



# Richmond Friends Joining Hands

## For the Future of Our Meeting

### Building Goals

Create more attractive and spacious areas for religious education programs for children, Young Friends, and adults

Create an environment for more effective and spiritually nourishing community events

Provide a more functional and welcoming space for outreach to and use by like-minded community groups

Expand and enhance the Meeting's kitchen and multi-purpose room for gatherings and fellowship

Provide easier physical access to all facilities for children, seniors, and the mobility impaired

Offer a gift to future generations that will affect individuals, families, and the Richmond community

### Celebrating Our Community

"During our 30 years of association with Richmond Friends Meeting, a tremendous increase in Meeting attendance and numbers of children in the religious education program have burst the seams of space and patience. Improved facilities and the satisfaction of achieving this longed-for goal will certainly deepen the spirit and strengthen the service in today's world. Godspeed!"

Wendell and Gudrun Williams

"Marie and I may be the only ones still around who remember the purchase of our current Meeting House in 1957. The price seemed astronomical at the time for our small meeting, but after much soul searching we purchased the property. I am sure the steady growth in membership and attendance over the years has been due primarily to Friends' witness, but I believe our having a home base has contributed as well. Now the building is bulging at the seams with the present membership and needs to be upgraded."

Bob Clark



## Remembering Our History

Richmond Friends Meeting (RFM) organized in 1795, and soon built its first Meeting House at 19<sup>th</sup> and Cary Street in Church Hill. This was the second oldest “church” in Richmond. We have a long history of religious observance and social justice within the Richmond community. In 1995, we celebrated our 200th birthday.

Richmond area Quakers established the Virginia Abolition Society in 1790. With the Civil War, RFM established the Friends Asylum for Colored Orphans, now called the Friends Association for Children. After slave emancipation, RFM member Sarah Smiley and other Quaker women helped start a school for over 1,000 free black adults and children at the First African Baptist Church in Richmond.

RFM purchased the 4500 Kensington Avenue property in 1957. The Colonial Place Christian Church, an affiliate of the Disciples of Christ, built the original building in 1913. The educational annex was added in 1931. The cost of the 4500 Kensington Avenue property in 1957 was approximately \$17,500.

RFM has provided office and meeting space to hundreds of community groups. Religious groups that have used the 4500 Kensington Avenue property for their programs include the Congregation Or Ami, the Metropolitan Community Church, an unaffiliated Roman Catholic group, and Muslims.

In the 1960s, RFM provided office and meeting space to the Richmond Area Association for Retarded Children. In 1967, RFM provided office space and volunteer support to the statewide antiwar Vietnam Summer Project. In 1971, RFM provided office space to the statewide Virginia Council for Human Relations until the Richmond Zoning Board opposition and a neighborhood petition of 1,200 signatures forced the interracial organization to relocate.

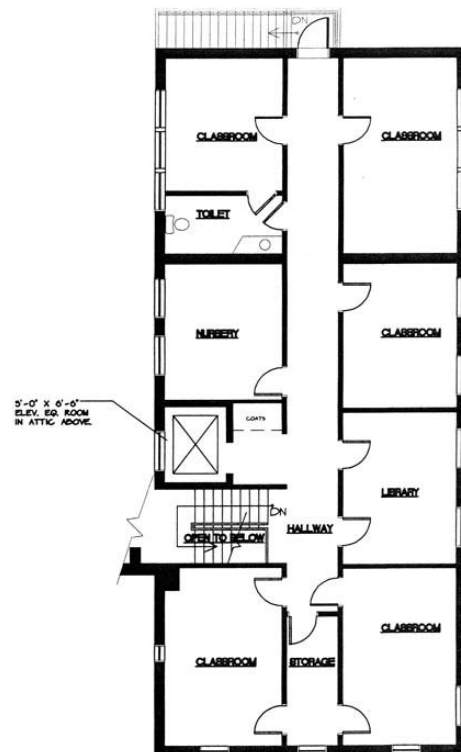
Since 1957, RFM has provided financial assistance and social support to Russian, Vietnamese, Cambodian, Somali, Bosnian, and Central American refugees, who have relocated to the Richmond area.

The 4500 Kensington Avenue property has been the site of countless weddings and memorial ceremonies, not only of Friends but also from the community at large.

In 1986, RFM, overflowing with new attenders, established new worship groups in Ashland and Midlothian. Midlothian has since become a full-fledged monthly meeting.

## Building Specifics

- ✦ Expansion of the multi-purpose room, with more natural light and enhanced appearance
- ✦ Three new bathrooms (two on the first floor) accessible to all
- ✦ An enlarged “commons” area to ease circulation between the worship room and educational building
- ✦ An expanded and enhanced kitchen with better food service area
- ✦ Two new classrooms, and other gathering areas



SECOND FLOOR PLAN  
SCALE: 3/32" = 1'-0"



RICHMOND FRIENDS MEETING  
DEPASOUALE GENTILHOMME GROUP ARCHITECTS

- ❖ Installation of an elevator for access to all levels of the Meeting House
- ❖ Outdoor garden and meditation area
- ❖ More functional storage areas
- ❖ Improved, covered fire escape
- ❖ Improved floor, wall, and ceiling finishes
- ❖ Upgrade of plumbing, mechanical, heating/AC, and electrical systems, and improvement in lighting and insulation to achieve greater energy efficiency
- ❖ Moisture proofing of the first floor with installation of below-grade drains and waterproofing
- ❖ Replacement of flat roof with sloped roof for improved architectural profile and attic storage space

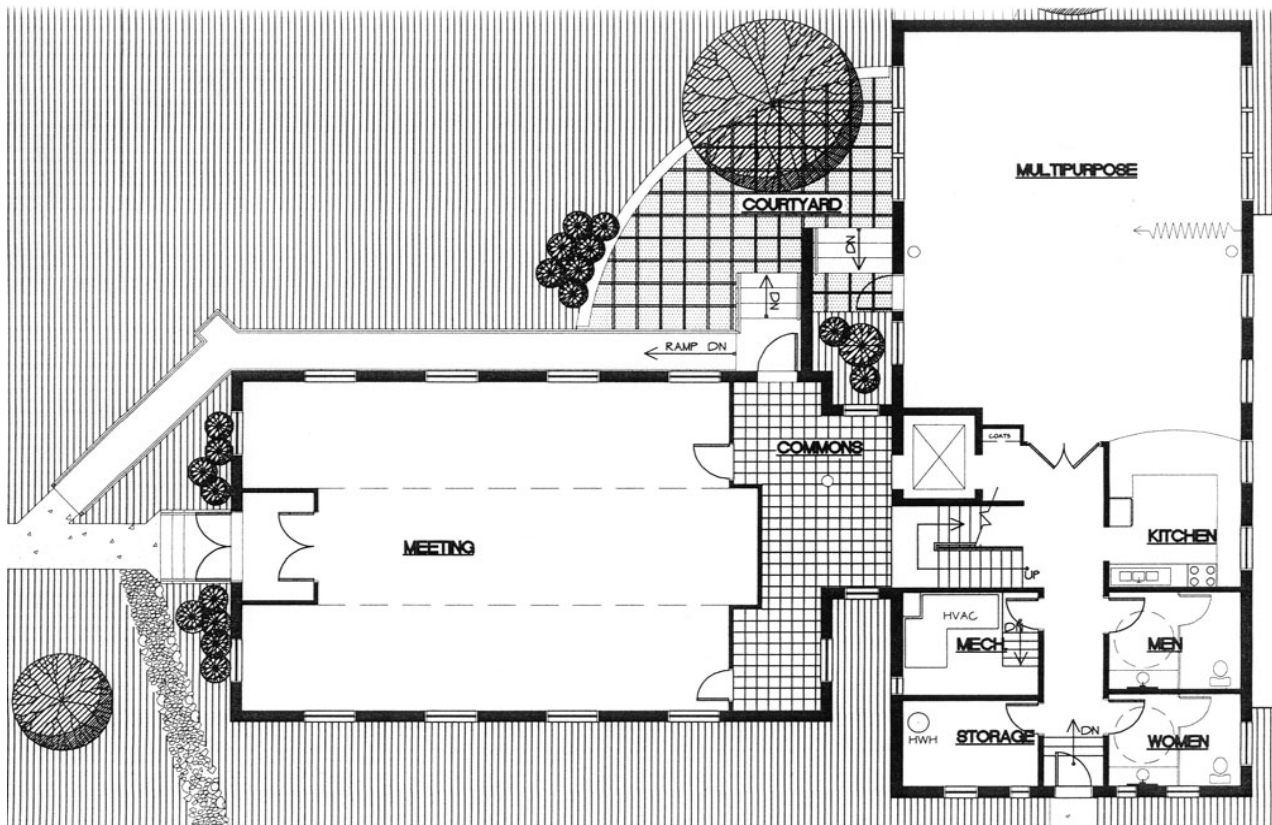
## Celebrating Our Community

“The ongoing experiences of worship, religious education, Meeting programs, retreats, and activities over nearly thirty years have largely shaped who we are as individuals and as a family, enhancing our spiritual life and values, deep and lasting friendships, and a sense of unity and community within the Meeting.”

Linda Heacock

“I am extremely excited about moving ahead with the building project. Even though it has taken us almost twenty years to reach this point, I believe the process has been well worth while. The changes to our physical space will make a difference in Richmond for years to come.”

Sanford Hostetter



SITE PLAN  
SCALE: 3/32" = 1'-0"



RICHMOND FRIENDS MEETING

DEPASOUALE GENTILHOMME GROUP ARCHITECTS

“Richmond Friends Meeting has been my spiritual oasis since 1978. Through changes, opportunities and losses, my spiritual community has remained steadfast and always available to me and my children. The improvements in our building will provide an expanded environment for religious education for children and adults, make access to worship and our activities available to the wider community, and strengthen the Meeting’s spiritual life and outreach.

Clarisse Harton

“You may be surprised to hear that the young Friends see the Meeting House as *theirs*, their spiritual home, and they feel great ownership. While they are easygoing about where they meet for RE, it would definitely foster their growing sense of community to have a space that they could inhabit, which reflects who they are. They care very much about the health and well being of their Quaker meeting.”

Barb Adams

“As the size of the First Day school has grown, we find ourselves at times doubling up, squeezing into tiny spaces, and foregoing lessons that require movement or art. Providing more adequate space affirms the priority we place in our children.”

Margaret Edds

"Quaker Meeting provides the companionship that human souls need during their earthly journey. As containers for that of God within, our buildings, like our bodies, should respect and reflect that indwelling Spirit. 'Simple' doesn't mean shabby, shoddy, skimpy, or sloppy!"

Jean Jones Andersen



“With more than 75 children in our Religious Education program, the current facility has all classes meeting in very inadequate, cramped rooms. The expansion will greatly improve space for all children’s activities, also making the multipurpose room available for multi-age and intergenerational gatherings. The current facility has neither handicap access to the Religious Education classes nor to a bathroom. And teachers and our youngest children would particularly appreciate having a bathroom on the same floor as classrooms.”

Monica Shaw