
Received from Raysville

Doug Shoemaker <doug@iym.org>

Tue, Sep 4, 2012 at 10:56 AM

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From: Michael Sherman [mailto:coolnajo@hotmail.com]

Sent: Monday, September 03, 2012 3:23 PM

To: Doug Shoemaker

Subject: Reconfiguration

Raysville Friends Church in an endeavor to participate in this conversation both in the 'parking lot' and within the approved locus of conversation post our response here and send this to the rtf. I am Michael Sherman, pastor, Raysville Friends Church and I approve this message...

Upon examining the two articulated future yearly meeting options for monthly meeting consideration Raysville Friends Church cannot currently align itself with either stated future yearly meeting. Neither option articulates a future which stands upon its own two feet. While they are no longer specifically reliant upon the other for their standing and stability, both fail to articulate a vision for a spiritual future in the presence of God. Both options are still held captive by the realities of this p

articular argument which has been named and classified in several different ways sexuality, yearly mtg authority vs meeting autonomy, and onto the authority of Scripture. (We at Raysville would argue the reason for this split is none of the above, but a continued inability for the majority across the board in IYM to trust in the diversified workings of an infinite Creator.) While this particular argument is the precipitous for division, it should not be allowed to be the only brush used to paint IYM's future relationship with God. Summarily IYM B asks us to put our trust and future security in the Yearly Meeting office while IYM A asks us to put our trust and future security in the diversity of its people. Neither articulates a future of trust and faith relying upon God. Friends' security has been, from our understanding, must continue to be an outpouring of the community's relationship with God and not develop as a consequence of not being another group or being better than some other group. The consequence of a future written together out of the myopic vision of this particular issue will result in two crippled bodies blinded by their own divergent senses of righteousness moving forward.

We do not choose A or B and are currently opposed to the proposed reconfiguration. Neither A or B offer Raysville a home where we feel the Spirit of God will be the primary voice of a healthy life-giving future. We also wonder why the task force has only seen one possible future. The task force has made statements in this process asking for alternatives to a split of IYM while simultaneously insisting we accept the fact the split already has been made. Somehow it seems impossible to speak a better truth into that paradox. We continue to hear that no one wants a split, but split we must. This is not true. There are those who want a split otherwise we would not be facing the impending reality of a split. It is our hope for IYM to find the strength to not just ask the difficult questions but answer them with equally difficult solutions. Splitting is too easy to be the Godly thing to do.

Michael Sherman, Pastor

Jeff Hinshaw, M&O

Gene Richmond, Clerk

Lisa Christenson, M&O Clerk

