To Friends of North Pacific Yearly Meeting

Coordinating Committee in this past year worked hard at exploring a greater understanding about what coordination meant and how to go about it within the context of it’s job description. We were informed and urged on by the findings of the Structure Evaluation Committee whose preliminary findings were that Coordinating Committee was not functioning as hoped for at it’s inception.

One of the committee’s tasks is to identify emerging and converging concerns within the Yearly Meeting coming either from Meeting Groups, Standing Committees, Ad Hoc Committees or combinations of them all. To that end Coordinating Committee has been spending more time than usual in worship with query guided invitations to share about the concerns and joys of both meetings and committees. Worship has served well as a tool to assist active listening and prepare ourselves for a day long meeting.

The source of our concerns, the well of our actions and the spring of our inspiration comes from that active listening for the small still voice.

Another responsibility of the Coordinating Committee is to provide oversight for Standing and Ad Hoc Committees. In this case oversight is assuring the committees are functioning. It is providing a body to assist with seasoning ideas and conclusions when asked. Coordinating Committee also plays an important role in offering affirmation for the work being done. After all, mostly our committees work by phone conference call and e-mail. While those meetings may result in a sense of a committee’s self affirmation for work completed it is also gratifying to receive it face to face from a larger body of Friends.

To those ends Coordinating Committee has either heard reports, seasoned ideas, or acted on recommendations from all Yearly Meeting Committees during the current fiscal year.

Items undertaken outside of normal coordinating functions during the year included:

• Undertaking work recommended by Nominating Committee in October to review and revise as necessary the Information Technology Committee job description. The goal being to assist Nominating Committee in finding a Clerk for the committee. Coordinating Committee clerk agreed to meet with IT Committee as they were without a clerk to explore opportunities to clarify and improve the job description. The Associate Clerk joined in several phone meetings and writing drafts of the job description. A final draft in April was presented to Coordinating Committee and approved. The job description featured reducing committee members by one member, co-clerking, clearer language about the committee’s charge and an explicit role in recommending hiring of external contractors when IT work was beyond the scope of the committee.

• Approval of Youth Committee’s appointment of Jay Thatcher as the AS Children’s Program Coordinator.

• Executive Committee took up work left from AS 2013. Based on a recommendation from the Ad Hoc Committee on Quaker Visitation the sense of the meeting in 2013 had been that FWCC representatives were to draft a policy and procedure for Friends wishing to do visitation among other branches of Friends as well as administer that policy following Executive Committee approval. FWCC representatives were unable to unify about following that recommendation for a number of reasons. It was brought to Executive Committee for discernment in finding a way forward. Members of Executive Committee agreed to undertake the work of drafting a policy and procedure that gave responsibility to the Treasurer to receive contributions to the traveling
fund and disperse them to individuals who have applied and undergone a clearness process with their Meeting Group or Quarterly Meeting. The Coordinating Committee Clerk will undertake the task of publicizing the program to Meeting Groups and, with the webkeeper, provide space on the NPYM website for Friends to find out about it.

By the close of the April Coordinating Committee Meeting we had heard from each of the Ad Hoc Committees reporting here at Annual Session several times, seen the maturing of their visions, listened to some responses from Monthly Meetings and identified both converging and diverging themes. The best way to share those themes is to provide extracts from various reports during the year:

**On Communications:**
From the Ad Hoc Committee on Yearly Meeting Communications

- “How do we share our personal leadings, our shared insights and experiences, and successes so that all of us can learn and be guided?”

From a Standing Outreach and Visitation Committee Report

- “With the Internet and the NPYM.org website, information is available to anyone who wants it, anywhere…Monthly Meetings can learn to reach out to their neighbor Meetings.”

From the Ad Hoc Structure Evaluation Committee

- “The Website NPYM.org can be a useful tool to connect Meetings with one another and to resources in the Yearly Meeting.”

Again from Ad Hoc Committee on Yearly Meeting Communications

- “…It’s not about the website, but a need to encourage folks to use the web site”

As we listen to convergent messages let us not make the mistake of thinking that convergent means redundant. Might not convergence mean that there is an important message speaking to us in that still voice that we should be listening to and trying to understand? Coordinating Committee hopes that we can all listen with open hearts, hearing the context of the message even if delivered previously but perhaps in a different context.

**On Business:**
From Ad Hoc Committee on Yearly Meeting Communications (Executive Summary for Spring Meeting of Coordinating Committee)

- “Community Spiritual Needs
  More attention to decisions by unity in the Sense of the Meeting
  More involvement of more people in the decisions that affect us all”

From the Ad Hoc NPYM Family Affordability Committee’s Meeting Survey Overview

- “There is an emphatic feeling among nearly all the Meetings that there is too much business at Annual Session, and that families are not inclined to attend as long as that’s the case.”

From the Ad Hoc Structure Evaluation Committee’s consultation with Meeting Groups

- “Monthly Meetings are very tired of being consulted on internal NPYM matters and/or having a plethora of consultations come at once in the late Spring.”

What is the message we should be heeding in these alternate notes?
What form of seasoning will move us towards a better understanding of how business fits in our spiritual life?

Coordinating Committee is doing the work commissioned by you, the acting body of North Pacific Yearly Meeting. For it is the business done here in allocating a budget, discerning paths for NPYM that set Coordinating Committee’s priorities. Speaking for myself I can truly say that even after an eight hour day of meeting with Coordinating Committee my body may be tired but my spirit is buoyed up by the feeling of being held in the light by the members present and feeling that our work of coordinating is a worthwhile shared task.

I wish for all of you that same sense of being held in the light as you discern future initiatives, set priorities and discern how spirit moves us in the upcoming year.