

Report of IYMC Ministry & Counsel Report to 2023 IYM(C) Annual Sessions

08/27/2023

As members of the IYM(C) Ministry & Counsel reflected on their work in the past year, one Friend said, with what seemed a mixture of surprise and awe, that the committee had done A LOT in the past year! Friends began nodding in agreement, but they also acknowledged that God isn't giving us a goal of "doing a lot."

M&C has received reports from the various ad hoc committees charged with the responsibility of helping plan and carry out projects/programs under the Committee's care. The spiritual well-being of IYM(C), its meetings and its members and attenders remains the main charge of M&C and it seeks to continue to be faithful to the Divine and Yearly Meeting in this work.

Besides being tasked with reading the State of the Meeting Reports and summarizing the Religious Education reports the M&C also has the following projects under its care: Spiritual Sharing Small Groups; revision of the proposed Child Safety document; monthly meeting clerks' retreat; visitation of monthly meetings by M&C members; providing support and spiritual care to Deborah Fisch, who has a continuing call to Gospel ministry; and seeking to become more aware of the spiritual health of our monthly meetings.

Spiritual Sharing Small Groups (SSSG) – This is the third year of the SSSG project. Meeting over a six-month period, F/friends have the Opportunity to share their spiritual journeys and reflect on self-selected topics related to those journeys. M&C continues to hear what a huge difference it makes to Friends' spiritual lives and in feeling more connected to each other and to Yearly Meeting. Friends who have participated are urged to share about their experiences in their meetings as Way opens. A new round will begin in Ninth Month and those shepherding will be sending out more information soon. Also, there is information on the Yearly Meeting Website at iymc.org.

Ad Hoc Child Safety Revision Committee (CSRC)– The Ad Hoc Child Safety Policy Revision Committee is charged with further revision of the proposed child safety policy for IYM(C). Last fall the CSRC provided monthly meeting clerks with the most current iteration of the policy, asking their meetings to provide feedback (responses were detailed and provided important suggestions) and with that information it began revising the document. As sections were completed they were shared with M&C. And later a detailed outline was shared with Friends who have had or currently have a role in this work. Their good feedback resulted in the CSRC undertaking a second rewrite, breaking the lengthy draft into three independent documents – one for youth leaders, one for parents and one for planning committees that worked together to make up the proposed manual for the youth planning committees. The CSRC then offered two on-line information sessions for Yearly Meeting Friends, but there wasn't enough time remaining for M&C to be able to thoughtfully consider the proposed revisions before Annual Sessions and so another year will be needed. The current draft will be made available on-line to IYMC members in read only format soon after Annual Sessions and the Ad Hoc Committee welcomes comments concerning content, but not general editing, as there are Friends willing to assist with that final part of the project.

Visitation of Monthly Meetings – This year members of the committee volunteered to visit many of our monthly meeting during the year. Several Friends have now made those visits and others hope to do so while the weather is still good. It has been a satisfying experience for those who have been able to make their visits.

Seeking to Provide Spiritual Support for IYMC Meetings – M&C continues to seek more ways to better serve monthly meetings and be aware of their spiritual condition. This year Friends were invited to share how the Spirit has been at work in their meetings and their own lives “since last M&C met.” In this way we have been able to be more aware of the work of the Spirit in our meetings and also ask if there is some way the Committee can be of help if a meeting finds itself in a difficult place.

Meeting for Monthly Meeting Clerks – After three months of seeking, the committee discerned that Way had not opened to have another monthly meeting clerks’ meeting in 2022/23. There are plans to revisit this again in the coming year.

Anchor Committee & Report from Deborah Fisch – Deborah gave a report concerning the Gospel ministry to which she has been called. Videoconferencing has made it possible to attend distant meetings and offer ministry as led. Since last Annual Sessions she has visited two yearly meetings in sessions in this way and one of our monthly meetings in person. At the suggestion and with the help of Friend Helen Thorpe of Intermountain Yearly Meeting she has begun writing a book about what she has been learning as she seeks to be a faithful F/friend of Christ.

M&C affirms Deborah’s calling to Gospel Ministry.

Annual State of the Meeting Reports and a **summary of monthly meeting Religious Education (RE) Reports** were given earlier during Annual Sessions.

Cheryl Sutton and Lorene Ludy were appointed to serve as co-clerks for the 23/24 Ministry & Counsel Committee. We appreciate Deborah’s clerking M&C in the past year and are grateful for her service.

On behalf of the M&C Committee,

Deborah Fisch, clerk/Cheryl Sutton, assistant clerk/ Nancy Jordan, assistant recording clerk