Religious Education Committee Annual Report

Members: Anita Adler-Stephens (Alexandira), Robin Albertson-Wren (Charlottesville), Ann Delorey (Langley Hill), Meghan Goldman (Goose Creek), Erik Hanson, clerk (Sandy Spring), Nancy Moore (Stony Run),

The Religious Education (RE) Committee of Baltimore Yearly Meeting (BYM) has met monthly this year (August 2024-July 2025) via Zoom.

This year we sought to connect Junior Yearly Meeting (JYM) the K-8 program at BYM Annual Sessions more formally to our committee as we have the structure, experience and contacts to bring about the JYM program. But questions remain regarding JYFs (Junior Young Friends) whose conferences are under the care of the Youth Programs Committee during the year, but fall under the care of JYM/RE/Program Committee at Annual Sessions. We were able to retain Ana Phillips–the JYF coordinator during the year–as the JYF coordinator at the 2024 Annual Sessions We also hired paid child care providers as we didn’t have enough volunteers to provide child care during adult activities during Annual Sessions.

At the 2024 Annual Sessions we also offered two workshops: Becoming Intentionally Intergenerational led by Meghan Goldman and Teaching Faith & Play led by Nancy Moore.

In the Fall of 2024 we developed a list of RE contacts at BYM local meetings with the help of Lucy Azenga and the yearly meeting office. We sent a survey to these contacts seeking topics that local meeting RE programs might be interested in discussing. Based on these survey responses, we developed four online RE “meet-ups”:

Celebrating Neurodiversity led by Mary Mendez-Bonnell

“Learn about the 1st Day School Curriculum, Faith & Play led by Melinda Wenner Bradley

 Functioning and Connecting in a Virtual World led by Meghan Goldman

Junior Yearly Meeting Information Session led by Erik Hanson

We also helped offer a Faith \* Play training in conjunction with Sandy Spring Monthly Meeting.

And we provided a representative to the Sue Thomas Turner Educational Fund and the Youth Safety Policy Committee.

In the following year, we hope to better discern:

–How might we work with Program Committee, Youth Programs Committee, and the Yearly Meeting office to best offer a JYM program?

–What topics might local meetings be interested in discussing?