

Annapolis Friends Monthly Meeting (AFM)
Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business (MfB)
First Month, Fifth Day, 2024 (1/5/25)

Present were: Ellen McBride (clerk), Phil Caroom (recording clerk), Karen Cunnynham, Jack Lahr, Nan & Sky Elsbree, Martha Lurz, Kathleen Hudson, Mary Pratt, Martha Baer, Barb Thomas, Ben Kilgore, Jack Hogsten, Marjorie Kehoe, Jean Christianson, Nancy Jo Steetle, Fahima Gaheez, Ann Riggs, Marcia Ormsby, Margaret Holmes, Alison Barrett, Judy Brown, Patty Robinson, Dot Walizer, Minette Clarke-Swindel, Cairn Krafft, Jeanne Ward, Larry McNeely, Kim Finch, Dan Campbell, Kathy Trimmer, Ani Warneka, Steven Poe, and Pat Schenck.

We met both in person and via Zoom, beginning with centering worship and screen-sharing of Baltimore Yearly Meeting's (BYM's) Faith and Practice queries as to meeting for worship, as well as a review of our AFM anti-racist queries.

Our Clerk, beginning her term in the new year, thanked prior Clerks for the foundation and Friends for their centeredness and support, also reviewing best practices in relation to our OWL system for remote participation by Friends unable to be physically present. (See attached remarks.)

For Peace & Social Concerns Committee (PSC), Margaret Holmes reported that the Committee recommends Friends' approval of the American Friends Service Committee's (AFSC's) Anti-Apartheid Gaza Pledge (see attached). After discussion, Friends approved this pledge. One Friend urged caution in pursuing boycott, divestiture, sanctions efforts that might possibly adversely impact Palestinians. PSC will study this issue and will bring other recommendations to MfB.

For Quaker Market Committee (QM), Cairn reported and expressed deep gratitude to all who contributed their gifts and light to AFM's 2024 Quaker Holiday Market efforts. Gifts visible and intangible played a role and were greatly appreciated by our own community. Our many outside shoppers (47% newly-arrived according to Committee's inquiry) also supported our actions with Quaker values and testimonies. Quaker Holiday Market 2024 raised \$8,410 for distribution to beneficiaries. Of these total net proceeds, \$250 will be reserved for discernment by Young Friends, and \$2,040 will be awarded to each of the four causes approved at meeting for worship with attention to business (Anne Arundel Connecting Together (ACT), Native Arts and Cultures Foundation (NACF), and Operation Warm for the external 75%, plus FWCC Climate Emergency Fund for the Internal 25%. These 75/25 percentage guidelines were approved by MfB in 2005. (An excerpt from our 10/2/25 MfB minutes also is attached.) Friends are encouraged to mark their calendars for Quaker Spring Market 2025 on 05/03/2025, and to start thinking about possible beneficiaries. Friends thanked Cairn and all who participated in this semi-annual, community-building event! (See the full QM report also attached.)

One Friend urged that PSC should help Friends review the rules that have been built by Quaker Market in recent years to see if there are ways that the Market could serve Meeting still better. Another Friend noted that we are moved by continuing revelation. Friends approved the plan for PSC to review Quaker Market guidelines and to bring any recommendations back to MfB.

For Ministry & Pastoral Care (MPC), Martha Baer reported on the 2024 Spiritual State of the Meeting (SSOM) date and plans to review the progress of our Meeting over the past year. BYM asks that local meetings return our reports by April. AFM traditionally does this by making one of our meetings for worship to a worship-sharing to respond to SSOM queries; MPC also suggested that this should be

held on 2/16/25 and that, if spirit leads us, we might permit this process to run a little later, perhaps until 12:30 p.m. Friends initially approved this concept.

One Friend requested that written queries be sent for those who are unable to attend in person or who might be uncomfortable with sharing in person. Another Friend noted a conflict on this date with Dayspring retreat. Another suggested inserting the sharing between early and late Meeting to make the process more accessible for participants in early meeting. Another expressed concern that a new attender might be confused about Quaker process and not feel engaged with prior year's concerns. MPC will consider these concerns and will return to MfB in February with a revised recommendation.

Martha also reported that AFM will hold a memorial service for Lynada Johnson on 1/11/25, at 1 p.m. She also shared a draft [Memorial Minute](#) (attached). Friends approved this beautifully-written minute with minor tweaks.

For Stewardship & Finance (S&F) Committee, Jack Lahr requested approval of an extension until 2/2/25 our 2025 budget with ongoing expenditures authorized in the meantime. Preliminarily, S&F reports that "we are doing great" with donations and rentals above projections and committee expenditures below projections. Friends approved this extension for final budget approval; one Friend is recorded as standing aside.

We also heard various announcements & updates:

- Committee Clerks' Meeting will meet on January 12 at 9:15 am and other Friends are invited to participate.
- For Peace & Social Concerns (PSC) Committee, Margaret offered more updates on Holiday Sharing (with great thanks to Friends for all our donations in support of 4 families with 18 children), Winter Relief (the spreadsheet of remaining openings will be re-posted on AFM announce), and Anne Arundel Connecting Together (ACT) - (noting an advocacy training on 1/23/25 for two later advocacy days as to ACT's four top 2025 legislative priorities), Chesapeake Quarterly Meeting (CQM), and Strengthening Transformative Relationships in Diverse Environments (STRIDE program).
- Another Friend urged us to support next week's 1/15/25 MLK dinner at Hanover, Md. For more information, friends can contact Marcia Ormsby.

Running out of time, Friends agreed to consider as "silent announcements" other items that previously were sent by email. [Recording clerk's note: These additional announcement include the following:

- AFM will hold a Memorial Meeting for Jim Hall (life partner of Mary Dadone) on Saturday, 1/24/25, 2 pm.
- Friends also are reminded that our meetings for learning titled "Quaker Foundations: Seeker Series" will begin on 1/26/25. The complete schedule is attached to these minutes.

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

ATTACHMENT:

Quaker Foundations: the Seekers' Series schedule

1. Introduction To Quaker Faith And Practice — Jan 26 Elise Albert/Margaret Holmes
Discussion of the foundation of Quaker faith and spiritual practice and the Quaker concept of divinity (The Light, the Inner Teacher, the Christ within, continuing revelation).

Query: *What brought you to Quakerism? What keeps you coming?*

2. Quaker Faith, Testimonies, and Social Justice - Feb. 9 Jenny Isaacs/Martha Baer

How do our beliefs translate to our actions in the world?

Queries: Have you been inspired by your faith or your beliefs to be engaged in any social justice actions? If so, how does your faith sustain you? Which testimony feels most challenging in your life now?

3. Quaker Christianity And Quaker Universalism - Feb. 23 Phil Caroom/Judy Brown

Many people ask if Quakers are Christian. Quaker faith and practice arose in a Christian context, and yet many of the beliefs and practices are relevant and helpful for those who are not necessarily traditional Christians. Quaker Universalism allows for a deep and genuine appreciation of the arising of Spirit in all religions and spiritual paths.

Query: What was the religion or religious orientation of your childhood; how has that shaped you?

4. Quaker Process - March 9 Ellen McBride/Mary Barbera

Meetings for Business, reaching unity, committees, membership, structure of monthly meetings and yearly meetings, list of other Quaker organizations.

Query: How do Quaker decision-making processes reflect the principles of Quaker faith?

5. Seekers And Finders: The Early Quaker Movement And The Experiences That Defined Quaker Faith And Practice - March 23 Ann Riggs/Barbara Thomas

This session will give more context and background for the understanding of Quaker faith and practice – why no ministers (in unprogrammed meetings)? The idea that we don't just take from the teachings of others but find our own truth in the context of a community of seekers. (story of James Naylor?), Clearness Committees to search for "truth."

Query: Are there any things about the experience of early Friends that speak to you?

6. Quaker Worship And Vocal Ministry - April 13 TBD

What has been your experience of Quaker worship; have you had a range of experiences; do you have questions? We'll explore the intentions and experiences of Quaker worship; we will also talk about how we discern whether to speak in Meeting or not – what is the nature of vocal ministry that distinguishes it from just sharing ideas? What do we mean by Holding someone in the Light? Is that different from praying for them?

Annapolis Friends Meeting 9:15 am January 5, 2024 Meeting for Worship
with Attention to Business
Clerk's notes for the introduction.

Welcome Friends!

My name is Ellen McBride. My heart is filled with Joy and love.

I'm grateful that you put your trust in me and I am grateful for the previous clerks who have laid a solid foundation. I'm excited to take on this role and I look forward to letting my life speak as I facilitate meetings.

The role of clerk, as I understand it, is to help maintain the worshipful character of the meeting, to help us seek Spirit in our discernments and decisions. I'll do my best to hold the space, to listen deeply, to connect as best I can with the Inner Guide and to frame the sense of the meeting, the sense of what Spirit is leading us to do.

Your role as a participant is to be present and centered, listening deeply, speaking from that Inner Guide. Speak the Truth as you understand it and let it go. Try not to repeat what has already been said. Stating that a Friend speaks your mind will be enough.

This is a corporate or group experience. Together we can unite with Spirit and be collaborative partners with Spirit. For me to be successful in the role of clerk requires all of us listening together. The collective and community WE - all of us is when, together we listen with all we've got to learn what Spirit, The Inner Teacher, would have us do. It will take all of us and we will experience continuing revelations. We'll experience "that of God in each of us" and we'll have opportunities to practice the Testimonies.

I'm grateful for each of you who are here to support me as clerk and to support the Meeting as we discern together what the highest and best good is for our Meeting.

Are there any thoughts or questions so far?

At this time, I'll read our Anti-Racism queries to remind each other of our commitment, as a faith-based community, to practice anti-racism. [Read the queries]

There are some **housekeeping** items that I'd like to go over as we start.

As a reminder, the 11 am MfW will follow this meeting. Out of respect for the 11 worshipers, we'll start wrapping up at 10:30 am and hold our closing silence in time to end around 10:40 am.

To help center the discussions in as broad a context as possible and to better hear Spirit, please either speak to the center of the room, to the Whole of us, or to me directly. Please avoid addressing each other and please wait for me to call on you before speaking. (avoid conversations - not have conversations) Please state your name prior to speaking, so that the online participants will know who is speaking.

The device in the middle of the room is what we call the Owl and it is where the microphones are located, so that the participants online can hear what is being said. However, the Owl also picks up other noises like chairs moving, the unwrapping of throat lozenges and small side conversations. Please help the online participants by making as little noise as possible.

Please speak loudly if you are going to speak from your seat. If you are going to present, please come to the "speaker's spot", so that you are most visible to the online participants.

Since we are here on a spiritual mission, let's rejoin our centering silence as needed and actively listen, seeking Truth and the welfare of the Meeting. Let's look for unity within us and between us.



Apartheid-Free Community Pledge

For decades, the Palestinian people have faced Israeli occupation and systematic human rights abuses that constitute apartheid.

AFSC stands in solidarity with the Palestinian people and their call for full and equal rights. We invite Quaker meetings and other communities to join us in building an apartheid-free world.

WE AFFIRM our commitment to freedom, justice, and equality for the Palestinian people and all people;

WE OPPOSE all forms of racism, bigotry, discrimination, and oppression; and

WE DECLARE ourselves an apartheid-free community and to that end,

WE PLEDGE to join others in working to end all support to Israel's apartheid regime, settler colonialism, and military occupation.

Quaker Market Committee Report

1st month 2025

The Quaker Market Committee would like to express our gratitude to all who contributed in so many ways to AFM's 2024 Quaker Holiday Market, held on 7 December. Every time someone brings a gift to the table, our Quaker Market experience is strengthened and enriched. The gifts are varied. Some are clearly visible either before the event, like sweet potato pies that have been baked for Thanksgiving, or during the event itself, like the abundance of items that have been donated, displays that are well-organized and inviting, delicious food available at the Bake Table or served by volunteers at the Café, olive oil from Bethlehem and Condiment Station sauces generously donated, jars of 13 Bean Soup Mix and bottles of herb-infused vinegar assembled during inter-generational activities, Afghan food donated to the Café and beautiful items Fahima has brought to support Afghan Women's Fund's efforts in Afghanistan, educational tri-folds that Friends have taken the time to put together. Other gifts may not be as visible during the event itself, such as storage of Quaker Market donations between events, putting time and thought into recommending possible beneficiaries, advertising on our website and beyond, selling small vintage items online, schlepping donations from offsite, boxing up unsold items for us to connect with partners, handling the accounting, writing out the checks for the beneficiaries. All contributions to our community's Quaker Market efforts and are greatly appreciated.

Our (imperfect) data on how shoppers found out about Quaker Market indicate that 44% are return customers. We do have a devoted clientele who would not miss these events. Subtracting out the 9% who were recorded at the checkout table as AFM Friends (an undercount, since many helpers pay for purchases other than at the checkout table), our records indicate that 47% were new shoppers drawn in by road signs and other advertising, friends, and neighbors. That's an awful lot of people exposed for the first time to Annapolis Friends Meeting and Quaker Markets, our pay-as-you-are-able policy for flea market type items, our environmental stewardship efforts clearly in action, our Café food prices intentionally kept low so all can eat, etc.

From the financial standpoint, Quaker Holiday Market 2024 raised \$8,410 for distribution to causes (after payment of \$899.65 for the storage pod rental and

the purchase of paperwhite bulbs and Light House Bistro granola). Of the total net proceeds, \$250 will be reserved for discernment by Young Friends, and \$2,040 will be awarded to each of the four causes approved at meeting for worship with attention to business (Anne Arundel Connecting Together (ACT), Native Arts and Cultures Foundation (NACF), and Operation Warm for the external 75% and FWCC Climate Emergency Fund for the Internal 25%).

In addition to the funds raised for these four beneficiaries, the following partners also benefited from in-kind donations of items that did not sell during our brief Quaker Market shopping window:

- Orphan Grain Train (clothing, school supplies, craft supplies, blankets & towels for international & domestic distribution)
- Hope for All (small furniture/household items/bedding and towels for folks transitioning out of homelessness)
- Partners in Care (specialty for their boutique shop)
- Books for International Goodwill (all unsold adult books)
- NAACP (children's books)
- Bikes for the World (bike)
- Rosemont Community Interfaith Coalition (lap blankets for seniors)
- Light House (paper bags for food distribution)
- Good Will (items too bulky/fragile to box up for Amvets)
- Amvets (everything else)

Quaker Markets provide opportunities to let our light shine, as individuals and as a faith community. The Quaker Market Committee is deeply grateful to all who were able to contribute light and joy to this Quaker Holiday Market 2024! It is not too early to mark your calendars for Quaker Spring Market 2025 on 05.03.2025, and to start thinking about possible beneficiaries.

MINISTRY & WORSHIP: Recommendation for the "Spirit of Truth" Scouting emblem, for Young Friends in sixth through twelfth grades. Friends approve.

MARKET REPORT: Market sub-committee recommends that Market proceeds be split 75% to outside concerns, and 25% to AFM Building Fund. The Holiday Market will be December 3, 2005. In conjunction with Peace & Social Concerns, the committee recommends that 75% be given to Hurricane Relief, and 25% to the Building Fund. A Friend proposes that part of this money go toward the Suffering Fund since the fund had gotten down to \$19. While the Fund has begun to be replenished, the Meeting will not refill the fund from budget until January. Discussion followed about the process of handling committee recommendations to Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business.

Friends approve establishment of a Market funds distribution formula of 75% to outside concerns and 25% to an internal need. Friends approve the sub-committee's specific recommendation that the outside concern for this market be designated for hurricane relief, in conjunction with Peace & Social Concerns, and 25% go toward the Building Fund.

EATON BEQUEST: Stewardship & Finance committee recommends to the Meeting that the all of the \$500 Eaton Bequest be used to fund the newly established Emergent Social Concerns Fund, in accordance with our understanding of Friend Louise Eaton's life's interests. Friends approve.

Lynada Alice Dahlsten Johnson
AFM Memorial Minute
June 22, 1940 – December 18, 2024

We celebrate the life and spirit of our long-time member, Lynada Alice Dahlsten Johnson, who passed away on December 18, 2024 in Seattle, Washington at the age of 84. Lynada Johnson became a member of the Annapolis Friends Meeting (AFM) in 2002. She and her husband, David, were role models for bringing faith into action within our Meeting.

Over the years, Lynada contributed her talents to many AFM committees including Ministry and Worship and Pastoral Care. She was active in the annual Baltimore Yearly Meeting (BYM) Women's Conferences and served on the planning team when AFM co-hosted the event.

An advocate for peace, Lynada was on the steering committee of Anne Arundel Peace Action, working for the end of the arms war and the elimination of nuclear weapons. In her later years, she traveled to the Quaker community of Monteverde and was fascinated to meet and hear the stories of some of the pacifist Friends who left the US in the 1950s in protest of the draft to establish a new home in the cloud forest of Costa Rica.

Nurturing and caring for others in both her personal and professional life, Lynada brought her midwestern vitality, neighborliness and forthrightness to "get stuff done" in whatever setting she was in. Many of us have fond memories of Lynada's chemo cap ministry. At lightning speed, she would transform small tidbits of yarn we donated into beautiful knitted caps to be given to those recovering from cancer treatment at a hospital in Annapolis. She would happily share the instructions with others who might wish to contribute – and even offer to teach us how to knit if needed. She quite literally produced hundreds of caps over the years.

Lynada's career in public health saw her work tirelessly in hospitals, prisons, and with visiting nurses associations, reflecting her deep commitment to healthcare, community service, and the welfare of all. This dedication included loyally visiting some AFM Friends in long-term nursing care.

After Lynada and David moved to Vantage House in Columbia Maryland, Lynada invested her natural leadership talents in many activities there. She led a Parkinson's Disease Care Partner Support Group for many years. As an avid reader herself, she held a leadership role in the Daughters of Abraham, a book discussion series that brought together women of Muslim, Jewish and Christian faiths, an experience that she cherished. She continuously sought ways to share her joy of music with others – playing the piano and attending local concerts. Despite being away from the Annapolis area, she would faithfully return to our AFM community to share news and insights from her new home.

Lynada's simple roots as a Kansas farm girl gave her an even greater appreciation for the vast world around her. With David, she traveled to Sweden to document family ancestry and meet some living relatives and with family to Israel and England. Together Lynada and David made it to all 50 US states, often participating in Elderhostel (now Roads Scholar) programs. In later years, Lynada embarked on adventures of her own to visit family, explore Philadelphia, renew acquaintance with Chautauqua Institution where David had been an invited speaker, and explore Costa Rica. Wherever she went, she loved to share stories with the people she would meet along the way. No one was a stranger to Lynada!

For many years, Lynada and David enjoyed being a part of Servas International, an organization which creates opportunities for individuals to host travelers in their home. Lynada found the brief homestays on international travels to be a wonderful opportunity to make friendships with people of diverse cultures, backgrounds, and experiences, and to her credit, she maintained some of these friendships for decades.

But Lynada's most cherished moments were the times spent with her family. She always enjoyed sharing with us the latest news of her beloved family: her son Bengt and his wife Sayuri and her son Tim and his wife Marybeth. And no one could have been prouder of her grandchildren--Noah, Maja, Ella, Mackenzie, and David--than Lynada.

As we celebrate Lynada's life, may we all appreciate and embrace her legacy of peace, neighborliness, faith in action, and human connections.

Approved by AFM
Meeting for Business, 1.5.25

Annapolis Friends Monthly Meeting (AFM)
Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business (MfB)
Second Month, Second Day, 2025 (2/2/25)

Present were: Ellen McBride (clerk), Phil Caroom (recording clerk), Nona McNatt, Margaret Holmes, Cairn Krafft, Alison Barrett, Barb Thomas, Marjorie Kehoe, Sylvia Oliva, Nan & Sky Elsbree, Martha Lurz, Ruth Slavin, Ben Kilgore, Fahima Gaheez, Judy Brown, Minette Clarke-Swindel, Jack Lahr, Mary Barbera, Mary Pratt, Phyllis Singer, Karen Cunnyingham, Marcia Ormsby, Jack Hogsten, Kim Finch, Dot Walizer, Pat Schenck, Patty Robinson, Dan Campbell, Kathy Trimmer, Karl Richmond, Beth Chandler, Steve Poe, Diane Shandor and Jean Christianson.

We met both in person and via Zoom. We began with centering worship and screen-sharing of Baltimore Yearly Meeting's (BYM's) Faith and Practice queries as to meeting for worship, as well as reviewing of our AFM anti-racist queries. Our Clerk, participating by Zoom due to a bad cold, welcomed Friends and reviewed best practices in relation to our OWL system for remote participation by Friends unable to be physically present. She thanked Jean Christianson for holding our meeting in the light and other Friends for assisting with her remote clerking. She also mentioned her recent experience of explaining Quakers to some non-Quakers in her community, distinguishing our intent to wait and listen to Spirit rather than "just meditating."

For Stewardship & Finance (S&F) Committee, Jack Lahr presented the 2024-year-end Treasurer's Report and, for second reading, the proposed 2025 budget for a second reading. ([See attached](#)). He noted that S&F has recommended the use of our 2024 surplus donations to make up for the past two years' failure to increase the building fund. Friends approved both the proposed 2025 budget and the use of the 2024 surplus. Jack also thanked Karen Cunnyingham for her efforts preparing these documents. (More information and a recommendation as to the Melba Battin memorial gift will be presented at a later Meeting.)

For Ministry & Pastoral Care (MPC), Barb Thomas reported on various committee proposals for preparation of our 2024 Spiritual State of the Meeting (SSOM) report. The proposals include: 1) To hold worship sharing on our BYM queries on March 16 during the 11 am Meeting for Worship and possibly extending the time to 12:30 pm; Barb noted that "God has no hard stop." 2) For our early worship group, MPC has offered 3 options that the group will consider. 3) AFM committees will be asked to consider the queries as to their committee work. And, 4) MPC also will invite individual written responses from those otherwise unable to participate.

One Friend suggested, for 2026, that a SSOM time slot at 9:15 should be reserved. Some Friends suggested that Meeting for Worship should not be interrupted, considering possibly bumping a Meeting for Learning slot or committee meeting date. After discussion, Barb agreed to, again, take these comments back to MPC to find a non-MfW time for SSOM worship sharing. But, she also pointed out that 3/16 would be a committee meeting date so using that date at 9:15 might resolve Friends' concerns. Friends approved this substitution for a 3/16/25, 9:15 a.m. SSOM worship-sharing.

We also heard various announcements & updates:

For the AFM Green Group, Marjorie Kehoe reported three items:

1) She re-introduced the Green Group web page (tabbing through about us, committees, to Meeting House & Land, to the Green Group). This includes a mission statement. She also noted that there are various action plans also listed. (See <https://annapolisfriends.org/meetinghouse-lands-committee/the-green-group-home/>)

- 2) Future Green Group planting plans include: carts coming to the AFM patio that can “chase the sun,” vegetable gardens, and more.
- 3) She also reported a \$500 gift to AFM from Interfaith Partners of the Chesapeake (IPC) which recognizes our commitment to the environment and which can facilitate further plans. One Friend suggested sharing IPC “Learning Labs” with the wider community.

For Ministry & Pastoral Care Committee (MPC), Marcia Ormsby apologized if any of her past words have been hurtful to anyone. She then read a 2024 pastoral care report. (See attached report - [PASTORAL CARE 2024.docx](#)) She also noted that there has been no reimbursement requested for her donation of many bouquets and tree planting, mentioning this for possible future (tax?) recognition or consideration. Many Friends thanked Marcia for her generosity and for her service as “head huddler” for our pastoral care efforts. Some Friends, with appreciation, mentioned examples of pastoral care they have received. Another Friend asked why “worship” currently has been dropped from MPC’s title; others noted that this consolidation of two prior committees (Ministry & Worship and Pastoral Care) still is considered by our AFM Gifts and Leadings Committee as possibly transitional and not permanent, so that a decision on this eventually will return to MfB again for review.

For MPC, Barb also reminded Friends about the additional huddles known as “adult education” and “deepening quality of worship.” She and Judy noted that, with coordination by this adult education huddle, we are continuing our “Quaker Foundations: The Seekers Series”–which began with more than 50 participants last week. The series will continue through April 13, 9:30 am to 10:40 am in the Worship Room. (See flyer below these minutes.)

Finally, for MPC, Barb also thanked Friends for volunteering to assist in the nursery during the Seekers’ series. Under our safety policy, we need a pair of volunteers to work together so as to enable parents to participate in the meetings for learning. She encouraged more volunteers for future sessions.

For Peace & Social Concerns Committee (PSC), Margaret Holmes reported: 1) First, as to the Winter Relief seasonal homeless shelter program, our week starts tomorrow and runs through 2/10. We still need volunteers for some chaperon slots on Sun, 2/9. If Friends are available for these slots, they should contact Phil. We will republish the spreadsheet on AF_announcements email and Phil will email reminders to volunteers.

2) As to last MfB’s request for PSC to review QM questions, PSC has had two in-person meetings and put an AFM_announcements email request for Friends to answer 3 questions. Thus far, the Committee has received 10 responses and will extend the time for Friends to respond.

The next PSC committee meeting will be 2/13 at 7:00 by Zoom and, as to the Quaker Market questions, the committee again will invite everyone who is interested in reviewing with us the feedback we will have received by that date. We hope to bring a summary of Friends comments and recommendations. (The committee also noted that no Friends have recommended that AFM should stop, reverse or make any immediate changes to our 2025 Spring Market plans.)

Friends approved these minutes during the meeting. We concluded with brief centering silence.

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

ATTACHMENT:

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Query: What was the religion or religious orientation of your childhood; how has that shaped you?

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Annapolis Friends Meeting Proposed 2025 Operating Budget and 2024 Treasurers' report

	2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2024 Budget, amended*	2024 Actual	2024 Actual - Budget	Proposed 2025
Income						
Contributions	55,234	47,752	48,465	55,760	7,295	55,824
Rentals	7,137	16,481	15,000	17,185	2,185	17,000
Interest, Dividends		2,246	7,000	9,093	2,093	7,000
Other		512		388	388	0
Committee Contingency Fund Transfers*			1,246	1,246	0	
Total Income	62,371	66,991	71,711	83,672	11,961	79,824

Notes: Not included here is a \$20,000 contribution from Jim Battin in memory of his mother, Melba Battin. S&F will bring a recommendation on the use of those funds to a future business meeting.

Expenses

Committee activities						
CREC		49	300	36	-264	300
Communications		3,195	6,270	6,270	0	7,000
Library	293	136	400	129	-271	400
Meetinghouse and Lands **	29,330	22,795	28,000	24,655	-3,345	30,000
Ministry and Pastoral Care *	174	420	716	716	0	800
Outreach	95	1,800	1,800	1,625	-175	1,800
Peace and Social Concerns *	3,400	4,116	4,360	4,360	0	4,300
Quaker Market	180	494	550	243	-307	100
Stewardship and Finance		249	1,150	1,076	-74	3,600
Trustees		0	0	0	0	0
Independent Designated Funds	992	11,532	9,905	9,905	0	27,704
Quaker Causes	4,321	4,322	4,419	4,419	0	3,820
Apportionment	12,625	12,627	13,841	13,841	13,841	0
Total Expenses	51,410	61,735	71,711	71,711	67,274	79,824
Net	10,961	5,256	0	0	16,397	0

Notes:

Interest and Dividends includes FFC distribution (does not include unrealized gains/losses)

Ministry and Worship includes \$250 for Quaker Burial Ground

Outreach includes festival fees, internal expenses, \$100 GAIN dues. (The GAIN dues have not been paid for several years.)

P&SC includes \$2,000 for Lighthouse and \$2,000 to for ACT

Quaker Causes is 8 percent of last full year's contributions

* 2024 Budget included the following amendments through Committee Contingency Fund transfers. (Table reflects amount spent, which in some cases was less than amount approved.)

Purpose	Committee	Amount	Approved
Md Peace Action Education Fund	Peace & Social Concerns	\$250	May 2024, Stewardship & Finance
Postcarding supplies	Peace & Social Concerns	\$702	July 2024, Business Meeting
Replacement banner	Peace & Social Concerns	\$8	October 2024, Business Meeting
Additional expenses	Ministry & Pastoral Care	\$16	October 2024, Stewardship & Finance
Additional expenses	Communications	\$270	November 2024, Stewardship & Finance
TOTAL		\$1,246	

** In September 2024, AFM approved allocating the 2023 budget surplus of \$5,256 to MHL for anticipated additional expenses. However, MHL did not need the additional funds, so the budget reflects the original MHL budget.

Stewardship and Finance recommends designating the 2023 and 2024 surpluses and an extra \$7,500 in 2025 to the Building Fund to make up for not designating anything to the Building Fund in 2021-2023 and only \$5,000 in 2024. We propose that the extra \$7,500 in 2025 only be moved to the Building Fund if 2025 funds allow. (See next page.)

Annapolis Friends Meeting Funds, 12/31/2024

Designated Funds	2023	2024				2025		Fund Target
	Year End	Budget	Additions	Subtractions	Balance	Proposed transfers	Year Begin	
Peace and Social Concerns								
Emergent Social Concerns	1,299	1,105			2,404	955	3,359	2% of 2024 contributions
Peace & Justice Center	2,928	0			2,928		2,928	None
Retrospective and Restorative Justice	12,532	0		7,000	5,532		5,532	None
Meetinghouse and Land								
Building Fund	194,718	5,000			199,718	39,153	238,871	add \$10,000 each year
Capital Improvement	25,130	5,000	2,400		32,530	0	32,530	varies based on needs
Capital Replacement	42,047	5,000			47,047	5,000	52,047	add \$10,000 each year
Memorial Garden	2,410	-410		960	1,040	960	2,000	2,000
CREC								
Young Friend's Opportunity	2,000	0			2,000		2,000	2,000
Camping	2,500	0		1,634	866	1,634	2,500	2,500
Ministry and Pastoral Care								
Embraced Ministry	2,000				2,000		2,000	2,000
Suffering & Individual Emergency	2,500	2,500			5,000		5,000	5,000
Stewardship & Finance								
Adult Scholarship	2,400	100		409	2,091	409	2,500	2,500
Committee Contingency	18,390	-8,390		1,246	8,754	1,246	10,000	10,000
Trustees	0							
Founder's Fund	0	0			0		0	None
Total Designated Funds	310,854	9,905	2,400	11,249	311,910	27,704	361,267	

Money in the bank as of 12/31/2024

Truist Checking	\$99,629
Truist Saving	\$48,055
Truist Certificate of Deposit	\$103,239
Friends Fiduciary Corp (FFC)	\$204,534
Total	\$455,457

Quaker Market Distributions

Spring 2023	\$5,750	(\$250 to Capital Improvement for accessibility improvements)
Holiday 2023	\$9,850	(\$250 to Capital Improvement for accessibility improvements)
Spring 2024	\$8,100	(\$1,900 to Capital Improvement for accessibility improvements)
Holiday 2024	\$9,320	Not distributed as of 12/31/2024

Summary of AFM funds as of 12/31/2024

Designated funds	\$311,910
Undistributed 2024 Holiday Market	\$9,320
2023 "surplus"	\$5,256
2024 "surplus"	\$16,397
Battin legacy gift	\$20,000
Undesignated reserves	\$92,574
Total	\$455,457

Stewardship and Finance recommends designating the 2023 and 2024 surpluses and an extra \$7,500 in 2025 to the Building Fund to make up for not designating anything to the Building Fund in 2021-2023 and only \$5,000 in 2024. We propose that the extra \$7,500 in 2025 only be moved to the Building Fund if 2025 funds allow.

PASTORAL CARE 2024

Within the year of 2024, Pastoral Care concerns constituted visits, calls, cards, bouquets and gifts to about 20 people within our meeting. Many visits, multiple times and some with very complicated concerns, required outreach to other experts or associates. As we enter a new year we have noticed an increase in Meeting attendance and membership. Although very small, we do function with great care and oversight in supporting each other. It seems those needs are growing and those beloved Friends, aging will require increased attention. Let no one suffer alone.

An invitation from Pastoral Care outreach is open for anyone in need so that willing helpers can easily reach out and offer their specific gifts in a way that ensures privacy, eliminating unnecessary overlap. Visitation is a very special action, requiring great sensitivity to timing and location. Overwhelming our struggling Friends is almost as hurtful as is under serving. So, we strive for appropriate attention with just the right fit for receiver and giver.

It is obvious, that, in our beloved community, we all reach out to each other as we are called by divine voices. Those efforts are not tracked, nor even noticed by others, but remain within a sacred relationship that defies documentation and notification. We are eternally grateful for those relationships and recognize them as a wider branch bearing fruit that may well go unnoticed by the many.

Although, many have been attended, in no way is any reimbursement sought. However as we move forward, perhaps a re-consideration of budget may serve. Our committed committee has a bouquet, a tree, or several trees planted in recognition of our suffering Friends. Heretofore, there has been no impact to our budget; perhaps it's time to account for these gifts. Our beloved community stands at the precipice of enormous change as we emerge from the solitude of the pandemic, and as we greet an uncertain future. Let us keep each other close with the love and light that our Holy Mother has so profoundly taught.

Annapolis Friends Monthly Meeting (AFM)
Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business (MfB)
Third Month, Second Day, 2025 (3/2/25)

Present were: Ellen McBride (clerk), Phil Caroom (recording clerk), Ben Kilgore, Judy Brown, Jean Christianson, Diane Shandor, Barb Thomas, Canby Robertson, Margaret Holmes, Nan & Sky Elsbree, Kathy Trimmer, Dan Campbell, Martha Lurz, Jack Lahr, Jeanne Ward, Martha Baer, Alison Barrett, Ruth Slavin, Cairn Kraft, Kathleen Hudson, Sylvia Oliva, Fahima Gaheez, Joan P. Miller, Mary Barbera, Marjorie Kehoe, Nancy Jo Steetle, Nona McNatt, Dot Walizer, Jack Hogsten, Marcia Ormsby, Phyllis Singer, Kim Finch, Reece Benson, Ann Riggs, Angela Hicks, Tod —, Joe Miller, Annie Warneka, Karl Richmond, Mary Pratt, Carl Benson, Larry McNeely, Lisa & Jon Hall, and Betty Sue Salvia.

We met both in person and via Zoom, beginning with centering worship and screen-sharing of Baltimore Yearly Meeting (BYM) Faith and Practice queries as to the Meeting Community, as well as a review of our AFM anti-racist queries. Our Clerk thanked Friends for our open-hearted participation in the Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business process.

For Ministry & Pastoral Care (MPC) Committee, Nancy Jo Steetle reported that a clearness process has been completed on the request for membership of Reece Benson. (A written report of the Clearness Committee is attached as an appendix to these minutes.) Reece, she reported, is an example of someone whose inward growth gradually has developed into the outward manifestation of his Quaker identity. Reece has many gifts but he modestly describes his work as “just stuff that needs doing.” Asked who he most admired, Reece pointed to the family dog Osage, explaining “the world would be a better place if we all could just be like Osage.” Friends joyfully accepted his membership and Reece thanked Friends.

For Peace & Social Concerns (PSC) Committee, Canby Robertson relayed a request for AFM to host Chesapeake Quarterly Meeting (CQM) on June 8, 2025. She noted that the average number of non-local Friends participating in person in recent months has been about 20. The gathering would begin about 9:15 a.m., with visitors welcome and later participation in AFM Meeting for Worship; it also would offer opportunities for sharing between Meetings and, perhaps, a presentation by AFSC; it would close by about 2:30 p.m. She noted that this event would require a special potluck, possible First Day School, and extra time working on our OWL by our Tech Support Person, Ben. Friends approved AFM’s hosting CQM on 6/8/25.

For Communications & Outreach Committees, Alison Barrett reported that Bonnie Peregoy, as the single member of Outreach, has met with the Communications Committee for a number of months. Bonnie has requested that others take responsibility for participation in a number of festivals and community events, so that she (Bonnie) –as the sole current member of Outreach –could lay down administrative responsibilities for these. Communications could assist with online sign-ups, bulletin boards, and possibly a newsletter – with assistance from Ben. She proposed that a newly combined committee might be named the “Communication and Outreach Committee.” Martha Baer for Gifts and Leading Committee noted that ongoing discussions have been going on to ensure that all Outreach Committee responsibilities will be maintained. Friends approved the combination of the two committees – to be known as Communications & Outreach Committee.

For the Green Group (GG), Marjorie Kehoe reported that the Interfaith Partner of the Chesapeake (IPC) has requested AFM to sign on to a letter requesting establishment of an “interfaith environmental taskforce”; this would be set up via County government and would hold, perhaps,

monthly meetings to discuss local environmental needs and tasks that different congregations might take on. (See attached letter.) She also noted that AFM also might be asked to “contribute our time, energy & resources” to this process; no specific fees or fundraising are contemplated at this time. One Friend urged that we should be cautious about taking on new committee work when we already are consolidating committees to save labor. Marjorie suggested that this could be part of existing GG work and that she personally would be willing to participate. Friends approved the plan for AFM (via our Clerk) to sign on to the Letter of Support for IPC.

For Quaker Market Committee (QMC), Cairn Krafft reported that, during their discernment process for Quaker Spring Market 2025 beneficiaries QMC felt spirit’s leading to recommend causes that demonstrate Friends’ values by standing with the most vulnerable and marginalized, with a particular eye towards protecting youth, families and immigrants. Their recommendations for QSM proceeds include:

- The first \$250 to Young Friends for their own beneficiary discernment process; External (75%) to be divided evenly among three causes: Center of Help (Centro de Ayuda/COH), Citizens Climate Education, and GLSEN - the country’s leading LGBTQ+ education nonprofit; and
- the Internal (25%) to the BYM Camping Program. (See full report attached.)

Friends approved these recommendations. QMC also expressed gratitude to all who submitted beneficiary ideas, as well as others who contributed their knowledge and ideas for consideration.

For announcements, reports & updates, the following items were presented:

- Our Clerk noted that a blended AFM Committee Clerks meeting will be held on March 30 at 9:15 am in the classroom and via Zoom. She requested agenda suggestions and invited nonclerks to attend, as well.

(Belatedly our Clerk also invited Friends to identify themselves before speaking.)

- For Meetinghouse & Land (MHL) Committee, Jeanne Ward offered updates about projects including multipurpose room floor-replacement bid preparations, attempts to contact with AFM’s past architect Evan Lippincott about possible Meeting House renovations, and weather-delayed chimney repairs. MHL also plans to replace the current stove in the kitchen before Spring Market and, after Quaker Spring Market, to replace the hot water heater. (These latter two jobs, still later, will be followed by work to remove our old propane tank & the propane inside of it.) MHL also has received a quote of \$221 and is waiting for a “proof” to replace our AFM street sign at the corner of Dubois and North Bestgate. MHL continues to seek additional electrician bids to repair the homemade portion of AFM’s solar panel system, our EV car chargers, and some other electrical work on various parts of the meetinghouse. And MHL is making plans for a handicapped ramp on the side door & for replacement of some chairs and the round tables. Plus, MHL is looking for a Friend-lu consultant on composting. MHL also thanked Mark Taylor for his generous donation, recently replacing and installing the classroom video screen. Friends offered “huge gratitude” to MHL for these efforts. One Building Use Coordinator (BUC) noted that we need to clean up “all the junk next to the shed” and to stabilize the playground before a summer camp rental arrives in June; another Friend noted that AFM has an existing playground checklist via CREC that we might review. Bonnie said she plans to volunteer to help

review the playground's condition with the help of Mark Taylor and, perhaps, her nephew. MHL invited additional comments from Friends on all these plans after MfB and, if available, a Friendly donation of a replacement used-microwave.

For Communications & Outreach (C&O) Committee, Bonnie reported about a number of 2025 Festivals and an AFM Family Fun Day, noting some volunteers who plan to help with each. These include: i) an Easter morning event followed by a quiet waters event the next Saturday, 1) EarthDay will take place in April; 2) Pride Day the last weekend in May, 3) the Kunta Kinte Festiva; tentatively the second Sat in Sept., 4) an "all-ages" fall family fun day. One Friend asked what the age range is to be considered "a child."

(Another Friend asked if we later could get a report with more details on Meeting's plans for participation in these festivals and events.)

For Green Group (GG), Marjorie Kehoe offered an update regarding Earth Day event. An evening activity on 4/22/25 with a movie, trainer & more is planned. She also thanked friends who helped assemble and install two raised bed/garden carts that may be used with children at the Meeting House. Late winter sowing of seeds –with donated milk jugs–also is planned.

For Stewardship & Finance (S&F) Committee, Jack Lahr offered three progress reports: (see attached): 1) He announced a \$20,000 donation from the Melba Battin family and invited other committees' input for what do do with this donation; tentatively, S&F has considered making this a building fund donation. 2) S&F would welcome more input on our Quick Books system and on possibly moving the financial management system to Aplos which, it is hoped, might occur before September – with some overlap for an orderly transition.

Miscellaneous items:

-Annie Warneka thanked Friends for all the love and support after the recent passing of her mother.

-Dot Walizer, as treasurer, advised Friends that if one emails her seeking a check for some budgeted item via AFM email and receives no answer within 24 hours, she may not have received it due to occasional glitches. Friends should try again, perhaps using her personal email.

Friends approved the foregoing minutes. Due to the shortage of time, other announcements will be share via the AFM announced list including: a) Peace & Social Concerns (PSC) Committee's recommendations as to QMC guidelines and suggested further discernment as to AFM's priorities, fundraising guidelines, etc.; b) a reminder for Ministry & Pastoral Care Committee's Spiritual State of the Meeting plans to take place on March 16; c) a reminder about the Seekers - Foundation Series (see attachments and SFS summary below these minutes); c) Pastoral care initiatives that Marcia Ormsby is leading with sign-up sheets for Friends who want to help with visitations, driving, etc., as well sign up to cook for Light House breakfasts.

We concluded with brief centering silence. *-These minutes respectfully submitted. - P.Caroom, Recording Clerk*

Report of Clearness Committee for membership of Reece Benson

If ever there was an example of Quaker membership being a public manifestation of something that had already inwardly happened, Reese Benson is that example. As an attender with his family from the time he was elementary school age, he supported experienced Quaker principles through participation in First Day activities, working with his family and AFM's Climate Stewards, active participant and supporter of his sister Kallan's ministry of climate activism.

He has always admired how Quakers "stand up and speak up for what's right." Now a young man, he feels he's always been a Quaker but feels the need to make it formal because for the next few years, it will be very important to "stand up and speak up for what's right."

Now, he's living out those testimonies with his family at the Friends Wilderness Center. Although still discerning his future path, his skilled hands already enable his valuable work, building and repairing buildings at the Friends Wilderness Center, China House and the Quaker Camp Opequon. His big heart skills show up when he patiently works with children and animals. His genuine modesty keeps him from naming the work of his hands, heart and presence as true gifts, calling it "just stuff that needs doing".

His clearness committee joyfully recommends this gifted man Reece for membership in our meeting and looks forward to his presence among us for years to come.

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Appendix - Reece's original (email) letter of 12/5/24 requesting membership:

I feel like I am already a part of the community
I like what Quakers stand for in the current uncertainty of the world
I want it to be clear that I am a Quaker, and I stand with Quakers.
For the most part I feel like I already do.

In the past, I didn't see much reason to officially become a Quaker because I already considered myself to be Quaker.

Now, I feel more of a reason to be officially recognized as a Quaker.
The process doesn't seem like as much of a barrier.

Annapolis Friends Meeting
351 Dubois Road
Annapolis, MD 2001
Clerk@annapolisfriends.org | 410-573-0364
March 2, 2025

Arundel Community Development Services, Inc.
2666 Riva Road, Suite 210 Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Sincerely,

Subject: Letter of Support for Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake's Community Support Grant Application

Ellen McBride
Clerk of Meeting
Annapolis Friends Meeting

Dear Arundel Community Development Services, Inc.,

On behalf of Annapolis Friends Meeting, I am writing to express our strong support for Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake's (IPC) application for the Anne Arundel County Community Support Grant. This funding will enable IPC to establish a much-needed Interfaith Environmental Task Force, bringing together diverse faith leaders to collaborate on pressing environmental challenges in our county. The decision to support IPC in this way is documented in the Annapolis Friends Meeting Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business on March 1, 2025.

Currently, there is no formal task force in Anne Arundel County that unites faith leaders specifically to address environmental concerns. While individual congregations, including ours, have taken steps to care for the Chesapeake Bay watershed and broader environment through projects such as tree plantings, stormwater management, and educational initiatives, these efforts often remain siloed. A dedicated task force will provide a structured, collaborative space for faith communities to share resources, align efforts, and advocate for environmental justice, ensuring that our collective impact is both greater and more equitable.

Likewise, creation of an Interfaith Task Force of this nature will allow congregations, such as Annapolis Friends Meeting, with maintenance needs to elevate those needs to the task force community, and garner assistance in maintaining current projects.

As stewards of this 64,000 square mile watershed, Annapolis Friends Meeting supports the concept that faith communities have a moral and spiritual responsibility to protect the environment and uplift vulnerable populations disproportionately affected by environmental harm. This task force will create an avenue for faith leaders to work together, amplify their voices, and drive meaningful and positive environmental change in our local communities.

Annapolis Friends Meeting is committed to actively participating in the task force. We look forward to contributing our time, insights, and resources to this initiative, engaging in meetings,

helping to identify key environmental justice priorities, and working alongside fellow congregations to implement solutions that benefit both people and the planet.

We urge the grant committee to support this proposal, as it represents an innovative and essential step toward uniting faith communities in environmental action across Anne Arundel County. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Ellen McBride
Clerk of Meeting
Annapolis Friends Meeting

CC: Green Group, an Annapolis Friends Meeting team who are focused on environmental protection

Quaker Market Committee

Report to meeting for worship with attention to business

3rd month 2025

In these troubled times, Quaker Markets offer 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. Although standing with the most marginalized and vulnerable is always one of the Quaker Market Committee's considerations during our discernment process, at this time in our country, this resonated as more imperative than ever. As you will see from our recommendations, committee members felt especially drawn to protecting youth.

Since the Quaker Market Committee (QMC) relies on the AFM community to submit beneficiary ideas to consider during discernment, we would like to thank those who submitted ideas, as well as additional Friends who contributed their knowledge and ideas for consideration to areas of interest that bubbled up during the discernment process.

As currently required by AFM's 2005 fundraising policy, P&SC Committee has reviewed QMC's beneficiary recommendations for Quaker Spring Market (QSM) 2025. P&SC has relayed that they are not in disagreement with QMC's recommendations.

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

The first \$250 to Young Friends for their own beneficiary discernment process.

External (75%) to be divided evenly among the following three causes:

Center of Help (Centro de Ayuda/COH)

Citizens Climate Education

GLSEN

Internal (25%):

BYM Camping Program

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.

Center of Help (Centro de Ayuda/COH) is a small local non-profit that has served as a vital resource for immigrant families in Anne Arundel County for over 25 years. Their mission is to empower, educate and connect immigrants with resources to promote self-sufficiency and to

advocate for the successful integration of the immigrant community into Anne Arundel County

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and the surrounding areas. They provide programs in three main categories: Family Services, Educational Services, and Mental Health Services. They use an integrated approach designed to address the needs of the entire family in a holistic manner.

Recent information from Centro de Ayuda states:

“Right now, immigrant families in our community are living in fear. Parents are rushing to secure passports for their U.S.-born children. Families are avoiding hospitals, even in emergencies. Others are too afraid to send their children to school or even leave their homes... Every day, our team works tirelessly to guide families through these challenges—helping them access critical resources, navigate complex systems, and find the support they need to move forward. We provide mental health support to those struggling with anxiety and fear. We offer educational programs that empower immigrants to build a stable future.”

AFM’s own Mary Dadone has been involved with Centro de Ayuda for the last 3.5 years, and Chairperson of the Board for the last three years. She continues to work tirelessly to secure funding for this work, for example through a matching grant currently in place with the Hussman Foundation, or even through a possible merger of Centro de Ayuda with another small local non-profit that provides similar services, OHLA. Centro de Ayuda has been doing critical work in support of the immigrant families now under direct attack by the current administration. QMC hopes that AFM will see approval of Centro de Ayuda as a QSM beneficiary as a way to stand with immigrants, support a small local cause working diligently to support immigrants in these desperate times, honor the dedicated work of Mary Dadone and her late partner, Jim Hall, and align with Friends’ concerns for anti-racism, human rights, and vulnerable populations.

<https://centerofhelp.org/>; <https://ohlamd.org/>

Citizens Climate Education (CCE) is a nonpartisan grassroots advocacy organization founded in 2007 that empowers people from diverse backgrounds to educate key stakeholders, policy makers, and the general public about effective solutions to climate change. CCE is a 501(c)3 organization that provides training, tools, resources, and coordination to help volunteers become effective advocates for climate solutions. CCE’s sister organization, Citizens Climate Lobby (CCL), is a 501(c)4 non-profit organization that supports lobbying efforts on specific climate legislation. CCE actively works with both Democratic and Republican policymakers, to make climate change a bridge issue (rather than a wedge issue) in Congress. As the Friend who submitted CCE for beneficiary consideration stated, “Donations to CCE would support tried and true methods of advocacy to all sides of the debate. CCE would use funds to further their education and outreach. These days it will be particularly hard to accomplish the things we hope

to, but it is a particularly good year to reach across the aisle and encourage stewardship of our shared planet.”

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CCE’s website indicates that they seek to integrate Diversity, Equity and Inclusion practices through all levels of the organization, especially important since data indicate that people who are Black or Hispanic and children are more likely to be disproportionately impacted by worsening climate change. CCE provides youth-specific programming to support young people in becoming effective climate advocates. The inclusion of Citizens Climate Education in QMC’s recommendations speaks to Friends’ values of anti-racism, equality and stewardship, and our work to preserve the planet we are leaving to our children and future generations.

<https://citizensclimateeducation.org/>

GLSEN was founded by a group of teachers in 1990, who knew that educators play key roles in creating affirming learning environments for LGBTQ+ youth. For 35 years GLSEN has championed safe, inclusive K-12 environments where children can thrive and learn free from fear, worked to build acceptance and protection for LGBTQ+ students, centered and uplifted student-led movements, conducted extensive and original research to inform evidence-based solutions for K-12 education, and advised on, advocated for, and researched comprehensive policies designed to protect LGBTQ+ students as well as students of marginalized identities. At this moment in time, when there are currently 390 bills targeting LGBTQ+ rights in the United States (as reported by CNN) and, since 2022, GLSEN has itself been targeted by name in a number of hate incidents across the country, GLSEN will be responding by reworking their most tried and true methods: shaping the national conversation on systemic changes and education justice (informed by young people themselves), strengthening their national movement by working locally across the country, and equipping youth, families and educators with the necessary support, training, tools, strategies and networks to create change in their communities.

With Gallup recently reporting LGBTQ+ self-identification in 2024 at 9.3% of the US adult population at the same time that this population is under such widespread attack, QMC hopes that AFM will approve GLSEN as a QSM beneficiary as an opportunity to let our actions speak that we stand as allies with this targeted population. Gallup states that the boost has a lot to do with young people, who have been much more likely than older generations to identify as something other than heterosexual. Within the AFM community, one Friend speaking in support of GLSEN as a QSM beneficiary notes “the tremendous pressures on LGBTQ teenagers and young people, especially recently. The world they thought they would be entering is turned around and become much more dangerous... GLSEN is doing actual program work on behalf of educators and students.” By supporting GLSEN as a QM beneficiary, AFM would be following the earlier lead of Young Friends, when their 2020 discernment led them to support GLSEN.

When asked about the current decision in front of us, the CREC clerk of the time noted, “I think

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it is worthy enough that Young Friends discerned it [GLSEN] as worthy in 2020 and they are being proactive about responding to anti LGBTQIA efforts with students.”

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

The **BYM Camping Program** has been recommended to QMC for consideration as a QSM beneficiary. Apparently, the way BYM runs summer camps, with a high staff to camper ratio and for the last three years a sliding payment scale designed to make it more feasible for all interested kids to attend, regardless of ability to pay the full actual cost, has left the BYM 2025 budget \$50K in the hole, even after major cuts all around the BYM system. BYM plans to send a fundraising appeal to all monthly meetings inviting them to make a donation in addition to the apportionment that monthly meetings chip in to support our yearly meeting expenses.

The BYM camping program (consisting of camps at Catoctin, Opequon and Shiloh, plus Teen Adventure) has benefited and transformed many AFM Young Friends over the years, as well as Young Friends from the broader BYM community, and campers from beyond the traditional BYM community. From the BYM website, “BYM camps provide opportunities for enrichment and leadership building in a wilderness environment and STRIDE is committed to ensuring that young people from all racial, geographical, and economic backgrounds have the opportunity to benefit from such an environment. In addition, we feel strongly that the young people we support contribute much to the communities they are a part of and that all benefit from their presence at the camp.”

At this moment in our country, QMC believes that the BYM camping program is needed now more than ever. As the new BYM Interim Camping Program Manager shared recently: *“This summer, many kids may need camp more than ever. I’ve been thinking a lot about courage and joy lately. The anticipation of camp may be what gives them the courage and resolve to persevere in a world that is daily becoming more hostile to the most vulnerable communities in our country... That courage needs to walk lockstep with a commitment to feel and experience joy, collectively, in a moment when the powers that be want us to shut down and give up—and our camps are a place where campers, families and volunteers can experience that joy.”* Friend Zora speaks QMC’s mind. We hope AFM’s mfb will find a sense of unity on including the BYM Camping Program as a QSM 2025 beneficiary.

**MEETING FOR BUSINESS UPDATES FROM
THE STEWARDSHIP AND FINANCE COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 26,2025**

S&F seeks to provide these updates and reports to keep you advised of developments and plans that are underway, but not yet far enough along for MfB action. To this end we encourage your input and suggestions sooner rather than later. We hopefully will end up with recommendations that already reflect input well beyond the committee members.

Disposition of our \$20,000 donation from the Melba Battin family. Before we make a recommendation to the MfB we welcome the benefit of any thoughts and recommendations from the clerks of all our committees, preferably by the end of March. We now have the suggestion that these funds be transferred to the Building Fund in the absence of significant alternatives. Meanwhile, this donation will be provisionally transferred in escrow to an existing account, likely undesignated reserves or a suitable alternative.

Engaging outside Quickbooks support. With the end of Karen Cunyningham's key S&F official participation on the S&F committee and no other in-house Quickbooks expertise we are considering hiring an experienced Quickbooks professional on a limited, part-time basis, to collaborate on quarterly reports and become sufficiently abreast of our system to aid our co-treasurer Dorothy Walizer as needed. Karen has graciously offered to make herself available in this transition time. To this end, our Jenny Isaacs has been in contact with Elizabeth (Liz) Delmar, an experienced bookkeeping professional, recommended by our Carl Benson and now assisting two other Friends organizations.

Moving our financial software program from Quickbooks to Aplos. Over the past 18 months expensive research and consideration was given to switching our accounting software from Quickbooks. We are exploring the financial software provider Aplos (see www.Aplos). This due diligence continues, with a tentative plan to seek a vendor quote that takes into account our historical financial data, expense projections and the like. We understand that such a transition should take place only at the beginning of a fiscal year, in our case January 1, 2026. If we proceed we would run Quickbooks in tandem with Aplos the last quarter of 2025. Jenny Isaacs is our Project Coordinator. We have a \$500 MfB authorization for expenditure of tech/engineering consulting services. MfB will be fully involved in the transition decisions if we proceed.

Your comments and questions are welcomed. Stay tuned for further developments.

Jack Lahr, clerk (jacklahr@gmail.com)

The suggested queries for this year's Spiritual State of the Meeting process have been shared:

- How does the Spirit prosper among you?
- In what ways are we tenderly eldering and educating adults and children in the manner of Friends to deepen our Vocal Ministry?
- How do we maintain the spirit of openness and humility as we proclaim our testimonies and live them?
- As we work for peace, are we nourished by peace and justice within and among ourselves?

Addendum: Describe specific ways your Meeting works to become an anti-racist and justice-seeking community.

- Ministry & Pastoral Care

ministry-pastoralcare@annapolisfriends.org

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ATTACHMENT:

Quaker Foundations: the Seekers' Series schedule

1. Introduction To Quaker Faith And Practice — Jan 26 Elise Albert/Margaret Holmes
Discussion of the foundation of Quaker faith and spiritual practice and the Quaker concept of divinity (The Light, the Inner Teacher, the Christ within, continuing revelation).
Query: What brought you to Quakerism? What keeps you coming?

2. Quaker Faith, Testimonies, and Social Justice - Feb. 9 Jenny Isaacs/Martha Baer
How do our beliefs translate to our actions in the world?
Queries: Have you been inspired by your faith or your beliefs to be engaged in any social justice actions? If so, how does your faith sustain you? Which testimony feels most challenging in your life now?

3. Quaker Christianity And Quaker Universalism - Feb. 23 Phil Caroom/Judy Brown
Many people ask if Quakers are Christian. Quaker faith and practice arose in a Christian context, and yet many of the beliefs and practices are relevant and helpful for those who are not necessarily traditional Christians. Quaker Universalism allows for a deep and genuine appreciation of the arising of Spirit in all religions and spiritual paths.
Query: What was the religion or religious orientation of your childhood; how has that shaped you?

4. Quaker Process - March 9 Ellen McBride/Mary Barbera
Meetings for Business, reaching unity, committees, membership, structure of monthly meetings and yearly meetings, list of other Quaker organizations.
Query: How do Quaker decision-making processes reflect the principles of Quaker faith?

5. Seekers And Finders: The Early Quaker Movement And The Experiences That Defined Quaker Faith And Practice - March 23 Ann Riggs/Barbara Thomas
This session will give more context and background for the understanding of Quaker faith and practice – why no ministers (in unprogrammed meetings)? The idea that we don't just take from the teachings of others but find our own truth in the context of a community of seekers. (story of James Naylor?), Clearness Committees to search for "truth."
Query: Are there any things about the experience of early Friends that speak to you?

6. Quaker Worship And Vocal Ministry - April 13 TBD
What has been your experience of Quaker worship; have you had a range of experiences; do you have questions? We'll explore the intentions and experiences of Quaker worship; we will also talk about how we discern whether to speak in Meeting or not – what is the nature of vocal ministry that distinguishes it from just sharing ideas? What do we mean by Holding someone in the Light? Is that different from praying for them?

Amended minutes from prior MfB

Annapolis Friends Monthly Meeting (AFM)
Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business (MfB)
Fourth Month, Sixth Day, 2025 (4/6/25)

Present were: Ellen McBride (clerk), Phil Caroom (recording clerk), Ben Kilgore, Nona McNatt, Nan & Sky Elsbree, Lee Ballyntine, Jeanne Ward, Ben Kilgore, Cairn Krafft, Ruth Slaven, Mary Pratt, Alison Barrett, Martha Lurz, Angela Hicks, Elise Albert, Jack Lahr, Barbara Stavac, Martha Baer, Sylvia Oliva, Karen Cunyningham, Jean Christianson, Patty Robinson, Dot Walizer, Kathleen Hudson, Marjorie Kehoe, Nancy Joe Steetle, Jack Hogsten, Ani Warneka, Margaret Holmes, Minette Clark-Swindel, Beth Chandler, Barb Thomas, Ann Riggs, and Stephen Poe.

We met both in person and via Zoom, beginning with centering worship and screen-sharing of Baltimore Yearly Meeting (BYM) Faith and Practice queries as to our personal spiritual lives, as well as a review of our AFM anti-racist queries.

In an introductory comment, our Clerk thanked Friends for our active participation in the Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business process which provides a wonderful opportunity to share, learn and tend to that which needs to get done; she added, “I’m grateful for the committees that work to serve the meeting. You are the Meeting. But, there also is much much more than committees – we also work as individuals, Second Circles and other groupings. We know that it takes a village attending and listening to Spirit for all that Quakers do.”

For Ministry & Pastoral Care (MPC) Committee, various Friends reported:

- First reading of the Spiritual State of the Meeting (SSOM) Report - Martha Baer read the SSOM report and briefly discussed our process in responding to annual BYM queries that seek a review of the previous year; this year, she noted, we held a special worship-sharing on these queries between the times of our 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. gatherings. (See attached written SSOM report.) Various Friends expressed appreciation and we approved this first reading. A second reading will occur at our next Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business on May 4.

- First reading of the Memorial Minute for Wes Jordan - Nancy Jo Steetle thanked those who contributed to this minute and read it aloud. (See attached - written minute.) With a minor addition, Friends approved this minute.

For Peace & Social Concerns (P&SC) Committee, Phil Caroom offered reports on various topics: - Proposal to renew assistance to Barakzai Afghan refugee family- Phil

provided a report (attached) indicating that, due to recent federal budget cuts, it appears the refugee family which we had assisted until several month ago no longer will have any rental support from the Lutheran Social Services (LSS) organization and could become homeless. With the Unitarian Universalists (UU) congregation's agreement to receive donations, Friends agreed that P&SC may renew AFM Announce requests for Friends donations for four months that would go to the UU treasurer for disbursement to pay the family's rent and utility bills; if any extra were collected, the ad hoc AFM/UU committee would be permitted to decide on its optimal use to benefit the family. The committee will report back to MfB at the end of this 4 month period.

In related comments, one Friend suggested that additional funds might come from AFM's Emergent Social Concerns fund and Sufferings fund. Friends who desire further information and input were requested to contact P&SC and they may be invited to participate in Ad Hoc Committee meetings.

-Also for PSC, Phil reported that the committee has responded to MfB's January request for a review of Quaker Market Committees (QMC) guidelines as to its discernment process for identifying and recommending recipients of QM proceeds. (See attached written P&SC report.) Based on its lengthy process which also involved many Friends outside of both committees, P&SC has recommended: 1) that QMC should invite non-committee members to join its discernment process if they agree on the same process that QMC members would use, and 2) that QMC should not regard itself as committee to current mathematical divisions (e.g., 75% divided between 3 external causes, 25% to an internal cause, and no repeat causes for 5-years, absent "extenuating circumstances").

-Speaking for QMC, Cairn Krafft reported that QMC has agreed: 1) to amend its guidelines both to permit non-committee members to participate subject to the same expectations as committee members, and 2) to regard its mathematical guidelines as subject to exceptions as Spirit leads Friends participating in the discernment process. (See full QMC report including proposed amended guidelines.)

[RECORDING CLERK'S NOTE: Minutes were approved up until this point.]

-Finally, as a third P&SC committee recommendation, unrelated to QMC, Phil reported on a topic that came up repeatedly in its recent discernment sessions is that AFM's financial and fund-raising guidelines have become uncertain leading to questions about our Meeting's ability to take on new projects, whether related to reparations, our refugee family, improvements to the Meeting House, or support for wider Quaker programs, such as those organized internationally by Friends United

Meeting (FUM). Therefore, P&SC recommends that MfB should resume a process by which AFM Friends may clarify: ‘Who are we? How do we prioritize our time, energy and resources? Do current AFM guidelines impede or advance our leadings as a Quaker Meeting?’ P&SC leaves it to Friends’ discernment whether this process should be led by some other committee(s), occur via specially-called Meetings, or perhaps via some other specially-designed process consistent with our Quaker faith and practice.”

Somewhat related to this third PSC recommendation, Jack Lahr reported for Stewardship & Finance (S&F) Committee on various points:

First, S&F proposes revisions to AFM’s 2025 budget, in response to late-arriving BYM needs. Jack noted that the only modification to our recently approved 2025 annual budget would be a delay of funds previously directed to our AFM Building Fund, reducing this amount to \$5,000 rather than \$7,500, with the intent to restore the level of the funding with the first \$12,000 of any 2025 surplus. Friends approved this change.

Second, in response to the P&SC recommendation, Jack noted that S&F and AFM Trustees currently are inviting all Friends to send any tax, accounting and financial questions by the end of April; S&F and the Trustees will seek to collect and review Friends’ input with the goal to consider these and to bring responsive recommendations to June MfB. S&F also plans to resume the practice of offering ongoing quarterly reports to AFM’s financial progress.

Dot Walizer, as an AFM treasurer, raised her concern of whether AFM is conducting our financial affairs in good order and in accordance with our Quaker faith, testimonies and traditions. To alleviate this previously raised contention, she again recommended AFM consult an accredited tax professional to review our donation and tax receipts structures to ensure we are in compliance with state and federal laws as a religious corporation.

Moving our MfB towards its conclusion, our Clerk noted that we had run out of time before the 11 am Meeting for Worship, but also that there were other announcements included with today’s agenda email. These included:

- reminders about a special workday this coming Thursday (04/10/25) afternoon,
- the Friday (4/11/25) at 2 p.m. for the memorial service to honor Wes Jordan,
- continuation of our Quaker Foundation-Seeker Series with its next program on Sunday (4/13/25) at 9:30 a.m., and
- Easter morning plans, and
- Green Group plans in observance of Earth Day.

[NOTE: The Green Group also recently has offered a “movie night” on regenerative agriculture, which was a big success and very much appreciated.]

She encouraged Friends to consider these announcements in that form, on our Meeting House bulletin boards, and in upcoming AFM Announce emails.

We concluded with brief centering silence. *-These minutes respectfully submitted. - P.Caroom, Recording Clerk*

Attachments:

- SSoM Report
- Memorial minute for Wes Jordan
- P&SC Report on the QMC Guidelines Review
- QMC response to the P&SC Recommendations
- 2025 Revised Budget
- S&F Report for April 2025

Quaker Foundations: Seekers

ATTACHMENT:

Quaker Foundations: the Seekers’ Series schedule

6. Quaker Worship And Vocal Ministry - April 13 TBD

What has been your experience of Quaker worship; have you had a range of experiences; do you have questions? We’ll explore the intentions and experiences of Quaker worship; we will also talk about how we discern whether to speak in Meeting or not – what is the nature of vocal ministry that distinguishes it from just sharing ideas? What do we mean by Holding someone in the Light? Is that different from praying for them?

Attachments for April 6, 2025 Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

Attachments:

- SSoM Report
- P&SC Report on the QMC Guidelines Review
- QMC response to the P&SC Recommendations
- 2025 Revised Budget
- S&F Report for April 2025
- Quaker Foundations: Seekers Series flyer
- Earth Day Movie Flyer

Page 2 of 2

Annapolis Friends Meeting Spiritual State of the Meeting for 2024 First Reading, Meeting for Business, April 6, 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.

AFM Peace & Social Concerns Com.(PSC) /Change Group -
Discernment as to Quaker Market Com. guidelines:

We met via Zoom on 2/13/25 with 15 Friends participating and regrets from others. After other PSC concerns, we returned to our discernment as to Quaker Market guidelines for selection of causes. A request for review was referred to PSC by Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business (MfB) two months ago.

We reviewed that PSC previously has invited two other in-person meetings on this topic, as well as offering three questions about it via AFM Announce. We received 15 written responses (10 pp.) to those questions, attaching these, as well as a summary of current Quaker Market Committee (QMC) guidelines and donation history with our reminders for this PSC Meeting.

Friends spoke, after centering silence, recognizing that the large majority of Friends expressed completely positive feelings about the way the Market operates and about how it helps to build our AFM community in many ways. We agreed that a report back to MfB should acknowledge this nearly universal support.

Drawing on many excerpts from Friends' written comments, we also reviewed that a number of Friends would support changes to QMC's guidelines as to its discernment process.

Friends noted that the current practice excludes anyone who is not a current member of QMC. One Friend commented that it is a standard Quaker practice, for example included in BYM Faith and Practice, that committee meetings “are generally open to any interested Meeting member” or attender, with exceptions for matters that are personal in nature. (BYM F&P, p. 41.) After discussion, we agreed as a first recommended improvement to the QMC guidelines:

- 1) “Friends, who are not current QMC members but who are led to do so and who request this on a timely basis, should be permitted to attend and participate in QMC’s discernment process. These Friends should be permitted “to receive information regarding the beneficiaries that have been recommended which is made available to committee members for review and reflection, then also to participate with QMC members in a meeting for discernment.” Non-QMC participants should understand that this participation would follow spirit-led Quaker decision-making process and should not be used simply to make another pitch for a personally-preferred program.”

A second concern raised in some Friends responses involved QMC’s current numerical guidelines a) for a 75% external use of funds raised and 25% internal use within AFM of funds raised, as well as b) “aiming [for] no repeat” of QMC funds going to the same cause until at least 5 years have passed, absent rare “extenuating circumstances.”

After discussion, we agreed to a second recommended improvement to this QMC guideline: 2) “QMC should be flexible and not bound to numerical standards for designation of Market proceeds, either by its own custom or by a MfB decision made 20 years ago. If led by the Spirit and events, QMC should be free to recommend changes to the 75/25 split of proceeds (for example, in relation to needed improvements to the Meeting House) or to the 5 year practice (for example, if events create an ongoing or urgent community need such as immigrant or

refugee assistance, or, someday, if Friends ever are led to establish ongoing support for a particular program).”

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A third concern was raised by many Friends which, presently, does not lead us to another QMC recommendation, but instead leads us to recommend other action by MfB. Specifically, many Friends raised concerns related to AFM’s overall priorities. For example, one Friend wrote that we should consider the “wider horizon not only of Quaker Causes but the Meeting as a whole: Repair, global education and self-awareness, green concerns, spiritual deepening”; also, we should “bring more awareness of and support for Quaker organizations..., [this is] extremely important and needs our attention as a Meeting. [And, there are questions as to AFM’s] ongoing commitment to reparations, and whether we should upgrade and expand the Meeting.” Some Friends urged such questions be brought to MfB; others strongly urged that they would be too disruptive and time-consuming as an ordinary MfB item. PSC Friends, ourselves, long have been concerned that MfB has delayed and failed to reach unity on proposals as to reparations and any possible changes to AFM’s fundraising & donation practices although many other Meetings have different practices that work well for them.

Were we to begin renovations to accommodate sheltering our neighbors, were we to open our doors to the otherwise undefended, no act towards reparations could be more genuine as well as more Quakerly. After discussion, we agreed—aside from QMC guidelines— that

- 3) MfB should be asked to no longer delay and to resume a process by which AFM Friends may reach unity to clarify our priorities and our identity as a Quaker Meeting: ‘Who are we? How do we seek to prioritize our time, energy and resources? Do current AFM guidelines impede or advance our leadings as a Meeting?’ We leave it to Friends’ discernment whether that resumed process should be led by some other committee(s), occur via specially-called Meetings, or perhaps via some other specially designed process consistent with our Quaker faith and practice.”

As our PSC meeting approached its two hour mark, we also agreed to a few other items: a) A rough draft of our QMC-related recommendations will be circulated to Friends who participated with PSC for suggested edits.

b) These recommendations are offered with the understanding that they are meant to be prospective. That is, PSC is not suggesting that QMC plans for the upcoming 2025 Spring Market should be changed. And, as to the current guideline that QMC should submit its selected causes to PSC for “approval,” PSC Friends previously have agreed to recommend to MfB that this should be updated since QMC now is an independent committee. QMC simply should give PSC timely advance notice of its choices before submitting them to MfB, so as to receive comments or suggestions, to ascertain whether these causes are duplicative or whether PSC has other important information to consider.

As a final note, we recall the advice of the Quaker Elders at Balby (1656) against rule making: “Dearly beloved Friends, these things we do not lay upon you as a rule or form to walk by, but that all, with the measure of light which is pure and holy, may be guided: and so in the light walking and abiding, these may be fulfilled in the Spirit, not from the letter, for the letter killeth, but the Spirit giveth life.”

Quaker Market Committee’s Proposed Changes to Quaker Market Best Practices in Response to Peace & Social Concerns Committee’s 2025 Review (distributed to Annapolis Friends Meeting’s Announcements list 03.06.25)

Proposed Changes to Quaker Market (QM) Best Practices—Concepts (organized chronologically based on how a community member interested in participating in the discernment meeting would encounter the changes)

1. Invite members of the Annapolis Friends Meeting (AFM) community who are not members of the Quaker Market Committee (QMC) to join in on our QM beneficiary discernment meetings, as we rely on knowledge and spirit-led group discernment to identify beneficiaries to recommend to meeting for business (mfb).
2. Remove the no-more-frequently than once every five years except in extenuating circumstances guideline from our Beneficiary Discernment Considerations. 3. Add language to the QM Best Practices to make it clear that if spirit leads the group discernment to unity on a split other than 75%:25%, QMC will include that in the beneficiary recommendations we bring to mfb. In that setting, Friends will have the opportunity to discern whether spirit is creating a sense of unity among those present at mfb to move forward with QMC’s beneficiary recommendations for the upcoming Quaker Market.

Proposed Changes to QM Best Practices—Wording in QM Best Practices

Document (Excerpt from the QM Best Practices document with proposed changes highlighted. Please note that the order of appearance in this section is the reverse of the order of appearance in the Concepts section.)

75%:25% Split in Market Proceeds

At 10th month 2005 mfb, the following formula was recorded in the mfb minutes: “Friends approve establishment of a Market funds distribution formula of 75% to outside concerns and 25% to an internal need.”

The language used in this excerpt from the 2005 minutes refers to “outside concerns” and “internal need.” For clarity, in more recent years, the term “outside concerns” has also been referred to as “external causes” or “external beneficiaries,” and “internal need” has also been referred to as “internal causes” or internal beneficiaries.”

With so much dire need in the world, QMC believes that the AFM community has been well-served by this formula, which enhances the community’s ability to do good in the world, while still retaining a portion of the proceeds for expressed internal needs. A slight modification has been added in recent years that reserves some set amount off the top before the formula is applied, for the purpose of providing our Young Friends the opportunity to work through their own discernment process. Typically, the amount reserved for Young Friends’ discernment is \$250 (although it may be modified to reflect anticipated conditions).

QMC views the mfb-approved 75%:25% on QM proceeds as providing beneficial structure and balance, rather than as a constraint. If spirit leads the group to unity during the discernment meeting to recommend a different split between External and Internal, QMC would simply include that as part of the beneficiary recommendations it brings to mfb, as it has done in the past when so led.

External

QMC has applied the following guideline regarding External beneficiaries: Causes must either have 501(c)3 status themselves (e.g., Africa Great Lakes Initiative) or have a fiscal sponsor with that status (e.g., 21st Century Education Foundation was a fiscal sponsor that provided a channel for AFM to contribute a portion of proceeds from Quaker Spring Market 2020 to Anne Arundel County Public Schools, Food and Nutrition Service, to reduce school lunch debt in Annapolis Cluster schools).

Internal

QMC has viewed (and advertised) the Internal portion of QM proceeds as taking a variety of possible forms, such as:

- Special projects associated with the AFM community (e.g., AFM’s solar panels)
- Quaker organizations AFM is part of, and in some cases specific projects (e.g., Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) Climate Emergency Fund)
- Non-Quaker Organizations with which AFM or a committee has a partnership (e.g., the Light House, Winter Relief, Alternatives to Violence Project)
- Community members’ spiritual ministries (e.g., Ann Riggs’ work at Friends Theological College in Kenya).

It should be noted that in some cases, a cause could qualify for either External or Internal (e.g., Light House) and QMC will recommend categorizing it in the way that

would optimize inclusion of other causes we believe it is also important to support during that Market.

Beneficiary Discernment Considerations

As part of the discernment process QMC considers a variety of factors including: •

Which causes address issues of concern resonating among the AFM community, such as anti-racism (including anti-indigenous racism), climate change/environment, sustainability, social and environmental justice, human rights, non-violent conflict resolution, and vulnerable populations (e.g., LGBTQIA+ and immigrants)?

- Can we include one or more small organizations where the same dollars will have a greater potential for impact?
- Can we include one or more Quaker organizations (especially those helping third world Friends)?
- Have we supported this cause in the past, and if so, how recently? • Is the cause currently receiving financial support through other funding mechanisms at AFM (i.e., Quaker Causes, Peace & Social Concerns Committee's budget, Emergent Social Concerns), and if so, amount and frequency?
- Can we include something local, something global, and something that helps children?
- Was the cause submitted by multiple AFM community members, an AFM committee, or a single community member (which helps us gauge to what degree the issue may be resonating within the community)?
- Has a request been made on behalf of a special need within the AFM community, or for a long-term AFM partner?

The Quaker Market Committee does not have a set of criteria that each cause needs to meet, but rather we use a more organic process to consider how various pieces might fit together to optimize the complement of causes.

Beneficiary Discernment Process

When the QMC clerk sends out the solicitation for ideas for beneficiaries, they will also send out an invitation via AFM's Announcements list letting Friends know of the discernment meeting's date and time. Friends interested in participating in the discernment process who are not on the committee are invited to let the QMC clerk know of their interest by responding promptly to the emailed invitation.

The QMC clerk or another committee member compiles information regarding the beneficiaries that have been recommended into a discernment document.

Prior to QMC's discernment meeting (ideally one week in advance), the QMC clerk makes the document available to committee members and those who have accepted the invitation. Each person is encouraged to take the time for their individual review and reflection.

For each proposed beneficiary, the discernment document typically includes the name of the organization, whether it is itself a 501(c)3 or has a 501(c)3 fiscal sponsor, ratings (if they exist) from Charity Navigator and GuideStar, any information the recommender has indicated as important for QMC members to know, supplemented

by any additional information the compiler thinks is important to include, and the website address.

When participants gather for the QMC discernment meeting, all are requested to gather with an open mind, remaining fully open to where spirit leads the group in its discernment. After reviewing the material that has been compiled and listening deeply to Friends' comments regarding each cause, participants wait with expectation to hear/sense/recognize what array of causes spirit brings forward for the committee to recommend. At some point there is an "aha" moment when someone floats an idea for a set of causes, and it becomes clear that spirit has spoken and the sense of QMC's discernment meeting has made itself clear.

Once QMC's discernment process is complete, results are communicated with the Peace and Social Concerns committee, in case they may also have plans in mind to support causes that QMC will be recommending as QM beneficiaries. Currently, QMC also asks

P&SC to review their beneficiary recommendations and weigh in, a holdover from AFM's 2005 fundraising policy, which predated QMC becoming a full committee rather than a subcommittee under Peace & Social Concerns. After consulting with P&SC, QMC brings their beneficiary recommendations to mfb. In that setting, Friends will have the opportunity to discern whether spirit is creating a sense of unity among those present at mfb to move forward with QMC's beneficiary recommendations for the upcoming Quaker Market. If there is not a sense of the meeting to proceed with QMC's beneficiary recommendations, what can the mfb unite around?

S&F COMMITTEE REPORT FOR APRIL 6 2025 MEETING FOR BUSINESS

Action requested. The Stewardship and Finance Committee requests approval of a revised 2025 Operating Budget. The previously approved budget inadvertently left out our apportionment to BYM. To fix this error, we propose to give the Building Fund \$5,000 rather than \$17,500 from the 2025 operating budget along with the 2023 and 2024 surpluses, with a commitment to designate the first \$12,500 of any 2025 surplus to the Building Fund. The Building Fund would still get an immediate \$26,000, with more likely coming at the end of the year. . It goes without saying that Dot and Karen have done extraordinary stewardship in managing our financial records and reports. Questions most welcomed. You are encouraged to send questions in advance of the MfB as an efficient procedure for addressing. In general, our 2025 financial picture is very much in line with our 2024 results. We are well positioned to address our foreseeable major expenses

Tax and Legal Review. Your S&F and Trustee Committee Clerks are collaborating to bring together legal and tax questions and concerns that you have relating to our activities now or in the future. If you send us queries this month, we will strive to provide our report in advance of the June Meeting for Business. We have already received queries relating to donor restricted designations and charitable giving issues.

Financial Reporting plans for 2025. We plan to provide quarterly financial reports at the MfB. Developments in our due diligence investigation of making a financial software transition from Quickbooks to the APLOS program will be reported.

Our email box is always open for your input:
stewardship@annapolisfriends.org

Jack Lahr, Clerk

Annapolis Friends Meeting Proposed 2025 Operating Budget and 2024 Treasurers' report

<u>Proposed</u> <u>2025</u>	<u>Income</u>										<u>amended* 2024 Actual</u>																																																																	
											<u>2024 Actual - Budget</u>																																																																	
											<u>2022 Actual 2023 Actual</u>																																																																	
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Contributions	55,234	47,752	48,465	55,760	7,295	55,826	Rentals	7,137	16,481	15,000	17,185	2,185	17,000	Interest, Dividends	2,246	7,000	9,093	2,093	7,000	Other	512	388	388	0	Committee Contingency Fund Transfers*	1,249	1,249	0																																																
Total Income	62,371	66,991	71,714	83,674	11,961	79,826	Notes: Not included here is a \$20,000 contribution from Jim Battin in memory of his mother, Melba Battin. S&F will bring a recommendation on the use of those funds to a future business meeting.																																																																					
Expenses																																																																												
Committee activities																																																																												
CREC	49	300	36	-264	300	Communications	3,195	6,270	6,270	0	7,000	Library	293	136	400	129	-271	400	Meetinghouse and Lands	**	29,330	22,795	28,000	24,655	-3,345	30,000	Ministry and Pastoral Care	*	174	420	719	718	-1	800	Outreach	95	1,800	1,800	1,625	-175	1,800	Peace and Social Concerns	*	3,400	4,116	4,360	4,360	0	4,300	Quaker Market	180	494	550	243	-307	100	Stewardship and Finance	249	1,150	1,076	-74	3,600	Trustees	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Independent Designated Funds	992	11,532	9,905	9,905	0	15,207	Quaker Causes	4,321	4,322	4,419	4,419	0	3,820	<u>Apportionment</u>	<u>12,625</u>	<u>12,627</u>	<u>13,841</u>	<u>13,841</u>	<u>13,841</u>	<u>12,499</u>	Total Expenses	51,410	61,735	71,714	71,714	67,276	79,826																																																	

Net 10,961 5,256 0 0 16,398 0 Notes:

- Interest and Dividends includes FFC distribution (does not include unrealized gains/losses)
- Ministry and Worship includes \$250 for Quaker Burial Ground
- Outreach includes festival fees, internal expenses, \$100 GAIN dues. (The GAIN dues have not been paid for several years.)
- P&SC includes \$2,000 for Lighthouse and \$2,000 to for ACT
- Quaker Causes is 8 percent of last full year's contributions

* 2024 Budget included the following amendments through Committee Contingency Fund transfers. (Table reflects amount spent, which in some cases was less than amount approved.)

Purpose Committee Amount Approved Md Peace Action Education Fund Peace & Social Concerns \$250 May 2024, Stewardship & Finance Postcarding supplies Peace & Social Concerns \$702 July 2024, Business Meeting Replacement banner Peace & Social

Concerns \$8 October 2024, Business Meeting Additional expenses Ministry & Pastoral Care \$19 October 2024, Stewardship & Finance Additional expenses Communications \$270 November 2024, Stewardship & Finance TOTAL \$1,249

** In September 2024, AFM approved allocating the 2023 budget surplus of \$5,256 to MHL for anticipated additional expenses. However, MHL did not need the additional funds, so the budget reflects the original MHL budget.

Stewardship and Finance recommends designating the 2023 and 2024 surpluses plus \$5,000 from the 2025 Operating Budget to the Building Fund. Additionally, we recommend the first \$12,500 of any net 2025 Operating Budget be designated to the Building Fund.

Annapolis Friends Meeting Funds, 12/31/2024 2023

**2024 2025 Proposed
Designated Funds Year End Budget Additions Subtractions**

Balance Peace and Social Concerns

transfers Year Be

Emergent Social Concerns 1,299 1,105 2,404 955 3,3Peace & Justice Center 2,928 0 2,928 2,9Retrospective and Restorative Justice 12,532 0 7,000 5,532 5,5**Meetinghouse and Land**
Building Fund 194,718 5,000 199,718 26,654 226,3Capital Improvement 25,130 5,000 2,400 32,530 0 32,5Capital Replacement 42,047 5,000 47,047 5,000 52,0Memorial Garden 2,410 -410 960 1,040 960 2,0**CREC**
Young Friend's Opportunity 2,000 0 2,000 2,0Camping 2,500 0 1,634 866 1,634 2,5**Ministry and Pastoral Care**
Embraced Ministry 2,000 2,000 2,0Suffering & Individual Emergency 2,500 2,500 5,000 5,0**Stewardship & Finance**
Adult Scholarship 2,400 100 409 2,091 409 2,5Committee Contingency 18,390 -8,390 1,249 8,751 1,249 10,0**Trustees** 0
Founder's Fund 0 0 0 **Total Designated Funds** 310,854 9,905 2,400 11,252 311,907 15,207 348,7

Money in the bank as of 12/31/2024 Quaker Market Distributions

Truist Checking \$99,629 Spring 2023 \$5,750 (\$250 to Capital Improvement for acceTruist Saving \$48,055 Holiday 2023 \$9,850 (\$250 to Capital Improvement for acceTruist Certificate of Deposit \$103,239 Spring 2024 \$8,100 (\$1,900 to Capital Improvement for acFriends Fiduciary Corp (FFC) \$204,534 Holiday 2024 \$9,320 Not distributed as of 12/31/2024
Total \$455,457

Summary of AFM funds as of 12/31/2024

Designated funds \$311,907
Undistributed 2024 Holiday Market \$9,320 2023 "surplus" \$5,256 2024 "surplus" \$16,398 Battin legacy gift \$20,000 Undesignated reserves \$92,576 **Total \$455,457**

Stewardship and Finance recommends designating the 2023 and 2022025 Operating Budget to the Building Fund. Additionally, we recom2025 Operating Budget be designated to the Building Fund.

Quaker Foundations: the Seekers Series

Annapolis Friends Meeting — Spring 2025

[Zoom Link](#) / Meeting ID: 830 3731 8463; Passcode: 155340

In-person and online

9:30 to 10:40 a.m.

The purpose of this series is to serve as an opportunity for everyone - newcomers, seekers, attenders, and members, alike

- to explore the foundations of Quaker faith and practice.
- to share perspectives on the experiences of Quaker faith and practice. - to explore how each of us fits into and contributes to this inclusive community.

The intention is to

- foster dialogue among Friends

- encourage each other on this collective journey over time
- to come together and learn together

For questions or more information contact ministry-pastoralcare@annapolisfriends.org

1. INTRODUCTION TO QUAKER FAITH AND PRACTICE — Jan. 26,
 - o Elise Albert and Margaret Holmes
2. QUAKER FAITH, TESTIMONIES, AND SOCIAL JUSTICE — Feb. 9,
 - o Jenny Isaacs and Martha Baer
3. QUAKER CHRISTIANITY AND QUAKER UNIVERSALISM — Feb. 23,
 - o Phil Caroom and Judy Brown
4. QUAKER PROCESS — Mar. 9,
 - o Ellen McBride and Mary Barbera
5. SEEKERS AND FINDERS: THE EARLY QUAKER MOVEMENT AND THE EXPERIENCES THAT DEFINED QUAKER FAITH AND PRACTICE — Mar. 23,
 - o Ann Riggs and Barb Thomas
6. QUAKER WORSHIP AND VOCAL MINISTRY — Apr. 13,
 - o Presenters TBA (to be announced)

EARTH DAY MOVIE



“Kiss the Ground” is a 90-minute film comparing current and alternative ways to grow our food. The event will be in person.



*Please join us on Tuesday, April 22, 2025 at 6:30pm
At the Annapolis Friends Meeting House
351 Dubois Road - Annapolis, Maryland*



*Light refreshments will be provided and door prizes offered.
Attendees will have an opportunity to participate in a brief discussion*

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.

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 Cunyningham, 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 Wohlrens.

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.

Annapolis Friends Monthly Meeting (AFM)
Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business (MfB)
Sixth Month, First Day, 2025 (6/1/25)

Present were: Ellen McBride (clerk), Phil Caroom (recording clerk), Ben Kilgore, Ruth Slavin, Martha Baer, Marcia Ormsby, Sky Ellsbree, Jack Lahr, Jack Hogsten, Mike Baker, Dan Campbell, Barb Thomas, Margaret Holmes, Judy Brown, Ann Riggs, Phyllis Singer, Patty Robinson, Karen Cunnyngham, Jean Christianson, Kim Finch, Dot Walizer, Angela Hicks, Mary Pratt, Marjorie Kehoe, Steve Poe, Francis Wayne, Mary Barbera, Phyllis Singer, Tom Baker Sr., Tom Baker, Jr., and Mark McFadden.

We met both in person and via Zoom, beginning with centering worship with display of Faith and Practice queries as to home and family. Our Clerk also provided a reminder of our blended (in-person and online) & microphone protocols and a review of our AFM anti-racist queries.

In an introductory comment, our Clerk welcomed Friends to another glorious morning and a “gathering of spirits,” even those of Friends who are away in travel. Our Clerk also noted her deep appreciation for “a lot that is going on” in our committees, even when these concerns have not yet made their way to Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business (MfB).

For Ministry & Pastoral Care (MPC) Committee, Martha Baer started with a “big picture” of MPC’s role as to clearness committees: These committees may be arranged for anyone who may request one. For example, for marriages, losses, leadings, or other life issues; a small group is pulled together to allow the individuals involved to hear their own voices more clearly. Currently, MPC has reorganized a previous clearness committee to assist Ann Riggs to maintain centeredness in her chaplaincy.

Ann also has decided to offer an ongoing grief support group, which MPC also has embraced; this group will be offered monthly via Zoom for up to 90 minutes on a weekday evening, beginning 6/18/25 (Wednesday), 7 - 8:30. This will combine education on the “four tasks of mourning” as well as offering a check-in for Friends on their own grieving process. Drop-in participation is welcome; Friends from other meetings in the Chesapeake Quarterly Meeting area will also be welcomed.

For Meeting House & Land Committee (MHL), Kim Finch provided an update on various projects: Yesterday, Kim and our Clerk met with architect Evan Lippincott. Despite medical issues, Evan is enthusiastic to continue work on “our building” and is also seeking support from another architectural firm who may see the project through to the end. MHL is planning to bring a proposed contract to begin architects’ planning work next month. Responding to Friends’ questions, Kim agreed that other Friends, as second circle, also may participate in planning meetings, and agreed to offer written updates, perhaps using AI notes with participants’ consent on Zoom meetings.

As to electrical contractors, MHL has found a contractor (Innovation Electric) who has agreed to install the new stove and may assist with other projects. As to solar array #2 and our EV charging stations, Innovation Electric has also provided a quote which will be compared with some other quotes.

In other electrical work, some volunteers from the AFM community have assisted in gradual, sequential replacement of Meeting House fluorescent lighting fixtures with LED fixtures. So far, the office and classrooms have been done.

As to our hearing assistance system, our Clerk and Mark Taylor with assistance of a contractor have undertaken an evaluation as to a possible upgrade or repair of our existing mixing board.

Our interior and exterior painting cycle has resumed with excellent work by volunteer Ron DeAbreu. Others participation, as understudies, would be welcome.

Our next workday will be on Sat., 6/14/25, 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Jobs may include daffodil re-planting, other gardening, reorganizing of the mechanical room, etc.

One Friend asked if there are progress reports on MPR flooring replacement and handicapped accessibility updates. Kim responded: a) as to flooring, cork tiles have become hard to find locally, so replacement may become a topic for discussion with the architect; and b) as to an automatic door opener, MHL is looking for an alternate quote. She noted that the expected summer camp tenant has canceled so there may be more time to arrange for a door update.

For Quaker Market Committee (QMC), Ruth Slavin reviewed (see full report - attached) AFM's 2025 Quaker Spring Market. After months of planning, research, and spirit-led discerning, QMC has been able to provide \$250 for First Day School for their distribution, and \$8,000 to be equally divided four ways between the Baltimore Yearly Meeting (BYM) Camping program (internal use) and three other (external use) programs, specifically, the Center of Help serving immigrant families, Citizen Scientist working in the field of climate change, and GLSEN—the country's leading LGBTQ+ education non-profit. She noted, as an ephemeral memorial to Wes Jordan, his daughter Arielle made his traditional cheese cake and others made Wes's potato salad. As usual, the Market shared our joy, love and care with our community.

For Stewardship & Finance (S&F) Committee, Jack Lahr provided a quarterly report on AFM's budget through April 2025, previously circulated online by our Clerk and attached. This quarterly report, Jack said, is "very much in line with last year." Friends thanked S&F and our Treasurers for their work.

As to Chesapeake Quarterly Meeting (CQM), Phil reported this will be held next first day on 6/8/25, inviting a visit to AFM by Quakers from around the State. Beginning with a welcome, coffee and snacks, representatives of local meetings will hear a summary of recent AFM activities and briefly tell about their own Meeting goings-on. (Our AFM report may include information about our recent Foundations / Seeker Series, Green Group activities, and participation in last week's demonstration that applauded USNA grads, but raised concerns about policies of their commencement speaker (U.S. Vice-President Vance). We may also preview our impending "grief group" and explain that we soon hope to complete our impending work to improve Meeting House accessibility for those with disabilities.

For Peace & Social Concerns Com (PSC), Margaret H. reported: 1) AFM continues to have a group working with Unitarians to support our Afghan refugee family. The family has made some additional progress: the father soon will begin work as an Uber driver, Friends have supported the mother's efforts to complete her U.S. education, and we have encouraged school enrollment for the 5 year-old. A Zoom meeting on Thurs., 6/5 with Lutheran Social Services staff, Unitarians and Friends. 2) Preparations are continuing to make a presentation of proposed Quaker Causes. One particular focus this year relates to problems of hunger around the world. Friends who wish to participate in this process are invited to meet with the committee in person or by Zoom on Mon.,

6/16, at 7 pm. One Friend noted that the emergent social concerns fund, with a balance of \$2,859, also is available to address developing concerns, such as hunger.

For Pastoral Care, Marcia Ormsby noted that she and Annie Warneka recently attended a regional Quakers' healers conference and are led to attempt formation of a small group for AFM. Healing concerns might relate not just to illness, but also to other concerns (divorce, deaths, even loss of a pet, anxiety, etc.). Medical training would not be required for participation. Another Friend commented that this effort might well complement the grief counseling that Ann is organizing.

We concluded with brief centering silence.

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

Quaker Market Committee Report 6th month meeting for business 2025

Four months of preparation for AFM's 2025 Quaker Spring Market began in February, with the solicitation of beneficiary ideas from the AFM community. Following in-depth research and conversations with many community members and subsequent spirit-led discernment by Quaker Market Committee members, the following allocation of Quaker Spring Market proceeds was recommended to and approved by 3rd month meeting for worship with attention to business:

The first \$250 for discernment by AFM's Young Friends.

The remaining \$8,000 of net proceeds to be split evenly among the following four causes:

- Internal
 - **BYM Camping Program**—supporting a diverse population of campers at a difficult time in our country
- External
 - **Centro de Ayuda/Center of Help (COH)**—supporting and empowering immigrants through assistance, education, and mental health services
 - **Citizens' Climate Education (CCE)**—training volunteers to advocate for effective climate solutions and build political will among all parties
 - **GLSEN**—the country's leading LGBTQ+ education non-profit

With this selection of beneficiaries, Annapolis Friends Meeting quietly demonstrated that we stand with children and some of the most currently marginalized members of society in the US.

Subsequent months of preparation saw efforts in advertising, helping community members (and beyond) downsize in some cases entire households, off-site storage, planting seeds and potting up transplants with our youngest Young Friends, baking, cooking, sorting donations and displaying them with a generous helping of fairy dust, much schlepping (of furniture, other donations, and our own display furniture), donations of olive oil from Bethlehem, Condiment Station barbecue sauces, hamburgers and hotdogs, online sales of vintage dollhouse miniatures, preparation of Afghan Women's Fund displays, and much more. And our dear Friend Wes Jordan was remembered and honored through his delicious recipes for cheesecake and potato salad, when Wes's daughter Arielle and others stepped up to make these recipes Wes had blessed Quaker Markets with for many years.

In all of the committee-facilitated but community-accomplished Quaker Spring Market efforts that occurred before, during and after the one-day event, three words come to mind: joy, love, and care. Members of the committee and AFM community, shoppers, and the many long-term non-profit partners we connected with targeted items that hadn't sold by the end of the event felt that joy, love and care that our community invested in this event. And it makes a difference. Much gratitude to all who contributed to Quaker Spring Market 2025 in so many ways to make it a special event.

Annapolis Friends Meeting Treasurers' report, April 2025

Operating Budget	Activity		
	2025 Budget	through April 2025	Remaining Budget
Income			
Contributions	55,826	16,857	38,969
Rentals	17,000	9,015	7,985
Interest, Dividends	7,000	204	6,796
Other		11	
Total Income	79,826	26,087	53,750
Expenses			
Committee activities			
CREC	300		300
Communications	7,000	1,377	5,623
Library	400	346	54
Meetinghouse and Lands	30,000	11,613	18,387
Ministry and Pastoral Care	800	406	394
Outreach	1,800	175	1,625
Peace and Social Concerns	4,300		4,300
Quaker Market	100		100
Stewardship and Finance	3,600	1,314	2,286
Trustees	0		0
Independent Designated Funds	15,207	15,207	0
Quaker Causes	3,820		3,820
Apportionment	12,499	4,166	8,333
Total Expenses	79,826	34,605	45,221
Net	0	-8,518	8,529

Notes:

Contributions includes memorial contributions
Interest, Dividends includes FFC distribution but not unrealized gains/losses
Ministry and Pastoral Care includes \$250 for Quaker Burial Ground
Outreach includes \$100 GAIN dues, which have not been paid for several years.
P&SC includes \$2,000 for Lighthouse and \$2,000 to for ACT
Quaker Causes is 8 percent of 2023 contributions

Money in the bank as of April 30, 2025

Truist Checking	97,790
Truist Saving	48,256
Truist Certificate of Deposit	103,239
Friends Fiduciary Corp (FFC)	204,534
Total	453,820

Internally designated Funds	2025	Income	Expenses	Balance
	beginning balance	through April 2025	through April 2025	
Peace and Social Concerns				
Emergent Social Concerns	2,404	955		3,359
Peace & Justice Center	2,928			2,928
Retrospective and Restorative Justice	5,532			5,532
Meetinghouse and Land				
Building Fund*	199,718	26,653		226,371
Capital Improvement**	32,530	500		33,030
Capital Replacement	47,047	5,000	1,383	50,664
Memorial Garden	1,040	960	375	1,625
CREC				
Young Friend's Opportunity	2,000			2,000
Camping	866	1,634		2,500
Ministry and Pastoral Care				
Embraced Ministry	2,000			2,000
Suffering & Individual Emergency	5,000			5,000
Stewardship & Finance				
Adult Scholarship	2,091	409		2,500
Committee Contingency (CCF)	8,751	1,249		10,000
Trustees				
Founder's Fund	0			0
Total Designated Funds	311,907	37,360		347,509

*The Building Fund includes some donations restricted by the donor as well as funds internally designated by AFM.

2025 Building Fund activity includes \$21,654 from the 2023 and 2024 surpluses. The first \$12,500 of any net 2025 operating budget will go to the Building Fund.

**The Capital Improvement Fund includes \$2,400 from Quaker Market proceeds for accessibility improvements. 2025 activity is a \$500 grant.

Summary of AFM funds as of April 30, 2025

Designated funds	\$347,509
Net operating budget	-\$8,518
Battin gift	\$20,000
Undesignated reserves	\$94,828
Total	\$453,820

Annapolis Friends Monthly Meeting (AFM)
Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business (MfB)
Seventh Month, Sixth Day, 2025 (7/6/25)

Present were: Karen Cunyningham (presiding clerk), Phil Caroom (recording clerk), Ben Kilgore, Dan Campbell, Kathy Trimmer, Joanna White, Cairn Krafft, Jean Christianson, Nan & Sky Elsbree, Jack Lahr, Margaret Holmes, Barb Thomas, Jeanne Ward, Martha Lurz, Martha Baer, Minette Clarke-Swindel, Larry McNeely, Mary Barbera, Patty Robinson, Dot Walizer, Kim Finch, Jack Hogsten, Ann Riggs, Phyllis Singer, Tod Carley, Marjorie Kehoe, Mary Pratt, Ani Warneka, and Steve Poe.

We met both in person and via Zoom, beginning with centering worship with display of Faith and Practice queries as to caring for others. Our presiding Clerk also provided a reminder of our blended (in-person and online) & microphone protocols and a review of our AFM anti-racist queries.

As an introductory comment, our presiding Clerk also welcomed Friends noting that our current clerk Ellen McBride is away on well-deserved vacation. She will return to facilitate our next Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business (MfB) later in the summer. Our presiding Clerk invited Friends to consider whether we might take our traditional break from holding MfB for the month of August – a time when many of us will be attending Baltimore Yearly Meeting (BYM) Annual Session; Friends approved.

For Ministry & Pastoral Care Committee (MPC), Barb Thomas told Friends that long-time Annapolis Friend Pat Schenck passed away on 7/4/25. She also advised us that Pat's adult children, Ben and Sarah, will join us for worship at 11 a.m. and that plans for a later memorial service will be announced later. After a moment of centering silence, we continued.

For Stewardship & Finance (S&F) Committee, Jack Lahr reminded Friends of the summary of tax and legal concerns that have been gathered by S&F and Trustees over the past several months. A compilation was circulated online with today's MfB announcement. Other Friends' comments are requested by the committee before mid-July; the committee's hopes at September MfB to propose a comprehensive response to all such Annapolis Friends concerns. Another goal might be to economize on legal and accounting costs, if possible. Jack also noted that the committee will report on their investigations regarding transitioning to a new accounting system in September.

Responding to questions, Jack noted that this plan will not focus on our Quaker process so much as the "legal guardrails." He also noted that the committee has begun consulting Yearly Meeting and other local meetings. As clerk of Trustees, Patty noted that, ultimately, the decision(s) about these concerns will not be made by the committee or Trustees, but Friends in MfB. Another Friend (treasurer Dot Walizer) noted that a possible transition to new software is a separate question from the legal concerns.

For Peace & Social Concerns Com (PSC), Margaret Holmes reported a recommended distribution from our 2025 Quaker Causes fund, reading the list. (See attached.) She noted that the amount of money to be distributed this year (\$3,820) is based on Friends' individual contributions during a previous year, and that amount is about \$600 less than last year. Friends, this year, suggested that concerns about international hunger be one priority; the Committee included these, along with other continuing Quaker concerns, including climate & peace in the Middle East. The committee also considered designating additional contributions for LGBTQ and climate concerns, but decided not to since Quaker Market in the past few months already has donated thousands to each of these

causes. Finally, Margaret noted that it has been difficult to eliminate items from this list with the result that amounts going to each recipient are relatively small; Margaret invited Friends also to consider groups on the list for individuals' own giving. (The Committee will recirculate the list with links and addresses for this purpose on AFM announce.)

Two other Friends reminded us of a 2005 MfB decision that created an Emergent Social Concerns fund (currently containing \$2,859) which, perhaps, could be used in lieu of extraordinary fundraising. Our Treasurer suggested, if approved by MfB, that still other funds in the budget could be tapped or repurposed for any as yet unmet needs. Margaret asked the Green Group to provide recommendations for a group that is focused on climate change for potential funding. A Friend asked that P&SC also consider a group focused on LGBTQ concerns.

After discussion, Friends approved this recommendation for 2025 Quaker Causes. Friends also encouraged that the committee consider additional donations from our AFM emergent social concerns, committee contingency or other funds.

For Meeting House & Land Committee (MHL), Jeanne Ward offered various updates: As accomplishments, MHL recently got the septic tank pumped and has received a possible architect's agreement, now under review. Our volunteer painter, Ron DeAbreu, has repainted a water-stain in the nursery, rain barrels and more. And, our ductwork has been inspected for mold; the inspector advised that while our ducts are clean, we need to clean our vents; he also recommended that we keep the multipurpose room fan running at a low level continuously to avoid mold and mildew.

A long laundry list of our other pending priorities—which Friends might volunteer to facilitate—include:

- 1) a handicapped ramp for the side door;
- 2) repairs to the solar array & EV chargers;
- 3) several outdoor lighting fixtures that need to be installed;
- 4) repainting the handicapped ramps;
- 5) replacement of the floors (flooring has been selected but a contractor is needed);
- 6) the hot water heater is ready for replacement which must be done before we can remove our (rented) propane tank.
- 7) We also need a volunteer to do maintenance for our water treatment tank.
- 8) A volunteer could be appreciated to reorder miscellaneous supplies.
- 9) And repainting the surface rust on our refrigerator. (Jeanne already has ordered the paint.)
- 10) Signage on Bestgate Road
- 11) Clean all vents in MH with bleach solution
- 12) Clear front garden
- 13) Contract for automatic door opener (front and/or side)
- 14) Hearing devices
- 15) Drywall repair on skylights
- 16) Power wash entry bricks, patio, soffits
- 17) Clean slate floor and fireplace surround
- 18) Eve repair near HVAC
- 19) Ceiling fans in MPR

Also, Jeanne noted, a prospective Eagle scout soon may volunteer to do improvements on our trails.

Friends approved these minutes subject to minor amendments and updates. We concluded with brief centering silence. *-These minutes respectfully submitted. - P.Caroom, Recording Clerk*

2025 QUAKER CAUSES (2ND DFT.)

2024 TOTAL \$4,419

2025 TOTAL \$3,820

REDUCTION 599

ODD AMT. - 419

DIF. - 180 =

one tier 2 reduction w/ \$20 balance

TIER 1--

- 1) [Ramallah Friends School](#) \$350
 - 2) American Friends Service Committee ([AFSC](#)) [Gaza relief fund](#) \$370
 - 3) [Center of Help / Centro de Ayuda](#) \$350
 - 4) [Afghan Women's Fund](#) \$350
- (Tier 1 - the above 4 x \$350 = \$1,420)

TIER 2--

- 1) [Interfaith Partners of the Chesapeake](#) \$200
 - 2) [Annapolis Immigration Justice Network, Inc.](#) \$200
 - 3) [Anne Arundel Conflict Resolution Center](#) \$200
 - 4) [Friends Peace Teams](#) \$200
 - 5) [Friends Committee on National Legislation \(FCNL\)](#) \$200
 - 6) [Friends Wilderness Center](#) -\$200
 - 7) [Interfaith Action for Human Rights \(IAHR\)](#) \$200
 - 8) [Quaker House](#) (Fayetteville, N.C.) \$200
 - 9) [Friends General Conference \(FGC\)](#) \$200 [desig. for Kallan Benson/WCC climate prog./travel fund]
 - 10) [Friends United Meeting \(FUM\)](#) - Solidarity - emergency aid fund - includes Kenyan Turkana drought sufferers and "others...most vulnerable" - \$200
 - 11) [Muslim Voice for Peace & Reconciliation](#) \$200
 - 12) [Right Sharing of World Resources \(RSWR\)](#) \$200 -
(incl. assistance for Kenya, Sierra Leone, Guatemala & India w/emphasis on women entrepreneurs)
- (Tier 2 - 12 x \$200 = \$2,400)

COMBINED TIERS TOTAL -

QC amount available for 2025 \$3,820

Annapolis Friends Monthly Meeting (AFM)
Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business (MfB)
Ninth Month, Seventh Day, 2025 (9/7/25)

Present were: Ellen McBride (clerk), Phil Caroom (recording clerk), Ben Kilgore, Fahima Vorgetts, Kathleen Hudson, Jean Christianson, Mike Baker, Kim Finch, Minette Clarke-Swindel, Sylvia Oliva, Dot Walizer, Larry McNeely, Nancy Jo Steetle, Nan & Sky Elsbree, Martha Lurz, Margaret Holmes, Judy Brown, Jack Hogsten, Lisa & Jon Hall, Cairn Krafft, Jack Lahr, Phyllis Singer, Angela Hicks, August Wichmann, Barbara Stava, Mary Pratt, Patty Robinson, Jeanne Ward, Barb Thomas, Joan Miller, Dan Campbell, Kathy Trimmer, Diane Shandor, Marjorie Kehoe, Marcia Ormsby, Beth Chandler, and Steven Poe.

We met both in person and via Zoom, beginning with centering worship with display of Faith and Practice queries as to spiritual priorities and with an oral review of our anti-racist queries. As an introductory comment, our Clerk also welcomed Friends and thanked us for our committees' ongoing work over the summer break. She also recognized that, in recent months, Friends individually and collectively have experienced a great deal of loss and disappointment. But, as we center in Spirit today to seek Truth together, she shared her wish that in unity we all be strong to carry on with the work before us.

For Ministry & Pastoral Care (MPC) Committee, Barb Thomas noted that our Meeting has celebrated the lives of 8 more Annapolis Friends since Doug McClelland passed in 2024. MPC brings three memorial minutes for approval today:

1. Pat Schenck—whose memorial service is Sunday, Sept. 28 at Friends House at 2:00pm. We are awaiting a zoom link from FH so those who cannot go in person can attend online. We hope to have an in-person memorial service here when her ashes are returned.

2. Alison Barrett—whom we celebrated graveside and at a memorial service here last Saturday. All attending heard her memorial minute read on 8/30 at the service. In both these cases, MPC approved the jointly written minute as our August Meeting for Business was on holiday.

Most Friends already have seen Pat's minute and it was read at the BYM's Annual Session Memorial Service in August.

3. Ted Riley passed a couple of weeks ago. He was a long-time member of AFM; many got to know him through Pat. We would like to read his minute now and then ask your approval for all three Memorial Minutes.

Friends approved each of these minutes. (See these three minutes - attached.)

Barb also noted that it was a great help to have an Emergency family-information form from Pat to contact her children and help to plan her memorial service. She even told us which pieces of music she wanted to be played. MPC invites Friends to consider filling out this form, if you would like to have Ministry and Pastoral Care to help with such concerns. This form recently was emailed for Friends and is also available on the website ([MPC Emergency Contacts form](#)).

Finally, Barb noted, we have learned that Friend Lo Hamm recently passed away. Lo had attended AFM for many years and then, several years ago, moved to California where she attended another meeting with her brother. We have inquired whether that meeting will prepare a memorial minute for Lo. In the meantime, if Friends have particular memories of Lo to share, we are welcome to share these with our clerk Ellen McBride for a possible future minute. Friends can contact Ellen at clerk@annapolisfriends.org.

One Friend noted that there is an informal practice of moving many Friends' photos on our hallway picture-board from the lower (active) to the upper (memorial) portion of the board. Another added that participation in this is optional for the family.

MPC also shared this joyful announcement: Angela Hicks has applied for membership. Her Clearness for Membership committee, composed of Nancy Jo Steetle, Martha Baer and Barb Thomas, has met with her once and will meet with her again in late October.

For Stewardship & Finance (S&F) and Trustees, Jack Lahr & Patty Robinson offered a Joint Report on Friends' Tax & Legal Concerns. (See attached.) Our joint committee was composed of remarkable Friends, with backgrounds in not for profit tax .

- First, you can be comfortably assured that S&F have first-hand awareness of the sources and distributions of our funds and the recipients.
- Second, we are confident of our positions in this report, and have found no issues presented to us that are sufficiently complex to require the informed opinions of expert tax and accounting professionals.
- Third, we are aware of nothing in the listed questions received from AFM Friends that involve AFM being in violation of any legal or tax standards.
- Lastly of note, we are aware of concerns about “pass-through donations,” so-called “designated vs. restricted donations,” and management of our donations. These are internal MFB matters.

Another Friend (Treasurer Dot Walizer) also noted that the committee considered the concern that our AFM financial practices also, in line with our Quaker testimony of integrity, should comply with our commitments under state corporate and federal 501c3 statutory provisions.

For S&F, Jack Lahr also offered an update at AFM's use of Quickbooks and possible use of APLOS software. (See attached.) After 6 months of S&F Friends intensive study, the bottom line is that S&F does not recommend adoption of APLOS at this time and thinks “if it ain't broke, don't fix it.” Alternately, S&F will recommend paying for someone for parttime work to assist with Quickbooks reports.

One Friend hoped that whatever bookkeeper is hired should be someone familiar with church-related concerns; another asked about how much such a bookkeeper might cost. Our treasurer noted \$165 per year for Md.nonprofit subscription, Quickbooks costs about \$1,000, per year; the committee still is looking for possible costs for a bookkeeper. Jack noted that the cost for a transition to APLOS would have been a higher cost; Dot noted that it might be higher to hire a Quickbooks bookkeeper than an APLOS bookkeeper.

S&F also also recently also emailed a current Treasurers Report. (See attached.) Comments or questions to S&F via email are welcome.

For Peace & Social Concerns (PSC) Committee, Margaret Holmes reported as to recommended distributions from the Emergent Social Concerns Fund for PSC agreed to request MfB approval for \$500 from ESC fund for the Gaza Soup Kitchen and \$500 from ESC for Doctors Against Genocide, both working in Gaza. Friends approved.

PSC will send to AFM Announce the decision of MfB and also will provide links to both of these causes, and others, dealing with famine and dire medical needs in Gaza, Sudan and Afghanistan, encouraging Friends also personally to make donations towards these needs.

One Friend noted that the problem is not simply a need for money, it's the political obstacles to getting aid across the border and that Friends also must remember local needs, urging that Friends to consider how we can be most effective. Another Friend noted that we do have different funds that can be directed to these different needs.

For Meeting House and Land (MHL) committee, Kim Finch reported on our "building for the future" plans that a contract is ready for AFM to hire an architect with up to \$10,000 that previously was approved; Working with our original architect Evan Lippincott, the new architect (Broadhurst Architects) will provide updated schematic drawings and cost estimate for a partial build. The contract will need to be signed by the clerk of

Trustees and a \$2,000 retainer will be issued; it is hoped the schematics and cost estimate might be received by year-end.

One Friend raised the concern that we may need more Friends to serve on MHL to help care for existing MH concerns that include repairs of the MPR floor and garden maintenance. In a partial response, Kim also reported that we do have a workday next Saturday between 9 and 11:30. Another Friend noted that the quality and beauty of the current Meeting House is a great gift that is impressive to everyone who first walks into the Meeting House.

Announcements: With the approval of the foregoing minutes during our MfB, we turned to announcements: A Friend reminded us that the Kinta Kunte Festival also will be held next Saturday, September 13 and more volunteers are welcome there. A sign-up sheet link has been emailed and a hard copy is in the lobby.

Other impending calendar items include:

- Committee Clerk's Meeting on Sunday, September 14. Agenda items are requested.
- The memorial meeting for Ted Riley will be on Sunday, September 21 at 2 pm at Friends House.
- The memorial for Patience "Pat" Schenk will be on Sunday, September 28 at 2 pm at Friends House.

We concluded with brief centering silence.

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

Patience Anne Schenck (Pat) — nee Garretson
July 2, 1937 - July 4, 2025

Our beloved Pat Schenck, passed away just after her 88th birthday following a struggle with cancer. Pat has touched the lives of so many with her wisdom, love, and commitments to racial justice.

Born and raised in Des Moines, IA, Pat was the daughter of Elaine Sigrid Nelson Garretson and James Lusk Garretson. She was devoted to her two children, John Benjamin Schenck and Sarah Elizabeth Schenck, and her three grandchildren, Lily Johanna Virginia Baessler, Rogan Obadiah Jupiter Schenck and Ama Ida Jubilee Schenck.

Pat's service in many roles helped so many grow toward their better selves:

Educator: Pat received her BA from St. John's College in Annapolis and her MA in Education from the University of Chicago. Her school teaching experience ranged from inner city Chicago to Key School in Annapolis. Extracurricular educating included an annual talk at Severn School on Quakers. At Annapolis Friends Meeting, she made sure we were aware of *Pendle Hill* learning opportunities, *Friends Journal* articles, and Adult Ed opportunities—even advertising the Meetings for Learning in the local newspaper to bring in non-Quakers. A history of AFM from 1963 to 1993 was authored by Pat.

Organizer/Leader: In 1966, Pat's spiritual seeking landed her at Annapolis Friends Meeting (AFM), then in its early days. She reportedly served on every then-existing committee, clerked most of them, and founded **two (Pastoral Care and Outreach)**. She served as our AFM Clerk of Meeting for several years, then continued to be a listening ear and mentor to Friends who were drawn to her.

At Baltimore Yearly Meeting (BYM), she rarely missed an Annual Session in over 50 years. She was a founding member of the BYM Working Group on Racism, served and clerked several other BYM committees including Nominating, **Search** and the Women's Retreat.

In the Annapolis community, she was widely known for her work with the Human Rights Commission, Conflict Resolution Center (**AACRC**) and Maryland Alliance for Justice Reform.

Spiritual Mentor:

Pursuing her leading on anti-racism for years, Pat even moved to live in a mostly African-American community. She wrote *Pendle Hill Pamphlets* on (i) *Living Our Testimony on Equality: A White Friend's Experience* #415 (2011) and (ii) *Answering the Call to Heal the World*, #383 (2006).

In Meeting for Worship, Pat spoke rarely and briefly, but with powerfully deep messages and prayers. She encouraged Friends to accept all messages and translate their wording for one's own understanding. To help us speak with Spirit's leading, she noted that extraverts should discern carefully before speaking and introverts should speak up readily.

Her memorial service will be at Friends House on Sunday, September 28, 2025 at 2:00pm. As she has donated her body for medical research, her ashes interment is expected later at Annapolis Friends Meeting memorial garden—as Way opens.

As one Friend noted: “We never know when we're entertaining angels. For me, that angel was Pat Schenck. I celebrate her life and the countless lives—especially people of color—she uplifted.”

Alison Lee Barrett

April 21, 1942 – August 14, 2025

All too soon for her loved ones, on August 14, 2025, Alison “Sunny” Lee Barrett, 83, took her last breath and transitioned peacefully with Annapolis Friends by her side.

Alison was an “Air Force brat”, world traveler, human resource professional, and volunteer extraordinaire. Some knew Alison as madame secretary or treasurer (Kiwanis), others as foyer host, librarian, communications clerk (Quakers), and most all knew her as a dear, dear friend—one you could count on for almost anything.

Alison started coming to Annapolis Friends Meeting (Quakers) in 2023 and quickly became a member, leaping into leadership roles while spreading joy. Most recently she co-clerked the Communications and Outreach Committee, where she dove into learning new technology and facilitating online worship.

Her work life started in Munich Germany as a mail clerk at the University of Maryland’s Munich Branch. Alison’s more than 35-year career in human resources included Harry Diamond Labs, the Department of Commerce, the Department of Justice and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. From 1965 until 1978, Alison worked at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). From 2008 to 2013, Alison worked as a Personal Trainer at Curves.

She and her Sweetheart William “Bill” Kaht lived on his 40-foot cruiser in the Annapolis area for about 23 years. After Bill passed, Alison purchased her house in Edgewater. Alison’s faithful dog, Lady Dog Barrett, was mournful upon Alison’s passing and is being well cared for, as Alison wished, by her dear friends.

Alison will surely be remembered lovingly for her numerous contributions to Partners in Care, London Town Historical Society, Annapolis Friends Meeting, and the Kiwanis club. She spoke of how the Breakfast with Santa was such a wonderful community event and how important service to others was.

In the words of Annapolis Friends:

“Alison had a fulfilling and truly adventurous life reflecting joy and service to others.”

“We talked about our mutual love of birds and travel, she regaling me with stories of birding trips, often with her dad. Her humor, enthusiasm, and gumption shone. I stood on top of a New Hampshire mountain and gave her a send-off blessing, knowing her heart was always outdoors. May she soar on to her next adventure.”

“We were fortunate to have Alison for the short time. She was busy helping out from her first day. She will be missed.”

“Alison moved through this world and our lives with such joy and delight. She navigated both still and rough waters like the wise and loyal captain she was. She has given us an example and a challenge to show up in our own lives as faithful servants with resilience and joy.”

Memorial minute for Edward L. (“Ted”) Riley (1934 - 2025)

Edward Lawrence "Ted" Riley was born in Farmington, New Mexico, but spent most of his early life in Bethesda, Md. He served during his 20s in the U.S. Marines but, after graduating from college (University of Baltimore, 1969), Ted spent most of his life in pursuit of peace and conflict resolution.

Ted married Betty Lou (Stephens) Riley in Annapolis, Maryland, in 1964 and they both joined the then newly-formed Annapolis Friends Meeting (AFM) in 1975. Taking conflict resolution and community mediation training, Ted and Betty Lou served as Co-Directors of William Penn House, a Quaker Conference and Seminar Center on Capital Hill, Washington, DC. (now, Friends Place on Capitol Hill) from 1979-1982. From the 1970s until he retired in 1998, Ted also worked tirelessly as a grass-roots political organizer for Common Cause, Conscience and Military Tax Campaign, Sane - Freeze, and Peace Action.

More than once, during AFM war protests on the roadside in town, Friends were confronted by angry military veterans. Ted responded by smiling and going to shake their hands, comparing notes from his time in the Marines.

At the AFM Meeting House, Ted helped organize meetings of Alcoholics Anonymous and shared insights from his many years of sobriety with those he sponsored. He also served cheerfully on many AFM committees and outdoor projects. For a time, Ted also was a war-tax resister. Ted loved the theological and spiritual writing of early Friends; when co-teaching Quakerism 101, Ted would share rich and beautiful, but less familiar, passages to explore. Although Betty Lou served two terms as a Meeting Clerk for AFM (including the period when the Meeting House's construction was finished in 1994), Ted also filled an invaluable role in Meeting business discussions, resolving occasional conflicts with a few humorous words and a hearty laugh. He also sometimes would share messages during Meeting for Worship as to the spiritual importance to him of his relationship with Betty Lou.

In retirement, Betty Lou and Ted spent a number of years studying at the Earlham School of Religion in Richmond, Indiana; then, they moved to Friends House in Sandy Spring, Maryland in 2006. At Friends House, Ted remained active and engaged in the community. He served on the Art Committee, provided rides to community members, and continued his support of peace and social justice.

At Friends House, Ted also continued his long practice of writing poetry, sharing his work as part of the Friends House Writers Group. And Ted was a prolific artist there, producing abstract geometric felt-tipped pen drawings in bold colors and black & white, showing his art at Friends House and the Sandy Spring Museum.

Ted is survived by his son Lew Riley, daughter in law Wendy Riley, two grandchildren, sisters Lucy Witt and Joan Walton, niece Patricia McGarry, and a loving community of extended family and friends.

Several years after the death of his life partner Betty Lou, Ted found a new love with another Annapolis Friend who had retired to Friends House, Patience Schenck (1937-2025). They often joined AFM meetings, side by side, via Zoom. When both Ted and Pat were facing their final days in separate medical facilities, they spoke as often as possible by cell phone. On one of her last days, Ted sent Pat a book with a translation of the Chinese classic *Tao Te Ching: The Way of Things* (Ursula Le Guin, translator), asking Friends to read lines to her about a time of peace and freedom when nothing more needed to be done:

“Let there be a little country without many people.
Let them have tools that do the work of ten or a hundred,
and never use them.
Let them be mindful of death
and disinclined to long journeys.
They'd have ships and carriages,
but no place to go.

They'd have armor and weapons,
but no parades...
The next little country might be so close
the people could hear cocks crowing
and dogs barking there,
but they'd get old and die
without ever having been there."

Friends will miss Ted's good company but will remember his leadership towards that time of peace.

Ted lived a full and honest life, guided by a radical optimism, and values of peace, justice, and community. He left this world with no regrets, having given his all to family, friends and causes he held dear. He will be remembered for his gentle humor, steadfast convictions, and the love he extended to all around him.

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SEPTEMBER 7 , 2025
JOINT REPORT ON FRIENDS' TAX AND LEGAL CONCERNS
PRESENTED BY
AFM TRUSTEES/STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE (S&F) COMMITTEES.

Background. Over the last six months, Annapolis Friends Meeting (AFM) Trustees/S&F have solicited Friends to bring forward a range of concerns and questions about our compliance with “all things financial.” It was noted at the April 6, 2025, MfW wAtB, that Trustees/S&F committees were inviting all Friends to send tax, accounting, and financial questions by the end of April so that the Trustees/S&F can collect and review Friends’ input with the goal to consider these and to bring responsive recommendations to June MfB. In addition, S&F also plans to resume the practice of offering ongoing quarterly reports to AFM’s financial progress.

These concerns are by no means new to us, and as far back as September 1979, the community that would become AFM determined that it would be in good order to request recognition as an incorporated Religious Corporation, according to the beliefs and discipline of the Religious Society of Friends. In return for this recognition, which granted us benefits such as our tax-free status, we promised to abide by the laws and regulations of the state and federal government regarding Religious Corporations. Mindful of our Testimony of Integrity, we believe it necessary to periodically review our compliance with our agreements to these conditions.*

In this most recent period, we have begun by addressing fundamental issues raised regarding federal tax and legal matters. Underlying this were questions about a perceived need for outside tax/legal advice, and outside CPA input. Our list of these issues is the central theme of this report. While not an immediate focus, the Trustees/S&F Committees recognize the importance of also addressing “non-legal” issues, questions, and concerns raised and will be the focus of activities planned for the fall.

Although we conducted a “due diligence” investigation to obtain outside legal/tax opinions and advice it proved to be nonproductive. High end tax opinions from credentialed nonprofit tax lawyers in DC would lead to expenses in the

\$7,500-\$10,000 range. The leading CPA firm in Annapolis declined to get involved, citing its lack of credentials in the nonprofit tax area.

We proceeded on our own, with the benefit of significant in-house nonprofit organizations tax background and experience that include chairing several nonprofit corporations. We have first-hand awareness of the source and distribution of our funds and the recipients. In addition, we reached out to Friends outside AFM, who serve in similar capacities.

At the July 27, 2025 S&F monthly meeting, we were joined by Terence McCormally (Assistant Treasurer of Baltimore Yearly Meeting, and Treasurer of Herndon Monthly Meeting), who was invited as a guest expert to listen, answer questions, and make recommendations based on his experience.

Summary. We are confident of our positions in this report, and have found no issues presented to us that are sufficiently complex to require the informed opinions of expert tax and accounting professionals.

We are aware of nothing in the listed questions received from AFM Friends that involve AFM being in violation of any legal or tax standards. We are aware of concerns about “pass-through donations” so-called “designated vs. restricted donations” and management of our donations. These are internal MFB management/accounting issues this report does not seek to resolve.

We welcome the Committees and all Friends' input which can prompt us to bring followup reports to MFB. Individual questions are always welcomed.

Primary source of authority. We base our report primarily on our own Committee-wide range of experience and legal backgrounds and the IRS's primary guidelines for churches, IRS Report 1828 “ 501(c)(3) Tax Guide for Churches.” (8/15). This is the IRS Bible for mainstream financial matters. You can access this online via an online search.

Here are the questions received and answered:

1. To what extent are our internal decisions on managing and distributing our income subject to legal/tax oversight? Internal audits?

Churches are subject to many general- applicability laws, such as criminal prohibitions against self-dealing , a range of political action/ candidate constraints, employee income reporting, zoning compliance, etc., none of which apply here. Churches are generally free to spend their funds for internal purposes (building a Taj Mahal church or funding a soup kitchen) and to distribute their funds to other “worthy causes” such as other 501(c)(3) organizations, the underprivileged, and other bona fide third parties deemed worthy. There is no government accountability for mainstream financial decisions in this wide range of decisions made. No outside audit is required by any tax or legal authority. Audits are a prerogative of the institution.

2. Is the issue of “pass-through” donations a matter where we are free to decide without outside legal concerns?

So called “Pass through donations” arise where AFM receives income from a donor who instructs AFM to forward the funds to a third- party charitable institution, receiving a tax-donation credit from AFM for the donation with AFM recognized as the donor by the third-party recipient. This is an internal AFM decision not influenced by outside legal concerns. Generally, AFM does not get involved in “pass-through” donations and encourages the donor to deal directly with the charity of interest. A rare exception meriting MfB approval might arise where it is important for the donee institution to confirm the AFM source of funds rather than individual AFM donors, for instance when an AFM Friend is on the board of directors of the donee destination we support.

3. Is the matter of allocating donations for “designated purposes” vs “restricted purposes” a matter of outside legal constraints as opposed to our strictly internal decisions?

Money accepted for a “designated purpose” means money that should be used for that purpose if feasible; otherwise, they can be redesignated to

another purpose that fits the church's current conditions and needs. On the other hand, "restricted purpose" donations should be used for the chosen purpose, with a clear contractual understanding with the donor on terms and conditions of the restriction and conversion to a general donation.

For AFM, these decisions are essentially internal with no outside constraints. There is the theoretical issue of a donor's "restricted purpose donation" being legally enforceable if the funds were diverted in violation of a contract, compared to a "designated purpose" which becomes a discretionary decision. The books and records of AFM have never officially segregated "restricted" and "designated" funds over the years and no donor to our knowledge has ever raised this. As a practical matter, only the AFM "Building Fund" falls in this nebulous donation category. There is no reason to believe that all such funds will go to any other purpose than as a "Building Fund" project in all events. We do not currently accept Restricted Funds donations and encourage donors to accept the category of Designated Funds, leaving the final call to AFM.

4. What legal issues rise in the matter of distributing Quaker Market net proceeds? How is this handled in our own accounting?

AFM is free to manage the accounting for these funds without outside legal issues being raised. Over the years our Treasurer has treated these funds as a "liability" because they are earmarked in advance for distribution.

Next Steps. As a spiritual community that is also a legal entity under Maryland and Federal law with legal responsibilities that we have agreed to follow, S&F plans to begin providing education pertaining to our budgeting process. On **October 26 S&F, 9:30- 10:45 AM** we will offer a presentation which will include review of quarterly financials summaries, our budgeting process and schedule, and opportunity for inquiry on the stewardship of the Meeting's resources.

Jack Lahr, clerk for Stewardship and Finance;

Patty Robinson, clerk for Trustees

* Articles of Incorporation and other founding documents can be found on our website under the Members and Attenders Document Archive, thanks to dedicated efforts of the Communications Committee

APLOS/Quickbooks Update

prepared by Jenny Isaacs on behalf of S&F

and approved by the committee for presentation to MfB, 9.7.25

Late last year, Gifts & Leadings Committee recommended to Meeting that we switch to a new software accounting program called APLOS, specifically designed for churches and nonprofits and advertised as more volunteer-friendly than Quickbooks. Some preliminary exploration had been done, and there was a co-treasurer candidate who indicated interest in the role only if a switch away from Quickbooks was implemented. Stewardship & Finance was charged with researching further and making a formal recommendation to MfB if the committee united on undertaking this process.

Between January and June S&F diligently and thoroughly investigated the process of changing over, including actual costs and the labor of preparing our data for the transition. This included a conversation with an APLOS representative who was very helpful in clarifying the requirements for implementation.

While there would be some advantages to APLOS, including an in-built mechanism for collecting donations online, at this time we do not have the volunteer expertise and energy necessary to prepare for implementation in-house. The cost of a transition implemented fully by APLOS would be over \$3,000, while annual fees would range from \$950-\$1500 even if up-front costs could be minimized by having a Quickbooks-experienced volunteer prepare the accounts for migration. Since it is a subscription-based program, APLOS users are also subject to regular price increases; a frequent criticism of it found in reviews is that it continually gets more expensive. It also appears considerably overpowered for our modest needs. The committee is not recommending a switch in accounting systems at this time.

In seeking to address Gifts & Leading's concern for successfully staffing the full responsibilities of the Treasurer, one possibility we can explore is hiring a very part-time (1-2 hours/month) Quickbooks professional through Express Pro to perform some of the specified duties of the position. Before bringing a specific proposal to Meeting for Business with respect to the possible restructuring of duties, our current treasurer has recommended cleaning up the current Quickbooks chart of accounts. Dot and former co-treasurer Karen have already begun developing a simplified organizational structure for QB, with the goal of making it accessible and intuitive for either a future volunteer or a paid person. If needed, they will seek professional input and support from Quickbooks in making the necessary changes; S&F authorized the use of a portion of our existing budget on such a consultation at our July meeting.

Annapolis Friends Meeting Treasurers' report, June 2025

Operating Budget	Activity		Remaining Budget
	2025 Budget	through June 2025	
Income			
Contributions	55,826	20,375	35,451
Rentals	17,000	10,140	6,860
Interest, Dividends	7,000	309	6,691
Other		11	
Total Income	79,826	30,834	49,002
Expenses			
Committee activities			
CREC	300		300
Communications	7,000	2,166	4,834
Library	400	346	54
Meetinghouse and Lands	30,000	19,847	10,153
Ministry and Pastoral Care	800	406	394
Outreach	1,800	175	1,625
Peace and Social Concerns	4,300	4,250	50
Quaker Market	100		100
Stewardship and Finance	3,600	1,325	2,275
Trustees	0		0
Internally designated funds	15,207	15,207	0
Quaker Causes	3,820		3,820
Apportionment	12,499	4,166	8,333
Total Expenses	79,826	47,888	31,938
Net	0	-17,053	

Notes:

Contributions includes memorial contributions
 Interest, Dividends includes FFC distribution but not unrealized gains/losses
 Ministry and Pastoral Care includes \$250 for Quaker Burial Ground
 Outreach includes \$100 GAIN dues, which have not been paid for several years.
 P&SC includes \$2,000 for Lighthouse and \$2,000 to for ACT
 Quaker Causes is 8 percent of 2023 contributions

Money in the bank as of June 30, 2025

Truist Checking	87,700
Truist Saving	48,359
Truist Certificate of Deposit	103,239
Friends Fiduciary Corp (FFC)	204,534 (12/31/2024)
Total	443,832

Internally designated funds	2025 beginning balance	Income through June 2025	Expenses through June 2025	Balance
Peace and Social Concerns				
Emergent Social Concerns	2,404	955	500	2,859
Peace & Justice Center	2,928			2,928
Retrospective and Restorative Justice	5,532			5,532
Meetinghouse and Land				
Building Fund*	199,718	26,653		226,371
Capital Improvement**	32,530	500		33,030
Capital Replacement	47,047	5,000	1,980	50,067
Memorial Garden	1,040	960	375	1,625
CREC				
Young Friend's Opportunity	2,000			2,000
Camping	866	1,634		2,500
Ministry and Pastoral Care				
Embraced Ministry	2,000			2,000
Suffering & Individual Emergency	5,000			5,000
Stewardship & Finance				
Adult Scholarship	2,091	409	100	2,400
Committee Contingency (CCF)	8,751	1,249		10,000
Trustees				
Founder's Fund	0			0
Total Designated Funds	311,907	37,360		346,312

*The Building Fund includes some donations restricted by the donor as well as funds internally designated by AFM.

2025 Building Fund activity includes \$21,654 from the 2023 and 2024 surpluses. The first \$12,500 of any net 2025 operating budget will go to the Building Fund.

**The Capital Improvement Fund includes \$2,400 from Quaker Market proceeds for accessibility improvements. 2025 activity is a \$500 grant for the Green Group.

Summary of AFM funds as of June 30, 2025

Designated funds	\$346,312
Net operating budget	-\$17,053
Battin gift	\$20,000
Undesignated reserves	\$94,573
Total	\$443,832

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](#))

Annapolis Friends Monthly Meeting (AFM)
Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business (MfB)
Eleventh Month, Second Day, 2025 (11/2/25)

Present were: Ellen McBride (clerk), Phil Caroom (recording clerk), Ben Kilgore, Mary Barbera, Jack Hogsten, Kathleen Hudson, Derrick Williams, Jack Lahr, Barb Thomas, Sylvia Oliva, Martha Baer, Mike Baker, Martha Lurz, Stephen Poe, Barbara Stavac, Sky & Nan Elsbree, Jeanne Ward, Larry McNeely, Margaret Holmes, Mary Pratt, Patty Robinson, Diane Shandor, Kim Finch, Karen Cunyningham, Angela Hicks, Jenny Isaacs, Cindy Barry, Cairn Krafft, Lisa & Jon Hall, Jean Christiansen, Nancy Jo Steetle, and Beth Chandler.

We met both in person and via Zoom, beginning with centering worship with display of Faith and Practice queries as to our peace testimony, as to letting our lives speak, and with an oral review of our anti-racist queries. As an introductory comment, our Clerk also welcomed Friends and appreciated this morning's spirit-led silence in the midst of our busy lives and our contributions to the Meeting community.

For Meeting House and Land (MHL) Committee, Kim Finch reported on a decision request as to a cleaning of our air vents and ducts as the result of a hygienist's report. She suggested, after 33 years, it's about time for this work to be done for the first time. The cost is estimated at \$1,985 for the main room, \$2,455 for the remainder of the building, and \$1250 for ducts, for a total cost of \$5,685. Friends approved up to \$6,000 for this purpose from the Committee Contingency fund.

Kim additionally reported that the current printer in the Meeting House office has broken and the manufacturer no longer is supporting this printer. Donations are invited of a non-HP printer, even temporarily and preferably before Quaker market, while MHL looks for another possible printer.

She also reminded Friends that there will be one more Meeting House workday next Saturday (11/08) morning from 9 am until 11:30 am – the last one before Holiday Market. One task will involve planting a large number of daffodils.

For Gifts and Leading (G&L) - previously Nominating) Committee, Martha Baer offered a first reading of our 2026 draft slate of proposed clerks, committees, representatives and liaisons, along with an explanation of G&L's process. (See attached 2026 slate.) She noted that new committee members have been added to almost every committee including new clerks on four committees. Friends are encouraged to use AFM scholarship funds to attend Pendle Hill's annual clerking program. There still are some vacant roles, such as Co-Treasurer and Assistant Clerk of Meeting; also, a couple of committees still need more members – particularly, G&L and Ministry & Pastoral Care (MPC). She noted that MPC arose when two traditional committees (Pastoral Care and Ministry & Worship) were combined due to insufficient members and clerks to maintain both as two separate committees. Although G&L considered the logistics of dividing MPC again into two committees and restoring "Worship" into the name, the same membership shortage persists, so G&L recommends that the combined committee continue and that the MPC name remain unchanged, at present. Friends are welcome to make suggestions to G&L members as to other possible changes and additions to the slate. After brief discussion, Friends thanked G&L members for their labor.

Martha brought to our attention that there is a best practice of clerks of committees to serve only two consecutive two-year terms and then step down to allow others to experience clerking a committee. She noted that there were two clerks who were stepping down from clerking a committee at the end of 2025 and who will continue to serve the meeting on a committee. The clerk applauded those who were stepping up

and those who were stepping down, stating that she (clerk of meeting) can best clerk when others are clerking with her.

For Stewardship & Finance (S&F) Committee, Jack Lahr reported that the committee already is at work on a smooth transition to 2026 with Jenny Isaac acting as incoming clerk of S&F. He also noted that consideration of a revised AFM fundraising policy is in process and will be deferred until 2026. Jenny briefly reviewed the Quarter 3 (Q3) Treasurer's Report (see attachment), noting the Meeting's financial position currently is a "comfortable" one.

As a decision request, S&F recommends merger of two funds – the Capital Replacement and Capital Improvement funds– to become a "capital expenditures" fund from which MHL expenditures could be authorized in amounts up to \$1,000 per occasion before bringing a request to MfB. Friends approved this proposal.

She also offered a first reading of the proposed 2026 budget (see attachment), with the understanding that there will be revisions as year-end donations continue to come in, as committees' budget requests are revised, and as S&F reexamines AFM's surpluses and undesignated reserves. The second reading of the 2026 budget will be provided at the 12th month MfB on December 7.

Finally, she reported on the request for designation to add to the Building Fund a \$20,000 donation from Melba Battin's family. One Friend asked whether this addition would replace the usually-aspired-to \$10,000 annual increase to this fund; the recommendation is that this would replace that annual increase. Other Friends raised questions of whether other uses of these funds were sufficiently considered by other committees. Friends did not reach unity, so that the decision was laid over for later discernment and seasoning with more input from Friends and committees.

For Peace & Social Concerns Committee, Margaret Holmes withdrew a request for signing on to a group of organizations' letter to the Senate Armed Forces Committee as this letter already has been sent. However, she urged Friends to take our own actions to respond to the President's overuse of military forces in U.S. cities and along the coasts of South America.

Announcements: With the approval of the foregoing minutes during our MfB, our Clerk reminded Friends of written announcements of pending matters including:

- an AFM workday next Saturday morning (11/08); and
- a Committee Clerks' meeting on 11/26/25 at 9:15 a.m.

We concluded with brief centering silence.

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

Annapolis Friends Meeting
Officers, Committee Members, and Representatives Slate for 2026
First Reading, November

Committee positions are volunteer with nominal two-year terms beginning in January - e.g., (26) means that a member will serve starting in January 2026 and complete the term in December 2027; (25) means that a member began in January 2025 and nominally has one more year in the 2-year term. A term in which a member has served as clerk of an AFM committee or subcommittee is designated by an underline. Committees serve as support and resources for the subcommittees and liaisons listed under them.

Clerk: Ellen McBride (25)

Treasurer: Dot Walizer (24)(26)

Recording Clerk: Phil Caroom (24)(26)

Assistant Clerk: vacant

Co-Treasurer: vacant

Recorder: Karen Cunyningham (17-23)(25)

CHILDREN'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COMMITTEE +1

Co-Clerks: Barbara Stavac (25, 26), Nancy Jo Steetle (20-24)(26)

Members: Sylvia Oliva (22-24)(26), Ashley Fuchs (26)

Roles (Committee Appointed):

- Nursery Coordinator - Sylvia Oliva
- Homeschooling Clerk - Kimberly Benson (2011-present)
- Teacher/helpers - Diane Shandor, Jenny Isaacs, Jeanne Ward, Martha Baer, Phil Caroom, Joan Miller, Barbara Stavac

COMMUNICATIONS & OUTREACH

Clerk: Alissa Greenwood (26)

Members: Carl Benson (21-23)(25,26), Sheryl Grier (22-24)(26), Marjorie Kehoe (23)(25), Mark Taylor (26), Jon Hall (23)(25), Bonnie Peregoy (25), Ben Kilgore (26)

Roles (Committee Appointed):

- Web Manager - Sheryl Grier
- Email List Manager – Carl Benson
- Calendar - Mary Barbera
- Zoom Link Management – Alissa Greenwood
- Zoom Hosting - Phil Caroom, Cairn Krafft, Connie Hutson, Mark Taylor
- Directory Coordinator – Alissa Greenwood
- Social Media Coordinator – Alissa Greenwood, Mark Taylor
- Bulletin Board Coordinator - Marjorie Kehoe
- Special Events – Bonnie Peregoy
- Technical Support Person – (staff) Ben Killgore

GIFTS & LEADINGS (formerly Nominating Committee) + 2

Clerk: vacant

Members: Nancy Jo Steetle (23)(25), Barbara Thomas (19-23)(25)

LIBRARY

Clerks: Martha Lurz (17-19) (21-23)(25)

Members: Tom Wolfe (24)(26), Susan Wolfe (25), Betty Sue Salvia (26), Amy Britt (26), Kathleen Hudson (26)

Working Groups:

- Friends Writing Together Facilitator - Mary Barbera
- Book Club - Martha Lurz

MEETINGHOUSE & LAND

Co-Clerks: Kim Finch (15-23)(25), Jeanne Ward (20-24)(26)

Members: Ron DeAbreu (16-24)(26), Mike Baker (26), August Wichmann (26), Mace Coleman (26), Mark Taylor (26) Ex officio, BUC: Barbara Thomas

Subcommittees:

- Hospitality - Convener: Stephen Poe (23,24)(26), Marcia Ormsby (16-24)(26), Minette Clarke-Swindle (24)(26), Peter Meredith (26), Mary Jo McNamara (26)
- Building Use Coordinator (BUC) - Barbara Thomas (23)(25), Assistant: Bonnie Peregoy (25)

Working Group:

- Green Group Convener - Marjorie Kehoe (25)

MINISTRY & PASTORAL CARE

Co-Clerks [RSF members]: Martha Baer (23,24)(26), vacant

Members: Beth Chandler (22)(24)(26), Diane Shandor (23)(25), Judy Brown (24)(26), Marcia Ormsby (24)(26), Elise Albert (25), Jo Anna Schneider (25), Derek Williams (26), Barbara Thomas (20-24)(26)

Roles (Committee Appointed):

Greeters/Conveners – Barbara Thomas, Martha Baer, Susan Dapkunas, Beth Chandler, Jean Christianson, Judy Brown

- 5th Night Light - Mary Barbera
- Memorial Garden - Mary Barbera
- Spiritual Friendship Group Coordinator - Diane Shandor
- Urgent Pastoral Care Coordinator - Marcia Ormsby
- Adult Religious Ed Coordinator - Barbara Thomas
- Quaker Dudes Convener – Phil Caroom

Liaisons:

- Baltimore Yearly Meeting (BYM) & BYM Interchange - Barbara Thomas
- Chesapeake Quarterly Meeting - Canby Roberts
- Dayspring Silent Retreat - Jean Christianson
- AFSC Liaison - Joan Miller
- FUM, FGC, FWCC - vacant

PEACE & SOCIAL CONCERNS

Co-Clerks: Margaret Holmes (24, 26), Kathy Trimmer (26)

Members: Jack Hogsten (23)(25), Phil Caroom (20-24)(26), Angela Hicks (26), C. Jaye Mills (26)

Working Group: Peace & Justice Center

Roles (Committee Appointed):

- Retrospective & Restorative Justice/Racial Reconciliation Collaborative Convener - Phil Caroom

Liaisons:

- FCNL (Friends Committee on National Legislation) - vacant
- MAJR (Maryland Alliance for Justice Reform) - Phil Caroom
- Light House, Inc. - Marcia Ormsby
- ACT (Anne Arundel Connecting Together) - Jack Hogsten, Kathy Trimmer

QUAKER MARKET

Clerk: Cairn Krafft (12)(14-24)(26)

Members: Jean Christianson (14-24)(26), Ruth Slavin (16-24)(26), Al Baumann (19-23)(25), Martha Lurz (20-24)(26), Canby Robertson (20-24)(26), Karl Richmond (21)(23)(25), Marjorie Kehoe (24)(26), Minette Clarke-Swindle (25), Fahima Gaheez (25), Ani Warneka (25)

STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE

Clerk: Jenny Isaacs (25,26)

Members: Larry McNeely (23)(25), Dan Campbell (24), Mary Pratt (25), Coleen Lyons (26), Cindy Barry (26)

Ex officio: Treasurer: Dot Walizer (20-24)(26)

TRUSTEES [RSF members]

Clerk: Phil Caroom (26)

Members: Dot Walizer (23)(25), Joe Miller (24)(26), Ellen McBride (25), Patty Robinson (23,24)

✍ Available to hold committees in the Light during meetings: Jean Christianson

Set aside for now:

++++

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT of Annapolis Friends serving on

Baltimore Yearly Meeting Committees or as BYM Reps to Quaker Groups:

- Reparation Action Working Group (RAWG), BYM Peace & Social Concerns: Phil Caroom
- BYM Ministry and Pastoral Care: Barb Thomas
- BYM Friends Supporting Friends Working Group: Martha Baer
- Unity with Nature: Carl Benson
- World Council of Churches, Commission on Climate Justice and Sustainable Development: Kallan Benson
- American Friends Service Committee Corporation: Bethanne Bruninga Socolar
- Rep. to Interfaith Action for Human Rights: Jack Lahr
- Quaker Burial Ground: Phil Caroom (since 2013), Jeanne Ward, Joe Miller, Tim Mullady
- Nuts and Bolts Chesapeake Quarter: Canby Robertson
- Friends Wilderness Center Liaison: Nancy Jo Steetle
- Camp Property Management: Nathan Shroyer

Annapolis Friends Meeting Treasurers' report, September 2025

Operating Budget	2025 Budget	Activity through Sept 2025	Remaining Budget
Income			
Contributions	55,826	27,852	27,974
Rentals	17,000	13,385	3,615
Interest, Dividends	7,000	4,373	2,627
Total Income	79,826	45,610	34,216
Expenses			
Committee activities			
CREC	300	57	243
Communications	7,000	3,609	3,391
Library	400	441	-41 *
Meetinghouse and Lands	30,000	23,574	6,426
Ministry and Pastoral Care	800	406	394
Outreach	1,800	475	1,325
Peace and Social Concerns	4,300	4,250	50
Quaker Market	100		100
Stewardship and Finance	3,600	1,306	2,294
Trustees	0		0
Internally designated funds	15,207	15,207	0
Quaker Causes	3,820	3,620	200
Apportionment	12,499	8,333	4,166
Total Expenses	79,826	61,277	18,548
Net	0	-15,667	

*Transfer approved from Committee Contingency Fund to increase budget

Notes:

Contributions includes memorial contributions

Interest, Dividends does not include unrealized gains/losses

Ministry and Pastoral Care includes \$250 for Quaker Burial Ground

P&SC includes \$2,000 for Lighthouse and \$2,000 to for ACT

Quaker Causes is 8 percent of 2023 contributions

Money in the bank as of September 30, 2025

Truist Checking	82,744
Truist Saving	48,509
Truist Certificate of Deposit	103,239
Friends Fiduciary Corp (FFC)	223,064
Total	457,556

Internally designated funds	2025 beginning balance	Income through Sept 2025	Expenses through Sept 2025	Balance
Peace and Social Concerns				
Emergent Social Concerns	2,404	955	500	2,859
Peace & Justice Center	2,928			2,928
Retrospective and Restorative Justice	5,532			5,532
Meetinghouse and Land				
Building Fund*	199,718	26,653	2,000	224,371
Capital Improvement**	32,530	500		33,030
Capital Replacement	47,047	5,000	1,980	50,067
Memorial Garden	1,040	960	375	1,625
CREC				
Young Friend's Opportunity	2,000			2,000
Camping	866	1,634		2,500
Ministry and Pastoral Care				
Embraced Ministry	2,000		140	1,860
Suffering & Individual Emergency	5,000			5,000
Stewardship & Finance				
Adult Scholarship	2,091	409	240	2,260
Committee Contingency (CCF)	8,751	1,249		10,000
Trustees				
Founder's Fund	0			0
Total Designated Funds	311,907	37,360		344,032

*The Building Fund includes some donations restricted by the donor as well as funds internally designated by AFM.

2025 Building Fund activity includes \$21,654 from the 2023 and 2024 surpluses. The first \$12,500 of any net 2025 operating budget will go to the Building Fund.

**The Capital Improvement Fund includes \$2,400 from Quaker Market proceeds for accessibility improvements. 2025 activity is a \$500 grant for the Green Group.

Summary of AFM funds as of September 30, 2025

Designated funds	\$344,032
Net operating budget	-\$15,667
Battin gift	\$20,000
Undesignated reserves	\$109,191 (includes capital gains)
Total	\$457,556

HISTORICAL COMPARISON

	2023 Actual	2024 Actual	2025 Budget	2026 PROPOSED	
Income					
Contributions	47,752	55,760	55,826	52,000	
Rentals	16,481	17,185	17,000	17,000	
Interest, Dividends	2,246	9,092	7,000	9,000	
				13,862	<i>transfer from Undesignated Reserves</i>
Other	512	388	0		
Committee Contingency Fund Transfers		1,249	0		
Total Income	66,991	83,674	79,826	91,862	
Expenses					
Committee activities					
Children's Religious Education	49	36	300	150	
Communications & Outreach				8155	
Communications	3,195	6,270	7,000		
Outreach	1,800	1,625	1,800		
Library	136	129	400	700	
Meetinghouse & Lands	22,795	24,655	30,000	30,000	
Ministry & Pastoral Care	420	718	800	800	
Peace and Social Concerns	4,116	4,360	4,300	4,300	
Quaker Market	494	243	100		<i>recommend removal from operating budget for 2026</i>
Stewardship & Finance	249	1,076	3,600	3,600	
Trustees	0	0	0		
Quaker Causes	4,322	4,419	3,820	4,461	
Independent Designated Funds	11,532	9,905	15,207	23,500	
Apportionment	12,627	13,841	12,499	16,196	
Total Expenses	61,735	67,276	79,826	91,862	
Net	5,256	16,398	0	0	

Annapolis Friends Meeting DRAFT 2026 Operating Budget

Income		Explanatory Notes/YTD rough #s
Contributions	52,000	at 48% as of Q3. Conservative projection.
Rentals	17,000	at 80% as of Q3. Conservative projection.
Interest, Dividends	9,000	increase to 2024 actual.
Transfer from Undesignated Reserves	13,862	balance close to \$95,000 as of 6/30/25.
Total Income	91,862	
Expenses		
Committee Activities		
Children's Religious Education	150	lowered by 50% based on historical expenditures
Communications & Outreach	8155	includes Ben's salary & festival costs
Library	700	88% of request; increased to account for new responsibilities
Meetinghouse & Lands	30,000	based on 2025
Ministry & Pastoral Care	800	80% of request; includes \$250 contribution to the Quaker Burial Ground in Galesville
Peace and Social Concerns	4,300	includes support of ACT & Lighthouse (\$2000 @) and MD Peace Action (\$250)
Stewardship & Finance	3,600	QB subscription ~\$1000; remainder for potential bookkeeping costs
Quaker Causes	4,461	8% of contributed income in 2024; donations discerned annually by P&SC
Designated Funds Aggregate Increase	23,500	full annual funding goals for Capital Expenditure Fund (\$10,000) & Building Fund (\$12,500) \$1000 to Quaker Market to cover preliminary expenses (to be reimbursed)
Apportionment	16,196	announced at BYM August, 2025 (25% of 2024 contributions + interest/dividend income)
Total Expenses	91,862	
Net	0	

Intro to AFM Designated Funds

	Historical					2026 PRELIMINARY Proposed Increases			
	2023	2024			2025	+			
Designated Funds	Year End	Budget	+	-	Balance	+	Yr Begin	Fund Target	
Peace and Social Concerns*									
Emergent Social Concerns	1,299	1,105			2,404	955	3,359	1,115	2% of 2024 contributions
Peace & Justice Center	2,928	0			2,928		2,928		None
Retrospective and Restorative Justice	12,532	0		7,000	5,532		5,532		None
Meetinghouse & Lands **									
Building Fund	194,718	5,000			199,718	5,000	204,718	12,500	add \$10,000 each year
Capital Improvement †	25,130	5,000	2,400		32,530	0	32,530		varies based on needs
Capital Replacement †	42,047	5,000			47,047	5,000	52,047	10,000	add \$10,000 each year
Memorial Garden	2,410	-410		960	1,040	960	2,000		2,000
Children's Religious Education									
Young Friend's Opportunity	2,000	0			2,000		2,000		2,000
Camping	2,500	0		1,634	866	1,634	2,500		2,500
Ministry & Pastoral Care ‡									
Embraced Ministry	2,000				2,000		2,000		500
Suffering & Individual Emergency	2,500	2,500			5,000		5,000		6,500
Stewardship & Finance									
Adult Scholarship ⌘	2,400	100		409	2,091	409	2,500	240	2,500
Committee Contingency	18,390	-8,390			10,000		10,000		10,000
Total Designated Funds	310,854	9,905	2,400	10,003	313,156	13,958	327,114	23,855	

☒ goes to "Designated Funds Aggregate Increase" line in Operating Budget (Expenses)

Explanatory Notes:

- * Emergent Social Concerns not (yet) included in draft budget totals
- ** Building Fund MfB committed \$12,500 for 2026 when final 2025 budget was passed; Building Fund will also receive \$20,000 from a memorial gift (not from operating budget)
- ** Capital Improvement/Replacement S&F and MHL will request that these two existing funds be merged into one called Capital Expenditures,
- ‡ Embraced Ministry MPC has requested that Embraced Ministry be reduced to \$500 as no particular need is anticipated
- ‡ Suffering & Individual Emergency MPC has requested that Suffering be increased to 6,500 in anticipation of greater need in 2026
- ⌘ Adult Scholarship Fund not (yet) included in draft budget totals

Annapolis Friends Monthly Meeting (AFM)
Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business (MfB)
Twelfth Month, Seventh Day, 2025 (12/7/25)

Present were: Ellen McBride (clerk), Phil Caroom (recording clerk), Ben Kilgore, Kathleen Hudson, Patty Robinson, Alissa Greenwood, Martha Baer, Jeanne Ward, Jack Lahr, Martha Lurz, Cynthia Barry, Kim Finch, Coleen Lyons, Jack Hogsten, Margaret Holmes, Barb Thomas, Judy Brown, Lisa and Jon Hall, Angela Hicks, C.Jaye Mills, Mike Baker, Karen Cunyngnam, Joe Miller, Mary Pratt, Jenny Isaacs, Jean Christianson, Kathy Trimmer, Dan Campbell, ashley sarah, Marcia Ormsby, Cairn Kraft, Marjorie Kehoe, and Mary Barbera.

We met both in person and via Zoom, beginning worship with display of Faith and Practice queries as to religious education and with a review of our anti-racist queries. As an introductory comment, our Clerk also welcomed Friends to the gathered silence preceding our Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business and thanked Friends on yesterday's culmination of the three-month effort for Holiday Market.

For Stewardship & Finance (S&F) Committee, Jenny again offered for decision by MfB the committee's recommendation to add the \$20,000 memorial Battin donation (not a restricted bequest) to the Building Fund; Friends approved. S&F and Quaker Market Committee (QMC) jointly also brought forward the proposal for a newly-created Market Committee Designated Fund (see attachment); Friends also approved this.

Finally, Jenny shared a second reading of the draft 2026 budget (see attachment). She noted that, for the first time since the pandemic, the proposal represents a fully-funded budget, making use of \$16,123 undesignated reserves leaving a balance of approximately \$109,000 in our investment accounts. Friends approved this budget.

Jenny and other Friends also warmly thanked Jack Lahr , who is moving from the area, for his time and service as S&F clerk.

For Meeting House and Land (MHL) committee, Kim Finch offered various reports. For decision, MHL requested payment for the architect's two invoices for their work to develop drawings and plans; this includes invoice #1 of \$16,565.50 and invoice #2 of \$18,315.25, for a year-to-date total of \$34,870.75. Note: the drawings were received on November 25, 2025 and now can be viewed in the Meeting House; they also will be shared online in a digital format. The next step will narrow down the options to one drawing, so that costs can be estimated if AFM does decide to go ahead with this project. Kim noted that these invoices exceed our preliminary \$10,000 retainer on a per-hour basis for this architects' work because, during the progress of their work, Friends also added some other design concerns. Our clerk noted that this money would come from the Building Fund, not from the year's operating budget. Friends approved these payments.

MHL also offered a second recommendation for decision to create a small (7 to 8 person) ad hoc "Addition to the Building" group who will review the Broadhurst architectural contract, ensure proper process, review drawings and recommend one drawing for the cost estimate. It is proposed that this group be a cross-functional team consisting of at least one Trustee, Clerk of Meeting, clerks of MHL, member of S&F, and two additional AFMers unrelated to the listed committees and roles. Friends approved and promptly received one volunteer. Others interested in participating with this ad hoc committee should contact Ellen as Clerk of Meeting.

For Gifts and Leadings (G&L) Committee (previously Nominating), Martha Baer thanked Friends for their support of the committee and offered a second reading of our 2026 draft slate of proposed clerks, committees, representatives and liaisons, along with an explanation of G&L's process. (See attached 2026 slate.) She also noted that G&L still is seeking an Assistant Clerk of Meeting to support the Clerk. In the meantime, the Clerk's Support Group will assist the clerk, as needed. In lieu of a co-treasurer, S&F will designate an acting assistant treasurer to serve when the treasurer is unavailable. Liaisons also still are sought for FUM, FGC, FCNL, FWCC and other Quaker organizations. Friends approved this slate and thanked G&L for their hard and thoughtful work this year. (Acronyms explained: Friends United Meeting, Friends General Conference, Friends Committee on National Legislation, and Friends World Conference on Consultation)

For Ministry & Pastoral Care (P&SC) Committee, Barb Thomas reported membership requests from Angela Hicks, Jack Hogsten and (by transfer from Seaville Monthly Meeting in N.J.) Liz Shay. Members of the clearness committees also expressed their great joy and appreciation of the contributions of these prospective new members. Friends joyfully approved and recorded and warmly-welcomed the transfer for Liz.

For Communications & Outreach (C&O) Committee, Alissa Greenwood provided a recommendation that AFM join as an "affirming congregation" to become an official part of the Anne Arundel Affirms ("A4") that sponsors LGBTQ+ people by supporting events twice per year. Friends approved.

Announcements: With the approval of the foregoing minutes during our MfB, our Clerk reminded Friends to check AFM website and our online calendar for other pending matters.

We concluded with brief centering silence.

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

Intro to AFM Designated Funds	Historical						2026 Allotment from Operating Budget		
	2023	2024			2025		+		
Designated Funds	Year End	Budget	+	-	Balance	+	Yr Begin	Fund Target	
Peace and Social Concerns									
Emergent Social Concerns	1,299	1,105			2,404	955	3,359	1,115	2% of 2024 contributions
Peace & Justice Center	2,928	0			2,928		2,928		None
Retrospective and Restorative Justice	12,532	0		7,000	5,532		5,532		None
Meetinghouse & Lands									
Building Fund*	194,718	5,000			199,718	5,000	204,718	12,500	add \$10,000 each year
Capital Improvement †	25,130	5,000	2,400		32,530	0	32,530		
Capital Replacement †	42,047	5,000			47,047	5,000	52,047		
Capital Expenditures								10,000	add \$10,000 each year
Memorial Garden	2,410	-410		960	1,040	960	2,000	1,315	2,000
Children's Religious Education									
Young Friend's Opportunity	2,000	0			2,000		2,000		2,000
Camping	2,500	0		1,634	866	1,634	2,500		2,500
Ministry & Pastoral Care									
Embraced Ministry	2,000				2,000		2,000		500
Suffering & Individual Emergency	2,500	2,500			5,000		5,000		6,500
Quaker Market								1000	None
Stewardship & Finance									
Adult Scholarship **	2,400	100		409	2,091	409	2,500	990	2,500
Committee Contingency	18,390	-8,390			10,000		10,000	441	10,000
Total Designated Funds	310,854	9,905	2,400	10,003	313,156	13,958	327,114	27,361	

□ goes to "Designated Funds Aggregate Increase" line in Operating Budget (Expenses)

Explanatory Notes:

Building Fund Meeting agreed that the first \$12,500 of any net budget surplus be allotted to Building Fund. We are not currently running a surplus (-\$15,667 as of 10.31.25). Depending on end-of-year contributions and assignment of the Melba Battin donation this may change; however, S&F recommends a slight increase to the \$10,000 goal from operating budget in the event no surplus is generated.

†Capital Improvement/Replacement historical; balance of Capital Expenditures Fund presently at \$83,067

Annapolis Friends Meeting DRAFT 2026 Operating Budget

Income		Explanatory Notes/YTD rough #s
Contributions	52,000	at 48% as of Q3. Conservative projection.
Rentals	17,000	at 80% as of Q3. Conservative projection.
Interest, Dividends	9,000	increase to 2024 actual.
Transfer from Undesignated Reserves	16,123	balance \$109,191 as of 10/31/25.
Total Income	94,123	
Expenses		
Committee Activities		
Children's Religious Education	150	lowered by 50% based on historical expenditures
Communications & Outreach	8155	includes Ben's salary & festival costs
Library	700	88% of request; increased to account for new responsibilities
Meetinghouse & Lands	30,000	based on 2025
Ministry & Pastoral Care	800	80% of request; includes \$250 contribution to the Quaker Burial Ground in Galesville
Peace and Social Concerns	4,300	includes support of ACT & Lighthouse (\$2000 @) and MD Peace Action (\$250)
Stewardship & Finance	2,000	QB subscription ~\$1000; remainder for potential bookkeeping costs
Quaker Causes	4,461	8% of contributed income in 2024; donations discerned annually by P&SC
Designated Funds Aggregate Increase	27,361	full annual funding goals for Capital Expenditure Fund (\$ 10,000) & Building Fund (\$ 12,500) \$ 1000 to Quaker Market to cover preliminary expenses (to be reimbursed) \$ 1,431 refills of Committee Contingency & Adult Scholarship, to respective funding targets of \$10,000 and \$2,500 \$ 1,115 to Emergent Social Concerns (2% of contributed income in 2024)
Apportionment	16,196	announced at BYM August, 2025 (25% of 2024 contributions + interest/dividend income)
Total Expenses	94,123	
Net	0	

Quaker Market Internally Designated Fund

We celebrate the long success of Quaker Market as a community-building and fundraising effort. At the request of our Treasurer for the purpose of easing bookkeeping and with the agreement of the Quaker Market Committee, S&F requests that Meeting remove Quaker Market's (traditionally very small) committee funding from the Operating Budget and authorize the establishment of an internally designated fund to facilitate management of Quaker Market proceeds.

Type of Fund: Continuing, Contingency

Name: Quaker Market Fund

Purpose: To bring together all income and expense from Quaker Markets, and provide for initial costs of set-up (e.g., storage pod rental, signage materials, etc), providing the option to make Quaker Market (QM) related purchases directly through Annapolis Friends Meeting rather than expending personal funds and requesting reimbursement.

Restrictions: Post-Market disbursements will disburse back to and preserve AFM's original \$1,000 deposit.

Disbursement Authorization: Disbursement to be made by the AFM Treasurer on the recommendation of the Quaker Market Committee (QMC).

Miscellaneous Information: The Quaker Market Committee will continue to receive and deposit funds to the bank, and to discern recommendations for designated recipients of Quaker Market proceeds to bring to meeting for business for approval. Such discernment by QMC may include designation of donations to internal funds and programs at AFM as well as outside organizations. Prior to its discernment process, QMC will coordinate with Peace and Social Concerns Committee (P&SC) to ascertain any related donation recommendations that might be under consideration by P&SC.

Post-Market, QMC will provide a list of approved QM disbursements for Meeting records.

Annapolis Friends Meeting
Officers, Committee Members, and Representatives Slate for 2026
Second Reading, December 7, 2026

Committee positions are volunteer with nominal two-year terms beginning in January - e.g., (26) means that a member will serve starting in January 2026 and complete the term in December 2027; (25) means that a member began in January 2025 and nominally has one more year in the 2-year term. A term in which a member has served as clerk of an AFM committee or subcommittee is designated by an underline. Committees serve as support and resources for the subcommittees and liaisons listed under them.

Clerk: Ellen McBride (25)

Treasurer: Dot Walizer (24)(26)

Recording Clerk: Phil Caroom (24)(26)

Assistant Clerk: Clerk Support Group

Co-Treasurer: Stewardship & Finance designee

Recorder: Karen Cunyngnam (17-23)(25)

CHILDREN'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Co-Clerks: Barbara Stavac (25,26), Nancy Jo Steetle (20-24)(26)

Members: Sylvia Oliva (22-24)(26), Ashley Fuchs (26)

Roles (Committee Appointed):

- Nursery Coordinator - Sylvia Oliva
- Homeschooling Clerk - Kimberly Benson (2011-present)
- Teacher/helpers - Jeanne Ward, Martha Baer, Phil Caroom, Joan Miller, Barbara Stavac

COMMUNICATIONS & OUTREACH

Clerk: Alissa Greenwood (26)

Members: Carl Benson (21-23)(25,26), Sheryl Grier (22-24)(26), Marjorie Kehoe (23)(25), Mark Taylor (26), Jon Hall (23)(25), Bonnie Peregoy (25), Ben Kilgore (26)

Roles (Committee Appointed):

- Web Manager - Sheryl Grier
- Email List Manager - Carl Benson
- Calendar - Mary Barbera
- Zoom Link Management - Alissa Greenwood
- Zoom Hosting - Phil Caroom, Cairn Krafft, Connie Hutson, Mark Taylor
- Directory Coordinator - Alissa Greenwood
- Social Media Coordinator - Alissa Greenwood, Mark Taylor
- Bulletin Board Coordinator - Marjorie Kehoe
- Special Events - Bonnie Peregoy
- Technical Support Person - (staff) Ben Killgore

GIFTS & LEADINGS (formerly Nominating Committee)

Clerk: Barbara Thomas (19-23)(25)

Members: Nancy Jo Steetle (23)(25), Susan Dapkunas (26)

LIBRARY

Clerks: Martha Lurz (17-19) (21-23)(25)

Members: Tom Wolfe (24)(26), Susan Wolfe (25), Betty Sue Salvia (26), Amy Britt (26), Kathleen Hudson (26)

(LIBRARY, continued)

Working Groups:

- Friends Writing Together Facilitator - Mary Barbera
- Book Club - Martha Lurz

MEETINGHOUSE & LAND

Co-Clerks: Kim Finch (15-23)(25), Jeanne Ward (20-24)(26)

Members: Ron DeAbreu (16-24)(26), Mike Baker (26), August Wichmann (26), Mace Coleman (26), Mark Taylor (26), Ex officio, BUC: Barbara Thomas

Subcommittees:

- Hospitality - Convener: Stephen Poe (23,24)(26), Marcia Ormsby (16-24)(26), Minette Clarke-Swindle (24)(26), Peter Meredith (26), Mary Jo McNamara (26)
- Building Use Coordinator (BUC) - Barbara Thomas (23)(25), Assistant: Bonnie Peregoy (25)

Working Group:

- Green Group Convener - Marjorie Kehoe (25)
- Ad hoc Building for the Future - Kim Finch

MINISTRY & PASTORAL CARE

Clerk [RSF members]: Martha Baer (23,24)(26)

Members: Beth Chandler (22)(24)(26), Diane Shandor (23)(25), Judy Brown (24)(26), Marcia Ormsby (24)(26), Elise Albert (25), Jo Anna Schneider (25), Barbara Thomas (20-24)(26), Derrick Williams (26), Jack Hogsten (26)

Roles (Committee Appointed):

- Greeters/Conveners – Barbara Thomas, Martha Baer, Susan Dapkunas, Beth Chandler, Jean Christianson, Judy Brown, Diane Shandor, Elise Albert
- 5th Night Light - Mary Barbera
- Memorial Garden - Mary Barbera
- Spiritual Friendship Group Coordinator - Diane Shandor
- Urgent Pastoral Care Coordinator - Marcia Ormsby
- Adult Religious Ed Coordinator - Barbara Thomas
- Quaker Dudes Convener - Phil Caroom

Liaisons:

- Baltimore Yearly Meeting (BYM) & BYM Interchange - Barbara Thomas
- Chesapeake Quarterly Meeting - Canby Roberts
- Dayspring Silent Retreat - Jean Christianson
- AFSC Liaison - Joan Miller

PEACE & SOCIAL CONCERNS

Co-Clerks: Margaret Holmes (24, 26), Kathy Trimmer (26)

Members: Jack Hogsten (23)(25), Phil Caroom (20-24)(26), Angela Hicks (26), C. Jaye Mills (26), Alissa Greenwood (26), Connie Hutson (26)

Working Group: Peace & Justice Center - Phil Caroom

Roles (Committee Appointed):

- Retrospective & Restorative Justice/Racial Reconciliation Collaborative Convener - Phil Caroom

(PEACE & SOCIAL CONCERNS, continued)

Liaisons:

- MAJR (Maryland Alliance for Justice Reform) - Phil Caroom
- Light House, Inc. - Marcia Ormsby
- ACT (Anne Arundel Connecting Together) - Jack Hogsten, Kathy Trimmer

QUAKER MARKET

Clerk: Cairn Krafft (12)(14-24)(26)

Members: Jean Christianson (14-24)(26), Ruth Slavin (16-24)(26), Al Baumann (19-23)(25), Martha Lurz (20-24)(26), Canby Robertson (20-24)(26), Karl Richmond (21)(23)(25), Marjorie Kehoe (24)(26), Minette Clarke-Swindle (25), Fahima Gaheez (25), Ani Warneka (25)

STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE

Clerk: Jenny Isaacs (25,26)

Members: Larry McNeely (23)(25), Dan Campbell (24), Mary Pratt (25), Coleen Lyons (26), Cindy Barry (26)

Ex officio: Treasurer: Dot Walizer (20-24)(26)

TRUSTEES [RSF members]

Clerk: Phil Caroom (26)

Members: Dot Walizer (23)(25), Joe Miller (24)(26), Ellen McBride (25), Patty Robinson (23,24)(26)

✈ Available to hold committees in the Light during meetings: Jean Christianson

Set aside for now:

- Liaisons to FUM, FGC, FWCC, FCNL

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT of Annapolis Friends serving on

Baltimore Yearly Meeting Committees or as BYM Reps to Quaker Groups:

- Reparation Action Working Group (RAWG), BYM Peace & Social Concerns: Phil Caroom
- BYM Ministry and Pastoral Care: Barb Thomas
- BYM Friends Supporting Friends Working Group: Martha Baer
- Unity with Nature: Carl Benson
- World Council of Churches, Commission on Climate Justice and Sustainable Development: Kallan Benson
- American Friends Service Committee Corporation: Bethanne Bruninga Socolar
- Rep. to Interfaith Action for Human Rights: Jack Lahr
- West River Quaker Burial Ground: Phil Caroom (since 2013), Jeanne Ward, Joe Miller, Tim Mullady
- Nuts and Bolts Chesapeake Quarter: Canby Robertson
- Friends Wilderness Center Liaison: Nancy Jo Steetle
- Camp Property Management: Nathan Shroyer
- BYM Faith & Practice: Karen Cunnyngnam

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business December 7, 2025 Proposal:

Joining the Anne Arundel Affirms Interfaith Coalition

Recommendation: We recommend that Annapolis Friends Meeting formally joins the Anne Arundel Affirms coalition to be listed as a safe and affirming space for LGBTQ+ people.

Background: There has been a real onslaught of renewed attacks on LGBTQ+ people in America. Great strides were made to protect and even celebrate LGBTQ+ people in recent years, but we are seeing that progress get rolled back and, in its place, an already incredibly vulnerable community is faced with an increasingly dangerous situation that threatens jobs, healthcare, homes, marriages, and safety. Annapolis Friends Meeting (AFM) has a long history of supporting LGBTQ+ issues, with minutes going back to the 1990s showing this support. At this time, however, it is becoming increasingly important that we continue to put the meeting forward as a safe space, so that our LGBTQ+ friends, family, and neighbors know that there is a place of faith where they can go for spiritual nourishment without fear of judgment or discrimination. Joining this interfaith coalition would be a good way to increase community awareness of our meeting and invite LGBTQ+ who are looking for that spiritual home to attend.

At this year's Annapolis Pride event, Barb Thomas and Mark Taylor received flyers from an interfaith coalition of churches called Anne Arundel Affirms (they sometimes refer to themselves as A4). On the back of the flyer was a list of churches in Anne Arundel County that are safe and affirming of LGBTQ+ people. They were surprised to find that Annapolis Friends Meeting was *not* on that list, so Barb reached out to the group to ask how we can be included on their list for others in the community to see. After attending a preliminary meeting with the group via Zoom to learn more, Alissa Greenwood reported back to Communications & Outreach as well as Ministry & Pastoral Care (M&PC) and both committees showed support for bringing the possibility of AFM joining the coalition to the next Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

Both Ministry & Pastoral Care and Communications & Outreach (C&O) committees have been in communication about joining the coalition and are in agreement that, should AFM find unity in Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business (MfWwAtB) and decide to join, a representative from C&O will attend A4 meetings and coordinate with them when opportunities to participate in events and activities arise. If there is a cost to participate in these opportunities, it should come out of the C&O budget. As of right now, it seems the next A4 event will take place on or around Trans Day of Visibility on March 31, 2026.

Seasoning: Initially, Barb Thomas reached out to A4 to request information about the coalition and how AFM could be included in their list of LGBTQ+ affirming faith spaces. Mihee Kim-Kort extended an invitation to join their next monthly meeting, which Alissa Greenwood attended. After the meeting, Alissa reported back to Barb Thomas, Mark Taylor, and Diane Shandor and both C&O and M&PC added the idea of joining the coalition to their next

committee meeting agendas. C&O quickly found unity about joining during their November committee meeting after a brief discussion on LGBTQ+ issues and the importance of AFM coming forward as an affirming and welcoming space. It is understood that M&PC found unity with the idea of joining the A4. The only concerns raised had to do with how much time and energy this might require from C&O, but as the A4 meetings are only once a month and the coalition only joins together for a several events a year (including Annapolis Pride, which AFM already participates in), C&O doesn't foresee membership in the coalition becoming a strain, but rather welcomes new opportunities for community outreach. There is no cost to join the coalition.

At this point, we are asking for approval for AFM to join the Anne Arundel Affirms Coalition.