

Attending were representatives from 12 yearly meetings and members of the FGC Traveling Ministries Committee and the Youth Ministry Committee of FGC.

The consultation may be considered as focusing on the query, How do we as Friends discern and, if appropriate, nurture emergent ministry among our constituency? Ministry was discerned as a broad area of service and spiritual sharing sometimes the focus of nominating committee, sometimes the area of elders. The subject of elders and eldering came up in our small group discussions. Synonyms raised were nurtures encouragers; the discoverers of the gifts of others. We attempted to name some of those gifts: curiosity, inspiring/helping another's faith to grow, varieties of gifts, prayer, listening into the Light, all is gift, consolation, truth telling, need builds community, need generates opportunity for response, challenging/questioning, hospitality (from a brainstorm sessions).

I think it would be helpful to end the report with the concerns raised during the consultation.

*Concerns we have about what is happening now that were mentioned more than once and by more than one yearly meeting:*

- *Nominating Committee overused and not enough other places naming and nurturing is happening.*
- *We aren't spending enough time with each other so we don't know each other well enough in Spirit to always recognize gifts...especially emerging gifts.*
- *We need balance in our meetings – some are too inward and not considering what they might be called to be in the world. Others are so involved in social justice causes they aren't paying close attention to their spiritual health. It isn't an either/or situation. In a healthy meeting it/they support each other and make the Whole.*
- *We need to be rooted and grounded in the Source of all gifts – the Love of the Divine*
- *We rely too much on people naming their own gifts and stepping forward to ask for help in growing them and this is too hard, folks fall though the cracks or even leave.*
- *Asking someone to be on a committee isn't all there is to nurturing gifts of a Friend.*

- *Fear keeps us from developing our own gifts –if we say yes, what will we be asked by God or the meeting to do next?*
- *Fear keeps us from nurturing gifts in others – we are then responsible for continuing to nurture and even hold them accountable, something we anticipate as unpleasant and then perhaps unintentionally avoid.*

I appreciate the opportunity to attend this consultation and learn how SAYMA compares with other yearly meetings. SAYMA compares well. Perry Treadwell