



# Winchester Friends Church

124 East Washington Street ♦ Winchester, Indiana 47394 ♦ 765-584-8276

Winchester's Ministry & Oversight and Monthly Meeting for Business on July 1, 2012, approved the following minute:

- Our Monthly Meeting is opposed to any split and/or reconfiguration of Indiana Yearly Meeting. From the beginning of this process, Winchester Friends has asked IYM to allow God enough time to help us resolve these issues and remain intact.
- We have consistently supported and called for the Yearly Meeting to return to Model #1 which the Task Force presented at yearly meeting sessions in July 2011, which we would rephrase as "Agree to disagree, coupled with redefining IYM to emphasize mutually submissive community."
- We ask the Task Force to offer a different option for moving forward that does not involve splitting the yearly meeting, but releases Meetings who have discerned clearness from God to seek different affiliation. We never felt clearness for the Task Force's Model #4 or Model #5 nor gave approval for them when they were considered in Representative Council. We believe this is in keeping with the spirit of the *Faith & Practice* Section 108, Part C, p. 95 "the Yearly Meeting recognizes the freedom of the Monthly Meetings and the validity of their prophetic voices. Each needs the other in order to be strong and vital, and both need the mediation of Christ and the guidance of the Holy Spirit."
- We have gladly abided by a covenantal understanding of IYM's current *Faith & Practice* for decades, and we have no interest in departing from that commitment. We call upon Meetings who consider the *Faith & Practice* to be a binding contract, or to be merely a set of non-binding suggestions or guidelines, to reconsider those assumptions and their impact on spiritual community.
- Our Monthly Meeting has determined not to allow this to divide us, but instead seeks to remain the loving faith community that we are. That is why we choose not to participate in IYM's reconfiguration.

We ask that IYM find another way forward, acting in obedience to the instruction given in Ephesians 4:2,3, "be completely humble and gentle, be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace."

In Christ,

Brian Lilly  
Monthly Meeting Presiding Clerk

Cleo McFarland  
Ministry and Oversight Clerk