



## WEST ELKTON FRIENDS MEETING

08/19/12

Dear Indiana Yearly Meeting,

Our Meeting, West Elkton Friends, has struggled with what to do and how to respond to the demand that we submit a decision regarding our alignment with Indiana Yearly Meeting "A" or "B" as part of the reconfiguration. We have paid our membership amounts and stayed within the guidelines of the Faith and Practice since we joined one year after Indiana Yearly Meeting was established in 1805. However, we do not choose to align ourselves with either configuration, but instead urge our fellow meetings and the yearly meeting as a gathered body to prayerfully consider the following:

We feel as others do that if there were a true sense of the meeting that set up the task force in October of 2011, the problems would not have remained. Since there has been ongoing conflict, as evidence of a lack of sense of the meeting, we choose not to participate in the task force recommendation to reconfigure by selecting one of two fractures from our true home, feeling instead we need to remain with Indiana Yearly Meeting in the configuration that was previously in place.

We have been made aware that others have joined or expressed desire to join other yearly meetings and other Friends organizations such as Evangelical Friends and Friends General Conference. We affirm the integrity of their monthly meeting discernment process and wish to have that option open for those who feel led to leave Indiana Yearly Meeting, without reprisal and without their having to return assets to the Yearly Meeting or being forced to choose sides in the reconfiguration as a secondary means.

We pray that the honorable behavior of not demanding, not forcing and not threatening meetings will return soon. We feel a great deep loss at the compromising in Quaker values this process has taken at some turns.

We feel that a return to our values of prayerful waiting on the Lord and mutual respect for the discernment of Friends in their own meetings will be first steps in returning to an honorable way of handling this conflict. As we struggle, when conflict arises, it is easier to try to jump for solutions, but as Quakers, we ask for a return to our more Friend-grounded ways of dealing with one another.

Sincerely,

West Elkton Friends

Clerk- David White

Charles Carver  
Wapella Carver  
Judy White

Thomas Burns  
Melissa Danks

Hannah Faus  
2020 White

Lyle Eason  
Shonda L. Mustard

Roy L. Fort  
Jeanne Malcolm  
Nichelle K White

Jerry Burns  
Lilly Malcolm  
Jeff Fort