1. Formulation of minutes. BVF formulates minutes during Meeting for Business. Most decisions are formulated into a minute but we don’t think of these are particularly formal or informal.

3. Threshing sessions: the only experience we could recall in which we had a threshing session was 10-20 years ago. If Faith and Practice elaborated on threshing sessions, it is possible we would have more. Examples of situations in which they could be used might be helpful.

8. Faith and Practice could use more detail on Clearness Committees, ways in which they work and situations in which they could be used.

12. Friends in Ministry: we have not had a member who works as a minister in the narrow sense of the word. On the other hand, most of our members have various ministries and the Meeting is supportive as requested. The closest situation we had to a minister was a member who had a membership in the Anglican Church when she applied for membership to our Monthly Meeting. We approved dual membership and she subsequently attended seminary and became a priest. She, in the meantime, had transferred her Quaker membership so we lost track of her status subsequent to her ordination.

13. Tension around ministry: we think that Faith and Practice should bring up the question and any tensions around this topic. Queries can be designed to help Meeting explore this. F & P should never become prescriptive.

16. Missing on Monthly Meetings: we find lacking, material on dealing with conflict within the Meeting.

From Boise Valley Friends
DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE QUESTIONS/MONTHLY MTG

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4. We have a Clerk, Recording Clerk, Treasurer, Ministry & Oversight Committee, a representative to NPYM. Sometimes we have a Hospitality person, a Religious Education committee, a First Day School coordinator.

5. I think both these suggestions would be useful. It might also be helpful to remind Friends that there are available resources (such as clerking workshops, or experiences Friends in the Yearly Meeting who can be contacted for help.) And of course, even in positions of solitary leadership, we are always attempting to lead from a shared responsibility and shared wisdom.

6. We have a Ministry and Oversight Committee, probably in part because we are such a small Meeting.

7. To our knowledge, of these issues, we have only ever dealt with an attender with mental illness. We do not have written procedures and policies. We have been loving and inclusive and have seen a remarkable healing emerge over a long period. This person is a dearly beloved and important part of our circle.

- Faith and Practice could use more detail on Clearness Committees, ways in which they work and situations in which they could be used.

9. Care Committees have arisen informally, inspired by need. In the recent past we have responded to the needs of some young attenders for tutoring and warm clothing. A very functional crew swung into action to assist a member caring for her partner with a terminal illness. We try to keep aware of needs as they arrive and gather a response. There is no formal Care Committee. We rely on Ministry and Oversight to try to track these opportunities and needs.

12.. Friends in Ministry: we have not had a member who works as a minister in the narrow sense of the word. On the other hand, most of our members have various ministries and the Meeting is supportive as requested. The closest situation we had to a minister was a member who had a membership in the Anglican Church when she applied for membership to our Monthly Meeting. We approved dual membership and she subsequently attended seminary and became a priest. She, in the meantime, had transferred her Quaker membership so we lost track of her status subsequent to her ordination.

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18. There are such great resources from QuakerBooks and Pendle Hill. Our Meeting has especially benefitted from the personal sharing and support we’ve received from experienced Friends from other regional Meetings as we’ve grappled with conflict in our Meeting. We’ve approached people known personally to our Members. It might be helpful to have NPYM maintain a roster of experienced Friends willing to consult on various topics.
Could you also include further guidance about what Meetings have done when longstanding differences are difficult to resolve. When a difference of opinion/deep concern lasts for 3-4 years, are there suggestions about how to help the meeting move on?

I also appreciated the inclusion of the John Woolman quotation about meeting length. J

(10.) Faith and Practice currently includes full descriptions of the Worship and Ministry, Oversight, and Nominating Committees. Should it include descriptions of other typical committees and their responsibilities and functions? Yes, I think more guidance would be very helpful. What other committees do small meetings have and what other committees do large meetings have? Can you include something about Committee for First Day School?

Please include practices around modern systems like distribution/taking of notes via e-mail, electronic storage of records (or not), meeting minutes and the like.

(11.) Our Faith and Practice does not currently include a working definition of "ministry." How would you define it?
Ministry: Tending to the needs of the members and attenders of the meeting in spiritual, supportive and friendly ways in order to grow the meeting community. Ministry can range from bringing new parents a meal upon the birth of a baby to spending time in worship with someone who is troubled by a difficulty in their faith and practice.

(14.) What is your group's practice and experience with Support Committees?
Our group has formed support committees in the past on several topics. I do not believe that everyone in the Meeting knows when or how to ask for the assistance of a support committee.

(15.) The current PYM Faith and Practice includes a few sentences concerning children, incorporated into Committee on Worship & Ministry/Committee on Oversight descriptions. Friends have identified several topics to be added to NPYM's Faith and Practice, including:
* First Day School - with cross-ref to "religious education and study" in the "Faith" part of the book. Might include: First Day School Committee is not just for parents! Curriculum activities, and projects to reflect our wide range of faith and practice, not just 1.
Yes this would be very helpful. I think it would be helpful to suggest some further ways Meetings have helped children to feel welcome. It’s not just about First day classes.
I think it would be good to ask a small meeting that has a successful first day program to review the chapter and suggest some ways to add information or guidance. This is a real struggle for us.

Friends and mandatory reporting
* Transition to Adulthood - with cross ref. to chapter on membership. Might include: care for young people is for the whole Meeting, not just one committee; recognition of milestones such as HS graduation, nurturing spiritual gifts and spiritual contributions of young people; encouraging participation in meeting for worship.include a section/paragraph on young friend’s groups like the Young Friends of NYPM
The Committee on the Discipline also suggests borrowing and adapting some material from Intermountain Yearly Meeting's Faith and Practice, pp. 91-95. this material is included in the draft chapter for NPYM review. Is it suitable? Is there anything that NPYM Friends would add, subtract, alter?
I thought that this section is excellent. It would also be helpful to suggest any ways Friends have addressed some of the concerns addressed by the young persons’ issues. For example, one of the quotations implies that adults do not spend time volunteering to chaperone young people’s activities. Is there some guidance/idea that Faith and Practice can provide?

(17.) Are there parts of this section that you think would belong better in some other part of the Faith and Practice? no Parts that you think could be deleted? no