

Dear Friends,

Enclosed please find materials to help you prepare for the called meeting of the Representative Council on September 29, at 9:00 AM, at Farmland Friends Church, 8311 W State Road 32, Farmland, IN 47340. Included you will find a revised proposal, an updated timeline, and a list of frequently asked questions. Each monthly meeting will also receive copies of all of the responses received from monthly meetings as of September 5.

In response to the comments that the Task Force has heard from monthly meetings, from called meetings of concerned Friends, and from individuals, we have made some changes in the recommendation that the Representative Council will consider on September 29. As reading the enclosed letters will show, most meetings were able to make a choice between YM A and YM B. At least nine, however, were unable to make a decision or refused out of conscientious opposition to any division of the yearly meeting. This is a matter of deep concern to the Task Force, and we spent much of our meeting on September 4 considering this opposition.

At this point, based on all of the communications we have received, we continue to believe that some division of the yearly meeting is inevitable. Most monthly meetings want a yearly meeting that has the power to discipline monthly meetings and hold them to doctrinal and other standards; many have indicated that they cannot, in good conscience, be part of a yearly meeting that does not do that. We understand the deep desires of some Friends for reconciliation and preservation of the current yearly meeting structure, but we have not found or seen any proposal to do that that honors the consciences of all Friends in Indiana Yearly Meeting.

With this in mind, we present a revised proposal. It is clear that most Friends in Indiana Yearly Meeting see its future along the lines laid out in what we have labeled "Yearly Meeting B." It is also clear that those who do not find affinity with "B" will want some latitude to define "A" perhaps differently than originally proposed by the Task Force. We ask those Friends that have not, to date, chosen A or B to consider whether or not they are willing to be part of a yearly meeting that envisions itself in the terms used to describe "B". In other words, our revised proposal asks Friends to choose between "B", and "not B".

Our hope is that we will be able to unite on a way forward on September 29. We recognize, however, that God does not always work according to human schedules. We are certain all of you will be in prayer, seeking God's will for us on September 29.

Respectfully Submitted,

Reconfiguration Task Force:

David Brindle, Peggy Caldwell, Fred Daniel, Rod Dennis, Tom Hamm,
Cathy Harris, Greg Hinshaw, Ray Ontko, Dave Phillips, Doug Shoemaker