Report to BYM Annual Session 2025

BYM Advancement and Outreach Committee

Members: Steve Morse (clerk), Levi Goren, Jim Citro, Maggie Detar-Lavallee, Erinn Mansour, Madeline Mirasol

This report covers the period from July 2024 through June 2025.

1. This August marks the third full year for *Jesus' Friends*. Our goal is to provide opportunities for Friends to express their faith using Christian and Biblical language. A calendar of events is published each month, and includes dates and contact information for such activities as worship sharing, Bible Study, discussion groups, and meetings for worship. As of June 2025, there are about 50 people on the *JF* mailing list. We also reviewed and improved the *JF* portion of the BYM website.

2. A workshop on Vocal Ministry as part of outreach was presented by Jim Citro at the Annual Session last July. Jim also presented the workshop to the Warrenton Quarterly Meeting.

3. Jim Citro and Maggie Detar-Lavallee are preparing a workshop for presentation at the 2025 Annual Session. The theme of the workshop is “Spirit-led Outreach.”

4. Our committee holds the BYM working group on Welcoming Trans and Nonbinary Friends under its care. That working group has been active, and will be submitting its own report.

5. We support the Susan Turner Thompson Quaker Education Fund (STTQEF) by appointing a representative each year. This year, Erinn Mansour was the A&O representative.

6. At the request of the Nominating Committee, members of A&O made videos of their experience working on the A&O committee.

7. An on-going effort has been made to review and up-grade the A&O portion of the BYM website. Independent of A&O, BYM Administration has been making its own up-grades and improvements to the full BYM website. This has complicated our work, since it has been difficult to dis-entangle responsibilities and the technical effects of proposed changes. For example, before we became aware of the work being done by BYM Admin on the website, we drafted a detailed letter laying out our concerns regarding the website, and the need for improvements to support Outreach. (As it turned out, the concerns contained in that letter were OBE.) We plan to continue working on this project.

8. We laid down two non-functioning working groups at the March Interim Meeting: the *Internet Communications* working group, and the *Growing Our Meetings* working group.

9. We held a face-to-face meeting in March which gave members of the A&O committee a chance to get to know each other better in an informal, relaxed setting. We hope to make this an annual event.

Respectfully submitted: Steve Morse, Clerk July, 2025