

**Bloomington Monthly Meeting
Society of Friends**

Ministry & Counsel Committee Charge

Mission:

The committee fosters the spiritual life of the Meeting and the spiritual lives of members and regular attenders. It is responsible for membership and marriage under the care of the Meeting.

Term & Dates of Service:

Starts July 1 and ends June 30; may be reappointed annually for 3 consecutive years.

Selection Process:

Nominated by the Nominating Committee and approved by the Monthly Meeting.

Principal Job Duties:

1. The committee has general oversight of Meetings for Worship. This includes identifying someone for Facing Bench responsibilities such as closing the Meeting for Worship, inviting introduction of visitors, and reading announcements.
2. The committee concerns itself with the quality of the Meeting for Worship, which depends upon the devotion and preparation of each individual. Thus it is the committee's responsibility to provide opportunities for the spiritual growth of everyone in the Meeting toward faithfulness to the Inner Light. More specifically the committee should identify and foster gifts of vocal ministry among the A community.
3. The committee provides eldering and oversight functions through which it assists members, especially young people and new members, to develop their understanding of the principles and practices of Friends. Upon request it may set up a clearness committee to assist with this process. Using loving discretion and humility, it offers spiritual counsel and nurture where need is discerned.
4. The committee will arrange monthly programming on Quaker principles and practices with the aim of maintaining and promoting application of Friends' testimonies in daily life. It may develop special programming or coordinate with Religious Education or Retreat Committees to address the spiritual needs of the community.
5. The committee is responsible for all membership procedures following the guidelines in the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Faith and Practice. It receives written applications for adult and associate membership in the Meeting and uses the current membership procedure for handling these. It periodically reviews the status of all associate members and adult members who do not participate actively in the life of the Meeting. It maintains annual contact with members who have moved away from the community.
6. The committee is responsible for setting policy on the maintenance, publication, and use of the List of Members and Attenders. It works with the Clerk of Records to facilitate the easy flow of information concerning membership records.

Approved on January 2018

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7. The committee is responsible for the orderly conduct of marriage under the care of the Meeting. Following the receipt of a written application for marriage under the care of the Meeting, the committee, in consultation with the couple, brings names of members forward for a Marriage Clearness Committee, which then must be approved by Monthly Meeting. This Clearness Committee meets with the couple as many times as needed and brings its recommendations to Monthly Meeting for approval. Lastly this committee appoints members who oversee the conduct of the marriage ceremony itself. The committee provides the Archivist with a record of each marriage in the care of the Meeting and the names of the people on the Marriage Clearness Committee.
8. The committee provides spiritual and practical support as needed for families who have lost a loved one to death. If requested by the family, the committee will assist them in setting up a Memorial Meeting and in finding a clerk for that meeting. The clerk for the Memorial Meeting and others who assist in it do not need to be members of this committee to participate.
9. The committee composes the annual “State of the Meeting” report for Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting. Work on this is normally begun after the first of the year. This report is brought to Monthly Meeting in March for approval before being forwarded to Whitewater Quarterly Meeting prior to Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting annual sessions.
10. The clerk of the committee serves on the Board of Directors in accordance with Article 4 of the Bylaws.

Membership:

1. The committee consists of at least five members of Bloomington Monthly Meeting.
2. Committee members are encouraged to serve three consecutive one-year terms, arranged so that only a portion of the committee needs to be appointed at one time.
3. Former committee members may serve again after a reasonable sabbatical.

Coordination with Others:

The committee works with other committees such as Pastoral Care, Religious Education, Retreat, Social Fellowship, and Welcoming, as well as Officers such as the Clerk and Clerk of Records.

Budget Considerations:

1. The clerk will submit a budget request to the clerk of the Property and Finance Committee by the last day of September each year.
2. In addition to its operating budget the committee administers the “Attendance and Travel to Conferences Fund” to assist members and attenders with costs of attending Quaker conferences, Quarterly or Yearly Meetings, or programming such as that at Pendle Hill.

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