

**NURTURE COORDINATING COMMITTEE REPORT
TO NYYM SESSION JULY 24, 2015**

At its meeting during Fall Sessions 2014, Nurture Coordinating Committee received the following minute from Brooklyn Meeting:

Brooklyn Monthly Meeting urges that New York Yearly Meeting (“NYYM”) follow the example of Canadian Yearly Meeting and draft a letter to Friends United Meeting (“FUM”) expressing displeasure at its current discrimination against LGBT Quakers in paid and unpaid positions of service or leadership. The letter to further state that until such time as such policies are laid aside and equally embraced for all Quakers, it will only designate its payments to FUM for specific projects, such projects which in the opinion of New York Yearly Meeting are worthy enough to exceed the damage to Equality and human dignity done by FUM’s discriminatory personnel policies.

At such time that New York Yearly Meeting undertakes such designation of its payments to FUM, Brooklyn Monthly Meeting will cease its present withholding of a portion of its Covenant Donation to NYYM in protest of FUM’s discriminatory personnel policies.

Nurture Coordinating Committee sent a letter to Brooklyn Meeting thanking them for raising the concern. NCC asked that the minute be seasoned by New York Quarterly Meeting before bringing it to the Yearly Meeting body. This happened on Saturday, July 18.

The letter also said that some of our representatives to the FUM General Board would be in touch with the meeting. Christopher Sammond has spoken with the clerk of Brooklyn Meeting, and more dialogue may take place. At the NCC meeting on Tuesday, July 21, Colin Saxton, General Secretary of Friends United Meeting, attended and also indicated a willingness to meet with Brooklyn Meeting.

Today, Nurture Coordinating Committee approved asking the Yearly Meeting office to send to all monthly meetings a memo that includes the Brooklyn minute, the New York Quarterly Meeting endorsement, the wording of the FUM personnel policy in question, the historical connection between NYYM and FUM, and some of the NCC minutes of our discernment on Tuesday. The content of the cover memo would be vetted and approved by NCC electronically before distribution. We hope to be able to accomplish this before Fall Sessions. Other ways of moving forward were considered, and will be considered further at Fall Sessions.

I ask that Friends who feel led to engage with this issue be in touch with me to explore possibilities.

Deborah Wood, clerk, Nurture Coordinating Committee