

## Proposal for the business of SCYMF at annual sessions 2023

The Nurture of Ministry Committee was asked by the Coordinating Committee to review the wording of information related to our committee on the SCYMF website in March of this year. In that process the bylaws were consulted to confirm our responsibilities. It has come to our attention during the review process that much of the structure of our yearly meeting is not functioning as described.

Our committee is responsible for overseeing the recording of ministers among us. In the past two years our collective vision has grown beyond this narrow focus. We believe we have meaningful work to do among our monthly meetings and with pastors and other recorded ministers to support and nurture ministry at many levels. We also see the need for nurturing the yearly meeting as a whole in the absence of named elders, a ministry and counsel committee, or a staff person that supports our meetings, members, and cohesiveness as a yearly meeting.

There are several committees in our bylaws that no longer function as described in the document. In addition, there seems to be more work assigned to the Coordinating Committee than is reasonable for one group. During a joint meeting with the Gathering Committee and the Coordinating Committee as we were considering our part in the coming annual sessions, it became clear that our bylaws do not specify who is responsible for the programming elements of the major annual event of our community.

The evidence suggests that some of our structures are no longer serving the life of the meeting. Therefore, the Nurture of Ministry Committee respectfully requests that our business agenda include the appointment of a working group or subcommittee to address the review and reconsideration of our bylaws and structures and possible need for staff to help nurture our life together (as requested in 2022). We are aware that some work reviewing our bylaws has already been done by the Faith and Practice Committee.

One conceivable way forward would be to recruit four to six individuals with representatives from the functioning committees of SCYMF and other concerned members outside of our committees. That group could complete a review of the bylaws by the next quarterly session. A report on what is working and what the group discerns as needed structural changes (new committees, a revision of responsibilities, staff?) could be presented to the yearly meeting in written form to be distributed to local meetings and on our website for consideration prior to the quarterly meeting if possible.

The Nurture of Ministry trusts that the clerks will discern the way forward, and we will not bring this proposal to the floor of the business session unless we are directed to do so.

Thank you for your consideration of this concern.

Nurture of Ministry Committee