

Faith and Practice Listening Session at Gettysburg Monthly Meeting

November 4, 2012

Present: 12 Friends/friends

Visiting Team: Maria Bradley, BYM

Mochiko Y. De Silva, F & P Revision Committee Member

Four queries from Betsy Meyer's article on Faith and Practice which appeared in the Fall publication of Interchange provided the framework for the listening session in a worshipful sharing.

- There is clarity in the way the SPICE are laid out. Voices cross time period, and there is a value in this.
- F & P is particularly helpful to those new to Quakerism especially the format for queries.
- The fact that original sources for the "voices" are missing is a concern.
- It might have enriched it more to have "voices" quoted from literature especially dealing with the subject of war.
- F & P does not provide sufficient information for the individual monthly meetings since each monthly meeting have different sets of situations.
- Linkage to both historical and geographical can be expanded. An example is BYM's linkage to FGC. BYM needs to be in touch with other outside Quaker organizations and institutions. Have a section on history with wider perspective, i.e. national and international.
- More spiritual guidance is needed on birth and death as well as disability and aging.
- There needs to be consistency in the way the way memorial meetings are conducted among the meetings in BYM.
- It would be nice to see more different "voices" on the centering process. How to settle inside ourselves would be helpful.
- Testimonies are evolving. Different voices cross time.
- F & P is basically spiritual support. It is the wisdom of the past as well.
- Clearness Committee in a small monthly meeting involves the whole meeting community. Gettysburg is a small monthly meeting and it acts as one committee.
- Gettysburg Friends/friends unanimously liked the cover of the draft F & P. it is joyful.