

Greetings from the Lower Makefield Historical Commission,

We are planning an exciting new season of exploring the history of our community. This year we would like to focus on history and the first amendment guarantee for religious freedom in the United States. Hopefully, this will bring religious leaders together for thoughtful discussion. Lower Makefield Township reflected toleration from its founding. Most of its first residents had deep roots in the Society of Friends, but some held different beliefs. By the end of its first century over seven different congregations had meetings or churches in the township. Today there are almost triple that number of faith communities, and many township residents who choose no organized religion.

We invite you to share your knowledge about the founding of your organization both nationally and locally with the community. To collect this information we will be holding: "A Cultural History Open House" each month at the Lower Makefield Township Building at 1100 Edgewood Road. Presently, we have scheduled the third Sunday afternoons from 1-3 PM beginning in January 2012 and going through May 2012 at the community room.

To begin on Sunday, January 15th, we will have a short presentation on early Quaker settlement, the first meetings and churches, and why the colony of Pennsylvania became an ideal place for religious dissenters, odd experimental sects, mainstream congregations, and minority religions persecuted elsewhere. A question and answer session will follow.

We hope this format is the blueprint for subsequent sessions and other volunteers will speak about the arrival of their religious group in this township. If you know who would contribute to these presentations and will add to our schedule to talks, please contact any member of the Historical Commission as soon as possible. We would like information by January 15, to firm up the topics and publish an agenda for each month. It will appear on the township website and in the local papers events schedule.

Our names and emails are listed below, and we have a box at the Township Office if that would be more convenient. We hope you will allow a flyer for these events to be posted at your institution and we are looking forward to meeting many of you personally in the near future, or if not you personally, your representatives. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

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