

MINISTRY AND NURTURE

2017 has been a year of blessings and challenges. The committee is working on use of electronic media to minimize carbon footprint resulting from travel & fostering closer relationships among committee members. We are dedicated to keeping our conversations related to committee business Spirit-led. Some Friends have been concerned about the use of these media, but we feel that electronic communication is becoming an increasingly integral part of conversations in our society, and we are trying to model that style of communication related to committee work.

The interpersonal challenges seen in our culture at large today have been reflected in some SAYMA monthly meetings. M&N has served as an unofficial mediator in some of these conflicts, while holding other situations in the Light. Some have been successfully resolved while some others remain tender for some of those involved. We continue to hold in the Light those meetings. We will continue to seek Spirit-led ways to resolve the inevitable conflicts that accompany the challenges of daily living. We recognize that change cannot occur when all those involvement remain in their comfort zone.

Also reflecting challenges in larger society, we have seen involvement by Friends in Yearly Meeting and Monthly Meeting committees, as well as non-Quaker organizations, addressing various areas of concern.

In the past year we received several financial assistance requests for various Quaker-related conferences, including attendance at FGC Gathering, and other resources to allow Friends to continue their ministries. We welcome these requests as a reflection of increasing levels of involvement in the ways Friends try to be faithful to their leadings.

We continue to encourage meetings to share their concerns and needs. We would like to see meetings request education or other resources related to their specific needs. Both in written formal conversations as well as informal verbal conversations, we have seen some general themes emerge, although no meetings as yet have made requests.

The committee met in Huntsville in November. In addition to discussion regarding some concerns expressed by specific meetings, we crafted queries to assist meetings in writing their State of the Meeting annual reports. One committee member who could not attend spent a good bit of the morning with us by phone.

The April Ministry & Nurture meeting was held in Swannanoa, where we focused on compiling information from monthly meetings to write the State of the Yearly Meeting.

We continue to encourage more meetings to appoint a representative from their Meeting serving on this committee. We believe that can only benefit all meetings in the Yearly Meeting.