



June 17, 2015

Greetings Friends,

As requested at Representative Body on June 6, 2015, attached/enclosed is an overview of the Indiana Yearly Meeting Reconfiguration described primarily in their own words through excerpts from the Indiana Yearly Meeting website, their Yearly Meeting Minutes and Indiana Yearly Meeting *Faith and Practice*. It is important to note that North Carolina Yearly Meeting does not include in its *Faith and Practice* statements regarding subordination or intervention as found in Indiana Yearly Meeting. Also included are a couple of remarks regarding Quaker Haven, Indiana Yearly Meeting's equivalent of Quaker Lake Camp.

Your Presiding Clerk strongly encourages all Monthly Meetings to continue their considerations of the "New Committee Report" dated June 6 and the various options that have been outlined, and assure a representative is appointed and in attendance to voice your meeting's position at the called session of Representative Body at Holly Spring Friends Meeting on August 1, 2015 at 1:00 p.m. To assure that each meeting of the Yearly Meeting has the opportunity to be heard, initially only the appointed representative from each meeting will have the opportunity to speak. A roll call of all meetings will be conducted for the purpose of specifically identifying the named representative from each meeting who will speak for that meeting on August 1.

Friends, as I shared in my earlier correspondence, I have been very concerned by the lack of participation of many of our Monthly Meetings. **PLEASE** consider this very important matter regarding the future of North Carolina Yearly Meeting in your local Monthly Meetings and do have a representative present to share your meeting's leading on August 1.

Mike Fulp
Presiding Clerk, North Carolina Yearly Meeting

Indiana Yearly Meeting Reconfiguration Overview

June 2015

(compiled from various sources by the Interim Superintendent as directed by NCYM Representative Body meeting in session June 6, 2015)

The initial excerpt immediately below from the Indiana Yearly Meeting website as of June 12, 2015 describes the conclusion of the reconfiguration process in Indiana Yearly Meeting effected with their annual sessions in 2013.

Excerpt from the “Reconfiguration Overview” on the Indiana Yearly Meeting website:

“Indiana Yearly Meeting sessions in 2013 will mark a change in the life of Indiana Yearly Meeting, as approximately a dozen congregations will be released with the anticipation that several of them will form a new association of Friends (ultimately seventeen meetings departed to form the New Association of Friends, one became independent and one was discontinued, with forty-five meetings remaining in Indiana Yearly Meeting). This process, called “reconfiguration,” is the result of more than four years of discernment and struggle over a variety of issues, including views of sexuality, theology, and authority.”

The excerpt immediately below from the Indiana Yearly Meeting website as of June 12, 2015 describes the terms and conditions of the reconfiguration process in Indiana Yearly Meeting approved in their Representative Council (Representative Body) November 10, 2012 with the modifications noted.

“Recommendation from the Indiana Yearly Meeting reconfiguration Task Force for Approval at the Representative Council 11th Month 10, 2012” from the Indiana Yearly Meeting website:

“Indiana Yearly Meeting finds itself in an almost unprecedented situation for the Religious Society of Friends – acknowledging that it is in such a state of disunity that it can no longer remain a united body. This is an occasion for sadness for nearly everyone concerned, the sadness that if, as we have always believed, God called us to unity, that we have not found the way to maintain that unity. On that probably all of us would agree. But it is a symptom of our disunity that we name the source of our disunity variously – Scriptural authority, Gospel order, the power of the yearly meeting, leadership, equality, sin, and in many other ways. Given this reality, we, the Reconfiguration Task force, propose the following as a way forward that we think can be life-giving and allow monthly meetings to pursue ministry as each can discern best the leadings of the spirit.

- A. IYM (the organization) will remain intact, and those meetings choosing option B will continue to be part of this body. For the majority of Friends in Indiana Yearly Meeting this will represent no organizational change, although the authority of the yearly meeting to hold its member meetings accountable will have been clearly affirmed.
- B. Those meetings desiring a yearly meeting that allows for greater autonomy (option A) will be set off from IYM into a newly created “yearly meeting” or equivalent association. They will be released from obligations for 2013 assessments.
- C. Monthly meetings that have been unable or unwilling to choose between YM “A” and YM “B” are asked to make a different choice: are they willing to affirm being part of a yearly meeting with authority as laid out in the YM “B” statement distributed earlier this year? If not, they will be released from the yearly meeting.
- D. Monthly meetings that have not made a decision about their future relationship with the yearly meeting will have a grace period until yearly meeting sessions in 2013 to do so. They will not be liable for assessment payments until a decision is made. Members may complete terms of service as IYM committee members or officers but will not be eligible for reappointment. If the decision is for B, then the monthly

meeting will be responsible for retroactive payment of assessments.

E. To promote ongoing fellowship, we urge the following:

1. That USFW and Quaker Men remain undivided and bring together interested Friends from both sides.
2. Friends of Yearly Meeting A and released monthly meetings would continue to participate, as appropriate, in events at Quaker haven.
3. We encourage inter-visitation among meetings as becomes those who claim the name of Friends.
4. We assume that friends of both yearly meetings would remain welcome visitors at gatherings of the other.

F. We recommend that the yearly meeting records be handled as follows:

1. Both groups will maintain the current rule of *Faith and Practice* that ownership of monthly and quarterly meetings records cannot be transferred to any organization but the monthly or quarterly meeting or the current yearly meeting repository.
2. The two yearly meetings will share ownership of the yearly meeting records and the records of laid down preparative, monthly, and quarterly meetings.
3. The Earlham Friends collection will remain the depository for the IYM records. This may be changed by agreement of the two yearly meetings, or the finding of a neutral and qualified third party that records are not accessible or receiving care according to the best practices of the archival profession.
4. That the two yearly meetings share a custodian of records who is a member of one of the yearly meetings.

G. The following financial arrangements will be put in place:

1. Monthly meetings choosing to leave IYM will receive clear title to their properties, but with continuing obligations for any mortgages or other obligations to the yearly meeting.
2. IYM will cover legal expenses up to \$5,000 for obtaining quit claim deeds and the cost of creating a new 501 (c) (3) organization if desired.
3. Ministers affiliating with YM "A" or its equivalent or affiliating with an independent monthly meeting formerly part of IYM will continue to be eligible for support from the disbursing Board, the Scholarship & Loan Fund, and the Ministerial Training/Continuing Education Fund.
4. Yearly Meeting "A" will receive a proportional share plus 50 percent of their proportion of IYM's liquid assets as of December 31, 2012, based on adult membership as of December 31, 2011, minus any unpaid assessments still owing. This is in lieu of a proportional share of various endowments in which YM "A" has a legitimate interest but which would be difficult to split.
5. Other yearly meeting assets and endowments will be allocated as per the following document.

PROPOSED DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS TO A NEWLY CREATED YEARLY MEETING OR ASSOCIATION

1. The task force recommends that the following funds of special interest to Friends likely to comprise the new yearly meeting be taken from the existing IYM endowment and transferred to the newly created organization. Note: The value of endowment funds change daily. The amounts listed below are approximations based on recent reports plus the value of any distributions from these endowments currently in the YM treasury.

Earlham School of Religion Endowment	\$103,828
Earlham College General Fund	4,314
Ramallah Friends School endowment	14,817
Geoffrey Sawyer Fund	194,001

2. The task force also recommends a proportional distribution of unrestricted funds in the endowment based upon the following formula. The percentage of adult membership participating in a new yearly meeting or association multiplied by 1.5 will be the percentage of unrestricted endowment funds given. For

example, 10% of membership multiplied by 1.5 results in a 15% distribution. Based on an approximate value of \$322,000.00 of unrestricted funds, a 15% distribution would be \$48,300.00 less any unpaid assessments owed.

3. The task force recommends that if and when the Fort Wayne property is sold, after expenses incurred by IYM over the years related to that property are reimbursed, a proportional distribution of the remaining sale income be made based on the above formula. For example, if the property were sold for \$250,000.00 approximately \$50,000.00 would be used to cover yearly meeting expenses and the remaining \$200,000.00 would be the basis of a proportional distribution. 15% of \$200,000.00 would be \$30,000.00.

4. The task force recommends that the Fountain City property be deeded to the new yearly meeting/association. We do not have an appraised value for this property at this time.

5. The task force recommends that all endowments under the name of a specific Monthly meeting that will no longer be a part of IYM be released according to the request of that Meeting.

6. The task force recommends that pastors of reconfigured Meetings no longer in IYM be eligible to receive the benefits of the IYM Disbursing board funds, Scholarship and Loan Fund, Continuing Education fund, and the Lilly funded Ministerial Excellence Fund. Meetings would continue to be able to receive loans from the IYM Revolving Loan Fund.

RC 12 04 The Representative Council APPROVED the recommendation of the reconfiguration task force, altering the date for meetings to make their affiliation choices to May 30, 2013, altering the date for distribution of assets to December 31, 2013, and ensuring that reversion clauses (assets were to revert to Indiana Yearly Meeting if an organization/association of Friends was not formed) are included in the distribution of assets.

Below is the language from page 95 of the 2011 Edition of Indiana Yearly Meeting *Faith and Practice* regarding subordination and intervention (reportedly approved as seen below in 1986-1987, but with subordination being a Yearly Meeting principle dating to the Yearly Meeting's earliest days) that formed the basis for forced choices as described in the preceding section and that spells out the authority given to Indiana Yearly Meeting by its member meetings to deal with issues within the Yearly Meeting and the authority that enables the action of Indiana Yearly Meeting to release the meetings with the terms and conditions described above:

C. SUBORDINATION

Subordination as used in this *Faith & Practice* does not describe a hierarchy but rather a means, under divine leadership, of common protection between Indiana Yearly Meeting and its Quarterly Meetings and Monthly Meetings. It is a relationship among Friends “submitting themselves to one another in the fear of God.” (Ephesians 5:21) In the spirit of Christ who “humbled himself and became obedient unto death” each member, each Monthly Meeting, each Quarterly Meeting and the Yearly Meeting submits to each other in the love of Christ. Subordination is the assurance that no Monthly Meeting is alone, autonomous or independent. Thus Monthly Meetings recognize the legitimate role of the Yearly Meeting in speaking and acting for the combined membership. Likewise the Yearly Meeting recognizes the freedom of Monthly Meetings and the validity of their prophetic voices. Each needs the other in order to be strong and vital, and both need the mediation of Christ and the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

D. INTERVENTION

1. The Yearly Meeting may intervene in the affairs of a Monthly Meeting when individual members request assistance in dealing with a significant problem.

2. The Yearly Meeting may intervene in the affairs of a

Monthly Meeting with or without a request of individual members of a Monthly Meeting when:

- a. there is a clear and substantial violation of this *Faith & Practice*,
- b. there is a serious lack of consensus which threatens the unity of a Monthly Meeting,
- c. it appears that the real property of the Monthly Meeting may be transferred or encumbered to nonmembers of the Monthly Meeting or of Indiana Yearly Meeting who are out of unity with Friends principles, or
- d. there is a substantial indication that a Monthly Meeting may withdraw from Indiana Yearly Meeting

The following excerpts address **Quaker Haven**, somewhat like NCYM's Quaker Lake Camp. The initial remarks are from an email from the immediate past Presiding Clerk of Indiana Yearly Meeting:

"Quaker Haven is considered a 'wholly-owned subsidiary' of Western and Indiana Yearly Meetings. Each yearly meeting appoints one-half of the trustees. ... Indiana, by far, provides more campers and staffers, especially since IYM's Sunday morning aggregate attendance is nearly three times that of Western."

And from a series of "**Frequently Asked Questions and Answers about the IYM Reconfiguration Process**" posted on Indiana Yearly Meeting's website and last revised 11-10-2012 (but still accessible June 12, 2015):

Q7. How will Reconfiguration affect relationships with affiliated organizations like White's, Quaker Haven or Friends Fellowship Community?

A. Each affiliate organization will have input on how they would like to be affiliated with one or both "yearly meetings." No new relationship will be imposed upon any of them. Initially, meetings set off from IYM will have no legal affiliation with any of these organizations. If in time the Trustees of any of these affiliated organizations request affiliation with an additional yearly meeting or association, it is recommended that IYM approve any changes necessary to accommodate their request.