

**Proposed Updated IYM Minute on Gambling
for Representative Council action April 2010**

Indiana Yearly Meeting in session renews its opposition (as previously minuted in 1986) to gambling in any form and laments its growing acceptance as a legitimate form of entertainment. Friends continue to consider gambling and games of chance to be inconsistent with our testimonies of truthful integrity, simplicity, equality of persons, and caring community.

Although gaming industry proponents tout it as a good means of providing tax revenue to governments, evidence clearly shows gambling to be one of the most regressive of all forms of taxation, and an extremely inefficient method for funding education and other public services. It collects a disproportionately large percentage of its revenues from society's poorest citizens. Gambling thrives on its ability to market the false hope of "getting something for nothing." It rewards a tiny minority at the expense of all others who play, all the while guaranteeing a tidy profit for those in control of the gaming industry. Gambling establishments frequently attract and exacerbate alcohol abuse, prostitution, organized crime, and other social ills which end up costing society far more (via law enforcement, courts, medical care, mental health care, etc.) than the gaming industry pays in taxes. The growing presence of gambling opportunities in society places increasing numbers of citizens at risk of gambling addiction. The gaming industry consumes a significant quantity of communities' and individuals' financial and human resources, yet it produces no goods or services for the actual betterment of society.

In light of these truths, and in faithfulness to the One who calls us to "seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness" while trusting God to provide all we need, Indiana Yearly Meeting again calls upon Friends not to participate in gambling or games of chance in any form. Friends are reminded that all their resources (money, skills, time) belong to God; that we should trust in the Lord, not in luck; that our discretionary money should be invested in Kingdom ministries; and that even seemingly insignificant

sums spent on gambling help enable the gaming industry to continue marketing false hope and promoting unwholesome living.

The Indiana Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, its 64 constituent churches in Indiana, Michigan, and Ohio, and its individual members and attendees call upon their legislators and public officials to work for tighter regulation and curtailment of the gaming industry, and to provide for the equitable funding of education and public services through legitimate forms of taxation.

1986 IYM Minute on Gambling/Lottery

"Indiana Yearly Meeting in session states emphatically its opposition to gambling in any form. The members of Indiana Yearly Meeting in Indiana are urged to do all that is possible to prevent change in Indiana law to permit a lottery in Indiana."