

Faith and Practice Revision Committee

Meeting Visit Report

Your name: Martha Gay
Meeting visited: Little Britain
Date visited: 2/17/2013
Traveling companion: Frances Schutz (Charlottesville)

Number attending: 10 – 12 (There was some coming and going. No signup sheet)

Jot down below what you heard:

Little Britain has several times stressed that their organization is different and they feel that difference should be in the F&P. I suggested:

One Monthly Meeting in Baltimore Yearly Meeting follows the British practice of having more than one worshiping congregation in the Monthly Meeting. These worshiping congregations are also called Preparative Meetings, but they are not in the process of becoming independent Monthly Meetings. Rather, they prepare business for the Monthly meeting.

I'm not sure exactly where this should go. A second meaning for Preparative Meeting in the glossary would also be appropriate.

A Query that is missed: "Are love and unity maintained among you?" If this is actually absent, as opposed to be hidden somewhere, I'd like to see it restored. It is among the oldest of queries and, given our concern with "healing the Meeting", etc. still quite relevant.

In several places the word "priest" (or priesthood, etc.) is used and Friends were not comfortable with this, unless in a quote (they did not expect us to edit quotes).

A question arose regarding the recording of ministers. Friends understand that the Yearly Meeting no longer records ministers. Friends thought that the 1988 F&P allows individual Monthly Meetings to record ministers and wonders if this omission was deliberate.

Friends expressed the feeling that we may be slighting the role of children in our Meetings. We want to encourage children to grow in their roles and participation in Meeting as they mature. It is the individual's maturity, rather than chronological age, that should be the determining factor. We need to make sure that it is understood that there is no age requirement for membership. The use of the term "minor child" struck Friends as legalistic. I recalled the story about a Meeting being maintained by the children when all the adults were in prison.

It was a useful meeting.