

Communicator

Reconfiguration Update

1. The Reconfiguration Task Force met from 10-3:15 on Saturday, January 21; Doug Shoemaker was unable to attend due to illness.
2. The group considered a number of concerns that have been raised by Friends about the reconfiguration process. It is the aim of the task force to work in as open and trustworthy a manner as possible, with the hope that Friends will gain in confidence as the process unfolds.
3. Subcommittees had been charged with developing draft descriptions of two yearly meetings that corresponded to the two choices articulated in the October 1 Representative Council reconfiguration decision. These initial drafts were reviewed, with questions and comments offered for clarification; the subcommittees will work through the end of January to develop them further.
4. In early February the group aims to send out the draft descriptions for feedback from interested individuals and Meetings, with responses requested by March 5. At a day-long meeting on March 10 the task force will work with the input it receives.
5. By the end of March, the group plans to provide each monthly meeting with a clear description of (a) the two proposed yearly meetings and (b) a process and time-line for their discernment. Monthly meetings will be asked to use the descriptions in determining the yearly meeting with which they will affiliate, and to report on their progress by September 1.
6. The group decided to recommend that both resulting yearly meetings be understood as successors to Indiana Yearly Meeting, with each being free to use the name with a modifier – i.e., Indiana Yearly Meeting (Tea) and Indiana Yearly Meeting (Coffee).
7. After discussing concerns raised about the general superintendent's role in the reconfiguration process, the group affirmed his continued presence on the task force for the following reasons: there are objections to some other members also, Doug's service was approved by the November 12 meeting of the Representative Council, boards can also identify potential conflicts of interest and work with them openly, Doug will step out of discussions

pertaining to his employment, and that, as Quakers, the task force seeks to be led by the Holy Spirit which transcends such conflicts.

8. The group reviewed a draft list of issues that need to be addressed in the reconfiguration process and began adding to it.
9. Plans are being made to include time during the 2012 yearly meeting sessions for both an overview of the reconfiguration process and presentations/discussions on the proposed two yearly meetings.
10. The task force has begun consultation with legal counsel, and the IYM treasurer and investment board, regarding legal and financial issues raised by reconfiguration. A February 25 meeting will focus on this.

Spiceland Friends will show the movie, "Courageous: Honor Begins at Home," at 6 pm on Sunday, February 26. Everyone welcome! Refreshments provided. On February 29 they will begin two 6-week Bible studies: "Courageous: Honor Begins at Home" for men and "Made to Crave: Satisfying Your Deepest Desires with God - Not Food" for women. A pitch-in meal starts at 6 pm (meat, drinks provided each week) and the study begins at 6:45 pm. Books are available for purchase at the meeting house. On January 25, Spiceland Friends held a Family Night, offering three classes: beginning guitar, Bible study, and an art project with a Biblical theme. Their next Family Night will be February 22 and features four classes: a Bible study; a class on the Meeting's "Library, Sanctuary, & its History"; just for fun - "Pounce! game"; and a service project assembling CARE packages for their college students. There is also a special class just for kids - "The Zoo"!

Vermillion Friends and the "Ladies of Love" invites you to their morning bible study. Vicki Burke, wife of pastor Fred Burke, leads the study every Tuesday morning at 9:30, at 2961 E 800 N, Alexandria, IN or on the corner of 800 N and 300 E.

Wabash Friends marriage retreat is February 10-12. Contact Scott Makin for more information or to register at scott@wabashfriends.org.

Together we do much! The 2011 books are now closed and they show that over \$176,000 was contributed by IYM churches toward our missions goals. Many projects and missionaries impacting lives at home and around the globe depend upon our support. Thanks for your faithful giving!

We are also thankful that nearly 94% of our assessment budget was raised in 2011. Forty-six meetings out of 64 IYM meetings paid 100% of their 2011 commitment with eight others forwarding over 80% of theirs.

Is your meeting interested in learning more about Indiana Yearly Meeting's Ministerial Excellence Initiative? Ministerial Advocate Matt Hisrich welcomes the opportunity to join your meeting for a discussion about the MEI and answer any questions you may have. For more information please contact Matt at matt@iym.org or 765-319-3244.

A clergy tax seminar will be held, Monday, February 20, Bethany Theological Seminary in Richmond and will host Rev. Deb Oskin. The sessions will take place from 10-12 noon and from 1-4 pm. The first session will cover the theory of clergy taxes and in the afternoon participants will work through a sample clergy tax return. The cost is only \$15 to join the webcast. Registration is limited, so please visit <http://www.bethanyseminary.edu/webcasts/clergytax2012> or contact Matt Hisrich at 765-319-3244 to learn more and sign up.

Winter Sneak: The Classic at Quaker Haven
February 3-5
7:30 pm Friday to noon Sunday
Youth in grades 7-12
Speakers: Adam & Sara Van Dam
Cost: \$100

Good Morning!

This issue of The Communicator is coming to your mailbox about a week later than intended due to my last week being interrupted with a kidney stone episode. I've heard the pain of a kidney stone compared to that of childbirth. I've always confidently asserted that it is worse and nothing in recent days has changed my mind. Maybe you can understand why "pain" has been on my mind lately.

Some of the worst pain I've experienced in my life, though, hasn't been physical. In Psalm 55 pain oozes from David's pen as he writes of a close friend, someone with whom he once enjoyed sweet fellowship, who had turned against him. I'm sure that many of you can relate and would gladly trade a painful betrayal or loss of a valued relationship

for physical pain in a heartbeat. It probably could not hurt any worse.

I'm not one to invite or relish pain but in some of my deepest pain I've experienced some of my deepest levels of God's guidance, correction, and comfort. I've gotten to the place where I can actually thank God for allowing some hurtful circumstances to come my way (and I'm working on getting to that place regarding a few other ones!)

As Indiana Yearly Meeting has chosen to reconfigure, I know that several Friends are experiencing significant pain. Deep hurt can manifest itself in anger and bitterness or in a broken spirit that cries out to God. We seldom get to choose our pain, but we do get to choose how we are going to express our response to it. What's your choice?

-Doug Shoemaker

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Quaker Haven Camp is seeking to fill the position of Food Service Director.
For more information, contact
Brandon Dennis at 574-834-4193 or info@quakerhaven.com

Friends Disaster Service will work on a home destroyed by fire in Parker City, IN, beginning the week of January 30. FDS invites your help or donated supplies. Questions: please call Don Wimmer (765) 661-0064.

The Communicator

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February 1, 2012

IYM Upcoming Calendar

1/31 Iglesia Amigos Task Force, IYM office, 10 am
1/31 Trustees, IYM office, 6:30 pm
2/6 Program Committee Mtg, 10 am, IYM office
2/13 MEI Steering Committee, IYM office, 6:30 pm
2/25 Reconfiguration Task Force, IYM office, 9 am

North Carolina Friends Disaster Service is building new homes in Bertie County, NC (Feb 5-10) caused by last spring and fall's tornados. They will be joined by Western Yearly Meeting FDS. If anyone from IYM is interested in helping, contact Eldon Studer of WYM at 812-879-4235.

Junior High Camp (7th & 8th grades) - **June 10-15**
Beginners Camp (K—2nd grades) - **June 15-17**
Senior High I (9th—12th grades & 2012 grads) - **June 17-22**
Junior Camp (5th & 6th grades) - **June 24-29**
Kids Camp (2nd—4th grades) - **July 15-18**
Senior Camp II (9th—12th grades & 2012 grads) - **July 29—August 3**