

Annapolis Friends Monthly Meeting (AFM)
Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business (MfW wAtB)
4th Month, 11th Day, 2021
(04/11/2021)
Meeting Minutes
Approved Distributed

Note: The MfW wAtB was conducted using Zoom.

Present: Martha B. (clerk), Ellen M. (recording clerk), Mary B., Margaret C., Will C., Ruth S., Jeanne W., Julie R., Ria H., Jack H., Larry M., Pat S., Wes J., Patty R., Jean C., Cairn K., Joan M., Pat H., Barb T., Carl B., Kim F., Ted R., Phil C., Phyllis S., Sheila M., Sky E., Nan E., Karen C., Jo Anna S., Jenn D., Marcia O., and Sylvia O.

9:15 am Opening: We began with centering silent worship with the 4th Month Queries from Baltimore Yearly Meeting Faith and Practice (revised 2001) displayed on the screen. During worship, the clerk requested that Friends hold in the Light some of our members who were in need of our love. Please send some focused Light to the following: Tom W., the family and friends of Lee L., and the family and friends of Larry P. With gratitude, the clerk wished all a “Good Morning” and shared the agenda slide.

Agenda:

1. 3rd Month 2021 MfW wAtB Meeting Minutes Reviewed & Approved:
 - a. The meeting minutes as circulated with updated attachments were approved from the previous meeting held on 03/07/2021. See the attached.
2. Quaker Market Committee:
 - a. On behalf of the Quaker Market Committee, Cairn K. announced that Quaker Spring Market will be held on May 1st with curb-side pick-up. This lovely community-building event will offer postcards that display prints of our dear Friend Bella’s paintings, as well as food, olive oil and plants with proceeds going to support the three causes described. QMC will also facilitate direct donations to Friends of Tent of Nations North America and Afghan Women’s Fund. The postcards, food and olive oil must be pre-ordered to ensure that there are enough for those who would like to purchase them. The due date for ordering postcards is April 15th; food and olive oil must be ordered by April 23rd. Dates for ordering plants are still to be determined. More information will be distributed using the AFM-Announce email.
3. Treasurer’s Report:
 - a. On behalf of the Treasurers, Julie R. provided an overview of the first quarter Treasurers’ report. Despite the lack of rentals, our financials reflect a typical level of income vs expenditure balance for this time of year. The final first quarter report will be distributed in the near future.

- b. Julie reminded Friends that additional funds were added to the Emergent Social Concerns (P&SC) fund, as well as the Suffering & Individual Emergency Fund (PC), this year. If there are community groups who are in need of emergency funds or individuals who need financial help, please be sure to contact the appropriate committee.
 - c. Funds are still available in the Young Friends Opportunity Fund (CREC) for this year.
4. AFM Anti-Racism Queries:
 - a. The clerk read the AFM Anti-Racism Queries as a reminder to use these queries as we make decisions for our Meeting.
5. Path Forward Committee (PFC):
 - a. On behalf of the Path Forward Committee, Karen C. reported on the results of the recent survey and the two listening sessions.
 - b. In addition, Karen requested approval for a proposal to allow limited use of the meetinghouse for specific AFM Committee activities that cannot be conducted on Zoom. Examples of current committees who have need to meet include the Library Committee, Meetinghouse & Land, Path Forward Committee and Quaker Market. The full proposal was sent out on the AFM-Announce list prior to the MfW wAt, was presented on screen, and is attached to these minutes. The meeting was in unity with accepting this proposal.
 - c. The following is a synopsis of the discussion and comments:
 - A Friend expressed gratitude for the committee's work but suggested that the document should be more welcoming of use of the building by committees given the challenges of Zoom and increased vaccination.
 - Another Friend expressed support for the proposal and for moving forward using CDC's recommendations, but is aware that there may be Friends who are still uncomfortable with loosening the criterion.
 - A Friend emphasized that some of us have family members not affiliated with Meeting who need to be protected. This step-by-step proposal is much appreciated.
 - Several Friends expressed appreciation for and were in alignment with the proposal.
 - Karen explained that this particular proposal is intended as a stopgap proposal focusing only on those committees who **have immediate need to be** in the meetinghouse. Additional proposals will be considered by PFC before the May MfW wAtB.
 - Karen noted that we cannot expect that everyone will be vaccinated for a variety of reasons (e.g., children, those that cannot due to health reasons and those who choose not to receive the vaccination).
 - d. A Friend showed a mask with a clear area over the mouth that could make it easier to hear each other by reading lips. Another Friend suggested that there are hearing aid devices at the meetinghouse for those who have challenges hearing.

- e. In response to a question about the current cleaning schedule, the treasurer confirmed the cleaning staff is still being paid monthly. The clerk will follow up with MH&L to confirm frequency of cleaning.
- f. Karen noted that PFC is developing plans to pilot hybrid/blended meetings (i.e., meetings that occur in-person, indoors with technology at the same time) in the future and that it is likely that there will be a proposal at the May MfW wAtB for expanding the in-person, indoor use of the meetinghouse. Friends are encouraged to contact PFC with their thoughts about blended meetings.

6. Change Group:

- a. On behalf of the Change Group, Phil C. provided a report from the most recent Reparations Discussion meetings where more than 30 Friends and attenders participated. The breakout groups discussed 1) language, definitions, collaboration, 2) “nuts & bolts” steps for AFM, and 3) community networking. BYM and others all around the country are also involved in discussions about Reparations.
- b. Phil provided background information on the HR40-Commission to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African-Americans Act, a resolution that has a great deal of support from African-American organizations focused on reparations. The bill highlights that the federal government has been central to and supportive of slavery, segregation, discrimination, sharecropping, redlining, unequal education systems and disproportionate mass incarceration. The Act seeks to establish a commission to study and develop proposals designed to unravel the systems that have supported this oppression since slavery. (See attached.)
- c. The Change Group recommended bringing to MfW wAtB for approval a proposal that AFM support HR40 - Commission to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African-Americans Act (and the Senate counterpart). Actions include sending a letter to reps of Congress, urging BYM and other local Meetings to support the bills, and signing a petition of public support for the bill.

The meeting was in unity with the proposal. A summary of the discussion points follows:

- A recommendation was made during the discussion that support of voting rights and opposition to voter suppression be included in the Change Group efforts.
- Although in support of HR40, a Friend expressed concern that the word “reparations” has a negative connotation and might not be the best way to support those who have suffered.
- A Friend asked about initiatives related to unequal policing of communities of color and wondered if there is an equivalent bill for Native Americans. Are we making a choice of one over another?
 - Phil noted that the Change Group discussions on Reparations are including other oppressed groups, in addition to African-Americans.

- Support for HR40 is only a first step and the Change Group has plans to continue with other initiatives, including a Minute and a page on the AFM website.
- d. Another meeting to discuss Reparations will be scheduled for some time next month.
- e. The clerk requested that we settle into some final silence related to the discussion and how each of us will move forward in our hearts.

Closing:

The clerk offered blessings and a wish for a “Good Day” to all, hoping to see everyone at the 11:00 am worship on Zoom and at Potluck at 12:30 pm.

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 3rd Month MfW wAtB
- Path Forward Proposal - Essential Use of Meetinghouse
- AFM Change Group-Report & Request 04.11.2021

'Karen Cunningham' via AFM-Announce

Sat, Apr 10, 3:04 PM (1 day ago) ☆ ↶ ⋮

to Karen ▾

Based on what we heard at the recent Listening Sessions, Path Forward is bringing a proposal for consideration that would allow limited committee use of the meetinghouse. The proposal is attached and below.

Karen Cunningham
Clerk, Path Forward

For consideration: Allow limited use of the meetinghouse by AFM committees

AFM committees and subcommittees may meet in person inside the meetinghouse under limited circumstances.

Criteria for an in person indoor committee meeting:

- The meeting is of an AFM committee to conduct AFM business.
- The meeting cannot be held by Zoom
- The committee clerk or designee works with Path Forward on scheduling the meeting in advance
- Each person attending agrees to follow AFM's protocols for in person indoor meetings as well as any additional protocols established by the committee
- Committee members understand that other people may be in the meetinghouse shortly before their committee meeting and that additional cleaning has not been implemented
- The number of committee members attending in person is limited to the number that can be 6 feet apart in the space the committee is using

Scheduling an in person indoor committee meeting

- Committees will schedule an in person indoor meeting at least 24 hours in advance
- Meetings will be scheduled for a time when the committee members will be the only people in the building
- In rare circumstances, MH&L may need to ask a committee to reschedule their meeting to accommodate urgent last-minute visits by a contractor or other outside person
- To schedule a meeting, the clerk (or designee) will contact Path Forward with:
 - desired date and time
 - space they plan to use
 - number and names of committee members who will attend
 - activity
- Once the committee's meeting plans are finalized, Path Forward will have the meeting put on AFM's calendar. (Other members of the AFM community who need to make an essential trip to the meetinghouse are asked to check the AFM calendar first and plan their visit for a time when a committee is not meeting there.)

Protocols for an in person indoor committee meeting

- Everyone will wear a mask covering both their mouth and nose at all times, even when speaking
- Windows and doors will be open in the space the committee is using, and preferably other doors and windows will be open as well. (The committee is responsible for securing doors and windows when they leave the building.)
- Committee members will make a concerted effort to stay 6 feet apart at all times
- Only one person will use the restroom at a time
- Each person will log their visit on the form in the foyer

REPORT AND REQUEST FROM AFM CHANGE GROUP

Phil Caroom reported that, in this year's 3rd AFM reparations meeting, sponsored by AFM's Change Group, approximately 30 Friends and attenders participated.

While intending in the future to recommend a Minute, an AFM webpage and other actions to support AFM's reparations concern, the Change Group at this time recommends, as an early step that AFM should accept and support the recommendation of national organizations such as MBL, N'COBRA, NAAARC, and others to actively support the adoption of HR 40. Specifically, it is recommended that AFM should do this by:

- sending a letter or letters as a Meeting and / or as individuals to our representatives in Congress
- urging BYM, other local meetings, and other faith groups to do the same; and/or
- signing available [petitions of public support such as this by the ACLU](#).

The following summary of HR 40 also was shared with Friends:

HR 40 (Commission to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African-Americans Act) is a resolution in the U.S. Congress that seeks to establish a federal Commission to examine the historic and ongoing causes of economic injustice to African-Americans with public hearings, a comprehensive report, and specific recommendations for remedies. (The identical bill has been offered in every session of Congress since 1989 by the late Congressman John Conyers (D-Mich.) until his death. It only has been granted a hearing twice -- once in 2021. The bill is supported by FCNL, ACLU, and every major U.S. organization of African-Americans focused on reparations including the Movement for Black Lives (MBL), N'COBRA, NAAARC, and many others.

Here is an excerpt from HR 40 (emphasis added to post-slavery aspects):

- (a) **Findings.**—The Congress finds that—
 - (1) approximately 4,000,000 Africans and their descendants were enslaved in the United States and colonies that became the United States from 1619 to 1865;
 - (2) the institution of slavery was constitutionally and statutorily sanctioned by the Government of the United States from 1789 through 1865;
 - (3) the slavery that flourished in the United States constituted an immoral and inhumane deprivation of Africans' life, liberty, African citizenship rights, and cultural heritage, and denied them the fruits of their own labor;
 - (4) a preponderance of scholarly, legal, community evidentiary documentation and popular culture markers constitute the basis for inquiry into the on-going effects of the institution of slavery and its legacy of persistent systemic structures of discrimination on living African-Americans and society in the United States; and
 - (5) following the abolition of slavery the United States Government, at the

Federal, State, and local level, continued to perpetuate, condone and often profit from practices that continued to brutalize and disadvantage African-Americans, including share cropping, convict leasing, Jim Crow, redlining, unequal education, and disproportionate treatment at the hands of the criminal justice system; and

(6) as a result of the historic and continued discrimination, African-Americans continue to suffer debilitating economic, educational, and health hardships including but not limited to; having nearly 1,000,000 Black people incarcerated; an unemployment rate more than twice the current White unemployment rate; and an average of less than 1/16 of the wealth of White families, a disparity which has worsened, not improved over time.^[2]

- **Purpose.**—The purpose of this Act is to establish a commission to study and develop Reparation proposals for African-Americans as a result of—
 - (1) the institution of slavery, including both the Trans-Atlantic and the domestic "trade" which existed from 1565 in colonial Florida and from 1619 through 1865 within the other colonies that became the United States, and which included the Federal and State governments which constitutionally and statutorily supported the institution of slavery;
 - (2) the de jure and de facto discrimination against freed slaves and their descendants from the end of the Civil War to the present, including economic, political, educational, and social discrimination;
 - (3) the lingering negative effects of the institution of slavery and the discrimination described in paragraphs (1) and (2) on living African-Americans and on society in the United States;
 - (4) the manner in which textual and digital instructional resources and technologies are being used to deny the inhumanity of slavery and the crime against humanity of people of African descent in the United States;
 - (5) the role of Northern complicity in the Southern based institution of slavery;
 - (6) the direct benefits to societal institutions, public and private, including higher education, corporations, religious and associational;
 - (7) and thus, recommend appropriate ways to educate the American public of the Commission's findings;
 - (8) and thus, recommend appropriate remedies in consideration of the Commission's findings on the matters described in paragraphs (1), (2), (3), (4), (5), and (6); and
 - (9) submit to the Congress the results of such examination, together with such recommendations.^[2]