

## Report of the Handbook Committee to NYQM 10/27/2019

As many Friends have realized, the Handbook had become sorely out of date since its last revision, which we believe was in 2007. Due to the death of the past Handbook Coordinator, Naomi Paz Greenberg, while in the midst of collecting material for preparing an update, we were unable to complete the task until now, following extensive research and compilation of previous digital versions by Charles Brainard.

After Charles's release and replacement on the committee by Charles Sirey, building on Friend Brainard's work with these files we were able finally to go over the document line by line, making some changes to the language for clarity and accuracy, removing sections that were no longer necessary as the committees had been laid down, and adding sections defining new committees and changed relationships. For example, the Communications Committee has been added, and the Schools were moved from being committees of the Quarter to the section for appointments to the Quaker seats on the Governing Boards of 501C3 non-profit organizations. We added updated Queries to replace the old ones that had spoken to concerns that were no longer relevant.

The most substantive change is to the Witness Committee. We were unsure if the committee should be, or already had been laid down, since it was created to assist with fundraising for the Great Lakes (Africa) Education Committee. Following that successful work, some time later the Quarter, recognizing the intentions of Friends to have a mechanism for funding worthwhile social projects, released the Monthly Meetings from any concern to contribute to the Quarter for upkeep of the Meeting Houses, in order that the Monthly Meetings could use those funds for worthwhile Ministry of their own determination. Even so, after Spirit-led consideration we found that the Committee's larger purpose still existed: to serve as a mechanism for the Quarter to engage in fundraising and possibly related support for new projects that could emerge from the work of Friends in the Quarter, outside of and unrelated to the Quarter's endowment. To that end we removed some restrictions on the specifics of projects that could apply to the committee for help, making it more generalized and able to serve a wider range of potential needs. We expect the committee to remain dormant until called for, but able to act as the Quarter's arm when we need to have it.

Our work was Spirit-led throughout. We both experienced the significance and depth of the responsibility, and bring our work to you with joy and humility.

In Friendship,

Dave Britton and Charles Sirey  
NYQM Handbook Committee