



Miami Monthly Meeting
Religious Society of Friends
Waynesville, Ohio

Since 1803

<http://Miami.Quaker.Org>

Welcome to Miami Monthly Meeting

Miami Monthly Meeting holds Meeting for Worship every Sunday morning at 10:45am in the White Brick Meetinghouse in Waynesville. Adult First Day School (Sunday School) is conducted at 9:30am, and a children's program is available as the need arises. The Meeting's active members continue their involvement on the Friends Home Board of Trustees and they continue to witness to Friends' historical testimonies. The Meeting sponsored a Kent State memorial a number of years ago and recently co-hosted a peace program at the meetinghouse with the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) dedicated to bringing an end to the war in Iraq. A physician member of the meeting traveled to Sudan in 2003 (followed by her daughter in 2010) to bring medical services to one of the most poverty-stricken and violent places in the world.

You are welcomed and encouraged to visit with us on Sunday morning at 10:45am. Average attendance during Meeting for Worship is twenty to twenty-five people intimately gathered to wait in silence, listening for God's voice. You are also welcomed to explore the Meeting's web site: Miami.Quaker.Org

Do I faithfully attend meeting with heart and mind prepared for worship, clear of any predetermination to speak or not to speak, and expecting that worship will be a source of strength and guidance?

Does worship deepen my relationship with God, increase my faithfulness, and refresh and renew my daily life, both inwardly and in my relationship with others?

Have I experienced in worship that direct leading to listen or to speak, and have I been faithful to my own experience?

General Queries
Faith and Practice, Revised 1997
Philadelphia Yearly Meeting
Religious Society of Friends

Quaker Settlements in the Waynesville Area

From the Beginning, Quakers have sought that of God in all people, whether female or male, white or people of color, young or old. Although some early Quakers held slaves, many came to see that this was incompatible with their testimony of equality. This was especially difficult for Friends living in the Southern States. Some began to investigate moving to the Northwest Territory that had been designated as a “Free” territory (non-slave-holding). This included what is now Ohio and other Midwestern States.

Abijah O’Neill, Robert Mills, and David and Jesse Pugh had purchased land between the Little and Great Miami Rivers and prepared to move their families there in 1799. Being members of the Bush River Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends in South Carolina, they requested certificates of removal. Bush River Meeting refused the request, perhaps in an attempt to preserve the community, but the families moved to the new town of Waynesville, Ohio, anyway. In 1803, Zachariah Dix rose to speak during Meeting for Worship at Bush River Meeting and urged Friends to move to the new state of Ohio that was free of the burden of slavery. Responding to this divinely inspired message, Bush River Friends moved as an entire body to the Little Miami River lands. Many families left well-established farms for unexplored tracts of land in the Ohio wilderness. Over two-hundred years later, all that remains of Bush River Meeting is a burial ground and a historic marker, shown here.



The first Quaker settlers held Meeting for Worship in their homes. In 1801, twelve families requested the establishment of a Preparative Meeting under the care of Westland Monthly Meeting in Pennsylvania,



Historic Westland Monthly Meetinghouse

which was affiliated with Baltimore Yearly Meeting. This was a first step in the process of establishing a Monthly Meeting. The Preparative Meeting was recognized and, two years later, Miami Monthly Meeting was established on October 13, 1803, with full authority to carry on business, provide

oversight of marriages, and receive certificates of membership from many Friends who were arriving from South and North Carolina, Pennsylvania, and Virginia. Miami Monthly Meeting was affiliated with Redstone Quarterly Meeting (Pennsylvania) and Baltimore Yearly Meeting.

By 1807, nearly 2000 Friends had moved into southwestern Ohio. Three other Monthly Meetings were “set off,” or authorized, by Miami Monthly Meeting. A request for “quarterly meeting” status was sent to Baltimore Yearly Meeting, to be comprised of Miami, West Branch, Center, and Fairfield Monthly Meetings. This would relieve Ohio representatives from traveling to Pennsylvania to attend Redstone Quarterly Meeting. The request was granted and Miami Quarterly Meeting opened on May 13, 1809.

The Meeting had been gathered into a small log cabin in 1803 and moved into a larger cabin in 1805. The site is located near the current Red Brick Meetinghouse in Waynesville. The original cabin had no stove, as member Charity Lynch felt it would be too worldly to have a heat source. In 1809, a committee of five was appointed to prepare plans to build a new meetinghouse with sufficient space to accommodate the new Miami Quarterly Meeting. Plans were approved in 1811 to build a one-story brick structure on a four-acre lot belonging to Miami Monthly Meeting. Later in the year, it was agreed to change the plans to a two-story meetinghouse to accommodate the rapidly growing Quarterly Meeting. The completed building cost \$1,500 and each Monthly Meeting in Ohio and Indiana paid its share. Miami Monthly Meeting (Waynesville Friends) has used this building continuously since 1811. It

is the oldest place of worship in continuous use west of the Alleghany Mountains.



White Brick Meetinghouse

The new meetinghouse was divided by movable shutters and two entryways, a women's entrance and a men's entrance. During Meetings for Business, women and men met separately to preserve the sense of equality of each gender's decision-making. Then the shutters would be raised and the entire Meeting would attempt to reach unity (or consensus) over each decision that had been made. Neither meeting could take action without the unity of the other. It should be noted that many Friends Meetinghouses from previous centuries have separate entryways, although today separate meeting sessions have not been necessary since women achieved legal equality in America, a movement led primarily by Quaker women.

Miami Monthly Meeting built a schoolhouse across the street from the new White Brick Meetinghouse in 1811. A diverse student body included African-Americans, Native Americans, and white children.



The Old Schoolhouse (1811), now remodeled as a private residence

Religious Society of Friends Splits Red Brick Meetinghouse

Long Island, New York, Friend Elias Hicks, traveled extensively among Friends Meetings during the early decades of the 1800s. He deplored the “worldly influences” of well-to-do city Friends and preached a return to Friends’ original teachings. He questioned the strict authority of the Bible as opposed to guidance from the Light and continuing revelation. His followers were known as Hicksite Friends. Elias Hicks brought his message to the White Brick Meetinghouse. Across America, meetings began to split between “Orthodox” and “Hicksite” mainly during 1827 and 1828. After main painful divisions, separate Orthodox and Hicksite meetings came into being, side by side, both claiming to be the legitimate Monthly Meeting and often challenging one another for the rights of meetinghouses and property. In Waynesville, the separation was said to have been “more in sorrow than in anger.” There were now two Miami Monthly Meetings, two Cincinnati Monthly Meetings, and two Green Plain Monthly Meetings. There were now two Miami Quarterly Meetings and Ohio Yearly Meeting split in two. Many families were divided. Elias Hicks and his followers were staunchly anti-slavery. Hicksites in Waynesville maintained possession of the White Brick Meetinghouse after 1828. Orthodox Friends, being smaller in number, withdrew to the old log cabin. The Orthodox meeting built the Red Brick Meetinghouse across the street from the White Brick in 1836. David Evans supervised construction. The rows of attached seats found in the Red Brick today have been in the Meetinghouse since it was

opened. The two groups in Waynesville were able to exist amicably and in close proximity. The two meetings agreed to split the graveyard.



Red Brick Meetinghouse

By 1920, the Orthodox membership had declined as members joined the Methodist church and other denominations. The Orthodox Meeting was “laid down” or discontinued. The Hicksite Miami Monthly Meeting reacquired the Red Brick property in the 1940s. It had fallen into disrepair and the Meeting remodeled it into two apartments and a social room. In 2005, the social room was again remodeled with a new kitchen, new paint, and other upgrades. The Red Brick Meetinghouse now served as a place of worship during winter months when the White Brick is closed. A number of community organizations use the Red Brick as a space for their organizational meetings. Wilmington Yearly Meeting (Orthodox) still maintains one-half of the graveyard. Various branches of Quaker organizations exist today although the two branches of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting and New York Yearly Meeting reunited in the 1950s. Some monthly meetings maintain dual affiliation as does Community Meeting in Cincinnati.

Slavery

Many Friends moved to the “free state” of Ohio to escape the scourge of slavery. Anti-slavery sentiment was becoming widespread in the northern states. Friends in both branches found ways to carry out their testimony against slavery and provided for the needs of freed slaves and their descendants. Friend Elizabeth Harvey opened a school for African-American children in Harveysburg in 1831. It is maintained today as a

private museum. Hicksite Business Meeting minutes from the 1830s tell of short-term Friends schools for “people of color” at Xenia, Springfield, and in Highland County. The Cincinnati Free Store was founded by Quaker abolitionists including Levi Coffin, who was a well-known conductor on the Underground Railroad in North Carolina, Ohio, and Indiana. Some of his descendants are members of the Meeting today. Only products that never touched the hands of slaves in production were sold at the Free Store. This site stood where Woodward High School is located today in Cincinnati.

Some Friends struggled over the deceit and secrecy involved in the Underground Railroad, but many Quaker families were active in assisting runaway slaves on their way to freedom. Many Quaker Underground Railroad sites were located in Waynesville, Springboro, and Harveysburg. Butterworth Farm, which on the Little Miami River near Mainville, was a resting place for escaping slaves, and it is memorialized today as a prominent Underground Railroad site. Direct descendants of the original Quaker family to settle Butterworth Farm (around 1810), the Stone-Neumann family, still resided on the property and are active members of Miami Monthly Meeting.

Friends Burial Ground

Miami Monthly Meeting purchased land to use as a graveyard in 1804. Burials were made without regard to status or family association, but rather by date of death. Some of the earliest graves are marked with plain rock obtained from a nearby creek while later markers have typically been limestone headstones. A Revolutionary War soldier is buried in the Friends graveyard. When the meetings separated in 1828, the graveyard was also divided. The sugar maple in the middle of the graveyard separates Hicksite from Orthodox. Hicksites began burials in 1832. John Satterthwaite, the builder of many of Waynesville’s early buildings, including the White Brick, is buried on the Hicksite side, and Abijah O’Neill, the first Quaker to arrive in Waynesville, is buried on the Orthodox side. Miami Monthly Meeting currently maintains a list of all burials on the Hicksite section. Research continues today for a list of those on the Orthodox side. For many Quakers today, the practice of cremation is preferred for its simplicity and environmental friendliness. The ashes of several Friends who have died recently have been spread around the Meeting’s historic burial ground.



Friends Burial Ground

Friends Boarding Home

Local Friends, with the support of the Yearly Meeting, established the Friends Boarding Home in 1904. This became a place for elderly Friends and others in the community to spend their final years. It also served as a residence for single women who taught school in the community. In 1972, the Yearly Meeting opened the Quaker Heights Nursing Home to provide for a higher level of medical care for the elderly and disabled. More recently, an assisted living facility and independent living cottages have been added to the Quaker Heights Care Community campus. The Boarding Home continued to serve the community in a number of ways, including a home for mentally challenged adults. In 2000, the Board of Trustees of Friends Home, Inc. (Quaker Heights) leased the Boarding Home to the Waynesville Area Cultural Center. The Center focuses on Quaker heritage and history, and also serves as a center for local arts and entertainment. A number of Miami Monthly Meeting Friends serve on its board. The Miami Monthly Meeting library is maintained at the Center.



Friends Boarding Home

Quaker Beliefs and Practices

Hicksite Meetings became affiliated throughout the United States with Friends General Conference (FGC), which arose in the early 1900s. Miami Monthly Meeting (Hicksite) in Waynesville followed suit. FGC meetings continue the 350 year tradition of silent worship, there being no presiding pastor, priest, or minister. Friends believe that within each human being there is a divine spark or “inner light,” and that every person is a vehicle of God. There is no creed, and no prepared order of worship or sermon. This simple Christian form of worship seeks for direct communication with the divine without an intermediary. The sense of worship may be experienced in the awe that is felt in attentive silence or in the awareness of our profound connectedness to nature and its power. In worship can be found repentance and forgiveness in the acknowledgement of God as the ultimate source of our being and the serenity of accepting God’s will. Each experience of worship is different. There is no right way to prepare for spiritual communion, no set practice to follow when worship grows from expectant waiting in the Spirit. Worship depends far more on a deeply-felt longing for God than upon any particular practice.

“Ask and it will be given you; seek, and you will find; knock and it will be opened to you.” (Matthew 7:7)

During Meeting for Worship, a member of the group may be moved to speak out of the silence, to share a leading from God, or a prayer, or even words of a poem or a hymn. Fellow worshippers are called to listen with openness of minds and hearts. Messages may be meant for a member of the gathered meeting or for all so gathered. Sometimes, the silence is unbroken. After a suitable time, usually not longer than an hour, Meeting is ended by two attenders shaking hands, and others follow.

Visitors and attenders are always welcome at Meeting for Worship on Sunday morning at 10:45 at the White Brick Meetinghouse in Waynesville. No special preparation is necessary and dress is casual.

Friends' Testimonies

From the beginning of the Religious Society of Friends, the respect of that of God in everyone has led Friends to oppose war and capital punishment. Women and men have been considered equal in worship, ministry, and conducting the business affairs of the Meeting. Eighteenth and nineteenth century Friends, such as John Woolman, were early abolitionists. Many Quaker women, including Susan B. Anthony and Lucretia Mott, were in the forefront of the women's movement for the right to vote, family planning, and prison reform. Friends were early and strong advocates for a public education system in America. In a materialistic society, Friends strive to "live simply so that others may simply live." Friends' testimonies have been historically been distinctive and definitive. They are a common set of deeply held, historically rooted attitudes and modes of living in the world. Testimonies bear witness to the truth as Friends in community perceive it, truth known through relationship with God. These include peace, simplicity, community, and equality. Friends conduct business in a spirit of worship and listening. Decisions are reached only through the unity of the meeting by utilizing a model of consensus decision-making with an emphasis on divine guidance. Some modern business practices have patterned themselves based on this Quaker model.

Miami Monthly Meeting
Religious Society of Friends
Box 731
Waynesville, Ohio 45068

Located at 169 South 4th Street
Waynesville, Ohio
At the corner of South 4th and High Streets

First Day School (Sunday School), 9:30am
Meeting for Worship, 10:45am
Every Sunday

For Information, Please Call:
Milton Cook (937) 238-9858
Eula McDermott (937) 293-6603
Lonny Burger (513) 934-0756
Or Visit our web site: Miami.Quaker.Org

Everyone is Welcome

Miami.Quaker.Org

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