

Faith and Practice Revision Committee

Meeting Visit Report

Your name: Sheila Bach

Meeting visited: Blacksburg

Date visited: 1/20/2013

Traveling companion: Katherine Smith

Number attending: 11 – no list
(attach signup sheet)

Jot down below what you heard:

In the past our queries could be answered with a definite yes or no. Now it is different and more involved. Is this deliberate? Maybe the former way was more of a challenge.

Two concerns shared by professionals (counseling and sociology) were the lack of clarity between “we” used corporately and “you” which could be understood either as corporate (the whole meeting) or “you” instead of “thee.” There are times when there must be a “we” and others when the query itself seems to require it to be “I”.

Also voiced was a concern that 2012 version is explicitly moving RSF away from more Christ-centered faith to a universalist one.

The question was asked if there were any queries or guidance for couples wanting to be married.

Blacksburg Friends had discussed only the testimonies at the time of the visit. Most didn't have print copies of the 2012 version and hadn't read it on-line either. One opined that “the Yearly Meeting was far removed from us.” A very localized question was about uranium mining in Virginia – currently an environmental issue up front now. While BYM speak for all of us in matters of faith, and our way of practicing it, BYM does not and cannot speak for all of us in political matters, which are not federal because there are 5 political units within BYM.