (Meeting for Business, for example).

- We can have paper copies made up. If so, how many? Bound, or on 3-hole paper?
- We can burn some copies onto CD. If so, how many?
- We might have capability to produce these Practice chapters as an e-book. Is there any interest in these formats?

second, if the best answer is to provide one paper copy to each meeting and worship group, we will need monetary support. When we produced a few copies of a mock-up they cost close to $12 each (roughly 75 8 ½ x 11” pages, photocopied back to back, w/cardstock covers & comb-binding).

We have attached a recap of our work on the Practice chapters, showing when they were circulated for comment and which meetings and worship groups responded.

We hope that Friends throughout the Yearly Meeting will use the new Practice chapters for a year or two, then tell us what doesn't make sense, what Friends looked for and couldn't find, etc. At the end of that time we’ll review all comments at once (because comments about the same passage often point in different directions), and make necessary corrections.

The FAITH sections of *Faith and Practice*
Starting during Annual Session and for the rest of 2014-15, the Committee on the Discipline will work hard on the Faith chapters (also the chapter on History). We have an Interest Group planned for Annual Session.

We plan to send draft chapters out to Friends for review in three batches, the first one in Fall 2014. Each time we’ll give meetings and worship groups several months to consider the chapters and answer the discussion questions. As is the pattern, if the responses to a chapter generate still more questions, we’ll circulate a revised draft for a second review. As chapters are ready for Friends to start using, they’ll go up on the *Faith and Practice* page of the website.

When will *Faith and Practice* be DONE?
There is naturally some tension between “why isn’t it finished yet, this process is taking too long” and “why are you giving us so much to do all at once, we need more time to schedule our discussion and respond to this.” That said, the Committee’s current plans are to have the *Faith and Practice* text completed by late 2016.
Committee on the Discipline work on the Practice chapters of *Faith & Practice*

**MEMBERSHIP**
- Draft & questions out for NPYM review 7/2013, comments requested by 12/2013
  - Responses from 4 meetings/worship groups (also several individuals)
    - Eastside
    - Salem
    - Salmon Bay
    - South Seattle
  - Discussion with Junior Friends and Young Adult Friends at Annual Session 2013
  - Interest Group discussion at Annual Session 2013

**THE MONTHLY MEETING**
- Draft & questions out for NPYM review 6/2011, comments requested by 12/2011
  - Responses from 10 meetings/worship groups (also several individuals)
    - Bellingham
    - Boise Valley
    - Bridge City
    - Corvallis
    - Eugene
    - Multnomah
    - Port Townsend
    - Pullman-Moscow
    - South Seattle
    - University
  - Interest Group discussion at Annual Session 2011
- Revised draft out for NPYM review 12/2012, comments requested by 3/2013
  - Responses from 2 meetings/worship groups (also 4 individuals)
    - Multnomah
    - South Seattle
- “Standing version” posted as ready for use, 3/2014

**MARRIAGE & COMMITTED RELATIONSHIPS**
- Draft & questions out for NPYM review 11/2011, comments requested by 3/2012
  - Responses from 4 groups (also 2 individuals)
    - Bellingham
    - Eastside
    - Sandpoint
    - South Seattle
  - Interest Group discussion at Annual Session 2012
- Revised draft out for NPYM review 12/2012, comments requested by 3/2013
  - Responses from 4 groups (also 5 individuals)
    - Great Falls
    - Multnomah
    - Sandpoint
    - South Seattle
• “Standing version” posted as ready for use, 10/2013
  o Comments from 1 individual waiting for consideration

DEATH & MEMORIALS
• Draft & questions out for NPYM review 10/2013, comments requested by 3/2014
  o Responses from 1 group
    ▪ Pullman-Moscow

NEW GATHERINGS OF FRIENDS
• Draft & questions out for NPYM review 12/2012, comments requested by 3/2013
  o Responses from 1 group (also 1 individual)
    ▪ South Seattle
• Revised draft out for NPYM review 10/2013, comments requested by 3/2014
  o Responses from 1 group (also 1 individual)
    ▪ Pullman-Moscow

QUARTERLY MEETINGS
• Draft & questions out for QM clerks to review, also on NPYM Website for general NPYM review 9/2013; comments requested by 3/2014
  o Responses from 1 group (also 2 individual Friends w/ considerable QM experience)
    ▪ MGoF Ministry & Counsel Committee

THE YEARLY MEETING
• Preliminary discussion with Coordinating Committee 10/2010
• Preliminary draft & questions to Coordinating Committee members 11/2010
  o Responses from several CC members, additional comment from NPYM M&O Committee
• Revised draft out for NPYM review 3/2011, comments requested by 5/2011
  o Responses from 1 group (also several individuals)
    ▪ Billings
• “Standing version” posted as ready for use, 10/2011
  o Comments from 2 individuals waiting for consideration

BIBLIOGRAPHY
• Draft & questions out for NPYM review 12/2012, comments requested by 3/2013
  o Responses from 2 individuals
• “Standing version” posted as ready for use, 10/2013

Prepared by Debbie Townsend
Co-Clerk, NPYM Committee on the Discipline
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