

Annapolis Friends Monthly Meeting (AFM)
Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business (MfW wAtB)
7th Month, 2nd Day, 2023
(7/2/2023)
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., Mary B., Sylvia O., Phil C., Martha B., Jack H., Nan E., Sky E., Marjorie K., Diane S., Kim F., Wes J., Dot W., Margaret H., Marcia O., Bonnie P., and Betty Sue S.

Present on Zoom: Arielle J. (recording clerk), Jean C., Margaret C., Francis W., Will C., Joan M., Joseph M., Jeanne W., Pat S., Patty R., Ria H., and Phyllis S.

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

- 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?

The clerk then 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) Ministry & Worship (M&W):

Martha B., reporting on behalf of Ministry and Worship, shared an update and recommendation for Joan M. to be welcomed as a member of Annapolis Friends Meeting. The clearness committee, consisting of Barbara Thomas (clearness committee clerk), Sylvia O., Joe M., and Martha B., met with Joan on two occasions during June for an enriching exchange, learning about Joan's spiritual journey, appreciating the many special gifts she contributes to this community, and offering our ongoing support to her. The meeting joyfully accepted the request and were delighted to welcome Joan M as a member of our community.

3) Nominating Committee:

- a) On behalf of Nominating Committee, Martha B. shared a few updates and calls for nominations.
 - i) First, Joan M. has resigned as clerk of Outreach Committee. The

committee and Meeting are grateful for her clerkship, and will continue to carry on the work in her absence.

- ii) Second, Martha shared a request for nominations or self-nominations to join various committees, particularly including Stewardship & Finance, among others.
- iii) Finally, Karen C. added additional remarks about openings and opportunities to join committees and work with BYM.

4) Meetinghouse & Land (MH&L):

- a) On behalf of MH&L, Kim F., shared an update about the ongoing roof project and planned upcoming work.

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

- b) On behalf of P&SC, Phil C. shared the following updates and request for guidance:
 - i) First, a recent act of race-based vandalism occurred at the nearby Fowler United Methodist Church totalling over \$100,000 in damages. Friends are moved to make a donation from emergent social concerns to offer additional help and express solidarity.
 - 1) Friends discussed available funding options and additional ideas for means of showing our support as a neighborly Meeting.
 - 2) The committee will resume this discussion virtually and propose an official amount request to the Treasurer, along with sharing additional means and opportunities to provide assistance with the rest of the Meeting.
- c) 2 other announcements included:
- d) First, Nancy Jo S. has been approved to attend a national training conference of braver angels focused on improving communications in the tense political climate and she plans to come back and share her learnings with the Meeting.
- e) Second, as a followup to the Golden Rule visit and nuclear weapons discussion, Friends and Peace Action committee have come up with a proposal and invitation for Friends to hold a vigil on August 6th to commemorate the historical nuclear bombing events. The vigil for nuclear disarmament will seek to promote peace and consider ways we can work together to ensure that nuclear weapons are never again used, and hopefully draw attention to ways to eliminate the occasions of war.
 - i) Friends approved the proposal and shared in additional discussion about logistics and other considerations.

8) Clerk's announcements: The clerk shared the following announcements and proposals:

- a) First is a proposal to cancel the August business meeting. Friends were in unity to approve this proposal.
- b) Second, the next committee clerks' meeting will take place on July 23, 9:30, in-person and online. All are welcome to attend and each committee is encouraged to have someone in attendance.
- c) Finally, an update on the progress on deciding how to fund our Retrospective and Restorative Justice Fund and a recent Meeting for Learning and decision to arrange for an outside speaker to come and talk about reparations which will likely be a potluck

event in August or September.

- d) The clerk took the remaining meeting time to hold discussion and additional feedback about funding this initiative, reminding the meeting that no decisions are expected to be made today but offering the opportunity to share.
 - i) Friends engaged in lively discussion about how we support different groups and concerns, our intentions, and how we as a meeting fund various initiatives. Additionally noting ongoing inequities and opportunities for supporting restorative action, as well as possible ways to begin providing support incrementally, along with concerns about inaction.

Closing

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

The recording clerk will send the approved meeting minutes to the AFM-Announce email list before the next MfW wAtB on September 3rd, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,

Arielle J., Recording Clerk

recording-clerk@annapolisfriends.org

ATTACHMENTS:

- 6th Month 2023 MfW wAtB Meeting Minutes

Annapolis Friend Meeting - Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business - 6/4/23: We began with centering silence, meeting in person and via Zoom, after reading home, family and anti-racist queries beginning about 9 a.m. Thirty participants included: Ann R., Barb T., Cairn K., Dot W., Doug M., Ellen M., Jack L., Jeanne W., Karen C. (clerking), Kim F., Jean C., Joan M., Marcia O., Margaret & Will C., Margaret H., Martha B., Martha L., Mary B., Mary D., Minette C-S., Nan & Sky E., Nancy S., Pat S., Phil C. (minuting), Phyllis S., Ria H., Sylvia O., Steve P., Wes J.

For Meetinghouse and Land Committee, Kim reported that AFM needs to make a decision about replacing and upgrading the meetinghouse roof. This has been discussed for some time, but recently has been found to have storm damage. Funds now could come from a \$36,000 insurance settlement and up to \$15,000 from the Capital Replacement Fund. Two competitive bids have been considered. The work would include one for a “cool roof” with 50 year-rated shingles & solar-powered vents that would reduce energy use, as well as replacing rain gutters. The Committee recommends a small, local minority contractor, Odyssey Remodeling, which would accept the estimate of the insurance company. After discussion, Friends approved these recommendations.

For Communications Committee, Ellen suggested that a decision should be made about making tech support (an OWL operator) available during the time slot between 8 am and 11 am worship for ongoing blended (Zoom/OWL and in-person) Meetings. Previously, we have approved an expenditure of up to \$4,000 for the current year. After discussion, Friends agreed to the recommendations: 1) to permit the Committee to expand tech support to additional meetings; and 2) to transfer \$4,000 from Committee Contingency to Communications to cover the cost in 2023. Costs, it is estimated, should not exceed \$4,000 for the current year; however, as pointed out by one Friend, we may need to review how this fits into the budget if continued in future years.

For Peace and Social Concerns, Phil reported:

- 1) The Committee has agreed on a \$500 donation from Emergent Social Concerns Fund for support of Sudan-area refugees, half directed to the UN World Food Programme, the other half to the UN refugee program.
- 2) As an update on AFM participation with the Racial Reconciliation Collaborative (RRC) begun by St.Philips and St.Anne’s now involving dozens of other County faith groups, a) the official launch of the banner program should occur soon. (AFM has a banner on order); b) another seminar on Political Polarization will be offered at St.Philips this week (6/8/23 at 7 p.m.); and c) we hope to get direction from the RRC steering group tomorrow as to AFM’s proposal for a “Community Conversations” program.
- 3) The Committee requests AFM approval for i) asking Annapolis Mayor Buckley to request Council approval to make Annapolis a “nuclear-free” zone” and ii) to sign a letter in support of H. Res. 77, a Resolution Embracing the Goals and Provisions of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons adopted by 122 nations or $\frac{2}{3}$ of UN membership in 2017; the Res. also calls on the President to

(A) pursue disarmament negotiations with Russia, China & other nuclear armed nations, as well as

(B) renounce the option of using nuclear weapons first;
(C) for Congress to end the President's sole authority to launch a nuclear attack and (D) take U.S. nuclear weapons off hair-trigger alert; and

(E) cancel the plan to replace the nuclear arsenal of the United States with modernized, enhanced weapons which is estimated to cost \$60T per year for many years.

After discussion, Friends approved these recommendations. Friends also urged that AFM consider other ways to offer public education on nonviolence and on the imminent dangers of nuclear weapons, involving as possible a "wider net" to include the Governor of Maryland, Parliament of World Religions, FCNL, and others.

4) The Afghan refugee family support committee also reported that: a) donations still are being sought for the next six months for the family in light of their new health and unemployment problems; and b) Southwest Rewards points also would be welcome to assist the mother and three children visit her extended family who also are refugees living in Las Vegas. Friends who might have leads for a desk job for the father, whose injuries prevent him from continuing physically challenging work as a surveyor.

Children's Religious Education proposed updates to fund descriptions for the Camping Assistance Fund and the Young Friends Opportunity Fund were deferred due to shortness of time.

For Quaker Market Committee (QMC), Cairn K. reported that AFM's Quaker Spring Market on 6 May 2023, was blessed with fair weather, delicious food, delightful live music, so many shopping options, and a joyful sense of community enhanced by being back fully in person. The total funds raised for distribution to causes came to \$5,750. Young Friends will be allocated \$250 for their discernment (which will occur next fall), and each of the following four causes will receive \$1,375: Quaker Earthcare Witness, Slade Child Foundation, Unified Efforts, and Francis Wayne's Ministry in Kenya (through Maryknoll Lay Missioners). Unsold items were leveraged to provide in-kind donations to many causes, and Fahima was invited to sell Afghan items to support the work of Afghan Women's Fund. QMC is deeply grateful to all who contributed to the abundance and richness of the Quaker Spring Market 2023 experience, in so many ways! (A full report is attached.)

Finally, our Clerk summarized recent input received on funding our 2022-established **AFM Retrospective and Restorative Justice Fund**. These included having threshing sessions, worship sharing, review of our prior discernment on racial division, collecting information about what other groups are doing for restorative justice and pass-through funding, and looking at what other groups are doing; most Friends advised moving slowly and engaging as many as possible. Martha B. recalled the allegory of three blind people describing an elephant and urged that Friends recall that the RRJ Fund is only one part of Friends' larger concerns with being an antiracist faith community and with acting on our goals of greater engagement

with our African-American neighbors. Reparations, if narrowly defined as financial assistance to those harmed by racial discrimination, is only one small piece of the problem. Looking to the metaphor of a home needing repair, she noted that we all share the same communal home with our neighbors. “It’s not just about the money, it’s about how our community sees and understands our commitment and our role... How we as Friends steward our resources is an important part of the commitment.”

Our Clerk proposed as next steps: 1) A meeting for learning on Quaker process, 2) an educational event with an outside speaker on RRJ, 3) creating a reference document on what AFM already has done on these concerns (also noting that a possible draft is in-progress), and 4) a threshing session on why we’re stuck. We need to put one or more called business-meetings for this fall, perhaps in September and October, after 1) through 4) have been completed. If we don’t need multiple called meetings to reach a “sense of the meeting,” we can use scheduled session to discuss next steps. One Friend expressed the concern that our Founders Fund should not be entirely expended as a source for the RRJ fund. After discussion, Friends approved this plan.

We concluded with centering silence.

-These minutes respectfully submitted by Phil C., substitute Recording Clerk for Arielle J.

Quaker Market Committee Report

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, sixth month 2023

AFM’s Quaker Spring Market on 6 May 2023, was blessed with fair weather, delicious food, delightful live music, so many shopping options, and a joyful sense of community enhanced by being back fully in person.

The total for distribution to causes came to \$5,750. Young Friends will be allocated \$250 for their discernment (which will occur next fall), and each of the following four causes will receive \$1,375: **Quaker Earthcare Witness**, encouraging the integration of ecology in spiritual life; **Slade Child Foundation**, supporting children and families in Ukraine; **UNIFIED Efforts**, providing specialty, multipurpose and academic programs for students in Baltimore year-round to minimize academic loss when school-aged children are out of school for extended times; and **Francis Wayne's Ministry in Kenya** (through Maryknoll Lay Missioners), working with youth and prisoners to provide skills and hope. Francis’s personal ministry served as our internal cause for this Quaker Market.

Unsold items were leveraged to provide in-kind donations to many causes, including Orphan Grain Train, Black Church Food Security Network in Baltimore, Books for International Goodwill (BIG), Rotary Club (collecting children’s books for Little Free Libraries), and Partners in Care. We have also lined up two donated sewing machines for

local Afghan refugees, and Fahima was invited to sell Afghan items for Afghan Women's Fund, in support of their current efforts to bring education and hope to the women and girls of Afghanistan.

QMC is deeply grateful to all who contributed to the abundance and richness of the Quaker Spring Market 2023 experience, in so many ways!