

**Ministry and Advancement Committee Report to Continuing  
Committee  
March 5, 2011**

There have been a number of initiatives from Ministry and Advancement committee since our report to Fall Continuing Committee.

*Changes within Ministry and Advancement Committee.* At our Fall Retreat in Evanston, we considered the spiritual needs of the yearly meeting, and also our constituent monthly meetings and worship groups. We agreed that the energies needed to do Ministry—that is to say, the spiritual care and repair of our monthly meetings—are very different from the energies needed to do Advancement—that is, providing a consistent program of education and outreach. We agreed that the committee as presently constituted is stretched much too thin to do either the Ministry or the Advancement functions well. The Spirit moved—Friends agreed that Jeannie Marvin and Mariellen Gilpin should co-clerk our committee, with Jeannie focusing on the Ministry aspect and Mariellen focusing on the Education and Outreach function. We have asked Nominating Committee to recommend that Continuing Committee approve Jeannie and Mariellen co-clerking our committee.

*Death, Dying, Grief and Transitions.* There are four initiatives underway with this subcommittee. *First*, Jeannie Marvin, Nan George, and Mariellen Gilpin have been reviewing books on subjects ranging from helping children grieve after a suicide; to helping church groups organize themselves to provide care for people facing serious illnesses; to a critique by a medical ethicist of current end of life practices by the medical industrial complex. The reviews will eventually be on the ILYM website, and appear in *Among Friends*.

*Second*, Janet Means some years ago edited and wrote a book, which we're tentatively calling *Book of Hope and Comfort*, intended to be given to people suffering serious illnesses. Janet's concept is that the book should be small enough to fit comfortably and conveniently in the pocket of one's robe, and that the mere touch of the cover should give one a sense of comfort. The subcommittee on Death, Dying, Grief and Transitions is proposing to Finance Committee that ILYM publish it—self-publishing is a great deal more economical with the advent of electronic text. Paul Buckley is our editor and layout wizard, and is seeking bids from various publishing operations. Mariellen Gilpin is seeking ad costs from *Friends Journal*,

*Quaker Life, What Canst Thou Say, and Western Friend*; costs of electronic ads; and is also opening negotiations with Pendle Hill and FGC bookstores. This book can be a valuable resource to meetings and individual Friends, and we really want to help get the word out. Self-publishing is a much faster process than more traditional methods, and it is our earnest desire to have *Book of Hope and Comfort* available for distribution and sale by annual session. Margaret Katranides has been our praying elder in this effort.

*Thirdly*, Ministry and Advancement committee is sponsoring a workshop series during annual session. One afternoon session will be presented by Dave and Dorothy Moorman, who will share about Downers Grove's Aging and Saging group, which has had several enthusiastic participants since the early 90's. Another afternoon session, presented by Peg Kruger and Springfield Friends, will be about their successful efforts to get everyone's final wishes on paper. We hope their success can provide a model for other meetings. And on still another afternoon, Janet Means will share her wisdom and experience how meetings can support Friends who are grieving the loss of a loved one. These dear elders have much to share with us, and we are delighted they have agreed to share leadership of this workshop.

*Finally*, we are in conversations with George Shaefer, a Friend in Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, about his presenting a weekend workshop, possibly next fall or spring, on the Spirituality of Aging. Ministry and Advancement committee will consider this workshop proposal at our Spring Retreat, the last weekend in March.

*Steps in Developing a Program for Quaker Education and Outreach in ILYM.* There are three initiatives in the works at this time. *First*, co-clerks Jeannie Marvin and Mariellen Gilpin have been in phone consultation with our present and two most recent Field Secretaries (Paul Buckley, Roxy Jacobs and Maurine Pyle) about how we might do better the work of ministry to our far-flung meetings. We are collecting information about what ministry is actually happening currently in fulfillment of Ministry and Advancement committee's mission, and will be sharing some reflections and proposals for our committee's consideration at our Spring Retreat.

*Second*, Paul Buckley is presenting four Days of Spiritual Sustenance during February and March, our first trial of the concept of "traveling road shows" we spoke of at last annual session. Our purpose is to nurture our meetings' nurturers on a more regional basis, so as to help the elders in nearby meetings get to know each other's gifts and experience. Our long-term goal is to help foster more traveling ministry between meetings within just a few hours drive from each other. We hope these elders in each region

will begin to consult one another regularly about concerns in their meetings. You'll hear more about the Days of Spiritual Sustenance when our Field Secretary, Paul Buckley, gives his report. Jeannie Marvin and Mariellen Gilpin are already in consultation with our Field Secretaries about plans for another traveling road show, possibly next spring, based partially on our experience with this first series.

*Third*, Mariellen Gilpin and Greg Woods made a trek to Richmond, Indiana, between blizzards, to attend a workshop at Quaker Hill Conference Center. Their errand was to scope out the possibility of inviting Brent Bill to present a weekend workshop in our yearly meeting. Brent is part of a Lilly-funded “think tank” to strengthen congregational health by providing research, education and training to leaders across all denominations. Brent has a passion for helping Quaker meetings become more vital. Have a look at the wealth of resources to be downloaded for free from the Center for Congregations’ website:

(<http://www.congregationalresources.org>)

Greg and Mariellen have recommended to Ministry and Advancement Committee that Brent be invited to present our Fall Ministry and Advancement Committee Retreat—hopefully at Clear Creek House, but stay tuned!

*Another initiative in the works.*

Ministry and Advancement committee is *experimenting with offering a clearness committee to an adult Young Friend*, living apart from the home meeting and struggling with a developing sense of leading regarding lifework. This clearness committee is drawn from an assortment of meetings near the current place of residence, and appears to be nourishing for all the participants. We repeat, this is an experiment at this time—MnA awaits a further sense of direction from our Guide.

**Personal Report from Mariellen Gilpin to Continuing Committee,  
March 5, 2011**

*The ministry of Helene Pollock.*

I want to report that Helene Pollock, retired Director of Quaker Affairs at Haverford College, has been following a leading to serve Illinois Yearly Meeting, volunteering her time, talent and treasure to help build up ILYM. She has visited among us several times in the last three years, traveling with various ILYM elders to seven different meetings (visiting some of them twice), making opportunities for spiritual conversations with individual Friends, and presenting at several meetings. Together, Helene and I co-led an FGC workshop on Helene's curriculum on early Quaker writings in 2009, and Helene was praying elder for the Visioning Workshop in January 2010 at Bloomington-Normal. She has participated in annual Elders Retreats held in various homes in ILYM over the last three years, to our considerable mutual refreshment. She is again traveling at her own expense to join me as my praying elder while visiting South Bend and Duneland meetings later this March. I celebrate her gifts of noticing and nurturing the gifts of others, her curriculum about early Friends' writings, her nurturance of young adult Friends, and her passionate devotion to serving God among ILYM Friends. Thank you, Helene!