

Ministry and Advancement Committee report to Continuing Committee, March 6, 2010

Ministry and Advancement committee has its Spring Retreat March 26-27 in St. Louis. At that time, we will discern together what response we might make to the many calls for a year-round program of retreats and workshops, which we heard at the Visioning Workshop on January 9. In the meantime, much prayerful consideration is going into this appeal from Friends for more education and outreach. Some committee members are visiting meetings and trying to keep a finger on the spiritual pulse of the meetings they do visit.

There are two initiatives in the works already this year. For one, the working group on life, death, grieving and transition. I call it a working group rather than a subcommittee because while it is comprised of a number of longtime members of Ministry and Advancement committee, we have also reached out and recruited a number of other Friends whose ministries are concerned with death and dying. We have an outline of one document, and another which will come before the whole committee at our Spring Retreat. We hope to season this second document sufficiently to approve it for distribution by the end of annual session. We are writing a mission statement for our working group at this time, and have scheduled another conference call for March 16.

At Fall Continuing Committee we reported our Web Workshop was scheduled for late October. After the workshop, the planners re-convened via conference call. It seemed clear that our first order of priority was to create a Web presence for those meetings that do not have one already. We also understood that those meetings also don't have any techies in attendance. Rick Robey and Sean West have volunteered to lead a Second Web Workshop on April 17, with lots of personal assistance so as to help non-techie Friends from those meetings get websites up and running. In addition, Spoon River Friends, Oak Park and South Bend Friends have recently created websites. They're beautiful! If yours is a meeting that doesn't yet have a website, we want to encourage you to send a team to the Second Web Workshop. It is our earnest hope to support all these meetings so that there can be a web presence for every meeting in Illinois Yearly Meeting in time for annual session. Stay tuned!