

Annapolis Friends Monthly Meeting (AFM)
Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business (MfB)
Sixth Month, Second Day, 2024 (6/2/24)

Present were: Karen Cunyningham (clerk), Phil Caroom (recording clerk), Barb Thomas, Ellen McBride, Martha Lurz, Margaret Holmes, Mary Barbara, Pat Schenck, Nan & Sky Elsbree, Ani Warneka, Martha Baer, Marcia Ormsby, Marjorie Winslow, Jack Hogsten, Elise Albert, Phyllis Singer, Jeanne Ward, Jean Christianson, Ann Riggs, Alison Barrett, Dan Campbell, Kathy Trimmer, Kim Finch, Nathan Schroyer, and Steve Poe with video staffing by Ben Killgore.

We met both in person and via Zoom, beginning with centering worship and screen-sharing of Baltimore Yearly Meeting's Sixth Month Faith and Practice queries on home and family. From the initial silence, our Clerk welcomed Friends and reviewed AFM's anti-racist queries. After reviewing our Zoom ground rules and previewing some new electronic equipment, we proceeded with reports and action items from various AFM committees.

For Ministry & Pastoral Care Committee (MPC), Martha Baer and Barb Thomas reported. A Clearness Committee recommended AFM membership for Alison Barrett Friends joyfully approved. Both Alison and her clearness committee expressed delight in the process, recalling how connected Alison seemed from the first day she found her way to the Meeting.

We also heard that Marcia Ormsby has volunteered to act as a coordinator for emergency or urgent care when needed. Friends should help Marcia to keep track of new developments, but we all should continue to do our individual parts for pastoral care. Barb also noted that MPC has updated a form for listing individual emergency needs and for use in a "buddy system" on request; the form also is available on the AFM website.

Barb also provided an update of adult education programs for the summer. MPC plans to circulate a survey for possible future education topics; Friends interested in possibly leading an adult ed program should contact MPC. Friends also are requested to consider other ways to connect those who separately participate in 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. meeting times.

Finally, Martha noted many Friends' efforts to encourage greater involvement of children and families from the community. A joint committee meeting between CREC, MPC and other interested Friends will be held on the third First Day in June (6/16/24 at 9:15 a.m.) If Friends have suggestions but can't attend that meeting, they may contact any MPC member.

For Communications Committee (CC), Ellen McBride reported on discernment as to whether we should continue with the practice approved for MfB minutes several years ago of referring to Friends only by first name and first initial of last name. The Committee has found no reason not to include last names. Friends approved returning to the use of last names.

Next, Ellen McBride reminded Friends that we have new email addresses for use of AFM Announce and Discuss lists; these are formatted to use an underscore. Using the old format now won't work; she encouraged Friends to check their spam and junk folders to ensure that our personal email system will recognize the new emails. She also noted that committee addresses "@AnnapolisFriends.org" will remain the same.

For Quaker Market Committee (QMC), Martha Lurz noted that our Spring Market was held on May 5, despite some dampening of attendance by the rainy weather. Market proceeds of \$7850 will be divided as follows: 1) \$250 for Young Friends' discernment and use, then 2) \$1,900 each to internal goals of Meeting House accessibility and to three external causes. The external causes include Mennonite Central Committee (MCC), the Native American Rights Fund, and the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. Fahima also participated to benefit the Afghan Women's Fund. Martha L. also noted that, for unsold items, AFM again

partnered with AmVets, Black Food Security Network, Hope for All, the SPCA and others. (See written report attached to these minutes for more details.) QMC thanks all Friends for their enthusiastic support and looks forward to our 12/6/24 Holiday Market.

For Peace & Social Concerns Committee (PSC), Margaret Holmes reported:

-On 6/23, PSC will offer a meeting for learning (MfL) on immigration with a panel of Friends who have varied experience in this field including Jack Hogsten, Peter Meredith, Mary Dadone, Jennifer Delorge-McKuen, and Jo Anna Schneider. After the panel, queries will invite Friends to share our discernment on personal or group action on this concern and on our visions for national immigration policy.

-On 9/15, PSC also plans a Listening Session on AFM Friends' priorities and our fundraising policies. There are many smaller topics under this umbrella and PSC hopes this Session will begin to help AFM develop more comprehensive policies that are aligned to our current priorities.

-Margaret also noted that PSC has replaced our old tattered BLM banner. Friends expressed our appreciation.

-Finally, Margaret reported that a final check has been issued to the Afghan refugee family which was supported by AFM & UU members for nearly two years. She noted that the Lutheran Social Services network will continue to provide financial and logistic support as needed, but Friends may continue to assist the family with social networking.

For Meeting House and Land Committee (MHL), Kim Finch reported on various items:

-The committee held a 5/9/24 Listening Session with about 20 Friends participating to consider our Meeting House's history and possible future plans. (Notes from that meeting are attached to these minutes.) Four alternate plans from 2019 for meetinghouse expansion are available in the office for viewing. MHL proposes another hybrid meeting on Thursday, 6/13, at 7 pm to continue this Listening Session and hear more about Friends' thoughts on improvements to the Meeting House.

-Kim also reported a recent, very generous donation from the family of Carolyn Martin, who was one of the AFM's founding members. Before her death, her grandson Paul Weiss reported, Carolyn planned to donate 150 - 11" x 20" white marble tiles which Carolyn had rescued from a former church. MHL is excited to determine what creative uses may be made of these.

As to various other projects, Kim also reported:

- Some progress has been made towards getting a more reliable printer for the office. As to the shed, she noted that the key to the padlock was lost; but fortunately we have one or more extra keys. Nevertheless, the committee plans to replace the old one with a new combination lock; the familiar 4-digit combination will be posted in the old hide-a-key box and otherwise MHL will make this combination available. Friends approved the installation of the new lock.

-As to electrical concerns, a solar technician already has been hired to repair part of our solar array which has been disconnected for several months. For outside lighting, another electrician will be hired to reconnect our outdoor lighting. A third dysfunctional charging station may be removed pending a possible grant from the County to replace the nonworking equipment. (Jeanne noted that the committee has been required to get three different electricians for these different needs and they are busy.)

-A new chair rack will arrive shortly. Kim noted that, currently, most of our extra chairs are in the classroom rather than the MPR closet. Hopefully, the rack will enable them to return efficiently to the closet.

-Asked if there are other work requests for MHL to consider, Friends offered a number of concerns that Kim responded to:

- One Friend noted that the MPR floor continues to need repair. MHL hopes to make a decision soon with hopes that work may be done before the summer is over.

-Another Friend asked about prioritizing accessibility concerns. Kim responded that two such short term projects are pending; some others may take more time.

-A third Friend noted that the old county directional sign for AFM (on the corner of Dubois and Bestgate) needs to be replaced; Kim noted that a replacement sign in new condition recently was located and, hopefully, can be installed soon.

-An attender urged Friends not to be overly materialistic with expenditures on our meetinghouse and to consider “land rents” or #LandBack payments to our indigenous forbearers.

-Another Friend urged the Committee to seek support from other Friends who are not on MHL if the Committee is overworked.

-Inspired by the latter suggestion, Kim said MHL would welcome other Friends’ support, particularly on workdays. Friends are encouraged to get in touch whenever they have time to do such things. She noted that Friend Ron DeAbreu recently has been very generous with his time repainting both inside and outside the meetinghouse. Another task that MHL would seek assistance for relates to AFM’s water supply; there is a new requirement for quarterly professional testing of our water supply; but a volunteer also would be welcome for our own water testing, filter changing and adding salt, either at monthly work days or on a volunteer’s own schedule.

Our next workday will take place on Sat., 6/8 from 9 to noon. The many exciting tasks include continued playground safety upgrades, thinning daffodils, weeding, and parking lot bumper restoration.

-Kim also noted that our new meadow / native-plant area is developing and encouraged Friends to take a look when they have time.

Friends thanked MHL for all they do!

Our Clerk reported a Committee Clerks meeting will be held on July 14 at 9:30 and other Friends are welcomed; it is hoped that all committees will be represented. Topics will include– a) what committees may have done in response to our annual Spiritual State of the Meeting report, which asked Committees directions in which Committees need to grow, as well as b) committees’ preparations for Nominating in the fall. c) One more topic may involve the best practices for cross-pollinating, collaborating across different committees that share concerns, and bringing such concerns back to MfB.

Two final announcements:

Our clerk noted that Adelphi Friends Meeting provides guidance for the nearby Friends Meeting School and that the School’s Board is seeking new members from Meetings beyond Adelphi. The school reportedly has important community impacts with a student body that includes 54% Friends of color. The Board meets once per month on Wednesday evenings and provides dinner. Interested Friends should contact Karen Cunyngnam

Another announcement is that Pastor Ronal Moyia of Friends Church of Baltimore will visit with us today; our Clerk encouraged Friends to welcome him.

We concluded with brief silence.

-These minutes respectfully submitted – Phil C., Recording Clerk.

**AFM Ministry and Pastoral Care -
schedule of adult education sessions -
summer 2024**

June 9--Sacred Dance and Chant--Sylvia O.

June 23--Immigration--P&SC

June 30--Worshipful Consideration of Race--Marcia O and Ann R

July 14--AFM Committee Clerks' meeting

July 28 and August 11 were open--but we have plans that developed after the Meeting
for Business

August 15--Anti-Racism and Native Americans Pt. 1--Ann R

Sept. 8--Sacred Dance and Chant--Sylvia

Sept. 15--Listening session on AFM financial priorities and fundraising policy--P&SC

Sept.22--Anti-Racism and Native Americans Pt. 2--Ann R.

Sept. 29--Nominating Committee Brunch

Oct. 13--Committee Clerks' Meeting

Quaker Market Committee Report

6th month 2024

AFM's 2024 Quaker Spring Market was held on 4 May. Inclement weather may have dampened the number of shoppers somewhat, but it could not dampen the joy evident among shoppers and volunteers alike.

Joy abounded in many forms. These forms included shoppers finding just the items they were looking for, the consumption of delicious food, listening to NaNa's soothing Ghanaian drum music, explaining to new shoppers how you can run a fundraiser where most prices are not set, modeling our testimonies of stewardship and equality, and especially watching as children had a ton of fun blowing huge bubbles, getting their faces painted, and running around the meetinghouse and grounds (thank you, Outreach Committee!). And the joy of working together as a community, before, during and after the event, to make what feels like a big party possible.

Thanks to many donation/revenue streams (think: flea market treasures; food; online sales; Palestinian olive oil associated with the Olive Oil Ministry; plants, including herbs from Smile Herb Shop; bbq & hot sauces from Condiment Station, books by/from Fran Palmeri, etc.), QSM 2024 net proceeds amounted to \$7,850. This provides \$250 for discernment by Young Friends, and \$1,900 each to the Internal goal of improvements to handicapped safety and accessibility at the meetinghouse, as well as three external causes (Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Mennonite Central Committee for their work in Ukraine and Gaza, and the Native American Rights Fund). Young Friends' discernment for their QSM 2024 allocation is already in the works.

We were happy that Fahima could join us once again on behalf of Afghan Women's Fund, and especially appreciated her delicious food and help on set-up day and Market day itself. The help that Fahima and her partners are still able to provide to women and girls in Afghanistan is impressive, important, and greatly appreciated!

Although many of our donated items go home with shoppers, a number are not found by just the right shopper in the short window of our 5-hour event. We work very hard to make good connections for these unsold items. Causes benefitting

from QSM 2024 unsold items included: Amvets, Black Church Food Security Network, Books for International Goodwill, Calvert County Textile Recycling, Good Will, Hope for All, Marshall Hope Corporation, Orphan Grain Train, Partners in Care, and the SPCA.

Deep gratitude to the many individuals and committees (think QMC, Communications, Outreach, MH&L, CREC, AFM Treasurers) who contributed to the success of Quaker Spring Market 2024! We look forward to working with all of you and more on Quaker Holiday Market on 7 December 2024!