


















TIMELINE OF AMPWG

								
July 2016 Work began out of a discussion about membership at NYYM Summer Sessions 2016.	2016 Cont... The working group (AMPWG) was started and met a number of times in 2016 for discernment.	2016 Cont... AMPWG researched the history and purpose of membership within the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) over many meetings.	2016 Cont... We looked for barriers to membership that applied to people we knew and people our society has marginalized.	2017 Beginnings We continued to meet throughout 2017 with regularity for data gathering and analysis of Friends history around membership.	2017 Cont... The working group delved even deeper into listening to Friends' thoughts and concerns, to those interested in becoming Friends and why they have not done so, and to those who had not been attending monthly meetings but who wish to remain members.	June 2017 We published an article in Friends Journal discussing membership styles and made a call out for stories from readers.	June 2017 The working group created an email account to collect more experiences from people about membership and took into consideration all information submitted.	June 2017 The group held a weekend long conference about membership at Powell House - between 3 different yearly meetings - attended by upwards of 30 people.

							
2017 Cont... One member from the working group began discussions, at the NYYM Friends Center for Racial Justice, about how racism has always been present in membership.	2017 Cont... We continued folding in stories and discoveries and also heard Friends express concern about how important it is for new members to contribute financially and added this need to the Yearly Meeting membership process being created.	2017 Cont... We additionally heard concerns that folks need spiritual nurture during their membership process and we added this into the work - ensuring guides would be available to walk a person through a Friend's first year of membership.	2017 to 2018 AMPWG also took into consideration how Friends rely on service within our community and this was added to the criteria for application.	July of 2018 The yearly meeting membership process concept was approved by Ministry Coordinating Committee and sent to Faith and Practice Committee for final wording.	October 2018 Text from the AMP Working Group was sent to clerks of all local and regional Ministry and Council Committees for review and awareness so as to incorporate any feedback given.	Fall Sessions 2018 The process created for Yearly Meeting membership was presented to Friends gathered at Fall Sessions 2017, along with an invitation for further discussion with members of the working group. Those discussions were folded into our efforts as well.	Winter 2018 to Present Throughout the winter of 2018 and beyond the Committee to Revise Faith and Practice collaborated with the working group to draft changes to F&P to be read at Spring Sessions 2019 (first reading).