**BYM Ministry and Pastoral Care (M&PC)**

**Annual Report August 2024-July 2025**

Members: Peirce Hammond, Martin Melville (co-clerks), Jerry Coates, Paul Isyai, Otis Kenny, Karen Lockett, Kevin Douglas Olive, Eileen Stanzione, Barbara Thomas.

**Annual Session 2024**

M&PC is responsible for several functions at Yearly Meeting’s Annual Session.

* *Development of Queries* in accordance with the theme (“Rise up and Let your Life Speak”) to guide Worship Sharing. The queries were: (i) How does your life speak to the calling of the Spirit; (ii) How are you led to respond to the call to affirm human dignity, root out prejudice and rejuvenate our culture of activism?; (iii) Whom do you admire whose life followed spiritual guidance? Tell a story about that person and why you have chosen them.
* *Pre-session Retreat* — led by Francisco Burgos, Director of Pendle Hill. Title: Effeta, being attentive to the Spirit in a challenging world.
* *Morning Worship Hour*
* Bible Study led by Paul Isayi
* Experiment with Light led by Sarah Burr
* Sacred Chant Workshop led by Ruth Fitz
* Worship Sharings, one led by Unity with Nature, a second led by Meg Meyer and Katherine Cole.
* *Ensuring Prayerful Presences* are holding Meetings for Business and Plenaries in Light.
* *Connecting Local Meetings Workshop* led by Greg Robb and Eileen Stanzione on: “Sharing about guiding newcomers as they arrive and integrate” and “What will Quaker meetings look like in 20 years? How to attract young folks.”
* *Memorial Meeting* led by Ken Stockbridge and Barbara Thomas’ Saturday late morning.
* *Programmed Worship* led by Pastors Gilbert Imbayi and Ronald Moyia from Friends Church of Baltimore.

**Spiritual State of the Meeting Report**

M&PC develops queries and circulates them to local Meetings and BYM committees. Note goes out in November; responses are due by April; BYM-wide report is generated by early July. Queries for 2024 were: (i) How does the Spirit prosper among you?; (ii) In what ways are we tenderly eldering and educating adults and children in the manner of Friends to deepen our Vocal Ministry?; (iii) How do we maintain the spirit of openness and humility as we proclaim our testimonies and live them?; (iv) As we work for peace, are we nourished by peace and justice within and among ourselves?

**Annual Committee Retreat**

BYM’s Friends Supporting Friends led M&PC in a session February 1 on “Dealing with Conflict Constructively.” It gave us a chance to share together with our new members and with the pastoral care roles FSF and M&PC shepherd.

**Coffee Hours**

January 16—“How is your Meeting staying centered with all the tumult in the world?”

April 24—“How is your Meeting holding space for compassionate and connected conversation in the midst of unsettling times? How are we called to exercise moral courage at this time?”

July 3—“What are the challenges for members at your Meeting? How might they be addressed?

**Areas of internal committee discussions**

Diversity of vocal ministry and acceptance of including Christian terminology.

Embraced ministry vs travel minutes (e.g., Stuart Green)

Clarification on questions from Monthly Meeting Friends on (i) nature of questions vs queries, (ii) what is spirituality?, (iii) guidelines on dates for Spiritual State of Meeting reflections.

**Addendums:**

1. Responses of Local Meetings on Anti-racism/Social Justice Work (separately attached)
2. Reports of M&PC Oversight Working Groups (separately attached)

* Working Group on Racism
* Friends Supporting Friends
* End of Life Working Group
* Reparations Action Working Group

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1fbeA1oQn3HSDI-7ZOybjhC2w6cNZdpqV/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=114208606257481506895&rtpof=true&sd=true

* Women’s Retreat