

# Baltimore Yearly Meeting

of the Religious Society of Friends  
17100 Quaker Lane  
Sandy Spring, Maryland 20860-1296

301/774-7663  
800/962-4766  
Fax: 301/774-7087  
bym@bym-rsf.org  
<http://www.bym-rsf.org>

To: Monthly Meeting Clerks  
Ministry and Counsel Clerks

Greetings Friends,

The Baltimore Yearly Meeting Program Committee is beginning to plan for next summer's Annual Session, to be held at Frostburg State University August 5-10, 2008. The theme is "Let Us Then Try What Love Will Do." The Committee asks that you circulate the attached workshop proposal form to anyone who may be interested in leading a workshop. We especially look for workshop topics that relate *well* to the Yearly Meeting theme. Priority will be given to those workshop proposals that enrich our lives as Friends.

Both workshop leaders and participants have found these workshop activities at Annual Session to enhance their own spiritual lives in a way that enriches their participation in their own Monthly Meetings.

Workshops will be held on Thursday, August 7; Friday, August 8; and Saturday, August 9 from 2:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m.

The proposal forms *must* be returned to the workshop coordinators by **February 21, 2008**.

The coordinators are:

Wren Beckett  
711 Ludlow St.  
Takoma Park, MD 20912  
[uberwren@gmail.com](mailto:uberwren@gmail.com)

And,

Margaret Stambaugh  
15014 Mud College Rd.  
Thurmont, MD 21788-1331  
[mstambaugh@netstorm.net](mailto:mstambaugh@netstorm.net)

Thank you for your help.

In Light,  
Wren Beckett and Margaret Stambaugh

**Baltimore Yearly Meeting 337<sup>th</sup> Annual Session**  
**August 4-10, 2008**  
**“Let Us Then Try What Love Will Do”**

§545 Let us then try what Love will do: For if Men did once see we Love them, we should soon find they would not harm us.

§548 Love is the hardest Lesson in Christianity; but, for that reason, it should be most our care to learn it. The best things are hardest to come by.

—William Penn, Fruits of Solitude, Part One, 1693

The constituent Meetings of Baltimore Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends describe their conditions variously as thriving, alive, vibrant, strong, sizable, healthy, loving, vibrant, peaceful, understanding, changing, vital, well attended, vibrant, patient, turbulent, isolated and vibrant.

The Spiritual State of the Meeting Report, Baltimore Yearly Meeting, 2007

Baltimore Yearly Meeting’s Program Committee asks that speakers, Bible study leaders, and workshop leaders keep in mind the theme of this year Annual Session with the sense of who Baltimore Yearly Meeting is, but also with the sense who Baltimore Yearly Meeting might be as it listens to God’s direction.

Some say the opposite of love is hate; others say it is fear; and yet others say it is indifference. We need to attend school in this hardest of lessons. Not only we, but the world cries for help. Can we rise above fear and indifference?

Beyond our country, conflict ranges in Africa in many spots. Another source of armed violence stretches from the Eastern Mediterranean to Afghanistan. There is sharp disagreement over the ways to change to avoid global warming.

Within our own Yearly Meeting the year 2008 presents us with choices and with change. Last summer one of our speakers asked us to face change in the Light and ask, “What is the opportunity here?”

Our Yearly Meeting has many viewpoints—mirrored in the wider Religious Society of Friends:

- Traditional—diversity in sexuality and gender roles
- Activist—quietist
- Bible-centered—universalist—non-theist
- Younger—older

None of these differences are new. How do we hold all of these in Love? What can they teach us? What choices will we make? Can each of us find a seed of an answer in Penn’s words? How can we nurture Love when we are together in Worship, in Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business, in committees, and at meals together? How do we share the Truth of our own lives with each other? How do we share what we receive with the wider world?

Before us are opportunities that call out for us to manifest love now. As Friends, we are challenged to listen to each other and to find the Light of God in every individual. We are called to make decisions and act out of love, not fear. Let us see if understanding our differences leads us to new shared strengths. Let us see if respecting the values that we share with each other can strengthen our witness in the world. Let us try, and, be, Love.

**Workshop Proposal**  
**2008 Baltimore Yearly Meeting Annual Session**  
August 5-10, 2008  
Frostburg State University, Frostburg, MD

*Let Us Then Try What Love Will Do*

**Title of Worship:**

**Description of workshop (less than 100 words):**

**Name of workshop leader:**

**One-sentence bio on leader:**

**Address:**

**Phone number: (h)**

**(w)**

**E-mail:**

**Monthly Meeting:**

**Sponsoring Committee or Organization (if applicable):**

**Preferred days(s) to present: Thr. \_\_\_\_ Fri. \_\_\_\_ Sat. \_\_\_\_ (Please use 1, 2, 3)**

**Do you wish to limit the number of participants? \_\_\_\_ If so, how many? \_\_\_\_**

**Do you wish to have Young Friends \_\_\_\_?**

**Please complete and return this form to: Wren Beckett, [uberwren@gmail.com](mailto:uberwren@gmail.com), AND Margaret Stambaugh, [mstambaugh@netstorm.net](mailto:mstambaugh@netstorm.net)**

**DEADLINE IS FEBRUARY 21, 2008**