

Minute on Gender and Sexual Diversity

Minute of February 6, 1994

Annapolis Friends Meeting, the Quaker Meeting in Annapolis, support House Bill 192 that prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation with regard to public accommodations, housing and employment.

Quakers hold as the basis of their faith the belief that God endows each human being with a measure of the Divine Spirit. Those who lead their lives in strict obedience to God's will come to walk cheerfully over the world, answering to that of God in everyone. This "speaking to" or "listening to" that of God in everyone, has led us over the last three hundred years to public witness on many urgent social concerns such as the end of slavery, women's suffrage, Native American issues and civil rights for all.

Some employers such as the American Friends Service Committee, a Quaker service organization, have specific employment policies in place banning discrimination against gays. Most employers do not have such a policy and this leaves no recourse at all for people unjustly dismissed from their jobs.

Our vision of a just society includes people living their lives without fear of discrimination based on who they are and whom they love.