Formal request from the Baltimore Indigenous Affairs Committee to the Baltimore Yearly Meeting

Issue for the June 2024 Interim Meeting

The Baltimore Indigenous Affairs Committee (IAC) respectfully requests that the Baltimore Yearly Meeting provide $10,000 in 2024 to the Pawnee Nation. The funds are intended as the beginning of reparations to the Pawnee for Quaker, and specifically BYM, complicity in the intended assimilation of the Pawnee into the Eurocentric lifeways. This occurred more than a century ago, and though Friendly practices used to teach Native students were conducted with good intention, the practices harmed Native cultural cohesion.

We would like the BYM funds to be used to support the Pawnee language restoration program, however reparations should be used as the beneficiary decides to use them. The BYM money could come from undesignated, unrestricted reserve funds for 2024 or from any other funds, as determined by BYM administrators (clerks, employees, etc.).

This proposal has been approved by the IAC and is supported in principle by the BYM Reparations Action Working Group (RAWG). The RWAG supports the longer proposal shared with them earlier this Spring, though has not specifically approved the phrasing on this request.