

LEADINGS & PRIORITIES WORKING GROUP

During Summer Sessions 2014, New York Yearly Meeting united on a set of Leadings & Priorities to guide yearly meeting activities and budget decisions through the next five-to-eight years. A body to monitor how these priorities are being implemented and to report regularly to the yearly meeting will be needed. Another aspect that will need continuing attention is the disconnect between monthly meetings and worship groups and the yearly meeting.

The working group will assess how the Yearly Meeting as a whole (both the yearly meeting committee structure and our constituent monthly meetings) is living into the priorities. This assessment shall weigh both the use of money and the use of Friends time and energy. If it finds that the priorities are not being utilized, or not having sufficient impact, in consultation with monthly meetings, it will advise ways that the yearly meeting committee structure can better support this work. The working group will be under the care of Liaison Committee.

The headings for the priorities are as follows:

- We envision a yearly meeting deeply grounded in the practice of our faith.
- We envision a yearly meeting made up of strong, vital monthly meetings.
- We envision a yearly meeting gathered together into one body.
- We envision a yearly meeting that nurtures our children, youth and young adults.
- We envision a yearly meeting that supports and amplifies our witness.
- We envision a yearly meeting that is accountable and transparent.

The composition of the working group will be as follows:

- NYYM assistant clerk
- Representative from Ministry section
- Representative from Meetings for Discernment
- Representative from Advancement Committee
- Representative from Powell House, JYM, Youth Committee, or Young Adult Concerns
- Representative from Witness section
- Representative from General Services section
- Representative from ARCH or Aging Concerns Committee
- It is important that each region has representation, and that Farmington-Scipio have at least two representatives. Any region that does not have a representative will need to appoint a representative each year to the working group. Farmington-Scipio will need to have at least two representatives from different geographic areas.
- General Secretary, ex-officio
- The immediate past clerk of NYYM will be available for consultation as the group feels the need for input from that source.

Representatives would be appointed by the region, section, or committee(s) following Summer Sessions each year.

The Assistant Clerk of NYYM will be convener for the group. The Assistant Clerk may be asked to serve as clerk. As representatives are appointed, the Assistant Clerk will work with the appointing groups to maximize as wide a geographic distribution of members as possible. The group will meet at least once a year to prepare a report for Summer Sessions.

A few general, open-ended queries will be developed by the working group about the health of the meetings that are being contacted. In addition, the group will compose two or three queries to shed light on the implementation of each priority.

Each member of the working group will be responsible for being in regular communication with about eight monthly meetings or worship groups, including prison worship groups. The first contact will be an email to the clerk or contact person, followed within two or three weeks by a phone call. The phone call will be made prior to each yearly meeting session. A responsible person from the monthly meeting or worship group—clerk, clerk of M&C, clerk of Trustees, or a former clerk as examples—will be asked some or all of the queries. Working group members will be expected to make a visit to three of their meetings each year, so that all monthly meetings and worship groups would have a visit every three years in addition to the phone contact.

Working group members will read all of the State of the Meeting reports each year.