

PROPOSED MINUTE
For Consideration at the NFC Congregational Meeting
June 11, 2017

We the members of Newberg Friends Church acknowledge:

- Our beloved church is beginning the process of dividing, with some members wishing to stay in the Northwest Yearly Meeting (NWYM) under the name of Newberg Friends Church, others forming a congregation independent of Northwest Yearly Meeting, and others choosing to attend elsewhere.
- Each group includes people who have been members of Newberg Friends Church for all or most of their lives. Both groups forming new congregations have prayerfully sought God's guidance on the issues that divide us, but have discerned God's will differently.
- None of us wish to leave Newberg Friends Church, but it no longer appears possible to worship, minister, and celebrate together completely in light of the matters of conscience upon which we disagree.

We take note of the Northwest Yearly Meeting's approach to its restructuring marked by a spirit of generosity and mutual grace, as embodied in the following:

- A policy that all churches in the Yearly Meeting, including those who have been released from the Yearly Meeting, will be members of the Yearly Meeting until June 30, 2018;
- Recognition that both those staying in the Yearly Meeting and those leaving are all Christian believers seeking to follow the leading of Christ in their lives;
- A desire, as stated in June 3rd NWYM Transition Team's minutes, to be "respectful, fair and impartial", including its recognition "that if a current church splits during their discernment process as a result of the Administrative Council's decision to restructure, and a viable new church is formed, having incorporated and obtained a 501(c)(3), both should be recognized as historical churches of NWYM."
- A declaration in those minutes that current NWYM churches who choose to be independent will retain their property and debts, and access to the Friends Church Extension Fund, and their staff will still have access to the YM pension plan.

Given that both groups within Newberg Friends Church need to take practical measures to prepare for our restructuring, we:

1. Approve the Interim Budget covering the period from July 1 to September 30, 2017.
2. Direct that a Covenant of Separation embodying the details of our restructuring, effective on or before September 30, 2017, be drafted for our approval by a representative group convened by our clerks covering relationships, finances, and other matters, according to the following principles:
 - A. Care will be taken to enable the two congregations to regard each other with mutual respect and affection, and members of both congregations to continue to enjoy warm and caring personal relationships as we interact in the Newberg community.

- B. All current members of Newberg Friends Church have the right to use its facilities and resources, and the obligation to support the church with prayers, service, and finances as they are able.
- C. All current members of Newberg Friends Church will remain members until they officially relinquish membership.
- D. The clerks and the representative group will not rest until they can propose in the Covenant of Separation an allocation of resources that leaves both congregations with the means to be thriving bodies of Christian believers.
- E. In releasing resources we will be acting in gratitude for the many contributions we all have made to the life of NFC, out of respect for everyone's desire to follow the callings of Jesus as they see them, and in keeping with our desire to act in the spirit of generosity and mutual grace embodied in the Northwest Yearly Meeting's policy toward churches leaving the Yearly Meeting.