

19 October 2008

To: Clerks of Monthly Meetings  
From: C'nR Implementation Committee

Dear Friends,

We are writing to inform you of several new recommendations of the Consultation and Renewal Working Group that were approved by Canadian Yearly Meeting in August 2008, and that directly affect Monthly Meetings. These are:

**C-1: that Canadian Friends openly recognize the Christian origins of our Religious Society of Friends and its continuing nurture for many of our members and attenders. We ask local Meetings and Yearly Meeting to find ways to engage more deeply with the Christian roots of Quakerism. This does not mean overlooking the current breadth of belief and conviction among those who are not Christian - both Christian and non-Christian beliefs have a part in fostering the loving community and inspirational diversity we now experience and value corporately.**

**D-1: Friends are reminded to learn and use the Discipline. When an attender shows an interest in participating deeply in the life of the Meeting, Friends should invite them to consider membership and ask them to read our "Organization and Procedure", as well as "Christian Faith and Practice in the Society of Friends" and "Advices and Queries". Meetings should ensure that these three parts of our Discipline are well known and easily accessible to all Friends. "Organization and Procedure" is available online at [www.quaker.ca](http://www.quaker.ca).**

**D-2: that Yearly Meeting, Monthly Meetings and regional meetings hold open discussions about the meaning and the process of membership and how it relates to our Quaker identity.**

**D-3: that Monthly Meetings assure that prospective members have an awareness of the variety of expressions of faith among Quakers. This should include an understanding of the Christian heritage and continuing tradition within the Religious Society of Friends.**

**N-1: that CYM ask Monthly Meetings to appoint representatives to Representative Meeting who are willing to engage in various information sharing activities within the Monthly Meeting such as writing articles for a Meeting newsletter, visiting worship groups, holding special study groups on issues arising from Representative Meeting, and at least, write a report to attach to Monthly Meeting minutes.**

**N-2: that Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups (which are not already doing so) enhance opportunity to disseminate knowledge about CYM by establishing mechanisms for their representatives to Representative Meeting and their delegates to Yearly Meeting sessions to report and discuss Yearly Meeting concerns.**

We encourage Friends to reread the portions of the C'nR report (available at [www.quaker.ca](http://www.quaker.ca) or in print from the CYM office) that pertain to these newly-approved recommendations, and to discuss how they might be implemented by Monthly Meetings.

We would like Friends to be aware of the progress that is being made toward implementing two of the most exciting (and expensive) innovations resulting from the C'nR recommendations – the Youth Secretary position and the Quaker Education Program. At the Yearly Meeting session, Young Friends worked enthusiastically to develop a detailed job description for the Youth Secretary, and a hiring committee will soon be in place so that the position can be advertised once adequate funds are available. The newly reconstituted Home Mission and Advancement Committee is beginning work on the Quaker Education Program. A new committee of Representative Meeting, the Contributions Committee, will review our current ways of raising money for the work of CYM, and may recommend new strategies. **We hope that Monthly Meetings and individual Friends will match this enthusiasm by coming up with funds for this work, both through donations and through fund-raising projects.**

We would also like to let Friends know that Susan and David Stevenson and Vernon Monthly Meeting have acted on Recommendations B-1 and B-2 of the C'nR Report, taking on a study of Australia Yearly Meeting as an individual and Monthly Meeting project. Their report, *Big countries, few Quakers: Yearly Meetings in Australia and Canada*, is available on the CYM website, and will be distributed as an insert in the December issue of the Canadian Friend. **We ask Monthly Meetings to season the recommendations in the Australia report, in preparation for possible consideration at CYM in 2009.**

We appreciated hearing from those Monthly Meetings that reported to us last year about the progress they are making on the C'nR recommendations, and we hope to hear more from you this year.

In Friendship,

Susan Stevenson and Marilyn Manzer  
C'nR Implementation Committee