**Notes for FFA report**

08/31/23

submitted by Patti Nesbitt, clerk, EOLWG

The End of Life Working Group has presented material from the book *A Tender Time: Quaker Voices on the End of Life* at several events in the past year. Members have offered workshops, led conversations, and presented relevant information pertaining to our topic. The following details such activities:

March 2023 – estate planning presentation at Deer Creek Meeting

March 2023 – shared the book’s findings, with Q+A, at Hopewell Centre Meeting

May 2023 – presentation on green burials, with Q+A, at Friends House Retirement Community

June 2023 – seminar on grief for 4 hours for social workers, with CEUs offered, in Hagerstown

June 2023 – presentation on book’s topics at Deer Creek Meeting

Aug 2023 – BYM annual sessions – 3 workshops on books topics, including key findings, queries, and detailed support for writing advanced directives and medical orders for end of life; 36 Friends in attendance

Sept 2023 – program on decline and death, at Charlottesville Friends Meeting

Sept 2323 – Meeting for Learning on book’s findings at Sandy Spring Monthly Meeting

Oct 2023 – follow-up program using queries from the book at Charlottesville Friends Meeting

Oct 2023 – Meeting for Learning on queries from book at Sandy Spring Monthly Meeting

Nov 2023– Meeting for Learning on memorial minutes at Sandy Spring Monthly Meeting

All of the interactions at the above events have included spirited discussions and often very emotional sharings. There is a depth of yearning for discussion about this tender topic. Friends have reported coming home all fired up to offer additional discussions so that more people can feel empowered to enter into this conversation is a safe setting.

Requests for leaders of similar programs have come from Maury River Friends, Dunnings Creek, Stony Run, and Little Britton.

The EOLWG re-commits itself to the mission of supporting our aging and ill Friends. The book addresses the physical, emotional, spiritual, practical, and legal aspects of the end of life, for individuals who are aging and dying, for their families and caregivers, for friends supporting families, and for our Meetings. We have recognized the importance of preparing “lesson plans” so that the work can be shared by any courageous Friends who are willing to open the conversation. We know the work is too great for us alone to do so, and choose to make the book’s material easily accessible and widely available.

Progress on book:

The text of the book is completed, awaiting final editing, design and layout.

The Publisher will be Baltimore Yearly Meeting.

The editor, Janaki Spickard-Keeler, of Pendle Hill, will free-lance this job for BYM.

BYM will hire designer and printer, and send out a defined number of copies to our Monthly Meetings and to YMs and Quaker retirement communities as specified in the FFA grant.

Pendle Hill and FGC have tentatively agreed to promote and sell the book.

Other means of promotion, sales, and distribution are being discussed