

Patuxent Monthly Meeting (Calvert County, MD)

November 11, 2012

From the Committee: Jim Rose

Recorder: Susan Hills Rose

We heard that the Meeting has met several times over the last few years to consider various sections of Faith and Practice.

General

A Friend said he was impressed with the depth of explanation offered. He appreciated the information on the historical basis of Quakerism, which he said was missing in the past. Other friends appreciated the glossary and references. A Friend who had had to make a deposition found the section on integrity a helpful reminder. One said of the book, "it just glows."

Voices, Advices, and Queries

Friends told us they were not deterred by the number of queries. One option is to pick a section at random or to feel free to select or combine sections as needed. Another idea is to take them in order, which would allow Friends to complete all of them on a 3-year cycle.

A Friend observed that a query about education could accompany every section.

Clearness and Support

A Friend said the specific advice on practices for clearness committees was very helpful.

A Friend said the meeting had experienced a variety of such meetings and found it helpful for people who had leadings or needs to read Faith and Practice. The book will help the meeting see how to proceed.

BYM Search Function

A Friend appreciated having a searchable copy on the BYM web page.

Memorial Service

Friends missed the section on planning and conducting memorial services. The checklist did not seem sufficient to them. They wanted a section more like the one on meetings for marriage.

Editing

A visitor from Bethesda who runs an editorial business had read the 2011 version but had not seen the 2012 version. She was deeply troubled by the editorial inconsistencies that existed in the 2011 version and thought the committee should spend about \$6000 to have it edited, ideally by a non-Friend, before it comes up for approval. Jim explained it had been edited. Other Friends said they had also been

troubled by the editorial problems in the previous version but found this one much better. Some had found minor problems, however, which they reported to us. (See the end of these minutes.) A final proofreading would still be a good idea. The Bethesda woman suggested Katrina Mason, who is now in Florida.

A Friend suggested the possibility of having an editorial committee that keeps the document up to date, keeps up with changes in addresses, fixed small formatting glitches, and collects ideas for the next revision.

The Quaker Way

We heard that this section was “beautifully written but narrowly applied” in that it only applies to the worshipping community and not to the rest of life. The Friend spoke of letting our lives speak in all aspects of our experiences. This section should end by expanding into the community beyond the meeting.

Minutes

A Friend found the inclusion of numerous minutes on Meetings being set up/laid down unnecessary and questioned whether they were the most significant minutes. “It’s a big book already, so why is this here? Can’t we put it in the archives on the BYM website instead?”

Spiritual State of the Meeting

A Friend enjoyed reading about the questions that BYM asks and why.

Committees

A Friend explained that there are 20 people in the meeting but each is on 2 or 3 different committees. They like the “cross-germination/hybridization” this causes. They read “Fostering Community” and found those were the things they were doing in their Meeting.

We heard that Friends liked the presentation of committees according to function. They found it easy to relate to. Some functions are performed by committees and some are addressed by the whole meeting.

Business Meeting

The Clerk takes the view that “we are all clerks” and it is each person’s responsibility to keep the meeting “humor-filled” with true “spiritual listening.” Their business meeting is a wonderful hour, and often there is more attendance at this meeting than at meeting for worship. There is laughter and joy. They especially love giving away money.

Corrections (mostly from the Clerk):

- p. 145, first sentence makes it sound as if the recorder is part of the decision-making.
- p. 164 – Care in developing...has an unnecessary comma

- p. 165 – check font, 7th bullet
- p. 71 – “use” “even” not italicized – should it be?
- On numerous pages the header at the top of the page is the wrong one for the section (e.g., 73, 63, 59, 51, 81, 239)
- Check the spelling of Carolyn Stephen/Stephens/Stevens on pages 76, 92, and 93 and perhaps elsewhere.
- Table of Contents needs a line for p. 146

Suggested rewrites:

p. 145

As part of the process of making and implementing decisions in the Religious Society of Friends, it is important to record the decisions in the minutes of the Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business.

p. 23

The expression of the Life of the Spirit is seen not only in the meeting community, but in the daily lives of the members of the community.