

Patapsco Friends Meeting
Ellicott City, Howard County, Maryland
Timeline

Historical records suggest that Quakers began living and worshiping in what is now Howard County, Maryland as early as 1698, beginning at Elk Ridge Landing, and were taken under the care of a monthly meeting in 1739. They built the Elk Ridge Meetinghouse in 1798, but the Elk Ridge Meeting was discontinued in 1853 as members were drawn to larger adjacent meetings in Baltimore (about 20 miles east) and other surrounding areas.

Quakers began meeting again in Howard County in the 1970s in Columbia, a planned community between Baltimore and Washington, D.C., meeting for worship at one of Columbia's "Interfaith Centers." This gathering was discontinued in 1979 because of insufficient participation.

In November 1996, as Columbia's population grew, Friends began meeting for worship at the Columbia Art Center.

In January 1997 the Friends moved their meeting for worship to the historic (1808) Hebron House owned by and adjacent to Mt. Hebron Presbyterian Church, Ellicott City, MD, which the Quakers leased from the Presbyterian Church for meetings for worship and other activities.

In 1999 these Quakers became Patapsco Friends Meeting as a preparative meeting under the care of Sandy Spring Monthly Meeting within Baltimore Yearly Meeting (BYM)

In August 2002 Patapsco became a full monthly meeting within Chesapeake Quarterly Meeting of BYM. From 1997 to the present day, Patapsco has maintained its meetings for worship and other activities at Hebron House under annual lease with Mt. Hebron Presbyterian Church.

Between 1999 and 2003 Patapsco's average Sunday attendance rose from the low 20s to low 30s, which was its pre-covid 2020 average attendance.

In Spring 2005, in response to a request from an incarcerated person at Maryland Correctional Institute-Hagerstown, MD Patapsco began a worship group every Saturday morning at that prison led by one or two members from the meeting. In 2007 attenders in the prison became Baltimore Yearly Meeting's South Mountain Friend's Fellowship, continuing with Patapsco affiliation and support until 2016 when all but one of the incarcerated attenders had been released, transferred or died. (The prison does not permit meetings for worship with only one incarcerated attender.)

In March 2020 Patapsco began conducting virtual Sunday Meetings for Worship via zoom, expected to continue until improved pandemic conditions are deemed appropriate for restored physical meetings.

Bob Rhudy, Member
Patapsco Friends Meetinghouse
February 7, 2021