## PRINCIPLES, ADVICES AND RULES OF DISCIPLINE OF BALTIMORE YEARLY MEETING OF FRIENDS, HELD OF PARK AVENUE

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Principles, Advices and Rules of Discipline of Baltimore Yearly Meeting of Friends, Held of Park Avenue by Baltimore Yearly Meeting of Friends

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#### **BALTIMORE YEARLY MEETING OF FRIENDS**

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## PRINCIPLES, ADVICES

AND

## RULES OF DISCIPLINE

OF

## BALTIMORE YEARLY MEETING OF FRIENDS

HELD ON PARK AVENUE

Revised and Published by Direction of the Yearly Meeting 1913

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# PRINCIPLES, ADVICES AND RULES OF DISCIPLINE



#### INTRODUCTION.

It is the belief of the Religious Society of Belief. Friends that God manifested himself in Jesus Christ, and that the Spirit which was in Jesus is revealed in the human Soul and constitutes the Rock on which the Church is founded, and it became evident at an early date that those so believing should meet together for the consolation and strength of one another.

Pursuant to the design of the Gospel, the nature of which is to produce peace on earth and good will to men, a care arose that the Reasons for Church should prosper in Righteousness and Discipline. its members act in Christian harmony, and that they should ever be mindful of the declaration which He, the blessed Shepherd, made to his flock, "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another."

For this important end, and as an exterior hedge of preservation to us, against the many temptations and dangers to which we are exposed, the following rules, which have

been from time to time adopted by the Society, now form our Code of Discipline.

For the more regular and effectual support of the order of the Society, it will be observed that, besides the usual meetings for the purpose of Divine worship, others, for the administration of our Discipline, are in-

functions.

Meetings have stituted; all of which are either immediately various or remotely accountable to the Yearly Meet-These meetings have distinct allotments of service, and experience has abundantly shown that, when this service is attended to, in uprightness and dedication of heart, with an eye single to the honor of our Heavenly Father, and the benefit and edification one of another, in the love wherewith He hath loved us, our assemblies are favored with His aid and direction.

> While we earnestly recommend this work to the notice and regard of Friends, we are convinced that an acquaintance with the letter of our Discipline will be insufficient, unless, in the exercise thereof, we are careful to move and act under the immediate influence of the pure love of the Gospel.

> May we, therefore, in our meetings for the administration of the Discipline, humbly seek to be clothed with the spirit of wisdom

and charity; this will divest the mind of a Deportment in dependence on our own strength and abil-administration ities, endue us with patience and condescension toward each other, and, being preserved in fellowship agreeably to the 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.

In conclusion, we desire, in an especial Instruction of manner, that our youth, of the present youth in and succeeding generations, may be early principles. and fully instructed in our religious principles, and in the nature and design of our Christian Discipline; and through Divine assistance, be enabled to adorn our holy profession, by a conversation and conduct consistent with godliness and honesty.

#### BALTIMORE YEARLY MEETING OF FRIENDS.

From ancient records, it appears that the first General Meeting, in Maryland, was held on West River, in the year 1672. That for many years, the Meeting was held, alternately, at West River, on the western shore, and at Tredhaven, on the eastern shore of Maryland. That, agreeably to an arrangement which took place in the year 1790, it Establishment was decided to hold the Yearly Meeting in of Yearly Baltimore only, and to be composed of Representatives from the Quarterly Meetings

Meeting.

on the western shore of Maryland, and the adjacent parts of Pennsylvania and Virginia, to which was afterwards added the state of Ohio. But in the year 1812, Friends west of the Alleghany mountains, were separated from it, and authorized to establish a new Yearly Meeting in the state of Ohio. Again, in 1866, Prairie Grove Quarterly Meeting, in the state of Iowa, was included and remained a constituent part of Baltimore Yearly Meeting until 1875, when, by the