

Same-Sex Marriage Wilmington Yearly Meeting Position
as adopted by
Fairview Friends Monthly Meeting
January 15, 2017

Fairview is a diverse Monthly Meeting where a conscientious objector shares a pew alongside a veteran Marine, both seeking guidance from and with the same Spirit. We share a long history of Yearly Meeting civil rights advocacy on a trail blazed by the Harvey emancipation trek to Lincoln and our own Louise Griffiths' tutoring of New Vienna Gist Settlement children. We are many times more different than our rural oneness might suggest.

We are fascinated and honored by the courage it took George Fox to UN-doff his hat to an oppressive bureaucracy. We may not understand or agree with every position taken by every Monthly Meeting throughout our far-flung Wilmington Yearly Meeting, but we support their freedom to be different. We appreciate their patience with us when our independent streak looks a bit too diverse, or restrictive to their liking. This independence is the bedrock upon which a Friends Monthly Meeting is built. The Spirit is within each of us; we don't need baptism, communion, or other external symbols. God speaks to each of us — independently — all we have to do is listen. All of us might not hear the same answer. That is okay, we do not all need to be the same.

Many Friends Monthly Meetings and the American Friends Service Committee are more pacifist than Fairview. Rather than a difference worth fighting about (note the irony), the chasm presents an opportunity for reflection and growth. Our own Bob McCoy's service following World War II planted a good seed about the meaning of alternative service.

Fairview supports the ability of each Monthly Meeting to chart its own course on sensitive and complex issues.

Fairview Monthly Meeting advises that the Yearly Meeting not discipline any Monthly Meeting for their stand on such issues.

Your Friends at Fairview

Mr. Dana G. Dunsith, Monthly Meeting Clerk