

Religious Society of Friends  
Baltimore Yearly Meeting

Sixth Month 16, 2012

Youth Safety Policy Working Group

Baltimore Yearly Meeting's current Youth Safety Policy was approved in October Of 2009 after two years of work. This is BYM's first fully-developed policy. Since then the policy has been greatly appreciated in discussions of potential problems at the Yearly Meeting level and as a resource for Monthly Meetings to develop polices.

The policy was developed by a specially appointed working group and is not currently under the care of any committee. Over time it has become evident that some improvements could be made, both in terms of procedural clarity and in addressing situations not evident as of the last writing. Additionally, laws in this area continue to evolve, and policies must keep up with these changes.

The previous policy required approval by Trustees and Meeting for Business as a whole and was reviewed by BYM's insurance company.

Interim Meeting establishes a Youth Safety Policy Working group which includes one member each from Trustees, Youth Programs Committee, Camping Program Committee, Junior Yearly Meeting, and Religious Education Committees. A clerk and several additional members will be appointed by Clerk of Interim Meeting, some representing Monthly Meetings. The Youth Programs Manager would staff the committee, and other staff members may need to attend from time to time. The group would have support from a lawyer who specializes in this area. It is hoped that this working group would consist of 10 or fewer people. The group is asked to provide a draft report to Interim Meeting in March 2013.