As reported to Coordinating Committee at Annual Session, The Faith and Practice Outline posted on the NPYM website remains the same, but the process for developing the material it will organize has changed. What follows will help Friends understand the new process and participate in it.

Most of the material in the Faith and Practice, at least in the “Faith Section,” will not change substantively, but will be re-arranged so that material relating to a topic will be grouped together. Friends have suggested adding some topics not currently in the Faith and Practice and the Committee will circulate material to determine if there is unity to do so and, if so, where it will go and what it will look like. Further suggestions for addition or revision will be forwarded to Friends for their consideration and processing in the same way.

The process is being changed so that Friends can be involved at an earlier stage in developing the material and so that meetings and worship groups can have the benefit of input from one another as they process the material.

The first part of the process will be the web posting and email circulation of “Questions for Friends,” current material on a topic and some questions to spark discussion. There will be a “due date” to provide input to the Committee but will not be a “deadline” and material received later will be included in the process. The input received will be posted and circulated.

Friends will then be given the opportunity to consider the input that other meetings and worship groups have provided and to reconsider their own input in that light. The Committee hopes that Friends will take opportunities at Quarterly Meeting and Annual Session to organize interest groups to enrich the discussion and that further input will be sent to the Committee. Again, there will be a “due date” for this “New Light” input but, again, material received later will be included in the process. Any input will be posted and circulated.

With the all the input received the Committee will develop a “Concept Draft.” This will be an unpolished summary of the wisdom of the yearly meeting distilled from the input received on the topic and will be posted and circulated to Friends. The focus of discussion and processing on the “Concept Draft” will be on its content, not on language or presentation and initial input will be posted and circulated so that meetings and worship groups can reconsider the Concept Draft input and, if so led, to provide “New Light” input.

This will lead to the writing of an “Experimental Draft,” for Friends to use and “live with” for a while, both as individuals and Quaker communities. Comment will be invited, during this phase of the process, about word and phrase choice, nuance, and flow of ideas as well as on content and structure.

Throughout this processing the Committee on the Discipline will continue to encourage Friends to invite its members to visit meetings and worship group,
This document should be read in conjunction with materials currently posted by the Committee on the NPYM website. Included there is an outline of the first half of the book. This document should also be read along with the report the Committee on the Discipline made to the yearly meeting Coordinating Committee on July 15, 2009. These will help all orient to what’s going on and enable them to participate effectively in this process. Success depends on broad involvement of Friends in this process. The Committee is not “writing” this book. The unity of a revised Faith and Practice will emerge from the unity that emerges from discussion of Friends and meetings about what that content should be.

The Committee sees this process as one of individual and corporate spiritual growth, an examination and re-examination of our inner and outer lives as Friends. Although the long-range goal is to produce a revised book of Faith and Practice the Committee, such a book is the product not so much of a writing process as a spiritual one. Who we are, who we have become, and that toward which we are moving, as individuals and a yearly meeting, are the questions at the center, here. Maximum participation by Friends is not only welcome, it will be vigorously encouraged.

The Committee is a developing a “Frequently Asked Questions” sheet that will help Friends connect to and participate in this work that is before the Yearly Meeting.

For example:

**Where did the ideas for new topics come from.**

The Committee spent its first year as a committee traveling among Friends to ask what they were thinking about and what suggestions they had for Faith and Practice. Many topics were suggested for updates to both the “Faith” and the “Practice” parts of the book. Under “Faith,” it became clear that Friends wanted to address some additional topics, especially in light of contemporary world conditions and widely-shared spiritual challenges:

1. Issues of safety and living in a time of fear
2. Environmental concerns such as response to global climate change
3. Right relationship to money and wealth.

This collection of FAQ’s will be open ended; it will grow through time as additions will be made to orient Friends to the process.

Keeping Friends oriented is also the purpose of a “Clerk’s E Mail,” a new tool the Committee hopes will help to sustain interest and provide information of several kinds (including drafts of materials as described below). The Clerk’s E Mail will be sent out to contact people in all meetings, preparatory meetings and worship groups, as well as to any Friends interested in receiving it individually, and to all officers of the yearly meeting and members of the Coordinating Committee. These will also be posted to the website. They will come from an e mail address created by the yearly meeting for the Committee’s use. The Clerk’s E Mail will be sent as appropriate—not on a schedule.
These new vehicles to help orient and inform Friends come in response to suggestions, from experience to date, and the Committee's discernment.

The major development, however, is a more gradual process for developing material with more opportunities for Friends to consider and work with it earlier in the process and in stages. What follows is an outline of how the Committee sees the yearly meeting engaging in the work.

The revision of a book of Faith and Practice is a traditional, periodic process through which, as the result of Friends considering and reconsidering the bases of their individual and corporate faiths and practices, the spiritual wisdom of the Yearly Meeting is collected. This book is for the use of a yearly meeting’s members and attenders as well as for the benefit of the world “beyond the hedge” of that yearly, both within the Society of Friends and those outside it.

To accomplish this for North Pacific Yearly Meeting the Committee on the Faith and Practice sees developing material in a series of steps, outlined as follows.

**Phase One—Questions for consideration by local groups of Friends**

All of the material currently in the book on a specific topic will be gathered by the Committee, along with any Steering Committee minutes approved subsequent to publishing the current book relating to that topic. This will not be a coherent treatment of the topic but simply what is presented now throughout the book without connection or transition created among the statements. It will be referred to as a “cut and paste draft.”

To this may be added, in a clearly marked section of this draft, suggestions Friends have made to the Committee on this topic from time to time that have been for consideration when the topic was addressed.

There will be an explanation included of what Friends are being encouraged to do with this draft, as well as some questions to stimulate discussion. The list of questions could include such things as:

- a one sentence definition of the concept
  - what's in here, what's out
  - is what you are suggesting better included in another section?
- things you have heard among Friends about this topic.
- sources to consider (Pendle Hill Pamphlet, etc)
- what’s missing, what to keep, out of place
- a request to consider the subject tenderly in the spirit in order to guide the committee on its way to discern what topics to include in its treatment of each subject

Meetings and worship groups will be encouraged to consider the questions, along with the cut and paste draft and to make the benefit of that discernment available to the Committee. This correspondence would best be carried on through use of the Committee’s email address, which will be posted to the website and made available through the Clerk’s E Mail, described above. These responses will also be posted on the NPYM website for the benefit of others considering the material in the future.

There will be a date suggested to complete this phase (although that is not a “deadline” in the sense that anything received afterward will be disregarded) so that the Committee can begin the next phase of the work.
Input received by the Committee will be posted to the NPYM website and sent out to Friends in the Clerk’s email. There will be a period of time for Friends to read one another’s input and to respond to what other meetings and worship groups have produced.

**Phase Two--Creation of a Conceptual Draft**

With input from meetings and Friends, and revised input from meetings and Friends in response to input from other meetings and Friends, the Second Phase will be the Committee developing a “conceptual summary” or a “treatment” of the topic. This will not be text as intended to be a draft but rather to describe content of the section. This will be posted to the web and sent out by Clerk’s email and there will be a period for Friends to process it and submit comments. These comments will be posted to the web as they are received, and again, there will be an opportunity for Friends to respond to input of others before the next phase begins.

**Phase Three--Creation of an Experimental Draft for testing by Friends**

After the period of comment, the Committee, will consider the comments received and create an experimental draft of the topic. When completed this will be posted to the web and sent out by Clerk’s email for meetings and worship groups to consider and respond. As responses are received they will be posted to the web and sent out through the clerk’s email. This is the “Try this out. How does it work for you?” draft.

As with “Cut and Paste” and the “Conceptual” drafts, there will be a period of time in which Friends can give the Committee the benefit of their consideration and use of the Experimental Draft. This period may well be more lengthy than the other two.

Completion of this draft expresses the continued unity of the Committee that there should be a stage in the development of material that it is not reworked until it is seen in the context of the unity of the Faith and Practice as a whole.

Depending on how this new process works it may be that the Committee will want to use it to “redo” the drafts already published. That has been discussed by the Committee but a clear process for those drafts is beyond the reach of our headlights at this time. The current drafts on the website are not “Experimental Drafts” described as the product of Phase Three of this working process.

The Committee will continue to be mindful of the need to alter its work pattern on the basis of experience and open to suggestions from Friends, especially in regard to creating opportunities for Friends from different meetings to process this work together, perhaps at sessions of Quarterly meeting and Annual Session.

*The Committee encourages Friends to consider in the Light becoming a member of this Committee. NPYM Nominating is actively seeking to fill vacancies on the Committee as well as to identify a new clerk. The gifts called for are connection, discernment, humility and patience. Writing ability is helpful but not essential.*