

## **Minute on Marriages Under the Care of Bethesda Friends Meeting\***

Approved December 6, 2015

Bethesda Friends Meeting is committed to giving its loving support to all couples who seek clearness and Divine guidance as they consider the solemn act of entering into marriage, a life-long commitment to each other in the presence of God and the Meeting. Because we believe each and every person is fundamentally a spiritual being, we understand marriage to be a spiritual union, commitment, and bond. A couple of any two persons who have formed such a spiritual relationship may request marriage under the care of our Meeting; consistent with the process of marriage in the manner of Friends, their marriage will be recognized and supported by the Meeting.

Our support is in part manifested by the appointment of a Committee for Clearness to meet with the couple in a spirit of loving concern to consider honestly and frankly the duties and responsibilities they propose to assume. This support continues as their commitment is solemnized in the Meeting for Worship. Thereafter, as couples encounter opportunities for growth and challenges in their spiritual journeys, we offer our continued support and hope that they will draw on the wisdom and strength of the Meeting, at the same time that the Meeting is enriched by their presence.

Note: This Minute is an update of the "Minute on Marriages and Ceremonies of Commitment Under the Care of Bethesda Friends Meeting" Approved December 1, 1996