

Hinkle Creek Friends



Where Love Grows

August 25, 2012

To the Indiana Yearly Meeting Reconfiguration Task Force:

It is clear to us at Hinkle Creek Friends that no one celebrates the situation that is causing the Yearly Meeting to separate. No one is happy that reconfiguration is coming to pass. The differences between Monthly Meetings and between Friends have grown to the level of core values: a line that no one can cross and still be true to herself/himself. Hearts are already broken and feelings are hurt among Meetings and Friends. Even our Monthly Meeting, so recently becoming part of Indiana Yearly Meeting, grieves to see the heartache that many Friends are experiencing. This minute is written in a spirit of empathy for the distress being experienced by our brothers and sisters in Christ.

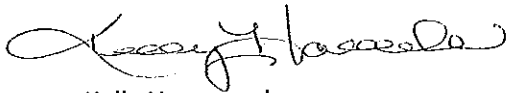
Hinkle Creek Friends has seen and experienced this heartache before. We have already grieved and prayed and processed our way through that hurt as we lived through the events that led to our church leaving Western Yearly Meeting. We have seen what happens when there is a clear split in a Yearly Meeting and what happens when the members and leaders of that Yearly Meeting refuse to acknowledge and address it. Indiana Yearly Meeting is already experiencing distrust, anger, and withdrawal amongst its meetings. This is only a small taste of the discord and dissention that can still come if prayerful, spirit-led, steps are not taken to attend to the situation.

Hinkle Creek Friends perceives the reconfiguration process to have been found in the Spirit and a necessary undertaking for Indiana Yearly Meeting. Indiana Yearly Meeting is already experiencing the stress of the fractures amongst member meetings, an indication that reconfiguration is happening whether we want it or not. What Hinkle Creek Friends appreciates about the reconfiguration process as it currently exists is that Indiana Yearly Meeting is laboring to make this an organized, deliberative reconfiguration process instead of the muddled, angry debacle that it could be.

Before applying to join Indiana Yearly Meeting, Hinkle Creek Friends carefully reviewed the Indiana Yearly Meeting Faith and Practice to determine if it aligned with the beliefs of our membership. We received the assurance of the Yearly Meeting Superintendent and both the Committee on Ministry and Oversight and the Committee on Evangelism and Outreach that Indiana Yearly Meeting would uphold what Faith and Practice indicated that they believed. We have discerned Option "B" as the continuation of Indiana Yearly Meeting as we understood it in 2010-11. Accordingly, Hinkle Creek Friends has decided to maintain our support for the upholding of Faith and Practice as it currently exists by selecting Yearly Meeting "B".

We recognize that this decision will not be as uncomplicated for other Friends as it has been for us. We have already experienced the pain of this process. Hinkle Creek Friends finds hope in the lessons of both the far and recent past. Our Quaker histories tell us that this is not the first time that Friends have reconfigured, and certainly not the first time for the reconfiguration of Friends in the state of Indiana. What we can learn from the Friends before us is that facing the changes that are happening amongst us can lead to a new ministry that will allow God's spirit to thrive. Relinquishing the discord allows all Friends to refocus on what brings glory to His Kingdom. Hinkle Creek Friends sees a bright future ahead after reconfiguration takes place, as we refocus our attention toward working with Friends to bring people into a closer relationship with God through his Son, Jesus Christ.

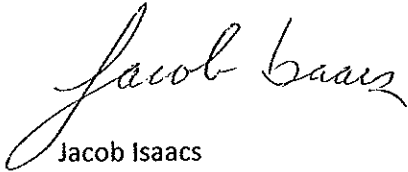
May God bless each of you,



Kelly Haemmerle
Presiding Clerk



Marianne Isaacs
Recording Clerk



Jacob Isaacs
Chairperson- Committee on Ministry and
Oversight