

EFC-MAYM *Faith and Practice*
2021 Revisions

Listed below are the revisions and changes to the *Faith and Practice* being presented at the 2021 EFC-MAYM Ministry Conference.

Part I –

- General grammar, punctuation, formatting, and wording updates – entire document.
- Revised and Updated History Section – pages 1-8.
- Redundancies removed in *Beliefs* section – page 9.
- Biblical references added to *Beliefs* section – pages 9-10.
- *Prayer and Praise* updated to *Prayer* and *Christian Worship* now reflects the praise portions – page 11.
- *Ordinances* updated to *Sacraments* and reworded to reflect the approved minute from 2019 – page 12.
- *Simplicity of Living* updated to include sections on Weddings, Funerals, and Memorials – page 13.
- *Unwholesome Habits* section reworded – page 13.
- *Amusements* section updated to *Entertainment/Media/Social Media* and reworded – pages 13-14.
- *Testimonies Regarding Christian Family* updated to *Testimonies Regarding Christian Households*. Reworded to reflect blended families, adopted families, foster families, and single individuals. – pages 14-15.
- *Testimonies Regarding Christian Ministries* updated to include a section on the equality of men and women in both general and public ministry – page 15.
- *Secret Societies* updated to *Organizational Alignments* to caution alignment with any group, public or private, that may interfere with, adversely influence, or deny the Gospel of Jesus – page 17.
- *Abortion* and *Homosexuality* sections reworded to reflect EFC-MAYM's continued biblical stance on these issues, while at once agreeing to meet those in these spaces with Christian love – page 18.
- *Historical Documents* and *Evangelical Friends Church International* moved to *Appendix*.

Part II –

- General grammar, punctuation, formatting, and wording updates – entire document.
- *A Friends Church* moved up and reworded – page 20.
- *New Churches* moved from *General Organization* to *H – New Churches* – page 29.
- *Qualifications for Leadership* given its own section – pages 21-22.
- *Duties of the Clerk* moved from *Miscellaneous* to *Clerks* – page 22-23.
- *Instructions as to Statistics* moved from *Miscellaneous* to page 22.
- *Elders, Trustees* added to *Local Church* section – pages 23-24.
- *Suggestions for the Conduct of Business* moved from *Miscellaneous* to *Part II* – pages 27-28.

- *Incorporation of Local Churches* moved to *The Yearly Meeting – Powers* – pages 34-35.
- *Yearly Meeting Subsidiary Organizations* moved from *Miscellaneous* to *Part II* – page 48.

Part III –

- General grammar, punctuation, formatting, and wording updates – entire document.
- *Query* number 5 updated to reflect updates to *Part I – Unwholesome Habits* – page 56.

Part IV –

- All sections from *Miscellaneous* were moved to appropriate areas of *Faith and Practice*. Only section on Friends University remains – page 63.

Part V –

- General grammar, punctuation, formatting, and wording updates – entire document.
- *Historical Documents* moved from *Part I* – page 81-92.
- *Evangelical Friends Church International* moved from *Part I* – pages 92-98.
- *Glossary of Quaker Terms* moved from *Miscellaneous* – pages 99-102.

Faith and Practice Summary of Revisions April 2022

Derek Brown, Ph.D.

The following revisions were made because of requests from the area gatherings. These are content changes – formatting modifications (formatting for aesthetics) will be done after content changes are approved.

Summary

Weddings: Removed line: “While wishing it to be an occasion to be remembered for its beauty, we should nevertheless avoid ostentation and extravagance.” Moved section above “Family.” – Page 13

Family: Removed “can come in many shapes and sizes.” – Page 14

Entertainment: Removed specific social media platforms; added Scripture references; minor grammar revisions. – Page 13

Divorce: Added Scripture references and clarifying statement. – Page 14

Gender and Ministry: Removed the word “gender” – relabeled it “Leadership in Ministry.” Some rewriting of the section. – Page 15

Homosexuality: Replaced “in whom that of God dwells” with “made in the image of God.”
Replaced “homosexuality” with “homosexual acts”. Added Scripture references. – Page 18

Peace and War: Added section supporting those serving in Armed Forces. Added Scripture reference. – Page 17

Transfer of Ministers: Rewrote section for clarity. – Page 50

Increased Scripture: Added 50+ Scripture references (not in this document - highlighted red in April 2022 copy you received today)

Addendum to Revisions to be included in Final Revision of *Faith & Practice*

To Be Added at the end of the statement on Marriage: "In some cases, physical abnormalities may arise during fetal development in-utero which can make individual gender biologically indistinct at birth. In these rare cases, pastors and churches should use prayerful discernment when considering their advice and/or consent regarding marriage of such persons." – Page 14