

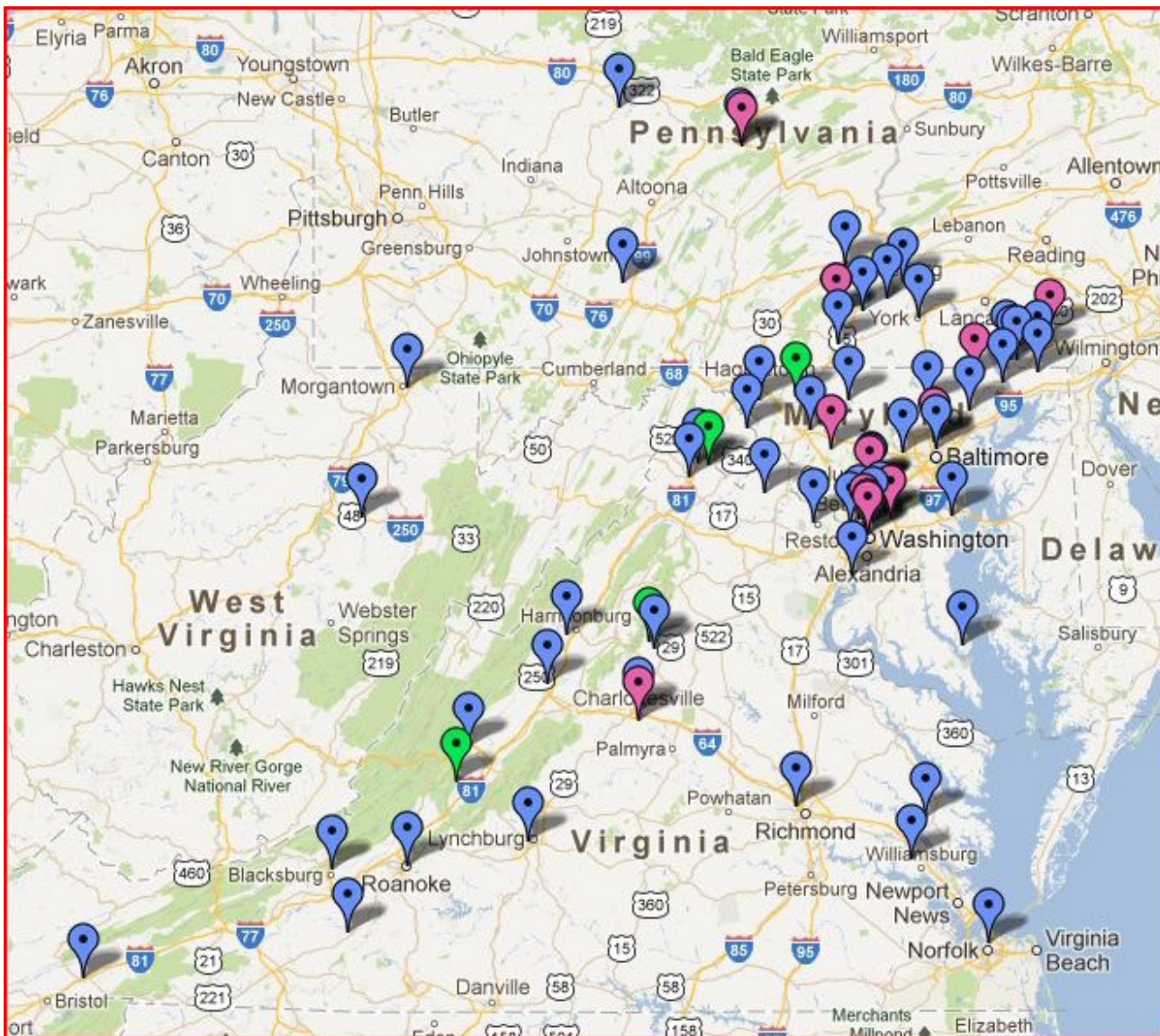
Baltimore Yearly Meeting

of the Religious Society of Friends

BYM Fact Sheet

04/04/19

BYM is a worshipping community, gathered in the presence of the Divine, affirming that of God in every person. BYM knits together Friends from the Chesapeake to the Appalachians into the larger Religious Society of Friends. As Quakers, we seek to know and follow God's will for us as a gathered people, to speak the truth that is revealed to us, and to listen to the Truth that is revealed in others. BYM is comprised of Friends in 49 Monthly Meetings, preparative meetings, and worship groups.



The interactive Google map of BYM meetings is on our website at: www.bym-rsf.org/who-we-are/maps.html

Friends in Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and the District of Columbia

www.bym-rsf.org

Monthly Meetings within BYM

BYM is comprised of 41 local Meetings and eight preparative, indulged, or allowed Meetings under their care. All members of local Meetings are automatically members of BYM. Friends Meeting of Washington (DC) is the largest Meeting. Our newest are Mattaponi Friends Meeting (VA) and Shepherdstown Monthly Meeting (WV). Our northernmost Meetings are State College and West Branch (PA), and southernmost include Floyd and Roanoke (VA).

BYM Committees

Friends do our work corporately (as a full body), and much of that work is seasoned in committees. Committee service is a great way to go deeper into one's experience of the Quaker way by working closely with others on shared concerns. BYM currently has 34 committees and working groups, each of which holds in trust a part of the work of Friends in our region. Some concern themselves with **spiritual nurture** (e.g. Ministry & Pastoral Care); some address **social issues** (e.g. Peace & Social Concerns); and some are **administrative** in nature (e.g. Stewardship & Finance). Whatever your interest or skill set, there is a place on a BYM committee for you!

BYM Business and Fellowship

Since 1672, Friends in our region have come together for Annual Session. **BYM Annual Session** is a week-long gathering. Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business is held each morning, and in the afternoons Friends may participate in a variety of workshops and organized activities. Annual Session is typically held the first full week of August at Hood College in Frederick, Maryland. Throughout the rest of the year, the full body is invited to convene at **Interim Meeting**, typically held on a Saturday in the months of March, June, and October at varying locations around the region (to ensure that all Friends will have an opportunity to attend a gathering close to home).

BYM Programs

BYM seeks to provide spiritual support and nurture for Friends of all ages. Programs for young people offer opportunities for year-round involvement with a Quaker community of peers. **BYM Camps** host as many as 600 residential campers at four locations during June, July, and August. During the school year, our **Youth Programs** host weekend conferences for Junior Young Friends (middle school) and Young Friends (high school). Both are opportunities for young people to develop leadership, responsibility, and accountability for their own community, following the Quaker way.

For adults, for over 25 years, the **Spiritual Formation** program has offered practical ways for seekers to deepen their personal spiritual experience while building spiritual community through a nine-month journey including annual retreats in fall and spring. The rest of the year, participants meet in local groups to read, learn, and share. The **Women's Retreat** is held each winter at a retreat center in the DC/Baltimore metro area. Women from a different Meeting plan and host the event each year. **Special opportunities** for training and mutual learning also occur, such as workshops on clerking skills and pastoral care.

BYM Publications

Faith and Practice, the shared book of discipline by which Meetings operate, is created through the BYM. The *Yearbook* is the publication of record for all minutes, financial information, membership statistics, clerks and officers, and committee reports. The *Interchange* newsletter is published three times a year. All are available on line. BYM also offers other publications such as the *History of Baltimore Yearly Meeting* by Bliss Forbush.

BYM Staff and Volunteers

Much of BYM's operation is handled by Friends called to serve their Yearly Meeting as clerks and committee members. The BYM Clerk and Clerk of Interim Meeting preside over Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business. BYM employs ten year-round staff, including two part-time resident camp caretakers. Core staff include the General Secretary, Associate General Secretary, Camping Program Manager, Camp Property Manager, Youth Programs Manager, Comptroller, Development Director, and an Administrative Assistant. During the camping season, Camp Programs employ an additional 120 paid staff and 120 volunteers and work-granters.

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