Right Holding of Yearly Meeting: where are we up to?
This summary presentation is based on:

1. Regional Meeting workshops during the 2018/19 year
2. Reports in Documents in Advance
3. Friendly School and workshops during YM19
4. The YM19 preparatory session and formal session.

All these are available from the RHYM Committee webpage at [https://www.quakersaustralia.info/RightHolding](https://www.quakersaustralia.info/RightHolding)

To read the detail, please check the webpage.
In this presentation, we will cover

1. The purpose of our YM gathering – what Friends think

2. How to organise our YM gathering to meet identified needs
Why do we have an annual gathering?

The thing is this: if you had (once in a year) a Yearly Meeting... for Friends to see one another, and know how the affairs of truth prosper, and how Friends do grow in the truth of God, to the comfort and joy of one another in it... all things (by the truth and power of God) may be kept in peace and love, all dwelling in the wisdom of God.

– George Fox
What do we think is the purpose of our YM gathering?
Friends think the purpose of our YM gathering is

1. Community – an all-ages gathering
2. Community – the opportunity to learn and share
3. Business – discerning the Spirit through our business process

Comments from Friends follow ...
Community – an all-ages gathering

‘YM needs to be simple, fit for purpose, with a meaningful engagement of young people’
Community – the opportunity to learn and share

‘We value learning, listening, school of the spirit experiences and interest groups’
Business – discerning the Spirit through our business process

‘Our YM allows for wider discernment on complex issues’
We need to avoid burnout

‘Worried about overload’
‘Exhaustion, busy-ness’
We seek balance

The committee is trying to balance the importance of these 3 identified needs for our YM gathering:

* Community all-ages
* Community learning
* Spirit-led business.
The committee is refining 2 models put forward at YM19

1. **Collaborative organisation** model: how we organise our national gathering

2. **Process of discernment** model: how we can be more inclusive at grassroots level, more focused at YM level.

The models complement each other, and each is based on insights from the RM workshops last year.
How can we organise our YM gathering to meet our identified needs?
Collaborative organisation model: how we organise our national gathering
The committee will make a formal recommendation at YM20 …

At this stage, and pending further discernment, we recommend that collaborative organisation should be considered the ‘new normal’, unless the Regional Meeting which is organising YM prefers not
Process of discernment model: how we can be more inclusive at grassroots level, more focused at YM level
The committee will make a formal recommendation at YM20 ...

- The committee is still discerning options for enhancing our business process to ensure we have fuller, deeper, Spirit-led discernment
- This will enable us to re-balance our focus at YM to ensure both Community and Business are included in a loving and meaningful way
We welcome feedback …

– We plan to organise webinars during the 2019/20 Quaker year
– We hope to obtain feedback from JYFs and YFs
– We are very happy to consider your comments on the pros, cons, and workability of the 2 models outlined above … please let us know

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