

Annapolis Friends Monthly Meeting (AFM)
Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business (MfW wAtB)
9th Month, 4th Day, 2022
(9/4/2022)
Meeting Minutes – **Approved**

Note: The MfW wAtB was conducted from the meetinghouse in person and with participants using Zoom.

Present at the meetinghouse: Martha B., Ellen M., Canby R., Peter M., Jack L., Barb T, Jack H., Dot W., Diane E. and Kim F.

Present on Zoom: Arielle J. (recording clerk), Minette C-S., Mary B., Wes J., Pat S., Julie R., Ria H., Jean C., Diane S., Marcia O., Margaret C., Will C., Phil C., Jeanne W., Larry M., Sky E., Joan P., and Nan E.

9:00 am Opening: The clerk displayed the 9th month Baltimore Yearly Meeting queries while we settled into silent centering worship and as we considered the queries. We were greeted by the clerk and her expression of gratitude to be clerking in-person and to have some of our community online:

9th Month: THE SOCIAL ORDER

- Do you promote social justice and make your life a testimony to fair dealing?
- Do you seek to understand and appreciate differing cultures and social values?
- Do you support fair treatment of all regardless of race, gender, age and other differences?
- Are you concerned for those in our society who are disadvantaged?
- Do you take your full share of civic responsibility by voting and giving service?
- Do you oppose the use of land, labor, technology and capital for human exploitation or in ways destructive to other living things?

BYM Faith & Practice, 1988 (revised 2001)

The clerk reviewed guidance for MfW wAtB, including that we speak from Spirit and to the center of the room or to the clerk, not engaging in cross-talk. The agenda was displayed on the screen, followed by the AFM Anti-Racism Queries which the clerk read, so that we could use the queries to assist us with our decision-making efforts.

Agenda:

1) 7th Month 2022 MfW wAtB Meeting Minutes Reviewed & Approved:

- a) The 7th month draft minutes were shared for review. No additional changes were

noted and the minutes were approved.

2) 2023 Nominating Committee Update:

a) On behalf of the Nominating Committee, Wes J. announced that they had their first meeting to begin the process of connecting people with committee opportunities as they prepare the 2023 slate. The members of the Nominating Committee will be contacting everyone in the community to see how each person is led to support AFM in 2023. Nominating Committee will be in touch with each committee to discuss how things are going and what needs may be ahead for its work:

- Wes: CREC, Communications, Stewardship & Finance
- Marcia: Library, Outreach, Trustees
- Cairn: Nominating, Quaker Market
- Martha: Officers, Pastoral Care, Path Forward
- Barb: Meetinghouse & Land, Ministry & Worship, Peace & Social Concerns

i) A Friend brought to attention the spiritual nature of this effort with a reminder for Friends to keep focus on fulfilling their spiritual obligations while connecting their gifts with those leadings. Another Friend reinforced the importance of clerkship with suggested resources and funds available for clerkship training.

3) Stewardship & Finance (S&F) 2023 Budget Preparation:

a) On behalf of S&F, Wes J. kicked off the 2023 Budget process. He asked the Committees to review the current 2022 budget and to provide their input and drafts for the 2023 budget to S&F before the October Committee meetings. S&F also provided a reminder of the distinctions between independent and operating budgets, along with a request for all drafts to include a statement on the funding goal.

b) The committee also brought forth recommended changes to a couple of existing S&F funds:

- i) Adult Scholarship Fund: Friends requested to raise the amount that can be distributed to an individual be increased from \$250 to \$500 designated to account for increases in costs for programs over time.
 - 1) Friends were in unity to approve the request.
- ii) Committee Contingency Fund: Friends requested to raise the threshold amount required for approval.
 - 1) Friends requested clarification and concerns about raising the threshold amount and whether it would affect other funds. S&F agreed to have further discussion within the committee before bringing back to Meeting for Business.

4) Meetinghouse & Lands (MH&L):

a) On behalf of MH&L, Kim F. requested additional funds and reimbursement for overspending on basic operating expenses associated with the upkeep of the meetinghouse, as well as recent memorial services. MH&L requested a total of \$5,800 from the Committee Contingency Fund to be transferred to their operating budget to fund the rest of their operations for 2022.

- i) Friends were in unity to approve the transfer.
- b) MH&L has also been notified by neighbors of the meetinghouse about possible security issues and the need for increased attention to activity on the grounds, particularly the parking lot and playground area. In order to address any issues, the committee proposed first evaluating the problem by installing two small security cameras: one at the front door facing the parking lot, and one at the side door facing the playground area.
 - i) Friends discussed the logistics for monitoring the camera activity and the expected timeframe and were in unity to approve the committee's proposal.
- c) The committee proposed October 15th from 9am - 1pm for the Fall Workday.
 - i) Friends were in unity to approve this date and encouraged to mark their calendars to come volunteer and suggest projects.
- d) MH&L provided a brief gardening update and recommendation to Friends to join a webinar presentation on Thursday 9/8 at 7pm on "Changing the Aesthetics; Benefits of Pollinator Gardens."
 - i) Friends also discussed and agreed to initiate a regular gardening day at the meetinghouse to take place on the 1st and 3rd Mondays from 9-11am. All are welcome to join.

5) Afghan Family Updates:

- a) Phil C. shared an update on behalf of the Afghan Refugee Committee about the recent progress in support of the Baraski family. AFM will host the family on Friday, Sept. 30th for a potluck dinner at the meetinghouse. Full report attached.

6) Restrospective & Restorative Justice

- a) Phil C. shared a reminder about the minute on Retrospective and Restorative Justice which was approved in January along with noting that we have yet to create a fund proposed as an action in the minute. As such, the committee brought forth two recommended actions:
 - i) Recommended action #1: Create a "Retrospective and Restorative Justice" independent designated fund.
 - 1) The clerk of S&F noted that some additional information was needed related to the funding goal.
 - 2) Friends approved this action with one Friend standing aside due to details being available on the Zoom screen but not in-person in the meetinghouse to review at the time of approval.
 - ii) Recommended action #2: Draw on the existing Founders fund for the initial setup, as proposed in earlier discussion when approving the minute.
 - 1) Friends shared in lively discussion about the fund's goals and sources with recommendation to first discuss and come to an agreement on recommended action #1 to create a fund.
 - 2) Friends agreed to revisit this recommended action in a later meeting.

7) Chesapeake Quarterly Meeting report:

- a) Canby R., AFM's liaison for the Chesapeake Quarterly Meeting, shared a quick update about the next quarterly meeting taking place at Homewood Meeting in Baltimore on September 25th with a meeting for sharing and lunch from 10am -2:30pm. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Closing

The MfW wAtB closed with a moment of silence, reflection and gratitude.

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 October 2, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,

Arielle J., Recording Clerk

recording-clerk@annapolisfriends.org

ATTACHMENTS:

- 7th Month 2022 MfW wAtB Meeting Minutes
- Report from Adhoc Committee for Afghan Refugee Resettlement
- Committee Contingency Fund (CCF) Recommended Update
- Adult Scholarship Fund Recommended Update

Annapolis Friends Monthly Meeting (AFM) Meeting for Worship with Attention to
Business (MfW wAtB)
7th Month, 3rd Day, 2022 (7/3/2022)
Meeting Minutes – **Approved**

Note: The MfW wAtB was conducted from the meetinghouse in person and with participants using Zoom.

Present at the meetinghouse: Martha B. (clerk), Joan M., Canby R., Barb T., Ellen M., Skye E., Nan E., Peter M., Sheila M., Dot W., Karen C., Wes J., Jack H., Sylvia O., Bonnie P.

Present on Zoom: Arielle J. (recording clerk), Minette C-S., Ria H., Pat S., Julie R., Jean C., Phyllis S., Cairn K., Margaret C., Will C., Martha L., Ann R., Judy B., Jeanne W., Patty R., and Phil C.

9:00 am Opening: The clerk displayed the 7th month Baltimore Yearly Meeting queries while we settled into silent centering worship and as we considered the queries. We were greeted by the clerk and her expression of gratitude to be clerking in-person and to have some of our community online:

7th Month: CARING FOR OTHERS

- Do you respect that of God in every person?
- Do you search yourself for and strive to eliminate prejudices such as those related to race, religion, gender, age, sexual orientation, and economic condition?
- In what ways do you accept and appreciate differences among your friends and associates?
- Do you avoid exploiting or manipulating others to accomplish ends, however worthy?

BYM Faith & Practice, 1988 (revised 2001)

The clerk reviewed guidance for MfW wAtB, including that we speak from Spirit and to the center of the room or to the clerk, not engaging in cross-talk. The agenda was displayed on the screen, followed by the AFM Anti-Racism Queries which the clerk read, so that we could use the queries to assist us with our decision-making efforts.

Agenda:

1) 5th and 6th Month 2022 MfW wAtB Meeting Minutes Reviewed & Approved:

a) The revised 5th month minutes along with the 6th month draft minutes were both shared for review. No additional changes were noted and the minutes were approved.

2) Treasurers Report & Stewardship & Finance (S&F):

(a) Treasurer's Report, 2022 (attached)

- (i) On behalf of the treasurers, Julie R. provided the updated 2022 Treasurer's report, current as of July 3, 2022. It was noted that all expenses are as expected, as well as noting that with restarting rentals, there is discussion to be had on where potential surplus funds will go.
- (ii) There was additional discussion on the recent MH&L work on the parking lot, questioning which funds the work should be assigned to--the operating budget or designated capital improvement fund. S&F agreed to work with the clerks of MH&L to discern which fund those expenses will be assigned to. Friends shared their gratitude for the work done by MH&L to upgrade the parking lot.

(b) BYM Annual Session Pay-as-Led

BYM Annual Session will be taking place in-person this year at Hood College, in addition to having a virtual attendance option. Wes J. brought forward the recent request to monthly meetings from BYM to support all those interested to be able to attend BYM Annual Session regardless of their financial capacity. This new "pay-as-led" model of payment is meant to take the burden off of individuals having to make a financial case for resources to their monthly meetings. In turn, monthly meetings are asked to re-direct funds that they may have set aside for individual scholarships to annual session to help make up for any gap in revenue.

S&F expressed desire to support BYM's request and Friends joined in discussion on the details and sources of funding involved with confirming our commitment. Friends requested clarification particularly on the timeline and amount being requested, while adding that AFM is blessed with adequate funding and in a position to support such requests without impacting our ability to fulfill AFM needs. It was noted that should additional scholarship funds be needed for other requests, we could accommodate such requests by reallocating funds from areas such as the committee contingency fund.

(i) Additional gratitude was shared for the work being done by the treasurers with an open call for Friends who are interested in AFM's use of funding to join the committee.

(ii) Friends were in unity to approve use of half of the adult scholarship fund (\$1k) as donation to BYM in good faith effort of support for Pay-as-Led.

3) AFM support for Urgent Quaker Call to Action statement:

a) Phil C. shared an endorsement request (<https://quakercall.net/>) circulated to Meeting and discussed during a recent Meeting for Learning (MfL) concerning the rising levels of friction in the US government and democratic process. The statement sent out by a network of weighty friends from organizations including FGC, AFSC, SCNL, and others, expressed a need to support voting rights and meaningful, nonviolent communication & action in the event of conflict, with an emphasis on being prepared to support nonviolent actions.

b) Friends who attended the MfL joined in in support of the message and endorsement and desire to continue the conversation to include possible actions and next steps. Although no specific actions besides the message endorsement were requested at this time, interested Friends were encouraged to connect with Peace & Social Concerns to discuss ideas for future AFM involvement.

c) Friends were in unity to support the motion and endorse the message.

4) Chesapeake Quarterly Meeting report:

a) Canby R., our AFM liaison to Chesapeake Quarterly Meeting, shared a report from the recent meeting held at Patapsco Friends Meeting. Friends met for Meeting for Worship, followed by lunch with attendees from 9 Friends Meetings; about 25 in-person and a few on Zoom. The meeting minutes were taken by Ellen M. and a draft version is available for reference. Discussion highlights included:

i) Many, if not all, other meetings represented are also involved in supporting reparations as well as Afghan resettlement efforts in various forms.

ii) Additional update was shared about a program led by Bob Rudy, a professor at Howard University who is active in the MD Alliance for Justice Reform (MAJR). Bob focused on the concern for Maryland's status as the #1 state with a disproportionate number of black people in the prison system.

iii) Canby R. also praised and recommended Syriana, a local Syrian cafe in Ellicott City supporting refugees & settlement, which provided catering for lunch.

5) Ministry & Worship (M&W) reminder:

a) On behalf of M&W, Ann R. asked Friends to be mindful when sharing during Meeting for Worship that messages are prompted by the spiritual connection and experience or spiritual insight. A request was made that other topics Friends would like to share or discuss, including current events and reflections, be shared in other settings. M&W welcomes ideas for how best to create these additional opportunities.

6) 8th month MfW wAtB update

a) The clerk suggested that we cancel the August 7th MfW wAtB at AFM so that Friends are able to participate in BYM Worship and Meeting for Business at Annual Session that day. Our next MfW wAtB would be on Sunday, Sept. 5th. There will be a committee clerks' meeting on July 31 (1:30-3:30).

b) All were in unity to cancel AFM's August Meeting for Business.

Closing

The MfW wAtB closed with a moment of silence, reflection and gratitude.

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 5, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,

Arielle J., Recording Clerk

recording-clerk@annapolisfriends.org

ATTACHMENTS:

- 5th and 6th Month 2022 MfW wAtB Meeting Minutes
- Treasurer's Report, 2022
- Urgent Quaker Call to Action statement

**Report from Adhoc Committee for Afghan Refugee Resettlement
September 2022**

Our refugee family has made much progress over the summer. They are now successfully settled into a three bedroom apartment in Silver Spring/Laurel and have developed connections to other Afghans living in the building. The two boys have been enrolled in school and began classes this week. The older boy also attended a summer camp experience at University of Maryland College Park to introduce teens to the college environment.

Both parents are enrolled in ESL and their English is improving. They have also both passed their written drivers test and have learners permits. They are working on learning to drive in the traffic in our area with the help of Joan and Bruce Miller and Martha Baer.

The father continues with his part-time job in Bethesda. They also have income through cash assistance, foodstamps and special funding through the Lutherans. The two congregations are paying for their rent and utilities, as well as some special expenses, at present. Our support will taper off once they have better employment, with our financial obligations ending after a year. We currently have \$25,631 in the refugee account at UUCA to support their needs.

One of the biggest challenges has been finding a civil engineer to evaluate the father's skills and help him develop a resume and contacts. Several potential mentors have fallen through and we continue to reach out to professional associations and others to find a professional in his field to help him find an appropriate job.

Our two biggest needs now from Friends and other donors are:

- A civil engineer to serve as mentor
- Donation of a car that can hold 5 people and a car seat

Now that the family is settled, we would like to introduce them to the members of the two supporting congregations. We will be holding a potluck on Friday, September 30th at the Meeting house for members of AFM and UUCA to meet them. All are welcome.

Respectfully, submitted by Jo Anne Schneider for the Ad Hoc Committee on Afghan Refugee Resettlement

S&F - Committee Contingency Fund (CCF):

1. Fund Type: Contingency

2. Name of Fund: Committee Contingency Fund

3. Purpose of Fund: To finance the unanticipated activities of committees within the Meeting and to cover budget shortfalls in either the committee operating budget or an overseen IDFund.

4. Fund Restrictions: To be used for activities within the Meeting, particularly committee activities that would have been included in the budget if they had been anticipated during the budgeting process. Also to support committee activities in the event of a budget shortfall.

5. Disbursement Authority (Cmte): Stewardship and Finance Committee with Meeting for Business approval for amounts over \$500-\$1000. Requests for CCF disbursements must come from the standing committee having oversight responsibility for the target IDFund or operating budget line item

6. Miscellaneous Information/Remarks: The annual funding goal for this fund is \$15,000 to be met via the annual budget process. These funds are intended for use on Meeting sponsored or organized activities of various committees within the Meeting, with disbursement under the auspices of Stewardship & Finance committee. The fund was established to ease the panic/surplus cycle of our budgeting process, to enable committees to consolidate individual contingency planning, and to support committee Leadings that arise mid budget cycle.

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S&F - Adult Scholarship Fund:

1. Fund Type: Contingency Sinking

2. Name: Adult Scholarship Fund

3. Purpose: To provide assistance to AFM members and attenders for Quaker based spiritual growth opportunities. In particular, attendance at Friends United Meeting Triennial, Friends General Conference Gathering, Pendle Hill courses, Yearly Meeting annual sessions, Quarterly Meeting, Silent Retreats such as the ones held at Dayspring, and the like.

4. Restrictions: Not to be used for general educational purposes. 5.

Disbursement Authority (Cmte): Stewardship and Finance

6. Miscellaneous Information: The funding goal is \$2,000 to be met via the annual budgeting process. Friends/attenders who would like assistance should contact the clerk of Stewardship and Finance. The clerk has *authority to approve assistance of up to \$250-\$500 if: (1) the amount requested is less than half the total amount needed; (2) the purpose is to attend a Quaker event; and (3) the person requesting assistance is a regular attender and has not received Adult Scholarship Funds in the last year. Requests not meeting these criteria will be confidentially considered by committee. Checks will generally be written to the sponsoring organization, although other arrangements can be made under special circumstances. People who receive assistance should consider ways they can share what they gained from attending the event with this assistance from AFM the meeting.*

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