

## **PROCESS FOR CONSIDERATION OF CONCERNS BY NPYM (See Faith & Practice, pp. 115-116)**

NPYM has developed three routes by which a concern may be brought before the Yearly Meeting.

### **1. A concern which is brought by a Monthly Meeting**

After seasoning in the Monthly Meeting, a concern can be forwarded by a Monthly Meeting to Steering Committee. Once the Monthly Meeting has approved this action, it is the responsibility of the MM Clerk to:

- A. See that the concern and background material get forwarded in writing to the Steering Committee Clerk.
- B. Clarify who will continue working with the concern. (An individual? A committee? A Steering Committee rep?)
- C. Determine who will make the presentation to Steering Committee, and make sure that this person has full information.

After presentation to Steering Committee, all Steering Committee reps are responsible for taking the concern back to their Meetings, listening to and keeping a record of the sense of their Meeting, and reporting that back at the next Steering Committee meeting.

At that point, Steering Committee may:

- a) come to unity and ACT FOR THE YEARLY MEETING.
- b) decide that the concern is not appropriate at this time for YM.
- c) send the summary of the reports plus Steering Committee deliberations back to the original Meeting for further reflection and revision. This may go with a recommendation that the concern be returned to Steering Committee for further consideration, returned to Steering Committee for action, or forwarded to the Presiding Clerk for consideration at the next Annual Session. In the latter case, it is then the Monthly Meeting's responsibility to communicate directly with the Presiding Clerk as soon as possible.

### **2. A concern that is brought by an individual or a Quarterly Meeting**

A concern can be brought by an individual or a Quarterly Meeting to Steering Committee. The individual or Quarterly Meeting Clerk would then be responsible for steps A, B and C as outlined above. Steering Committee would then use the same process described above. The process is greatly facilitated if the initial seasoning takes place in some group of Friends.

Note: In the above two procedures, it is important to keep in mind the Steering Committee meeting schedule. Steering Committee generally meets early in October, March and May, as well as at Annual Session.

### **3. A concern that is raised at Annual Session**

A concern can be raised at Annual Session. The seasoning process is critically important in this case because of the large number of people present at plenary sessions and the limited time available. Seasoning may take place in a committee or interest group or some other group of Friends. The seasoning group needs to be clear that it is taking the responsibility to

WORSHIPFULLY AND SERIOUSLY TEST THE CONCERN. "A concern that is brought before a meeting should be considered with the greatest love, kindness and discipline. Much as we like to support our Friends in the things for which they have an unbounded enthusiasm, it is no kindness to recognize as a concern something which has not received the fullest attention possible." (Britain Yearly Meeting Faith & Practice 13.09)

Whichever route is used to season and bring the concern to the Yearly Meeting, the following applies:

1. Concerns should be presented in writing. Include the name, address and phone of the contact person responsible for carrying and presenting the concern.
2. Include a brief (2-3 pages) background history of the concern, including who initiated it, the seasoning process (who responded), how the concern evolved and was changed by the seasoning process, how this relates to Friends' testimonies, and actions taken by NPYM individuals, groups and other major bodies (e.g., FCNL).
3. The proposed minute should be stated clearly, including the resolution, endorsement, or general or specific action the Yearly Meeting is being asked to approve.
4. Include an implementation statement detailing who would be required to do what, if the minute is approved.
5. If a decision is made that the concern should be considered at Annual Session, the person presenting the concern should contact the Presiding Clerk as soon as possible in order to work together about timing and presentation.

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