

To: North Pacific Yearly Meeting
From: Peace and Social Concerns Committee
Date: 1 July 2021
Subject: NPYM Working Groups

This proposal has been prepared at the request of the NPYM Coordinating Committee by the Peace and Social Concerns Committee. It has been shared with the Uprooting Systemic Racism Committee and participants in the Earthcare Action and Immigrant Concerns sharing sessions. Mary Ann Percy, Steven Aldrich, Jonathan Betz-Zall, and Eric Maya Joy provided individual comments in telephone conversations.

The comments noted that other NPYM committees might want to have working groups under their care. In our view, it is the care that is important, not the specific group giving the care. We hope the commitments described below might be a basis for other NPYM committees if they decide to take working groups under their care. The proposal here is limited to working groups that are taking action on peace or social concerns issues. Friends should also note that nothing in this proposal changes or affects Yearly Meeting processes for bringing minutes forward for approval.

PROPOSAL

From time to time, Friends in North Pacific Yearly Meeting are moved to take action together on issues of peace or social concerns. The Peace and Social Concerns Committee is bringing this proposal forward to facilitate recognizing these issue-oriented, continuing groups in the structure of Yearly Meeting and providing resources for their work.

We propose that such Working Groups operate largely autonomously under the care of the Peace and Social Concerns Committee.

- A group seeking Working Group status should plan to undertake work over several years, going beyond proposing a minute for yearly meeting action if they are associated with one.
- A minimum of five Friends drawn from at least three monthly meetings is expected for a Working Group.
- The membership of the group would be flexible and open to anyone committed to its work; the group would maintain its own list of members for communication purposes.
- The group would choose its own leadership structure and appoint its own leaders.
- The group would prepare a statement of its scope, goals, and the kinds of activities it expects to undertake.

The group would present the statement and current membership to the Peace and Social Concerns Committee, which would endorse recognition unless concerns arise.

The Peace and Social Concerns Committee commits to provide care for such Working Groups in the following ways

- By assuring that one of its members serves as liaison by following the Working Group's communications and preferably attending its meetings.
- By facilitating access for the working group to NPYM resources including presence on the web page and requests for funds made through the regular budgeting process.

Peace and Social Concerns would expect the following from the Working Group:

- A brief written report from the Working Group annually to include in its report to annual session. This report would not preclude the Working Group from leading other presentations or activities during Annual Session.
- A self-assessment of its effectiveness and continuing viability and adherence to Quaker process at least every two years with a report on the results to PSC. PSC has the responsibility to suggest laying the group down if its mission has been fulfilled or if it has not been active.

If this proposal is adopted, we further request that the following item be added to the Job Description of the Peace and Social Concerns Committee: "Take PSC Working Groups under its care, including recognizing their establishment, facilitating access to NPYM resources, and considering their continuing viability."