

Annapolis Friends Monthly Meeting (AFM)
Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business (MfB)
Fifth Month, Fourth Day, 2025 (5/4/25)

Present were: Ellen McBride (clerk), Phil Caroom (recording clerk), Ben Kilgore, Patty Robinson, Dot Walizer, Nan & Sky Elsbree, Judy Brown, Kim Finch, Dan Campbell, Jack Hogsten, Sylvia Oliva, Betty Sue Salvia, Angela Hicks, Marjorie Kehoe, Barbara Stavac, Jack Lahr, Barb Thomas, Martha Baer, Karen Cunnyingham, Margaret Holmes, Cairn Krafft, Marcia Ormsby, Mary Pratt, Barb Thomas, Diane Shandor, Mary Barbera, Kathleen Hudson, Ann Riggs, Fahima Gaheez, Francis Wayne, Nancy Jo Steetle, Stephen Poe, Alison Barrett, and Derrick Wohlrans.

We met both in person and via Zoom, beginning with centering worship and a reminder of our hybrid & microphone protocols, as well as a review of our AFM anti-racist queries.

In an introductory comment, our Clerk observed there was much energy in this room and the whole building for the past week, especially yesterday. Some Friends may be exhausted after so much planning, sorting, displaying items, selling items, baking and cooking, serving food, and then sorting, grouping and boxing the remaining items before transforming the building back into a place of worship. We know that Quaker Spring Market was a nearly full-time job for some Friends this past week. So bravo to all those who worked so diligently to provide that unusual experience for our community and the wider community. And bravo to those who supported the effort in other ways, both seen and unseen.

With this appreciation for Quaker Spring Market, we transitioned to seeking calm, peaceful and united with Spirit, as we do each month to do the work of the Meeting. Fortunately, our Clerk suggested, our agenda today is “not too involved or too strenuous” as we review what our committees have accomplished and to discern the path we are to follow.

We began with a review of minutes from our April Meeting for Business, having run out of time last month to approve the final segment prior to Meeting for Worship. After a brief discussion and with a couple of minor changes, Friends approved.

For Ministry & Pastoral Care (MPC) Committee, Martha Baer reported:

- With a brief review of the process for preparation of our the Spiritual State of the Meeting (SSOM) Report, Friends approved finalizing this report and sending it in to BYM.
- As to our Memorial Minute for Wes Jordan, with two minor tweaks, Friends approved this minute.

For Peace & Social Concerns (PSC) Committee, Margaret Holmes reported on a number of items:

- As an update on the Barakzai Afghan refugee family, she related that Friends have made progress towards our renewed 4 month commitment to offer a financial safety net and advice for the family in light of the impact of recent cuts to federal aid. Any additional donations should go directly to the Unitarian’s treasurer. (NOTE: This information has been made available via AFM_Announcements@googlegroups.com, but Friends with questions may contact PSC’s co-clerks.)
- As to support for Sudan – which now has become the largest single population in the world suffering famine, PSC has decided to ask for a \$500 donation from AFM’s Emergent Social Concerns (ESC) fund to give to the World Food Programme for Sudan; Friends are invited, if

so led, to make additional donations to such programs. (Our Treasurer noted that the ESC balance, currently, is \$3359.)

- As for the Chesapeake Quarterly Meeting (CQM) to be held at AFM on 6/8/25 (Sunday), we will have a speaker from American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) talking about many programs that they hope Friends will support.

One Friend raised the question about arrangements for the meal to be provided to CQM. An Annapolis CQM Nuts and Bolts member (Canby Roberts) is pursuing such arrangements.

- As to Quaker Causes (QC), PSC hopes to get MfB approval to do an early (June) disbursement of funds rather than waiting until year-end. Friends are invited to send email input or to attend the next PSC committee meeting on 5/18/25 at 9:15 a.m.

One Friend asked, if new suggested QC are recommended, what information is requested. Margaret responded that whatever detail is available, “what is on your heart,” the possible recipient’s 501c3 “good standing” with the IRS, and a Charity-Navigator type rating would be helpful.

-Speaking for Quaker Market Committee (QMC), Cairn Krafft offered her preliminary thanks to the many, many friends who participated in our AFM Spring Market process; she also noted that many non Quaker community volunteers assisted in staffing the market and making contributions, such as many musical instruments including a digital piano, pump-organ, a hammered dulcimer, flutes and more; a donated wheelchair will head to Ukraine next week. Wes Jordan’s daughter made his traditional cheesecake and others made his traditional potato salad. Other Friends also donated food and other necessities to our community partner Mount Olive church. Friends expressed their delight at our mutual cooperation and our enjoyment of getting to know each other better and to spend more time with Francis Wayne, sojourning with us on his time back here from Kenya.

Jack Lahr reported that Stewardship & Finance (S&F) Committee has begun to review our 2005 financial / fundraising policy and has decided that we should set this aside; S&F also hopes to prepare proposed replacement guidelines to meet our current concerns and hopes. To address especially our tax & legally-related concerns, S&F and AFM Trustees currently are inviting all Friends to send any tax, accounting and financial questions as soon as possible. S&F and the Trustees will collect and review Friends’ input with the goal to bring responsive recommendations in the next month or two. This, possibly, may include a new financial management program known as Aplos, perhaps depending on costs; such a new program might run in tandem with the current QuickBooks program for the last quarter. One Friend encouraged S&F and Trustees to do still more information sharing and to arrange more participation before the new recommended guidelines come to MfB. Another suggested that, perhaps, the choice to use the new software might be decided after the trial period

NOTE: Each of the committee spokespersons also took a moment to name other committee members who have such important roles in the committees’ work.

We concluded early (at 10:30 a.m. – possibly a new record for brevity in our Meeting’s post-pandemic history!) with brief centering silence.

-These minutes respectfully submitted. - P.Caroom, Recording Clerk

1. Spiritual State of the Meeting -2024 report

Annapolis Friends Meeting Spiritual State of the Meeting for 2024 Second Reading, Meeting for Business, May 4, 2025

Annually, Annapolis Friends engages in a self-reflection process where we consider prepared queries, listening deeply to Spirit (the Light, God, Love, the Divine, etc.) and sharing our sense of Spirit's leadings for us aloud—with open heart. This year, Friends gathered for worship sharing, gave input through committees, and were invited to offer individual reflections. This report endeavors to capture the themes from our collective spiritual reflection on the 2024 spiritual state of our Meeting and serves as a response to Baltimore Yearly Meeting's request to account for the spiritual state of our Meeting.

The bird of awakening flew into our worship sharing on 3-16-25 with the two wings of compassion and wisdom. Our contributions addressed the prospering of Spirit. In our Seekers Series and committee work, we're coming together to bring opportunities for care, connection, growth, and joy. We're learning our way through conflicted times: That with worship and faith, Spirit speaks to consider that we may not have The Way; and that with worship, humility, and forgiveness we ask, "who are we and what is our way forward?" Listening with trust and faith, Spirit is teaching us that our way forward may well be different than that expected. Perhaps when off balance, we can hear the Divine better than when confident. Let us pray and listen.

Engagement as the beloved community brings new opportunities to work together for peace and justice in our currently very troubled world. Individual expression requires seasoning through Spirit and community as we recognize that some toes of earnest seekers may be stepped upon when seasoning has been ignored. "*Be ye first examples upon our earth, then and only then, thee may walk cheerfully upon it.*" (paraphrased from Fox). How do we respond if we learn we have offended another? When do we sincerely apologize for the hurt? Express remorse? How do we learn from both the injured and offender within the beloved community?

As we listen to each other, are we shepherding our resources and plenitude wisely and prudently? May we need some professional assistance in the proper allocation of funds? Spirit speaks in scarcity as well. How is Spirit speaking to us regarding the scarcity we witness around us? Our committees are attempting to address peace and injustice in the close and far communities, whether those affected be Quaker or not. In joyful waiting, we are witness to amazing blessings in the work of our Meeting and in our community. However, as we witness the aging and death of our precious Friends, we need to ask for more assistance in the maintenance of our Meeting House and grounds and even pay for some of those skills. We are needing vigorous pastoral care to shepherd our ailing and our differently abled.

Our best survival through the pandemic has rendered a different--to some awkward--reliance upon the internet. As we move forward in time, it is prayed that we use these vital connections to serve and preserve the sacred gathering. Whether in Hawaii, Florida, or New England, we are reaching out to the underserved in earnest to build a community that has no boundaries in time or space. It seems we may be reaching others to join as seasoned or brand-new Friends. May we continue to grow and prosper with the humility and hope offered on the wings of awakening.

2. Memorial minute for Wes Jordan

Dorsett Weston (Wes) Jordan AFM Memorial Minute January 16, 1950 – March 6, 2025

Dorsett Weston Jordan (Commander, USN retired) was simply “Wes” to his family and the many he befriended and inspired. At the Annapolis Friends Meeting (AFM) in First Day School, he organized lessons for our young people and, as he had done with his own children, made them all feel safe and loved. His commitment to all young people included annual trips to support the children of a Philadelphia public school and the Catoctin camping program. A gentle, powerful presence with a warm smile and a twinkle in his eyes, he walked the talk for our children and for the Meeting as a whole.

His leadership in our Meeting showed up in many other roles; as Clerk of Meeting, co-leader of Climate Stewards and Children’s Religious Education Committee, as a host for the AFM men’s group “Quaker Dudes”, Trustee, Treasurer, and committed member of Meetinghouse & Land Committee. In the larger community, he was equally generous with his time and attention, serving as financial manager and Board Member of the Conflict Resolution Center, where he was seen as a true peacemaker and a bright light to the Center. Other examples of his generosity were his leadership in AFM’s holiday sharing program and active roles in volunteering at the Light House and Winter Relief homeless shelter.

Normally quiet about his Navy service on a nuclear submarine, Wes let his life speak again when he joined a small crowd of Quakers and peace activists to commemorate the anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima. A man of principle and peace. From his youth and throughout his Navy career and after, he would frequently seek out Friends’ Meetings around the globe including in Tokyo, Paris, Oregon & California, but ultimately found home at Annapolis Friends Meeting.

Although his experience as a Naval Officer could have led him to demand respect and exercise authority, his character was different; he brought kindness and empathy for others in every contact. When the “One America” organization sought local Quakers to participate in its bridge-building, cross-cultural program bringing together Sons of Confederate Veterans, African Americans, and Quakers, Wes was a natural choice to be a participant. Becoming a good friend to all participants, Wes brought both his experiences from his extensive military career and as a child of a Spanish immigrant to

empathize and connect with other participants.

Wes's big heart was anchored by his love of his family, wife Linda Duncan Jordan, daughter Arielle Jordan (Pascal Ettinger), son Miles Jordan (Mayra Jordan), granddaughter Daniela Jordan, sisters Phoebe Jordan Booth, Vicki Soler (Fran Carmichael), and brother Steve Jordan (Wendy Jordan), Shelly Alarie and family, along with several nieces and nephews. All of us who have been touched by Wes's life join with the family in a sense of loss and celebration for his big and generous life.