

## Germantown Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

The attachment is a minute approved in Meeting for Business of Germantown Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) at Germantown in Philadelphia, October 8, 2017. The Minute is a statement in opposition to hydraulic fracturing and related water extraction and disposal activities within the Delaware River watershed and in support of a complete and permanent ban on such activities in the watershed.

Thank you, William Cozzens, Clerk, Environmental Concerns Committee of Germantown Friends Meeting.

## **Minute: The Delaware River Basin Commission should make permanent the current prohibition of fracking in the Delaware River watershed**

Germantown Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) urges the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) to ban the extraction of gas via hydraulic fracturing (“fracking”) and related water extraction and disposal in the Delaware River Basin. Moreover, Germantown Meeting urges Pennsylvania Governor Wolf to instruct his representative on the Commission to vote in favor of permanently banning fracking in the watershed.

Fracking in the Delaware River Basin would represent a significant threat to the purity and safety of the water supply for millions of residents in eastern Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York and Delaware. Also, the primary product of fracking, natural gas (methane) is a significant contributor to climate change, both when burned and if allowed to leak either at the well or as it is piped to market. Moreover, natural gas when burned also contributes to asthma, emphysema and other damaging respiratory illnesses having especially significant impact on children and the elderly. Opening the Delaware River basin to fracking would exacerbate these problems.

Viable alternatives to burning fossil fuels, for example, solar and wind power, are far preferable because they are much less detrimental to the environment and will create job growth.

Friends believe that we are called by God to protect human health and well-being. We are also called to protect the environment both now and for future generations. Expansion of fracking directly contradicts these elements of our Faith.

**Approved in Meeting for Business at Germantown Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, Germantown, Philadelphia, October 8, 2017. This minute was adopted by consensus of the members present at this regularly scheduled business meeting of Germantown Monthly Meeting.**