

NPYM Ministry and Oversight Report to Coordinating Committee, October 29, 2016

The NPYM Ministry and Oversight Committee invites Ministry and Oversight (or the equivalent) Clerks to participate in our upcoming consultation conference call on “Eldering” which will take place on Sunday, January 8, 2017, 6:30 p.m. Please notify these Friends to put this call on their calendars.

At the September meeting of the NPYM Ministry and Oversight Committee, we discussed our concern regarding State of Society Reports. During Annual Session, many Friends don't have time to read the reports. We considered putting the State of Society Reports on the NPYM website. It may not be appropriate to put the 2016 State of Society Reports on the website as Meetings have not been informed this would happen. We ask Coordinating Committee's input regarding doing this in the future. When we send out a call for the 2017 State of Society Reports, we would inform Meetings that their reports would be posted on the NPYM website.

Nancy McLauchlan, Clerk, NPYM Ministry & Oversight

Following is the NPYM Ministry and Oversight Committee Report from Annual Session, which is sent to the General Arrangements Clerk:

**Ministry and Oversight Committee
Report from NPYM Annual Session, 2016**

NPYM Ministry and Oversight Committee arrived on the Whitworth Campus, Spokane, WA, Monday evening, July 11, 2016, in preparation for our retreat before Annual Session. We meet eleven months of the year, but only twice in person. Our retreats are essential to help us become a cohesive body and work as a team.

On Tuesday, we met at Spokane Friends Church for worship, spiritual check-in, queries from Parker Palmer, and, of course, our Meeting for Business. We had three meals together that day, including dinner with Diane Randall, our Friend in Residence. Diane joined us Wednesday morning where we talked about our yearly meeting and shared with each other.

We were grateful for the hospitality of Spokane Friends Church, and especially Wade Schwartz, an elder of the church, who helped us so much. Among other tasks, he provided transportation for Friends to and from the airport and opened the church building for us for our meetings.

Previous to Annual Session, M&O members had gathered State of Society Reports and Memorial Minutes from Meetings and Worship Groups. At Annual Session we posted them on the wall and in notebooks for Friends to peruse.

During Annual Session, M&O members performed many tasks. We either monitored the entry door or assisted others; we counseled those who did mic-running for Meetings for Worship; we closed Worship; we supported Leaders and held them in the Light, both individually and collectively. We hosted Newcomers Tables at meals and hosted a meal-time meeting with Monthly Meeting Ministry and Oversight clerks.

Some of our work was not obvious as we met with individuals and groups who needed care. Individually, M&O members were asked to listen to concerns. As a committee we met confidentially with two different groups.

We struggled with how to make State of Society Reports relevant to Friends. We read the reports and enjoyed them very much. But in the busyness of Annual Session, most Friends didn't have time to read the reports. For the past two years, we have made up quizzes with answers to be found in the reports. Few have found time to do this. We will reconsider this for next year.

At Annual Session, M&O members shared cell phone numbers in order to be in touch with each other as needed.

“Ministry & Oversight serves the Yearly Meeting, fostering the spiritual life and good order of the Yearly Meeting as a whole and at Annual Session.” We do our best.

Nancy McLaughlan, Clerk, NPYM Ministry & Oversight, August 18, 2016