REPORT TO ANNUAL SESSION, NPYM
PEACE AND SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE
July 2014

As part of the Yearly Meeting restructuring process some years ago, a new Peace and Social Concerns standing committee was set up in 2009. It was to be composed of 5 members, serving terms of 2-year, with the possibility of serving a second term. The committee experienced delays in getting going (health issues, non-availability of clerk), but members were able to pull together and begin to develop firm plans in early 2013, and soon were happy to welcome a new clerk.

Following is a brief listing of our work of this past year.

- Survey of 37 Meetings and Worship Groups in NPYM to learn about peace and justice work being done locally. In January 2014 the results were put together and sent out to each group (westernfriend.org/?p=3286)
- Prepared an article for Western Friend by our member Cims Gillespie, published in the July/August 2014 issue
- Sent messages to Meetings and groups in this area with background information on several issues and encouraging local groups to take action on:
  1. Authorization for the Use of Military Force
  2. Torture
  3. Drones
- Worked on developing a list-serve
- Developed plans to offer an Interest Group at Annual Session on: "Spirit-Led Action for Justice and Peace in NPYM."

We have held two face-to-face meetings during the year, and 4 conference call meetings.

We have had some discussion about the ongoing work of this committee. We would like to have more young people on the committee. A question has been raised about being limited to six members. Perhaps a range of 6 - 9 members could be considered, to allow more flexibility? Also a 2 year term may mean faster turnover than is useful.

Each committee member has been active and enthusiastic about seeing this work continue and expand. We plan to update the Survey each year, and seek out other ways to facilitate and encourage work for peace with justice in the Pacific Northwest.

Kate Hunter, Clerk, Vashon Island Worship Group
Tom Ewell, Whidbey Island Meeting
Cims Gillespie, Eugene and Multnomah Meetings
Rose Lewis, Salem Meeting
Steve Willey, Sand Point Meeting
Ruth Yarrrow, University Meeting