



NEW ENGLAND
YEARLY MEETING
— OF FRIENDS —
QUAKERS

December 2024

Dear Monthly Meeting Clerks, Ministry & Counsel Clerks, and Membership Recorders,

We are writing to you to remind you that the first few months of the new year is a good time for local meetings to write their State of Society reflection and their statistical report.

Receiving your reports by June 1st will allow us to include your thoughts and experiences as part of the [Meeting for Listening](#) gathering scheduled on **June 21, 2024**, when Friends from across New England will gather to reflect on the condition of our local meetings and join in conversation which informs Yearly Meeting programmatic priorities and attention throughout the year.

About the State of Society report:

It is that time of year when we gather in our local meetings to reflect on our collective condition as a faith community. This process is a chance to prayerfully reflect: *What is our growing edge as a spiritual community? How is the Spirit moving among us? Where have we found sustenance and nurture? How have we sought to hold up and care for our meeting communities?*

The draft chapter on Ministry & Counsel from the Faith and Practice Revision Committee (<https://neym.org/engage-texts-currently-under-discussion>) offers some guidance on the State of Society process:

Corporate discernment on its spiritual condition helps the community see how it has been led, how faithfully it has responded to challenges, and where it might need to focus its attention in the future. It helps bind the community and renew its sense of commitment.

Reports may cover the full range of interests and concerns but typically emphasize those indicative of the spiritual health of the meeting—both that which is thriving and that which is challenging, changing, or needs strengthening, such as:

- The quality of worship and vocal ministry
- The strength of relationships and trust within the meeting community
- Efforts to foster spiritual growth and evidence of growth
- Possible hardships for the meeting, and how Friends are responding to those challenges
- Significant events or activities in the meeting's year together
- Social or civic concerns of the meeting and stands taken on Friends' religious principles
- Service and relationship with Friends beyond the local meeting
- Relations with the community and other religious groups

It is important for us, as a gathered community of monthly meetings and worship groups across New England, to hear how Spirit is at work in our midst. **Please send your report to your quarterly meeting clerk and to SoS@neym.org by June 1st. Because Salem Quarter is currently on sabbatical, those monthly meetings are encouraged to send a copy of their report to the clerk of Yearly Meeting Ministry and Counsel (mc-clerk@neym.org)**

About Statistical Reports

In addition to State of Society reports, another way that we can share about the Life within our meetings is through our annual statistical reports. In recent years, we have greatly simplified the statistical report form, striving to make it easier for meetings to complete. **A fuller picture of how membership and attendance is changing in our Yearly Meeting helps us better serve and strengthen local meetings. More information about how to fill out the form and how we use this data is enclosed.**

Remember: While we welcome detailed data when meetings are able to gather it, we are more interested in trends than precise data. Even if you can only submit partial information or a “best guess,” that is very helpful.

Thank you again for your service to your meeting and for helping to share with others in our Yearly Meeting about the spiritual life and demographic changes in your meeting. If you have any questions about compiling either of these reports, please contact office@neym.org or call the Office Manager, Sara Hubner, at 508-754-6760.

Thank you,



Carl Williams,
clerk, New England Yearly Meeting Ministry and Counsel