

Blacksburg Friends Meeting 404 Mt. Tabor Road

P.O. Box 327 Blacksburg, VA 24063-0327

March 5, 2016

James Lynn, Clerk Baltimore Yearly Meeting Stewardship and Finance Committee Baltimore Yearly Meeting Main Office 17100 Quaker Lane Sandy Spring, MD 20860-1267

Dear Members of the Baltimore Yearly Meeting (BYM) Stewardship and Finance Committee,

We received the BYM request for the 2016 apportionment for Blacksburg Friends Meeting in the amount of \$4,520. For several years, the Stewardship and Finance committee has discussed with concern the continued increase in the yearly apportionment and the Meeting's ability to pay the requested amount. This year we feel that the requested amount is far too much and have recommended to our meeting that we only pay \$2,900 for 2016. This was the amount for the 2014 apportionment, and we feel that this amount is more representative of our financial capability at this time. This recommendation was approved at Meeting for Business on January 10, 2016. Please be aware that, as we continue to monitor our finances, we may need to decrease our apportionment payment further. We also do not anticipate being able to afford the requested amount (or more) in the near future.

We are in the midst of paying off a fifteen-year mortgage for our new Meetinghouse. For this reason, the current total income for the meeting is inflated, as approximately 81% of our yearly budget is directed at the mortgage and upkeep of the Meetinghouse. Based on our current pledges for 2016 we only have \$5,744 for our total operating budget after taking care of the mortgage and upkeep of the Meetinghouse. For this reason, we do not feel that we can afford a \$4,520 apportionment (which would represent 79% of the remaining pledged operating amount). Members have made great efforts to increase their donations to meet the mortgage, but will likely not be able to continue once the mortgage is paid off.

We value our membership in BYM and believe in its mission. But, as a meeting, we also feel that it is important to contribute to our local community and other Quaker organizations as we feel led. In addition to the \$3,620 BYM apportionment for 2015, we contributed \$605 to Quaker organizations, including the BYM Camping Programs. An additional \$1,045 was contributed to other local and international organizations. In addition, we support our college-aged students who are attending Quaker colleges and participating in Quaker programs (\$1,000

in 2015). We feel that in order to continue to support these organizations and our college-aged members we cannot afford the requested apportionment.

Furthermore, our Meetinghouse serves the larger Friends community in Southwest Virginia by being a place for meetings such as the Blue Ridge Gathering and the Apportionment meeting held in the Spring of 2015.

In the future, we ask that you please take into account the nature of the income and expenditures associated with individual Meetings when calculating the apportionment. As you can see, our reported income to BYM does not reflect the actual operating dollars that we have to work with for 2016.

Sincerely,

Day Welking Jay Wilkins

Clerk, Stewardship and Finance Blacksburg Friends Meeting

discussed with concern the contrated increase in the yearly approximations and the Maxing's ability to pay the requested amount. This year we feel that the requested theorem is far too much and they perturbation week doors meeting that we only pay \$2,900 to \$1018. They such the intoint, fricties to be appreciated adors meeting that we only pay \$2,900 to \$1018. They such the intoint, fricties to be appreciated adors meeting that we only pay \$2,900 to \$1018. They such the intoint, fricties to be appreciated, and we find that they amount is more representative of our fricties representation to the second dust, as we continue to monitor our financies, we may need to decrease has approximations are parametering that, as we continue to monitor our financies, we may need to decrease has approximations are parametering that, we also do not anticipate using able to afford the requested containt (or more) to the near future.

We are in the midet of paying off a fifteen-year mongage loc our new Meetinghouse. For

presides the global and any have as presented on this reason, we do not feel that we can flow in more are a Topkeup of the Meetinghouse. For this reason, we do not feel that we can flow in 14.539 apportionment (which would represent 73% of the tempining pledged operations announbloablers have made great efforts to increase their denotions to meet the mortgage, but will likely not be able to continue once the mortgage is paid off.

We value our membership in BYM and believe in its mission. But, as a meeting, we also feel that it is important to contribute to our local community and other Gunker organizations as one fact led. In addition to the \$3,620 BYM apportaneous for 2015, we contributed \$606 to Qonker organizations, including the BYM Comping Programs. An additional \$1,045 was contributed to other local and international argunizations. In addition, we support out collegeaged modents who are attending Quaker colleges and participating to Quaker programs (\$1,000