The Committee on the Faith and Practice is moving forward, after a period of reflection and discernment occasioned by its experience to date and feedback from Friends about the drafts posted on the NPYM website and about the Committee’s work process.

North Pacific Yearly Meeting is made up of a very diverse group of seekers. Along with a desire to live out our spirituality in the manner of Friends, all are vigilant to prevent both prescription and proscription of belief and, at the same time, we struggle with the inclusivity this demands of us.

This makes writing a Faith and Practice a challenge. All Friends are concerned that the book describes their own “faith and practice” and many are challenged by the inclusion of descriptions of some of the others with whom they live out their spirituality, here.

The Committee has come to unity in a vision of a Faith and Practice in which--regardless of the individual faiths and practices to which each is led--each will see ourselves and be comfortable seeing depictions of others led in other directions.

Our initial “road testing” of this vision of radical inclusion has been largely positive and we wish hear Friends discuss it throughout the yearly meeting during this next year, beginning at Annual Session. We hope to see this inclusiveness made accessible and of use to all Friends in the yearly meeting as we develop the Faith and Practice and continue to live out our spirituality together.

The Committee also has two technical goals for the next year, although we are still developing some of the specific means to pursue these.

The first is to increase our direct contact and communication among Friends. In particular, we want to hear Friends discuss among themselves what it means to live out their spirituality in the manner of Friends, in addition to hearing what one group of Friends or another is moved to say to the Committee or what one audience or another hears from us.

Our second goal is to reshape the way the Committee works to encourage Friends’ participation in the work of this process, rather than in response to it.

We on the Committee acknowledge some mistakes, along the way. There is not much guidance, out there, on how to write a book of faith and practice. We have come to see that as a good thing. This is a process that accomplishes more than writing a book. It also accomplishes the further spiritual edification and maturation of all involved, as individuals and as a community. It is therefore necessarily an idiosyncratic process, one that develops organically to meet the needs and support the growth necessary to accomplish the visions of those involved.