

NYQM Communications Committee
Report to Quarterly Meeting 7/17/2021

Since our last report to Quarterly Meeting in July, 2020, the committee has continued to meet monthly, virtually, via Zoom.

In our July 2020 report we described how, after our consultations with Friends following the January 2020 Quarterly Meeting and individually, we created an RFP for a web site update to meet our communications needs.

Some priorities identified by Friends were:

- Capability for Quarter-wide electronic communications and desirability of a Quarter-wide newsletter;
- Shared resource for events throughout the Quarter;
- Improved accessibility of Quarterly Meeting documents;
- Foregrounding information for new members of the community to help them navigate the world of NYC Friends.

We secured the services of Beth Garst, of Howlin Dog Designs, to develop our web site update. Our updated site will include

- A template that Monthly Meetings and other QM groups can use to create their own web sites integrated with the QM site to share in its calendar, database, and document storage capabilities;
- Calendar: A common calendar that will allow Friends to access events throughout the Quarter and facilitate newsletters;
- Database: A modern and secure database that will track contact and membership information in a single place while supporting QM-wide communications and monthly meeting database needs;
- Document storage: A system for uploading documents such as minutes that will support QM committee and Monthly Meeting digital archiving.

We are also working with the Quarterly Meeting office to provide electronic workspaces and generic email addresses to Quarterly Meeting committees. Please be in touch with us if you would like this capability for your committee. These functions may be integrated into the future website.

We have been engaged with supporting Monthly Meetings as well as Quarterly Meeting committees in the use of videoconferencing (Zoom) technology for Meetings for Worship and the conduct of business. We are working with Monthly Meetings and Quarterly Meeting committees as they discern about permanent remote and blended options.

We have wrestled with a Quarter-wide “breaking news protocol,” for how to handle public-facing communications for the Quarter. These issues are still in discernment.

Since our last report the Committee did engage with the clerk and other involved parties to develop a response by the Quarter to concerns surrounding union organizing at

Brooklyn Friends School. Our priorities were: availability of up-to-date information among Friends, making sure that public-facing statements acknowledged Friends' engagement with the issue, and holding a space for ongoing discernment.

We encourage Friends to interact with the New York Quarterly Meeting presence on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. Contributions of events and news from the community are welcome on the NYQM Facebook group.

Nadine Baldasare
Dave Britton
Ann Kjellberg, clerk
Bryan Oettel
Adam Segal-Isaacson
Steve Munro Smith