

July 9, 2012

TO: IYM Reconfiguration Task Force

RE: IYM Reconfiguration Feedback from Spiceland Monthly Meeting

Spiceland's Ministry & Oversight Committee as well as our Monthly Business Meeting have each met multiple times over the past three months, have discussed the IYM reconfiguration process and situation at length, and approved the following minute during our meeting for business on July 8, 2012.

- **Our monthly meeting is opposed to a split and reconfiguration of IYM, and wish for IYM to resolve these issues and remain intact.** We have multiple families who have children/relatives that are gay or lesbian, and it is our feeling that we would welcome them to worship with us and be a part of the monthly meeting. This does not mean that we support sexually active homosexual relationships.
- We are not supportive of the minute on West Richmond's website, but we do not want to dissolve those relationships or see IYM dismembered.
- We do not understand why West Richmond Friends was not disciplined for refusing to abide by Faith & Practice after two years of requests to do so, and why we are now reconfiguring IYM because some meetings are threatening to leave. It seems to us that both West Richmond and the monthly meetings who are threatening to leave are holding the entire yearly meeting "hostage".
- **Our other concerns regarding a split of IYM:** we wonder how two smaller yearly meetings will fully function with fewer members and less operating funds; the conflict (within IYM) over determining whether a newly set off yearly meeting would get a cash settlement as part of the split; the very complicated issue of relationships with Quaker Haven Camp, Friends Fellowship Community, and Whites – how would these entities incorporate a new yearly meeting into their relationship and how would this affect IYM's relationships with these entities? How would this affect the financial support for these vital ministries? And we are also concerned with the additional financial costs we would be forcing onto these organizations should this necessitate the re-writing of their articles of incorporation to accommodate such a split of our yearly meeting.

- **While we are clearly a “B” type of monthly meeting, at this time we stand by our previous communication with IYM, and request that the task force offer another option for moving forward that does not involve splitting the yearly meeting, but allows meetings to leave who do not wish to remain affiliated with IYM.** However, if IYM does go through with a split and we are forced to choose, we will likely remain with IYM (YM “B”).

We do appreciate all the time and efforts of the Reconfiguration Task Force on behalf of all of Indiana Yearly Meeting, and we do understand that this is a daunting, immensely sensitive and difficult situation with many details yet to be worked out, and we offer our prayer support.

Sincerely,

Tom Pyle, Clerk of Ministry & Oversight

Richard Ratcliff, Clerk