Baltimore Yearly Meeting’s Women’s Retreat Working Group Annual Report 2022

On Saturday, Oct 8, over 45 women from at least 13 Meetings attended the 2022 Baltimore Yearly Meeting’s Women Retreat at Adelphi Meeting. Twenty-three attended in person and at least 22 attended via Zoom. This year’s working group and default planning committee composed of Inga Erickson (Herndon), Jodi Rose (Herndon), Cameron Hughes (Goose Creek) and Carol Seddon (Stony Run).

The Working group met several times over the year to determine how to move the Women’s retreat forward. We still have a deposit at Pearlstone Conference center and began our discussions with determining if this was the year to go back to in person gatherings. The committee decided that a large in person gathering in the winter was still too risky given COVID. Pearlstone has stated that they are not willing to refund our deposit, but are willing to hold it indefinitely as we hope to meet again in person at some point. We also recognize that we are not a planning group for the retreat and to return to a large in-person gathering would take someone else taking up that charge. After committee discussions and a small survey of women from our own meetings and past participants, we gathered that the desire to be together is strong and finding a way to gather in person would be preferable to simply having a Zoom gathering.

This group was willing to plan a one day event and Adelphi was willing to host. We chose a day in the fall so that being outside would be an option if COVID was problematic at that time. The retreat was held and the day consisted of Singing, Meeting for Worship, Business Meeting, Worship sharing, workshops and a talent show. Thankfully, Adelphi women stepped in to take the helm to plan next year’s retreat.

The working group will continue its charge as oversight for the Women’s Retreat as a whole. We are grateful to BYM office support for promotion and registration of this year’s event. We intend to donate $200 to Adelphi Meeting with gratitude for providing space; we are also grateful to Adelphi women for taking up the charge to plan next year’s event.

The BYM Women’s Retreat Working Group will continue with Inga Erickson, Carol Seddon, Cameron Hughes, and Stacey LaRoy (Herndon).

Respectfully submitted,

BYM Women’s Retreat Working Group

October 15, 2022