The Committee on the Faith and Practice has continued to follow the expressed sense of Friends to develop participation in the process of the on-going development and maintenance of the book.

The Committee has distributed materials designed to begin discussion in the meetings and worship groups on topics currently included in the book and those that Friends have suggested be included for the first time. As widespread discussion of these among Friends creates mature sense in the yearly meeting it is expected that drafts will be developed (or not) on these topics.

Such discussions have been held in some meetings and the Committee has received some correspondence containing the sense of discussions that took place. The plan to put these materials on the Yearly Meeting website has not been carried through, and the hope is to complete submission of these materials to the maintainer of the website in the next month or so for posting.

The Committee has also organized a listening session at Willamette Quarterly Meeting during which attenders spent fruitful time discussing the relationship of individuals to the state. Notes were taken and these are among the materials that will be posted to the website.

The Committee remains open to visit with meetings and worship groups to hear such discussions or to talk about the Faith and Practice process, especially how the Committee’s work takes the focus off of meeting-to-Committee dialogue and places it on Friend-to-Friend discussion with the Committee listening to what is said.

The Committee is also anxious to clarify its view that the only way revisions can be successfully made is for this kind of participation to take place to guide them.

In reality, revision of the Faith and Practice is a secondary outcome to this kind of discussion that develops the faith and practice of individual Friends and meeting communities as an on-going part of the never-ending process of transformation, maturity, and perfection that is central to Quakerism.

The Committee has requested two interest groups at the upcoming Annual Session to use the same form that was successful last year to help develop the sense among Friends on two as yet undetermined topics. One of these may well be a topic that some meetings have already discussed and would include their notes or participation as an opening to the session.

The Committee is currently developing a revision of the description of the yearly meeting governance process (to replace the current chapter 13) that is consistent
with the changes adopted by the yearly meeting and, as they are consistent with that process, integrating decision minutes of Steering Committee from over the years regarding governance. ¹

The Committee continues to be in need of new members and a new Clerk. In October two or three members, including the Clerk, are laying down their work on the Committee.

Submitted by

Timothy Travis
Clerk of the Committee

¹ The work on this chapter will not follow the new process of revision described, above. This revision reflects decisions made by the yearly meeting and are subject to change only through that governing process—not through the process of revising the Faith and Practice.