

2017-07-22 (Search Committee) Search for a General Secretary for New York Yearly Meeting

The process began with the Ad Hoc Committee on Staff Structure, which was charged with examining the roles and responsibilities of staff. It spent many months gathering information and suggestions from Meetings, Committees and persons with specific responsibilities within the Yearly Meeting. After a period of discernment, the Ad Hoc Committee issued a report with specific recommendations which was presented to the Body of the Yearly Meeting. Based on that committee's work, a new job description for the General Secretary was created and a search committee appointed by General Services.

The search committee consisted of Barbara Menzel, Clerk; Charley Flint, member of a local Meeting, Hans Jurgen-Lehmann, Clerk of Personnel; Michael Clark, Powell House youth; Lisa Gasstrom, a management consultant and member of a local Meeting, and John Cooley, Clerk of General Services. The Committee met initially to review the recommendations of the Ad Hoc committee and created a set of questions which would be used in interviewing the final candidates.

We received a total of nine applications and interviewed four candidates, all members of local Meetings within New York Yearly Meeting. Each interview lasted between one hour and one and a half hours and began with the set of interview questions we had identified. Follow-up questions focused on the candidates' administrative experience, their knowledge of financial budgets, staff development, and their own spiritual grounding.

The committee spent considerable time in worship and discernment, looking at each of the four final candidates in terms of the job description. We did, after some time and additional committee meetings, come to unity on a candidate. At that point, we checked that person's references to be sure that the candidate had represented himself accurately.

Steven Mohlke was the candidate who was best suited to meet the needs of New York Year Meeting, and we have recommended to Personnel Committee and they have accepted the recommendation, that he be employed as our next General Secretary. He has held several Clerking positions, including Clerk of Ithaca Meeting and Clerk of NYYM Financial Services. He has served as Co-Clerk of Friends General Conference 2017 Gathering Committee. He has supervised a large program of Teaching Assistants at Cornell University. Steven also brings to the Yearly Meeting

his spiritual ground and strong Quaker faith. He participated in the School of the Spirit, a two year program of prayer and study.

His appointment as General Secretary begins at the end of Summer Sessions 2017.