

ANNAPOLIS FRIENDS NEWSLETTER – MAY 2016

MEETING SCHEDULE

- Meeting for worship: 11 a.m. on First Days
- First Day School for children: 11 a.m. (joining Meeting for Worship from 11:45 a.m. to noon)
- Nursery care for our youngest: 11 a.m.
- Meetings for Worship with a Concern for Business: 1st First Day of month at 9 a.m.
- Adult religious education: As noted in the Meeting Calendar below and in Other Scheduled Items and Items of Note
- Early meeting for worship (weather permitting outdoors) at 8 a.m. on 2nd, 4th, and 5th First Days
- North County mid-week meeting: First Tuesday (May 3) from 7 to 8 p.m., at 7627 Locust Grove Road, Glen Burnie. Call 410-439-2319 for more information.
- The Meditation Study Group meets at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday evenings in the meeting room
- NOTE: The deadline for submitting newsletter items is the 20th of the month (All committees and their reps, and all F/friends with leadings are welcome to submit items for inclusion).

MEETING CALENDAR

MAY 1: 9 a.m. Meeting For Business; 11 a.m. Meeting for Worship; 6:30 p.m. William Penn House Potluck

MAY 7: 9 a.m. Quaker Spring Market

MAY 8: 8 a.m. Early Worship; 9:30 a.m. BYM Peace & Social Concerns Committee; 11 a.m. Meeting for Worship; 12:30 p.m. Poetry Group

MAY 10: 7 p.m. Peace & Justice Center

MAY 11: 7:30 p.m. Meditation Group

MAY 14: 2 p.m. Deconstructing Racism

MAY 15: 9:15 a.m. Committee Meetings; 10:30 a.m. Hymn Singing; 11 a.m. Meeting for Worship; 12:30 p.m.

Committees: CREC; 9 p.m. Newsletter Items Due

MAY 18: 7:30 p.m. Meditation Group

MAY 19: 7 p.m. Climate Stewards

MAY 22: 8 a.m. Early Worship; 11 a.m. Meeting for Worship; 12:30 p.m. MPRm Potluck

MAY 25: 7:30 p.m. Meditation Group

MAY 26: 7 p.m. Climate Stewards of Greater Annapolis Business Meeting

MAY 29: 8 a.m. Early Worship; 11 a.m. Meeting for Worship

CARE OF THE MEETING HOUSE: Ministry and Worship Committee (Note: Peter T is assisting with mid-week check-in and reporting of any discrepancies found; Thank you Peter!)

QUERIES FOR FIFTH MONTH: PERSONAL WAY OF LIFE

Do you live in accordance with your spiritual convictions? Do you seek employment consistent with your beliefs and in service to society? Do you practice simplicity in speech, dress and manner of living, avoiding wasteful consumption? Are you watchful that your possessions do not rule you? Do you strive to be truthful at all times, avoiding judicial oaths?

Do you strive to develop your physical, emotional and mental capacities toward reaching your Divinely given potential? Do you cultivate healthful and moderate habits, avoiding the hazards of drugs, intoxicants, and over-indulgence generally? Do you try to direct such emotions as anger and fear in creative ways?

OTHER SCHEDULED ITEMS AND REPORTS (Expanded in paragraphs following; all events at AFM unless otherwise noted)

[Peace and Justice Center Meeting \(May 10\)](#)

[Meditation Study Group \(May 11, 18, 25\)](#)

[Deconstructing Racism \(May 14\)](#)

[Organizing for Climate Justice at Pendle Hill \(June 16-19\)](#)

[Dayspring Silent Retreat \(June 17-19\)](#)

[Quaker Causes: Interfaith Action for Human Rights](#)

[2016 Spiritual State of the Meeting](#)

[Meeting for Business Minutes April 2016](#)

[Guidelines for Submission to this Newsletter](#)

Peace and Justice Center Meeting – May 10, 7 p.m.

Friends,

We had an excellent Meeting for Learning last First Day as we continue to gather information about how the refugee system works in Maryland. Linda Rabben, whose website and facebook information is below (and her book in our library), has been a tremendous resource. I have attached the handout she provided.

Now that we know what we know, Martha B. and I (co-clerks of P&JC) feel it is time for a discernment process among Annapolis Friends to see which paths we wish to take individually and collectively. We are scheduling a meeting of the **Peace and Justice Center** (all welcome--membership not required!) for **Tues. May 10 in the classroom**. (There is a meditation group in the worship room at 6 pm--so enter quietly).

Things we have heard that are resonating with Friends:

1. Becoming a Sanctuary City

There is much history for this which Linda can provide us. Takoma Park has done this through its city council. Montgomery and PG Counties are addressing it. We would need to do some homework re charters and resolutions--and be sure just what we are asking Annapolis City Council to do. This is something we might be able to interest the Greater Annapolis Interfaith Network in.

2. Connecting with a local family

Organizations willing to help us with this are Human Rights First and International Rescue Committee.

3. Addressing legislation in MD and US

On the Maryland level, *Maryland Welcomes Refugees* has been working on this. Their website can connect us with many groups we should become familiar with: interfaithimmigration.org, Multifaith Alliance for Syrian Refugees, City of Sanctuary, refugeesarewelcome.org.

On the federal level, Friends Committee on National Legislation works with the Interfaith Immigration Coalition (contact at FCNL is Hannah Graf Evans). Linda pointed out that the US government refuses to acknowledge that Central American migrants fall in the category of refugee seekers--and thus they are invisible. There are thousands in MD alone.

We can get speaker, guidance, more information and connections in once we discern our directions and our "champions," i.e., those among us willing to lead.

So, please join us one and all on Tues. May 10.

Blessings,

Barbara

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Meditation Study Group – Wednesdays, May 11, 18, 25, 7:30 p.m.

The meditation study group will meet Wednesdays at 7:30pm.

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Deconstructing Racism – May 14, 2-4 p.m.

Dear Friends,

The next deconstructing racism discussion will be Saturday, 5/14, from 2 to 4 PM in the meetinghouse library. The group is under the care of AFM Ministry and Worship Committee.

Friends gather every one or two months to talk about our recent experiences related to race and diversity. We open in silent worship, update each other on events in our lives, examine our own unaware racism, discern our individual and collective leadings for furthering equality and justice, and close in silent worship.

We support each other as we seek and learn. We always welcome newcomers.

In peace, Jean C.

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Organizing for Climate Justice at Pendle Hill - June 16-19, 2016

Dear Friends,

[Please join us June 16-19 for Powerful Faith-Based Organizing for Climate Justice at Pendle Hill.](#)

Pope Francis, the Dali Lama, and other religious leaders have increasingly proclaimed the moral urgency of addressing climate disruption. Rising to that call, people of faith are taking action– from community organizing to solarize neighborhoods, to lobbying state governments to forestall fracking, to engaging in a variety of nonviolent direct action campaigns. Skillful, strategic actions in these areas complement each other and strengthen the movement for climate justice.

[If you are ready to build your skills for faithful action on climate, please join us! Registrations made before May 2 will receive substantial savings.](#)

Beginning with multi-faith worship, we will use plenary sessions, workshops, and interest groups to deepen our capacity to work effectively with others in three skills tracks:

- lobbying and advocacy;
- constructive community resilience projects; and
- strategic nonviolent direct action campaigns.

Join other people of faith in building skills to achieve climate justice. **[Register today.](#)**

Please share this opportunity widely!

Hope to see you there,
Lina Blount
Communications and Outreach Coordinator
lblount@pendlehill.org

Pendle Hill is a Quaker study, retreat, and conference center.

Sign up for our monthly [e-newsletter](#) and visit our website to learn about our [adult education programs](#), including [Answering the Call to Radical Faithfulness](#), our new eight month online/on-campus program in spiritual activism and faith-based organizing.

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Dayspring Silent Retreat: June 17-19, 2016

Dear Friends: Dayspring's beauty, precious solitude and spiritual companionship await us at the end of the glorious season just now upon us. Registration form is pasted below. Please spread the information broadly among Friends. I hope you and others in your spiritual community can share in the blessings of this weekend retreat. In peace,
Jean PS: Dayspring Retreat Center's website is www.dayspringretreat.org.

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DAYSRING SILENT RETREAT: June 17 - 19, 2016

True silence ... is to the spirit what sleep is to the body: nourishment and refreshment. (William Penn, 1699)

Is your spirit in need of nourishment and refreshment? Come to the Dayspring Silent Retreat for **Baltimore Yearly Meeting Friends**. We will keep the silence from Friday evening through worship on Sunday, enjoying the beauty of God's creation, reading, walking, resting, finding our own rhythms, listening for the Still Small Voice.

SPONSOR: Annapolis Friends Meeting **FACILITATOR:** Jean Christianson

WHERE: Dayspring Retreat Center, 11301 Neelsville Church Rd., Germantown, MD 20876 **PHONE:** [301-916-1131](tel:301-916-1131)

ARRIVAL: 3:30 -7:00 p.m. Friday. (Dinner at 7 p.m.) **DEPARTURE:** 2:00 p.m. Sunday.

BRING: Toilet articles, casual clothes, walking shoes, and a flashlight.

MEALS: Vegetarian meals are prepared by a Dayspring cook. Friends share final preparation, set-up and clean-up.

SCHEDULE

Friday:

3:30 -
7:00 Arrival
7:00 Dinner, Introductions, Orientation
8:30 Worship Sharing, Meeting for Worship

Saturday:

7:30 Wake-up Chimes
8:00 Breakfast
9:30 Meeting for Worship
12:30 Lunch
3:45 Tea
4:00 Meeting for Worship
6:30 Dinner
8:00 Meeting for Worship

Sunday:

7:30 Wake-up Chimes

8:00 Breakfast
10:00 Meeting for Worship
11:00 Break (Maintaining Silence)
11:15 Worship Sharing
12:30 Lunch
2:00 Departure

DIRECTIONS TO DAYSPRING RETREAT CENTER: From I-270 take the Damascus exit (#15-A), Route 118 to the north. Go 8/10 of a mile on Route 118 to MD Route 355. Turn left on MD Route 355 and go a VERY SHORT block. Turn right on Neelsville Church Rd. Continue 6/10 of a mile on Neelsville Church Rd. to Dayspring Retreat Center. **OR** From I-70 take Route 27 south at Mount Airy. It will merge into 355 (Frederick Rd.) continuing south. Turn left onto Neelsville Church Rd. (just before reaching Route 118) and follow directions above.

COST: \$220. The fee covers a single room, 6 vegetarian meals, bed linens, blankets, towels and washcloth, meadows, ponds, woods, wildlife.....

REGISTRATION: Deadline is June 10th (or when full). Minimum number is 9 participants. Maximum is 18. Friends will be enrolled in the order in which checks are received.

QUESTIONS? Call Jean Christianson at [410-544-1912](tel:410-544-1912) or e-mail jschristianson@gmail.com .

NEXT RETREAT: October 7 - 10, 2016

REGISTRATION

Make check for **\$220 payable to Dayspring Retreat Center** and give or mail to Jean Christianson, 189 Edgewater Rd., Pasadena, MD 21122, with this completed form. **We need a minimum of 9 registrants. Maximum capacity is 18. Your check will guarantee your spot.** Registration deadline is Friday, June 10th. Checks will be deposited after the retreat.

Name(s): _____ Meeting: _____

Address: _____ Phone(s) _____

Email: _____
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Quaker Causes: Interfaith Action for Human Rights An Annapolis Friends' Meeting "Quaker Cause"

Friends have asked to learn more about the Quaker Causes to which Annapolis Friends Meeting donates 10% of its unrestricted donations annually. Your Peace and Social Concerns Committee will be highlighting one of our causes each month.

This month's Quaker Cause is relatively new to our list: Interfaith Action for Human Rights. This group grew out of and replaced our earlier cause, National Religious Coalition Against Torture. Friend Jack Lahr's concern brought both to the attention of Peace and Social Concerns. IAHR is a mid-Atlantic organization whose purpose is to seek change in the culture, policy or practices that cause torture or violate human dignity. They bring attention to these practices and advocate to achieve changes. Their current focus is on solitary confinement, criminal justice reform, closing Guantanamo and anti-Muslim sentiment in America. IAHR is an active supporter of MAJR. Their excellent website is at www.interfaithactionhr.org/

At our last committee meeting Jack discussed the possibility of AFM displaying a banner which states "We stand with our Muslim neighbors". The committee decided to do preparatory work first, by contacting both the Annapolis Muslim community about what kind of support they feel the need and the Greater Annapolis Interfaith Network about having a panel discussion.

Margaret C. for the Peace and Social Concerns Committee

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Final Draft Annapolis Friends Meeting 2016 Spiritual State of the Meeting

Introduction

At Annapolis Friends Meeting, we remind ourselves that we are "first and foremost a worshipping community," coming together to worship, and then to act, in the Spirit. We have felt Spirit move amongst us in many ways this year: in the deep rich silence of Meeting, in the growth of our children, in community-building activities, and in our work for justice, deconstructing racism, and for the environment. Finally, Annapolis Friends Meeting was very fortunate to have several newcomers become regular attenders this past year. We encouraged the newcomers to participate in the Spiritual State of the Meeting since we always learn much from their thoughts and this helps the Meeting to be more welcoming to newcomers and address their immediate concerns.

On February 14, 2016, the Annapolis Friends Meeting (AFM) joyfully discussed the following queries.

What unexpected blessings or challenges arose for you this year?

One Friend noted that his challenge would have to be the upsurge in racial confrontation and injustice between minority communities (mostly African American, but the problem extends well into other minority communities as well) and the police. It should be noted the AFM displayed a "Black Lives Matter" banner in front of the Meetinghouse and it was vandalized twice and replaced each time.

Two Friends mentioned that an unexpected joy was attending the Friendly Eights dinners. The Friendly Eights is a group of Friends who meet on a monthly basis at Friends' homes to learn more about each other and build community among Friends.

Another Friend stated that an unexpected blessing is, as a retired person, having the opportunity for more involvement in Quaker Committees, and find that the more time he gives, the more they are experienced as a resource and a blessing

What are your greatest joys as a Meeting?

One Friend mentioned that she was celebrating 50 years with Annapolis Friends. She indicated that her joys continue to be worshipping God without a creed, yet finding a spiritual connection. Also she stated that AFM was a place where she has been able to grow and take leadership in a safe and loving place; she is grateful for the role that meeting has played in her life.

We believe that AFM is a very socially active meeting with numerous initiatives. These include our work for justice, deconstructing racism, and for the environment. In addition, AFM is still very involved with the Lighthouse Shelter in Annapolis. Several Friends commented on the joys of our work on social concerns. The following is a sample of these comments:

"Our spirit led activism in all our endeavors." "I am impressed by the social and political activity of the community and also impressed by the range of leadings from a small group." "Focus on service brings me back to the Meeting and the community."

Another Friend indicated that the Wednesday evening Meditation Group is part of her spiritual growth and supports the spiritual work of the Meeting as well.

Finally, one Friend noted that she finds joy in making contact with the deepest part of people as they share in meeting and in other activities.

What leadings does your Meeting feel most strongly about?

As mentioned above, AFM is currently involved with several social concerns. These include the Maryland Alliance for Justice Reform (MAJR), the Climate Stewards of Greater Annapolis (CSGA), the Greater Annapolis Interfaith Network (GAIN), Peace and Justice Center, and our work with racial concerns, which we call Deconstructing Racism. A small group of Friends continue to meet once a week for a meditation study group. Several Friends mentioned this is a very powerful and spiritual activity.

What challenges and troubles are you facing?

Currently, AFM is faced with several challenges. Presently, there are some Friends who do not receive e-mail announcements from the AFM Announce List, which has caused some frustration among some Friends. In spite of the effort of many Friends who are savvy with the Internet technologies, we are still experiencing difficulties sending the AFM Announce List to each address on the mailing list. We are continuing our efforts to reach all server addresses.

A second challenge is AFM's Building for the Future initiative. The AFM Building for the Future initiative was addressed in last year's Spiritual State of the Meeting Report. We continue to have meetings and discussions about our future needs for space to fulfill our spiritual growth.

A third challenge is to the preservation of silence for Meeting for Worship. Friends are arriving tardy to Meeting and/or are forgetting to silence our cell phones. The Ministry and Worship Committee will continue to stand by the door to monitor and usher late arrivals at 11:05 and 11:15. They will purchase a small stand that will include the message: "Please silence all electronic devices."

Finally, we continue to experience Friends entering Meeting for Worship at various times after the 11:00 start of Meeting. Ministry and Worship Committee has agreed to explore the idea that once Silent Worship has begun, Friends may enter Meeting at 11:05 and 11:15.

In what ways is the Meeting less than you might wish it to be?

Only one Friend commented on this by stating:

"For me it is a long standing uneasiness with the largely white and older face of our Meeting. By no means do I say this is due to any unwelcoming aspects of our Meeting; on the contrary I truly believe we are welcoming in ways that are manifest and we can almost take for certain, and we hear this genuinely from many newcomers. Nevertheless, there is something about Quakers, and AFM in particular (mainly perceived from my perspective), that doesn't seem to draw minorities." It should be noted that this issue of having larger number of minorities attending AFM was an issue raised during last year's Spiritual State of the Meeting Report.

How does your Meeting nurture the spiritual life of members and attenders?

A recent newcomer stated: A major blessing this past year has been the love and support she has felt, it feels very powerful, like having a warm blanket around her during her daughter's illness. I am drawn by the lack of creed and dogma and I have found a spiritual home. Other Friends mentioned the social and political activity of the community. Another Friend mentioned he was impressed by range of leadings from a small group

Also, Friends agreed that the Pastoral Care Committee provides a great deal of support and caring to Friends in need of spiritual guidance or in times of sickness and bereavement. Also, AFM conducts a virtual Fifth Night Light Meeting

for Worship that includes holding those who are sick or needing prayer support in God's healing Light. Finally, in addition to the 11:00 Meeting for Worship, twice a month the Meeting has an early morning Meeting for Worship at 8:00 a.m. Several Friends find this is an important and rich, mostly silent, worship.

How well do you attend to the needs of newcomers?

As mentioned above, AFM is fortunate that we have had several newcomers who have become regular attenders at our Meeting for Worship. AFM strives to make all newcomers feel welcome. When an individual attends Meeting for Worship for the first time, a Greeter meets them at the front door and provides the newcomer with a one-page fact sheet on Quakerism and silent worship. In addition, at the Rise of Meeting, a member of the Outreach Committee welcomes newcomers to have a cup of coffee so that any questions can be answered or concerns attended to.

During the Spiritual State of the Meeting discussion a newcomer remarked: "A Newcomer feels a welcoming and gentle acceptance, feels encouraged to be more open, creative and involved, and even challenged, when he has been considered more of an instigator in previous faith communities."

Another newcomer stated: "As a newcomer coming from a faith-based tradition where I felt the worshipping was becoming rote, I was looking for a mindful approach. Sitting quietly in worship, and in meetings for learning.

Do Friends of all ages feel fully a part of the Meeting community?

Annapolis Friends Meeting considers Young Friends an essential part of the Meeting. Children are welcomed as full participants. They are loved, encouraged, and embraced. In addition to First Day School, young Friends join the Meeting for Worship at 11:45 so they have a chance to experience silent worship.

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**ANNAPOLIS FRIENDS MONTHLY MEETING (AFM)
MEETING FOR WORSHIP WITH ATTENTION TO BUSINESS (MFB)
THIRD DAY OF THE FOURTH MONTH, 2016**

Present were: Wes J. (clerk), Phil C. (recording clerk), Joel R., Peter M., Ruth C., Martha O., Nan & Sky E., Jeanne W., Barb T., Bob B., Martha B., Lynada J., Jean C., Cairn K., Karen C., Kit H., Mary B., Jack. L, Bill K., Elise A., Pat S., Kim F., Martha H., Sue P., Dot W., Francis W., Joanna T., Karl R., Lo H., John K., and Katrine A.

Opening: We began with centering worship. We welcomed our clerk back from his travels to Italy & Nepal. Our clerk thanked assistant clerk Martha for pinch-hitting last month at meeting for business & preparing today's agenda.

1. **Miscellaneous Notices & Announcements:**

- We will hold a special potluck meal today after meeting to welcome Danny Awad, pastor of the Bethlehem Presbyterian Church in Palestine, invited to visit by Sam Shropshire;

- AFM's Deconstructing Racism Working Group will meet on Sat., 4/16, 2-4 p.m. to discuss various issues including our "Black Lives Matter" project;

- A memorial service for Bobby Blackwell will be held on Sun., 4/17, 2 p.m. at AFM, preceded by Susan D. interlude on the viola; Friends will be invited to contribute to food & to rearrange chairs after the service; volunteers should contact Pastoral Care;

- Spring Clean Up Day will be held on Sat., 4/23, 9 a.m.- 1 p.m., with the primary project of installing donated playground equipment and other projects Friends will be invited to sign up for by email; upon conclusion of this work, lunch will be offered for volunteers. On the same date, AFM also will host the BYM Working Group on Racism, 4/23, 10 a.m.-1p.m. in the main meeting room; all are welcome.

- AFM's Spring Market will be held on Saturday, 5/7. (See additional information below in these minutes.)

2. **Chesapeake Quarterly Meeting Report** – Barb offered the summary the 3/13/16 Quarterly Meeting, hosted here at AFM, was "great" with hospitality & food provided by Marcia, Pat & many other Friends; our program recounted to visitors from other Meeting how Annapolis started & operates our Peace & Justice Center.

Barb also offered a short report from 3/12/16 BYM Interim Meeting including a minute supporting “12 simple things we can do to support Freedom of Religion.” (This minute already has been included in the AFM newsletter.)

3. **Spiritual State of the Meeting (SOM) Report to BYM** – Joel, for Ministry & Worship, reviewed the 5th and final draft of our SOM report, which synthesizes editing suggestions from many Friends. If Friends have any further suggestions, they should send these to Joel in the next week so we can meet the 4/15 deadline to submit this to BYM. Friends approved this plan.
4. **Market Subcommittee (MC)** – For MC, Cairn reported that MC, through its discernment process, has chosen the following recipients to support with Spring Market 2016 proceeds: the 1st \$100 will go to CREC and the children of our First Day School (FDS) to work through their own discernment process; the remainder will be split among three causes: 1) Friends Peace Teams’ African Great Lakes Initiative for their ongoing peace work in Burundi; 2) Germantown Elementary School’s “Backpack Buddies” program for their work providing food for local children in need during the weekends when school breakfast and lunch programs are unavailable; and 3) Little Pink Houses for their work promoting breast cancer recovery with free week-long beach retreats to breast cancer patients and their families. As all three causes have both an external component and an internal connection to individual community members, MC would request approval to split the proceeds evenly (as a one-time digression from AFM’s policy of 75% to external causes and 25% to internal causes). Friends approved.
5. **Quaker Spring Market will be on Saturday, May 7 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.** Email soon will be sent to tell Friends how we can help, along with a volunteer sign-up sheet. Friends, family and neighbors once again are invited to come and savor delicious food, buy spring plants, shop for flea market treasures, support Afghan Women’s Fund by purchasing handmade Afghan items, and to enjoy fellowship with members of AFM and broader communities.
6. **Meeting House and Land (MHL) Reports:**

a) As to resolution of our neighbor’s encroachment on AFM’s property, Bob reviewed the long and meandering history of Friends’ attempts to resolve this problem, including alternatives such as buying the entire property, swapping easements, buying a portion of the land & replatting. Unfortunately, the County permit office now has made clear that there would be time-consuming, costly & uncertain requirements for our recent plan of surveying, replatting, re-subdividing, & perhaps getting exceptions. The BFF subcommittee, as a result, now recommends the exchange of perpetual easements to resolve the encroachment creating easier and legal mutual access between AFM and the Unitarians’ trail systems.

The easement exchange still would permit AFM to rely on our entire acreage for any future expansion. It also would facilitate AFM’s making “parking exchange agreements” with Unitarians for special events. This plan also could reduce much of the previously estimated \$10,000 cost for the land exchange; Friends will ask the neighbor for a \$5,000 contribution to our building fund (previously offered by him) to defray possible AFM legal fees & easement exchange costs. Bob noted that our neighbor, Les Belcher, also has a time constraint to complete that his permit expires in May 2016, or he might be impelled to tear down the garage; then, to have no incentive to make an easement exchange with AFM. Mr. Belcher’s goal now involves listing the property for sale as soon as possible, but resolving the encroachment is a prerequisite for that listing.

Friends approved AFM’s completing the easement exchange on the best terms available, with Bob as spokesperson, at a cost of up to \$10,000 previously approved.

b) As to AFM’s solar power system, Kim reported MHL’s recommendation that AFM pursue a Green Meeting House Grant from the Friends Meetinghouse Fund. Despite phase I of AFM’s recent improvements by adding solar array & other energy efficient measures, last year’s energy cost still reached \$1600. With the goal of reaching a \$0 annual energy bill, MHL proposes a phase II, funded by AFM’s applying for a “Green Meeting House Fund Grant” of up to \$7,500; if approved by the GMH fund, AFM would match this amount to install the approximate total of \$15,000 additional solar arrays that would reduce our utility costs & carbon footprint to \$0, & potentially generate income for AFM—repaying our costs for the project within a few years. Bob explained the three locations in which the additional solar panels would be located. After substantial discussion, Friends approved.

c) As to plans for a possible Meeting House expansion, Kim recalled that, at our 3/6/16 MfB, MHL and BFF presented a recommendation to complete the scope of services of our Expansion Exploration paying \$7300.00 per the original agreement. Since the presentation of the three conceptual design schemes by our architect on 11/22/15, we have held several meetings discussing these alternatives including called meetings held 12/13/15 and 2/16/16. At our 3/6/16 MfB, we did not find unity around the recommendation, so BFF was asked to continue this discussion in yet

another called-meeting. This follow-up meeting was held 3/20/16. If we could reach substantial agreement and provide specific feedback to the architect, then the conceptual design phase might be brought to its conclusion as a benchmark for our intensive work and thought to date, also setting the stage for our next steps and providing us with a shared "vision."

Upon conclusion of the 3/20/16 meeting, Friends reached unity: that we agreed on basic components of a functional master plan; that we should continue our work with the architect to complete the conceptual design process and scope of services in the Expansion Proposal agreement; and that BFF would return to MfB with a favorable recommendation for the approval of the necessary \$7300 funding.

One Friend raised the concern that we should reach clarity on the County's 15% impervious surfaces requirement to proceed with additional construction on our land. Bob responded that this 15% requirement should be made part of Evan's design constraints in completing these services. Another Friend raised the concern that we, at the last meeting, did not reach consensus as to every detail of the potential design; yet another responded that there was consensus on the basics of completing the design phase and on the large concepts, if not all details. Friends approved asking the architect to complete this next phase as recommended by MHL.

Closing: MfB closed with silent worship transitioning into MfW. Respectfully submitted, Wes Jordan, Clerk, and Phil C., Recording Clerk.

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**ANNAPOLIS FRIENDS MONTHLY MEETING (AFM)
MEETING FOR WORSHIP WITH ATTENTION TO BUSINESS (MFB)
FIRST DAY OF THE FIFTH MONTH, 2016**

Present were: Wes J. (clerk), Phil C. (recording clerk), George & Ruth C., Pat E., Jeanne W., Libby O., Barb T., Cairn K., Will C., Jennifer D.-M., Careen M., Mary B., Sue P., Jean C., Elise A., Bob B., Margaret H., Bill K., and Carol B.

Opening: We began with centering worship. Our clerk noted that, according to the internet, "there are at least 4,200 religions in the world which folks can join, so we're glad you're here."

7. Miscellaneous Notices & Announcements:

Quaker Spring Market will be held Saturday, May 7 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friends, family and neighbors once again are invited to come and savor delicious food, buy spring plants, shop for flea market treasures, support Afghan Women's Fund by purchasing handmade Afghan items, and to enjoy fellowship with members of AFM and broader communities.

Market proceeds will be divided as follows: the 1st \$100 will go to CREC and the children of our FDS program so that they can work through their own discernment process, and the remainder will be split among three causes: the Friends Peace Teams' African Great Lakes Initiative for their peace work in Burundi; Germantown Elementary School's Backpack Buddies Program for their work providing food for local children in need during the weekends when school breakfast and lunch programs are unavailable; and Little Pink Houses for their work promoting breast cancer recovery by providing free week-long beach retreats to breast cancer patients and their families. Friends also can support the Afghan's Women's Fund with purchases of handmade Afghan items.

Cairn passed a clipboard to recruit more volunteers for preparations (offering soup for those moving furniture today) including sorting, donating plants & baked goods, etc. On Market day, we will have representatives of at least two charities supported by the Market. She noted that, in 2015, Quaker markets raised over \$10,500, not including the Afghan fund, and urged Friends to keep up the great work!

-Peace & Justice Center will meet Tues., 5/10, at 7 p.m. to continue our discussions as to immigration & refugees issues.

-Deconstructing racism, Sat., 5/14, 2-4 p.m. will include discussion of AFM's Black Lives Matters initiative and how it may relate to our outreach on issues of racism.

As to other programs, Phil noted that Maryland Alliance for Justice Reform (www.ma4jr.org) held a well-attended

meeting here last Thurs. & its next general meeting (location to be determined) will be 6/21.
& Wes noted that other **Climate Stewards of Greater Annapolis (CSGAnnapolis.org)** meetings are pending & can be found on AFM's calendar or the group's webpage.

8. Treasurer's Report – Sue provided a written report (attached to these Minutes) and added the explanation that, at one-third way through the year, we have received about one-third of our rental income & one-third of our individual contributions. All seems on track, although there may be a little distortion as a few renters prepay at the first of the year & many individual contributors save their payments for year-end. Because our committee contingency & other reserve funds are healthy, committees should feel comfortable that we can afford our normal expenses.

3. BYM Statement and Diversity Vision – For Ministry & Worship (M&W), Joel provided a written report that M&W has sent comments to BYM on behalf of AFM. No further action is needed by MfB at this time.

4. Peace and Social Concerns Com. (PSC):

a) PSC recommends an Emergent Social Concerns donation to African Great Lakes Initiative (AGLI) for Friends Peace Teams (FPT) work in Burundi. Barb noted this fund, under PSC supervision, holds just under \$2,000 & has not been used much in the past year. She noted that the Market Committee has pointed out the request from FPT for their AGLI work for \$6,900; this amount is needed to implement
(i) A four-day program of peace dialogues in face of violence erupting from Burundi leadership crisis and
(ii) Trauma Healing (“healing and reconciliation of our communities”- HROC) workshops targeting the most troubled Bujumbura neighborhoods. (Pat noted that Mennonite Central Com. & Catholic Relief Services have recognized FPT as a valuable program & also may support it.)

Pat E., from her daughter-in-law's experience as a Burundi native with political asylum in the U.S., reports that since the long-running civil war & 1994 genocide —both Hutu and Tutsi—in Rwanda & Burundi caused the deaths of 1.2 million people in a year or two, regional conflicts & social chaos have continued on a low grade level. Burundi now is reported to be the poorest country in the world. In recent weeks, the violence has erupted again from wandering heavily-armed paramilitary gangs, although this is getting little world media attention.

In review, P&SC already has allocated & sent \$500 already to AGLI, the Market Committee also plans to donate 1/3 of our profits from Spring Market. PSC now requests \$500 more per Emergent Social Concerns Fund. Friends approved this request.

(b) FCNL's Request for Monthly Meetings to send their Priorities for 2017-19 (115th) Congress—As part of a biennial preparation for each new Congress, FCNL asks Friends for comments and suggestions as to updated priorities for what soon will be the 114th Congress in 2017.

AFM's PSC has suggested with two additions: 1) replacing opposition to war in Iraq with “any war” and 2) adding the concern embodied by the “Black Lives Matter” program. PSC requested Meeting's unity on this recommendation. Friends approved.

One Friend suggested that FCNL also should support reform & dialog as to Congress' procedural rules to avert partisan deadlock. Another suggested that FCNL should include indeterminate detention in Guantanamo, “extraordinary rendition” and drone attacks, subverting rights of due process. Friends approved resending AFM's amended suggestions to FCNL.

Barb noted with a table (inserted in these minutes) that, in the past two years, Annapolis Friends have been very active on issues identified by FCNL & have taken advantage of FCNL resources:

AFM	FCNL (fcnl.org)
Environment: Climate Stewards of Annapolis Phil Favero has created and led a region-wide effort for education and advocacy.	Jose Aguto, Sustainable Energy & Environment, leads FCNL's lobbying for bipartisan climate solutions.
Peace: Alternatives to Violence Project Martha Baer leads AVP at MCI-J All of us in our daily lives Friends Peace Teams support	Kate Gould, Middle East Policy David Culp, Nuclear Disarmament Theo Sitther, Peacebuilding Policy Genocide & Atrocities Prevention Act (S. 2551)

Justice & Human Potential:
MD Alliance for Justice Reform
Black Lives Matter initiatives
Refugee & Immigration issues

Allyson Neville, Prevention of
Violent Conflict; Yasmine Taeb,
Human Rights and Civil Liberties
Hannah Graf Evans, Immigration

c) Quaker Burying Grounds need for financial support—As an information item, AFM now has four representatives on the Galesville Quaker Burying Grounds Board: Phil C., Tim M., Connie P. and Jeanne W. Phil noted that AFM is the closest meeting to WRQBG & has a historic connection as the first yearly meetings there gave rise to BYM today. Because few burial plots remain to be sold, expenses now have exceeded income and the WRQBG endowment has been tapped in the past year. P&SC feels our contribution would better be through an annual Quaker Cause donation rather than an immediate Emergent Social Concerns Allocation. One Friend noted in past years that AFM donated \$500 per year; another suggested that WRQBG might be made a standing Quaker causes item or a restricted fund so that it does not lapse. One also suggested that WRQBG Trustees might send annual reminders to families of those buried & requests for donations; Phil accepted this suggestion but also explained that, due to aging of family contacts and people moving from the area, only a minority of families have viable contact information. After extensive discussion, Friends agreed to refer the matter to M&W for further discussion and possible recommendation to MfB, PSC or another appropriate committee.

6. Communications Survey – Discussion by Outreach of our AFM communications survey again was deferred for future consideration.

Closing: MfB closed with silent worship transitioning into MfW. Respectfully submitted, Wes J., Clerk, and Phil C., Recording Clerk.

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HOW TO SUBMIT NEWSLETTER ITEMS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Please submit items for the calendar and brief descriptions of events by the 20th of the month.
- Susan W and Nicole S are the editors of the Annapolis Friends Newsletter. Please send any items for inclusion in the newsletter to annapolisfriendsmeeting@gmail.com. Please include the word "Newsletter" in the subject heading of your email
- Friends also are asked to watch your email for announcements of meetings and to listen for announcements at the rise of meeting.
- Event and activity organizers, please also post your announcements on the bulletin board for those who do not use electronic mail!
- The AFM Announce (announce@annapolis.quaker.org) and Discuss (discuss@annapolis.quaker.org) E-Mail Lists are described on the AFM Information Web Page at <http://annapolis.quaker.org/information>

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