

Faith and Practice Revision Committee
annual report 2009

The work of the *Faith and Practice* Revision Committee is getting more intense as we continue to distribute draft texts for the book and to invite responses to them from Friends as we revise these texts. We remain grateful for the spiritual energy we have felt in responses to texts and in general comments Friends have offered.

At Sessions last year preliminary approval was given to *Chapter 9: A Brief History of Friends in New England*, based on very thoughtful responses to the working paper presented at Sessions 2007. Three chapters and the Preface have now received such approval; the Preface in 2005, Chapter 2: Worship in 2007, and Chapter 10: Revisions to this *Faith and Practice*, in addition to Chapter 9 in 2008.

Also at Sessions 2007 we distributed a working paper for Chapter 4: *Integration of Faith and Life: the Meaning, Understanding and Use of Testimonies*. Alas! no thoughtful responses to this working paper had been received by the February 2008 deadline, except one sent by postal mail. Our disbelief led to the discovery that email sent to the fandp@neym.org was not being forwarded due to an email server issue. (Again, alas!) That situation has been rectified, and Friends can be assured that responses sent will reach us. We hope Meetings and individuals who sent responses prior to March 6, 2008 will resend them by the new deadline: November 1, 2009.

In March we posted a working paper for Chapter 11: *General Advices and Queries* on our website, with paper copies mailed to Monthly Meetings. The deadline for comments on this text is November 1, 2009. At Sessions this year we will present a working paper for Chapter 3: *Corporate Discernment in Meetings for Business*, the fruit of four years of labor. The deadline for comments on this text is February 1, 2010. Both of these chapters may be downloaded from our website <http://www.neym.org/fandp/>. Again, we welcome comments from Friends; they inform our work and challenge us to continue opening ourselves to the paradoxes present in the faith and practice of New England Friends.

Given these deadlines, we will hope to bring revisions of at least two – and maybe all three – of these chapters for preliminary approval at Sessions 2010.

We encourage Friends to visit our website where all texts approved and in process are posted, along with other useful information on background and participation in the revision process (including submission forms). Paper copies of anything on the website may be requested from the office.

Jan Hoffman, clerk