The Ad Hoc NPYM Structure Evaluation Committee met September 21, 2013 with the following present: Co-Clerks Chris Cradler & Ann Stever, Margaret Coahran, Ted Etter, ELee Hadley. Kate Jaramillo by phone part of the time.

The following minute was approved at NPYM Annual Session in July 2013. “The Annual Session APPROVED the continuation of the work of the ad hoc Committee on Structure Evaluation for another year to continue its analysis and evaluation of Coordinating Committee and return to Annual Session 2014 to report on this work.”

As reported to the Annual Session, people don’t know what the job of CC is, or how to do it and do not see value in CC. This is true for the Meetings, Standing Committees and CC itself. The Ad Hoc Committee reviewed the job description of CC and offers to CC a revision that primarily clarifies the responsibilities.

The Ad Hoc Committee is committed to supporting Chris Willard as he clerks CC. We suggest that the M&O Committee also take on this job. We propose that we re-evaluate CC after the spring 2014 meeting and then make a recommendation to the Annual Session. At this point, we see the possibility of three options.

1. CC has improved substantially. Attendance is good and Monthly and Preparative Meetings are beginning to see the Yearly Meeting and its committees as resources and are becoming resources to one another. In this case, the report to Annual Session would note the improvement and recommend continuation.

2. CC has improved somewhat, but it needs another year to determine if it should continue without major changes. Criteria might be needed to re-evaluate during the 2014-15 year. THE CO-CLERKS OF THE CURRENT AD HOC COMMITTEE ARE NOT WILLING TO CONTINUE, so at least new clerks and possibly a new ad hoc committee would need to be named. In this case, the recommendation would be for CC to continue another year with
clarity about who would be evaluating.

3. There does not seem to be adequate progress or interest among Meetings to continue the current format. In this case, the recommendation would be to return to the original proposed make-up of CC: the Clerks of Standing Committees, the NPYM officers (Clerk and Asst. Clerk of CC, YM Presiding Clerk and Treasurer) and a few (review number) members from Meetings (assuring variety of geography and Mtg size). And/or, consider whether MM members are necessary at all. Standing Committees would take primary responsibility for maintaining communications and connections with MMs. In this way, CC should be able to identify emerging and converging concerns.

IN ALL OPTIONS: As was stated in the 2013 Annual Session report, the Executive Committee is necessary and would need to continue. A continuing major responsibility of CC in any form would be to support and make sure Standing Committees are operating effectively.

We offer some ideas of what CC and its clerk might do to make CC effective.

1. Outreach to Meetings to listen and to explain CC.

One idea is that an exciting, visionary, inspirational paragraph (or so) about what CC is and could do be developed. Referring back to the mission & vision, the paper could illustrate how CC could be a resource to MMs and how the identification of emerging and converging concerns could be compelling.

Other ideas: a testimonial on “Why would I like to go to a CC meeting and love to bring my Meeting’s experiences and hear from others.” And/or, share (invent?) ideas of discussions that might be exciting, e.g. issues that MMs might be interested in, e.g. “Do you have young families with kids and how to you involve and support them?” “Are you getting applications for membership? How do you welcome and involve new people?”

The listening alone could be a ministry.
2. Educate CC members about their role and provide ideas and support.

The revised job description can be helpful. Some concrete ideas for CC and doing the job as a CC member, especially those from Meetings:

- a) Connect the YM together by sharing experiences and resources from Meeting to Meeting as well as from Standing Committees.
- b) Support and hold standing committees accountable.
- c) Facilitate seasoning and prepare for decision making at Annual Session (spiritually and practically). This includes clarification of the difference between seasoning and decision-making. Reminder: CC is basically not a decision-making body.
- d) Prepare for CC Meetings in advance. Suggest that members come to CC meetings with something to share and wanting to take something back to their Meetings or committees. Find out from their Meeting (in a business meeting if possible) what their community has to offer to other Meetings (experience, resources) and what it might like to get from other Meetings (how do other meetings deal with...?).
- d) Develop a decision-making flow chart. This might have a concern starting in a MM and another, starting in a Standing Committee. The important role of a Standing Committees should be included. Most decisions would end up at Annual Session, so clarify where seasoning takes place and how.

3. Consider some new ways of engaging people.

It is important to note that it is hard to get folks from East of the Cascades to travel or engage. Include them in some way in the face-to-face meetings via phone? Internet? What are the possibilities? Develop a buddy system between experienced and new members? Between members present and those not? Between Standing Com clerks and Mtg folks? Initiate conference calls to connect people, especially to involve those who cannot travel to meetings?

4. Track and acknowledge what is not working and try to fix it.