

Annapolis Friends Monthly Meeting (AFM)
Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business (MfW wAtB)
2nd Month, 2nd Day, 2020
(02/02/2020)
MEETING MINUTES

Present were: Martha B. (clerk), Ellen M. (recording clerk), Tom W., Judy B., Phil C., Amy N., Sheila M., Judy B., Patience S., Ted R., Peter M., Mary B., Larry M., Jennifer D-L., Karen C., Dot W., Sheryl G., Martha L., Jack L., Wes J., Margaret C., Will C., Joan M., Jean C., Kim F., Cairn K., Ruth S., Marcia O.

9:00 am Opening: We began with centering silent worship and the 2nd Month Queries from Baltimore Yearly Meeting Faith and Practice (revised 2001) were displayed on the screen for review and consideration. The clerk shared her feelings of what a beautiful day and that it was Groundhog Day, but there wasn't a shadow and that means an early spring. The clerk provided an update about Bob B. who is the person who has maintained the AFM solar panels for many years. We were asked to continue to hold him in the Light as he is still in the hospital.

Agenda Items:

1. Holiday Sharing: The clerk read a letter (see attached) from the Maryland Department of Human Services thanking AFM for our very generous donations to the Holiday Sharing Program and expressed her appreciation for bringing the holiday spirit to others in a meaningful way and special appreciation to Ruth S., Sheryl G., and Wes J. for their work with this program.

2. Ministry and Worship (M&W):
 - a. New Membership: On behalf of M&W and the clearness committee for membership, Judy B. announced that Amy Nash, a joyful seeker, was being recommended for acceptance into membership. Amy Nash's Clearness Committee met on January 4, 2020 with Judy B. (clerk), Jean C., Dot W. and Nan E. The committee joyfully came to unity around Amy's request for membership. The Meeting eagerly approved the committee's recommendation and welcomed Amy. Amy described this day as her spiritual birthday and as part of her welcoming, M&W provided a pamphlet that Amy wrote comparing the meetinghouse to a bridge.
 - b. Spiritual State of the Meeting (SSOM): On behalf of the Ministry and Worship Committee, Tom W. requested that the Spiritual State of the Meeting Worship Sharing take place on February 16, 2020 during the 11am worship. Input will be sought from Young Friends this day as well. M&W consulted with those who attend early worship and encouraged them to participate during this worship time as they see fit. In addition, Friends were encouraged to submit written answers to the queries if they will not be attending on February 16th. The plan is to have the first reading on March 1, 2020, second reading on April 5, 2020 and the final SSOM sent to BYM on April 15, 2020. The queries for the SSOM were distributed on the Announce list and were displayed on the screen. The queries are as follows:
 - i. How do we nurture healthy vocal ministry? How do we nurture ministries of other kinds and affirm one another's gifts? How can we improve the way in which we recognize and speak to one another's gifts?
 - ii. What paralyzes us or prevents us from answering our call? What fears do we experience? Which fears drive us and which fears create obstacles?
 - iii. Do we have the courage to create space for our human fallibility and vulnerability? In what do we find that kind of courage?

- c. There was discussion about the SSOM being scheduled at the same time as Chesapeake Quarterly Meeting and that people will need to choose between the two events. It was suggested that AFM avoid scheduling when Baltimore Yearly Meeting (BYM) or Chesapeake Quarterly Meeting (CQM) have large events. There is a need to get both off-site and on-site events on the AFM calendar as soon as possible to avoid conflicts. Additional opportunities to share in the SSOM were requested and it was recommended that written submittal of Friend's sense of the SSOM. Meeting approved that the date for SSOM worship sharing will remain as scheduled, February 16, 2020 despite the date conflict.
- d. Tom W. provided two copies of the pre-published copy of The Unity of the Good News booklet that will be kept in the Library.
- e. In addition, Tom W. related a story about the connectedness that is developed between people and how God provides help as needed.

3. Stewardship and Finance (S&F):

- a. Surplus Recommendations: On behalf of Stewardship and Finance, Wes J. expressed his appreciation for Julie R. and Sue P. for their work on the budget. He presented the final 2019 Budget Report and S&F recommendations for how to handle the 2019 surplus funds. The final 2019 Budget Report was displayed on the screen and is attached. The total 2019 surplus amount was thirteen thousand six hundred seventy-nine dollars (\$13,679). The 2020 draft budget recommended that any 2019 surplus would get split evenly between the building and capital replacement fund.
 - a. Friends approved the S&F recommendation to restore the funds that were reduced on the 2020 Budget with the following distribution:
 - i. Allocate five thousand dollars (\$5,000) to the Building Fund.
 - ii. Allocate six thousand eight hundred forty dollars (\$6,840) to the Capital Replacement Fund
 - b. Several other options for the remaining surplus were considered by S&F including suggestions received after the 01/05/2020 MfW wAtB. S&F recommended that the remaining surplus of one thousand eight hundred forty dollars (\$1,840) be allocated to the Peace and Social Concerns (P&SC) for their Emergent Social Concerns Fund and Quaker Causes. The following points were discussed.
 - i. The Emergent Social Concerns Fund can be used for concerns that we are not yet aware and may arise unexpectedly.
 - ii. On behalf of P&SC, Phil C. requested that the Meeting allow P&SC to better discern how to allocate the funds between Emergent Social Concerns Fund and Quaker Causes.
 - iii. A Friend related the difference between the two funds. It was noted that Quaker Causes is already a percentage of the budget. The suggestion was made and accepted to put the funds toward Emergent Social Concerns rather than Quaker Causes.
- c. Meeting approved that \$1,840 be allocated to the Emergent Social Concerns fund.
- d. In reviewing the 2019 budget, a Friend noted that five hundred dollars (\$500) allocation noted on the 2020 budget for Library upgrades designated for MH&L is not needed because the Library Committee does not want or need any additional furniture. It was suggested that the five hundred dollars (\$500) be used for other things.
- e. Upcoming Fund Policy Review: On behalf of S&F, Wes J. presented a plan of action to align S&F policies and the committee's financial policies and procedures for threshold

amounts. S&F will be contacting committees regarding a review of their financial policies and procedures, as needed. Eventually, the policies and procedures will be available to the AFM community online, as well as in the AFM Library.

4. Peace and Social Concerns (P&SC):

- a. Change Group: On behalf of the Change Group, Phil C. handed out the draft Declaration as an Anti-Racist Faith Community (i.e., Minute). The Change Group, previously known as the Black Lives Matter Banner Group, unites with Yearly Meeting to focus on how AFM can better connect with African Americans, other minorities and young people who may not be represented or included in our Meeting. BYM developed and published a Minute. Over the course of several meetings, the AFM Change Group has been developing a version for potential adoption by AFM (see attached) and which includes specific AFM commitments and actions. The minute includes queries for Friends to bear in mind and actions to engage in. At a future time and when the Change Group is in unity regarding the Minute, they will bring the Minute to MfW wAtB. In the meantime, Friends are encouraged to participate in the discussion and development of the Anti-Racist Minute and attend the next Change Group meeting which will be held on February 27, 2020 at 7:00 pm at the meetinghouse.
 - i. Friend's comments and suggestions are encouraged and it was recommended that the suggestions and comments be provided to the Change Group prior to their next meeting or to attend the next Change Group meeting.
 - ii. A friend suggested that the title or focus be on anti-hate, instead of anti-race.
- b. Black History Month Reflections: On behalf of the Change Group, Sheila M. provided a handout and presented a proposal to offer quotes and queries for reflection to coincide with African American History Month (a.k.a., Black History Month). The suggestion was made and welcomed to present the queries each week prior to MfW during the month of February. The Meeting welcomed this opportunity of the African American History Month queries to increase our racial understandings.
 - i. In addition, the clerk reminded us that there will be a Worship, Reflection & Deep Listening Session held on February 18, 2020 at 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm in the Multipurpose Room (MPR). The focus will be related to our personal relationship to race and identity.
 - ii. Gratitude was expressed for the Change Group and the efforts that are being made.

5. Meeting House and Lands (MHL): On behalf of MHL, Kim F. shared some housekeeping information, including:

- a. Gratitude was expressed to all those who participated in Care of the Meetinghouse. Kim said that Bob B. work on behalf of MHL is missed and that the new members are bringing in some fresh energy.
- b. The revised Care of the Meetinghouse Checklist will be posted around the meetinghouse and will be posted on the website. Supplies are kept in the closet in the MPR or in the bathroom and in the kitchen. MHL needs to receive information from those who are caring for the meeting when there is a need to reorder the supplies or when there are areas that need repair. Please put recycling cans out by the curb on Sunday if you have Care of Meeting.
- c. There is a need to purchase another vacuum cleaner and Kim asked for suggestions as to type and brand.
- d. The chemicals that were kept in the mechanical room will be isolated, so that the mechanical room will not need to be locked.

- e. Security awareness is encouraged. It was announced that the television was stolen and that a replacement is being donated; however, increased security will be needed and added to ensure that the television is not stolen again.
 - f. There are several up and coming projects, including the replacement of the faucet in the kitchen to one that will accommodate taller pots. Replacement chairs continue to be in discussion. The cork floor is being considered for replacement due to the age and damage. Both cork and bamboo are being considered and friends were requested to provide suggestions.
 - g. The next Spring Work Day will be April 25, 2020 from 9:00 am until 2:00 pm and will include lunch. There is a week between the Spring Work Day and the Quaker Spring Market.
 - h. The clerk expressed appreciation to MHL for all the behind the scenes activities.
6. The clerk introduced Michelle Caughey, currently serving as Friend in Washington with Friends Committee on National Legislation. Michelle brought FCNL materials to share with our Meeting.
7. Reminders were presented on the screen:
- a. Annual Statistics Survey: The Annual Statistics Survey is open and will be until February 29, 2020. The survey can be completed online through the AFM website, on paper or by using any other device, such as a smart phone, tablet, or a computer of your choice. This is part of Baltimore Yearly Meeting's (BYM) diversity and welcoming meeting initiative that was started in 2017. So far 32 F/friends have completed the survey. All of AFM are requested to participate; however, it is a voluntary activity. The 2020 Survey was modified to include a disability question that was based on a member request.
 - b. Quaker Spring Market 2020: Suggestions are requested as to the causes that will be supported by the Quaker Spring Market. Please provide Cairn K. with your suggestions no later than February 16, 2020. The Market will be held on May 2, 2020.

Closing: With the approval of the Meeting, the minutes were left to the clerk and recording clerk to finalize. The Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business was closed with a centering silence.

Respectfully submitted by Ellen M., 2/3/20

ATTACHMENTS:

- Holiday Sharing Thank You Letter
- 2019 Budget Report - Final
- Change Group draft Anti-Race Minute - Draft



MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Anne Arundel County
Department of Social Services

January 22, 2020

Carnitra D. White
Director

Main Office
80 West Street
Annapolis, Md. 21401-2478
Telephone: (410) 269-4500
D.C. Line: (301) 261-1756
TDD: (410) 269-4512
Fax (410) 974-8566



Steuart Pittman
County Executive

Mission

The Anne Arundel County Department of Social Services will assist County residents to achieve and maintain self-sufficiency; provide services to strengthen individuals and families; and join our community partners in the protection of vulnerable children and adults

Other Locations

Glen Burnie Office
Multi-Purpose Building
7500 Ritchie Highway
Glen Burnie, Md. 21061
(410) 269-4500

Heritage Center
2666 Riva Road
Suite 390
Annapolis, Md. 21401
(410) 897-3950

Child Advocacy Center
8666 Veterans Highway
Millersville, MD. 21108
(410)222-0200

Annapolis Friends Meeting
351 Dubois Rd
Annapolis, MD 21401

Attn: Ruth Slavin

Dear Ruth,

The Anne Arundel County Department of Social Services wishes to thank you for your very generous tax-deductible donation to 4 families and/or seniors through our Holiday Sharing Program. With the time and generosity of 417 donors and monetary contributions of \$14,645 the Holiday Sharing Program was able to assist 1,344 families and seniors for Thanksgiving and 2,014 families and seniors for Christmas. Twenty-one schools, churches and non-profit organizations in the county cleared their family and senior names through the Holiday Sharing database, enabling us to avoid duplication. Working in partnership with these organizations, a total of 5,696 families and seniors throughout Anne Arundel County received food and/or gifts for the holidays.

We would like to acknowledge *The Marine Corps Toys for Tots*, for providing toys for 715 children and the *Santa Claus Anonymous* organization for providing us with 1000 gift certificates to local Rite Aid stores.

Thanks to your continued generosity and support, the Holiday Sharing Program continues to successfully help families and seniors throughout Anne Arundel County.

Sincerely,

Janice A. Holm
Program/Volunteer Coordinator
Office of Community Initiatives & Programs

Annapolis Friends Meeting - Final Report 2019

Operating Budget			
	Budget	Actual	Balance
Income			
Contributions	53,338	54,011	-673
Rentals	19,000	17,519	1,482
Other Income (interest)		541	
Approved mid-year budget increase- from CC			
Total Income	72,338	72,071	267
Expenses			
Committee activities			
CREC	300	188	112
Library	400	477	-77
Market	450	450	0
Meetinghouse and Lands	29,000	16,733	12,267
Ministry and Worship	600	638	-38
Outreach	1,200	470	730
Pastoral Care	500	245	255
Peace and Social Concerns	3,650	3,400	250
Stewardship and Finance	830	382	448
Restricted Funds	16,354	16,354	0
Quaker Causes	4,478	4,478	0
Apportionment	14,576	14,576	0
Total Expenses	72,338	58,391	13,947
Net	0	13,679	-13,679
Bank Account Balances			
BB&T CD	101,008		
BB&T Checking	29,818		
Capital One Savings (old ING)	123,603		
Friends Fiduciary Corp as of 12/31/2019	104,623		
Sandy Springs Savings Bank CD	10,620		
Total	369,672		

AFM Fund Balances				
	Start	Additons	Expenses	Total
Internally Designated Funds				
Social Justice				
Emergent Social Concerns	2,598	1,620	0	4,218
Peace & Justice Center	2,928	4,045	4,045	2,928
Meetinghouse and Lands				0
Building Fund	174,718	10,000	0	#####
Capital Improvement	24,670	3,660	0	28,330
Capital Replacement	29,295	2,105	0	31,400
Memorial Garden	2,351	1,349	295	3,405
Individuals				0
Adult Scholarship	1,500	500	0	2,000
Camping	500	1,500	0	2,000
Embraced Ministry	2,000	0	0	2,000
Suffering / Individual Emergency Fund	5,000	0	400	4,600
Young Friend's Opportunity Fund	1,810	1,195	0	3,005
Other				0
Committee Contingency	7,364	9,258	0	16,622
Founders Fund	10,472	148	0	10,620
Total Internally Designated Funds	265,206	35,380	4,740	#####
Other Off-Budget Activities	Income	Income	Expenses	Balance
Quaker Market	730	0	730	0
CREC	250		250	0
Bank account balances	369,672			
minus designated funds	295,846			
minus other off-budget activities	0			
unrealized gains/losses this year				
other balance items				
Reserves	73,826			
remaining approved budget	13,947			
Undedicated Reserves	59,880			

Declaration as an Anti-Racist Faith
Minute, and Queries adopted by Annapolis Friends Meeting (AFM)
On 2/ ___/ 20 [5th draft]
(Recommended by AFM Change Group)

Background

Earliest Quakers resolved to see “that of God” in others and to live their beliefs. For their differences, they also suffered exclusion, imprisonment, and confiscation of property. Yet, gaining their rights, many Quakers over generations joined in buying and selling slaves before reaching clearness to seek abolition. After the U.S. civil war, many Quakers acted to provide education and civil rights for people of color.

Today, many Friends benefit from systems that permit lesser educational and economic opportunities for nonwhites, *de facto* racial bias in law enforcement, and other routine discrimination in daily life.

Our faith asks Friends again to answer the Biblical call to “love thy neighbors.” Simply “addressing racism” is too weak. We must immerse ourselves in this concern and act. Our responses must kindly, but explicitly, acknowledge, illustrate, correct, and heal this infection that too often weakens social ties and effective citizenship. To do this, we must be authentic, logical, and empathetic.

We are encouraged by a practice adopted by Baltimore Yearly Meeting (BYM), Pendle Hill, and other groups to vet each of our decisions and actions using queries based on our Quaker practice.

Minute and queries

Quakers’ long-held testimonies -- for equality and to “see that of God” in our neighbors regardless of skin color, national origin and other differences -- call Annapolis Friends on an ongoing basis to hold ourselves accountable, individually and collectively, as to our decisions and practices, actions and inaction.

Friends are urged to use queries for this purpose. For example:

1. [Decision in context:] Do our assumptions and stereotypes, privilege and assigned social-status impede our efforts to be in community with our neighbors? How do we hear the voices and include the concerns of our neighbors in our decisions and actions? ~~Can we provide opportunities and remove barriers for those affected to participate in joint decisions and to work with us?~~ *[Comment: Barriers may take many forms – lack of communication and notice, microaggressions, lack of daycare, lack of transportation.]*
2. [Decisions by impact:] How could such a decision or practice promote fairness and inclusion of those harmed by racist behavior or systems?
3. [Decisions as patterns or examples:] How does this decision or practice ~~support our goals to be more directly involved and demonstrative of~~ fulfill our intention to be an anti-racist faith community? ~~How could such a decision or practice~~ Does it also lead us to better live our testimonies and to be more welcoming?

Recommended actions

Friends recognize that we cannot fully understand experiences of those we do not know. Therefore, we are called to “walk cheerfully over the world answering that of God in everyone.” To put this in practice, AFM’s Change Group recommends that, as individuals and as a Meeting, we:

- Make it, as one example, our custom regularly to seek visits with our African-American neighbors and with others we perceive as different in their faith communities and elsewhere to listen and understand their lives and their concerns;
- Invite our neighbors, regardless of race, origin or class, to share our friendship and our communities as they are led; and
- Seek and adopt ways we can act to end racism other harmful-isms, to undo prejudices, and to make our communities more inclusive, diverse and whole.