

## Report to September BFM Business Meeting on BYM Annual Session Aug. 2-7

1. There were few action items at this year's Annual Session:
  - A. The Vision Statement was accepted with minor changes
  - B. A new apportionment method was considered and referred to monthly meetings for "seasoning"
  - C. The FY 2012 budget was approved but with severe cuts in contribution to umbrella organization (FUM, FGC, FWCC) and other Quaker groups
  - D. The ad hoc committee on Gender and Sexual Diversity Concerns was laid down
  
2. Several significant reports were accepted
  - A. **Compilation of monthly meeting minutes and statements on same-sex marriage** prepared by the ad hoc committee on Gender and Sexual Diversity Concerns was received for distribution to monthly meetings. Copy in BFM library.
  - B. **2011 draft of the BYM revised Faith and Practice** was received for distribution to Monthly Meetings. **One copy will be available in the BFM Library.**
  - C. **Shiloh Pond contributions:** Development Committee reported most of the projected \$90,000 cost for this swimming pond for Shiloh Camp was received either before and during the Annual Session to allow construction to begin this fall (Including \$1,260 final bid in a silent auction for a beautiful quilt with a camping theme).
  - D. **The Intervisitation Committee** members continue to visit other YMs in FUM and visitors for several other YMs were present at the Annual Session including from Kenya, North Carolina YM, Western, and Great Plains YM. Funding to support intervisitation was severely cut in the FY2012 budget and the committee is considering how and in what form to continue this program.

**Vision Statement:** The modifications in the final version address the concerns raised by BFM members and others who said that the statement was too inward looking and needed language that Friends actively address the concerns of the world. Additional language made explicit that BYM Friends are welcoming of others.

**New Apportionment Method** would call for a uniform percentage increase for all monthly meetings based on the prior years apportionment and the percent increase in the BYM proposed budget with adjustments allowed both for circumstances inhibiting certain meetings from paying the indicated amount and for others to pay more if they are able. This methodology is used by other YMs and is workable. The current formula includes consideration of meetings' assets and annual contributions and is considered by many to be too confusing.

The **approved 2012 BYM budget** projects revenues and expenses of \$1,591,578 but with no contingency funds. The largest part of the budget continues to be the Camping Program with projected revenues in 2012 of \$887,687 and expenses of \$929,260 (for a expected deficit of \$41,473). Camp attendance fees more than cover the program costs but property maintenance and upkeep and associated staff costs are not covered by revenues. This summer the program had a total of 550 campers at three residential camps and two on-the-road "camps" for older teens. The Youth Program projected costs of \$61,277 exceed anticipated revenues by \$40,000. This year the Junior Young Friends program (for middle school youth) had four weekend "conferences" with about 30 participants at each and the Young Friends (for high schoolers) had five conferences averaging 100 participants each time.

To balance the budget, contributions to the three umbrella organizations (FGC, FUM, and FWCC) were cut from \$44,700 in the current budget to \$12,000 next year. Contributions to 21 other Quaker organizations such as AFSC, FCNL, Wm Penn House, were all cut from a total of \$47,000 to \$12,925. Each now will get only a symbolic \$25 contribution from BYM.

**At one point it was** thought that a one-day, unpaid staff furlough would be needed to help balance the budget but during Annual Session, S&F found savings in the budget that allowed this not to be needed.

**Inter- and Intravisitation** were acknowledged as important components for bringing Friends together. The success of the BYM program in building relationship with other YMs within FUM was recognized by the fact that BYM program members were asked by the planners of the FUM Triennial held in July in Ohio to give a workshop on the BYM program. At the workshop Friends from other YMs said they wanted to attend a "how to" workshop put on by BYM. The committee is considering how to offer this given that its budget has been cut in the FY 2012 from \$9,200 to \$2,000.

**The Committee of "Visiting Ministers"** reported receiving very positive feedback from monthly meetings on the visits made to monthly meetings over the last 18 months. The committee's final report which accompanied the Vision Statement recommended that such intra-visitation continue. Clerk Betsy Meyer agreed to take responsibility for developing a plan for this and others have agreed to work with her.

**Copies of Certificates for Marriage** and ceremonies of commitment of same-sex couples conducted under the care of monthly meetings are to be collected and held by the BYM office on the recommendation of the ad hoc committee on Gender and Sexual Diversity Concerns.

**Indiana Yearly Meeting** will hold a "called" Yearly Meeting in the fall to address the issue of whether they should split over welcoming LGBT Friends.

Carey Memorial Lecture was given by Phil Gulley (*If the Church were Christian, If Grace is True*) of Western Yearly Meeting. He challenged us to not just "tolerate" everyone, but to obey Christ's injunction to "love" everyone, even those with whom we disagree.

### **Actions Needed by Bethesda Friends Meeting:**

- 1. Faith and Practice Revision Committee** wants feedback on its 2011 draft F&P. It has set a deadline of February 2012 for monthly meetings and individuals to submit comments. It will consider all comments received and present a final revised version of the new F&P for distribution next year with final approval at the Annual Session in 2013. **How should BFM handle a review of the 2011 draft and get comments back to the BYM revision committee by February 2012?**
- 2. Monthly Meeting input on proposed new Apportionment Method** is being requested by the BYM Stewardship and Finance Committee. BFM will be told of the deadline for submitting its views on this change.
- 3. A copy of the marriage certificate** from the wedding of Carolyn Byerly and Kay McGraw needs to be forwarded to the BYM office.