**Baltimore Yearly Meeting Ministry and Pastoral Care Committee’s Annual Report—2024**

The Ministry and Pastoral Care Committee, according to the Baltimore Yearly Meeting Manual of Procedure, is concerned with deepening the spiritual life of the 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. The committee works with problems when they arise in the Local Meetings. They have worked closely with Friends Helping Friends Working Group; they have referred to us and vice versa.

**Below is a list of activities of the Ministry and Pastoral Care committee this year:**

**Anti-Racism Queries**: The committee began each of its meetings by considering the Baltimore Yearly Meeting anti-racism queries.

**Annual Session and the Spiritual State of the Meeting Report Preparation:** The committee helped organize the 2024 Baltimore Yearly Meeting Annual Session. We wrote the Spiritual State of the Meeting queries and guidelines for the Local Meetings; sent them out; and compiled the responses into the Spiritual State of the Meeting report. As we did last year, we extended the scope of inquiry. We asked BYM committees about their spiritual states. This information is in Addendum I. We created Addendum II to list the anti-racism efforts of the Monthly Meetings and the Working Groups.

**Anti-racism work:** The committee opened a dialogue on anti-racism with BYM groups like The Working Group on Racism, Reparations, STRIDE, and the Global Majority Caucus. The discussions felt Spirit-led and good relationships have been formed. The committee was delighted with our retreat with Clinton Pettus on Trust Circles. Coffee Hours have been a tool to help Monthly Meetings share their initiatives and concerns. Themes arising from the Coffee Hours and from Annual Session last year have included anti-racism efforts.

**Working Group Liaisons:** Ministry and Pastoral Care Committee is responsible for and has liaisons with a variety of Working Groups. They are Intervisitation; Pastoral Care, Spiritual Formation; End of Life Working Group; Friends Supporting Friends Working Group; the Women’s Retreat Working Group; and the Working Group on Racism.

Intervisitation has a gathering during the evenings of Annual Session. Pastoral Care Working Group is inactive at this time, but there is a hope that we will re-form the group. Spiritual Formation is planning on two retreats—one in the Fall from 9/20 to 9/23 and one in the Spring of 2025 from May 2nd to May 4th. The End-of-Life Working Group’s book *A Tender Time: Quaker Voices on the End of Life* by Patti Nesbitt and Kristin Zimet was published by BYM in June 2024. Patti, Kristin, and Eileen Stanzione will be giving a variety of workshops sponsored by Pendle Hill based on the book as well as other End-of-Life topics. As mentioned above, we have worked closely with Friends Helping Friends. The Women’s Retreat has focused on their Retreats, and during this upcoming year, they are considering having a weekend retreat, which was the usual custom prior to the pandemic. The Working Group on Racism has been clerked by David Etheridge for many years. He is stepping down from the Clerkship. The committee has been very active: gathering information from the many Change Groups in the Yearly Meeting as well as providing anti-racism training and racial trauma healing. We will greatly miss David Etheridge; he has been a devoted and consistent support of our Yearly Meeting’s anti-racism efforts, and has offered a monthly Working Group meeting that is outstanding and proactive.

**Listening Sessions:** 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 information available about the Yearly Meeting, specifically about our two committees’ roles, and also listened to the Local Meetings about their needs.

**Coffee Hours:** Coffee Hours have been a tool to help Monthly Meetings share their initiatives and concerns. Themes arising from Coffee Hours and from Annual Session last year have included anti-racism efforts, overly frequent speakers, Monthly Meetings coping with loss of members, diminishing revenue, and not enough Friends to do the necessary work; e.g., populating the committees. Our most recent Coffee Hour on July 9th, dealt with friends’ experiences with preparing the Spiritual State of the Meeting reports as well as other topics that arose. We hope to continue the Coffee Hour in the future.

**Ministry and Pastoral Care Committee Workshops/Retreats**: During the 2023 Annual Session, we led a workshop on “2022 Spiritual State of the Meeting Reflections: Nurturing, Welcoming, and Loving Communities.” This workshop’s intention was to address two of the spiritual State of the Meeting queries. As it evolved during the course of the workshop, our discussion centered solely on the anti-racism query and we had an excellent, self-disclosing conversation which some found to be meaningful and quite healing.

As mentioned previously, we were captivated by Clinton Pettus’ Workshop on Trust Circles. It was helpful and informative.

At this year’s Annual Session, we are having a workshop on issues related to the Spiritual State of the Meeting as well as some of the topics we discussed at our most recent Coffee Hour.

**Looking Forward**: Our co-clerks, Greg Robb, and Eileen Stanzione, will be stepping down. Eileen will remain on the committee; but, Greg will not. They will be replaced by Martin Melville and Peirce Hammond, our new co-clerks. We will continue conversing about deepening the spiritual life of our Yearly Meeting as well as the issues that arise in the upcoming year.

Eileen Stanzione and Greg Robb, co-clerks of Ministry and Pastoral Care. 7/18/2024