**Annual Report**

**BYM Faith & Practice Committee**

July 2025

The Faith and Practice Committee has met at least monthly during the last year, and the regular

attenders have developed a good working relationship and deeply centered worship. We start

our meetings with worship and personal sharing, and we also end with worship. We have each

found our roles that balance the committee, whether it is convening, writing, bringing specific

perspectives, or keeping us spiritually centered. We are basically a committee of four because

other appointed members have been unavailable.

We read the anti-racism queries at the beginning of each meeting. We did not explicitly address

them every time we met, but as we neared unity on a paragraph or section, we considered with

focus whether it addressed the beliefs of different groups within the yearly meeting. We have

been careful to include the perspectives of both FUM-oriented Quakers and FGC-oriented

Quakers. We also considered diversity of ages, education levels, and locations (rural or urban)

within the yearly meeting.

In the spring of 2024, we met with members of the Unity with Nature Committee, the Working

Group on Racism, the Growing Diverse Leadership Committee, and the Reparations Action

Working Group to get their perspectives for revisions of two sections to the 1988/2023 Faith

and Practice: Part 1, Section B, 21 Humankind and the Environment, Part 1, and Section B, 18,

Prejudice and Discrimination, as well as related queries. The committee began with material Unity with Nature provided us. We plan to move into work on the section currently titled Prejudice and Discrimination in August 2025.

We spent the year revising and re-revising a draft of Care of the Earth – our update for Humankind and the Environment - drawing on input from the Unity with Nature Committee, the 2013 Resource for Faith and Practice, and work of the wider community of Friends. We sent the draft document out to monthly meetings, worshipping communities within the yearly meeting, and committees of the yearly meeting in late November for comments and feedback.

As we started receiving responses, we realized that our focus was not quite right for a number

of these groups. We very carefully and prayerfully revised the section with all comments in

mind. We were challenged by some of the comments we received that we experienced as

mean-spirited and not helpful. We focused instead on understanding serious concerns brought to us, so we could appropriately address them. We carefully read and sat with each response, so we could include at least the essence of each in our final draft. We tried hard to make the document reflect all in the yearly meeting. We could not include every single comment and sometimes there were conflicts in perspectives.

We produced a simpler, more nature-focused document which we brought to Interim

Meeting for a first reading and hope to have approved at Annual Session as a replacement for

Faith and Practice (1988/2023) sections I.B.21 and II.B.12.

We are grateful for the support of Nominating Committee that listened to our needs and worked hard to find the right Friends to join us in August 2025. We are pleased with the experiences and skills incoming committee members will bring us, and we know we will benefit from them.

We are a small committee taking on large responsibilities. Our work is challenging, and it is rewarding. We do it prayerfully, carefully, and humbly, and we are enriched in the process.