

Annapolis Friends Monthly Meeting (AFM)  
Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business (MfW wAtB)  
3<sup>rd</sup> Month, 7<sup>th</sup> Day, 2021  
(03/07/2021)  
Meeting Minutes - Approved

Note: The MfW wAtB was conducted using Zoom.

Present: Martha B. (clerk), Ellen M. (recording clerk), Peter M., Phil C., Judy B., Barb T., Jack H., Margaret C., Will C., Fran P., Phyllis S., Carl B., Mary B., Jean C., Karen C., Pat S., Sky E., Nan E., Ted R., Cairn K., Ann R., Joan M., Kim F., Jeanne W., Sheila M., Lisa H., Dot W., Mary D., Ria H., Marcia O., and Christina F.

9:00 am Opening: We began with centering silent worship with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Month Queries from Baltimore Yearly Meeting Faith and Practice (revised 2001) displayed on the screen. All were welcomed to the meeting and the clerk offered her expression of gratitude for this community and being here with everyone present.

Agenda:

1. 2<sup>nd</sup> Month 2021 MfW wAtB Meeting Minutes Reviewed & Approved:

The meeting minutes were approved from the previous meeting held on 02/07/2021. See the attached.

2. Quaker Holiday Market Committee:

- a. On behalf of Quaker Spring Market, Cairn K. announced that the Spring Quaker Market will be held curbside on May 1, 2021, instead of “in-person” the way it was conducted pre-pandemic.
- b. The Quaker Market Committee reported the results of its recent discernment meeting regarding beneficiaries for Quaker Spring Market 2021. The first \$100 will be allocated to our Young Friends for their discernment. The proposal from the QMC was that the remaining funds be divided equally among three causes (instead of the usual four), with Interfaith Power & Light (IPL-DMV) and the Ralph J. Bunche Community Center as the External Causes and Friends United Meeting COVID-19 Solidarity Fund as the Internal Cause. The proposal to divide the proceeds evenly across these three causes is a minor temporary modification to the normal framework of 75% to External and 25% to Internal due to the pandemic. Cairn provided descriptions for each of the three chosen recipients. For more details regarding the causes, please refer to the committee’s full report (attached).
- c. The clerk displayed the AFM Anti-Racist Faith Community queries as a reminder of how we make decisions, and it was noted by a Friend that the QMC discernment was consistent with these queries.
- d. The QMC proposal as stated was approved.

3. Baltimore Yearly Meeting (BYM) Highlights:

- a. As AFM's representative at BYM, Barb T. shared some highlights about future activities, such as the camps, Annual session (Aug. 2 – 8), requests for workshop presenters (contact Barb before Mar. 14<sup>th</sup>), a planning effort for the 350<sup>th</sup> year anniversary for Quakers (2022), and the Interim Meeting update. See attached for details.
4. 4<sup>th</sup> Month MfW wAtB – Date Change:
    - a. A proposal was offered to move the date of the 4<sup>th</sup> Month Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business because the 1<sup>st</sup> First Day will be Easter in the 4<sup>th</sup> Month. The suggestion was to hold the MfW wAtB on April 11<sup>th</sup> at **9:15 am**, the 2<sup>nd</sup> First Day, instead. The meeting will start fifteen minutes later than usual to allow for Friends who attend the 8:00 am MfW a bit of a stretch break prior to the business meeting. There was unity with this proposal and the Meeting agreed to conduct the next MfW wAtB on April 11<sup>th</sup> at 9:15 am.
5. Ministry & Worship (M&W) – Spiritual State of the Meeting:
    - a. On behalf of M&W, Ann R. expressed an offer to work with whomever is feeling energy to develop Easter plans. Friends are encouraged to contact Ann directly.
    - b. On behalf of the Ministry & Worship Committee, Judy B. read the draft Spiritual State of the Meeting (SSoM) report, which was well received. As background, M&W held the SSoM listening meeting at 11:00 am on February 7<sup>th</sup> and the notetakers were Nicole S. and Peter M. In addition, the whole meeting was requested to provide input to the SSoM using emails sent to M&W or telephone conversations. The draft SSoM was sent out as an attachment with the invitation to the MfW wAtB and is included as an attachment to these minutes. This was the first reading of the report. A request to Meeting was made as to their discernment with either holding the report over for a month or if the Meeting was able to accept and approve the draft. Meeting accepted and approved the SSoM report with much gratitude for such a beautiful and thorough report. The final version will be sent on the AFM-Announce list by M&W in the near future.
6. Path Forward Committee (PF):
    - a. On behalf of the Path Forward Committee, Karen C. announced that there would be a survey distributed to request information from the community with regards to moving forward towards in-person meetings and that input from the community is important. Karen shared some of the questions to provide context. The attached printable version of the AFM Path Forward Survey - March 2021 and the link to the online version will be sent to the AFM-Announce email.
7. Meetinghouse & Land (MH&L):
    - a. On behalf of MH&L, Kim F. announced that there would be an outdoor Spring Work Day held on March 20, 2021, the vernal equinox and the first day of spring, from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm with outdoor tasks available at that time or

whenever people choose to do them. Some of the work will included fixing the fences, gardening, mulching, sorting the items in the shed. The committee is open to other suggestions for improving the grounds.

- i. One Friend reminded Meeting that there is money in the budget to spend on getting the grounds cleaned up and looking better. There was an energy of urgency behind this request since there aren't enough people from AFM who can completed all that needs to be done.

8. Peace & Social Concerns (P&SC) – Change Group:

- a. On behalf of P&SC and the Change Group, Phil C. provided a summary of the two discussions that were held focused on Reparations. There are plans for a third meeting for discussing reparations that is scheduled for the last Sunday in March (Mar. 28<sup>th</sup>) at 3:00 pm. More information will be distributed using the AFM-Announce and Discuss email lists. It was noted that reparations are a huge concern with regards to the experiences of Indigenous, Black and Brown people. Phil stated that BYM is one of the first Yearly Meetings to take up this concern and AFM is one of the first Monthly Meeting (MM) to take up this concern.
  - i. A Friend asked for general examples about what reparations look like. Phil said that he would bring it to the committee and work with the Communications Committee to provide some examples on the AFM website.
  - ii. A Friend suggested that there is an excellent resource for both history and current suggestions for action that is located on the University of Massachusetts - Amherst website. The information will be sent using the AFM-Announce & Discuss lists.
- a. A Friend asked about an update with regards to the legislation efforts. Phil explained that the General Assembly does not finish until the 2<sup>nd</sup> week in April, but that some progress had been made and that he would send out some more information on the AFM-Announce & Discuss lists.

Closing: The clerk asked us to take a moment of silence. She thanked everyone for the rich conversations and discernments and wished them a good day.

The recording clerk will send the draft meeting minutes to the AFM-Announce email list, so that Friends can review the draft minutes and provide feedback. The minutes will be brought forth for approval at the beginning of the next MfW wAtB.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen M., Recording Clerk  
recording-clerk@annapolisfriends.org

ATTACHMENTS:

- Meeting Minutes (approved) from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Month MfW wAtB
- Quaker Market Committee Report 3<sup>rd</sup> Month
- BYM Update Report
- Spiritual State of the Meeting Report (Draft)
- AFM Path Forward Survey - March 2021

## Quaker Market Committee Report

3<sup>rd</sup> month 2021

The Quaker Market Committee would like to report the results of its recent discernment meeting regarding beneficiaries for Quaker Spring Market 2021.

The first **\$100** will be allocated to our **Young Friends** for their discernment. The amount for this Quaker Market has once again been reduced from \$250, reflecting an anticipated reduction in proceeds due to covid-19 and the absence of an in-person Quaker Spring Market.

The remaining funds will be divided among three causes:

### External

**Interfaith Power & Light (IPL-DMV)**

**Ralph J. Bunche Community Center**

### Internal

**Friends United Meeting COVID-19 Solidarity Fund.**

Since part of the mission of the Quaker Market Committee is education as well as facilitating fundraising for the selected causes, we would like to share a little background on the causes, and why each was selected as part of the suite of causes for Quaker Spring Market 2021.

**Interfaith Power & Light** promotes a religious response to global warming. The organization envisions a stable climate where humans live in right and just relationship, interconnected with a healthy, thriving, natural world. Their mission is to inspire and mobilize people of faith and conscience to take bold and just action on climate change. The organization started out in 1998 as Episcopal Power & Light, when a coalition of Episcopal congregations formed to purchase renewable energy collectively. Since then, the organization has expanded into an interfaith effort with 40 state affiliates. The local IPL affiliate serving D.C., Maryland, and the District of Columbia has a long relationship with AFM (including providing guidance and assistance when Climate Stewards was just forming) and has done much important work to organize climate action in our region and our nation's capital. The inclusion of Interfaith Power & Light as one of the causes to be supported by Quaker Spring Market 2021 felt like a natural outgrowth of this organization's long relationship with AFM, the good work they continue to do on climate action, and the concern regarding climate action that the AFM community has demonstrated for many years. It is also an organization that functions relatively locally, something the Quaker Market Committee works to include in the suite of causes for each Market. Interfaith Conference of Metropolitan Washington, Inc. is their 501(c)3 fiscal sponsor. Please check out the Interfaith Power & Light website for many opportunities for education, going green, and speaking out <https://ipldmv.org/>.

The **Ralph J. Bunche Community Center** is part of the Mill Swamp community located in Edgewater. According to a 2019 article in the Capital Gazette, this community has deep African-American roots going back to the days of slavery, when slave ships docked at nearby London Town, and later, after emancipation, when former slaves lived in the community and worked as farm hands and housekeepers for local plantation owners, and at the Naval Academy. Starting in 1865, the site housed a succession of schools for black children. In the 1950's a school addition was built and the name was changed to Ralph J. Bunche School, to honor one of the most prominent African American men at that time. Among his many accomplishments, Bunche was the first African American to receive

a doctorate in political science from Harvard, or in fact any American University. For more than two decades (1928-1950) he served as chair of the Department of Political Science at Howard University, one of the historically black colleges. Bunche was involved in the formation of the United Nations in the mid-1940's, and in 1950 was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his key role as lead UN mediator in negotiating the armistice that ended the first Arab-Israeli war. Bunche was an active supporter of the civil rights movement, attending both the March on Washington in 1963, and the Selma to Montgomery March in 1965. After schools integrated in the 1960's, the Ralph J. Bunche School became a community center. The 501(c)3 organization was later formed by concerned citizens of the Mill Swamp community, who came together to maintain, revitalize, preserve and restore this historical landmark and the rich heritage it represents for the Mill Swamp community. Part of that revitalization process is a mission to offer programs relevant to the current needs of the community. During the pandemic, they have been working for and serving the community with food distribution. They need funding for food supplies as well as for a large refrigerator and rental trucks. They are providing supplies for about 200 food insecure families in South County. The inclusion of this organization reflects Annapolis Friends Meeting's commitment to function as an anti-racist faith community. It is also local. <http://www.ralphjbunche.org/>

The **Friends United Meeting COVID-19 Solidarity Fund** was envisioned as a short-term fund to aid global relief work during the pandemic. Although donations to the fund have exceeded the initial goal of \$25,000, the pandemic has continued much longer than anticipated, and the needs for global pandemic-related relief work continue. In Belize, where 68% of Belizeans are currently unemployed or under-employed, funds are being used to provide life-saving food relief and related employment opportunities. In Africa, funds have been used to address negative impacts to education, with one example being funds awarded to Friends Theological College for the purchase of hand-washing stations and other items to allow for the safe reopening of the school. Also in Africa, Friends Church Peace Team has used funding to help girls who have been sexually abused during the longer periods of quarantine at home. Many of these girls have become pregnant, leaving them as social outcasts in great need of support. This cause resonated with Quaker Market Committee members due to the extent of pandemic-related global needs and suffering it brought to our attention, and the work that Friends United Meeting (a Quaker body that is 85% Friends of color) is doing to address those needs. With Baltimore Yearly Meeting a constituent member of Friends United Meeting, the Quaker Market Committee felt comfortable treating this as the Internal cause. For more examples of the important relief work enabled by this funding, please read the following article <https://mailchi.mp/fum/the-fum-fellowship-and-the-coronavirus-2314932>.

Typically, we select four beneficiaries (three External and one Internal) and each cause receives 25%, which aligns neatly with the 75% to External, 25% to Internal framework under which we normally operate. For this Market, however, we reduced the total number of causes from four to three, again in anticipation of reduced total proceeds due to the pandemic/no in-person Quaker Market. Since we would like to disburse the proceeds evenly across the three causes, we are seeking approval for a temporary minor modification to the framework to allow this to happen.

## UPDATE TO AFM ON BYM

1. **Camps** are open for registration and hope to be in person this summer. The pay structure will move to a sliding scale to ensure that all who wish to come can afford to and that our goal of diversity is better achieved. Each family will pay what it can afford, regardless of their financial circumstances. The hope is that families who can, will pay more. Consequently, all MMs are asked to directly contribute the amount we would usually provide for scholarships. S&F is considering this request.

2. BYM Yearly Meeting **Annual Session** is on from Aug. 2–8. By end of March, we hope to decide whether there will be an in-person portion. Junior Yearly Meeting really wants to have time on Hood College campus with our youth.

**Workshop Proposals** are due immediately. Deadline is March 15. If you are thinking of giving a 2-hour workshop, let me know and I can guide you through the sign-up steps.

Our **plenary speakers** will both be Friends of Color this year. Tuesday evening opening talk is Lauren Brownlee of Bethesda Mtg. She has grown up in BYM and is now head of a Quaker school in NC.

And for the Saturday evening talk, we are delighted to have Carl Magruder, who is trained as an interfaith chaplain with a Master's of Divinity. He is a spiritual support provider at Resolution Care in California, servicing people with serious or terminal illness.

The **pre-AS retreat** is scheduled for Aug. 2 and 3 with Lynn Domina as Retreat Leader. Details to be announced.

3. Next year, 2022 will be the **350th Anniversary of BYM and the 100th anniversary of our camps**. Plans are developing now and a committee meets each 2nd Monday evening to plan programs. Our experience with Galesville's Old Quaker Burying Ground will certainly figure in somehow. And Pat Schenck's history of Annapolis Meeting is a good start toward a timeline that each MM will develop. For the Tues. evening plenary, we will have a history/story telling panel and for the Wednesday intergenerational plenary, we hope the Camping Program Committee will develop something really special.

4. **Interim Meeting** met yesterday with its busy schedule. As Annual Session business meeting was cut in half last year, Interim has had to take up much of the work this year.

There is a search committee taking applications for a new **General Secretary**.

**Camping Program:** Brian Massey is the new director and several other new staff. Camps will be in person this summer and registration is due by April 15. [bymcamps.org](http://bymcamps.org) website is a family resource center. There will be Town Halls to prepare families. Directors will have a retreat later this month to plan specifics: child development, training on racism/equity/diversity/inclusion.

**Letter of Appreciation for Jesse Miller**—previous Opequen Camp director. Friends struggled with the persistence of racism it reflected.

**Youth Safety Policy** updated for online gatherings.

**Treasurer's Report:** Positions were suspended (no admin, no GS, no Comptroller), camps closed, budget had to be amended. Friends stepped up and got creative. Now ending 2020 in a surprising but reasonably strong financial position. Retirement being restored and soon some positions.

**Development:** for each \$5 raised, only \$1 is spent on raising—or it takes 20 cents to raise \$1.

Two P&SC Minutes passed easily:

**Minute on Immigration**—5 Quaker organizations came together to speak their truth. Seeking signatures from MMs.

**Minute on the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons** —prohibits development and transport of nuclear weapons and to redirect the \$2 trillion spend annually on them. Collecting signatures broadly. Contact your congressperson to sign.



## 2020-21 SPIRITUAL STATE OF THE MEETING

### **Annapolis Friends Meeting** 351 Dubois Rd, Annapolis, Maryland

At Meeting for Worship on February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Friends were encouraged to offer their testimony to these queries circulated by Baltimore Yearly Meeting:

*How does Spirit prosper in your Meeting? How have you protected the Spirit this year?*

*What are Friends doing to support one another? How have you addressed the conflicts that have arisen this year?*

*What does spirituality mean to you and your Meeting? How does your Meeting reflect that? Has it been different or the same during 2020 with the coronavirus pandemic and discussions of racial equality, climate change, and the presidential election?*

It is winter, and we have completed almost a year amidst the challenges of the pandemic. As one Friend said, "Through the chaos of this last year, everyone is struggling." And another Friend said, "Spirit has not been daunted."

Transitioning from our in-person Meeting in the meetinghouse, through discernment and discussion we have reached a point where our 8 o'clock early morning Meeting offers the option to gather in-person outside, as well as Meeting from home without technology. The 11 o'clock Meeting offers twice monthly in-person outside gatherings, as well as a regular Zoom Meeting for Worship (with a Zoom foyer in which people gather, and often regather to chat after Worship). And the committees and informal groups have found a way to move their usual work, as well as new efforts warranted by the pandemic, forward via Zoom.

This transition, while initially frustrating to many, has drawn out the stewardship, organizational and creative talents across our community, as we have learned and taught one another how to gather on Zoom, and at the same time (sitting outside in the cold) hosted outside gatherings for those who need to see each other in person—masked and at distance—to experience Spirit. A Friend writes, "I think there is something moving and precious about the different ways we are led to gather outside of Zoom". While some have found it difficult to experience the same level of connection with Spirit given all these adjustments and constraints, others have found a greater connection or have recovered a treasured sense of connection that had been lost in having moved at distance from Annapolis.

A Friend writes: "I gave up driving about 4 years ago, which meant that I also had to stop attending Meeting for Worship and all other activities. I did not realize how much I was missing that participation in AFM until Zoom came along and I reconnected electronically. It has made a huge difference in my life and has truly lifted my spirit to be reconnected with Friends. Yes, I still believe real, in person attendance at events is far and away the best experience, but if that is not possible, Zoom is a real life-saver. I feel that the Spirit is alive and well at Annapolis Friends, and that it can travel via Zoom almost as well as it does without any technical assistance."

Knowing the stress and isolation people have suffered, the committees and individuals have reached out with food, support, comfort and encouragement. We have seen each other through illness, personal loss, the movement to new locations even across the country, and Spirit has been evident in the unseen as well as the seen and very practical ways we have remained connected with one another. Meals, transportation, financial support, phone calls, shared at-distance walks.

## 2020-21 SPIRITUAL STATE OF THE MEETING

**Annapolis Friends Meeting**  
351 Dubois Rd, Annapolis, Maryland

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There is a sense that we haven't just endured but have been growing. We have had the opportunity to see Friends' gifts not before seen. The active examination of racism continues to stretch us. Attention to the environment has continued strong. There is a growing realization that attention to racism and the environment is spiritual work. The Path Forward committee has engaged us in discerning the path through COVID while staying attuned to the virus, and our community. We have had a Meeting for Worship with Attention to Healing, a new Quakerism 101 series, a group moving us forward on reparations, two gatherings of "friendlies", two Spiritual Friends groups.

One Friend reminding us that it is our actions that are the evidence of Spirit at work, noted that "the miracle of connecting online has allowed us to reach out and almost be more active in the world." In this year of racial and environmental reckoning, we note a climate minute, a minute on antiracism, attention to key legislation and continuing activism in the broader community. Although the forms of our traditional involvement have necessarily been transformed by the pandemic, even our Quaker Market offerings have continued no matter what, with our ability to support important issues.

Yet amid the progress Friends reported, a voice challenged us all to speak out more on social issues and call out wrong when it is evident to us all.

The Meeting for Business process has guided us through this season, with sensitivity, persistence and diligence. Friends expressed gratitude for the thoughtfulness and steadiness evident in those who have led us.

About conflicts: As the pandemic has worn on us, we have occasionally worn on one another. A Friend asks, "What are the fruits of the Spirit that we are expressing, and how do we do it in a way that keeps the community together, that values all the difference among us?" Adding to all the usual seen and unseen dimensions of difference, this year has included our differing responses to the changes required by COVID. One Friend speaks of valuing interactions that are truthful, genuine and in good faith, and isn't sure they are always received as "given and/or intended." Another says: "I wish Friends would speak more gently with each other." Another noting we are strong on activities, social concerns and getting things done, wishes for more attention to helping people recognize their relationship to Spirit in a season like this where Spirit is particularly needed.

And three Friends spoke to the spiritual challenge of being of our faith community, with its tenet of that of God in every person, while being connected in the world with others whose orientation is quite different, and observing those whose actions could even be labelled as evil. How do we stand amidst all that?

And in closing, looking toward our future, a Friend writes that working with young Friends has "brought Spirit in a particular way, watching them grow and grow in Spirit is one of the miracles for which I'm grateful." And yet not gathering in person seems particularly challenging for our connection with our young Friends.

*Prepared by AFM Ministry & Worship  
Approved March 7, 2021*

## Path Forward Survey – March 2021

Thank you for taking the time to complete this short survey designed to get your input about returning to in-person gatherings at AFM. This is one of several ways the Path Forward team hopes to gather perspectives and input from the Meeting community. It will be helpful in assisting us as we think through what a gradual, step-by-step process for physical return to the Meetinghouse might look like, understanding that the expectations and guidelines that were used for outdoor, in-person would continue, including small group sizes, social distancing, and masks. The survey should take about 5 minutes to complete. Thank you,  
~ AFM Path Forward team (Karen C, clerk; Ellen M, Kim F., Jenn D-M, Martha B, Peter M.)

### When do you anticipate that YOU will be ready to attend INDOOR in-person Meeting for Worship? (check all that apply)

- I'm ready now
- When I have been vaccinated
- When the weather is warm enough to have windows and doors open
- When the level of transmission is much lower
- Not applicable. I do not plan to return in-person
- Other

Enter any comments related to the question above.

### Which of the following would you want in place before you return to INDOOR in-person Meeting for Worship? (check all that apply)

- Masks with social distancing
- Everyone attending in-person is vaccinated
- Limits on the number of INDOOR in-person meetings held per day
- Limits on the number of people allowed to attend each Meeting for Worship
- One person at a time in the bathrooms
- No food offered or consumed in the meetinghouse
- Extra cleaning inside the building throughout the week
- Technology in place to offer blended (in-person & Zoom together) Meeting for Worship
- Not applicable. I do not plan to return in-person

### How comfortable are you with allowing OTHERS to attend INDOOR in-person Meeting for Worship before you personally feel comfortable? (check all that apply)

- I'm not comfortable with anyone attending INDOOR in-person Meeting for Worship until the pandemic has passed.
- My comfort level will depend on the safety protocols
- My comfort level will depend on the level of transmission in Anne Arundel County
- I'm comfortable with others meeting indoors if they have been vaccinated
- I'm comfortable with others making their own decisions about the level of risk with which they are comfortable

Enter any comments related to the question above.

**Which of the following would you be willing to allow to meet indoors before we return to indoor Meeting for Worship? (check all that apply)**

- A new small mid-week Meeting for Worship
- AFM Committees
- Other AFM groups, such as Spiritual Friendship & Meditation groups)
- AFM-affiliated groups, such as Maryland Alliance for Justice Reform
- Renters
- None of the above. Sunday Meeting for Worship must be our first indoor use of the meetinghouse

**What safety protocols should be implemented for small group meetings?**

- Same you checked on the 2nd question listed above
- Different protocols (enter these in the comment box below)

**Please elaborate on the suggestion for different protocols, if that was what you checked.**

**How do you feel about having blended (in-person & Zoom together) during Meeting for Worship?**

- All 11 am Meetings for Worship should have a Zoom option
- Some 11 am Meetings for Worship should have a Zoom option and some should be technology-free
- Committee meetings and Business Meeting should be blended, but on that day Meeting for Worship should be technology-free
- Other

**At what level do you agree or disagree with regards to people making their own decisions about the level of risk and their own comfort level?**

- Strongly Agree
- Somewhat Agree
- Neutral
- Somewhat Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

**At what level do you agree or disagree with regards to the AFM community having responsibility as a Meeting to protect everyone's safety?**

- Strongly Agree
- Somewhat Agree
- Neutral
- Somewhat Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

**At what level do you agree or disagree with regards to when we reopen and if it should be mandatory that people have been vaccinated?**

- Strongly Agree
- Somewhat Agree
- Neutral
- Somewhat Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

**At what level do you agree or disagree that it is important for this Meeting's commitment to provide low-cost rental space for the community?**

- Strongly Agree
- Somewhat Agree
- Neutral
- Somewhat Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

**Until such time that we begin gathering in-person again, what more can we do to support each other and continue to build community?**

Submit