

Dear Friends,

Windy Cooler, a beloved long time and active attender of Baltimore Yearly Meeting and Sandy Springs Friends Meeting (MD), has opened to us her leading and ministry on “Family Life.” Her support committee from BYM’s Ministry and Pastoral Care (M&PC) Committee tested her leading to listen to the experiences of others about how we are connecting to our meetings as families including deepening her care for family life issues as it affects Quakers and meetings. We find the leading true and a gift she has been given and one that she cannot ignore.

Windy’s current course work for her Masters of Divinity from Earlham School of Religion (ESR) has provided her spiritual grounding and context for deepening her care for Quaker family life issues. As a recognition for her calling, she received an “Innovation Grant” from ESR in early 2018 to help fund her further research and travels and jumpstart additional fundraising efforts. During these travels she hopes to connect with other Friends, Meetings, and Yearly Meetings across the U.S. through confidential interviews and conversations. Her travels will be a listening ministry focused on the spiritual health of our families and the connectivity and community present in Monthly and Yearly Meetings.

The M&PC Committee unites with Windy’s leading. Windy has a strong sense of purpose and an openness to be prepared for some deep, and perhaps hard, conversations to come. She hopes to share her knowledge through workshops and other events and ultimately be released to write a “Spiritual State of Our Families” report this fall. Windy’s queries for her travels start with:

- Who is your family?
- How is your family connected to your Monthly and Yearly Meetings?

We trust that you will benefit, as we have, from hearing her insights and experiences as she explores the role of family in Meetings and Quaker lives. We commend her to your care and hospitality.

Approved and minuted at our Committee’s Meeting held February 10, 2018.

Amy Schmaljohn and Melanie Grifford, co-Clerks
Ministry and Pastoral Care Committee
Baltimore Yearly Meeting