

Frederick Monthly Meeting
of the
Religious Society of Friends

June 10, 2012

To Friends of Baltimore Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends:

Frederick Monthly Meeting (FMM) as the “parent meeting” of Shepherdstown Preparative Meeting (SPM) joyfully recommends that Shepherdstown Preparative Meeting become a full monthly meeting, under the care of Baltimore Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends.

Several Friends on Ministry and Counsel have met a number of times with SPM Friends to help them gain clearness in this process. It has been over the past few years that we have had a closer relationship with SPM, as they first became a Preparative meeting. When they met with us in the fall of 2011, seeking a way to understand the financial relationship between our meeting and theirs, it became clear to FMM that Shepherdstown Preparative Meeting seemed ready to move onto the next step of becoming a monthly meeting. This really surprised them, and they took a few months to discern that within their meeting. When FMM Friends visited their Meeting with a Concern for Business at which they decided to move forward, we were much impressed with the way in which they thoroughly addressed the questions for clarity as stated in the Faith and Practice of BYM. As their letter clearly states, they have considered these matters deeply and thoroughly. FMM received their request in March, brought it to Monthly Meeting in March and then held it over for the second reading in April. As a formality we brought it to Warrington Quarterly Meeting, where they endorsed the recommendation, with the understanding that Frederick Monthly Meeting will bring this to Interim and Annual sessions this summer for final steps in the approval process.

Shepherdstown Friends gathered (first as a worship group and then as a preparative meeting) as adult seekers, many of whom held initial memberships with other BYM monthly meetings. Seasoned Friends have made up the core of this worship group, which brings a strength and vitality to the small town of Shepherdstown, West Virginia and to Baltimore Yearly Meeting as a whole. When worshipping with them, the depth of worship and the depth of their community is easily recognized: the spirit is indeed a Divine Presence among them. Indeed, Frederick Monthly Meeting has admired their attention to worship, business and outreach practices. It should also be noted that FMM has taken great care in working with Shepherdstown Friends to ascertain that their attention to financial matters is in good order. We heartily and joyfully recommend that Interim Yearly Meeting support Shepherdstown Preparative Meeting in their desire to become a full Monthly Meeting.

On behalf of Frederick Monthly Meeting,
Helen Tasker
Clerk