

Ministry and Nurture Report to Annual Sessions 2025

Ministry and Nurture had a full year working hard to live into the Spirit. We started with an in-person retreat where we worked to support SAYMA by studying *The Little Book of Conflict Transformation* by John Paul Lederach. This book helped guide our discussions about how to support SAYMA and Monthly Meetings as we practice conflict transformation. We discussed strategies to support the clerk in business meeting, as well as how to provide space for Ministry and Nurture to become a place where Friends are able to bring conflict and work it out together. We allowed space for our committee to heal together from past harms. We felt closer after the retreat.

Ministry and Nurture has tried to re-establish face-to-face connections among Friends and Meetings after a period of diminished intervisitation due to the pandemic. We have attempted to respond in this way to the needs of Meetings that have said they were struggling with their relationship with SAYMA. We visited two of these Monthly Meetings and listened to their concerns. As a group, we would like to visit Meetings in SAYMA more regularly, particularly at this time when Meetings are feeling tension with SAYMA. It is our hope that this will help Meetings to a more open understanding of what is happening in SAYMA now. We remain committed to hearing all voices and helping Friends gain clarity about their relationship to SAYMA. We are aware of the different dynamics of in-person and virtual gatherings, and encourage Friends to engage in more frequent intervisitations between yearly sessions.

During the virtual Spring Representative Meeting, three Friends from Ministry and Nurture were present at the Clerk's table holding the meeting in the Light and providing support in any way that was needed. The Clerk indicated that this presence was helpful, particularly when challenges arose.

As always, Ministry and Nurture managed the Released Friends Fund and the Spiritual Development Fund. We had less money to distribute than in the past and hope that this will be remedied in the future.

All in all, our committee worked this year to get our act together. We maintained a spirit of growing together and being willing to share differing views with each other, while being open to criticism. We met regularly with good attendance all year. We look forward to continued spiritual growth, and representation from every Monthly Meeting in the coming year.

Lissa Place, Clerk

June 2025