

PROPOSED INTERIM MEETING MINUTE I2021-XX.

The Baltimore Yearly Meeting Trustees continue their attempts to secure the titles to the properties that the Yearly Meeting has either purchased or accepted into its care over the last 350 years. While clarifying the title to the Bellefonte [Orthodox] Friends Burial Ground ("FBG") in Centre County, Pennsylvania, descendants of those Friends interred in the separate Bald Eagle [Hicksite] FBG in Centre County raised questions about the state of disrepair of that FBG and asked if BYM intended to help in its clean-up and maintenance. The Trustees' investigation disclosed that Bald Eagle, later "Unionville", Preparative Meeting of Centre Monthly Meeting had worship established in 1803, was granted Preparative-Meeting status in 1826, was renamed in 1906, and was discontinued in 1936. The Bald Eagle FBG is now commonly referred to as the "Fisher" or "Alexander" Cemetery.

Bald Eagle/Unionville P.M.'s parent Centre Monthly Meeting (Hicksite) continued to meet in Halfmoon Township, Centre County for a few years, and then in 1945 and 1946 it transferred to other parties the title to its Halfmoon Township meetinghouse and FBG. Centre Monthly Meeting (Hicksite) was laid down by Centre Quarterly Meeting in 1975 with the notation that it had disposed of its remaining properties. Trustees believe that Centre Q.M. did not then know about the Bald Eagle FBG, but the 1975 minutes of Centre Q.M. are not in the folder held by the Centre Q.M. Clerk.

Under the BYM Stony Run book of discipline in effect at the 1968 Consolidation, property of a discontinued meeting passed to its superior meeting, in this case Centre Q.M., and that body was authorized to transfer title after the closing in the event any discontinued meeting failed to take the necessary steps before closing. Under the 1988 *Faith and Practice* of BYM (Consolidated) as now in effect, the property of any discontinued meeting is transferred to the Yearly Meeting. It appears that Centre Q.M. has not met for ten years or more, and the Interim Meeting directs the Trustees to arrange to record the transfer to the Yearly Meeting of title to the Bald Eagle Friends Burial Ground.