

7/19/17

We the members of Newberg Friends Church who have discerned that we can no longer remain in the Northwest Yearly Meeting, submit the following minute:

The NWYM restructuring process resulted in churches determining whether to stay or to leave the Yearly Meeting. Our congregation was evenly divided, and decided to separate. We are calling the side wishing to remain in the Yearly Meeting "NWYM-NFC," and the side wishing to leave "NEFC" (Newberg Emerging Friends Church). Both have historically been NFC, and upon separation are recognized by the NWYM as historic NWYM churches. A group with representatives from both sides was convened to work out a Covenant of Separation (CoS).

At the beginning of the CoS talks, an offer of 50% of the sale price of Friends Center, some restricted and designated funds, and some material assets (e.g. two vans) was offered to NEFC from NWYM-NFC. These represent an estimated 5-10% of current NFC assets net of liabilities. Subsequent attempts to negotiate have not yielded a change in this offer.

As members of NFC, we do not affirm an assumption that ascribes ownership and the right to distribute NFC resources to only one of the two NFC communities. Given our assumption that we should be equal partners at the table, we find the situation to be unjust and the offer to be inequitable. We find ourselves at an impasse, with no peaceful path forward.

As a body, we discerned the call to love one another outweighs the inclination to fight. Above all else, in fidelity to our shared faith, we desire that love mark the conclusion of this difficult process. Knowing both communities have felt the hand of God leading us forward in unexpected ways, we leave the choice of what to share in the hands of NWYM-NFC, releasing all expectations.

We recognize deep wounds in everyone involved. We pray for the grace to forgive, and for healing for all.

(This minute will be copied to NWYM for their records.)