

Gunpowder Friends Meeting: Care and Oversight Committee (approved by Monthly Meeting 4/3/22)

Because we see each person as a minister, Friends collectively accept responsibility for the pastoral work that would be performed by a paid minister. Committee members should be good listeners rather than givers of advice; respectful and tender rather than judgmental; and able to listen for the guidance of the Spirit, suspending their initial opinions to hear more deeply in the moment. Any member or attender is welcome to serve on this committee.

Responsibilities of the committee include:

- Be acquainted with all members and regular attenders, and be aware of needs for encouragement, counsel, and support. Seek to provide for the spiritual refreshment of members and attenders.
- Ensure that Friends who are troubled, financially distressed, or faced with tasks that require the Meeting's support are visited and helped.
- Stay in touch with absent members and keep in contact with non-resident members.
- Organize annual Christmas mailing to the Gunpowder community, some years to absent and long distance Friends, some years to the entire database.
- Maintain the Meeting's member/attender database, publish the directory, and support the recorder's work in maintaining membership records.
- Help young people, attenders, and seekers to understand Friends' principles and testimonies and encourage them to apply for membership when appropriate. The committee offers books on the basics of Quakerism to new attenders.
- Collaborate with Ministry and Counsel (M&C) Committee in the creation and care of support and clearness committees, especially those called for in times of personal and/or vocational discernment, and in the care of families as they prepare for Memorial Meetings. C&O and M&C will meet regularly and/or as Way opens to coordinate such activities.
- Support, in collaboration with M&C, the writing of travel minutes for Gunpowder Friends and the convening of support committees for Friends traveling in the ministry.
- Help to reconcile differences which may arise in the Meeting.
- Review the committee charge on a regular basis and select from among its members a clerk (or clerks).
- Some matters that come before this committee are delicate and personal. In such areas, the committee's proceedings are kept confidential and the dignity of the persons concerned is respected.

Framework of the above is from *BYM 2013 Faith and Practice Resource*, pp. 103-104 in the 2019 reprint, with specialized amendments for Gunpowder's C&O Committee.