

From the Executive Committee minutes of July 8, 2013

Other Concerns:

A letter was passed out titled: 'Response to Clerk's Letter of June 24, 2013.' The entire letter is included with these minutes. The letter was from David Goff, Clerk of Friendsville Quarterly Meeting. Yearly Meeting Clerk Patricia Thomas had sent out a letter on 24 June 2013, concerning the terms 'working document.' The Yearly Meeting office received many responses to the Clerk's letter. The Clerk's letter referred to a 1997 minute of not approving of "same-gender marriages" and accepting it as a 'working document.' The Clerk was concerned about the meaning of a 'working document.' Many of the responses received by the YM office were about not dealing with the same-gender union issue at this time. The response letter from Friendsville Quarterly Meeting suggested to deal with the 'working document' issue only and not connect it to any issue. The Executive Secretary thanked the Friendsville Quarterly Meeting for bringing forward this proposal on how to handle the issue.

Fred Hoskins, Assistant Presiding Clerk, suggested that the Clerk withdraw the proposal she sent out in the 24 June 2013 letter and consider the proposal from Friendsville Quarterly Meeting in the response letter about dealing with the "working document" issue only.

Jim Ellis said that the recent Clerk's letter is too close to Yearly Meeting to consider and suggested that the proposal from Friendsville Quarterly Meeting not be brought up at Yearly Meeting but be on the Executive Committee's agenda for consideration after Yearly Meeting. Friendsville Quarterly Meeting will be given credit at Yearly Meeting for the proposed recommendation. He continued to say that this in not negating the importance of the same-gender union issue but it is in the best interest of the Yearly Meeting to not deal with this issue at this time.

Assistant Clerk Fred Hoskins suggested that Clerk Patricia Thomas send out a letter to all Monthly Meetings withdrawing the letter of 24 June 2013 from discussion at the 2013 Yearly Meeting. The Executive Committee **APPROVED** this suggestion from the Assistant Clerk.

Clerk Patricia Thomas submitted the following:

- At the request of the Executive Committee of Friendsville Quarterly Meeting, as expressed in their document of July 7, 2013, and presented to the Executive Committee of Wilmington Yearly Meeting on Monday, July 8, 2013, the following minute was APPROVED: The Presiding Clerk of Wilmington Yearly Meeting, Patricia Thomas is asked

to withdraw any discussion at the Annual Sessions in August 2013, of seeking clarity about the intent of Fiends when the 1997 Minute on Same-Gender Marriages was approved as a 'working document.' Our Yearly Meeting Presiding Clerk accepts the above minute and will immediately send out a letter rescinding the decision to hold a discussion about 'working document' at this time.

The Assistant Clerk then suggested that the recommended plan for clarifying the purpose and meaning of a 'working document' from Friendsville Quarterly Meeting be put on the agenda of the Executive Committee's first meeting following the 2013 Yearly Meeting session. This was a **APPROVED** by the Executive Committee.

Executive Secretary Doug Haag asked the group for prayers to help him through the difficult times that he is experiencing.

Scott Latimer closed the meeting with a prayer.

Rick Kendall
Recording Clerk