

SCYM Committee Report 2021, Faith & Practice Committee

Less than two years ago the Faith and Practice Committee wrote that by the end of 2021, it might 'have ready most all of the faith and practice documents needed, in draft form, for release to the YM.' Also, it wisely added, the Committee would be assessing the likelihood that this might really be possible.

Now two years later, we've come to realize that despite visible progress being made, the above should happen in 2022, not before. This revised assessment seems more realistic, now well in advance of an actual date being proposed. In any case, not to be forgotten, the draft documents so far assembled are available at the SCYM Yearly Meeting web-site for anyone's perusal. And, individual and/or Meeting requests for more information or ideas for texts or topics, are always welcome.

At the beginning of this work for the Yearly Meeting, surely during the second and third years, we created a list of contents which consisted of seven topical heads: History, Opening to the Spirit, Advices and Queries, Living Together in the Faith Community, Laboring Together in the Monthly Meeting and Relating to the Larger Community of Friends. The total number of chapters being prepared under these seven topical fields comes to 55. (Drafts of those chapters in process are also available at the web-site mentioned above.)

Since about two years ago, our committee also was re-populated with new members, thankfully. We were down to just two persons by then. Shortly afterwards, we felt empowered and chose to meet monthly in order to check in with each other. It lets us bring up on a regular basis issues having to do with the development of texts

and the wording used, as well as any other matter that pertains to our overall task.

We have, for example, met 3 times so far in 2021, during which we have read texts to each other considering Marriage, the Quaker Testimonies, Advices and Queries and several draft texts from earlier versions of the Procedures Manual. There are several topics in the latter which we will be placing, ultimately, in our YM's Faith & Practice. These all will help constitute the texts which are to be used in completing those 55 chapters mentioned above. Also, we have found that through "reading texts aloud," though time-consuming, a deeper understanding of the subject matter is shared as is a clearer "ear" for the words and phrases being used.

Our monthly committee meetings have generated renewed interest, productivity and excitement for the committee. Along with Spirit, they help keep us committed to the work before us. Current members of the Faith & Practice committee, and with thanks to them all, are: Kirsten Brink (College Station), Danielle Evans (Dallas), Robin Morris (New Orleans), Leada Dietz (Live Oak), Almeta Smith (Dallas), Mac Lemann (New Orleans), Claudia Wilson (Fort Worth), Jane Houser (Live Oak) and John Coffin, (Little Rock), clerk.

Submitted by the clerk, March, 2021