

Some Frequently Asked Questions and Answers about the IYM Reconfiguration Process - Revised 9-5-2012

Q1. Is Indiana Yearly Meeting being laid down or dissolved?

A: No, at least not if the yearly meeting follows the recommendation of the reconfiguration task force. We have concluded that the simplest and least costly way to move forward will be for IYM to set off meetings unable to affirm their commitment to IYM as described as "Yearly Meeting B." Those meetings that have chosen "not B" will be free to create their own yearly meeting / association, or affiliate with existing yearly meetings / associations.

Q2. Will monthly meetings set off in this manner lose their property?

A. No. Property and other assets will remain in the hands of the monthly meeting. If monthly meetings have taken out loans from the yearly meeting, those obligations will remain.

Q3. Can we afford to divide the yearly meeting? I thought that we were facing financial pressures.

A. Reconfiguration will undoubtedly mean the creation of two bodies with fewer resources. After the division is complete, it will be for each to determine what their resources are and how they should best be used.

Q4. What if my monthly meeting can't decide between affirming B or not?

A. No monthly meeting will be assigned to IYM(B), or "not B", without its consent. A grace period will provide time and space for meetings to make their decision without feeling rushed or forced.

Q5. How will this affect Friends United Meeting (FUM)?

A. The Reconfiguration process has assumed, up to this point, that both the current yearly meeting and a potential new one emerging from this process will be part of FUM. There is a process for admitting new yearly meeting to FUM that will need to be followed, but IYM will recommend FUM membership for the new yearly meeting should it be desired.

Q6. Can my monthly meeting affiliate with both IYM(B) and the new group that emerges from the process?

A. No. Meetings are being asked to affirm their commitment to IYM(B) or declare a choice to not do so.

Q7. How will Reconfiguration affect relationships with affiliated organizations like White's, Quaker Haven or Friends Fellowship Community?

A. Each affiliate organization will have input on how they would like to be affiliated with one or both "yearly meetings." No new relationship will be imposed upon any of them. Initially, meetings set off from IYM will have no legal affiliation with any of these organizations. If in time the Trustees of any of these affiliated organizations request affiliation with an additional yearly meeting or association, it is recommended that IYM approve any changes necessary to accommodate their request.

Q8. How will yearly meeting assets be divided?

A. Most of the yearly meeting assets are endowments whose use was set by the donors. The Reconfiguration Task Force will recommend that other liquid assets be divided in proportion to membership, offset by any monies owed to the yearly meeting, such as unpaid program assessments. The other liquid assets of IYM refers to the portion of the endowment that is unrestricted, currently valued at approximately \$322,000. If the total membership of meetings choosing "not B" by December 31 is, for example, 10% of the IYM total membership, then 10% of the \$322,000 would be available to any new yearly meeting or association that is organized (less any current or past unpaid assessments owed to IYM.) This will be a one-time distribution based upon the decisions made by December 31, 2012. Money will not be distributed to individual meetings, but only to a new yearly meeting or association composed of former IYM meetings set off in this reconfiguration.

Q9. How will this affect the 2014 FUM Triennial, which IYM is hosting?

A. The assumption is that both IYM and the new yearly meeting or association would co-host.

Q10. Will the matter of differing perspectives regarding the sacraments be addressed through this reconfiguration?

A. No. Either or both of the resulting yearly meetings may take up this discussion at a later time, but this issue is not addressed in this reconfiguration.

Q11. Will belonging to a yearly meeting with authority to discipline subordinate meetings result in an increase in yearly meeting intrusion into the affairs of monthly meetings?

A. This is not the intent of this reconfiguration, however, meetings blatantly disregarding the Faith & Practice of IYM(B) need to understand that the yearly meeting has the right to exercise appropriate discipline should it choose to do so.

Q12. Will the recording of ministers be impacted or jeopardized by reconfiguration?

A. Once ministers are recorded by the yearly meeting, their recording is held by the meeting of their membership. No one will lose their recording as a result of reconfiguration.

Q13. How will reconfiguration impact the Ministerial Excellence Initiative?

A. Our recommendation is that all meetings currently in IYM be able to benefit from the services of the MEI whether they continue to be part of IYM(B) or not as long as funds from the Lilly Endowment remain. Since the original grant from Lilly was made to "Indiana Yearly Meeting" approval from the Lilly Endowment would be necessary to divide up any of the remaining funds, a process that could be quite complicated.

Q14. What legal expenses are anticipated and who will be responsible for them?

A. If those set off from IYM wish to legally organize as a 501(c)3 organization there would be legal fees associated with this. Providing quit claim deeds for meetings set off from IYM(B) would also create anticipated expense. The task force is recommending that IYM(B) pay these legal fees up to a maximum of \$5,000.

Q15. What if my meeting originally indicated a choice for "A" or "B" but now wishes to reconsider?

A. All meetings have until December 31 to change their minds and participate in the proportional division of assets that will be calculated based on decision and membership records as of that date. Meetings needing more time will have a grace period that will allow decisions to be changed later but will not participate in the proportional division of assets.