

## Recording Gifts in Ministry – NEYM practice

As a spiritual community we foster and encourage spiritual leadership among our members. This can be manifested in leadings or in the power of vocal ministry and/or the ability to interpret the Society of Friends to the wider community. Recording applies particularly to gifts in vocal ministry and to expressing Quakerism to the community beyond our meeting. The practice described here comes from Faith & Practice.

- 1) **An individual does not seek to be recorded** . This is a calling out of gifts. When a committee that is responsible for discernment, a support or oversight committee, a committee with nominating duties, or Ministry and Counsel itself, sees such gifts, a recommendation is made to Ministry and Counsel to consider recording.
- 2) Ministry and Counsel must first consider whether the Friend **“has consistently spoken to the edification and spiritual help of the meeting”** and shows **“ability to interpret the Society of Friends to the wider community”**.
- 3) **“When our Ministry and Counsel is satisfied that a member has a sustained gift ...this may be reported to the monthly meeting. If the monthly meeting approves, Ministry and Counsel should propose a minute for the consideration of Quarterly Meeting Ministry and Counsel.”**
- 4) Quarterly Meeting Ministry and Counsel appoints **a committee “to appraise the general fitness of the individual** under consideration and to report at a subsequent session of the Quarterly Meeting Ministry and Counsel.” If the committee reports favorably, Quarterly Meeting Ministry and Counsel writes a minute recording the gifts and brings it to Quarterly Meeting for approval.
- 5) **If Quarterly Meeting approves, the recording is completed** . The Clerk of the Quarterly Meeting sends the monthly meeting a copy of the minute for its files. The recording is reported to Yearly Meeting Ministry and Counsel.
- 6) Our Ministry and Counsel is responsible for making sure that individuals whose gifts have been recorded receive support and oversight. A **committee** should be set up with nominating committee's help. The committee should report regularly to Ministry and Counsel. Ministry and Counsel should report annually to the Meeting for Business.
- 7) **The recording of a gift is not permanent** . One of the duties of Ministry and Counsel is to discern whether an individual's recorded gift is still vital and active. Assessing the vitality of the gift is one area where the committee that meets regularly with the individual assists him or her. If the gift has lapsed, Ministry and Council would propose a minute rescinding the recording to Monthly Meeting. If the minute was approved, it would go the Quarterly Meeting.

**Some individuals whose gifts have been recorded:**

Margaret Benefiel

Kevin Lee

Eric Edwards

Brian Drayton

*Materials from Faith and Practice of New England Yearly Meeting of Friends summarized  
by Sarah Spencer, Ministry & Counsel 10<sup>th</sup> month 2005*