

MANUAL OF PROCEDURE

**BALTIMORE YEARLY MEETING
OF THE
RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS**

UPDATED THROUGH AUGUST 2021

THE SPIRITUAL BASIS FOR UNITY

(Adapted from the Report of August 1964)

The Committees appointed by the two Baltimore Yearly Meetings to study together the question of what in our religious experience would justify the union of the Yearly Meetings see that much spiritual basis for unity now exists among us. This is evident in the uniting of a number of local Meetings, so that at present almost half the membership of the two Yearly Meetings is in united Meetings; in our [adult] Young Friends movement; in the joint work of our committees; in our cooperative efforts of many kinds; and in many shared experiences of worship. All these joint activities obviously would not exist without some measure of unity of spirit.

Our Yearly Meeting has a wide, rich, and diverse heritage, chiefly from historic Christianity interpreted by Quakerism. We not only tolerate diversity, we encourage and cherish it. In every local Meeting we struggle, usually patiently, with the problems that arise from our divergent convictions; and we usually find ourselves richer for our differences. In most if not all of our Monthly Meetings will be found, successfully co-existing, persons as far apart in religious vocabulary and practice as there are anywhere in the Yearly Meeting. Yet these Friends worship together every Sunday, and share nourishment for their spiritual life. Such association is beneficial and even necessary.

Friends in our Yearly Meeting are clear on certain principles which are so basic and essential that we tend to take them for granted and forget that they are essential, and probably the only essentials. We all are clear that religion is a matter of inward, immediate experience. We all acknowledge the guidance of the Inner Light—the Christ within—God’s direct, continuing revelation. All our insights are subject to testing by the insight of the group, by history and tradition, and by the Bible and the whole literature of religion. All the Meetings for Worship of our Monthly Meetings aspire to openness to God’s communication directly with every person. Worship is primarily on the basis of expectant waiting upon the Spirit, a communion with God in which mediators or symbols are not necessary. We are all clear that faith is directly expressed in our daily living. We all seek to move towards goals of human welfare, equality, and peace.

We have a profound, often-tested, durable respect for individuals’ affirmation of their own religious experience which must be judged not only by their words but also by the lives they lead. From the stimulus of dissimilarity new insights often arise. Friends must each, as always, work out their own understanding of religion; and each Monthly Meeting must, as always, fit its practice to its own situation and the needs of its members.

I. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this Manual is to provide a basis for the good order of the Religious Society of Friends within Baltimore Yearly Meeting by describing the following:

- a) its relations to other Friends' bodies;
- b) the committee, officer, or staff person the Yearly Meeting has designated to carry out certain tasks;
- c) the parameters within which the committee, officer, or staff person should function;
- d) whether recommendations from the committee, officer, or staff person should ultimately go to Annual Session, to Interim Meeting, or elsewhere; and
- e) the rationale for the process or method.

Changes that alter the meaning of this manual (substantive changes) are approved by Yearly Meeting in Session as described in article XI of this Manual.

This Manual is designed to assist the Yearly Meeting community to handle matters which are entrusted to it.

II. STRUCTURE OF BALTIMORE YEARLY MEETING OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

Baltimore Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends is an organization of the members of its constituent Monthly Meetings. The privileges and responsibilities of attendance at and participation in the sessions of Yearly Meeting and of service on its committees are open to all members of the Yearly Meeting.

Intermediate between Monthly Meetings and the Yearly Meeting there have customarily been bodies such as Quarterly Meetings and Half-Yearly Meetings. Throughout this Manual of Procedure the term "Quarterly Meeting(s)" will be used to refer to all such intermediate bodies whether meeting quarterly or in some other pattern.

The Yearly Meeting appoints officers and committees necessary to carry out its concerns effectively. The constitution and duties of the usual committees are provided for in this Manual, but nothing stated below is to be construed as requiring the Yearly Meeting to continue any committee beyond the period of its usefulness or as forbidding the establishment of other organs.

SESSIONS

The Yearly Meeting meets at least once a year, at an appointed time and place and for a stated length of time.

FUNCTIONS

The functions of the Yearly Meeting are:

- to hear reports from Quarterly Meetings, Monthly Meetings, and the organs established by the Yearly Meeting, and to take action upon these as appropriate.
- to consider and to implement as proper the concerns of groups or of individual Friends.

- to nurture an atmosphere within the Society conducive to the strengthening of the spiritual life of Friends and of the Quarterly and Monthly Meetings, and to the wider dissemination of the principles and testimonies of the Religious Society of Friends.
- to receive and to dispatch epistles from and to other groups of Friends, to accept the minutes of visiting Friends, and to prepare or endorse minutes for its members desirous of visiting among Friends outside the Yearly Meeting.
- to make provision for participation in the work of wider Friends' organizations.
- to approve a budget and to make apportionments thereof to the Monthly Meetings.
- to maintain a central file of information concerning the affairs of the Society within the area of the Yearly Meeting for the use of committees or of individuals in the furtherance of the activities of the Yearly Meeting.
- to perform such other functions as from time to time shall appear proper to the carrying out of the activities of the Yearly Meeting.

OFFICERS

The Presiding Clerk of Yearly Meeting, Recording Clerk of Yearly Meeting, Clerk of Interim Meeting, and Recording Clerk of Interim Meeting are selected from members of Baltimore Yearly Meeting. They are appointed by the Yearly Meeting after nomination by the Interim Meeting and take office at the end of the Yearly Meeting Annual Session at which they are appointed, to serve for terms of two years, or until their successors are appointed. No officer should serve more than six consecutive years in a particular office.

Presiding Clerk of Yearly Meeting

The Presiding Clerk serves as Clerk of all business Meetings of the Yearly Meeting and acts as Convener when special sessions are required. The Clerk attends Interim Meeting, and serves as an alternate to the Clerk of Interim Meeting. The Clerk also serves as a member of the Supervisory Committee, the Program Committee, the Trustees, and, in accordance with the provisions of Friends General Conference, is a member of the Central Committee of that body. Annually, the Clerk nominates and the Annual Session approves an ad hoc Epistle Committee to draft a general epistle to other Friends groups for the Yearly Meeting's review and approval. Reading Clerks are appointed by the Presiding Clerk as needed at Annual Session. The Clerk reports to each regular session of the Interim Meeting on activities as Clerk during the intervening period.

A retiring Clerk continues to attend Interim Meeting for one year.

The Presiding Clerk and all former Presiding Clerks may be invited by a Quarterly or Monthly Meeting to serve as Listeners to help the Meeting find clearness on a particular concern, use Quaker process more effectively, and make better use of the resources of the Yearly Meeting. Any one or more of the Clerks may be asked to initiate this process.

Clerk of Interim Meeting

The Clerk of Interim Meeting convenes and guides the sessions of that Meeting, serves as an alternate to the Presiding Clerk of Yearly Meeting, serves on the Supervisory Committee, and may clerk that Committee. The Clerk of Interim Meeting receives and expends the

funds of the Yearly Meeting as directed whenever neither the Treasurer nor the Assistant Treasurer is able to do so.

Recording Clerks

The Recording Clerk of Yearly Meeting provides for the orderly recording of the proceedings of the sessions of the Yearly Meeting and serves as an alternate to the Recording Clerk of Interim Meeting.

The Recording Clerk of Interim Meeting provides for the orderly recording of the proceedings of that Meeting and shares the work of recording the proceedings of Yearly Meeting sessions.

Assistants to these officers may be appointed when deemed necessary.

Treasurers

The Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer are selected from among the members of Baltimore Yearly Meeting. They are nominated to the Yearly Meeting by the Interim Meeting and, when appointed by the Yearly Meeting in session, serve beginning January 1 (the beginning of the Yearly Meeting's fiscal year) following the close of the Annual Session at which appointed, for terms of two years, or until their successors are appointed and qualified. As with other officers, it is preferred that the Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer serve no more than six consecutive years in a particular office. The Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer serve ex-officio as members of the Stewardship and Finance Committee.

The Treasurer monitors and expends the funds of the Yearly Meeting as directed, and maintains financial records and books as directed by the Stewardship and Finance Committee, setting forth the financial conditions and resources of the Yearly Meeting. The Treasurer attends Interim Meeting, and serves as an ex-officio member of the Trustees and the Supervisory Committee.

The Assistant Treasurer is expected to become familiar with the procedures of the Treasurer, assist the Treasurer and, whenever the Treasurer is unable to serve, serve as Treasurer. The Assistant Treasurer attends Interim Meeting.

TRUSTEES

The Trustees, like other committees of the Meeting, are selected by the Meeting and are expected to act for the whole Meeting in carrying out their responsibilities under the law. Thus, while Trustees must be conscious of their fiduciary obligation to preserve the assets of the Meeting, they must also be continuously sensitive to the spirit of the Meeting and its wish to fulfill the social testimonies of the Society of Friends. The Meeting, in turn, should be sensitive to the legal responsibilities of trustees which can, in certain circumstances, make them personally liable for actions taken in the name of the Meeting.

Faith and Practice, 1988, III B, 4b

Trustees and other financial officers should seek to be as responsive as possible, within the limits of legally imposed restrictions, to the considered judgment of the whole Meeting on matters of policy.

Faith and Practice, 1988, Appendix I, 2b

The Yearly Meeting appoints generally nine (but no fewer than four) Trustees in accordance with its corporate charter. Each Trustee shall be a member of a constituent Monthly Meeting. There are at present nine Trustees: the current Presiding Clerk and Treasurer of the Yearly Meeting plus seven persons nominated by the Nominating Committee and appointed by the Yearly Meeting to serve for terms of three years, with the possibility of re-appointment for a second three-year term. A Trustee's term begins at the close of the Yearly Meeting or Interim Meeting Session at which they are appointed and ends at the close of the Annual Session during which their term ends. Normally one of these seven is from each Quarterly Meeting within the Yearly Meeting. The Trustees may not co-opt additional members.

The Trustees are the body authorized to act as the governing body of the Yearly Meeting with respect to legal matters. Either the Clerk of Trustees or Treasurer signs for the Yearly Meeting on forms, such as tax returns, to be filed with governmental entities. Trustees are responsible for obtaining and holding the title to real property owned by the Yearly Meeting, such as burying grounds and camps. Trustees arrange for investing the funds of the Yearly Meeting and, following the policy outlined in *Faith and Practice*, 1988, Appendix I, 3, Trustees ensure restricted funds are managed in accordance with intentions of the original donors. The Trustees arrange for a certified public accountant to audit the Yearly Meeting's books and records in accordance with Yearly Meeting policy, and receive and review the auditor's report (currently, an audit is done annually). To accomplish this, the Trustees meet at least annually and report annually to the Yearly Meeting.

Baltimore Yearly Meeting has adopted policies that govern the Trustees. These policies include the Whistle Blower (Appendix B to this Manual), Conflict of Interest (Appendix C to this Manual), and Youth Safety (Appendix D to this Manual) Policies. Trustee review reinforces the Yearly Meeting's intention that all committee members and corporate practices uphold these policies.

It is the policy of Baltimore Yearly Meeting that the Trustees will keep contemporaneous minutes of all meetings. These minutes are to be sent to the Yearly Meeting Office in a timely fashion for retention.

The Youth Safety Policy Working Group (YSPWG) is under the care of the Trustees. The Working Group includes the following: General Secretary, Youth Programs Manager, Camp Program Manager, Presiding Clerk, Clerk of Supervisory Committee, Clerk of Trustees (or a designated member of Trustees), Clerk of Youth Programs Committee (or a designated member of that Committee), Clerk of Camping Program Committee (or a designated member of that Committee), Clerk of Religious Education Committee (or a designated member of that Committee), Clerk of Junior Yearly Meeting Staff (or a designated member of JYM staff), STRIDE Coordinator, and others as needed. YSPWG meets at least once per year to review the current Youth Safety Policy, and to discuss any youth safety concerns that may have arisen. Trustees appoint a Trustee to serve as convener of the YSPWG. Throughout the year, the General Secretary keeps the members of YSPWG informed about best practices for youth safety, as information becomes available. YSPWG stands ready to address, in a timely manner, any youth safety policy issues that may arise.

The Clerk, or another designated Trustee, serves as a member of the Camp Property Management Committee. The Clerk, or another designated Trustee, serves as a member of the Development Committee.

III. INTERIM MEETING

All members of Baltimore Yearly Meeting are members of Interim Meeting and are welcome to attend its meetings. Interim Meeting acts for the Yearly Meeting in the intervals between its sessions. It meets at least three times a year and on call as necessary.

In order to assure wide participation in Interim Meeting, each Monthly Meeting in the Yearly Meeting is requested to appoint one person to attend Interim Meetings. Ordinarily, no one serves consecutively as Monthly Meeting appointee for more than six years.

Others expected to participate in Interim Meeting are:

- the officers of the Yearly Meeting: the Presiding Clerk, the retiring Presiding Clerk (for one year following retirement), the Recording Clerk, the Treasurer and the Assistant Treasurer. The Presiding Clerk of Yearly Meeting serves as an alternate to the Clerk of Interim Meeting and the Recording Clerk of Yearly Meeting serves as an alternate to the Recording Clerk of Interim Meeting.
- the Clerk and the Recording Clerk of Interim Meeting.
- the clerks selected by each of the standing administrative and functional committees of the Yearly Meeting including the clerk of Trustees and the Clerks of Baltimore Yearly Meeting Young Friends Nuts and Bolts Committee and Young Adult Friends.
- Friends selected to serve on the Search Committee of Interim Meeting and on the Supervisory Committee.

The functions of Interim Meeting are:

- to consider recommendations from standing committees and working groups as needed between Annual Sessions.
- to define staffing needs, set staff compensation policies, and be the employer of record. Interim Meeting selects, employs, and defines the responsibilities of the General Secretary.
- to nominate for approval of Yearly Meeting in session persons to serve as Presiding Clerk, Recording Clerk, Clerk of Interim Meeting, Recording Clerk of Interim Meeting, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, members of the Supervisory Committee, and members of the Nominating Committee.
- to appoint from the floor a Naming Committee of two Friends to nominate Friends for appointment to fill the vacancies on the Search Committee.
- to fill vacancies among Yearly Meeting or Interim Meeting officers, or on the Supervisory Committee or the Nominating Committee, when such occur between sessions of the Yearly Meeting.
- to conduct necessary correspondence in the name of the Yearly Meeting between sessions.
- to make sure that adjustments are made in the number of trustees of any corporation to comply with legal requirements.

- to re-examine the function and structure of any Yearly Meeting committee when necessary and make appropriate recommendations to the Yearly Meeting to enable the committee to carry out the concerns placed upon it.
- to consider proposed changes in the Manual of Procedure, report on its actions to those who initiated the proposal, and forward changes to the Yearly Meeting as approved.
- to carry out such other responsibilities as the Yearly Meeting may refer to it.

The Naming Committee is appointed on Spring Yearly Meeting Day, and served for one year or until a new Committee is appointed. The Naming Committee usually presents its recommendations to Interim Meeting on Summer Yearly Meeting Day. At any time the Naming Committee may present to Interim Meeting nominations to fill vacancies on the Search Committee that occur during the year. The Naming Committee will only nominate Friends to the Search Committee who will not concurrently serve on another standing committee of the Yearly Meeting or Interim Meeting.

COMMITTEES OF INTERIM MEETING

SEARCH COMMITTEE

The Search Committee is composed of six persons, two appointed each year to serve a three-year term. They are nominated by an *ad hoc* Naming Committee and appointed by Interim Meeting. Their service begins immediately after the Annual Session of Baltimore Yearly Meeting. Search Committee members attend Interim Meeting. No person may serve for more than six consecutive years. The Committee may not co-opt additional members.

The Search Committee nominates persons to serve as Presiding Clerk, Recording Clerk, Clerk of Interim Meeting, Recording Clerk of Interim Meeting, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, members of the Supervisory Committee, and members of the Nominating Committee. In order to fill these positions with Friends well qualified to best serve the Yearly Meeting, the committee not only strives to consider each individual's experience and spiritual gifts, but also strives to draw these gifted Friends from diverse age groups, genders, racial identities, ethnicities, and geographical regions. These nominations are proposed to Interim Meeting and, if approved, are forwarded to the Yearly Meeting. The Search Committee usually presents these nominations on behalf of Interim Meeting at Annual Session.

The Search Committee usually reports to Interim Meeting on Summer Yearly Meeting Day. If the Search Committee is able to fill any remaining vacancies after Summer Yearly Meeting Day, it may bring these nominations directly to the Yearly Meeting sessions. At any time the Committee may present to Interim Meeting nominations to fill vacancies which occur during the year.

On Spring Yearly Meeting Day, Interim Meeting appoints from the floor a Naming Committee of two Friends to nominate Friends for appointment to fill the vacancies on the Search Committee. This Committee serves for one year or until a new Committee is appointed. The Committee usually presents its recommendations to Interim Meeting on Summer Yearly Meeting Day. At any time the Committee may present to Interim Meeting nominations to fill vacancies on the Search Committee which occur during the year.

As with other nominating bodies, the Search Committee normally does not nominate any of its own members for other responsibility. The Search Committee will only nominate Friends to Supervisory or Nominating Committee who will not concurrently serve on another Yearly Meeting standing committee.

SUPERVISORY COMMITTEE

The Supervisory Committee is composed of the Clerk of Interim Meeting, the Presiding Clerk, the Treasurer of the Yearly Meeting, and four additional members of the Yearly Meeting nominated by the Interim Meeting for appointment by the Yearly Meeting. The Committee may not co-opt additional members. The Supervisory Committee is clerked by the Clerk of Interim Meeting or one of the four appointed members.

The four persons appointed by the Yearly Meeting also attend Interim Meeting. Two of these members are appointed annually for terms of two years. Generally, none of the members may serve on the Supervisory Committee for more than six consecutive years. An individual may again be appointed after a one-year break in service. Terms begin at the end of the Yearly Meeting sessions at which the appointment is made.

The General Secretary is responsible to this committee, specifically to its Clerk. The Committee as a whole guides and supports the work of the General Secretary. The Supervisory Committee writes a position description for the General Secretary to be approved by the Interim Meeting. The Supervisory Committee also ensures the support and nourishment of the staff.

The Supervisory Committee creates, reviews and updates written personnel policies. Supervisory Committee approves written position descriptions of all office staff. The Committee may delegate writing position descriptions to the General Secretary who will consult with appropriate committees and Supervisory Committee. Position descriptions changes that would affect the Yearly Meeting budget need the approval of the Interim Meeting.

The Supervisory Committee recommends staff compensation policies to Interim Meeting, annually sets specific compensation levels for individual staff, annually reports compensation totals in aggregate form to Interim Meeting, and provides guidance to the General Secretary in the employment of staff.

The Committee will review and remain familiar with the content of the Youth Safety Policy (Appendix D to this Manual) in order to ensure that the practices of the Committee reflect the guidelines adopted to promote the safety of our youth and youth workers. The Committee will ensure that any necessary staff and volunteer training is provided and that programs and events are carried out in compliance with policy guidelines.

The Supervisory Committee also oversees the maintenance of the office property and grounds and the acquisition and maintenance of office equipment and any other fixed assets. Authority for the expenditure of funds for normal maintenance up to a stated dollar amount may be delegated to the General Secretary.

The Supervisory Committee annually provides budget recommendations to the Stewardship and Finance Committee for office staff salaries and benefits and for the maintenance of building, equipment, and grounds. As appropriate, the Supervisory Committee will inform the Stewardship and Finance Committee of needed adjustments to the budget.

In addition, this Committee carries out such duties as the Interim Meeting specifically assigns to it, and, between meetings of the Interim Meeting, may act upon urgent matters not involving policy nor of such importance as to justify a special session of the Interim Meeting. When acting upon urgent matters between meetings of Interim Meeting, the Committee will confer with standing committees of the Yearly Meeting that hold a concern for the subject matter being considered and will make decisions with direct involvement of those committees. All such actions are to be reported to the Interim Meeting at its next session.

IV. STAFF

Interim Meeting selects, employs, and defines the responsibilities of the General Secretary. The General Secretary, with the guidance of the Supervisory Committee, may employ such staff as allowed in the budget approved by the Yearly Meeting in session. The Camp Directors, with the guidance of the Camping Program Committee, employ such staff as the budgets for the various camping programs allow.

Other Committees of the Yearly Meeting desiring staff need to develop a proposal and present it to Interim Meeting for approval. The proposal must include at least the following: 1) job description; 2) the Committee to which the staff is to report; 3) budget and compensation.

After approval of the proposal, the Committee interviews candidates and makes a recommendation to the General Secretary, who employs and directs the staff in accord with the proposal and general Yearly Meeting personnel policy. Interim Meeting may require Committees employing or directing staff to coordinate personnel policies.

V. COMMITTEES OF THE YEARLY MEETING

The Yearly Meeting establishes committees for the carrying out of its purposes. All committees are expected to meet at least once annually, either in person or using modern technology such as voice- or video-teleconferencing and are expected to report annually. Each committee reports both on its activities and on those matters that are seen as needing attention, with some analysis of the health of the committee. If a committee sees no way in which it can carry out the concerns placed upon it, its members should request the Interim Meeting to re-examine the function and structure of the committee and make appropriate recommendations to the Yearly Meeting. Failure of a committee to report is also an indication that a review process is needed.

Baltimore Yearly Meeting has adopted policies that govern all committees. These policies include Whistle Blower (Appendix B to this Manual), Conflict of Interest (Appendix C to this Manual), and Youth Safety (Appendix D to this Manual) Policies. Committee review reinforces the Yearly Meeting's intention that all committee members and corporate practices uphold these policies.

It is the policy of Baltimore Yearly Meeting that all committees acting on its behalf, including standing and ad hoc committees, will keep contemporaneous minutes of all committee meetings. These minutes are expected to be sent to the Yearly Meeting Office in a timely fashion for retention.

Concerned individuals desiring to establish a new committee or ad hoc committee take their idea to Interim Meeting, either themselves directly, through their Monthly Meeting(s), or through an appropriate committee if one already exists. If, after due consideration, there is approval, Interim Meeting recommends to the Yearly Meeting that such a committee or ad hoc committee be established. If the Yearly Meeting approves, the committee or ad hoc committee is established.

Any report, action, or statement of a committee is to be approved in the manner of Friends at a meeting of the committee of which all the members of the committee were given reasonable notice.

Unless otherwise provided, nominations of persons to serve on the committees of the Yearly Meeting are made by the Nominating Committee. Nominations of persons to serve on the Nominating Committee, however, are made by the Interim Meeting. In general, Friends are expected attempt to serve the Yearly Meeting on no more than one standing Committee at a time. However, the nomination of a particularly well qualified Friend as a representative to an outside body or as a member of an ad hoc Committee, after the Nominating Committee has given due consideration to other qualified Friends, is permitted. Nothing in this Manual is to be interpreted as barring any Friend from serving in a specific capacity when special circumstances warrant.

All appointments to committees are made by the Yearly Meeting in session, except that Interim Meeting may make appointments to fill vacancies or to meet other requirements arising between Yearly Meeting sessions.

The Yearly Meeting has a responsibility to reject unsuitable names as well as to approve those found acceptable.

Unless other terms are set, approximately one-third of the membership of each committee is appointed annually for terms of three years, such terms to begin at the end of the Yearly Meeting sessions at which the appointments are made. Generally, no one may serve on the same committee for more than six consecutive years, nor is it customary that Friends serve the Yearly Meeting on more than one standing committee at a time. An individual may again be appointed after a one-year break in service.

Any committee, except the Nominating Committee, may co-opt a limited number of Friends for membership for a period not extending beyond the following sessions of Yearly Meeting. Committees may invite other persons, Friends or non-Friends, to serve in a consultative capacity without becoming members of the committee.

Unless otherwise provided, each committee selects its own clerk. Committee clerks are selected from the members of Baltimore Yearly Meeting. Committees are encouraged to make careful provision for their ongoing work by selecting clerks in good time. Committee clerks usually take office at the close of Yearly Meeting's Annual Session, to serve for the coming year. Since it is usually desirable that a clerk have some experience with the particular committee before becoming its clerk, committees may, prior to Yearly Meeting sessions, provide for selecting a prospective clerk from among their continuing members. Committees report the names of their clerks while the Yearly Meeting is still in session. Committee clerks attend Interim Meeting or delegate another member of the committee to attend.

Meetings of all Yearly Meeting committees, except the Nominating Committee, are open to all Friends. However, any committee reviewing sensitive matters may hold an executive session.

Yearly Meeting committees are empowered to raise or accept monies only with the prior approval of the Interim Meeting or the Yearly Meeting in session.

All administrative committees report their recommendations to the Yearly Meeting or to the Interim Meeting for approval, unless authority has previously been given such committees to act on their own proposals.

Functional Committees may act and issue statements on behalf of the Yearly Meeting:

- when such actions or statements have the prior approval of the Yearly Meeting or the Interim Meeting.
- when such actions or statements are clearly in accord with the policy of the Yearly Meeting as enunciated in its minutes or adopted statements.

Other actions or statements not meeting these qualifications will be clearly identified as being the actions or statements of the committee issuing them and not of the Yearly Meeting.

It is the duty of the functional committees from time to time, as the occasion demands, and with the approval of the committee members, to prepare position papers on matters of current interest and concern within their fields of interest and to present these position papers before the Yearly Meeting or the Interim Meeting for approval. If possible, these papers will be distributed to members of the Yearly Meeting along with Yearly Meeting committee reports prior to Yearly Meeting sessions at which they will be considered. These papers, as adopted by the Yearly Meeting, will then form the main part of the background of policy on the basis of which the functional committee may act on behalf of the Yearly Meeting.

The scope of authority possessed by an ad hoc committee is to be included in the charge to the committee; if not included, the committee is governed by the above provisions depending upon whether it is primarily of an administrative or functional character.

As a general practice, the Nominating Committee does not nominate members of an ad hoc committee or working group; the members select themselves. The names of members and the dates of establishment of ad hoc committees and working groups are listed in the Yearbook after committee rosters.

When an ad hoc committee is established, a time limit is set for its duration. At the end of that time, a decision is made by the Yearly Meeting as to whether the ad hoc committee is to be continued for another specified period of time, made a standing committee, or laid down. If no decision is made by the Yearly Meeting, the ad hoc committee automatically is laid down when the time limit expires.

Any other groups recognized by the Yearly Meeting which are not standing committees or ad hoc committees are either special groups or working groups. As provided in Section VI below, the former groups report to the Yearly Meeting, the latter to a sponsoring committee of the Yearly Meeting.

The Committees of Baltimore Yearly Meeting are:

Administrative Committees:

- Camp Property Management Committee
- Faith and Practice Committee
- Manual of Procedure Committee
- Nominating Committee
- Program Committee
- Stewardship and Finance Committee

Functional Committees:

- Advancement and Outreach Committee
- Camping Program Committee
- Development Committee
- Educational Grants Committee
- Growing Diverse Leadership Committee
- Indian Affairs Committee
- Ministry and Pastoral Care
- Peace and Social Concerns Committee
- Religious Education Committee
- Sue Thomas Turner Quaker Education Fund Committee
- Unity with Nature Committee
- Youth Programs Committee

ADVANCEMENT AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE

The Advancement and Outreach Committee consists of approximately nine members nominated by the Nominating Committee and appointed by the Yearly Meeting with care to name Friends who are familiar with Monthly Meetings throughout the Yearly Meeting.

This Committee provides tools and resources to local Meetings looking for outreach ideas, for help starting new Meetings, and for ways to help those new to Friends learn about the Religious Society of Friends. The Committee is responsible for the dissemination of useful

information about Baltimore Yearly Meeting, its local Meetings, and the Religious Society of Friends. This information is available from the Yearly Meeting website and other Yearly Meeting publications.

The Committee names one of its members to serve on the Sue Thomas Turner Quaker Education Fund Committee for a two-year term.

The Internet Communications Working Group is under Advancement and Outreach's care. The Growing Our Meetings Working Group (GOMWG) is under the care of Advancement and Outreach.

CAMP PROPERTY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The Camp Property Management Committee (CPMC) consists of at least eight members nominated by the Nominating Committee and appointed by the Yearly Meeting. In addition, either the clerk or another member of the Trustees, Camping Program Committee, Stewardship and Finance Committee, and the Camp Property Manager are ex-officio members. The Committee may appoint subcommittees as needed, which may include members from outside the Committee.

The Committee will normally meet at least six to eight times a year. Members unable to meet face-to-face for committee meetings are encouraged to use other technologies. The committee works in coordination with Camping Program Committee.

The Committee is a governing committee that oversees the management of the present and any future properties the Yearly Meeting uses for camping programs, retreats, and other similar activities. The Committee's purpose is threefold: (1) to plan ahead for the long term needs of the camp properties; (2) to work collaboratively with the Camp Property Manager in prioritizing short and long-term projects; (3) to support the Camping Program Manager with specific projects as needed. The Camp Property Management Committee, in cooperation with Camping Program Committee, plans and executes Family Camp Weekends held in the spring and fall. On-site participation in camp activities or camp visits by committee members is an integral part of the work of the committee.

While the committee has full authority to carry out its tasks, the fiduciary responsibility for the Yearly Meeting properties rests with the Trustees. The Committee manages the camp properties as one financial entity and prepares its operating and capital budgets which are presented to the Stewardship and Finance Committee and incorporated into the Yearly Meeting operating and capital budgets.

The committee is responsible for setting camp rental fees. All income generated by the camp properties (including camp property rental, sales of natural resources, gifts, and bequests) will be available for the operation and development of the camp properties.

The Committee reviews and remains familiar with the content of the Youth Safety Policy and other relevant Yearly Meeting policies in order to ensure that the practices of the Committee reflect the guidelines adopted by the Yearly Meeting. The Committee provides any

necessary CPMC staff and volunteer training and ensures that programs and events are held in compliance with policy guidelines.

CAMPING PROGRAM COMMITTEE

The Camping Program Committee consists of approximately 18 persons nominated by the Nominating Committee and appointed by the Yearly Meeting, plus the directors of the camping programs, the Camping Program Manager and the STRIDE Coordinator, ex-officio.

The Camping Program Committee oversees and coordinates the philosophy, policy, financing, and program emphasis of all Yearly Meeting endeavors in the field of outdoor religious education—seeking to provide for all the various ages and interests of our Yearly Meeting through a variety of camping styles. The Camping Program Manager is responsible for implementing goals, direction, and policy as set by the Camping Program Committee.

The Committee will review and remain familiar with the content of the Youth Safety Policy (Appendix D to this Manual) in order to ensure that the practices of the Committee reflect the guidelines adopted to promote the safety of our youth and youth workers. The Committee will provide any necessary staff and volunteer training and will ensure that programs and events are carried out in compliance with policy guidelines.

The Camping Program Committee advises the General Secretary on employment of camp directors and the Camping Program Manager. The Committee nurtures and supports the directors and staff in the implementation of the outdoor religious education programs and works to promote awareness of the programs within the wider Quaker community.

The Clerk or another member of the Camping Program Committee serves as a member of the Camp Property Management Committee the Development Committee, the Growing Diverse Leadership Committee, the Strengthening Transformative Relationships in Diverse Environments Working Group (STRIDE), and the Youth Safety Policy Working Group.

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The Development Committee consists of five or more members nominated by the Nominating Committee and appointed by the Yearly Meeting. In addition, either the Clerk or another member of the Trustees, one member of Stewardship and Finance Committee, and one member of the Camping Program Committee are ex-officio members. Development Committee prepares, guides, and assists in the implementation of fund-raising plans. It is charged with: the creation and subsequent oversight of a comprehensive development plan for Baltimore Yearly Meeting that clarifies the role of Monthly Meeting apportionment; an annual giving program; development policies that address the acceptance and handling of both restricted and unrestricted contributions; and the appropriate uses of Yearly Meeting and Monthly Meeting communication avenues.

The Committee also reviews requests for exceptional, one-time release of the Yearly Meeting mailing list for purposes of financial solicitation and, if it approves, forwards such

requests to the next Interim Meeting or Annual Session for final consideration. (Excepted from the Yearly Meeting's policy restricting such use of the mailing list, and thus from Development Committee review, are the affiliated Quaker organizations Friends General Conference, Friends United Meeting, and Friends World Committee for Consultation).

The Committee guides, supports, and assists the Development Director in the following ways: researching for the Yearly Meeting potential sources of financial support, including individuals and Monthly Meetings; cultivating and requesting support from major donors, including individuals, foundations, and other organizations; establishing regular contact with individuals and Monthly Meetings to promote increased giving to Yearly Meeting; creating curricula for supporting Monthly Meetings in their own fund-raising efforts; and promoting efforts to secure bequests and other deferred gifts. The Committee maintains appropriate consultation with the General Secretary and Supervisory Committee about shared supervision and personnel matters. If there is no Development Director, the Committee undertakes these duties, and others ascribed to that position, as needed.

The Development Committee has oversight of fund-raising efforts that other Yearly Meeting committees may initiate. It assists in the planning and implementation of such efforts and ensures that any fund-raising effort is consistent with the overall development plan. The Committee consults with Stewardship and Finance, Camping Program, Camp Property Management, and Youth Programs Committees on a regular basis to discuss the budgetary process and to promote giving. The Development Committee consults with Trustees for guidance on legal and Yearly Meeting policy issues.

EDUCATIONAL GRANTS COMMITTEE

The Educational Grants Committee is composed of at least six members nominated by the Nominating Committee and appointed by the Yearly Meeting. The purpose of this committee is to help Friends pursue education by providing grants, which may be applied to undergraduate attendance at accredited post-secondary educational institutions such as universities, colleges, professional, and vocational schools, either full or part-time. Monies and income from the Educational Fund, the Education Endowment Income Fund, and the Fair Hill/Griest Fund, and such other funds as the Yearly Meeting deems appropriate are used to provide post-secondary grants.

Grants are awarded on the basis of financial need and the Committee's assessment of an applicant's statement of purpose, including consistency with Friends testimonies. The application process is expected to include comments on the applicant's involvement in the Monthly Meeting and any information that would be helpful in making a decision.

The Committee performs its work according to a policy statement approved by the Yearly Meeting.

Baltimore Yearly Meeting does not make loans to students.

The Committee meets in April to evaluate applications and award grants, and on other mutually convenient dates to discuss other business. The Educational Grants Committee

reports to the Yearly Meeting at least once a year on the state of the funds, grants made, and any other business conducted.

FAITH AND PRACTICE COMMITTEE

The Faith and Practice Committee consists of six to ten persons nominated by the Nominating Committee and appointed by the Yearly Meeting. This committee will benefit from having members with diverse perspectives of theology and Quaker practice, as well as members of diverse ages, races, and backgrounds, and from diverse regions.

The Faith and Practice Committee is charged with the care of our *Faith and Practice* and will regularly review it. The Committee engages with the constituents of the Yearly Meeting to explore and clarify our continually evolving experience with Quaker faith and practice and seeks to have the published *Faith and Practice* reflect this experience. The Faith and Practice Committee is expected to be in close communication with other committees, particularly the Ministry and Pastoral Care Committee. The Committee is responsible for printing, posting, and distribution of *Faith and Practice* or its revised sections, as needed.

Faith and Practice is a living document; changes to it are brought forward as needed. Seasoned changes to *Faith and Practice* may be proposed by:

- The Faith and Practice Committee itself
- Monthly Meetings, Preparative Meetings, and Worship Groups
- Worshiping communities, such as the camps, Young Friends, Young Adult Friends
- Baltimore Yearly Meeting Committees
- Quarterly Meetings

The Faith and Practice Committee will disseminate proposed changes to local Meetings and others as appropriate for their consideration and discernment. After considering feedback, the Committee will bring recommendations for change to Interim Meeting for a first reading and then to Annual Session. An individual with a proposed change is expected to work through one of the groups listed above. The Faith and Practice Committee is available to help with this process, working to ensure that all concerns are seasoned at the appropriate level. In the interest of accuracy and clarity, the Faith and Practice Committee may copy-edit *Faith and Practice*.

The Faith and Practice Committee is charged with maintaining the Style Manual of the Yearly Meeting and is empowered to make changes as the Committee is led. The Style Manual will be made available to Friends through the Yearly Meeting Web site.

GROWING DIVERSE LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE

The Growing Diverse Leadership Committee is a standing committee that consists of ten people. It includes six nominated by the Nominating Committee and appointed by the Yearly Meeting, a person appointed by the Strengthening Transformative Relationships in Diverse Environments (STRIDE) Working Group, a person appointed by the Camping Program Committee, a person appointed by the Working Group on Racism, and a person appointed by the Young Adult Friends Special Group, plus the following, ex-officio: the Presiding Clerk of the Yearly Meeting, the Clerk of Interim Meeting, and the STRIDE Co-

ordinator. The work of the Committee connects with these other committees of the Yearly Meeting and therefore encourages open communication with them: Advancement and Outreach, Indian Affairs, Ministry and Pastoral Care, Peace and Social Concerns, and also the Working Group on Civil and Human Rights of Transgender and Non-Binary People.

The Committee discerns ways that the Yearly Meeting's committees, local Meetings, and staff can welcome and encourage participation and leadership among all Friends. There is a focus on cooperating to promote equity, outreach, inclusion, friendship, and wholeness to all persons in order to build an anti-racism, multi-cultural faith community. This includes the encouragement and sustained participation of younger Friends and development of their leadership skills and experiences throughout BYM.

There is a Strengthening Transformative Relationships in Diverse Environments (STRIDE) Working Group which is under the care of the Committee. It is comprised of Core Groups, one for each of four cities within the area which the Yearly Meeting serves. They are composed of young adults and work to extend the camping program to people of diverse backgrounds who might not otherwise find it or participate in it.

INDIAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

The Indian Affairs Committee consists of approximately 12 members nominated by the Nominating Committee and appointed by the Yearly Meeting.

This Committee stimulates interest in and activity concerning American Indians. It cooperates with other Yearly Meetings and other Friends organizations in projects for the benefit of American Indians. It concerns itself with legislation on local, regional, and national levels involving Native American issues.

The ongoing work of the Indian Affairs Committee is inspired by its history. In 1795, Quakers in the northern Shenandoah Valley, following the model established by William Penn in Pennsylvania, set up a fund under the care of Baltimore Yearly Meeting to pay American Indians for lands Quakers had settled. Unable to locate survivors of the natives, the Indian Affairs Committee distributes the interest income from this endowment to organizations which assist and advocate for American Indians.

MANUAL OF PROCEDURE COMMITTEE

The Manual of Procedure Committee, composed of not fewer than three persons nominated by the Nominating Committee and appointed by the Yearly Meeting, is responsible for continually updating the Manual by incorporating all changes in procedure adopted by the Yearly Meeting. The Committee may recommend changes in procedure deemed useful to the Yearly Meeting. Such changes are to be recommended in writing to the Interim Meeting for consideration and forwarded to the Yearly Meeting if approved. In the interest of accuracy and clarity, the Manual of Procedure Committee may copy edit the Manual of Procedure.

MINISTRY AND PASTORAL CARE COMMITTEE

The Committee is concerned with deepening the spiritual life of Baltimore Yearly Meeting and of its constituent Monthly Meetings. The Committee carries an active concern for

calling forth and nurturing the gifts of the Spirit in the Yearly Meeting. The Committee encourages and supports Monthly Meetings as they recognize, publicly affirm, and practically support those individuals who exercise their gifts in faithful ministry and service.

The Committee assists the Yearly Meeting with programs, retreats, workshops at Annual Session, and during the year as needed. The Clerk of the Ministry and Pastoral Care Committee serves as a member of the Program Committee.

The Committee advises Monthly Meetings on the preparation of the Annual Report of the Spiritual State of the Monthly Meeting in accordance with the guidelines in our *Faith and Practice*. The Committee receives the approved reports and incorporates them, with concerns and information about events in the Yearly Meeting, into a Spiritual State of the Yearly Meeting Report to be presented for consideration and acceptance at Annual Session.

The Committee considers requests for Yearly Meeting endorsements of minutes of support for members traveling in the ministry outside our Yearly Meeting. Such minutes usually are prepared by the Monthly Meeting in which the Friends holds membership and then endorsed by the Yearly Meeting (See *Faith and Practice*, Part III, Section B, Sub-section 5,b Minutes for Spiritual Service and, c Endorsements). If there is clearness to proceed, the Committee brings a recommendation to the Yearly Meeting or Interim Meeting for this minute. Minutes endorsed by the Yearly Meeting are expected to be returned to the Yearly Meeting. Ordinarily, the endorsement is for one year.

The Committee maintains the Guidelines for Embracing the Ministry of Friends and supports Monthly Meeting working support groups for these Friends. The Committee maintains a current list of all recorded ministers within the Yearly Meeting.

The following working groups are under the care of Ministry and Pastoral Care:

- Intervisitation Working Group
- Pastoral Care Working Group
- Spiritual Formation Program Working Group
- Women's Retreat Working Group
- Working Group on Racism

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee is composed of 12 persons, with at least one from each Quarterly Meeting. One-third of the Committee is nominated each year by the Interim Meeting for appointment by the Yearly Meeting. Quarterly Meetings may suggest the names of suitable persons from their membership to serve on the Nominating Committee.

The Committee recommends to the Yearly Meeting in session the names of persons to serve on committees and in other offices for which no other means of nomination has been herein provided. Unless otherwise specified, a three-year term is suggested for all committee members, one-third of the membership of a committee being appointed each year to serve from the close of the Yearly Meeting session at which they were appointed. Persons

may be appointed to an office or committee for no more than six consecutive years, unless longer terms are specified.

Nominations may arise in the Nominating Committee, or may be suggested to the Committee by Quarterly or Monthly Meetings, by clerks or members of established committees, or by any member of the Yearly Meeting. Normally, persons eligible for nomination are members of Baltimore Yearly Meeting. However, the Nominating Committee may nominate Friends from other Yearly Meetings who are sojourning among us. On the recommendation of a Monthly Meeting, the Committee may nominate an active attender, except that appointments to other Friends organizations must be limited to members of the Society of Friends if the applicable bylaws so specify.

In general, committees charged with a nominating function do not nominate any of their own members; Friends serve the Yearly Meeting on no more than one standing committee at a time. Similarly, Friends serving on a committee of Interim Meeting should not serve concurrently on a Yearly Meeting standing committee. However, the nomination of a particularly well qualified Friend as a representative to an outside body or as a member of an ad hoc committee, after the Nominating Committee has given due consideration to other qualified Friends is permitted. Nothing in this Manual is to be interpreted as barring any Friend from serving in a specific capacity when special circumstances warrant.

Friends appointed to the Nominating Committee may complete a term already being served on another Committee; and a Nominating Committee member may be nominated for service on another committee immediately on rotation off the Nominating Committee.

In order for the business and concerns of the Yearly Meeting to be effectively carried forward, it is desirable for committees to be representative of various age groups and interests and for Friends to become acquainted with various aspects of Yearly Meeting affairs. It is the duty of the Nominating Committee to evaluate the qualifications of Friends for committee service and to endeavor to be informed about the functioning of Yearly Meeting Committees, in order to ascertain at what point a committee assignment or a change of assignment might benefit a Friend, the Yearly Meeting, or both.

PEACE AND SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE

The Peace and Social Concerns Committee consists of approximately 12 members nominated by the Nominating Committee and appointed by the Yearly Meeting.

The Committee recognizes that an enduring peace requires social justice, and that the two are inextricably bound together. Friends' concerns for nonviolence in international affairs and in the alleviation of situations of tension in society are translated into education and action programs of the Yearly Meeting. The Committee stimulates and coordinates activities of Monthly Meeting Peace and Social Concerns Committees regarding those issues that affect the fabric of society and on which Quaker testimonies can be brought to bear. It serves as a resource to Baltimore Yearly Meeting and its constituent Meetings, gathering and disseminating information.

The Committee also works with Monthly Meetings to address these concerns. It may also bring to the attention of the Yearly Meeting other international and domestic concerns that affect relationships between the economically developed and less-developed countries or the relationship between people with greatly different economic means wherever they may live.

Friends are encouraged to record their personal statements of pacifism by sending signed and dated statements to their Monthly Meetings and to the Yearly Meeting. The names of all persons filing such statements are to be listed in the Yearbook published following receipt of the documents.

The Peace and Social Concerns Committee acts as the conscience of the Yearly Meeting in issues relating to prison concerns and the death penalty. The Committee recommends to Nominating Committee, as appropriate, one person to be approved by the Board of Directors of Prisoner Visitation and Support for a three-year, once renewable term. The Board meets in Philadelphia two or three times a year.

As appropriate, Peace and Social Concerns recommends to Nominating Committee one person for a three-year, once-renewable appointment by the Yearly Meeting, to serve on the Board of Directors of Quaker House, which meets five times a year in various locations in North Carolina.

As appropriate, Peace and Social Concerns recommends to Nominating Committee one person for a three-year, once-renewable appointment by the Yearly Meeting, to serve as a representative to the Interfaith Action for Human Rights (IAHR).

The Working Group for Refugees, Immigrants, and Sanctuary is under the care of the Peace and Social Concerns Committee. The Working Group on Civil and Human Rights of Transgender and Non-Binary People is under the care of Peace and Social Concerns.

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

The Program Committee consists of nine persons nominated by the Nominating Committee and appointed by the Yearly Meeting, plus the following, ex-officio: the Presiding Clerk of Yearly Meeting, the Clerk of Ministry and Pastoral Care Committee, the General Secretary and Youth Programs Manger of the Yearly Meeting, the Young Friends Annual Session Planners, the clerk of Junior Yearly Meeting staff, and a registrar appointed by the Committee.

The Program Committee has oversight of all program plans for Yearly Meeting sessions. This oversight includes negotiating each year a suitable site for the following year's Annual Session, Junior Yearly Meeting, the planning of the time schedule in detail, assigning places for all meetings, selecting guest speakers and special program events or delegating the selection to appropriate groups, and caring for the book room.

The Committee will review and remain familiar with the content of the Youth Safety Policy (Appendix D) in order to ensure that the practices of the Committee reflect the guidelines

adopted to promote the safety of our youth and youth workers. The Committee will ensure that any necessary staff and volunteer training is provided and that programs and events are carried out in compliance with policy guidelines.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The Religious Education Committee consists of approximately 12 persons nominated by the Nominating Committee and appointed by the Yearly Meeting, and the Clerks of the Religious Education Committees of all Monthly Meetings. The Committee is an avenue through which the Yearly Meeting exercises its responsibility for the spiritual nurture of its young people and adults.

The Committee supports Monthly Meeting Religious Education Committees and First Day School teachers in their work with all age groups. This is done through curriculum planning, resource information, and consultation with committee members, as well as through workshops, teacher preparation programs, and retreats.

The Committee names one of its members to serve on the Sue Thomas Turner Quaker Education Fund Committee for a two-year term.

STEWARDSHIP AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Stewardship and Finance Committee consists of 14 members nominated by the Nominating Committee and appointed by the Yearly Meeting, with careful attention to the special need of this Committee to be knowledgeable about the situation of all Monthly Meetings. Ideally, each Quarterly Meeting is represented. In addition, the Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer are ex-officio members of this Committee, and either the Treasurer or the Clerk of the Stewardship and Finance Committee from each local Meeting is a corresponding member.

Each year, the Committee prepares for Yearly Meeting consideration a budget and a plan of apportionment of the budget to the Monthly Meetings. It has oversight of the accounting methods used and the adequacy of the financial reports given by the Treasurer, and it makes adequate provision for preservation of all assets of the Yearly Meeting not specifically managed by the Trustees.

This Committee is also expected to keep all Monthly Meetings informed of the financial needs of the Yearly Meeting and aware of their responsibility to support adequately the activities of the Religious Society of Friends, including any special appeals from Friends General Conference and Friends United Meeting.

The Clerk or another member of the Stewardship and Finance Committee serves as a member of the Camp Property Management Committee. The Clerk or another member of the Stewardship and Finance Committee serves as a member of the Development Committee.

SUE THOMAS TURNER QUAKER EDUCATION FUND COMMITTEE

The Sue Thomas Turner Quaker Education Fund Committee consists of one member appointed by the Advancement and Outreach Committee and one appointed by the Religious

Education Committee. Such appointments are for two-year terms. Members may not serve for more than six consecutive years. Other members may be co-opted as appropriate. In addition, Rosalind Turner Zuses will serve as convener without a term limit until such time as she is unable or unwilling to continue.

The fund was established in Baltimore Yearly Meeting in 1996 by Howard and Rosalind Turner Zuses in recognition of Sue Thomas Turner's long support of Quaker education and Quaker values in public education. Its purpose is to support the understanding and practice of Quaker faith in schools and to support the growth of a life lived in the Spirit by members of the school communities. School community members include students, faculty, staff, administration, trustees, and parents. The fund is targeted for, but not limited to, Friends schools under the care of a Friends Meeting.

The fund is intended to be used for materials, lectures and consultants, workshops and retreats, and programs and activities which help to explain Quaker faith and practice to members of the school communities, to be brought into the schools for individuals or groups from the school communities to attend workshops, classes, or retreats on Quaker faith and practice and spiritual development, and for the creation and distribution of materials related to these issues by members of the school communities. The fund would be limited to uses which are in addition to those already funded by a school or committee budget, or to augment funds to enable a use which exceeds ordinary funding.

Applications from schools, meetings, committees, Friends agencies, or individuals for a specific project must be received by March 1. In general, the Committee meets once a year, usually at Spring Interim Meeting Day. The amount of money distributed is a percentage, adjusted as the Committee determines is appropriate, of the value of the Fund at the time of distribution.

UNITY WITH NATURE COMMITTEE

The Unity with Nature Committee consists of approximately 12 persons nominated by the Nominating Committee and appointed by the Yearly Meeting. Monthly Meetings not represented on the Committee are invited to select representatives to the Committee.

Recognizing that the entire world is an interconnected manifestation of God, the Unity with Nature Committee seeks to work into the beliefs and practices of the Yearly Meeting the twin principles that God's Creation is to be respected, protected, and held in reverence, and that human aspirations for peace and justice depend upon restoring the Earth's ecological integrity. The Committee promotes these principles by example, by communication, and by providing spiritual and material support to those engaged in transforming our relationship with the Earth. It serves as a resource for Unity with Nature concerns and activities of individuals and of Monthly Meetings.

As appropriate, the Unity with Nature Committee recommends one person as a representative and one person as an alternative representative to the Nominating Committee for a three-year, once renewable appointment by the Yearly Meeting to the Steering Committee of Quaker Earthcare Witness. Unity with Nature recommends to Nominating one person

for a three-year, once renewable appointment by the Yearly Meeting, to serve on the Board of Directors of the Friends Wilderness Center.

The Working Group on Right Relationship with Animals is under Unity with Nature's care.

YOUTH PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

The Youth Program Committee consists of 16 adults nominated by the Nominating Committee and appointed by the Yearly Meeting, as well as the Youth Programs Manager, the Young Friends Clerks, and Young Friends appointed by the Young Friends Business Meeting.

The Committee will review and remain familiar with the content of the Youth Safety Policy (Appendix D) in order to ensure that the practices of the Committee reflect the guidelines adopted to promote the safety of our youth and youth workers. The Committee will provide any necessary staff and volunteer training and will ensure that programs and events are carried out in compliance with policy guidelines.

The Youth Programs Committee oversees and coordinates all Yearly Meeting youth programs for junior high/middle school and high school youth, with the exception of the Camping Program and Junior Yearly Meeting. It provides advice and support for the Youth Programs Manager. To this end the Committee does the following: provides a Designated Friendly Adult Presence (FAP) for every Young Friends and Junior Young Friends conference; recruits, trains, evaluates, and mentors adults in the Yearly Meeting who have a leading to work with our programs; supports the Youth Programs Manager in coordinating and communicating with Junior Yearly Meeting and other Yearly Meeting committees involved in youth programs; and provides the Yearly Meeting with access to the approved Junior Young Friends Handbook and Young Friends Handbook and ensures that Yearly Meeting is notified of major revisions.

The Young Friends Yearly Meeting Planners serve on the Program Committee. The Young Friends Nuts and Bolts Committee is nominated and appointed by the Young Friends Business Meeting. To encourage youth to take an active part in the affairs of the Yearly Meeting, the Young Friends Nuts and Bolts Committee Clerk is expected to participate in Interim Meeting. Details of the procedures of the Young Friends Nuts and Bolts Committee and Young Friends Conferences can be found in the Young Friends Handbook, available from Baltimore Yearly Meeting.

VI. SPECIAL GROUPS AND WORKING GROUPS

SPECIAL GROUPS

Concerned individuals desiring to establish a new Special Group bring their idea to Interim Meeting, either themselves directly, or through a Monthly Meeting, or through a standing committee of the Yearly Meeting. If, after due consideration, there is general support and approval, Interim Meeting recommends to the Yearly Meeting that such a Special Group be established. If the Yearly Meeting approves, the group is established.

Some groups organize themselves while some others consist of ex-officio members. The description of each group explains its concerns, organization, and membership. Unless otherwise provided, each group selects its own clerk.

Each group is expected to report annually to the Yearly Meeting. Any report, action, or statement of a special group is expected to be approved in the manner of Friends at a meeting of the group of which all the members of the group were given reasonable notice. Special groups are empowered to raise or accept monies only with the prior approval of the Interim Meeting or the Yearly Meeting in session.

Current Special Groups (there is just one at this time): Young Adult Friends.

YOUNG ADULT FRIENDS

Baltimore Yearly Meeting Young Adult Friends, constituted in 1986, is a group of women and men aged approximately 18 to 40 years. It is open to other adults who may be interested in the group's activities. It chooses its own officers, term lengths, meeting times, and goals. Its Clerk attends Interim Meeting.

The general purpose of the group is to let young adult Quakers and attenders share their spiritual journeys with others. It provides fellowship for people from widely scattered Meetings and includes those who may feel isolated because there are few of their age in their Meetings.

The group meets at Yearly Meeting and reports to Yearly Meeting. The group holds several retreats a year. These include worship, meetings for business, workshops, service projects, cooking and cleaning together, and social time.

WORKING GROUPS

Any standing committee or the Trustees, with the concurrence of Interim Meeting, may establish a Working Group. The Working Group need not have members of the sponsoring committee among its members, but reports to and through that committee. Unless otherwise provided, each Working Group selects its own clerk. Each Working Group is expected to report in writing annually to the Yearly Meeting. Any report, action, or statement of a Working Group is expected to be approved in the manner of Friends at a meeting of the Group of which all members of the Group were given reasonable notice. Working Groups are empowered to raise or accept monies only with the prior approval of the Interim Meeting and in coordination with the Development Committee. The minute establishing the Working Group specifies whether a member of the Working Group or the clerk of the sponsoring committee will authorize disbursements. When the Working Group's activities are complete or it is no longer active, the sponsoring committee or Interim Meeting lays it down.

Current Working Groups (and sponsoring committee):

End of Life Working Group (Advancement and Outreach)

Growing our Meetings Working Group (Advancement and Outreach)

Internet Communications Working Group (Advancement and Outreach)

Intervisitation Working Group (Ministry and Pastoral Care)

- Pastoral Care Working Group (Ministry and Pastoral Care)
- Quaker Voice of Maryland (Peace and Social Concerns)
- Reparations Action Working Group (Growing Diverse Leadership)
- Spiritual Formation Program Working Group (Ministry and Pastoral Care)
- STRIDE Working Group (Growing Diverse Leadership)
- Women's Retreat Working Group (Ministry and Pastoral Care)
- Working Group on Civil and Human Rights of Transgender and Non-Binary People (Peace and Social Concerns)
- Working Group on Racism (Ministry and Pastoral Care)
- Working Group on Refugees, Immigrants, and Sanctuary (Peace and Social Concerns)
- Working Group on Right Relationship with Animals (Unity with Nature)
- Youth Safety Policy Working Group (Trustees)

VII. AFFILIATION WITH FRIENDS GENERAL CONFERENCE, FRIENDS UNITED MEETING, AND FRIENDS WORLD COMMITTEE FOR CONSULTATION

Baltimore Yearly Meeting is affiliated with three larger bodies of Friends: Friends General Conference (FGC), Friends United Meeting (FGC), and Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC). Any member of Baltimore Yearly Meeting may be considered for appointment to the various agencies of each of these organizations. Appointments of the appropriate number of persons are made annually to serve three-year terms as members of the Central Committee of Friends General Conference and as representatives to Friends World Committee for Consultation Section of the Americas. Appointments of the appropriate number of representatives and alternates to Friends United Meeting are made every three years at the Yearly Meeting sessions immediately preceding the Friends United Meeting Triennial sessions. Appointments to such responsibilities are made by the Yearly Meeting, upon nomination by the Nominating Committee, in accordance with the procedures and requests of the respective bodies.

FRIENDS GENERAL CONFERENCE

Friends General Conference, established in 1900, is an association of 15 Yearly Meetings and 12 Monthly Meetings as of 2015. Its coordinating body is its Central Committee, to which member groups make appointments in proportion to the number of persons in their fellowship.

Central Committee members are expected to participate in one long weekend annually, and to serve on one of the program or administrative committees. This may involve several other meetings annually. In addition they are expected to communicate to Friends General Conference the needs and hopes of their parent bodies, and to interpret to their own groups the needs and programs of Friends General Conference.

All Friends are encouraged to attend the annual week-long Friends General Conference Gathering of Friends each summer. Information about FGC resources can be found on their web site, www.FGCQuaker.org. Details of the procedures of Friends General Conference can be found in the Friends General Conference Organizational Blue Book available from Friends General Conference, 1216 Arch Street, 2B, Philadelphia Pennsylvania 19107.

FRIENDS UNITED MEETING

Friends United Meeting was formed in 1902 as the Five Years Meeting of Friends, changing its name to Friends United Meeting in 1960. As of 2015, it is composed of 12 North American Yearly Meetings, and 22 Yearly Meetings from the Caribbean, East Africa, and the Middle East. It meets triennially and publishes a complete record of its proceedings. It has jurisdiction over matters delegated to it by the constituent Yearly Meetings. Friends United Meeting may provide Yearly Meetings with advice and counsel.

Each Yearly Meeting in Friends United Meeting is entitled to appoint five representatives to the Triennial Sessions, plus one additional representative for each 1,000 members or major fraction thereof. (According to FUM procedures, if an appointed representative does not attend the Triennial, those representatives present may select a replacement representative from those members of Baltimore Yearly Meeting attending the Triennial. This is to be reported to the Yearly Meeting in session.) Representatives form the Representative Body. Major matters and proposals are considered by the Representative Body and the plenary sessions. Routine procedural matters may be acted upon by the Representative Body and reported to the Plenary Session which reserves the right to approve, disapprove, or reconsider.

At the time representatives are nominated, each Yearly Meeting names one of its representatives to serve on the Triennial Nominating Committee and another to serve on the Triennial New Business Committee. Baltimore Yearly Meeting's representatives, including those persons named to the General Board, serve also for the three years following the Triennial sessions to which they were appointed as a support group for the relationship between Baltimore Yearly Meeting and Friends United Meeting.

Between Triennial Sessions, the General Board is the responsible body and legal representative of Friends United Meeting. Each Yearly Meeting makes appointments to the General Board during the year preceding the Triennial Sessions. The formula for determining the number of appointments is: membership of 3,000 or less, maximum of 2 appointees; 3,001 to 10,000, maximum of 3 appointees; 10,001 and over, maximum of 4 appointees. One of the General Board members is designated to serve on the General Board Nominating Committee.

The General Board has four regular administrative Committees: Executive Committee, Finance Committee, Nominating Committee, and Program Coordinating and Priorities Committee. The Nominating Committee of the General Board includes one appointee from each Yearly Meeting, designated by the Yearly Meeting, from among those who are its General Board representatives. The General Board also appoints from its members such program committees as are necessary to give continuity and support to the work of Friends United Meeting. Every member of the General Board serves on at least one of its committees.

Practice has been for each Yearly Meeting to name one representative to the Triennial Planning Committee for the upcoming Triennial.

Yearly Meetings contribute to a travel pool, administered by the General Board, to cover expenses of the designated number of representatives traveling to and from the Triennial sessions.

All Friends are encouraged to attend the Friends United Meeting Triennial sessions. Information about Friends United Meeting resources can be found on their web site, www.fum.org.

Details of the procedures of Friends United Meeting can be found in the pamphlet, Friends United Meeting Organization and Procedure, 1996, available from Friends United Meeting, 101 Quaker Hill Drive, Richmond Indiana 47374.

FRIENDS WORLD COMMITTEE FOR CONSULTATION

Friends World Committee for Consultation, formed in 1937, is a worldwide association of Yearly Meetings and affiliated groups. It is a consultative body whose purpose is to provide links among Friends who may be separated by geography, culture, or practices that emphasize different aspects of Quakerism. It aims: to facilitate loving understanding of diversity among Friends; to discover together, with God's help, our common spiritual ground; and to facilitate full expression of Friends' testimonies in the world.

All Yearly Meetings and groups affiliated with FWCC worldwide meet together once every three years. In an effort to keep these gatherings to a workable size, attendance is restricted to Yearly Meeting representatives and other appointed delegates and observers. Representation of Yearly Meetings at the triennial sessions is based on a formula of two persons for any Yearly Meeting or group, three persons for Yearly Meetings with between 1,001 and 3,000 members, four representatives for Yearly Meetings with between 3,001 and 5,000 members, and one additional representative for each additional 5,000 members or fraction thereof. The Yearly Meeting's representatives are selected by the Interim Meeting from among the representatives to the Section of the Americas. Those attending the FWCC triennial sessions are encouraged to report to as many groups within the Yearly Meeting as possible.

Friends World Committee for Consultation is organized into four geographical sections. Baltimore Yearly Meeting is in the Section of the Americas, which covers the entire western hemisphere. The Section, in turn, is divided into smaller geographical regions, of which Baltimore Yearly Meeting is in the Southeastern region. Some activities of the Section of the Americas are the Quaker Youth Pilgrimage (in collaboration with the Europe and Middle East Section), Wider Quaker Fellowship, and Comité de los Amigos Latinamericanos (Committee of Latin American Friends). The principal function of the regions within the Section is to provide opportunities for as many Friends as possible within a particular geographical region to come to know Friends outside of their own Yearly Meeting.

Each Yearly Meeting in the Section appoints representatives to the Section based on a formula of four persons for the first 1,000 members of the Yearly Meeting and one for

each additional 2,500 members or fraction thereof. Baltimore Yearly Meeting representatives are nominated by the Nominating Committee and appointed by the Yearly Meeting for terms of three years, not all representatives being appointed in the same year. As with other Yearly Meeting appointments, service as a representative will generally not exceed six consecutive years. The representatives are expected to be committed to openness and learning from Friends representing other traditions of worship, theology, and culture.

These representatives attend Sectional and regional meetings (usually an annual meeting for each) and are eligible to serve on the various committees of the Section. All Friends are welcome at Sectional and regional meetings. The representatives help keep the Yearly Meeting informed about the activities of the organization.

VIII. CORPORATIONS AFFILIATED WITH BALTIMORE YEARLY MEETING FRIENDS HOUSE RETIREMENT COMMUNITY

Friends House, Inc. and Friends Nursing Home, Inc. were merged into Friends House Retirement Community (“Friends House”) in July 2017. Friends House provides housing, health care services, and other services to persons 62 years of age or older. Friends House is governed by a self-appointed 14 to 19 member Board of Directors. At least 60 percent of the Directors must be members of the Religious Society of Friends.

Baltimore Yearly Meeting (BYM) is invited to nominate three persons to be approved by the Friends House Board of Directors. Beginning in 2017, BYM may nominate one person each year for a three-year, once renewable term. A renewed term counts as that year’s nomination. No more than three directors will be BYM nominees at any one time. BYM nominees will be named at the Spring Interim Meeting. If approved by the Friends House Board, the approved Director would begin their term the following September.

BYM will not consider current Friends House Board Directors for nomination in 2017, 2018, and 2019.

Directors attend regular meetings of the Board, participate in Board committees, and help keep the Yearly Meeting informed of the work of the Board in operating a Continuing Care Retirement Community (CCRC) in Sandy Spring, Maryland.

Friends House, Inc. and Friends House Nursing Home, Inc. were originally established in 1966 and 1968, respectively.

FRIENDS MEETING SCHOOL, INC.

Friends Meeting School, Inc., established in 1997, is governed by a Board of Trustees consisting of between 4 and 21 persons: two named by the Yearly Meeting for approval by the Friends Meeting School Board of Trustees, the remainder by the Board itself. The School is located in Ijamsville (Frederick County), Maryland. Trustees must be at least 21 years of age. Terms normally begin on July 1 and run for three years. No Trustee may serve more than three consecutive terms.

The Board of Trustees meets once a month, normally on Sunday afternoon. Each member of the Board is expected to participate on a Board committee. Representatives of Baltimore Yearly Meeting serving on the Board are expected to keep Baltimore Yearly Meeting informed about the programs and spiritual condition of the school, including submitting an annual written report.

Friends Meeting School was formerly under the spiritual care of Seneca Valley Preparative Meeting and in 2009 also came under the spiritual care of Baltimore Yearly Meeting. Seneca Valley Preparative Meeting was laid down in 2013. The “spiritual care of Friends Meeting School” involves everyone associated with the school—including all of Baltimore Yearly Meeting, the teachers, staff, parents, alumni, and even the students themselves—caring for the school in the same manner as Isaac Pennington defined a Friends community nearly 350 years ago: “our life is love, and peace, and tenderness; and bearing one with another, and forgiving one another, and not laying accusations one against another; but praying one for another, and helping one another up with a tender hand” (1667).

MILES WHITE BENEFICIAL SOCIETY OF BALTIMORE CITY

The Miles White Beneficial Society (MWBS) of Baltimore City was founded and incorporated in 1874 to administer a testamentary trust under the will of Miles White, a member of the meeting in Baltimore Yearly Meeting of Friends (Orthodox) currently named Baltimore Monthly Meeting, Homewood. The MWBS awards scholarships to college students, grants to Quaker schools and other organizations with connections to the Quaker community, and grants to charitable organizations in the greater Baltimore area. Upon the consolidation of the two Baltimore Yearly Meetings in 1968, oversight of the MWBS passed to the Yearly Meeting. In 2011, the Yearly Meeting agreed that the MWBS should become a “supporting organization” for the Yearly Meeting, and the Yearly Meeting has since then appointed or reappointed the trustees of the MWBS.

The trust is administered by the trustees of the Society, and the organization annually makes a written report to the Baltimore Yearly Meeting. There are seven to ten trustees, nominated by the Nominating Committee and appointed by the Yearly Meeting, during its Annual Session, to serve a three-year term which commences after the Miles White Beneficial Society’s annual meeting in October. Appointees may serve three consecutive three-year terms. Trustees typically meet monthly.

SANDY SPRING FRIENDS SCHOOL, INC.

Sandy Spring Friends School, Inc., established in 1959, is governed by a Board of Trustees consisting of between 20 and 30 persons, normally 24: four appointed by the Yearly Meeting, eight by Sandy Spring Monthly Meeting, and the remainder by the Board itself. Ordinarily each year the Yearly Meeting appoints one trustee to serve a four-year term commencing with the September meeting of the Board following appointment. Appointees serve no more than two consecutive terms.

The appointees attend meetings of the Board of Trustees, participate in the directions of the programs of the corporation, and keep the Yearly Meeting informed of such programs. Sandy Spring Friends School reports annually to the Yearly Meeting.

IX. REPRESENTATIVES TO OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

Representatives to organizations not part of the Yearly Meeting but to which the Yearly Meeting regularly nominates, appoints, or sends representatives, are nominated by the Nominating Committee and appointed by the Yearly Meeting in accordance with the procedures of the organizations to which they are named.

AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE

The American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) carries out service, development, social justice, and peace programs throughout the world. It was founded by Quakers in 1917 to provide conscientious objectors with an opportunity to aid civilian war victims. Attracting the support and partnership of people of many races, religions, and cultures, AFSC's work is based on the Quaker belief in the worth of every person and faith in the power of love to overcome violence and injustice.

AFSC is directed by the American Friends Service Committee Corporation, through a Board of Directors elected by the Corporation from among its members. Corporation members all must be members of the Religious Society of Friends.

Baltimore Yearly Meeting may appoint five persons to the Corporation. These persons, nominated by the Nominating Committee and appointed by the Yearly Meeting in staggered three-year terms, are expected to participate in the annual meeting of the Corporation, usually held in Philadelphia.

These representatives are selected from those interested in projects of the American Friends Service Committee. They attempt to interest other persons in contributing to, working for, and being concerned about the American Friends Service Committee.

FRIENDS COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL LEGISLATION

The Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) is a public interest lobby founded in 1943 by members of the Religious Society of Friends. FCNL seeks to bring the concerns, experiences, and testimonies of Friends to bear on policy decisions in the nation's capital. People of many religious backgrounds participate in this work. FCNL's staff and volunteers work with a nationwide network of thousands to advocate social and economic justice, peace, and good government.

FCNL is governed by a General Committee of 240 Friends, two-thirds of whom are appointed by 26 of the U.S. Yearly Meetings and seven national Friends organizations; the other third is appointed by the General Committee itself. All members of the General Committee must be members of the Religious Society of Friends and U. S. citizens. The General Committee meets each November to conduct business that includes establishing legislative policy and priorities. Between these Annual Meetings an Executive Committee and several other Committees guide the program and administration of FCNL. Further information is available at the FCNL web site, fcnl.org.

The six Baltimore Yearly Meeting representatives to the FCNL are nominated by the Nominating Committee and appointed by the Yearly Meeting, two each year for three-year terms.

These representatives are selected from those interested in the work of the Friends Committee on National Legislation and are expected to participate in its meetings. They attempt to educate other persons concerning the purposes of the Friends Committee on National Legislation in the area of civic action in matters of concern to Friends and to interest others in contributing to and working for this organization.

Friends Committee on National Legislation Education Fund (FCNLEF) assumed responsibility for the governance and management of William Penn House on September 1, 2019. William Penn House will remain a separate 501(c)(3) charitable organization, but Yearly Meetings no longer appoint representatives to the consultative committee. When the building re-opens after renovation, the house will strengthen and expand the Quaker presence on Capitol Hill by providing accommodation in four dormitory rooms and three private bedrooms, as well as daytime rentals of the conference room accommodating 30 people. For more information, e-mail wph@fcnl.org. In 2021, the William Penn House was renamed Friends Place on Capitol Hill.

FRIENDS PEACE TEAMS

Friends Peace Teams, Inc. (FPT), is a not-for-profit corporation initiated in 1995 by Friends from several U.S. Yearly Meetings. It seeks to promote social welfare, peace-building, healing, and reconciliation through its work to develop long-term relationships with communities in conflict around the world.

FPT activities overall are conducted under the auspices of the FPT Council, a governing board of representatives appointed by Friends Yearly Meetings and other interested members appointed at large. For more information on FPT staffing and peace work initiatives around the world, see their website, www.FriendsPeaceTeams.org. The Council meets annually at one in-person business meeting (called “Face to Face”) and monthly by phone and internet.

Baltimore Yearly Meeting may appoint one representative and one alternate to the FPT Council, each for three-year terms, upon nomination by the Nominating Committee and appointment by the Yearly Meeting.

FRIENDS WILDERNESS CENTER

The Friends Wilderness Center provides a place for meditation and spiritual nourishment in a rustic environment within Rolling Ridge Foundation property in Jefferson County, West Virginia. Its mission includes preserving this natural sanctuary and hosting a variety of events. The Board of Directors consists of six to fifteen members, a majority of whom must be members of the Society of Friends. Unity with Nature recommends to Nominating Committee one person for a three-year, once renewable, appointment by the Yearly Meeting, to serve on the Board of Directors.

INTERFAITH ACTION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

Interfaith Action for Human Rights (IAHR) is composed of persons in Maryland, Virginia,

and Washington, D.C., for the purpose of educating, advocating, and lobbying to end human rights abuses within their states. There is action towards eliminating solitary confinement, as well as improving prison conditions and supporting those affected. Quakers are involved at all levels.

Baltimore Yearly Meeting suggests a person to serve on the board of directors for a three-year term, not to exceed two terms. Persons suggested by Baltimore Yearly Meeting are then interviewed by the board of directors, and nominated to serve. Board members are expected to participate in a committee, attend monthly board meetings, and support IAHR financially.

PRISONER VISITATION AND SUPPORT

Prisoner Visitation and Support is an interfaith visitation program that is authorized to visit all federal and military prisons in the U.S. Its visitors are volunteers who meet monthly with prisoners who have requested visits. Priority is given to those who are in solitary confinement, are on death row, are serving long sentences, or who do not receive other visits. The organization is nonprofit and separate from official prison structures.

The Peace and Social Concerns Committee recommends to Nominating Committee, as appropriate, one person to be approved by the Board of Directors of Prisoner Visitation and Support for a three-year, once renewable term. The Board meets in Philadelphia two or three times a year.

QUAKER EARTHCARE WITNESS

The Quaker Earthcare Witness is an organization of North American Quakers seeking ways to integrate their concern for environment with Friends long-standing testimonies for simplicity, peace and equality. It has a policy-making Steering Committee to which Yearly Meetings name representatives.

The Unity with Nature Committee suggests names, as appropriate, to the Nominating Committee for appointment by the Yearly Meeting of a representative and an alternate representative for a three-year, once renewable appointment to the Steering Committee of Quaker Earthcare Witness.

QUAKER HOUSE, FAYETTEVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA

Established in 1969, Quaker House is an incorporated organization with representatives appointed by three yearly meetings and about a dozen Monthly Meetings. It provides assistance to military personnel, their families, and those contemplating military service. Quaker House offers information about service-related issues that may involve conscience or unfair treatment, as well as free counseling about domestic violence and sexual assault within the military. They also provide education about topics such as torture and moral injury, and work to promote peace and build relationships between the military and the public. As appropriate, Peace and Social Concerns Committee recommends to Nominating one person for a three-year, once renewable, appointment by the Yearly Meeting, to serve on the Board of Directors of Quaker House, which meets five times a year in various locations in North Carolina.

QUAKER RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COLLABORATIVE

Quaker Religious Education Collaborative (QREC) is a network of Quakers from all branches of the Religious Society of Friends, who share a commitment to support Quaker faith development across all ages. QREC began in 2015 and since that time both the number of participants and initiatives continue to expand. Currently they offer online conversations, a searchable database of resources, and a partnership to preserve Quaker history in Africa.

To learn more about QREC and access their resources, visit their website: <https://www.quakers4re.org/> BYM appoints one representative to QREC for a term of three years and provides financial support.

RIGHT SHARING OF WORLD RESOURCES

Right Sharing of World Resources (RSWR) is a Quaker non-profit organized to address the burdens of materialism and poverty, and celebrate the practice of stewardship of resources. They cultivate partnerships with marginalized women in several developing countries and make small grants to help improve their communities in a sustainable and self-determined way. RSWR is currently working with organizations in Kenya, India, and Sierra Leone. It is governed by a Board of Trustees. BYM appoints one person to serve a three year term as a liaison between RSWR and Baltimore Yearly Meeting. Baltimore Yearly Meeting may appoint one person as representative and one alternate to the National Consultative Committee for a term of three years. Nominations are made by the Nominating Committee and approved by the Yearly Meeting in session.

X. CHANGES IN *FAITH AND PRACTICE*

Revisions to *Faith and Practice* are initiated by one or more Monthly or Quarterly Meetings or committees of the Yearly Meeting and are presented in writing to the Yearly Meeting. The Yearly Meeting then appoints at least three persons, nominated by the Nominating Committee, to serve on the Faith and Practice Committee.

The Committee may help prepare proposed changes to ensure clarity and consistency with other sections of *Faith and Practice*. It circulates proposed revisions to all the Monthly and Quarterly Meetings in Baltimore Yearly Meeting with sufficient time that Monthly Meetings may prepare comments for a Quarterly Meeting session before Yearly Meeting. It is responsible for ensuring that changes approved by the Yearly Meeting are incorporated into *Faith and Practice*. For “Important Minutes” from prior years, please see the 2013 Resource for *Faith & Practice*, pages 241-55 at <http://www.bym-rsf.org/publications/fandp/>.

XI. CHANGES IN THE *MANUAL OF PROCEDURE*

Changes in the *Manual of Procedure* may be initiated by Interim Meeting or by any member or any committee of the Yearly Meeting. Ideally, the proposal is first presented in writing to the Interim Meeting. The Interim Meeting will consider the proposal at its next meeting. If considered appropriate as presented or revised, the proposal will be forwarded to the Yearly Meeting at its next session, except that changes presented by the Manual of Procedure Committee implementing a policy adopted at the last Annual Session do not have to be forwarded. Where substantive changes have been made (that is, changes that alter the meaning of the Manual, for example, adding a new committee or laying down an existing one), the changes are forwarded. The Yearly Meeting in session receives proposed

changes and may approve, reject, postpone, or return the proposed change to the Interim Meeting for further consideration. In any case, a written report of the action of the Interim Meeting is to be sent to those initiating the item, who may then, if so led, take the matter directly to a Yearly Meeting session.

The Manual of Procedure Committee incorporates into the Manual changes in procedure adopted by the Yearly Meeting and recommends changes in procedure deemed useful to the Yearly Meeting. When proposing changes, Yearly Meeting members or committees may find it helpful to work with the Manual of Procedure Committee. In the interest of accuracy and clarity, the Manual of Procedure Committee may copy-edit the *Manual of Procedure*. The Manual of Procedure Committee is not responsible for making changes to entries in XII. Appendices.

XII. APPENDICES

APPENDIX A

ARTICLES OF CONSOLIDATION

Baltimore Yearly Meeting of Friends, Stony Run
Baltimore Yearly Meeting of Friends (Orthodox)

First: Baltimore Yearly Meeting of Friends, Stony Run, and Baltimore Yearly Meeting of Friends (Orthodox) agree that such corporations shall consolidate and thereby form a new corporation. The terms and conditions of the consolidation and the mode of carrying the same into effect are hereby set forth in these Articles of Consolidation.

Second: The new corporation shall be formed under the laws of the State of Maryland.

Third: The consolidating corporations are Baltimore Yearly Meeting of Friends, Stony Run, and Baltimore Yearly Meeting of Friends (Orthodox) both of which are corporations organized and existing under the laws of the State of Maryland.

Fourth: The matters and facts required to be stated in Articles of Incorporation other than provisions with respect to incorporators are:

1. The name of the corporation is: Baltimore Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends.
2. Baltimore Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends is composed of the members of Monthly Meetings formerly affiliated with Baltimore Yearly Meeting of Friends, Stony Run, and Baltimore Yearly Meeting (Orthodox) (sometimes through intermediate bodies such as Quarterly Meetings) together with all those persons who may hereafter become members thereof, located in Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, the District of Columbia and other adjacent areas.
3. The purposes for which the corporation is formed are:
 - (A) To continue without interruption the work of Baltimore Yearly Meeting of Friends, Stony Run, and Baltimore Yearly Meeting of Friends (Orthodox) and to have all their powers, duties, and obligations.
 - (B) To promote the religious interests and welfare of its members and its constituent Monthly Meetings, together with the boards, committees, institutions and instrumentalities affiliated with the Religious Society of Friends, as well as to maintain relations with other religious fellowships to the end that mutual understanding and cooperation may be advanced.
 - (C) To acquire by purchase, gift, devise, bequest, or otherwise, and to own, invest,

reinvest, or dispose of property, both real and personal, for such religious, educational, philanthropic and other related work as the Yearly Meeting may undertake; to purchase, own, receive, sell, assign, care for, rent, lease, mortgage, or otherwise encumber, sell, assign, transfer and convey such property for the general purposes of the Yearly Meeting; to receive and hold in trust both real and personal property for Monthly or Quarterly Meetings, boards, institutions and instrumentalities of the Religious Society of Friends, or agencies affiliated with the Religious Society of Friends and to invest and reinvest the same; and to make any contracts for promoting the objects and purposes of the Yearly Meeting.

(D) In general to exercise any, all and every power which has heretofore been exercised by Baltimore Yearly Meeting of Friends, Stony Run, and by Baltimore Yearly Meeting of Friends (Orthodox) and which any non-profit religious and charitable corporation can be authorized to exercise, but no other power.

4. The post office address of the principal office of the corporation in Maryland is 5116 North Charles Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21210. The name of the Resident Agent of the corporation in Maryland is Theodore H. Mattheiss and the post office address of the Resident Agent is 5116 North Charles Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21210. Said Resident Agent is a citizen of the State of Maryland and actually resides therein.

5. The membership of the corporation entitled to participate in its activities and meetings shall consist of the members of the Monthly Meeting congregations affiliated with the Yearly Meeting.

6. The number of the Trustees of the corporation shall be nine (9), which number may be increased or decreased pursuant to a "Manual of Procedure for Baltimore Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends," but shall never be less than four (4). The names of the Trustees who shall act initially until their successors are chosen and qualify are: James D. Peacock, William J. Evans, F. Hooper Bond.

7. The Yearly Meeting shall not be authorized to issue capital stock.

8. The duration of the corporation shall be perpetual.

Fifth: (A) The principal offices of Baltimore Yearly Meeting of Friends, Stony Run, and Baltimore Yearly Meeting of Friends (Orthodox) are both located in the City of Baltimore, State of Maryland.

(B) Baltimore Yearly Meeting of Friends, Stony Run, owns real property in Frederick County and Cecil County in the State of Maryland, the title to which could be affected by the recording of an instrument among the land record.

(C) Baltimore Yearly Meeting of Friends (Orthodox) owns no real property in the State of Maryland, title to which could be affected by the recording of an instrument among the land records.

Sixth: These Articles of Consolidation were advised by the Executive Committee of Baltimore Yearly Meeting of Friends, Stony Run, and by the Executive Council of Baltimore Yearly Meeting of Friends (Orthodox) on April 1, 1967 by the adoption of a Minute declaring that the proposed consolidation provided herein was advisable substantially upon the terms and provisions set forth in these Articles of Consolidation and directing that the proposed Articles of Consolidation be submitted for action thereon at the regular annual sessions of the respective Yearly Meetings. Thereafter these Articles of Consolidation were approved by the respective regular annual sessions of the Baltimore Yearly Meeting of Friends, Stony Run, and Baltimore Yearly Meeting of Friends (Orthodox) according to the manner of Friends, without dissent, at said sessions both of which were held on Saturday, August 5th, at 2:00 P.M. as provided by the Laws of Maryland and the Charters of the respective corporations.

Seventh: Both Baltimore Yearly Meeting of Friends, Stony Run, and Baltimore Yearly Meeting of Friends (Orthodox) agree to execute, deliver and file any and all instruments or documents necessary or appropriate to accomplish the objective above stated.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, Baltimore Yearly Meeting of Friends, Stony Run, and Baltimore Yearly Meeting of Friends (Orthodox) have caused these Articles of Consolidation to be signed in their respective corporate names and on their behalf by their respective officers and their respective corporate seals to be hereunto affixed and attested as of this fifth day of August, 1967.

Attest: BALTIMORE YEARLY MEETING OF FRIENDS, STONY RUN

Mary S. Farquhar

Recording Clerk

Harry S. Scott, Jr.

Presiding Clerk

Attest: BALTIMORE YEARLY MEETING OF FRIENDS (ORTHODOX)

Lucy G. Wellons

Recording Clerk

Alfred H. Mikesell

Acting Alternate Presiding Clerk

REVISIONS TO THE ARTICLES OF CONSOLIDATION

Approved by Baltimore Yearly Meeting Representative Meeting, October 28, 1995 (R95-57)

Recorded: Department of Assessments and Taxation of the State of Maryland, December 4, 1995

Fourth:

2. “Baltimore Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends is composed of the members of Monthly Meetings located in Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, the District of Columbia and other adjacent areas formerly affiliated with Baltimore Yearly Meeting of Friends, Stony Run, and Baltimore Yearly Meeting (Orthodox), together with all those persons who may hereafter become members of existing or newly created Monthly Meetings.”

3. (B) First sentence. “The corporation is organized exclusively to promote the religious, charitable, and educational interests of its members and its constituent Monthly Meetings, together with the boards, committees, institutions and instrumentalities affiliated with the Religious Society of Friends.”

Sentence added: “For the above purposes the corporation may make distributions to organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code (or the corresponding section of any future Federal tax code.)”

(C) First sentence. “To acquire by purchase, gift, devise, bequest, or otherwise, and to own, invest, reinvest, or dispose of property, both real and personal, for religious, charitable and educational purposes and other related work as the Yearly Meeting may undertake:...”

(D) Second sentence added. “Notwithstanding any other provision of these articles, the corporation shall not carry on any activity not permitted to be carried on (a) by a corporation exempt from Federal income tax under Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code (or corresponding section of any future Federal tax code) or by a corporation, contributions to which are deductible under Section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code (or corresponding section of any future Federal tax code).”

4. First and second sentences. “The post office address of the principal office of the corporation in Maryland is 17100 Quaker Lane, Sandy Spring, Maryland 20860. The name of the Resident Agent of the corporation in Maryland is Frank Massey and the post office address of the Resident Agent is 17100 Quaker Lane, Sandy Spring, Maryland 20860.” [NOTE: The present Resident Agent is Karen A. Treber and the post office address of the Resident Agent is 240 Armstrong Avenue, Frostburg, Maryland 21532.]

6. Third and fourth sentences added. “Each Trustee shall be a member of a Monthly Meeting which is constituent of the Baltimore Yearly Meeting. The trustee shall be appointed at the annual meeting of the Baltimore Yearly Meeting, usually held in August of each year, for a term as designated in the Manual of Procedure of the Baltimore Yearly Meeting.”

8. Second sentence added. “However, should the corporation be dissolved the assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future tax code, or shall be distributed to the Federal government, or to a state or local government for a public purpose.”

9. New paragraph added. "9. No part of the net earnings of the corporation shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, trustees, directors, officers or other private persons, except that the corporation shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of Section 501(c)(3) purposes. No substantial part of the activities of the corporation shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the corporation shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing and issuing of statements) any political campaign on behalf of, or in opposition to, any candidate for public office."

REVISION TO THE ARTICLES OF CONSOLIDATION

Recorded with the State of Maryland: September 5, 1996

Fourth: 1. "The name of the Corporation is: Baltimore Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, Inc."

APPENDIX B

WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION POLICY

Baltimore Yearly Meeting is committed to the highest ethical and legal standards. In line with this commitment and BYM's commitment to open communication, this policy provides an avenue for members of BYM to raise concerns with reassurance that they will be protected from reprisals or victimization for reporting improper conduct such as incorrect financial reporting, unlawful activity, activities that violate BYM's policies, or other serious improper conduct.

Any BYM member (or attender of a BYM monthly meeting) who learns of unethical or wrongful conduct within Baltimore Yearly Meeting is encouraged to report this to any of the following people for further action: the General Secretary, the Clerk of Interim Meeting, the Clerk of the Yearly Meeting, or the Clerk of Trustees.

No person will be penalized, formally or informally, or retaliated against for any such report. Harassment or victimization for reporting concerns under this policy will not be tolerated.

Every effort will be made to treat the complainant's identity with appropriate regard for confidentiality. We encourage Friends to put their names to allegations because appropriate follow-up questions and investigation may not be possible unless the complainant is identified. Concerns expressed anonymously will be explored appropriately, but consideration will be given to the seriousness of the issue raised, the credibility of the concern, and the likelihood of confirming the allegation from attributable sources.

APPENDIX C

CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY

All Baltimore Yearly Meeting members, or attenders of BYM monthly meetings ("Friends") are expected to avoid actual or potential conflicts of interest in dealings with BYM. Further, all Friends are expected to act in the best interest of Baltimore Yearly Meeting when fulfilling their duties as staff members or as volunteers.

An actual or potential conflict of interest occurs when a Friend is in a position to influence a decision that may result in a personal gain for that Friend, an entity associated with that Friend, or for a relative as a result of BYM's business dealings. For the purposes of this policy, a relative is any person who is related by blood, adoption, marriage or committed partnership, or whose relationship with the employee is similar to that of persons who are related by blood, adoption, marriage or committed partnership.

Any Friend who has any influence on transactions involving purchases, contracts, or leases that might result in personal gain for the Friend, associated entity, or a relative must disclose, as soon as possible, to the General Secretary or the Clerk of Trustees the existence of any actual or potential conflict of interest so that safeguards can be established to protect all parties.

Any Friend serving on a BYM Committee that contracts for goods or services on behalf of BYM must not take part in any committee decision involving a contract with a business in which the Friend or a relative of the Friend holds any significant beneficial interest. The nature and extent of such a beneficial interest must be disclosed to the members of the committee making the decision.

Personal gain may result not only in cases in which a Friend, associated entity, or relative has a significant ownership in a firm with which BYM does business, but also when a Friend, associated business, or relative receives any kickback, bribe, substantial gift, or special consideration as a result of any transaction or business dealings involving BYM.

The intent of this policy is to uphold the high standards of transparency and integrity that BYM always has expected of Friends. Nevertheless, the policy should be interpreted with a standard of reasonableness. Thus, failure to disclose conflicts involving very small amounts of money or failure to make formal disclosure of relationships that are well know to all parties involved will not be deemed to be violations of this policy.

APPENDIX D

YOUTH SAFETY POLICY

Originally Approved October 17, 2009
Updated June 15, 2013 and March 17, 2018

Purpose Statement

The purpose of this document is to establish a policy to keep children and youth in Baltimore Yearly Meeting (BYM) programs safe from abuse, procedures for ensuring that safety, and mechanisms for reporting any instance of suspected abuse.

Baltimore Yearly Meeting (BYM) seeks to provide a safe and secure environment for the children and youth who participate in our programs and activities. We strive to provide an atmosphere of openness and trust among children, among adults, and between children and adults. We seek Divine guidance in all aspects of our programming, operations and staffing. We affirm that the adults in our programs have the responsibility for the safety and care of all, but especially the children in our programs. We recognize that youth safety depends fundamentally upon the quality of our hiring and screening processes, the training we provide for our staff and volunteers, layered supervision, and the matrix of support we provide for our staff and volunteers. Beyond written policies, we recognize that careful attention and vigilance needs to be maintained to nurture this atmosphere and provide individuals the opportunity to experience safety in our community.

All of our youth programs honor that of God in every person. After research, thought, discussion, and prayer, we have created this policy and procedures to promote the safety of all within the Yearly Meeting community while respecting the Light within each of us. The policy set forth in this document acknowledges that each of our youth programs is unique and has different operating norms. Therefore, this document strives to provide over-arching policies and guidelines which allow each program the flexibility needed to operate. These procedures focus on preventing harm, responding in a timely and appropriate way to suspicions or incidents of child abuse, and offering support, clarity and allowing room for healing. By implementing the following practices, our goal is to maintain

high-quality care and protection of the children and youth of Baltimore Yearly Meeting. The Yearly Meeting also seeks to protect from false accusations all who work with and support any of the Yearly Meeting's programs.

Definitions

For purposes of this policy, the terms "child," "children," "youth," or "minors" include all persons under the age of eighteen (18) years. "Youth Worker" refers to someone who is working within Yearly Meeting programs for youth, including paid staff, work-grant recipients and volunteers. "Applicant" refers to anyone who is applying to be a youth worker. "Participant" is any individual, regardless of age, who is not working, but participating in a Youth Program.

Support workers are those who assist in various youth programs by doing jobs necessary to such programs, but who are not involved in directly ministering to youth. By way of example, these workers include, but are not limited to, kitchen staff, groundskeepers and bus drivers. For purposes of this policy, these staff and volunteers shall be referred to as "Support Workers."

Within BYM programs - which include, but are not limited to, the Junior Yearly Meeting program, the BYM Youth Programs, and the BYM Camping programs - some "youths" may indeed be "Youth Workers," while some people over the age of 18 may be "participants." Youth Workers who are under the age of 18 shall be referred to in this Policy as "Minor Youth Workers."

Those in charge of those programs shall be referred to in this Policy as "program managers."

Preventive Measures

BYM seeks to prevent the occurrence of child abuse within its programs. Prevention occurs in various ways that include: carefully screening applicants, checking references, conducting criminal background checks, and regularly re-checking criminal records. It also includes training on the signs and symptoms of possible child abuse, regular monitoring of staff during youth activities, ensuring this Policy is disseminated to all who work with youth, training on this Youth Safety Policy, and creating procedures appropriate for each youth program, and monitoring compliance with those procedures, especially those designed to limit situations of one youth meeting with one adult in a closed room that might give rise to the opportunity of child abuse.

Selection of Workers for Positions Supervising Youth

Year-round staff members involved with youth are hired by the General Secretary of BYM using a process that involves but is not limited to a written application, interview, reference checks and criminal background check. These year-round staff members oversee the various BYM programs for youth.

People who oversee the BYM programs serving youth are charged with the responsibility of discerning the suitability of staff and volunteers to work with our youth. All BYM employees and any persons who desire to work directly with the children participating in our programs and activities will be screened using the procedures below:

a. Written application:

All applicants for any Youth Worker position must complete an application. The applications for various BYM youth programs may differ slightly depending upon individual program needs. However, each application will request basic information from the applicant, and will inquire into such matters as previous experience with children and religious affiliation. It will require at least two references, employment information and disclosure of any criminal convictions. (See Appendix D.1 for a copy of the application for use with all youth staff and camp

staff: BYM staff and JYM volunteers.) Applicants with experience in one or more Quaker programs are encouraged to obtain one of their references from someone associated with that program, or from their Monthly Meeting. This shall not be a requirement.

Access to the completed application forms will be available to those reviewing the application, and to relevant BYM staff and committee clerks.

b. Applicant Interview:

Upon review of the applications, a personal interview will be conducted with all selected applicants to consider their suitability. The Camp Directors conduct interviews for the camp staff; the Junior Yearly Meeting committee clerks interview possible volunteer staff for JYM; and the Friendly Adult Presence (FAP) subcommittee interviews possible staff for BYM Young Friends and Junior Young Friends programs. Procedures for conducting and documenting the interview or training process will be determined by the particular youth program. Any concerns raised during the interview process should be noted in writing on or with the application, and signed and dated by the noting interviewer.

c. Reference Checks:

Before an applicant is permitted to work with children and youth in any BYM program, at least two of the applicant's personal references will be checked. Individuals familiar with the applicant but not identified by that applicant as a reference also may be contacted for input.

d. Six-Month Association Rule:

In an effort to ensure that we know the individuals who will help our youth develop and be asked to serve as role models, no unpaid worker will be considered for any positions involving supervisory contact with minors until they have been known to a Quaker community for a minimum of the previous six (6) months before applying for a position in a BYM youth program. Quaker communities may include Friends schools, Friends camps, Monthly Meetings or other Quaker organizations.

e. Exceptions to the selection process:

We recognize that there are some categories of workers which are not vetted using the above detailed application process, such as occasional workshop leaders and non-program-affiliated bus drivers. Notwithstanding, all such workers are still required to undergo a criminal background check unless program staff will be present at all times during the occasional person's direct contact with youth.

f. Criminal Background Check:

A state/district and national criminal background check covering the jurisdiction in which the worker resides is required for all Youth Workers and Support Workers within BYM youth programs, excepting Minor Youth Workers. Until the background check is complete, no adult applicant will be allowed to volunteer or be employed in any of the youth programs. Periodic re-checks will occur, based on the specific youth program's need, but rechecks will occur no less frequently than every three years.

Before a background check is run, a prospective worker will be asked to complete and sign an authorization and release form as well as an information form allowing BYM to access this information and share it with appropriate personnel. (See Appendix D.1 for Authorization & Release and Information forms.) A failure to disclose a criminal conviction on the background authorization form and/or declining to sign the authorization form will be a basis for

prohibiting the individual from working with children or acting in a support capacity in our youth programs. An applicant will be provided with the opportunity to explain any extenuating circumstances regarding criminal convictions on the application.

Conviction of a crime does not automatically mean that someone could not work with children nor does it mean that they do not have gifts to offer the BYM community. But in order to protect the safety of our youth, individuals convicted of any of the following types of crimes will not be employed nor serve as volunteers in our youth programs:

Any crimes involving children such as, but not limited to, child abuse, sexual abuse, child neglect, child pornography, and human trafficking.

Additionally, in Maryland, employment in youth camps is prohibited to individuals who have been convicted of certain other crimes, including cruelty to animals, domestic violence, a weapon or firearm violation of federal or state laws, felonies, manufacturing, distributing, or dispensing a controlled dangerous substance, perjury, and reckless endangerment.

Additionally, applicants convicted of “barrier crimes,” as defined by Virginia law, will not be placed in positions working with youth in any BYM programs located in Virginia. All other convictions will be assessed based on the type of crime, numbers of convictions and date(s) of convictions, and any other pertinent information to ascertain whether the individual is suited to working with youth at all, or at the time of the application.

The background check authorization form and results will be maintained in confidence in a locked file and/or in secured digital files at the BYM office or other BYM facility. Should the criminal background check indicate any convictions that would ban or limit the involvement of an applicant, the Yearly Meeting staff will communicate with the applicant and notify them of the reason they are not eligible to work with youth in BYM programs. The applicant has the right to review the report. If the applicant believes that the criminal background report is incorrect, they may go through the appropriate legal channels to correct it and then reapply. BYM staff will notify the person responsible for the appropriate program that the applicant is not currently eligible to work with youth. In these instances, the General Secretary, program manager and the appropriate program committee clerk will be consulted. The Yearly Meeting Presiding Clerk may substitute for the General Secretary, as needed.

Minor Youth Workers

Because of the difference in legal status between youths and those over 18, the selection process for Minor Youth Workers is somewhat different. We recognize that there may be times when it is necessary or desirable for workers (paid or volunteer) who are under age 18 to assist in caring for children during programs or activities. The following guidelines apply to such workers:

- Minor Youth Workers must be at least age 14; Note, the minimum age may be higher for some BYM youth programs based on the program, job description, location of where the program is conducted and the regulations in that jurisdiction.
- There should be an age gap of at least two years or two grade levels between Minor Youth Workers and the children under their care. Some programs may require a wider age gap.
- Minor Youth Workers must provide at least two references, with one preferably from their Monthly Meeting or another BYM program, or from a person in a position of responsibility concerning such experience at another Quaker or religious institution or other group. It should include information about the applicant’s prior experience working with children.
- All Minor Youth Workers must have the express permission of a parent or guardian to

engage in this ministry.

- Minor Youth Workers must be under the supervision of an adult at all times.
- Note: Criminal background checks are not available for minors.

Worker-to-Youth Ratios

Given that our Yearly Meeting youth programs serve children from infancy through early adulthood, each youth program will develop guidelines for its programs and events that identify the maximum number of participants that one worker may be responsible for supervising, in accordance with applicable laws. Programs employing workers under the age of eighteen (18) years will include in their guidelines the discernment as to the ages of children a Minor Youth Worker may care for, and the number of participants a Minor Youth Worker may reasonably be expected to work with.

Supervision of Minors

For the protection of all, one-on-one contact between adults and unrelated minors behind closed doors or in a secluded area is prohibited, except as may be required for medical or similar unavoidable purposes. When transporting minors at least two adults must transport a single minor participant, or at least two minors must be present if transported by a single adult, when possible. We encourage any private conversations to be held in public view. Workers are never to be alone with a child in a private bathroom/ or bathroom stall with the door closed. During times when there are not two adults present with a group of youth, another appropriate adult should be assigned to make periodic unannounced site checks to such group.

Open Door Guideline

When a program involving youth uses a classroom or other meeting room, the door to the room should always remain open unless there is an uncovered window in the door or a side window beside it that provides a clear view into the room. Doors are never to be locked while youth are inside the room.

Check-in/Check-out Procedure

All programs which serve youth within BYM will have clear check-in and check-out procedures which ensure that the staff/volunteers can account for the number, identity and whereabouts of the youth under their care from arrival to departure. Each program will provide the particular procedures for these safeguards. Each such procedure should be submitted for approval to the program manager, or the person in charge.

Discipline Policy

BYM strives to create a safe and nurturing environment where youth of all ages can experience the community of Friends. Our program leaders and staff work hard to use conflict resolution familiar to Friends when the need arises. Physical discipline such as spanking, grabbing, or hitting children is unacceptable under any circumstance. Workers should consult with the program director or committee clerk if assistance is needed with disciplinary issues.

Responding to Allegations of Child Abuse

BYM operates in Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia and the District of Columbia, and the terms “child abuse,” “child neglect” and “child sexual abuse” have different definitions in each such jurisdiction, as well as different reporting requirements. (See Appendix D.2 for pertinent laws regarding child abuse for each of these jurisdictions.) Notwithstanding these various definitions, child abuse, neglect or sexual abuse generally include, but are not limited to the following:

- Any treatment, action or behavior or lack thereof to a child by any adult or other child

that is not accidental, and that causes physical, sexual or emotional harm or injury to that child. This includes actions or behaviors that are direct as well as indirect through writing, phone calls, texting, instant messaging, via any form of social media or other form of communication or interaction.

- Any act that involves sexual molestation or exploitation of a child by a parent or other person who has permanent or temporary care or responsibility for supervision of a child, or by any household or family member. These acts include incest, rape, sodomy, sexual offense, and unnatural or perverted sexual practices. [These acts by other adults would be defined as sexual crimes and be described in another part of the Law.] This includes actions or behaviors that are direct as well as indirect through writing, phone calls, texting, instant messaging, via any form of social media or any other form of communication or interaction.
- Any action or failure to act that deprives a child of essential needs, such as adequate food, water, shelter, or medical care, by a caregiver who bears responsibility for providing such.

If an individual suspects abuse or neglect of a child participating in any BYM program, whether the abuse is suspected to have occurred in the youth program or elsewhere, s/he will immediately notify 1) the relevant Yearly Meeting program manager or 2) the appropriate committee clerk for further action, AND make an oral report to the civil authorities, and follow that by a written report to the civil authorities within 24-48 hours, as mandated by state law. (See Appendix C for Important Contact Information.) The program manager or committee clerk who receives the initial report shall notify the General Secretary as soon as possible.

Any sexual activity between any Youth Worker (including Minor Youth Workers) and a youth participant of a BYM program in which the Youth Worker is involved, is contrary to BYM policy.

Steps in Handling Suspected or Actual Abuse

While our youth programs strive to foster communities of caring and respect for all, we recognize that the possibility exists for abuse or neglect of children during participation in a youth program, as well as the possibility of discovering, during a youth event, evidence of abuse of a child participant that has occurred elsewhere.

In the event that a suspicion of child abuse or neglect is raised at a BYM program event or activity, regardless of where the abuse is alleged to have occurred, the following procedure shall be followed:

1. All youth workers shall comply with state requirements regarding reporting of any suspected child abuse, whether or not the statute includes the youth worker as a mandatory reporter. In Maryland, the duty to report is triggered as follows: “An individual shall immediately report suspected child abuse or neglect to the local department of social services, or report the suspected incident to a local law enforcement agency.”
 - a. Report the suspicion or incident to the program manager or committee clerk as soon as possible, AND
 - b. Make an oral report of the suspicion or incident to the local Department of Social Services or Police. (See Appendix C for Important Contact Information).
 - c. The youth worker shall follow up by making a written report to the civil authority within 24-48 hours of the oral report. (See Appendix B for required forms or list of information to provide if no form required.)
2. Immediate steps will be taken by the program manager or person in charge (PIC) to ensure that all other children and youth in the youth program are safe, as applicable.

3. If applicable, the employee or volunteer alleged to be the perpetrator of the abuse or misconduct will immediately be placed on leave from working with children and will not be permitted to participate in any activities involving children or youth, pending an investigation.

4. The parent or guardian of the youth will be notified by the person in charge as soon as possible, excepting circumstances in which such parent or guardian is the alleged abuser. (If there are multiple people in charge, those people should meet to be informed about the incident as soon as possible and to designate a point person to contact the parent or guardian and report to the authorities.) Information on the suspicion or incident will be provided to the parent or guardian including the requirement that youth workers must report such suspicions or incidents to the program manager, parents, and to the authorities.

5. In situations where the parent or guardian is available and not the alleged abuser, the program manager will assist as requested by the parent or guardian to care for the needs of the child. If the parent or guardian is not immediately available or is the alleged abuser, the program manager will ensure that the child, the alleged victim, receives immediate medical attention, if and as appropriate.

6. Investigation of the suspicion or incident is the responsibility of the civil authorities who are trained for this purpose. BYM officials and all involved are expected to cooperate fully with any investigation. During the course of any investigation, all involved are reminded that confidentiality is important to the alleged victim as well as the alleged perpetrator. Any person ultimately found guilty of abuse by the authorities will be permanently removed from their position with children or youth, and will not be permitted to participate in any activities involving children and youth in the Yearly Meeting.

7. The General Secretary of the Yearly Meeting or their designee will ensure that all required reports to the civil authorities are made and that internal written records are kept regarding the suspicion or incident. The internal records should include, in detail, all steps taken by BYM in compliance with this policy and state law, as well as all actions to foster the healing of everyone involved. These will be kept in a locked file or secure digital location.

8. The Presiding Clerk of the Yearly Meeting and the Yearly Meeting's insurance carrier will be notified by BYM's General Secretary or their designee. If the insurer of the local venue is not the same as BYM's carrier, staff will advise the contact person for that venue that an incident has occurred, and that while BYM carries insurance, it is also appropriate for a representative of that venue to contact its insurer.

9. After consultation with BYM's legal counsel, the Presiding Clerk of the Yearly Meeting or their designee will determine whether, to what extent and by whom internal announcements or reports will be made within BYM to Friends.

10. After consultation with BYM's legal counsel, the Presiding Clerk of Yearly Meeting or their designee will be the spokesperson to the media, if that is deemed necessary, concerning incidents of abuse or neglect. However, if that person is alleged to be involved, the Interim Meeting Clerk or their designee will be the spokesperson. All others should refrain from speaking to the media.

11. The Clerk of the Committee charged with supervision of the Program (or Supervisory Committee for staff), the General Secretary, the Presiding Clerk of Yearly Meeting, the appro-

appropriate program manager, the Camp Director (where appropriate) and BYM's legal counsel will together determine what information might need to be communicated to help the community recover. This group will make decisions about communicating information and facilitating healing, and will assist in carrying these out.

12. The point person among those in charge will contact the parent or guardian and the victim to inform them of steps that were taken so as to close the feedback loop.

13. At the conclusion of the investigation, if it is determined by the civil authorities that they do not have enough information to move forward, or if the suspicion is unsubstantiated, the program manager or person in charge will meet with the appropriate persons to determine whether any further internal steps need to be taken.

14. Throughout the process, the confidentiality of both the youth and the accused is very important, as is the healing of the community. All are asked to keep this in mind as decisions are made and related actions occur.

Non-Reportable Behavior that Raises Concern

Behavior that raises concern is recognized as something that is very difficult to define, and will vary from program to program depending on the developmental stage of the participants. For example, while it may be appropriate for an adult worker to hold a baby or one-year-old in his/her lap and cuddle it, it is not appropriate for an adult worker to hold a sixteen-year-old in his/her lap and cuddle. That said, appropriate behavior is generally related to interpersonal boundaries and feelings of safety on an individual and community level.

A. Behaviors Occurring Internally

We recognize that some situations, actions or behaviors of Youth Workers that are not reportable as suspicious of child abuse may still concern us. Situations involving disconcerting behaviors are to be handled in the following manner:

1) The disconcerting behavior will be brought to the attention of the person in charge (PIC), i.e. Camp Director, Youth Programs Manager, Designated Friendly Adult Presence (DFAP), or program manager by the individual(s) observing or receiving a report about the behavior. The PIC will work with all the individuals involved to attempt to bring clarity to the situation.

2) If the disconcerting behavior appears to be of a serious, but still non-reportable, nature, the PIC will note the concern in writing and notify the program staff person or the program committee clerk of the concern as soon as possible. The General Secretary or designee must be consulted as soon as possible and is to be kept informed throughout the entire process.

3) If, after this, the behavior is deemed serious by the PIC or the General Secretary, the individual in question will be notified in writing that he/she is being put on inactive status and cannot participate in any Baltimore Yearly Meeting youth program until the matter is cleared up. At this point, an inquiry will be initiated by the program staff person, in concurrence with the General Secretary, to determine the following:

1. The complaint has a basis for further investigation. If so, conduct an internal inquiry and,
 - i. If deemed reportable, take reporting steps as indicated previously.
 - ii. If non-reportable but the behavior indicates
 - a. a lack of good judgment, or

- b. an insufficient level of maturity for the position of Youth Worker, or
 - c. an inappropriate sense of boundaries, then
2. The PIC and/or the General Secretary shall determine a course of action appropriate to the circumstances. Actions may include, but are not limited to the following:
- i. provide additional training,
 - ii. provide closer supervision,
 - iii. offer a clearness committee,
 - iv. temporarily restrict participation in Youth Programs pending additional maturity, and/or
 - v. bar permanently from youth work.

If the internal inquiry indicates that the individual should be barred from the youth program, the program staff person may contact the clerk of individual's Monthly Meeting to convey the general outline of the situation and to request that the Monthly Meeting attend to the spiritual and emotional needs of the individual.

Information about the situation will be shared only on an as-needed basis, and, only to the limited extent necessary. Any written documents will be kept locked in a confidential file in the Baltimore Yearly Meeting office.

B. Behavior Outside of BYM that Raises Concerns

An individual may question the appropriateness of a Youth Worker's involvement with youth based upon that worker's behavior outside Yearly Meeting activities. When such a concern is brought to the attention of a BYM youth program leader, care needs to be taken to discern the appropriate response. The response shall be determined by the program manager, program committee clerk and the General Secretary and may include any of the steps listed above. At all times respect and concern needs to be held for all involved, and information about the situation will be shared only on a limited, need-to-know basis.

Training

BYM youth programs will require and provide training on this Policy for all 'Youth 'Workers. (See Appendix D for Acknowledgement form for Youth Workers to sign and submit upon receipt and/or training on this Policy.) Additionally, BYM will strive to provide opportunities for additional training classes or events on a regular basis. All persons working with youth are expected to attend training regarding youth safety.

Policy Revisions

The Youth Safety Policy Working Group will meet at least once per year to review this Youth Safety Policy and will bring proposed revisions of this Policy to Interim Meeting or Annual Session as needed.

YOUTH SAFETY APPENDIX D.1

Baltimore Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

CRIMINAL RECORDS & REFERENCE CHECKS

Authorization & Release

Baltimore Yearly Meeting (BYM) requires a criminal records check as well as employer and personal reference checks for those who wish to work with youth or in a support capacity with youth pursuant to BYM's Youth Safety Policy and State law.

- I authorize BYM and its affiliates to perform a criminal background check on me.
- I authorize the release of information from my current and former employers as needed in response to reference checks by BYM.
- I understand and authorize BYM to release the results of my criminal background check and employment and personal reference checks to appropriate leadership on an as-needed basis. Note that this may include an applicant's Monthly Meeting Clerk, though the position applied for is not conducted by the applicant's Monthly Meeting.
- I understand and authorize BYM to conduct subsequent periodic criminal background checks so long as I continue to be involved with youth as a volunteer or employee, in any capacity.
- I understand that, by law, I have the right to review the results of the criminal records check and I have the right to contest those results with the appropriate civil authorities.
- I understand that the results of the criminal background check will be utilized for determining my eligibility for working with youth or in a support capacity with youth.
- I understand that it is BYM's policy to disallow anyone with convictions for child abuse or sexual crimes to work with or near youth.
- I hereby affirm that I have never been convicted of child abuse or sexual offenses.
- I hereby affirm that I have never been accused of being sexually, physically or emotionally abusive of a child.

By my signature below, I for myself, my heirs, executors and administrators, do forever release and discharge and agree to indemnify Baltimore Yearly Meeting and its officers, employees and agents to be harmless from and against any and all causes of actions, suits, liabilities, costs, demands and claims and related expenses including attorneys' fees and court costs and any other expenses resulting from the investigation into my background in connection with my application to take or continue in a position as an employee, friendly adult presence or volunteer of Baltimore Yearly Meeting.

Print Name: _____ Date: _____

Sign Name: _____

Signed in the presence of: _____ (Witness signature)

CRIMINAL RECORDS CHECK – Applicant Information
Baltimore Yearly Meeting of The Religious Society of Friends

The information below is needed to conduct this records check. Responses to the demographic questions are for background check purposes only and will have no bearing on hiring decisions.

Full Name: _____
 Last First Middle Maiden

Gender: Male _____ Female _____

Race: White _____ Black _____ American Indian _____ Asian/Pac.Islander _____
Hispanic _____ Bi-racial/Other _____

Date of Birth: _____ / _____ / _____
 Year Month Day

Social Security Number: _____

Current Address: _____

Previous Addresses: _____

List Other Names Previously Used By You:

Have you ever been convicted of a crime? Yes _____ No _____

Do you have any legal charges pending against you? Yes _____ No _____

If yes in either case, offer explanations regarding convictions or charges pending:

I affirm that the information I have provided above is true and complete.

Signature of Applicant: _____

Date: _____

YOUTH SAFETY APPENDIX D.2

Pertinent Laws Regarding Child Abuse

for

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

Maryland Child Abuse and Related Laws

Child Abuse: In Maryland Code, child abuse laws can be found both in the Family Law Article at Sections 5-570ff as well as in many places throughout the Criminal Law Article such as at Sections 3-60 J -602, 3-301ff and 11-207ff. You will find that when child abuse is discussed it is generally in reference to the laws found in the Family Law Article. In this section, child abuse is generally defined as injury to a child in which the child's health or welfare is harmed or put at substantial risk of being harmed, physically, emotionally, sexually or via neglect by the actions or failures to act of a parent or person with temporary or permanent responsibility for the child. Individuals who cause similar harms to a child with no legal responsibility for the child would be charged under the criminal statutes.

Reporters: Maryland law identifies those who are legally required to report suspected child abuse and neglect. These mandatory reporters are: health practitioner, police officer, educator, human services worker. In 2011, Maryland passed a law which states that "a report is required when a person has reason to believe that a child has been subjected to abuse or neglect." As a result, all adults in Maryland are obligated to report suspected child abuse and neglect. There is an exception for ministers of an established church of any denomination who are not required to report if the disclosure was made under circumstances in which the minister is bound to maintain confidentiality. While the law now requires any person to report suspected child abuse and neglect, the mandatory reporter sections of the law were maintained. To date, there have not been any cases which have considered the impact of the new reporting requirements; only time will tell how and to what extent Maryland will enforce this new provision. Recently, Maryland also passed a new law which makes it a misdemeanor punishable by up to five years in prison and a fine of up to \$10,000, or both, for any individual to intentionally prevent or interfere with the making of a mandatory report of suspected abuse or neglect.

When & Where to Report: A report must be made when a mandatory reporter or other individual has reason to believe that a child has been subjected to abuse or neglect. For mandatory reporters, a report shall be made orally as soon as possible, and followed up with a written report within 48 hours thereafter. Reports should be made to the local department of social services in the location in which the abuse alleged occurred or to the local police. Maryland State provides a form to use for the written report as attached. Adults who are not mandatory reporters are required to call the department of social services or the police. They may, but are not required to follow up with a written report.

Past Abuse: The mandatory reporting requirements do not change if the abuse was alleged to have taken place some time ago, even years ago, and without regard for whether the alleged victim is now an adult or the alleged abuser is no longer living.

Immunity: Under Maryland law, reporters are immune to prosecution for making the report so long as the report was made in good faith.

Background Checks: Forms for requesting a protective services background check are available from the Maryland Department of Human Resources, Child Protective Services at <http://dhr.maryland.gov/blog/child-protective-services/child-protective-services-background-search-the-central-registry/>.

West Virginia Child Abuse and Related Laws

Child Abuse: West Virginia defines child abuse and neglect as non-accidental harms or threats of harm to a child's physical, mental or emotional well-being, sexual abuse or exploitation, or domestic violence by a parent, guardian or anyone responsible for the child's well-being. Additionally, West Virginia specifically includes the following within the definition of child abuse: attempted sale of a child, battered child syndrome, harms or threats of harm via domestic violence, and physical injury as a result of excessive corporal punishment. West Virginia's child abuse laws can be found in West Virginia Code§ 49-2-801 ff and the pertinent domestic violence laws at§ 49-1-201(D).

Reporters: Mandated reporters, as they are termed in West Virginia, include mental, dental or medical professionals; Christian Science practitioners, religious healers; teachers or other school personnel; social service, child care or foster care workers; emergency medical services personnel; peace officers, law enforcement officials or humane officers; clergy; circuit court judges, family court judges, employees of the Division of Juvenile Services or magistrates; youth camp administrators, counselors, employees, coaches or volunteers of entities that provide organized activities for children; and commercial firm or photographic print processors. Note the specific inclusion of clergy, youth camps and organized activities for children.

In addition, any person over the age of 18 who receives a disclosure from a credible witness or who observes any sexual abuse or sexual assault of a child *shall immediately* report, no more than 48 hours after receiving the disclosure or making the observation, to the Department of Health and Human Services or the State Police or any other law enforcement agency with jurisdiction. If the person reporting the event has a good faith belief that reporting the event to the police would expose the reporter, the child, or any other children to an increased threat of serious bodily injury, the person may delay making the report until he/she and any affected children have been removed to safety.

With the exception of the attorney-client privilege, the legal privileges that can be asserted to prevent forced testimony for some professionals such as by physician regarding their patients are suspended regarding suspected or known child abuse. Additionally, the husband-wife privilege cannot be invoked in situations involving suspected or known child abuse.

When & Where to Report: A report must be made by a mandatory reporter upon reasonable cause to suspect a child is being neglected or abused, or that conditions exist that are likely to result in abuse or neglect. The reporting process is to immediately (but in any event, within 24 hours for teachers and school personnel and within 48 hours for all other reporters) make a verbal report to the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources and the State Police or any law enforcement agency. If requested, a reporter must make a follow-up written report within 48 hours. Any mandated reporter who is a member of staff or a volunteer of a public or private institution, school, entity that provides organized activities for children, facility or agency must also immediately notify the person in charge, who may supplement the report or made an additional report.

The knowing failure to report sexual abuse or knowingly preventing another person acting reasonably from doing so is a misdemeanor punishable by up to six months in prison and a fine of up to \$10,000, or both.

Immunity: Persons, officials and any institution participating in good faith in any act required by the reporting laws shall be immune from any civil or criminal liability as a result.

Background Checks: Forms for requesting a protective services background check are available from the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources, Bureau for Children and Families at <http://www.dhhr.wv.gov/bcf/Providers/Pages/Request-an-APS-or-CPS-Background-Check.aspx>.

Virginia Child Abuse and Related Laws

Child Abuse: In the Commonwealth of Virginia, laws regarding child abuse are found in that state's Code at § 63.2-100. Child abuse is defined as the actions or failures to act of a parent, guardian or another responsible for a child under the age of 18 who creates, inflicts, or threatens to inflict or allows another to inflict non-accidental physical or mental injury, who neglects or refuses to provide care necessary for the child's health, who abandons the child, or who commits or allows to be committed any act of sexual abuse or exploitation upon the child. This specifically includes having a child in the presence of the manufacture of certain controlled substances, during the sale of such substances, and knowingly leaving a child alone in the same dwelling with another unrelated individual who has been convicted of an offense against a minor for which registration as a sexual offender is required.

Reporters: Mandatory reporters in Virginia are as follows: all persons licensed to practice medicine or any of the healing arts; hospital residents, interns and all nurses; social workers, family-services specialists and probation officers; teachers & other employees at public or private schools, kindergartens and nursery schools; persons providing child care for pay on a regular basis; mental health professionals; law enforcement officers, animal control officers and mediators; professional staff of private or state-run hospitals, institutions or facilities to which children have been placed for treatment or care; adults associated with or employed by any public or private organization responsible for the care, custody or control of children; court-appointed special advocates; adults trained by Social Services to recognize and report child abuse and neglect; persons employed by local departments who determine eligibility for public assistance; emergency medical services personnel; persons employed by public or private institutions of higher learning; athletic coaches, directors or adults employed by or volunteering with private sports organizations or teams; and administrators or adult employees of public or private day camps, youth centers and youth recreation programs. Take special note of these last few mentioned mandatory reporters - youth recreation programs and camps.

Any person who suspects that a child is abused or neglected may report.

In Virginia, clergy are exempted as mandatory reporters if the following conditions are met: The clergy is a regular minister, priest, rabbi, imam or duly accredited practitioner of any religious organization or denomination usually referred to as a church as it relates to (i) information required by the doctrine of the religious organization or denomination to be kept in a confidential manner, or (ii) information that would be subject to a privilege in the context of testimony in court. Exemptions to reporting are not allowed due to husband-wife privilege or doctor-patient privilege.

When & Where to Report: Reporting is required when a mandatory reporter acting in their professional capacity believes there is reason to suspect a child is being abused or neglected. This includes finding controlled substances in a newborn or the finding of a newborn with an illness, disease or condition that to a reasonable degree of medical certainty is attributable to the *in utero* exposure of a controlled substance not legally prescribed.

Exceptions include children who in good faith are under treatment solely by spiritual means through prayer, in accordance with the tenets and practices of that religion.

The reporting process is to immediately report to the local department of social services in the geographic area in which the child resides or the abuse is alleged to have occurred or to use the state hotline. If neither the locality in which the child resides nor where the abuse is believed to have occurred is known, then the report should be made to the local department where the abuse was discovered, or to the state hotline. If the alleged abuser is an employee of that department of social services, the report shall be made to the court for that area. The local department is responsible for the report to be reduced to writing on the prescribed form.

Immunity: Under Virginia law, reporters are immune to prosecution for making the report so long as the report was made in good faith.

Background Checks: Virginia does not have any state mandated forms for requesting a background check except for certified preschools, child day centers, children's residential facilities, family day homes, family day system homes, licensed child placing agencies, religiously exempt child day centers, and voluntarily registered family day homes. Further information is available at https://www.dss.virginia.gov/family/children_background.cgi.

Pennsylvania Child Abuse and Related Laws

Child Abuse: Pennsylvania State adopted significant changes to its laws on child abuse over the last couple of years. Currently, Pennsylvania's child abuse laws are located in the state statutes at 23 Pa. C.S. § 6301 ff. This state's child abuse definition is inclusive of the acts of not only a child's legally responsible care-givers but also abuse by all others. Child abuse is intentionally, knowingly or recklessly causing bodily injury to a child; fabricating, feigning or intentionally exaggerating or inducing a medical symptom or disease which result in potentially harmful medical treatment; causing serious mental injury; causing sexual abuse or exploitation of the child, or creating a likelihood of sexual abuse or exploitation; creating a reasonable likelihood of bodily injury to a child; causing serious physical neglect; and causing the death of a child. Serious physical harm includes bodily injury that causes severe pain or significantly impairs a child's physical functioning, either temporarily or permanently. Serious mental injury is defined as something that renders the child chronically and severely anxious, agitated, depressed, socially withdrawn, psychotic or in reasonable fear that their life or safety is threatened. Other acts such as forcefully shaking a child, causing a child to be present in a methamphetamine laboratory, and leaving a child unsupervised with a known sexual offender are also covered under these laws.

Reporters: Mandatory reporters include: persons licensed or certified to practice in any health-related field; medical examiners, coroners, funeral directors; an employee of a health care facility or provider engaged in the admission, examination, care or treatment of individuals; school employees; an employee of a child care service with direct contact with children; clergymen, priests, rabbis, ministers, Christian Scientist practitioners, religious healers and spiritual leaders; paid and unpaid persons who, as part of a regularly scheduled program, are responsible for a child's welfare or have direct contact with children; social services workers; peace officers or law enforcement officials; emergency medical services providers; library employees with direct contact with children; independent contractors, attorneys affiliated with agencies or institutions responsible for the care, supervision, guidance or control of children; foster parents; and adult family members.

Any person who has reason to suspect that a child is abused or neglected may report.

A report is required when a person who in the course of employment, occupation or practice of a profession, comes into contact with children, or is directly responsible for the care, supervision, guidance or training of the child, or is affiliated with an agency, institution, organization, school, church or religious organization or other entity directly responsible for the care, supervision, guidance or training of the child, and has reasonable cause to suspect, that a child is a victim of child abuse.

Exceptions to the reporting requirement are made for attorney-client privilege and members of the clergy that are specially protected under Pennsylvania law regarding confidential communications. Other privileges such as doctor- patient are suspended as regards suspected child abuse.

When & Where to Report: The reporting process includes an initial immediate oral or written report, which may be submitted electronically at <https://www.compass.state.pa.us/cwis/public/home>.

Mandated reporters must immediately make an oral report via the state hotline at (800) 932-0313 or a written report which may be submitted electronically. If an oral report is made, it must be followed by a written report within 48 hours. Reports are to be made to the Department of Public Welfare. Pennsylvania provides a form that is to be used for the follow-up written report, as attached.

Immunity: A person, institution or agency that participates in good faith in making a report whether required to or not shall have immunity from civil and criminal liability.

Background Checks: Forms for requesting a protective services background check are available from the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services at <http://www.dhs.pa.gov/>.

District of Columbia Child Abuse and Related Laws

Child Abuse: Child abuse laws for the District of Columbia are found in DC's Code at § 16-230 I. DC's definition of child abuse includes infliction of mental or physical injury, sexual abuse and exploitation as well as negligent treatment or maltreatment by a person responsible for the child's well-being.

Reporters: A report is required by a mandatory reporter when a person knows or has reasonable cause to suspect that a child known to them in their professional or official capacity has been or is in immediate danger or being mentally or physically abused or neglected. Any other person may make a report.

Mandatory reporters in DC include: Child and Family Services Agency employees, agents and contractors; physicians, psychologists, medical examiners, dentists, chiropractors, registered nurses, licensed practical nurses or persons involved in the care and treatment of patients; law enforcement officers, humane officers; school officials, teachers or athletic coaches; Department of Parks and Recreation employees, public housing resident managers, social service workers or day-care workers; human trafficking counselors; domestic violence counselors or mental health professionals.

Exceptions include attorneys exercising the attorney-client privilege due to active representation of a client and in which the basis for the suspicion arises solely in the course or that representation. However, neither the doctor-patient nor the husband-wife privilege is permitted as regards suspected child abuse.

Any other person who knows or has reason to suspect that a child is being abused or neglected may report.

When & Where to Report: A report should be made when the reporter knows or has reasonable cause to suspect that a child known to them in their professional official capacity has been or is in immediate danger of being a mentally or physically abused or neglected child. The reporting procedures include making an immediate oral report to the police department or Child and Family Services Agency at (202) 671-SAFE. A follow-up written report is to be made only upon request by the agency or police or if the abuse involves drug-related activity.

Immunity: Those making reports or suspected child abuse in good faith shall have immunity from civil and criminal liability.

Background Checks: Forms for requesting a background check are available from the Child and Family Services Agency at <http://cfsa.dc.gov/service/background-checks>.

YOUTH SAFETY APPENDIX D.3

Important Contact Information

Baltimore Yearly Meeting:

Office of General Secretary
301-774-7663
gensecc@bym-rsf.org

Hotlines to Report Child Abuse:

Maryland:	800-332-6347
Virginia:	800-552-7096
West Virginia	800-352-6514
District of Columbia	202-671-7233
Pennsylvania:	800-932-0313

**Contact the state in which the abuse occurred.*

**All of these hotlines are available 24/7.*

Law Enforcement:

You may also contact the local law enforcement agency for the jurisdiction in which the abuse took place.

Baltimore Yearly Meeting Attorney:

Catherine R. Robinson | Attorney
Law Offices of Davis, Agnor, Rapaport & Skalny
crobinson@darslaw.com
10211 Wincopin Circle | Suite 600
Columbia, Maryland 21044
410.995.5800 | www.darslaw.com

Baltimore Yearly Meeting Insurance Company:

Guide One Insurance
1111 Ashworth Road
West Des Moines, IA 50265
Agent phone: 301-855-9393

YOUTH SAFETY APPENDIX D.4

Acknowledgement Form

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

- I have received a copy of Baltimore Yearly Meeting’s Youth Safety Policy.
- I have read and understand the contents of this Policy.
- I have participated or will participate in training regarding this policy.
- I understand that it is Baltimore Yearly Meeting’s policy that if I have a suspicion of child abuse, I will immediately do the following:
 - Inform the Program Manager for the program which I am involved in at the time my suspicion arises; AND
 - Report the suspected abuse verbally to the department of social services or the police for the geographic location in which the suspected abuse occurred; AND
 - Follow up with a written report to the civil authorities within 24 – 48 hours of the verbal report.
- I agree to comply with the policies set forth in this Youth Safety Policy.

Signature

Date

Printed Name

APPENDIX E

GUIDELINES FOR EMBRACING THE MINISTRY OF FRIENDS

Approved October 19, 2013

Background

These guidelines offer information to Friends who may ask to have a ministry embraced by their Monthly Meeting and/or Baltimore Yearly Meeting (BYM). A summary of the steps to be followed appears on pages ____.

The term “embracing” is defined as “taking or receiving gladly or eagerly.” In these guidelines “embraced” and/or “embracing” mean affirmation and support provided by BYM to Friends; and, as a “minister” is defined as a “servant,” “ministry” may be defined as “service.”

The Committee on Nurture and Recognition of Ministry (CNRM) chose the term “embraced” at the March 1999 Representative Meeting, and was reaffirmed in a retreat for members of CNRM and the BYM Ministry and Counsel Committee, who met on May 20, 2000 to revise these guidelines.

“Embraced” was selected for its positive connotations. The Committees also felt the term “embraced” is less likely to be misinterpreted, as such terms as “affirmed,” “recorded,” and “recognized” that have a history of use by Friends in other contexts might be. Beyond the immediate condition of having one’s specific ministry embraced for a specific period, the term “embraced ministry” confers no special or lasting status.

In 2001, the Committee on Nurture and Recognition of Ministry was merged with the Ministry and Counsel Committee to form the Ministry and Pastoral Care Committee (M&PC). In October 2011, M&PC affirmed this understanding of embraced ministry. In 2013 these guidelines were updated.

Key role of Monthly Meetings

Friends seeking to have their ministry embraced should begin with individual discernment, by asking their Monthly Meetings for assistance in describing and understanding their ministry.

Some Monthly Meetings have undertaken to release Friends for particular ministries by providing financial and other support for that ministry. “Released” has traditionally meant, “to be released from external concerns to concentrate on the specifics of the work of the ministry.” Examples of support may include providing housing, transportation, or funds to release a Friend from the need to earn all or part of their support while undertaking a ministry.

Embraced ministry

Friends may seek to have their ministry embraced by BYM. Being so embraced means BYM, at its Annual Session or Interim Meeting:

- 1) Has prayerfully studied and considered the ministry.
- 2) Unites with the ministry and feels that it is led by the Spirit.
- 3) Undertakes to provide care and spiritual accountability through M&PC.
- 4) Undertakes to endorse travel minutes, if needed.
- 5) Undertakes to facilitate awareness of the embraced ministry by making known the Yearly Meeting’s affirmation of the ministry as Spirit-guided work.

BYM’s act of embracing a particular ministry carries with it no expectation the ministry will be supported financially by BYM. However, if the ministry is embraced, it will be considered a program of BYM, under the care of a standing committee (either M&PC or its designated Sponsoring Committee).

Monthly Meetings may have their own guidelines for embracing the ministry of Friends or for releasing Friends to follow a leading. The guidelines and process expressed here specifically addresses ministries seeking to be embraced by BYM.

Nature of the ministry to be embraced

Ministries can involve gifts of speaking, teaching, discerning God's word, or service, such as healing or peacemaking. If rightly led and ordered, these gifts have as their wellspring God's Spirit. The test for an embraced ministry is whether a Monthly Meeting and/or BYM concur it is rightly ordered and can unite with it.

The Religious Society of Friends has been described as a "priesthood of all believers" from which the laity, not the ministers, have been eliminated. Among Friends, each and every Friend is called to exercise appropriate ministry. Friends have a long history of discerning and supporting individuals' ministries.

These guidelines speak to a covenant made with God, and clarified through individual and corporate discernment. At the heart of the covenant is the experience of being called forth to perform God's service, and responding to this call with faith, love, and truth. Prayerful consideration, including both individual and corporate discernment, is required to test whether an individual is rightly led.

Discerning and embracing a ministry—overview

The process of discerning, seasoning, and embracing a ministry may be considered as a sequence of distinct steps. The process includes:

- 1) Individual discernment.
- 2) Corporate discernment: the clearness process.
- 3) The role of BYM and its committees.
- 4) Sponsoring Committee.
- 5) Working Support Committee.

Individual discernment

A Friend's ministry begins with a leading. Friends are urged to study examples of leadings and how they have been tested, from the writings of Friends such as John Woolman and Lucretia Mott. A Friend must seek the still, quiet center and see what the Spirit teaches, and then assess whether and how these actions are in accord with Scripture and the testimonies of Friends.

If the sense of being led to a ministry persists, a Friend may further test the leading through corporate discernment.

Corporate discernment: the clearness process

Corporate discernment regarding a leading or ministry begins when a Friend asks for a Clearness Committee from his or her Monthly Meeting.

The Clearness Committee explores with the Friend what he or she feels called to do, probing to ascertain the spiritual roots of the leading, its depth and clarity, and whether there are considerations that might weigh against pursuing it. Clearness Committee questions might focus on:

- 1) The nature of the Friend's gift.
- 2) The Friend's understanding of what he or she is called to do.
- 3) How the leading fits with Friends testimonies, values, and practices.
- 4) Resources available to the Friend.
- 5) Resources needed to carry out the leading.
- 6) The amount of support likely to be available from the Monthly Meeting, other organizations, host communities, and/or interested individuals.

Historically, the clearness process has often taken years. It is important to take all the time necessary to discern clearly whether the Friend is ready to move forward with the proposed ministry, or whether further seasoning is needed.

If the Clearness Committee feels that the ministry merits the support of the Monthly Meeting, the Committee should bring its recommendation to a meeting for worship with concern for business and ask the Monthly Meeting to embrace the Friend's ministry and to minute its support of it.

If the Clearness Committee and the Monthly Meeting discern that the ministry will involve the interests of BYM, or is important enough to merit consideration by BYM, the Monthly Meeting should forward this minute of support to BYM, asking the ministry be embraced by BYM.

Whether the ministry is supported within the Monthly Meeting, or embraced by BYM, the Monthly Meeting will take responsibility for receiving donations and disbursing funds needed to support the embraced ministry financially. This responsibility may be delegated to another organization, as appropriate.

If a ministry is embraced by BYM, all fund-raising activity within BYM must be coordinated with BYM's Development Committee. The Monthly Meeting should prayerfully consider whether it has the capacity to manage the administration of these financial matters.

The role of BYM and its committees

When a Monthly Meeting asks BYM to embrace the ministry of a particular Friend, BYM should take the following steps:

- 1) Refer the Monthly Meeting's request to M&PC.
- 2) M&PC should ascertain how the proposed ministry expresses Quaker values, practices, or beliefs, and how it relates to the work of BYM.
- 3) M&PC should determine whether the scope and nature of the ministry's work truly justify embracing the ministry at the Yearly Meeting level.
- 4) M&PC should decide whether to take responsibility for supporting the embraced ministry or to ask another BYM standing committee to do so.
- 5) The appropriate BYM committee presents a minute to BYM asking it to embrace the ministry.
- 6) If the minute is approved, either M&PC or another BYM committee will convene (nominate) two committees to support the embraced ministry:
 - a) a Sponsoring Committee and
 - b) a Working Support Committee.

Sponsoring Committee

M&PC will normally serve as the Sponsoring Committee, given its primary responsibility for ministry. When deemed appropriate, however, another BYM committee may serve as the Sponsoring Committee. To assure accountability to BYM the Sponsoring Committee will bring a minute to Annual Session or Interim Meeting asking BYM to embrace the proposed ministry. If the minute is approved, the Sponsoring Committee will also:

- 1) Ensure the ministry is carried out in good order, in accord with Friends testimonies and practices.
- 2) Assure compliance with general standards of satisfactory financial management, including relevant insurance and tax matters.
- 3) Verify the resources supporting the ministry are well-used and accounted for.
- 4) Review and present travel minutes to BYM for endorsement.
- 5) Meet with the Friend and members of the Working Support Committee often enough to

maintain good communication.

- 6) Receive and review periodic reports submitted by the Working Support Committee.
- 7) Bring recommendations for major changes in the ministry to BYM for approval.

Working Support Committee

The Sponsoring Committee names three to six Friends to a Working Support Committee, whose purpose is to assist an embraced Friend in carrying forward their ministry. These Friends ought to have relevant experience, spiritual depth, and a leading to support the proposed ministry. Members of the Working Support Committee customarily serve three- year terms. During their term of service they will:

- 1) Encourage the embraced Friend to maintain a daily spiritual practice.
- 2) Help the Friend with discernment and use of his or her leading, skills, and judgment.
- 3) Work to develop needed resources, including identifying possible contributors, helping with mailings and letter writing, and making personal solicitations, consistent with Friends' testimonies and practices.
- 4) Engage with other organizations, host communities, or individuals to explore their understanding and expectations about the work being undertaken, recognizing that in some cases the embraced ministry of Friends will place them within other accountability structures that will of necessity take supervisory precedence.
- 5) Help the Friend in handling adversity.
- 6) Serve as traveling companions to the embraced Friend whenever possible.
- 7) Identify others with similar leadings.
- 8) Report annually or more frequently on program progress. Reports should be forwarded to the Sponsoring committee and the Monthly Meeting.
- 9) Discern when it may be appropriate to lay down the embraced ministry, or discontinue BYM's embrace of it, and discuss with the Sponsoring Committee.

The Working Support Committee may call on the Sponsoring Committee for counsel and assistance in the face of any difficulty experienced with the program.

Steps to be taken by BYM Friends considering an “embraced ministry.”

- 1) Pray for greater clarity regarding your ministry.
- 2) Read and prayerfully consider the resources available to you.
- 3) If your Monthly Meeting is unsure how to proceed, ask for assistance from BYM's M&PC.
- 4) Ask your Monthly Meeting to convene a Clearness Committee to help in the discernment of your ministry and its spiritual foundation.
- 5) Meet with your Clearness Committee to explore your ministry and consider the resources it might require.
- 6) If your Clearness Committee unites with your ministry, it should bring a recommendation to its meeting for business asking that the Monthly Meeting:
 - a) Minute its support of your ministry, including in the minute a description of the work you are led to do.
 - b) Appoint a support committee to help you plan and do the work.
 - c) If your ministry involves travel among Friends, provide you with a travel minute describing your relationship to the meeting and the nature of your ministry.
- 7) If the Monthly Meeting agrees to take these steps, explore with your support committee the organizational and financial requirements of the work you are led to do.
- 8) If necessary, with the help of your support committee, reach out to individuals and organizations outside the Monthly Meeting whose help is needed to undertake the work you are led to do. Make sure they understand your ministry, as well as the testimonies and practices of Friends.

- 9) With the help of your support committee assess realistically the resources needed to carry out your ministry and resources available from your meeting. Identify and access additional resources as needed.
- 10) If your ministry or its impact extends well beyond the boundaries of your Monthly Meeting, your support committee may recommend to the Monthly Meeting that it ask BYM to embrace the ministry.
- 11) If the Monthly Meeting agrees BYM should be asked to embrace your ministry, it will send a request to BYM and the request will be referred to BYM's M&PC.
- 12) M&PC will explore whether it would be appropriate for BYM to embrace your ministry. M&PC may ask you to provide a full explanation of your ministry, the names of other persons or groups who may participate in it, cost estimates, and a copy of any of your travel minutes.
- 13) If it decides to recommend BYM embrace your ministry, M&PC Committee will decide which BYM committee will serve as a Sponsoring Committee for it.
- 14) The Sponsoring Committee is responsible for recommending to BYM that your ministry be embraced by BYM.
- 15) The Sponsoring Committee confers with you and your Monthly Meeting to identify Friends to serve on a Working Support Committee.
- 16) Meet frequently with the Working Support Committee and provide an annual report to the Sponsoring Committee.
- 17) Continue your spiritual practices and prayerful discernment.
- 18) As you may feel led, be prepared to discuss with your Working Support Committee when it would be appropriate to transform or lay down the ministry.
- 19) Share the fruits of your experience with your ministry with other Friends.

APPENDIX F

GRANTS APPLICATION AND MANAGEMENT POLICY

Approved at Tenth Month 11th 2014 Interim Meeting

Baltimore Yearly Meeting nourishes Friends ways of worship and service and supports and upholds Quaker values. It offers its constituent Monthly Meetings a wide range of services and support through its programs. To accomplish this, the Yearly Meeting relies on the financial resources provided through the apportionment process, through gifts from individuals and Monthly Meetings and through fees from its programs and activities. Where appropriate, it also seeks grants from outside sources, both Quaker and non-Quaker, whose mission and values are aligned with Baltimore Yearly Meeting. The Development Program is charged with oversight of all funding requests made to foundations and other outside organizations. This grants policy details the research, application, approval and acceptance, and management policies to be followed with regard to any such grants.

(NOTE: For grants awarded by BYM, see Educational Grants Committee and Sue Thomas Turner Quaker Education Fund Committee.)

Overview

The use of grants to fund BYM programs or activities may be considered as a sequence of distinct phases:

Grant Research. When and how is it appropriate to seek a grant for a program or activity? This section of the policy identifies issues for discernment.

Grant Application. When it discerns that grant funding is appropriate, a BYM standing committee (referred to herein as a program committee) prepares a grant application based, in part, on the response to a series of considerations, with assistance from the Development Program.

Grant Approval and Acceptance. This is a quality assurance phase designed to ensure that BYM submits complete, high-quality grant applications and can comply with the terms and conditions of grant awards. The Development Program reviews each grant application. After

the Development Director and General Secretary approve the application, it is submitted to the granting organization. If the grant is awarded, the Development Director reviews the final terms and conditions with others as appropriate before the General Secretary accepts the award on behalf of BYM.

BYM Consultation Process. This process draws on the knowledge and experience of bodies of the Yearly Meeting that have responsibilities related to a grant.

Grant Management. The program committee and staff and volunteers identified in the grant application carry out the program or activity, with assistance from other BYM staff, as appropriate.

Grant Research

The Development Program is responsible for seeing that assistance is available to Yearly Meeting grant seekers as needed and, along with the General Secretary and possibly others, for determining the appropriateness of grant sources. All parties must be responsive to the time sensitivities of any grant processes.

- The Development Program maintains a grantor criteria document and a list of previous grantors to BYM. Grantors must have priorities and policies that are in harmony with BYM Faith and Practice.
- The Development Director identifies grants resources that could be helpful for the Yearly Meeting and serves as a resource to BYM on these issues.
- From time to time the Director may make recommendations to BYM programs about possible opportunities.
- Anyone seriously considering applying for a grant notifies the Development Director about this as soon as possible.
- The Development Director keeps the Development Committee and General Secretary informed of potential applications.

Grant Application

A program committee, in consultation with the Development Program (the Development Director and the Development Committee), may initiate grant applications for a proposed program or activity of the committee that is already under its charge. During this phase, the Development Program considers how the proposal relates to other current or anticipated fund-raising activities.

This program committee, with the assistance of the Development Director, drafts the grant application. In preparing the request, this committee needs to consider the information and questions below.

Grant requests

- Proposed program or activity description and reason for the grant request.
- Why is this program or activity needed?
- What individual(s) or group(s) would benefit?
- Is any Quaker testimony or concern addressed by this proposal? Which one(s)?
- List of events and activities planned, with timetable for implementation and completion.
- Expected duration of the proposed program or activity.
- List of key staff /volunteers involved and their roles, qualifications and BYM committee or meeting membership where applicable.
- Explanation of interactions with other organizations, if relevant.
- Description of the grant for which BYM is applying, including grant purpose and conditions.
- Whether the mission and values of the granting organization are aligned with those of BYM.
- Does acceptance of the grant create any conflict of interest or appearance of conflict of

interest for BYM?

- Are there considerations that might weigh against pursuing the particular grant?
- Which BYM individuals or committees have been consulted, and what is their feedback?

Evaluation

- If this grant is awarded, how will the use of the funds be defined as successful in the short term?
- How will the use of funds be defined as successful over the long term?
- By what measures will the funds use be gauged in a final report?

Finances

- A budget for the proposed program or activity project with all potential or actual funding sources indicated, including a list all sources applied to, amount requested, and status (pending, granted or refused).
- The dollar amount of funds for the proposed program or activity in the BYM budget. Why is this project not fully covered by the BYM budget?
- Does the program committee have any existing funds that can support the proposed program or activity? Please explain.
- Are there any matching requirements? If yes, how will they be addressed?
- Are there any ongoing budget commitments? If yes, how will they be addressed?

BYM Consultation Process

- Any committees that have responsibility for specific grant-related activities must approve of the grant application before it goes forward.
- Trustees must be informed of any grant applications before they go forward and may review them for potential legal, fiduciary, safety or other concerns.
- The Treasurer, Comptroller, and Stewardship and Finance Committee must be notified of the likely financial management requirements before the grant application can go forward.
- If the grant involves possible staff changes, Supervisory Committee must be notified of this possibility before the grant application goes forward.

Grant Approval and Acceptance

The Development Program and General Secretary approve the submission of the grant application if the above questions and considerations have been fully addressed and the proposal meets the criteria of the granting organization. If the grant is awarded, the Development Director approves acceptance of the funds and determines whether BYM is able to comply with the reporting requirements and final terms and conditions of the award. All grants are made in BYM's corporate name, Baltimore Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends. The signature of the General Secretary is required on grant submissions and award acceptances.

Grant Management

Under the direction of the responsible program committee, the BYM staff and volunteers identified in the grant application carry out the program or activity funded by the grant, with assistance from other BYM staff as appropriate. BYM is responsible for:

- Assuring that the funds awarded are spent in accordance with the goals and objectives as stated in the grant proposal.
- Maintaining adequate records for the funded program or activity, including records of the evaluation measures specified in the grant proposal.
- Maintaining adequate accounting records for the grant funds.

The Development Director will review any required report(s) prepared by the relevant program committee and submit the report to the granting organization.

Once the grant has been awarded, if any unforeseen significant adjustments in expenditures appear to be required for the funded project, then the responsible program committee must immediately notify the Development Director, who will consult as needed with the granting organization and any responsible parties as named in the consultative application process to address the changes.

At the conclusion of any grant, those in BYM responsible for the grant write a report to the Meeting for Business on issues, outcomes and lessons learned. This may be included as part of an annual committee or staff report.

The Development Director provides the Development Committee with a report on the status of all current grants once a year at a time designated by the Committee.

APPENDIX G

DECLARATION BY BALTIMORE YEARLY MEETING AS AN ANTI-RACIST FAITH COMMUNITY

In struggling with how to ensure that our Yearly Meeting is an anti-racist faith community, we have come to some convictions.

WE ASPIRE TO RECOGNIZE AND AFFIRM DIVERSITY AS A MEANS TO TRUTH

We Friends are of many skin colors, ethnicities, socio-economic backgrounds, gender identities, sexual orientations, abilities, stages of life, and socially constructed racial identities. We are all seeking the Spirit's presence in our lives, and in our life together. We recognize that some of us have experienced oppression and marginalization in ways that others have not. We aspire to live as members of the blessed community, which is one of liberation, equity, and great diversity across all differences.¹

WE APPROACH RACISM AS A VIRUS TO BE HEALED

Simply "addressing" racism is too weak. Believing that we can simply end racism is too optimistic. Our response to racism must be to challenge it, to confront it, to correct it, and to heal this societal infection.²

WE ARE COMMITTED TO BECOMING MORE INCLUSIVE AND WELCOMING TO ALL

We are committed to discerning how our Meetings at all levels can be more inclusive and welcoming to all, can encourage participation and leadership among all Friends, and can build an anti-racist, multicultural community.³

WE STRIVE TO DO MORE TO BUILD AND MAINTAIN TRUST

We will focus upon being more authentic (sharing the real me), logical (being rigorous in my thinking), and empathic (my being in it for others).⁴

WE SEEK TO ENSURE THAT WE DO NOT BENEFIT SOME AT THE EXPENSE OF OTHERS

We are encouraged by a practice that was adopted by the Board of Trustees at Pendle Hill Conference and Retreat Center several years ago to vet each decision using the following queries:

How might this decision affect people from other cultures or those within the same culture who have different experiences, perceptions, belief systems, and perspectives from our own?

To what degree have privilege, class, stereotypes, assumptions, and our ability to include other perspectives affected this decision? Will this decision promote inclusiveness, allow equal access, and

welcome those we perceive as different from ourselves?

How might this decision advance Pendle Hill's goals of promoting diversity, fostering justice, and creating the Beloved Community for all people?

A MAJOR STEP TOWARD BECOMING MORE ANTI-RACIST IS TO TEST DECISIONS WE MAKE

Using queries to examine how our decisions may promote inclusiveness, allow equal access, and welcome those we perceive as different from ourselves could, we believe, guide us in our deliberations. It will also make us more accountable for our actions and less likely to be satisfied with a statement that sounds laudatory, but proves empty or even harmful. In that regard, we seek to always be able to answer the following queries:

How could this decision affect those who have been harmed by racist behavior?

To what degree have privilege, class, stereotypes, assumptions, and our ability to include other perspectives affected this decision? Will this decision promote equity, diversity, and inclusiveness? Will it enable us to be more friendly and whole?

How will we provide opportunities for those most likely to be directly affected by our decision to influence that decision?

How does this decision support the declaration of our Yearly Meeting that we are an anti-racist faith community?

IN LOVE AND PEACE, WE CAN LIVE AS FRIENDS

We will reach out to and welcome others we do not yet know, but who are God's children, as we are. This must be done with warmth, compassion, love, and truth so it is rightly ordered (has integrity) and reciprocated in love and peace.

Further, we will include friends-to-be in our activities and welcome their questions and differences in understanding and action so as to develop friendships and become a whole community, richer due both to our more diverse composition, perspectives, and strengths and to the truth and love we have grown and used in the process.