

Baltimore Yearly Meeting Women's Retreat Working Group Annual Report 2021



On Saturday morning of February 6, 68 women from 25 Meetings attended the 2021 Baltimore Yearly Meeting Women's Retreat Zoom Worship. This year's planning committee was composed of Inga Erickson (Herndon) Dana Mitra (State College), and Yuri Plowden (Harrisburg), who are currently serving as the "grandmothers" Working Group for the Women's Retreat. Registration was handled by Wayne Finegar who also sent out the original announcements and set up the zoom link.

The 2021 retreat was to be held originally at the Pearlstone Retreat Center in Reisterstown, MD, organized by Friends Meeting of Washington, but had to be cancelled due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. Having also planned the 2020 retreat, Friends Meeting of Washington declined to plan a virtual alternative, however, they worked with the BYM Administrative staff to negotiate an agreement for Pearlstone to retain 80% of the deposit for a future time.

After serving for many years, Bette Hoover and Betsy Tobin stepped down from the Working Group, and Inga recruited Dana and Yuri to serve for this year until the Women's Retreat can meet in person and see if anyone else would volunteer. We three met via Zoom and decided to host a simple, 2-hour long virtual event that would prioritize worship, worship sharing in Zoom breakout rooms, a brief description of the status of the planning for 2022, and announcements. Those who attended were grateful for this opportunity to gather. The planning committee for 2022 remains uncertain as no Meeting has stepped forward with a firm commitment due to the ongoing pandemic situation.

Respectfully submitted,

Inga Erickson, Dana Mitra, and Yuri Plowden
BYM Women's Retreat Working Group