

***Faith and Practice* Revision**

Report to Philadelphia Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

Philadelphia Yearly Meeting in its 2017 annual sessions has an historic opportunity to seek together the Spirit's guidance on adoption of a new edition of our book, *Faith and Practice of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends*. Updating our book occurs about once a generation.

At annual sessions a year ago, *Faith and Practice* Revision Group (FPRG) presented the final revision and recommendation to "accept the new edition and turn attention to publishing and using the new book." However, consideration of the matter was interrupted. May we be favored at these sessions with discernment for adopting the 2016 revision and move forward to publication.

Each year from 2009 to 2016, FPRG reported its progress to Friends during annual sessions. The reports are appended to the revision document on the yearly meeting website. <http://www.pym.org/one-book-one-yearly-meeting/wp-content/uploads/sites/33/2016/10/faith-and-practice-final-report-2016.pdf>

Soliciting feedback was a crucial component of the revision work. FPRG created specific opportunities to engage Friends, learn from meetings about their experiences and practices, and benefit from the editing skills of many in our community. Over half the monthly meetings participated in some way.

Steps since Annual Sessions 2016

- A few text items were addressed promptly after 2016 sessions, and the final version was posted on the yearly meeting website in September 2016.
- Shortly after Annual Sessions 2016, the revision was selected as the "One Book, One Yearly Meeting" choice for 2017. FPRG provided a set of queries to stimulate discussion as groups and meetings would be reading the new edition together during the year.
- Administrative Council appointed the *Faith and Practice* Sprint (FPS) to help Friends become more acquainted with the revision and prepare for its adoption.
- The sprint has added information and links to the website to make the long document more accessible. The website is: <http://www.pym.org/one-book-one-yearly-meeting/2017-book/> and the sprint's additions are:
 - "Take a Look at Our Book," an overview of things that are new and different in the revision;
 - "Section-by-Section Downloads"; and
 - 12 sets of "General Queries," which many meetings consider on a monthly basis.

- FPS gave out paper copies of the “Take a Look at Our Book” document at continuing sessions in March. <http://www.pym.org/one-book-one-yearly-meeting/2017-book/take-look-book/> The sprint also wrote short articles to bring attention to the revision for yearly meeting staff to distribute, fielded questions and received comments from individuals and meetings, and offered to lead discussions about the revision with meetings throughout 2017. FPS will be leading a workshop on Friday at sessions on “Using *Faith and Practice*.”

Next steps, after the new edition is adopted

- Release of members of FPRG with deep gratitude for their service
- Appointment of Friends to see the book through to publication and distribution. Tasks include preparing an index, proofreading, layout, and planning for printing a paperback version and an online, searchable version.

Newcomers may wonder what would be of interest to them in *Faith and Practice*. The new edition begins with descriptive sections, which emphasize and affirm our core insights and practices. Sections follow on historical background, Friends’ organizations, extracts from the writings of Friends, guidelines and procedures, and resources. The section on guidelines and procedures includes membership, marriage, general queries, and queries for a spiritual self-assessment of the meeting and end-of life matters. Some who use our book find it indispensable, inspirational and practical.

As noted in the Foreword, this edition of *Faith and Practice* is “intended to be a guide, and not a rule, for our members, attenders and others who seek to understand how Friends in our yearly meeting express our faith in our lives, our communities and our organizations.” Let us come to 2017 annual session with gratitude for the work that has brought us to this juncture and ask Spirit to lead us toward adoption of our revised *Faith and Practice*.

Contact for this report: salliebjoness@gmail.com

***Faith and Practice* Revision Group,**
appointed 2009, current members

Annette Benert (Lehigh Valley MM, Bucks QM)
Joan Broadfield (Chester MM, Chester QM)
Martha Bryans (Uwchlan MM, Caln QM),
clerk
Howard Cell (Germantown MM, Philadelphia QM)
Sallie Jones (Birmingham MM, Concord QM)
Bill Smith (Moorestown MM, Haddonfield QM)

***Faith and Practice* Revision Sprint,**
appointed 2017

Suzanne Day (Westfield MM, Haddonfield QM), clerk
Sallie Jones (Birmingham MM, Concord QM)
tonya thames taylor (Fallowfield MM, Western QM)
Andrew Thompson (MM of Friends of Philadelphia, Philadelphia QM)

Gretchen Castle, Sandy Horne and Ann Yasuhara (deceased) also served the yearly meeting on FPRG in the past.