

## INDIANA YEARLY MEETING

### REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

November 12, 2011

Indiana Yearly Meeting Representative Council was held 11<sup>th</sup> Mo. 12, 2011. A time of worship was led by General Superintendent Doug Shoemaker.

**Roll Call.** Roll Call was given by Janis Sizelove, Recording Clerk. The following meetings answered the roll: Amboy, Antioch Chapel, Arba, Back Creek, Bear Creek, Bethel, Dewart Lake, Fairmount, Farmland, Friends Memorial, Greenfield, Hinkle Creek, Kennard, Knightstown, Liberty, Little Blue, Lynn, Maple Run, Marion First, New Castle, Parker, Portland, Raysville, Richmond First, Rural, Spiceland, Sycamore, Upland, Van Wert, Vermillion, Wabash, West Richmond, Westfield, White River, and Winchester. Over eighty Friends were in attendance with a total of forty-six members of Representative Council present.

**Minutes.** The minutes of the called Representative Council meeting, held 10<sup>th</sup> Mo. 1, 2011, were discussed.

**RC 11 01** The minutes of the October 1, 2011 Representative Council meeting were APPROVED.

**General Superintendent.** Doug Shoemaker, General Superintendent, gave his report. He began his report by quoting Mark Twain: "The reports of my death are greatly exaggerated." Mark Twain spoke these words after hearing that his obituary had been published in the *New York Journal*. Doug can relate to his words, because, although IYM approved a new and different direction for our future a few weeks ago, the reports of IYM's demise are greatly exaggerated! He is happy to report that the yearly meeting office is still open and the staff members are working hard on the behalf of IYM. The MEI is still making grants releasing Friends for ministry, while continuing to look for major gifts that will enable this kind of support to continue for years to come. The work of IYM committees has not ground to a halt, and ministry to local meetings is still happening. Plans are underway for the next season of youth and camping ministry and for 2012 yearly meeting sessions. Indiana Yearly Meeting is alive and moving forward!

As usual, much of Doug's time has been devoted to supporting ministry in local meetings. He is happy to report that Walnut Ridge has called Shane Arthur as their pastor. Fairmount, Lynn, and West Elkton are presently conducting pastoral searches to fill their present or future openings. He was glad to be able to speak at revival services at Peaceful Valley in September and will start a series of revival meetings at Spencerville beginning this week.

Approximately fifty friends from IYM attended all or part of the FUM Triennial in Wilmington, Ohio. At these sessions the invitation from IYM to host the 2014 Triennial was gratefully received. Pat Shock has agreed to spearhead IYM's efforts to host the next Triennial and is serving as clerk of the FUM Triennial Program Committee.

It has been a joy to welcome Hinkle Creek and Westfield meetings into IYM. During August and September Doug led the eight week "IYM Quakers" membership classes at Hinkle Creek with participants from both Westfield and Hinkle Creek taking part. On October 9, 2011, delegations from IYM worshiped with both of these meetings and in accordance with *Faith and Practice* participated in their Monthly Meetings for business, affirming their status as member meetings in IYM. Both of these meetings have submitted statistical reports as requested, and one has already paid their 2011 assessment and missions goal. Both have indicated their desire to be assigned to Tri-County Quarterly Meeting.

Monthly area meetings for pastors are not being sponsored by the yearly meeting this fall. Instead a well-attended and well-received Pastors Summit was held on October 16, 2011, and another is being planned for the spring of 2012. Pastors are being encouraged to create their own "huddles," where they can meet

regularly with other pastors for support and accountability. Doug's goal is to have face-to-face consultations with each IYM pastor in the coming year. They are also looking forward to the National Friends Pastors Conference in Middlebury, Indiana, October 30-November 2, 2012.

Doug also clerks the Iglesia Amigos task force. At their recent meeting they discussed in depth the pressing need for transportation for this ministry. One meeting, Bear Creek, has already made a \$500 gift for a van fund. The attendees of Iglesia Amigos are hoping to raise an additional \$500 on their own to add to the fund by March 1, 2012. They are looking for ten other meetings who would commit to matching these contributions with \$500 of their own.

The decision made on October 1, 2011 to pursue a deliberative, collaborative reconfiguration of Indiana Yearly Meeting has been felt well beyond the boundaries of IYM. Both Western and Wilmington yearly meetings have been invited to be part of this reconfiguration process. He has already heard from Wilmington Yearly Meeting that they are not going to participate. Western's Executive Committee is not ready to participate, but is interested in having a seat at the table as observers. He understands that our invitation to them will be discussed at the Western Yearly Meeting Administrative Council meeting this week where, as their clerk has said, "anything can happen."

Doug has found that across IYM there is a variety of responses to the October 1 decision. Most meetings seem appreciative that a proactive step is being taken to enable IYM to move forward, albeit on differing paths. Some meetings are feeling internal tension as a result of the decision, and many are very confused by second-handed commentary about the decision. He has also heard sarcasm, mistrust, and even contempt for the careful process that IYM has undertaken, and this saddens Doug greatly.

Years ago he heard John Maxwell used the illustration of "the buckets" to describe the incredible power wielded by those who are leaders in our meetings. His illustration is that as leaders we always carry two buckets, one filled with gasoline and another with water. When we come across a "fire" we have a choice. We can use our bucket of water and douse the flame, or we can use the gasoline and spread the flame. IYM's *Faith and Practice* expresses a similar thought in differing words:

*As followers of Jesus Christ, do you love and respect one another? Do you thoughtfully consider the differing viewpoints of others as an opportunity for deeper understanding within the Christian fellowship? When conflicts arise, are you prompt to make a sincere effort to resolve them in a spirit of understanding and love that avoids divisiveness in the meeting? Are you careful to maintain the good reputation of others?*

**Action Items.** Hinkle Creek has submitted its statistical report, showing membership of 47 adult members and 14 juniors with a total of 61 members. Their Sunday morning average attendance is 65, Sunday School average is 25, and monthly meeting attendance is 20. Hinkle Creek will pay their 2011 assessment pro-rated from August 1, 2011.

**RC 11 02** Representative Council APPROVED the statistical report of Hinkle Creek Meeting.

Westfield has submitted its statistical report, showing membership of 120 adults and 52 junior members, with a total of 172 members. Sunday morning average attendance is 99, Sunday School is 38, and monthly meeting average is 28. They will pay their 2011 assessment pro-rated from August 1, 2011.

**RC 11 03** Representative Council APPROVED the statistical report of Westfield Meeting.

Hinkle Creek and Westfield are both requesting membership in Tri-County Quarterly Meeting.

**RC 11 04** The Representative Council APPROVED Hinkle Creek and Westfield becoming members of Tri-County Quarterly Meeting.

**Director of Youth and Camping Ministries.** Aaron Hughs, Director of Youth and Camping Ministries, gave his report. Since the last Representative Council meeting, he has been extremely busy, attending a number of meetings including the following:

\*He attended the FUM Triennial Sessions at Wilmington College.

\*He has met on a number of occasions with the Young Adult Mentoring task force.

\*He has met with IYM's Christian Education Committee on Committee Night and met with Dwight Elliott, clerk of Christian Education.

\*He has sat in on the Program Planning Committee meetings.

\*He has attended Indianapolis Christian Camping and Conference Association's Fall Advance, along with the Quaker Haven Camp staff, at Tippecanoe Baptist camp.

\*Along with Doug Shoemaker and Pat Shock, he met with the Triennial Planning committee from the FUM board to hear about what went well at the previous sessions and what didn't go as well.

\*He has met four times with Pat Byers, Sara Byers, Nick Embry, Julie Kappes, and Carol Lyon to debrief about the past summer camping season and start planning for next summer's camps.

\*He has met with the Quaker Haven Camp Foundation Board of Directors for their annual fall meeting.

\*He has attended morning worship at Dewart Lake Community Friends Church and at Knightstown Friends Church, for their "Youth Sunday," and he and spoke at Lynn Friends Church.

\*He attended the Fall Pastor's Summit hosted by Westfield Friends Church.

\*He has met with Nick Embry two times, planning for Winter Sneak 2012.

The upcoming 2012 camping season's themes have been set. For Winter Sneak, it is being called "The Winter Sneak Classic." They want to give youth, young adults and youth workers a weekend of fun and excitement but more importantly a weekend of spiritual emphasis hitting home the Biblical "classic" ideas of love for each other and faith in Christ Jesus our Lord. The theme for summer camps is "More Awesome" using John 10:10, "And I came to give them life, life...more awesome." They want campers of all ages to become more awesome Christians who love more, forgive more, and trust in Christ more.

He has been spending time with his wife working on mentoring young adults within Indiana Yearly Meeting. He has been meeting with some on a bi-monthly basis, and he and his wife hosted a young adult dinner. They will be meeting again next week as well to try and stay even more connected with the young adults.

**Ministry and Oversight.** Ivan Flaugh, Clerk of Ministry and Oversight, gave his report. They welcomed new members to their committee for the coming year. Pastoral reports are to be forwarded on to Ministry and Oversight members, and State of Society reports were tabled until the next meeting. The certificates of recognition will continue for another year, as well as fine-tuning and improving local meeting correspondence. They are continuing to pray about sponsoring the RZIM program as a future ministry.

Their Committee made appointments to the following M&O sub-committees:

Recording - 2014 - Rod Dennis, Curt Shaw, Gene Alexander

Appraisal - 2014 - Neva Chalfant, Steve Howell

Scholarship - 2014 - Tish Dain (replaces Ivan Flaugh)

Pastoral Compensation - 2012 - Sally LeMaster, Gary Jones

Doug Shoemaker suggested approval of the Nominating Committee appointments nominated by Ministry and Oversight Committee: For terms to expire in 2012 - Paul Hamrick, Joyce Kimes; term expiring in 2013 - Mary Alice Said, Kathy Smith, and terms expiring in 2014 - Judy Clark and Austin Cox.

**RC 11 05** The Representative Council APPROVED the recommendation by the Ministry and Oversight Committee on the appointments of the Nominating Committee.

***Christian Education.*** Dwight Elliott, Clerk of Christian Education, gave his report. His committee has been reviewing the results of this past summer's camping season with Aaron Hughs and have found the results to be good. As a whole, they have seen numbers that have held steady or increased in certain camps. Aaron continues to connect with campers and their committee encourages him to do so. It is exciting to see the Lord at work through Aaron and so many others involved with the camps.

As they look back the efforts of combining the camps with Western have gone well. They will have to address the issue of finances as they have voiced a concern over the fairness of proportion of finances being more equally balanced. Their committee wants to work together with them and desire it to be an equitable partnership. They have also seen that they want to invest more with volunteers helping with the camps.

One of the things that the committee has been talking about is how else to focus their work. They have tended to look for ways other with Sunday School class curriculum, but the work has been difficult. In the past they have built a library of such in the Yearly Meeting office, but have seen very few churches make use of it. Even upon making the resources known time and time again, they have found that few ever draw upon such a resource.

Another area that they have been thinking about is leadership training. They are considering a model of officer training for those who serve on committees. It should not come as a surprise that there are as many as two or three monthly meetings already engaged in this type of training and while they are not looking to reinvent the wheel, advice from these meetings is welcome as they are just in the ideas-stage in the planning process. They appreciate any ideas during this time.

As they move forward to a new camping season, they are excited about what 2012 may have in store for those who wait upon the Lord.

***Communications and Publications.*** Tom Hamm, Clerk of Communications and Publications Committee, gave his report. The new printing of *Faith and Practice* is finally here! Their committee had planned to have it available at the August committee night, but that day they discovered that the printer had shipped the copies with pages bound out of order, so another printing was necessary. The printer acknowledged their effort, and the correction was made at no extra cost to the yearly meeting.

To accompany the new *Faith and Practice*, the committee has made a study guide available. Appreciation was given to Matt Hisrich for undertaking this work for the committee and the yearly meeting.

Work continues on the yearly meeting website. The committee is exploring the advisability of hiring someone to do this work instead of depending on volunteers.

***Evangelism and Outreach Committee.*** Jeff Oswalt, Clerk of Evangelism and Outreach Committee, gave his report. He reported the names of new members of their committee, and expressed appreciation to those who have served and whose terms have expired.

On October 9, 2011, Jeff, representing Evangelism and Outreach Committee, along with Greg Hinshaw, had the privilege of welcoming Hinkle Creek Meeting to IYM and attending worship service and their monthly meeting. They then met with Doug Shoemaker and Steve Howell, who had attended Westfield's worship service, to welcome their monthly meeting to IYM.

Their committee received a thank-you note from Max Huffman, reporting that Pastor's Short Course was "an illuminating ministry of the Holy Spirit for many who attended." Other quotes heard were "God is about to give birth to something new among us" and "For the first time in years, I have hope that Friends may be renewed and fulfill the mission God has for us."

E&O approved three grants: West Milton - \$1,000.00 Gift Grant; Westfield - \$3,000.00 Growth Grant, and Maple Run - \$2,000.00 Gift Grant.

Iglesia Amigos is now meeting at Irvington Friends in Indianapolis. They have a prayer meeting on Friday evenings and Sunday worship and have had as many as 40 people in attendance at some meetings. Carlos and Karla Moran need volunteers to help watch children at meetings, along with our continued financial help and prayers.

Maple Run Hispanic Ministry is meeting in Logansport. Two weeks ago, they had 50 people in attendance and 42 people in attendance last weekend. They also put together a Hispanic meal with a free will donation that raised \$700.00 for sound equipment and a projector. Isaias Gutierrez is, their leader, already looking at planting another meeting in the near future.

Camp reimbursement requests for Quaker Haven are being received and so are letters expressing how young lives were changed at camp.

***Missions.*** Jim Sheron, Clerk of Missions Committee, gave his report. He expressed appreciation to the monthly meetings that have continued to give towards the Missions Goals. We are running a little behind on our giving at this time. A Missions Scholarship was approved for Abby Walker for her continued work in Australia. He encouraged us to think about our missionaries during this holiday season by sending them notes of encouragement for their mission work.

For the 2012 Mission goals, IYM had approved supporting the Aaron Black family's work in Jamaica, but they are no longer on the mission field. The committee would like to replace that line item with Iglesia Amigos, and they asked for approval of that change.

**RC 11 07** The Representative Council APPROVED replacing the ministry of the Aaron Black family with Iglesia Amigos as a line item on the Missions budget.

***Peace and Christian Social Concerns Committee.*** Noell Krughoff, Clerk of Peace and Christian Social Concerns Committee, gave her report. She sees the 2012 vision for the Peace and Christian Social Concerns Committee to work with Meetings, other IYM committees, and individuals in the following ways:

\*Collaborate on projects that promote Christ's commandment to love both God and our neighbors.

\*Provide information and education on peace and Christian social concerns topics.

\*Increase communication by using a variety of methods and tools.

“Increase the peace” is the 2012 theme for the Woolman Award. Committee members are in prayer and study about how to adjust the guidelines so participation is easier and allows for more flexibility.

The clerk has approached the Director of Youth and Camping Ministry about collaborating on a theme and design for next summer’s t-shirts. Small quantities of previously developed shirts might be offered through an online distributor. These themes include: Got Peace? Love Does no Harm; RUaPEEP?; and SPICE.

There is about \$600.00 remaining in a previously accumulated race relations fund, which the committee plans to distribute in 2012. One idea is to provide ways for increased knowledge and interaction with our Hispanic brothers and sisters in Christ.

The committee has started preliminary work on a video featuring IYM Friends with Conscientious Objection experience. They are seeking ways to increase awareness of the military’s violently graphic video games, which are used in recruitment. They also want people to know about a recruitment opt-out choice for high school students.

Kenyaans, in collaboration with others, developed a peace curriculum in response to shocking violence after the last general election. Next year, 2012, is another election year. The committee is working on a plan to educate IYM members about the peace curriculum, and suggest ways people can support the effort.

**Stewardship and Finance Committee.** Brian Edwards, Clerk of Stewardship and Finance Committee, gave his report. As of this time the Disbursing Board has ten recipients receiving a monthly stipend, with no new applicants. Tom Harper, as clerk of the Disbursing Board, is assisting in this endeavor and will be sending out renewal forms. Their committee has been reviewing the budget for next year, and new members are being informed of the workings of the budget. The unpaid 2008 assessments were approved to be written off, with seventeen meetings being involved in this. In the meantime, five meetings have paid those assessments, and some money has been received from the remaining twelve meetings. He expressed appreciation to those who have kept up on their assessment payments and noted that letters have been sent out to those who have not paid at least half of their assessments at this time.

Doug Shoemaker has requested a rearrangement of his pay package by taking \$3,100.00 of his salary and pay his insurance with this instead. It is basically a trade from one line item to another, and the committee approved this change.

**Treasurer.** Max Smith, Treasurer, gave his report. Program Assessment giving from January 1-October 31, 2011 (83% of the year), shows a giving percentage of 69.99%, with nine meetings not paying anything towards their assessments at this time. In Missions Goals, with 83% of the year gone, giving is at 55.95%, with nineteen meetings not giving towards the goals.

**Trustees.** Wade Beatty, Clerk of Trustees, gave his report. The first meeting of the Trustees dealt with the leaking of the roof on the strip mall. They hired Love Construction to replace the roof, and final inspection is due this week for the management firm and to sign off on the roof. There was also a leak in the parking lot, and that has been dealt with.

**Nominating Committee.** Tom Hamm, Nominating Committee Clerk, reported that the committee is recommending the name of Judi Shuck of Westfield Monthly Meeting be placed on the Christian Education Committee, to fill out a term ending at yearly meeting sessions 2012.

**RC 11 08** Representative Council APPROVED the recommendation of the nominating committee, placing Judi Shuck on Christian Education Committee, filling out a term ending at yearly meeting sessions 2012.

**Executive Committee.** Steve Howell, Assistant Presiding Clerk, brought forward to Representative Council some items of business.

Appointments were made by Executive Committee to the following committees: Program Committee: Keith Huffman (2014), Louise Martin (2014), with Keith to serve as Clerk of Program Committee. Faith and Practice Review Committee (all terms to expire in 2014): Bill Waggoner, Gene Richmond, Lou Herchenroeder, Dixie Russell, Jim Sheron, with Ron Shugart to serve as Clerk. Nominating Committee - Tom Hamm, Clerk.

RC 11 09 Representative Council APPROVED the recommendations of the Executive Committee for yearly meeting appointments.

Executive Committee also recommended that the seven members of Task Force appointed to deal with the tensions related to the West Richmond "Welcoming Minute" be appointed to serve as the new Reconfiguration Task Force. These seven members are Peggy Caldwell, Stephanie Crumley-Effinger, Rod Dennis, Tom Hamm, Greg Hinshaw, Dave Phillips, and Doug Shoemaker. There may be more members sitting in and giving input as the process moves along.

A Friend from Richmond First Friends expressed concern with the continuation of the members currently serving on the task force. We have heard from the other two yearly meetings not wanting to be involved in this process, so it has now become an internal process. This will create a division in our yearly meeting into two groups, and he was unsure how we will now move forward. Their meeting put together a list of principles and sent this to monthly meetings, yearly meeting office, and the clerk. He would like to ask for consideration of those principles for an equitable process and partition of the yearly meeting and to consider whether the task force will broadly represent the needs of the yearly meeting for discernment that we are asking of this process. This committee was at first a conflict resolution-minded committee. Does that committee have the breadth of knowledge of various meetings among the yearly meeting? The ends are represented well, but how about the middle of the yearly meeting and its health? He suggested that we leave open the thought that the nominating committee consider the membership of this committee as the work of this committee unfolds.

A Friend from Sycamore stated that he has the confidence that we have chosen the right people, and they have all the knowledge they need. If they need extra help, they will call for it.

A Friend from Friends Memorial suggested that the General Superintendent should not be on the committee because someday he may be out of a job. She felt that the task force members should be changed.

A Friend from Westfield felt that the current task force very adequately represents IYM's actions and issues. He would enthusiastically approve the current members of the task force.

A New Castle Friend stated that it is crucial that everyone's interests be represented so that there can be "buy in" to the reconfiguration idea. He feels that a new committee is needed - one who's purpose is to consult with different voices and different constituencies. This needs to be a representative process. There is really a need for a clearness committee to carry us forward. A significant number do not feel represented. Some other voices in the meeting added their approval to this Friend's statements.

A Friend from Upland stated that he appreciates the work of the task force and feels that they bring to the table a wealth of history and knowledge and it would be wrong to ignore that expertise. He appreciates the concern of broadening the scope of people represented, but feels that too many people is just too large to try to deal with. Is it possible to have sub-committees or sub-task forces that would have the input of all areas and would provide a broader spectrum of all involved? He also realizes that the Superintendent is ex-officio on ALL committees and should be able to serve on the task force.

Steve Howell, speaking for the Executive Committee, reported that the task force HAS considered all of the calls and letters they have received.

A member of the task force spoke to the meeting, reinforcing the fact that he did not accept this job to be one of conflict resolution; he was called to be a representative to speak for all of the Yearly Meeting. He stated that some mistake not being agreed with for not being heard.

A Friend from Spiceland said their meeting considers themselves a neutral party. They, along with all the other meeting, were asked at yearly meeting sessions to consider the recommendations, pray about them, and come prepared at the October 1 meeting. They came with a letter wanting to share their thoughts, but were not permitted to read it. If we are going to reconfigure, they want to be able to have a voice in the reconfiguration process. They do not want decisions made for them. Everyone wants a fair voice in what is going to happen, and they want serious input and visioning to take place.

A Friend from West River sent this message to the task force: make sure there is ample dialogue, not just exchanging letters, and get some add-in help as needed. These folks have a tremendous amount of knowledge, and we should proceed, noting that there is ample dialogue and at some point a decision will have to be made. The important thing is that all get a chance to give our opinion, and move forward. He urged us to approve the reappointment of the current task force.

A Friends Memorial Friend felt that it would not hurt to add one or two more members to this task force, and it would not make the task force that unwieldy.

A Friend from Richmond First Friends stated that she was aware that there are people in attendance who are time-oriented and she is aware there are others who are outcome-oriented, and some who are process-oriented. She does not feel that this is going to get done in a year, not because anyone is stalling, but because of the enormity of the task. She is concerned that the one-year time table will result in dialogue being cut off, and consultation will not be thoroughly done.

Greg Hinshaw, Presiding Clerk, explained the concept of the duties of a task force. It is a small group that is appointed to address a specific issue. A task force can and has been called different names. An example was a committee to deal with relations with Earlham back in the 1990s. Local meetings have task forces on occasion dealing with concerns or issues in their own meetings. There is no job description as such for a task force spelled out exactly in *Faith and Practice*. As a general rule, the general superintendent serves *ex-officio* in critical bodies of decision-making. Speaking as the person who asked the task force to continue, none were all that eager or willing to continue and all would likely be willing to stand aside on this committee. None are serving as a badge of honor or out of personal pride.

A Friend from Winchester wondered if each quarterly meeting should have a representative on the task force, and she also felt that it was in Doug Shoemaker's best interest not to continue on the task force. When asked what the specific duties the task force is being asked to handle, Greg Hinshaw read from Model #5, which states:

[Model #5 includes] A process for appointing a Task Force, representing the variety of perspectives and interest in Indiana Yearly Meeting, to carry out this discernment work, both within our yearly meeting and, potentially, with parallel bodies of either or both of the other two yearly meetings. It would include, but not be limited to the following responsibilities:

- a. Maintaining valued relationships, both as the process unfolds and as yearly meetings are reconfigured
- b. Clarifying a way to go about such a reconfiguration, including how to proceed if Western and Wilmington decline the invitation to join in this process



- c. Determining how to share our responsibilities for and connections with Friends United Meeting, Whites, Friends Fellowship Community, and Quaker Haven Camp
- d. Identifying and addressing legal implications, such as meetinghouse ownership

A Friend from West Richmond said that we are experiencing a little bit of the next paragraph that Greg did not quote in Model #5:

We offer this recommendation in the full knowledge that Friends have many sad feelings about Quaker separations in the past, and wishing to avoid the hostility and alienation that has rocked the Quaker community at such times (forms of which sometimes re-emerge these days when we experience our differences). We have come to recognize that factors which enabled Indiana Yearly Meeting to succeed as “a big tent” fifty and more years ago are no longer present. With more convinced Friends (a good thing), we have fewer family ties across meetings. Styles of worship vary widely from one congregation to another. Some of us identify closely with the wider Religious Society of Friends and sister peace churches, while others of us find our kindred spirits within the wider evangelical movement. Quarterly meetings have diminished and are much less effective in connecting Friends from different meetings.

This West Richmond Friend stated that Richmond First Friends went to a great deal of time and trouble to suggest what they believe would create a level playing field and that the issue has not been addressed. Letters have not been responded to in the past, and issues have not been adequately addressed. They would like to have a friendly, peaceful realignment, but moving ahead without dealing with our issues is not the way to do it. IYM needs to listen to them. This Friend stated that Spiceland Quarterly Meeting and Winchester Quarterly Meeting had met jointly in the previous week and had approved the concepts suggested by Richmond First Friends.

Greg Hinshaw responded by saying that while there were Friends from Winchester and Spiceland Quarterly Meetings who attended a recent meeting hosted by Richmond First Friends, it was clear that this was not an official meeting of Winchester Quarterly Meeting; therefore, the meeting at Richmond First Friends could not claim to speak for Winchester Quarterly Meeting. Greg stated that he did not know whether that meeting had been officially endorsed by Spiceland Quarterly Meeting. Greg stated that other meetings, such as Arba Monthly Meeting, have taken official positions opposite that of Richmond First Friends. The charge of the task force will be to listen to all of those statements and to attempt to respond to them.

A Van Wert Friend said they had discussed this issue at their last quarterly meeting, and they understand what we are undertaking and it is needed. When a group is in contention, it moves nowhere. He was amazed at how hard the task force had worked on everything, prayerfully, and consensually. He suggested that no changes should be made to the task force. He felt that there is good representation, and Doug’s heart is for the improvement of IYM. There is a brokenness that needs to be brought before the Lord, and the commitment and desire is there, which is a desire to seek the best for IYM. Their meeting has been praying for the leadership and for the task force. IYM needs to move forward, and the longer we postpone it, the more we suffer.

A Friend from Sycamore felt that our superintendent should not stand aside. We are still IYM and we need to peacefully and prayerfully move forward. She encourages Greg, Doug, and the committee to continue in their roles, take heart, and know that God will bless them in their endeavors.

A Friend from Richmond First expressed the importance of knowing that our works are an investment of time. He felt that the dynamics have changed since the task force was first put into place. Now comes the difficult and unlovely task of moving forward with #5, and simply saying that the previous task force should take this on too would be wrong.

A New Castle Friend reminded the representatives that IYM has a commitment in 2014 to host the FUM Triennial and asserted that reconfiguration could not be accomplished until that commitment has been met.

The Presiding Clerk shared that he knew people would come today to “have their way” on this issue. What he heard is that some of the representatives were only going to be satisfied with the current task force, some will only be happy with a totally new task force, and some would be satisfied with combination of the two. He reported that he has been told of discussions on Facebook asserting that the executive committee or task force or the clerks or the superintendent cannot be trusted. He has tried to weigh out all the options in preparation of this and find what is satisfactory for everyone. He thinks it is clear that the current task force, as it is currently constituted, has a lot of weight, a lot of knowledge, and can contribute a lot of value to the current process. It is clear that the current task force probably does not have enough membership to undertake the task put in front of it. He also hears that there should not be unnecessary delay in moving to the next step. After the October 1 meeting the Executive Committee made the necessary steps and that is not satisfactory to some. So, who will make the decision on the changes in the task force if we do not trust the Executive Committee? He wondered if the Representative Council would be willing to consider giving direction to the Yearly Meeting Nominating Committee to find three additional persons to serve on the task force, taking care to insure that those people represent an awareness of different perspectives on reconfiguration that exist in Indiana Yearly Meeting.

A Sycamore Friend suggested placing one representative from the five quarterly meetings on the task force, but Greg pointed out that some quarterly meetings do not function healthfully - if at all - and those appointments would then carry disagreements onto the quarterly meeting level. Greg stated that the current task force represents everyone except Tri-County Quarterly Meeting.

A Friend from Richmond First Friends thanked the clerk for articulating well and candidly where we find ourselves. He feels that having the Nominating Committee appoint additional members was reasonable.

After a Knightstown Friend voiced the concern that the meeting may not support these nominations, and we will have conflict again during the April Representative Council meeting, Greg voiced his opinion that we would have to trust the Nominating Committee in this endeavor, granting them the authority to appoint task force members without further approval by the Yearly Meeting Representative Council.

A Friend from Richmond First Friends supported the proposal of the three additional members, but wanted to voice a few concerns. She has experienced and heard many expressions of fear and anxiety about this process. She heard one person indicate their concern that this model #5 is really just a way for a large majority group of people of “inviting out” certain Friends. When model #5 was proposed, it was proposing basically two or more yearly meetings and she hopes that the task force stays faithful to that. She feels that people are characterizing comments as “not getting our way”, but it is important that all of us respect and honor everyone’s feelings in a non-negative way. She appreciates the lack of rancor at the October 1 meeting where all expressed out of their hearts what is happening. She hopes that we can continue to hold each other and move forward in discerning this huge step.

Tom Hamm, as Clerk of Nominating Committee, suggested that if the committee moves forward with three additional members we also need to authorize the nominating committee to replace any current members if after having heard this discussion any members do not want to continue.

A Friend from Upland made a proposal to appoint in additional members as needed as legal and financial issues arise.

A Friend from New Castle stated that even though he may disagree with some people in this room or on the task force, he does love them. Greg has done well at discerning the concerns in love. He encouraged us to be led by Christ, rather than business principles as we move forward in this reconfiguration process.

A Friend from Lynn encouraged us to approve the three additional members and allow the Spirit to lead the Nominating Committee in the task placed before them. He is confident in the current members of the task force as well.

A member of the task force spoke to the representatives, saying he feels this is a very heavy burden but he has accepted this challenge. It is not a process to make a decision for people, but to find a way to move forward. The extra people on the task force will help tremendously.

Greg Hinshaw asked for approval to direct the Nominating Committee to name three additional persons to the task force, taking into consideration the views of those new appointments on the reconfiguration. He also asked for approval to give the Nominating Committee power to replace any ten of those positions that might resign, and also approval to give permission to the task force to use such resource persons as they might need to address some of the business-related issues of the process.

One Friend advocated that the composition of the task force should have a majority of representatives favoring a yearly meeting that has the power to set bounds and exercise authority over monthly meetings, since the large majority of our meetings seem to prefer such a yearly meeting. A task force granting equal representation to those preferring centralized yearly meeting authority with those favoring monthly meeting autonomy seemed unfair to him.

Tom Hamm, Clerk of Nominating Committee, was charged with the duty of getting these positions filled as soon as possible. The names will be communicated to IYM meetings as soon as they are confirmed. A friend from Richmond First stressed the importance of communication among IYM meetings and the task force over the next several months as the process of reconfiguration moves forward.

Greg Hinshaw stressed that if much of this work is procedural, and the idea is that there will be two independent organizations, there has to be an understanding that there is adequate numbers to plan what those structures might be. He thinks that the concern that he hears from many Friends "in the minority" is that they need some assurance that the process is going to be fair.

A Friend from Westfield said he would plea that in the event that there is a resignation from the task force, that any person approved as a replacement would be of similar perspective.

**RC 11 10** The Representative Council APPROVED naming the seven members recommended by the Executive Committee to serve on the Reconfiguration Task Force and directing the Nominating Committee to add three persons, taking into consideration the views of those people on the reconfiguration. The Nominating Committee will have the power to replace any ten of those positions that might resign, and the task force is given permission to use such resource persons as they might need to address some of the business-related issues of the reconfiguration process.

After announcements were read, a time of worship was held, with Doug Shoemaker closing in prayer.

Greg Hinshaw, Presiding Clerk

Janis Sizelove, Recording Clerk