**Annapolis Friends Monthly Meeting (AFM)**

**Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business (MfB)**

**Twelfth Month, First Day, 2019 (12/1/19)**

Present were: Martha B. (clerk), Phil C. (recording clerk), Tom W., Nicole S., Ellen M., Tom B., Peter M., Barb

T. , Sky & Nan E., Mary B., Francis W., Julie R.,Sheryl G., Patty R., Sue P., Cairn K., Bill K., Jean C., Dot W.,

 Kim and Carl B., Martha L., Sheila M., Marcia O., Lynada J., and Dot W.

We began with centering worship. From the silence, our Clerk thanked Friends for gathering on this cold, wet holiday weekend. She also reviewed with Friends a series of calendar items for the coming month:

Sat., Dec. 7 Quaker Winter Market

Sun., Dec. 8 Christmas story (Gospel of Matthew) with Patty Robinson (Meeting for Learning, 9:15-10:45 am)

Tues., Dec. 17 Worship, Reflection & Deep Listening Sessions (with a focus on the Christmas season), 7-8:30

Sun., Dec. 22 Christmas Caroling (Meeting for Learning, 9:15-10:45), 11am Mtg. for Worship & Children’s Holiday Program (last 15 minutes)

Tues., Dec. 24 Christmas eve Meeting for Worship (children welcome) & cookies/singing, 7 – 8 pm

Tues., Dec., 31 New Year’s Eve Interfaith Celebration (GAIN) at Eastport United Methodist Church. (Friends will be called to offer some brief Quaker readings.) Music begins 6:30, Ceremony, 7 pm. All are welcome.

For Ministry & Worship Committee, Peter reported the Committee’s recommendation, after a clearness process, for an Embraced Ministry in support of Tom Wolfe’s work on the connections between many faiths, finding it to be one “led by the Spirit.” Friends united with this recommendation and embraced Tom’s “Be Friendly” ministry. The Committee will continue to provide a support group for Tom and may offer up to $500 support if needed, subject to later MfB approval if requested.

Tom thanked Friends for our support. He recounted that he has felt this calling since one day in his travels in 1988 when he was purposefully greeted by an Indian cow; more recently, Tom was moved to examine Martin Luther King’s final work that preaches “our loyalties must become ecumenical and interfaith…as a necessity for the survival of humankind. ‘Let us love one another for love is God.’ ”

One Friend asked Tom “where he sees this going.” Tom described a plan of sharing a short book to be re-published and distributing in a different edition for each of 7 major faiths outlining “33 ways that other faiths agree with you.” Friends thanked Tom for sharing this ministry with us.

For Children’s Religious Education Committee (CREC), co-clerk Jennifer D-M.who is out of town sent a written request asks Friends to allow the customary 15 minute early break in Meeting for Worship on 12/22/19 so our youth can present a holiday play. Jen also noted that adult participation would be welcome and those interested should contact her directly. Friends approved this plan for Dec. 22.

Assistant Treasurer Julie Rouhi offered a quarterly treasurers’ report and second-reading review of AFM’s proposed 2020 Budget. (See attachments to these Minutes.) AFM appears on track to avoid any significant 2019 deficit, absent a sudden surge in year-end spending by committees. Another Friend noted that this possibly could occur as some large operating budget items by Meeting House and Land (MHL) Committee have not yet been spent. As to the 2020 Budget, Julie noted that there are no changes recommended by Stewardship and Finance Committee since last month and that, if unexpected expenses are incurred by committees during the coming year, our Meeting has a substantial cushion in its Committee Contingency Fund to meet such needs. (Julie also reminded us that AFM dues for ACT and Lighthouse now are line items and that we provisionally have reduced our annual deposits in our “designated funds” for Building and Capital Replacement. There are some other large items recommended by MHL that are not included in the 2020 Budget, pending further approval by MfB; one exception to this is the Budget’s inclusion of $900 for thermostat and audiovisual improvements and $5,000 for folding chairs, as MfB approval appears near.) One Friend noted that Library Committee does not want additional shelving at this time and asks that MHL not add more shelves without Library Committee’s approval. After other discussions in relation to Market Committee and chair replacement, Friends approved the 2020 budget, subject to later possible amendments as we move into the new year.

Our Clerk also urged Friends to take procedural questions in relation to earmarked donations to Meeting House and Land (as to tangible items) and to Stewardship and Finance Committee (as to financial donations). Friends agreed that donations to potluck would be exempt from such procedural review.

As to AFM’s Quaker Causes 2019 allocations, our Clerk noted that Peace and Social Concerns Committee has not yet officially approved these. She asked Friends to permit an ad hoc committee to approve this allocation. Friends approved.

For Nominating Committee, Barb T. thanked Friends who have served the Meeting community during the last

year and offered a final reading for our proposed 2020 Slate of officers and committees. (See attachment to these minutes.) She reminded Friends that the usual term for service is two-years. She noted that Children’s Religious Education Committee, especially, still could use more help. She also offered special thanks for Outreach’s “Technical Advisory Group.” As to Peace and Social Concerns (PSC) Committee, Barb noted that we have exciting times with many active AFM-spawned projects (e.g., ACT, Climate Stewards, MAJR, & others) but, within the current PSC committee, no Friend has stepped forward to clerk. AFM will convene a threshing session in January or February to re-boot the PSC Committee. Our Assistant Treasurer suggested that, for budget matters, MfB might want to designate that our Clerk or S&F could fulfill this role. Friends approved the 2020 AFM Slate and the suggestion that S&F temporarily may act on financial requests until formation of a new PSC Committee. Pending the renewed PSC Committee, individual Friends also offered to send AFM Friends information as to current action items from FCNL and Quaker Voice of Maryland.

In response to a Friend’s question, Barb explained that presumptive terms for clerks and officers are two-year renewable ones; after two terms, Friends are encouraged but not required to rotate to other positions. Barb also noted that Jean C. has offered to hold any committee in the light, if requested, during their process as often is done at Yearly Meeting.

For Pastoral Care Committee, Mary B. reported on Al Brown’s burial and services: Al, the dear friend of our late Mardy Burgess, recently has passed away; his family and Friends gathered at AFM for a small but joyous celebration, interring Al’s remains next to Mardy’s, sharing recollections and reading poems. (Another memorial service also was held at Bay Woods the following day.) The family has donated many items from Mardy’s and Al’s belongings for Quaker Market. Friends expressed their appreciation.

As a Change Group (CG) update, Phil distributed a draft minute (see attachment to these minutes), reminding Friends that this group is the successor of AFM’s Black-Lives-Matter banner ad hoc committee that subsequently took on the CG charge to make our Meeting more inclusive of African-Americans and youth. Approval of the proposed minute and its queries was not requested at this time, and Friends were invited to join in further CG discussions scheduled Thursday,1/2/20 at 7 p.m. with the goal of completing the minute, deciding the CG’s role within AFM, and setting goals for the coming year.

Due to shortness of time, an Arundel Connecting Together (ACT) report was deferred until next month.

Having approved these Minutes, we concluded with brief silence.

- *These minutes respectfully submitted – P. Caroom, Recording Clerk.*