**BYM Friends Supporting Friends in Conflict Working Group**

**Under the BYM Ministry and Pastoral Care Committee**

**Annual Report 2024-25**

The mission of the Friends Supporting Friends Working Group is to provide helpful services to Meetings, individuals, and entities within Baltimore Yearly Meeting who are experiencing communication problems, disagreements, and conflicts. The Friends Supporting Friends Working Group continues to meet regularly and to reach out to Meetings in BYM to let them know of our availability.

The Working Group has provided assistance to several Meetings and individuals within BYM this year and we continue to do so. We gave a workshop at the 2024 annual session and have provided workshops for committees and Meetings. Our group will be giving the pre-annual session retreat in 2025. At the last annual session, we found that having opportunities for people to simply come and talk to us was really helpful for them in determining next steps.

We have found that going to Meetings and talking about conflict resolution and about our work can be helpful for Friends to understand what we do. We will continue this kind of connection.

We will be giving a workshop in early May at Sandy Spring which is open to anyone in the Yearly Meeting who would like to be involved.

We have learned that some people feel constrained by considering the term, conflict, and we are trying out other terms which may be more acceptable to people

Members of the Friends Supporting Friends Group:

Ramona Buck and Bob Rhudy, Co-Clerks; Martha Baer, Joan Liversidge, and Rich Thayer