

BALTIMORE YEARLY MEETING MINISTRY AND PASTORAL CARE COMMITTEE 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

The Ministry and Pastoral Care Committee, according to the Baltimore Yearly Meeting Manual of Procedure, is concerned with deepening the spiritual life of Baltimore Yearly Meeting and of its constituent Local Meetings. The committee carries an active concern for calling forth and nurturing the gifts of the Spirit in the Yearly Meeting. The committee encourages and supports Local Meetings as they recognize, publicly affirm, and practically support those individuals who exercise their gifts in faithful ministry and service.

Below is a list of the activities of the Ministry and Pastoral Care Committee this past year:

Anti-Racist Queries-The committee began each of its meetings by considering the Baltimore Yearly Meeting anti-racist queries.

Annual Session Preparation-The committee helped organize the 2022 Baltimore Yearly Meeting Annual Session. Specifically, we prepared the retreat with Clinton Pettus; the worship-sharing groups and Bible study; Friends holding the Annual Session events in the Light; the Memorial Service; and two Connecting Local Meetings workshops. The committee arranged for a workshop on the notion of “standing in the way” to be held. We also announced a Meeting for Worship with a Concern for the State of Our World. We helped write the 2023 Annual Session theme statement.

Spiritual State of the Meeting Report-The committee organized the 2021 Baltimore Yearly Meeting Spiritual State of the Yearly Meeting Report. We wrote the queries used by the Local Meetings; sent them out; held a Zoom meeting for the authors of the Monthly Meeting reports to speak about the Spiritual State of the Meeting report; and compiled the responses sent to us in the Spiritual State of the Meeting report for the Annual Session.

Conflict in Local Meetings and Yearly Meeting Committees-The committee supported a Local Meeting experiencing conflict. We are, of course, unable to share the details.

Addressing Conflict Working Group-The committee worked with a group of Friends who wanted to find innovative ways to address conflicts that arise in our Local Meetings and in our Yearly Meeting. After months of discussion, we announced the creation of this Working Group at the Interim Meeting in March.

Working Groups Liaisons and Young Adult Friends Liaison-The committee supported the Yearly Meeting Working Groups through our liaisons with Intervisitation; Pastoral Care; Spiritual Formation; Addressing Conflict; and the Working Group on Racism. Unfortunately, we were unable to provide a liaison for the Women's Retreat. We had a liaison to the Young Adult Friends. We heard annual reports from all these groups.

Gathering for Listening Group-The committee, with the Stewardship and Finance Committee, set up a joint intervisitation group to hold gatherings with regional groups of Local Meetings. We made available information about the Yearly Meeting, specifically about our two committee's roles, but also listened to the Local Meetings about their needs. Gatherings were held in West Virginia; south central Pennsylvania and the District of Columbia/Metropolitan Area.

Coffee Hours-The committee held online forums for Local Meeting Ministry and Counsel Committee members to share their concerns. These were held quarterly.

"Zen and the Art of Quaker Maintenance"-The committee encouraged Victor Thuronyi to publish his pamphlet "Zen and the Art of Quaker Maintenance" on the Baltimore Yearly Meeting website.

Interchange Articles-The committee published an article on their work in each *Interchange* issue.

Ministry and Pastoral Care Committee Retreat-The committee held an online retreat, which proved to be very rich.

Looking Forward-The committee has discussed these concerns during the past year: embraced ministry, the notion of "standing in the way" and the role of Ministry and Pastoral Care Committee at the Meetings for Business during Interim Meeting and Annual Session. We hope to continue those discussions in the coming year.