

First Friends Church
210 South Franklin Street
Van Wert, Ohio 45891

July 26, 2012

Dear Indiana Yearly Meeting Task Force,

After prayer and meditation here are our thoughts on the Yearly Meeting A and Yearly Meeting B options. The Reconfiguration of IYM into two separate meetings is not an option but is vital to the spiritual health and future of IYM. As scripture says " A house divided will not stand ". We do indeed feel God has led us to these conclusions. The First Friends Church body is unanimous in agreement with Yearly Meeting B. We feel to do nothing is allowing Satan to continue in his warfare against the churches and to continue to create division among us.

PARTNERSHIP

The essential ingredients for a true partnership are trust and commitment.

God has promised that the living of our lives for Him would be a partnership. Which I know Indiana Yearly Meeting and are already partners. His words....

- I will never leave you nor forsake you.
- Be strong and courageous.
- Do not be terrified or discouraged

for
the Lord **Your** God will be with you wherever you go and whatever you do.

IYM should not or cannot expect someone else to do the things that God has asked of them just because that may seem easier or fair. This sounds harsh but I mean it with love.

Partners depend on each other to be where they're expected to be and do what they're expected to do. A worth while partnership requires consistency and courage; responsibility and dependability. God found Gideon under an oak tree and called him to deliver Israel. God listened as Gideon rehearsed reasons why he was not the person to do it. Gideon sought various signs that God would provide the resources and power for him to complete the task. **Yet it was Gideon, not God, being tested.**

With nothing more than faith in God and a partnership with God, Gideon was to accomplish his mission.

Moses had lots of reasons why he should not move forward. What Moses was overlooking and what many Christians today overlook, is God's promise "I will be with you."

The same intimate partnership that God established with Moses exists today between God and Man. He will be with you as well! If things you do have any lasting significance, they must be done in partnership with Christ.

As Jesus said in John 15:5 "apart from Me you can do nothing". It is equally true as the Apostle Paul declared "I can do everything through him who gives me strength".

We feel this is a wonderful opportunity and God's leading us in this world wide problem. Have faith in God and your own abilities to discern His will. With the partnership between the Task Force, IYM, and God you should move forward with confidence. Not relying on anyone but yourself and Him. God will provide you with people, opportunity, knowledge, passion and excitement to help you be successful. Of the people he has already provided to you are Pastor Paul and our Church, not just as your prayer partners but as Christian Men & Woman willing to help where and when you need it.

With a step of faith and God as your controlling partner you can not fail.

Yours in Christ,
Mike Jackson
Mike Jackson Clerk
Van Wert First Friends Church

Micah 6:8 He has shown you, O man what is good, and what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. If I may I would suggest looking up this verse and reading the next several verses that follow it.

Phil. 4:8 Fix your thoughts on what is true and honorable and right. Think about things that are pure and lovely and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise.