

Annapolis Friends Monthly Meeting (AFM)  
Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business (MfW wAtB)  
7<sup>th</sup> Month, 4<sup>th</sup> Day, 2021  
(07/04/2021)  
Meeting Minutes  
Approved - Distributed

Note: The MfW wAtB was conducted using Zoom.

Present: Martha B. (clerk), Ellen M. (recording clerk), Peter M., Karen C., Ria H., Mary B., Nan E., Judy B., Jack L., Pat S., Sylvia O., Barb T., Ann R., Jack H., Pat H., Joan M., Phil C., Jean C., Dot W., Sheila M., Minette C., Jeanne W., Cairn K., and Kim F.

9:00 am Opening: The clerk welcomed all and invited us to settle into some silent centering worship as we considered the Queries from Baltimore Yearly Meeting (BYM) Faith and Practice (revised 2001) for the 7<sup>th</sup> month that were displayed on the screen.

After the period of silence, the clerk expressed her appreciation to see each of us and reflected on the BYM Queries and their significant impact on her as we look at the various changes that we have gone through as a community and will be going through. Caring for others and taking care of self is important as we make these various transitions.

The clerk displayed the agenda for the meeting and shared an overview of each item.

When making decisions, the clerk encouraged us to use the AFM Anti-Racism Queries. The queries were displayed on the screen and she read them for the community.

Agenda:

1) 6<sup>th</sup> Month 2021 MfW wAtB Meeting Minutes Reviewed & Approved:

The meeting minutes as circulated with attachments were approved from the previous meeting held on 06/06/2021. See the attached.

2) Scheduling Concerns:

a) Education Committee – On behalf of the Education Committee, Ann R. announced that the committee would be taking a break from scheduling Meetings for Learning (MfL), so the MfL time slot for the next couple of months will be open to other committees, if they are so inclined. MfLs are normally held on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays. That means that the 9:15 am time slot for the following Sundays are available for other AFM activities: July 11<sup>th</sup>, July 25<sup>th</sup>, August 8<sup>th</sup>, August 22<sup>nd</sup>, August 29<sup>th</sup>. Ann clarified, when asked, that the Education Committee is a new subcommittee as of January 1, 2021 under the Ministry & Worship (M&W) Committee. The subcommittee was created to help relieve the M&W Committee of the education planning, so that they could better focus on other responsibilities.

- b) August MfW wAtB – The clerk asked for input on cancelling the August Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business (08/01/2021) when BYM Annual Session will be taking place. Friends approved that we cancel the August MfW wAtB.
  - i) A Friend suggested that Path Forward Committee (PFC) could circulate any recommendations to relax restrictions related to return to the meetinghouse for comment using email in lieu of meeting. The clerk expressed appreciation for this idea and suggested it be addressed later in Business Meeting during the Path Forward discussion.
  - ii) The clerk confirmed that, as is our custom, there will be a Committee Clerks' meeting on the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of August, August 29<sup>th</sup>. This will be a helpful opportunity to discuss any business-related concerns prior to September MfW wAtB which will be held on September 5, 2021.

## 2) BYM Annual Session Update:

- a) New General Secretary – As the AFM representative to BYM, Barb T. shared that Sarah Gillooly is the new BYM General Secretary. BYM conducted an intensive search and offered Sarah the position. It was noted that Sarah prefers the gender inclusive and gender-neutral pronoun of “they”. Barb shared highlights from the [BYM website of the announcement](#) to help everyone learn more about Sarah’s background. A Friend noted the importance of our learning to use preferred pronouns, even as it stretches us.
- b) BYM Annual Session is coming up July 26 – August 8 and is Pay-As-Led, which means that individuals pay what they can afford. All are encouraged to attend and feel the sense of a broader community that AFM is a part of. Check out the BYM website [HERE](#) for more information about Annual Session.

## 3) Peace & Social Concerns (P&SC):

- a) On behalf of P&SC, Phil C. requested Friends provide input via email to Phil ([pcaroom@gmail.com](mailto:pcaroom@gmail.com)) in response to P&SC recommendations:
  - i) *First Recommendation* – To disburse Peace & Social Concerns funds - designated for Light House (\$2000) and Anne Arundel Connecting Together (ACT) dues (\$1,400) now, rather than wait until October (year-end), which has been our traditional time for disbursing the funds. Friends at MfW wAtB agreed “early” disbursement should happen in 2021 and suggested this be the pattern going forward rather than waiting until the end of the year.
  - ii) *Second Recommendation* – To solicit input for Quaker Causes now, so that the funds can be disbursed as soon as possible. It was noted that there is \$4,321.00 ready to be disbursed.
    - (1) From the Policy and Procedures Regarding Disbursement of Quaker Causes Annual Budget the following was displayed on the screen:
      - (a) "To carry out Annapolis Friends Meeting's annual budget policy of providing financial assistance to organizations external to the Meeting, which are working for peace and social concerns and are deemed particularly worthy of Meeting's support."
        - (i) Criteria used by P&SC in recent years:
          - 1. Promoting causes that reflect our testimonies

2. Giving to groups that can demonstrate results
  3. Ensuring that Annapolis Friends have a connection with the recipients
  4. Giving to groups for whom the donation will make a substantial impact
- (b) The list of 2020 Quaker Causes and the amount disbursed were displayed on the screen and distributed via email.
- iii) Discussion:
- (1) A Friend suggested that it is helpful to understand the difference between Quaker Causes and Quaker Market. The long list of Quaker Causes are ones that AFM supports annually and can be an inspiration for individual giving. Quaker Market supports an organization less often (no more than once every 5-years) and can make a larger contribution to those organizations we support.
  - (2) Another Friend reminded Friends that, although the Meeting has a small amount to give to each of these Quaker Causes, it is important for individuals to support some of these causes with their own donations.
  - (3) The clerk encouraged us to provide P&SC with our additional input as to what causes we would like to support and to explore the opportunities for individual giving that this process might offer.
  - (4) Phil pointed out that the Change Group is focused on the concern for reparations and will be calling another meeting to continue the discernment regarding AFM's role in reparations. Please pre-register for the next session that will be held on July 22<sup>nd</sup>. The hope is that the Change Group will be developing a report that they intend to take to a future MfW wAtB. Pre-register [HERE](#).

4) Path Forward Committee (PFC):

- a) On behalf of the PFC, Karen C. reminded friends of the proposal that was emailed prior to MfW wAtB. For this meeting, there were three of the PFC members who were physically located in the meetinghouse and were able to connect to the MfW wAtB Zoom meeting using the new equipment, including the "Meeting Owl Pro 360 Degree Smart Video Conferencing" device that is equipped with speakers, microphones and camera. This was the first time that the Owl and the technology in the meetinghouse were demonstrated.
- b) PFC brought the following two recommendations for consideration. Please see the attachment for details regarding the proposals. Both were approved:
  - i) *First Recommendation* – Begin to hold blended MfW. A blended meeting is one that includes people physically present at the meetinghouse at the same time that Friends are joining using Zoom. These would be starting on July 18<sup>th</sup> and the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays thereafter would be blended MfW, including August 1<sup>st</sup>, August 15<sup>th</sup> and September 5<sup>th</sup>. This change would be contingent upon the completion of certain preparations. The clerk displayed the proposal. The discussion included:
    - (1) Several Friends spoke in favor of wearing masks inside the meetinghouse. The wearing of masks by everyone is an equalizer and more inclusive. We

do not need to know or ask if someone is vaccinated or ask people to review their health status. The World Health Organization (WHO) continues to suggest that people should wear masks. The impact of the COVID variants is unknown; wearing masks allows us to be ready for any possible changes if another outbreak does occur.

- (2) A Friend suggested that AFM give permission to the PFC to make decisions to loosen protocols without having to bring requests to MfW wAtB. Karen responded that if an urgent need arose, the PFC would hold a Called Business Meeting in August.
  - (3) Several Friends expressed enthusiasm for the option of blended Meetings, thought that the Owl is fantastic and expressed gratitude for the stellar work done by PFC and others to put this in place.
- ii) *Second Recommendation* – The PFC recommended that the meetinghouse be open to renters starting in September 2021. The opening would also be contingent upon completion of certain preparations (see attached proposal). The clerk displayed the proposal highlights on the screen.
- (1) Several questions and concerns were raised about what the PFC has considered with regards to cleaning. Karen clarified that the PFC was suggesting that AFM be clear on what the renters can expect and let the renters take the responsibility rather than our taking on the task of monitoring cleaning compliance.
  - (2) Dot W., one of the Treasurers, commented that there isn't an economic reason that we need to rent right away. We have enough money.

Closing:

The MfW wAtB closed with a moment of silence and great gratitude. The clerk invited us to join in worship at 11:00 am and to have a lovely weekend.

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 on September 5th.

Respectfully submitted,

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

ATTACHMENTS:

- Meeting Minutes (approved) from the 6<sup>th</sup> Month MfW wAtB
- Path Forward Committee July Proposal

## Path Forward Proposals for Approval at July Business Meeting

### Blended in-person/Zoom 11 am Meetings for Worship

Path Forward is asking for approval to hold blended in-person/Zoom 11 am Meetings for Worship on the next four 1st and 3rd Sundays—July 18, August 1, August 15, and September 5—provided advance preparations are complete. We will bring a proposal for future Meetings for Worship to September business meeting.

- Preparations that need to be completed before a blended Meeting for Worship is held include:
  - Changing the schedule for meetinghouse cleaning to every week, on Friday or Saturday, rather than every two weeks, with a thorough cleaning before the first blended Meeting.
  - Arrange for someone to serve as an in-person Welcomer and someone to serve as an in-person Tech Host.
- People attending in person will wear masks while in the meetinghouse and stay physically distant. Refreshments will not be served, and people will be encouraged to socialize outside.
- A large television will be positioned in the circle of chairs and our new Owl Pro will be on a table in the middle of the room. Our goal is to make it so everyone attending can see people who are speaking, whether the attendees and/or speakers are on Zoom or attending in person.
- We expect our first few blended meetings to feel odd and know that it will take experience along with trial and error to smooth out the logistics. We welcome feedback and suggestions as we go along, although preferably after Meeting for Worship rather than in the moment.
- Committees that might be interested in meeting in-person or trying a blended meeting on July 18 should talk to Path Forward as soon as possible. Meeting by Zoom will still be an option.

### Opening the meetinghouse to renters

Path Forward is asking for approval to open the meetinghouse to renters starting in September. However, we will not begin taking reservations until advance preparations are complete

- Path Forward will work with Meetinghouse and Land committee and Trustees to update the rental contract to clarify the cancellation policy and mutual responsibilities.
- Renters may make their own decisions regarding masks and physical distancing.
- Path Forward will work with the Meetinghouse and Land committee and the Building Use Coordinator to assess how restricting the number of people and/or refreshments would affect renters. Path Forward would like to be allowed to implement any group size or refreshment policies we decide would be prudent without first bringing them back to business meeting.
- We will follow Maryland and Anne Arundel County future directives about COVID-19 restrictions and closures. We will not add restrictions or close the meetinghouse to rentals in the absence of Maryland and/or Anne Arundel County directives to do so.
- Meetinghouse use will be restricted to one scheduled event per day. The exception is 1st and 3rd Sundays, when people may meet in person for committee meetings or business meeting before in-person Meeting for Worship. We will reassess this policy at October business meeting.
- Renters will not be offered the use of our Owl Pro or other technology in September and October. We will reassess this policy at October business meeting.

## Path Forward to do list

### Prior to July 16

- Work with MH&L to arrange for cleaning July 16/17 and weekly thereafter.
- Arrange for an Outreach or Outreach-approved in-person host to welcome people and facilitate a brief in-person circle before and after the Zoom call, respectively. While welcoming people, the Outreach host will also ask any newcomers if they are comfortable being welcomed by the M&W convenor and pass that information along. During the after-circle, the Outreach host will ask for volunteers to handle to care-of-meetinghouse activities previously rotated among committees.
- Arrange for an in-person tech host to set up/put away equipment, provide any needed instruction before joining Zoom call, connect audio and visual, and troubleshoot.
- Purchase additional equipment to make technology set up as straightforward as possible. So far, that's an ethernet cable, AA batteries, and a mouse. Eventually we might want a higher table for the Owl Pro.
- Get Owl tutorial. Access Owl account to personalize the settings.

### Prior to taking rental reservations

- Work with MH&L and BUC on any size and food restrictions
- Work with MH&L and Trustees to get rental contract updated
- Lock up the Owl, laptops, and monitors.