

5/27/12

To: The Reconfiguration Task Force
From: Anderson First Friends Meeting

At our monthly meeting held 5/13/12, we approved the following minute as presented by our ministry and oversight committee.

We do recognize and subordinate ourselves to Holy Scripture, leading of the Holy Spirit, and guidelines of Indiana Yearly Meeting Faith & Practice where these sources of wisdom and guidance are not in conflict with each other. While this committee believes we are a "B" meeting, we do not support reconfiguration as the best way to resolve the issues. Our recommendation is to notify Indiana Yearly Meeting that we refuse to make the false choice put before us at this time. We do not believe two separate but equal yearly meetings that share common resources is a tenable long term situation.

To further clarify, with regard to the Reconfiguration Project currently underway, Anderson First Friends has corporately come to the position that we choose not to participate in any process that would result in the spawning of a new yearly meeting. We take this position in order to avoid legitimatizing the process put in place October 1, 2011.

As a member of Indiana Yearly Meeting, we do support our current leadership in their striving to interpret controversial issues through the lens of our Faith and Practice guidelines. The letter of April 9, 2012, signed by the Reconfiguration Task Force states that *"most friends in Indiana Yearly Meeting do not wish to see the current yearly meeting structure discontinued. Many continue to wish to see this structure used to ensure compliance with the Faith and Practice and adopted statements of Indiana Yearly Meeting"*. We fall within this group.

As a member of Indiana Yearly Meeting, we reject the notion that a new yearly meeting should be established in order accommodate the desire of those meetings who do not find it possible to comply with current Faith and Practice guidelines. That minority, and it is a minority, has every right to establish a new group based upon what they believe to be a spiritual leading. They do not have the right (our opinion) to modify what is currently in place as Indiana Yearly Meeting. They have every right to separate themselves from IYM, but, by so doing, they should not expect to maintain current affiliations and financial assets.

On behalf of Anderson First Friends,


Jim Clark
Clerk