

Listening Session
At
Williamsburg Monthly Meeting

Date: March 14, 2012

Facilitator: Frances Schutz

Recorder: Mochiko De Silva

Attending: 14

- A Friend stated that the F & P adequately articulated our Quaker beliefs and testimonies, in order both to inform those new to Friends and to inspire and challenge those with long experience of Friends. Williamsburg Mtg has copies available to be given to newcomers, As an example, one couple, first time attenders, were given a copy. They returned the following week. They had read just about the whole book in one week.

-Williamsburg Mtg has studied small sections at numerous 2nd hour discussions They all felt that it has been inspiring, challenging and rich experiences.

-The Mtg studied "Life of the Spirit" a paragraph at a time also at 2nd Hour. Found it wonderfully rich. Appreciated the expansion of queries and voices.

-A Friend stated that reading F & P helped her to continue to come back to the Mtg. Learned much about Quakerism. She likes the smallness of the 1988 version, but the 2012 version is richer.

-A Friend stated that she is happy that Young Friends want to be more visible in the proposed F & P. All parts of BYM need to be included in this document.

-The Spiritual Formation Program needs to be **indexed**. It is a very important part of Baltimore Yearly Meeting.

-Camping Program is also an important part of this Yearly Meeting, and need to make it more visible by adding it to the **index**. This Friend was happy to hear that Young Friends will be more visible.

-Fewer queries are preferred.

-Education Query is different from the 1988 version. The 2012 query appears to be concerned more with lifelong learning rather than with societal institutions. Friends have always found themselves in tension between Friends schools versus public schools. This conflict needs to be brought into the document.

-A Friend sees continuing revelation in the way that F & P is evolving and unfolding over the years and into the future.

-A Friend shared a thought that structure and process such as one finds in Faith and Practice leads to tremendous freedom of spirit, as in writing poems.

-Glossary is good.

-How does Manuel of Procedure relate to Faith and Practice?

- “Embraced Friend” and “ Released Friend” need to be **indexed**.