

Submitted by Shelley Kotz & Rebecca Morehouse - co clerks

Nominated committee members: Linda Mills, Lisa Klopfer, David Snyder, MaryAnn Concannon

Active participant: Flo Friender (Kalamazoo Meeting Rep)

Reps are welcome to join our committee meetings. Contact M&N clerks for dates and times.

As is the practice of Ministry and Nurture (M&N), we spent time prior to the 2020 LEYM Annual Sessions to create or choose a Query to present to Monthly Meetings (MM) and Worship Groups (WG) for reflection. We worked for some time with the topic of Black Lives Matter and a growing understanding of Systemic Racism to try to craft a query that would address this deep concern. We came to realize that the *2020 Epistle from the pre Gathering Friends of Color and their Families* had already created queries coming from a deeper experience and understanding than we have. Heeding their call to action, M&N asked MMs and WGs to sit with these queries and to seek an opening to Spirit with ways to continue learning and to take action. (See M&N summary of Query responses).

One of our first decisions in the fall of 2020 after Yearly Meeting was to change the dates for Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups to send in their Response to the Query to Jan 15 and their State of the Meeting report to May 15. Those changes will give Ministry and Nurture the ability to summarize the responses in a timely manner.

As the Covid-19 pandemic continued, MMs and WGs were challenged to find new ways to engage in worship, business, and fellowship. In responding to a need for MM Clerks to talk about the new realities, we offered three 90-minute zoom "Clerk's Chats" which were attended by 12 to 17 new and experienced Clerks. It was a meaningful time of sharing concerns, asking questions of one another, and offering suggestions and advice.

WG conveners also attended. Many have asked for these to continue in the fall.

We took to heart a Friend's suggestion that we host a Bible Study during this time of isolation and discouragement. MaryAnn Concannon led 5 zoom sessions on Saturday afternoons from Feb to June, generally following Michael Birkel's *Engaging Scripture: Reading the Bible with Early Friends*. 35 Friends signed up initially, although those numbers decreased as good weather and summer schedules took effect. Those who participated found it meaningful and have asked us to consider hosting more Bible Study sessions next year.

The LEYM Policy and Procedures manual states that M&N oversees the Spiritual Formation (SF) Program as presented by a planning committee. Members of the planning committee are typically selected by the existing planning committee and are responsible for organizing both the physical aspects of the retreats that start and end each year's program and choosing a program topic and presenters. Although the pandemic created some delay in planning, the 2020-2021 program occurred virtually on the usual date of the first weekend after Labor Day. The program "*Spiritual Companions within an Ecology of Quaker Practice*" was led by Cassie Cammann, Nadine Hoover and Mark Hoover which included several other (virtual) check-in workshops offered during the year.

The planning for 2021-2022 Spiritual Formation is underway with Valerie Groszmann, Sally Weaver Sommer, Ellerie Brownfain, & Lisa Klopfer on the planning committee.

M&N began receiving and reading State of the Meeting reports in mid-May. We value the depth of commitment involved in each MM and WG discernment and their reporting of where they are at this time. We learn from one another and grow in our understanding of Quaker faith as we read of the joys, challenges, successes, and insights of those in our yearly meeting family. A summary of the State of the Meeting Reports will be submitted in a separate report.