

Faith and Practice Committee

Report to ILYM Continuing Committee

Tenth Month 27, 2012

The Faith and Practice Committee has met once since our last yearly meeting. Most of our time in this one meeting was spent planning for the coming year, and for the longer-term activities of the committee.

Our hope is to propose provisional approval of a text on meeting for worship at the 2013 sessions of Illinois Yearly Meeting. A draft of the text has been completed and was made available at the 2012 sessions and on the ILYM website. We plan to conduct workshops with local meetings throughout ILYM during the coming months, to seek comments and suggestions for improving this draft before submitting it to the yearly meeting.

Because no provisionally approved texts are scheduled to expire in 2013, the committee has the opportunity to begin work on several new sections. Current plans include a section on the Light Within and related topics, including Quaker views on Jesus and the Bible; a section on death, bereavement, and memorial meetings; and a section on Friends testimonies. We hope to have one or more of these sections available for comment by the 2013 sessions of the yearly meeting.

The Faith and Practice Committee was appointed in 1992 with the goal of completing the project in five years. The committee has been proposing text for approval since 2003. Our current estimate is that it will take at least another six years to complete the book.

The committee is concerned that our current practice of approving text for a five-year provisional period before considering it for final approval will have the result that after the final section receives provisional approval, the committee will have five years of inactivity before revising it for final approval and preparing the book as a whole for publication. We ask the Continuing Committee for guidance in this matter, and in particular whether Friends feel it would be appropriate this year to begin submitting text with a request for just three years' provisional approval, with the intention of eventually shortening the provisional period down to a single year.

As always, the committee welcomes comments and suggestions on all approved and circulating drafts, any of which may be downloaded from the ILYM website.

Our thoughts and prayers are very much with our friend Larry Stout, whose contributions to this committee have been invaluable.