

**RULES OF DISCIPLINE OF THE
YEARLY MEETING OF FRIENDS,
FOR PENNSYLVANIA, NEW-
JERSEY, DELAWARE, AND THE
EASTERN PARTS OF MARYLAND**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649361533

Rules of discipline of the Yearly Meeting of Friends, for Pennsylvania, New-Jersey, Delaware, and the eastern parts of Maryland by Society of Friends

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

RULES OF DISCIPLINE OF THE YEARLY MEETING OF FRIENDS, FOR PENNSYLVANIA, NEW- JERSEY, DELAWARE, AND THE EASTERN PARTS OF MARYLAND

RULES OF DISCIPLINE

OF THE

YEARLY MEETING OF FRIENDS,

FOR

PENNSYLVANIA, NEW-JERSEY, DELAWARE,

AND THE

EASTERN PARTS OF MARYLAND:

REVISED AND ADOPTED BY THE SAID MEETING.

HELD IN PHILADELPHIA,

BY ADJOURNMENTS FROM THE 21st OF THE FOURTH MONTH, TO THE
26th OF THE SAME, INCLUSIVE, 1834.

PHILADELPHIA:

PRINTED BY JOSEPH RAKESTRAW:

1834.

Entered according to Act of Congress, in the year 1834, by Joseph Rakestraw,
on behalf of the Yearly Meeting of Friends of Philadelphia, &c. in the Clerk's
Office of the District Court of the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

P + A +
1534

INTRODUCTION.

As it hath pleased the Lord in these latter days, by his spirit and power, to gather a people to himself; and, releasing them from the impositions and teachings of men, to inspire them with degrees of the same universal love and good will by which the dispensation of the gospel was ushered in,—these have been engaged to meet together for the worship of God in Spirit, according to the direction of the holy Law-giver; as also for the exercise of a tender care over each other, that all may be preserved in unity of faith and practice, answerable to the description which He the ever-blessed Shepherd gave of his flock; “by this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.” John xiii. 35.

For this important end, and as an exterior hedge of preservation to us, against the many temptations and dangers, to which our situation in this world exposes us, rules for the government of the Society have been made and approved from time to time, and the following now form our code of discipline. In the exercise whereof it is to be observed that, if any member be found in a conduct subversive of its order, or repugnant to the religious principles and testimonies which we believe we are intrusted with, for the promotion of truth and righteousness in the earth, it becomes our indispensable duty to treat with such,

in meekness and brotherly compassion, without unnecessary delay or improper exposure; according to the direction of our Lord to his church: "if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault, between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother. But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses, every word may be established. And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church; but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathenman and a publican." Matt. chap. xviii. 15, 16, 17.

This is the extent of the Society's censure against irreclaimable offenders, they are disowned as members of our religious community; which is recommended to be done in such a disposition of mind, as may convince them, that we sincerely desire their recovery and restoration, considering ourselves, lest we also be tempted. Gal. vi. 1.

For the more regular and effectual support of this order of the Society, beside the usual meetings for the purpose of Divine worship, others are instituted: such as, *First*, Preparative meetings, which are subordinate to the monthly, and commonly consist of the members of a meeting for worship: *Second*, Monthly meetings, each of which commonly consists of several preparative meetings, all subordinate to the quarterly meeting: *Third*, Quarterly meetings, each of which consists of several of the monthly meetings; it and

its branches being under the direction of the yearly meeting* which embracing the whole, its decisions are obligatory upon all.

These meetings have all distinct allotments of service; and as experience shows, that when this service is attended to in uprightness and dedication of heart, with a single eye to the honour of our Holy Head, and the help and edification of one another, in the love wherewith he has loved us, our assemblies are often favoured with his aid and direction; Friends are affectionately desired and exhorted, to be diligent in the attendance of them; and when met, humbly seek to be clothed with the spirit of wisdom and charity: this will divest the mind of a dependance on our own strength and abilities, endue us with patience and condescension towards each other; and being preserved in fellowship agreeably to our Lord's declaration, "One is your master, even Christ, and all ye are brethren," a qualification will be experienced in our several stations and movements, to build up one another in that faith, which works by love to the purifying of the heart.

So may we be living members of the Church-militant on earth; and inhabitants of that city which hath foundations, whose maker and builder the Lord is; knowing indeed with exceeding joy that great is He the Holy One of Israel in the midst of her.

* In the society there are ten such yearly meetings, viz. one held in London, one in Dublin, and eight on the American continent.



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

It is the sense of this meeting, that offenders inclining to make acknowledgment of their offences, do prepare the same in writing, and if, on consulting the overseers or other judicious Friends, the purport appears suitable to the occasion, and the situation of the party will admit of it, he or she may present it to the meeting in person, and stay till it is read; when, after time given for a solid pause, the applicant should withdraw before that or any other business is proceeded upon. The meeting is then to consider the case, and when a conclusion is come to, appoint two or more Friends to inform the party thereof.—1743, 1806.

When a disowned person removes out of the verge of the meeting which disowned him or her, and applies thereto for reinstatement, acknowledging his or her error, and if by reason of the distance the applicant cannot be conveniently treated with in person, the said meeting may correspond with the monthly meeting within the compass of which he or she resides, and inquire into his or her fitness for membership; and if satisfaction on that head is received, a certificate for such person, directed to the said monthly meeting, may be forthwith sent, acknowledging him or her as a member of our society.—1806.