The Committee on the Discipline is currently working on two chapters in the "Practice" part of *Faith and Practice*:

- **Chapter 13, The Yearly Meeting.** A revised draft of Chapter 13 has recently gone out to Friends throughout NPYM for review. Thanks again to the Coordinating Committee members who read and commented on the earlier draft of this chapter. We did carefully consider every suggestion received.
- **Chapter 8, The Monthly Meeting.** This chapter is long and complex, and it is moreover the logical place for several new topics which Friends have asked to have included in the revised *Faith and Practice*. So Chapter 8 will take some careful work and, no doubt, multiple drafts to get it right. (The working outline is attached to this report.) The Committee on the Discipline is committed to collecting ideas from many NPYM Friends so that this chapter can accurately reflect the various ways we organize ourselves as local meetings and handle some of the common challenges.

We plan to hold an interest group at Annual Session this July to discuss these two chapters.

The Committee is very happy to welcome Eugene Norcross-Renner of Lower Columbia Worship Group as a new member. We were sad to receive a notice of resignation from Steve Wilson of University Friends Meeting. Although we are few in number we continue to move the work forward. We would be glad to describe our progress and processes to Coordinating Committee in more detail if requested.

Jay Thatcher and Debbie Townsend, Co-Clerks
Proposed New Outline for Chapter 8, “The Monthly Meeting”

- current Faith and Practice page numbers shown in [ ]
- *italics* indicates topic to add to the existing book either from the committee’s cumulative Brainstorming List or from our discussions; in most cases we will need to ask Friends for specific input

1. Introduction (no section heading needed)
   "The monthly meeting is the fundamental unit..." [69]
   2 paragraphs now under Responsibilities and Organization (“The Monthly Meeting...” & “The degree of organization...”) [74]
   (Add something about relationship to Quarterly and Yearly Meetings?)
   *Add a brief definition of the Quarterly and Yearly Meetings and refer to the pages where they are discussed?*

2. Background
   Quotation(s) from George Fox about establishing monthly meetings [69, 70]
   Historical description [69, 70]

3. Meeting for Worship
   (Quotations have been moved elsewhere)
   (Add: cross-ref to the “Worship” section in the Faith section of the book)
   1 brief paragraph of description [72-73]
   *Do we want to add anything, for instance about when/how worship starts and stops? do we have any shared traditions/expectations about the "nuts and bolts" of meeting for worship, e.g. vocal ministry? Or children participating in worship?*

4. Meeting for Business
   John Woolman quotation [73]
   (“Discernment” in the Faith section of the book will cover the spiritual aspects of Meeting for Business; cross-ref or *brief* summary here in Chapter 8.)
   a. Friends’ Method of Reaching Decisions [74-76]
      *(The long paragraphs here to be broken up with sub-subheadings)*
      Maintaining a spirit of worship
      How to bring items of business to the meeting
      “Meeting for Business etiquette”
      Role of Clerk
      Sense of the meeting
      Adjourned meetings/called meetings [currently in Formulation...77]
   b. Formulation of Minutes [77]
   c. Unity [78]
   d. Serious Differences of Opinion [76-77]
   e. Threshing Sessions [77-78]

5. Officers and Committees [80-81]
   a. Officers [81-83]
      *(Not all meetings have all of these; some meetings configure the responsibilities differently...we could increase the scope here)*
      *Support for Friends in leadership roles*
      i. Clerk
ii. Assistant Clerk
iii. Corresponding Clerk
iv. Treasurer
v. Assistant Treasurer
vi. Recorder

b. Committees [83-89]
   (We could broaden the scope re: different meetings organizing themselves as suits their current needs...with examples)
i. Introductory paragraphs
ii. Committee on Worship & Ministry/Committee on Oversight
   (The long paragraphs here might well be broken up with sub-subheadings)
   Nurturing spiritual life of the meeting community as a whole
   Nurture of spiritual gifts of individuals
   Welcoming and integrating newcomers
   Eldering (though this is an issue for all Friends, not just M&O Comm)
   Aspects of pastoral care, w/ cross-refts to Membership & Marriage
   Care of inactive members
   Clearness Committees
   Care Committees
   Members & attenders in need
   Concern/conflict resolution for serious differences arising w/in meeting community
iii. Nominating Committee
iv. Other Committees. Name the committees that some meetings have found useful e.g. finance, property, social.

6. Friends in Ministry (renamed from Concerns and Liberating Concerned Friends [78-80])
a. Oversight, Accountability, & Support for Friends in Ministry
   i. Liberated/Released Friends with a Concern
   ii. Recorded Ministers
   iii. Friends in Ministry Work (chaplains, spiritual directors, etc.)
   iv. Support Committees
b. Letters of Introduction [80]
c. Traveling Minutes [80]

7. Children of the Meeting
   a. First Day School [currently there is one sentence on p. 81]
   b. Children’s safety
      i. Mandatory reporting
   c. Transition to adulthood

8. Challenges and Other Considerations for Monthly Meetings
   a. Special considerations about
      i. Anti-harassment policies
      ii. Members & attenders with criminal history
      iii. Members & attenders who are “society misfits”
      iv. Members & attenders with mental illness (there’s a bit buried on p. 87)
   b. Legal issues: incorporation, insurance