

Elders Report

I am Dana Houghton, Convener of the Elders of our Yearly Meeting, and a member of Kendal Monthly Meeting.

I would like this Yearly Meeting to meet our Elders. Please stand as your name is called: Dorothy Reichardt, Chris Lucca, Inspira Williams, Jane Keller, Mary Waddington, and myself, Dana Houghton. Walt Burwell, one of the newest Elders, and Yolanda Covarrubias and could not be with us today.

Previous Elders that you may remember, whose terms have expired, have been: Tom Armstrong, Jim Morrissey, Chris Nicholson; and Alison Anderson, who resigned to become Alternate Clerk, and Scott Rhodewalt, who resigned when he moved to Massachusetts on his retirement this summer.

We have three panels of Elders, each with three people. This allows for staggered and overlapping terms. Two thirds of the current group of Elders was recently appointed, and we need time to learn from each other, to become a cohesive group. We currently have one opening, to be filled by Nominating Committee. The Elders meet as a group prior to each Yearly Meeting or Continuing Meeting session.

Our work is to hold the entire body of the Yearly Meeting and its leadership in prayer, during sessions and between sessions, to deepen the worship. We are also available to be called on by Yearly Meeting clerks for prayer or consultation, when need arises. Concerns are brought to the Yearly Meeting Clerk, and referred to the Elders. The Elders have been called on several times to assist in special situations that remain confidential, and their participation has been appreciated.

I think it can be said that since the Elders have been appointed there has been an increase in our sense of the Spirit being present, an increase in positive, affirming speech, and a decrease in tension in Interim Meeting and Yearly Meeting sessions.

Please join us in prayer for our Yearly Meeting, and for these Annual Sessions, that all of us may be guided by the Spirit in our actions, and in our relations with one another.

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