

Annapolis Friends Monthly Meeting (AFM)
Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business (MfW wAtB)
4th Month, 2nd Day, 2023
(4/2/2023)
Meeting Minutes – Approved

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

Present at the meetinghouse: Karen C. (clerk), Ellen M., Martha B., Phil C., Jack H., Nan E., Sky E., Barb T., Stephen P., Dot W., Cairn K., Jeanne W., Wes J., Sylvia O., Ann R., Kim F., Jack L., Deane S., Marcia O., and Marjorie K.

Present on Zoom: Arielle J. (recording clerk), Mary B., Minette C-S., Jean C., Margaret C., and Will C.

9:00 am Opening: The clerk displayed and read queries from Baltimore Yearly Meeting's Faith and Practice: Personal Spiritual Life while we settled into silent centering worship.

- Do you make time for meditation, prayer and worship? Do you read the Bible, the writings of Friends, and other inspirational works, seeking new light? Do you regularly seek God's guidance? Are you open to guidance and support and do you give thanks for them? Do you share your spiritual insights with others and willingly receive from them i

The clerk then displayed and reviewed the meeting's agenda and the AFM Anti-Racist queries for use in our discernment and additionally provided a reminder of best practices for the hybrid meeting and for Friends attending on Zoom.

Agenda:

1) Communications and Meetinghouse & Land (CC & MH&L):

a) Ellen M. shared an update about the ongoing project to manage tech support for the OWL during Meeting for Worship.

i) As a result of last MfB's discussions, the committee has been looking at agencies to manage the additional tech support and financial procedures and is requesting approval to move forward with the agencies they have been working with.

ii) Friends engaged in discussion about the hired role duties and financing the effort. Additional points were raised about whether or not to outsource the role, and continue to find volunteers within our community.

iii) Friends approved the continued research and working with the agencies, with one friend standing aside.

2) Meetinghouse & Land (MH&L): Ellen M., Jeanne W., and Kim F., shared updates and requests for the following MH&L projects & activities:

a) Revisiting the security cameras issue: now that we have advanced WIFI,

the committee is once again considering adding cameras to address ongoing issues around the property.

- i) The committee shared a proposal for adding 2 exterior security cameras for up to a \$2000 one-time expense from the capital improvements fund, along with additional details about the logistics and privacy.
 - ii) Friends shared concerns and clarified additional details about the security cameras and privacy, as well as suggestions for additional preventative methods to help address potential unwelcome activity on the property.
 - iii) Friends were in unity to approve adding the additional security cameras, with the understanding that additional preventative measures be explored.
- b) Purchasing new folding chairs (which was previously approved pre-pandemic but deferred): the committee is now requesting to resume that effort and move forward with purchasing the new chairs, along with the addition of a chair rack.
- i) Friends raised questions about the current needs and what would happen to the existing chairs.
 - ii) Friends were in unity to approve the purchase.

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

- a) On behalf of P&SC, Phil C. shared 2 items for approval.
- i) First, as part of the approved R&RJ minute, among the recommended actions was a proposal to hold “community conversations” to discuss issues related to racial divide/inequities. Since that time, Friends have learned and become involved in a similar effort called the Racial Reconciliation Collaborative (RRC), being organized by local churches and including other faith groups in the county, as well as the A.A. Conflict Resolution Center.
 - ii) To help share this endeavor, the committee is requesting approval to purchase a banner with the text “conversation builds community” for ~\$200 to go alongside the BLM banner.
 - 1) Friends were in unity to approve the banner purchase.
 - iii) Second, The Golden Rule Quaker ship will be visiting Annapolis from April 24th-27th. The committee requests approval to co-sponsor a welcoming event and AFM Friends are invited to attend and volunteer to help with this project.
 - 1) Friends were in unity to approve this request.

4) Quaker Market Committee (QMC):

- a) On behalf of the committee, Cairn K. shared a report on the Spring Market Quaker causes. See attached for full report.

5) Clerk's announcements:

- a) The clerk asked Friends to send Ellen M. any items that we didn't get to so they could be included in the Weekly Announcements, as well as the following announcements:
- i) The clerks meeting was approved for and will take place on April 23rd
 - ii) A “potluck and conversation” will be coming up and there will be a poll to follow to

determine the date to discuss and reflect on the Black History month educational resources that were distributed on the AFM announce listserv.

Closing

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

The recording clerk will send the meeting minutes to the AFM-Announce email list, so that Friends can review and provide feedback before the next MfW wAtB. The minutes will be brought forth for approval at the end of the next MfW wAtB on May 7th, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,

Arielle J., Recording Clerk

recording-clerk@annapolisfriends.org

ATTACHMENTS:

- 3rd Month 2023 MfW wAtB Meeting Minutes
- Spring Market Quaker causes report

QMC Report on Discernment Results Regarding Quaker Spring Market 2023 Causes

The Quaker Market Committee would like to share the results of our recent discernment regarding the causes we are recommending that AFM embrace for our upcoming Quaker Spring Market 2023:

The first **\$250** in proceeds to be allocated to **Young Friends** for their own discernment process.

Of the remaining proceeds, QMC recommends allocating 25% to each of the following:

External

- **Quaker Earthcare Witness**, supporting our Environmental Stewardship testimony
- **Slade Child Foundation**, for their support of orphans and families in Ukraine
- **UnIFIED Efforts**, reflecting AFM's commitment as an anti-racism community

Internal

- **Francis Wayne's Ministry in Kenya** (through Maryknoll Lay Missioners)

Since AFM has not yet updated its 2005 Fundraising Policy, created before Quaker Market Committee became a committee, QMC reached out to Peace and Social Concerns for their approval of our discernment prior to bringing those results to meeting for worship with attention to business. Peace and Social Concerns expressed unity with our discernment.

Since part of the Quaker Market Committee's mission is to raise educational awareness, as well as funds, we would like to provide some brief background for each cause.

Quaker Earthcare Witness (<https://quakerearthcare.org/>) is a network of North American Friends and other like-minded people who are taking spirit-led action to address the ecological and social crises of the world, emphasizing Quaker process and testimonies. QEW has an annual program of events and conferences. These include support for Young Adult Friends, an Earth Center at Friends General Conference, and two Steering Committee meetings. QEW also gives small grants to support Meetings and communities with start-up funds for greening projects. For our committee, this cause spoke to AFM's concern for our Environmental Stewardship testimony.

Slade Child Foundation (<https://www.sladechild.org/>) was founded in 1983 by attorney David Slade. The organizational structure is unique. A group of Trustees contributes funds to cover operating and administrative expenses, which allows 100% of every public dollar donated to be applied to support the children's programs. The mission of the organization is to provide food, shelter, clothing, medical care and education to poor children in 9 countries. In 2022, Slade Child Foundation (SCF) supported approximately 1,330 children.

For over 20 years SCF has supported the Ukrainian Family Heart to Heart program located in Ternopil, Ukraine. The organization has traditionally supported orphans and children from needy families, as well as children suffering from major health problems. Historically, the number of children they help averages approximately 75. As a result of the Russian invasion, "Ukrainian Family" has seen a huge increase of needy children and families. According to

reports, Ukrainian Family has helped more than 40 families and 166 children affected by the war. Including Slade Child Foundation as one of the causes we embrace for Quaker Spring Market provides an especially meaningful way for AFM to show its continued support for the people of Ukraine, since AFM's own Al Baumann is a Slade Child Foundation trustee.

UnIFIED Efforts (<https://unifiedefforts.org/home>) is an award-winning Youth Violence Prevention Center in Baltimore, founded by Debbie Ramsey, a member of Stoney Run Friends Meeting, and a former Baltimore City police officer. They provide specialty, multipurpose and academic programs for students year-round to minimize academic loss when school-aged children are out of school for extended times. Their programs and activities include financial literacy, free dental screenings, aviation-aerospace, cooking with whole foods, athletic activities, the arts, writing, swim lessons, bullying prevention, sign language and CPR for children. Committee members were drawn to this cause as a reflection of AFM's commitment to function as an anti-racist community.

Our recommendation to support **Francis Wayne's Ministry in Kenya** is an example of how the internal 25% of Quaker Market proceeds can be used to support a personal ministry. Francis Wayne has been an active member of the AFM community for many years. Francis is currently following a spiritual leading to serve with the Maryknoll Lay Missioners in Kenya (<https://mklm.org/>), where he is teaching Auto Mechanic Theory and Math to young men and women, ages 18 to 26, at the Marianist Technical Institute in Ukunda. Students come to MTI, some with little education and, in a short while, improve their capacity and interest to learn. It gives them hope for the future and is a joy to watch their development. Students are from different religious groups, Muslim and Christian mostly.

This semester the school has approximately 200 students from different financial levels, the poorest not having any pocket money to buy even soap to wash clothing. Many students are supported by donors and about half are residents, living and eating at the school. A Quaker Market donation would be used to help Francis buy needed tools at the mechanic shop and/or help to pay someone's tuition anonymously, as well as providing financial support for other Maryknoll needs, including the support of Francis's living arrangements. In our recommendation of support for this work, QMC members agree wholeheartedly with this quote from the AFM community member who recommended this cause, "In Africa, as in our home, his ministry is his simple presence, his passionate love of God, and his commitment to listen for God's instructions every day. Our funds will support this work among the poor, the forgotten, the desperate." AFM is blessed to have Francis also continue as a remote member of our AFM community via Zoom, providing insights into life in Kenya.

Quaker Spring Market 2023 will take place at the meetinghouse on May 6th, according to the usual Quaker Market pattern of first Saturdays in May and December. Please stay tuned to learn of the many opportunities available as we work together to build community and raise educational awareness and funds for worthy causes.