

Nominating Committee brings forward the following recommendation for consideration and approval:

Nominating Committee recommends laying fallow the regular work of Nominating Committee for 9 months (August 15, 2012 – May 15, 2013). The Committee will use this time to work with others in the yearly meeting to explore what might make the Yearly Meeting a more vital and active part of Friends' lives in the Northwest so that the Yearly Meeting grows, thrives and Friends are more willing to serve on committees, and to rebuild the Committee to full strength.

Explanation:

Nominating is struggling. The committee currently has only 3 members. Names are not rising easily, especially in areas in which we do not have representation on the committee. We look at the directory and do not recognize the names listed. Those who have been active in the past are less able to serve the Yearly Meeting now, for a variety of reasons. Some Friends say the Yearly Meeting has no significance in their lives. We cannot do the work asked, seek members for our committee, and better know the gifts of Friends in the Yearly Meeting. It would become a more than full-time job. We have asked for help, both in filling the vacancies on our committee and in knowing the Society in the Northwest more deeply. Coordinating Committee was unable to come to unity in April on how to assist us, other than to reduce the number of positions to fill. We are discouraged and feel as though we are failing at the task assigned to us. If this were any other committee, we would ask it be laid down. Instead, we are asking for a time of rest and renewal.

Quoting wise advice from Sheila Hale (Eugene):

"Laying down something in which there is no longer inspiration is as much our duty as Friends as obeying the Spirit when it rises in us. It is an act of faith to create a vacuum for Spirit to flow renewed. In laying down [the work of] a tired Committee there comes rest. Out of rest comes renewal and the Spirit will speak to new people with new ideas. Behind the leadings of the Spirit comes power. When we doggedly maintain the old we are trying to do the work ourselves. We need to remember it isn't our work. It is God's work. We are merely the hands and feet. In and of ourselves we can do little. It is only when we shift and adapt as a living Spiritual organism can we, individuals or Meetings, be a good Committee...or whatever we are being called to be."

We love you, and this isn't working.

Faithfully submitted by the NPYM Nominating Committee