

Annapolis Friends Monthly Meeting (AFM)
Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business (MfB)
Tenth Month, Seventh Day, 2025 (10/5/25)

Present were: Ellen McBride (clerk), Phil Caroom (recording clerk), Ben Kilgore, Jeanne Ward, Marcia Ormsby, Mike Baker, Martha Baer, Kim Finch, Sky Elsbree, Ruth Slavin, Jack Lahr, Jack Hogsten, Karen Cunnyngham, Jon & Lisa Hall, Karl Richmond, Martha Lurz, Mary Barbera, Patricia Robinson, Nancy Jo Steetle, Dan Campbell, Kathy Trimmer, Diane Shandor, Jean Christianson, Cairn Krafft, Angela Hicks, Mary Pratt, Marjorie Kehoe, and Betty Sue Salvia. .

We met both in person and via Zoom, beginning with centering worship with display of Faith and Practice queries as to spiritual priorities –as to outreach and how we make our lives speak– and a review of our anti-racist queries. As an introductory comment, our Clerk welcomed Friends and apologized for breaking our beautiful sunlit silence this morning. She observed that, in our Meeting, there is a spirit of cooperation with each other and with Spirit.

For Ministry & Pastoral Care Committee (MPC), Martha Baer reported on the provisional arrangement during the past two years of combining the Ministry & Worship and Pastoral Care committees, as it has been a challenge to sufficiently fill two separate committees. MPC committee members are in unity to keep the two committees combined at present, although most still prefer an ultimate plan to return to two separate committees when there are sufficient people to serve on each committee. The Committee believes that combining the two committees has been working effectively; this has allowed those on MPC, for now, to be more flexible in filling the various roles, with help from a strong second circle of Friends assistance in organizing Meetings for Learning, memorial services, responding to pastoral care needs and many other functions.

She noted that MPC currently has begun to focus on our needs as a community of aging Friends, as well as the needs of new and younger Friends.

Marcia (who serves on MPC) added that, combining two committees at the Yearly Meeting level, makes good sense. But, with a local meeting's many intense concerns & demands, the combined committee may work less well. She also expressed concern that dropping the important name of "worship" (a concern that she has expressed since the two committees were provisionally combined). Another Friend (who also serves on MPC) praised Marcia's work in the past year coordinating the Pastoral Care function of the committee, visiting those hospitalized and in hospice, etc. Yet, she also agreed that there may not be enough people for a full second committee and has seen the benefits of flexibility on a number of occasions; this Friend also observed that Marcia has made important contributions to the Ministry / meeting for learning aspects of the combined committee. Friends at MfB joined in thanking Marcia Ormsby for her service leading MPC's Pastoral Care functions.

Yet another Friend, not on MPC, observed that while AFM's practice is different from other Meetings, the combined MPC committee has been effective in both its Ministry and Pastoral Care functions. Two more Friends suggested that certain responsibilities should be shared, even among non-MPC Friends, such as helping those in need of care and organizing memorial services. One suggested the name doesn't matter much, but having a separate committee might elevate the importance of pastoral care concerns. One pointed out that, if separated, there would need to be a clear delineation of responsibilities in areas where these overlap, especially as to memorial matters.

Our clerk observed that Friends apparently wish to have continued discussions on this topic and that we do not have a clear sense of the meeting at this time. Demonstrating this, we concluded with a series of questions: Our clerk asked, if there are difficulties with the Pastoral Care function, what are

these specific concerns? Another Friend asked if we could clarify, what would be a “sufficient number” of Friends to revive a separate Pastoral Care committee? Yet another Friend asked if we could reinstate the “Worship” to the name of the combined committee.

For Gifts and Leadings Committee (G&L - previously Nominating), Martha Baer again reported. She noted the committee annually recommends to MfB a slate of “energized and spirit-led” Friends and attenders to fill all Meeting officer and committee positions. G&L has assigned various committees for attention by its various members, but Martha noted that Friends are welcome to talk with any committee member as to our individual interests. A “brunch and learn” program will be held on Sunday, 10/12, from 9:30 to 10:45, especially for new attenders and for others who would like to learn or be recruited; G&L will bring all the food (although additional potluck contributions can be welcomed) and each committee will give a 2 minute or less recruiting elevator-pitch. She noted that, at one of these events, the Library Committee first identified itself as “the Happy committee.” Finally, she invited anyone interested in clerking at any level to attend a Pendle Hill (PH) program about clerking between 11/21 and 23; there are scholarship funds available! (About three more Friends enthusiastically urged, even if one never clerks, the PH clerking program is an energizing event teaching one how to be a fully-engaged Friend.)

For Quaker Market Committee (QMC), Cairn Krafft reported on the recommended beneficiaries for Quaker Holiday Market– planned for December 6. (Friends are urged to read this attachment.) Due to the great needs in our current troubled times, QMC this year decided to recommend five rather than four causes: as external causes - Friends Community School in Greenbelt, the Union of Concerned Scientists, the Gaza Soup Kitchen, and the Marshall Learning Center; and, as an internal Kallan Bensons’ work on the World Council of Church’s Climate Justice & Sustainable Development Commission (Friends General Conference). An additional \$250 also will go to First Day School for our children’s discernment. Friends thanked QMC for its flexibility and good work; Friends approved these recommendations.

For Stewardship & Finance Committee (S&F), Jack Lahr reported that the committee next month will offer its first draft of the 2026 budget. There also will be a blended (hybrid - blended and in-person) meeting for learning on Sunday, 10/26, at 9:30 a.m., for those interested, presenting much more information and opportunity for input about AFM’s budget process. Particularly, those who may consider joining the S&F committee are encouraged to attend; an agenda will be circulated with another announcement closer to the date.

For Meeting House and Land Committee (MHL), Kim Finch reported that AFM has signed the contract for new architects’ services to plan a possible renovation of the Meeting House. MHL will meet tomorrow (Monday, 10/6) at 10 a.m. with these new architects and previous architect Evan Lippincott; other Friends are also invited to attend this meeting if available.

As to a recent air quality testing, MHL will post the lengthy report and recommendations that just recently was received from an inspector; MHL will ask for a contractor to give an estimate for recommended ventilation duct cleaning. (There also are other HVAC-related service recommendations in that report that will be pursued later.)

Another long-awaited and previously-approved project, a handicapped-accessibility ramp for the side door of the Meeting House has had a building permit application filed, but not yet approved. One more project that MHL recommends in the near term is a “soft washing”(not pressure washing) of the Meeting House to remove some mold, mildew & insect residue from the porch, soffits, window

frames; one estimate has been received so far with a cost less than \$1,000. Friends approved up to \$1,000 for this purpose.

Finally, Kim noted that next Saturday, 10/11, from 9:00 am to 11:00 am Friends also are invited to participate in a fall cleanup & daffodil planting day.

For the Green Group, Marjorie Kehoe announced that an eco-friendly household products display will be offered later today Oct 5th at Potluck. Also, she thanked those who participated this weekend in a seed harvest of dogwood, redbud seeds, black walnuts and chestnuts under the guidance of the state's Department of Natural Resources, with support from Interfaith Partners of the Chesapeake (IPC). She noted that AFM is the first IPC member to implement this program.

Marjorie also noted that our Green Group will participate along with Unitarians as a partner in a Rain Barrel Workshop program being organized by St. Philips Church on Bestgate Road. Our involvement costs nothing, and time and effort can be as much or as little as the green group wishes to provide. But minimal participation involves attending a workshop and promoting them, both things that we can easily do.

(Due to the shortness of time, Friends agreed that the final two sections of these minutes would be approved simply by the Clerk and Recording Clerk.)

We concluded with brief centering silence.

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

Quaker Market Committee

Report to meeting for worship with attention to business

10th month 2025

As the times we live in have become continually more troubled, Quaker Market once again offers us, as individuals and as a faith community, ways in which we can still do good in the world, and an opportunity to let our lives speak as to our values and beliefs. We want to express our gratitude to all who submitted their thoughtful beneficiary recommendations, more than we could possibly include at a meaningful level. Our discernment did lead us to recommend five beneficiaries, the most ever, in recognition of the number of groups and institutions currently under attack within our own country and abroad.

As currently required by AFM's 2005 fundraising policy, P&SC Committee has reviewed and is in unity with QMC's beneficiary recommendations for Quaker Holiday Market (QHM) 2025.

QMC is seeking approval from mfb for the following allocation of proceeds from Quaker Holiday Market 2025:

The first \$250 to Young Friends for their own beneficiary discernment process. Of the remainder,

External (80%) to be divided evenly among the following four causes:

- Friends Community School in Greenbelt
- Gaza Soup Kitchen
- Marshall Learning Center (MLC)
- Union of Concerned Scientists

Internal (20%):

- Kallan Benson's work on the World Council of Church's Climate Justice & Sustainable Development Commission (Friends General Conference)

Since QMC sees part of its mission as raising awareness of what recommended causes do as well as raising funds to support that work, we would like to provide some background on the causes and thoughts as to how they align with our Quaker values, beliefs and identity.

Friends Community School (in Greenbelt) is a small progressive Friends school founded by Adelphi Friends Meeting 40 years ago, where the approach to education reflects the intersection of Quaker values, diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging, and progressive education. The K-8th grade school is located on 17 acres in Greenbelt adjacent to Greenbelt National Park, well-sited for an emphasis on environmental stewardship reflected in their LEED-certified school

building and integration of their natural surroundings into daily learning. Their emphasis on diversity, equity and inclusion is reflected in their demographic data: 56% students of color, 33% faculty and staff of color, 39% of students receiving financial aid. At a time when education in this country is under attack, recommending Friends Community School felt like one small symbolic way to take a stand for education, diversity and Quaker values.

<https://www.friendscommunityschool.org/>

Gaza Soup Kitchen was created in 2024 and is led and operated in Gaza. It was founded by two brothers from Gaza, one of whom relocated to the US and is currently the Senior Director of Philanthropy at USA UNRWA. The other brother, who was the chef in Gaza, lost his life there last winter. The Gaza Soup Kitchen operates a network of kitchens, providing daily hot meals and drinking water to those in need. The fact that Gaza Soup Kitchen is still able to get food and water to Gazans in need when so many organizations are now unable to get food into the country is a compelling argument for adding our support to this cause. Funding sources include Jews for Food Aid for People of Gaza, as well as a number of other faith communities and sponsor organizations, meaning it is one of the few organizations that truly brings everyone together to aid the people of Gaza. Gaza Soup Kitchen was brought to AFM's attention through an announcement from Adelphi Friends Meeting. At ninth month meeting for business, there was unity on disbursing \$500 to Gaza Soup Kitchen promptly through AFM's Emergent Social Concerns Fund. In recognition of the ongoing horror and dire need in Palestine, QMC is recommending that AFM follow up this initial award with what we hope will be a larger award available towards the end of December through Quaker Holiday Market proceeds.

<https://gizasoupkitchen.org/>

Marshall Learning Center (MLC) was founded by Marshall Hope Corporation in 2022 to address the needs of students under two categories: English learners and Hispanic students, both of which have the highest dropout rate in Anne Arundel County. Marshall Learning Center offers a family-centered educational program, led by Tatiana J. Klein, who brings 18 years of experience directing after-school programs that target this need and has offered a summer camp for seven years. The center serves over 50 students (including an Afghan family) who speak a language other than English at home, and invites children eager to learn. Programs emphasize leadership development, a growth mindset, and rigorous study habits. Students participate in various activities, including a bilingual choir, STEM programs, art, music, tennis, and environmental initiatives, showcasing their talents at events throughout the county. The Learning Center provides space and support for and connection with the Annapolis Symphony, allowing children to get music lessons and practice time at the Learning Center during the week. The Center is dedicated to academic excellence, community engagement, and personal

growth, providing other resources as academic advocates and mental health therapists to empower the immigrant community. The program provides students a safe haven at a time when they are afraid to go to school and possibly find their parents gone when they return home. Program leaders/teachers are international, from Costa Rica, Peru and El Salvador, and able to illustrate that it is possible to succeed in this country. During our discernment, Marshall Learning Center felt like a small local gem, providing hope and joy and skills to immigrant students at a time when those things could not be more needed.

<https://www.marshallhope.org/marshall-learning>

Union of Concerned Scientists is a national nonprofit organization founded more than 50 years ago by scientists and students at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. They view their mission as putting rigorous, independent science into action, developing solutions and advocating for a healthy, safe, and just future. Today, they are a group of nearly 250 scientists, analysts, policy experts, and strategic communicators dedicated to that purpose. They analyze, expose, advocate and activate.

Issues they care about:

- They combat climate change and seek to alleviate harm caused by the heat, sea level rise, and other consequences of runaway emissions,
- They strive to develop sustainable ways to feed, power, and transport ourselves,
- They work to reduce the existential threat of nuclear war,
- They fight back when powerful corporations or special interests mislead the public on science, and
- They ensure their solutions advance racial and economic equity.

Our beneficiary discernment led us to include among our QHM beneficiary recommendations this larger, but well-rated non-profit (Charity Navigator: 4-star, 100%; GuideStar: Platinum) as a nod to the good work they accomplish and a symbolic support of science at this critical time in our country's history. Let's make it clear, Annapolis Friends Meeting stands with science and scientists.

<https://www.ucs.org/>

Kallan Benson's work on the World Council of Church's Climate Justice & Sustainable Development Commission (Friends General Conference)

Quaker Market Internal awards have taken many forms over the years, including improvements of the meetinghouse and grounds (e.g., solar panels), personal ministry (e.g., Ann Riggs work at FTC in Kenya), and support of long-term partners (e.g., Light House). Our beneficiary recommendation for QHM 2025 fits in the personal ministry category, in recognition of Kallan's long history of environmental work starting as a child growing up in AFM, and

wanting to support her ongoing environmental work through an exciting opportunity that has arisen thanks to Ann Riggs, who saw Kallan as an obvious choice when the World Council of Churches reached out to Friends General Conference's Christian and Interfaith Relations Committee (which Ann clerks) for a nomination to their new Commission on Climate Justice and Sustainable Development. They were particularly interested in young people involved in the work of climate justice. From 2024 and for the next 6 or 7 years the commission will meet several times in Geneva, Switzerland and in various settings in the world where climate justice and sustainable development are particularly important concerns. The internal portion of QHM 2025 proceeds will be used to help fund Kallan's travel, through Friends General Conference, the organization that nominated her, and holds responsibility for funding Kallan's travel and maintaining FGC's membership payments to the WCC. QMC felt drawn to include this cause as a way of honoring Kallan's past climate justice work and supporting this exciting opportunity to participate in environmental work through the larger Quaker world.

Relevant Links: [World Council of Churches](#) ; WCC video starring AFM member Kallan Benson [Bing Videos](#); Christian and Interfaith Relations Committee of FGC ([Programs - Friends General Conference](#))