Background Information about the Ad Hoc Committee Reviewing the Role of the Annual Session, the Yearly Meeting, and Monthly meetings/affordability for families.

At the Fall 2012 Coordinating Committee meeting, an ad hoc committee was formed to clarify some questions about decision making by the Annual Session Planning Committee. Out of that committee came a number of broader questions which were beyond its scope, but which need to be addressed by each person in the Yearly Meeting. Therefore that committee recommended that a new ad hoc committee be formed to address these questions. Please see the website for an excerpt from the final report of that committee pertaining to these questions which was presented to the Spring 2013 Coordinating Committee meeting. The entire report is available on the Coordinating Committee/Ad-Hoc Committees page of the website.

The new ad hoc committee was formed at that CC meeting (minute CC 4/13.7), with its charge to be refined by the Executive Committee. Volunteers for the new committee are John Allcott, Laura Arcidiacono, Margaret Coahran, John Etter, and Tom Rawson. Note that three are from Willamette Quarter, two are from Pacific Northwest Quarter, and all are active in the functioning of the Annual Session.

In a following teleconference, the Executive Committee developed the charge for the new ad hoc committee:

The charge of the new Ad Hoc Committee is to spark discussion among monthly meetings and worship groups about the relationships among the Annual Session, the Yearly Meeting, and themselves.

The discussion should include the effect that greater participation in the Annual Session would have for the AS participants’ local meetings, and well as for themselves. It should also include considering ways for meetings and worship groups to feel they have a more interactive stake in the Yearly Meeting.

The committee is empowered to look into how the annual session is financed, and to study the relationship between cost and attendance. The goal is to increase attendance among communities within the Yearly meeting that are currently under-represented.

Both the Executive Committee and the initial volunteers think the committee needs broader representation. In particular, we are looking for people who are currently actively parenting, people from MGOF who are active with the Annual Session, and people from all Quarterly Meetings who do not participate in the Annual Session.

Some initial queries are proposed for each person’s consideration, and others will develop as the committee’s work gets under way:

1. How does the Yearly Meeting support your local monthly meeting or worship group?
2. How does your local group support North Pacific yearly Meeting?
3. Is the Annual Session intended to be for the benefit of its attenders, or for the benefit of the whole Yearly Meeting?