

# Friendly Agreements for Annual Session

---

*Note: All participants in Annual Session sign and agree to abide by BYM's Annual Session Expectations as part of registration.*

At Baltimore Yearly Meeting, we are a community of Friends living in the discipline of the Spirit. Attenders of all ages are asked to observe conduct appropriate to Friends' principles and to take care that all of their personal behavior is bound by a respect for all, including those of the host community.

As a Religious Society, we profess a belief that God endows each human being with a measure of the Divine Spirit. (Faith and Practice, 1988) We will not permit violent physical, verbal, or other behavior that we find, through corporate discernment, violates that Divine Spirit. Those in our midst whose behavior disrupts program activities and/or threatens the physical and emotional safety and integrity of another will be asked to leave.

Parents and sponsors are expected to be actively responsible for their children at all times. Attenders are asked to help make a safe and supportive community for all children. The BYM Youth Safety Policy will be in effect, and all Friends are asked to be familiar with it. The policy can be found in the BYM Yearbook online or by stopping by the Annual Session Registration Desk.

If unable to function within the guidelines of the community, any attender may be asked to leave. Alcohol, illegal drugs, and tobacco products (including vaping) are not permitted at Annual Session.

If you have any concerns about this policy or need to report harmful behavior, please contact the General Secretary at [SarahG@bym-rsf.org](mailto:SarahG@bym-rsf.org).

## **Refund Policy**

If you cannot attend Annual Session and want a refund, your request must be received by July 15. Your registration fees, minus a \$25 service charge, will be refunded as soon as possible after Annual Session.

In the event in-person Annual Session must be canceled due to Covid conditions, the refund policy will be communicated to all participants. It is our intent that all participants will have their fees fully refunded in the event of such cancelation. However, this will depend on the flexibility of Hood College in delaying their contract with BYM.

# Covid Policy & Procedures

---

*BYM Annual Session Covid Policies are subject to change based on local, state, and national conditions. We hope conditions will improve by August, which may allow us to relax some policies. Any changes to the policy will be shared with registered participants via email.*

1. Friends are kindly asked to take a rapid Covid test before checking in at Annual Session.
2. Masking protocols will prioritize safety over comfort. Friends who attend will need to be comfortable wearing masks in certain situations. No Friend will be asked to *not* wear a mask if they are not comfortable doing so. Masking protocols are as follows:
  - a. Masks will be worn for all indoor sessions with more than 20 Friends in attendance including all plenaries, Meetings for Worship, and business sessions. However, a small number of Friends will be unmasked during these events such as the Clerks, plenary speaker, etc. Friends will also be asked to briefly remove their mask when delivering a message.
  - b. For smaller indoor gatherings, Friends should expect to wear a mask. However, the group may unanimously choose to be unmasked.
  - c. Masks will not be required at outdoor events and gatherings.
  - d. Masks will not be worn during meals. There is some outdoor seating available on the patio of the Hood College dining hall. In addition, Friends should be aware that Hood College staff and other on-campus guests will be following local masking regulations, which may include not wearing masks at the time of Annual Session. [Hood College's Covid-19 policies can be found here.](#)
3. BYM will have a limited number of rapid Covid tests on-hand at Annual Session but cannot guarantee their availability for all. Friends are encouraged to bring a rapid test with them in the event they begin to feel unwell or if there is a need to test due to reported exposure.
4. In the event a Friend feels unwell, we ask them to test, either with a self-administered rapid test or through local medical care. BYM will maintain a list of urgent care providers offering PCR tests. Please call or text the General Secretary immediately at 301-658-3379 if you have a positive result. Every effort will be made to keep your information private while also protecting the community.
5. Annual Session and its participants will abide by any public health recommendations made by the Frederick County Department of Public Health that exceed the BYM Annual Session Covid Policy detailed above - up to and including cancellation of in-person Annual Session activities.

The Annual Session Covid Policies are subject to revision by the BYM Program Committee and General Secretary. Any revisions will be shared with all registered participants in advance. Young Friends and Junior Yearly Meeting may opt for their own Covid policies, which will be communicated to all participants and their parents.

Your participation, and the participation of any minor children under your care, is voluntary. While the precautions above will be followed and enforced, BYM cannot guarantee that Friends will not be exposed to the SARs Covid-19 virus or other illnesses.