

Annapolis Friends Monthly Meeting (AFM)
Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business (MfB)
Sixth Month, Seventh
Day, 2026 (6/7/26)

Present were: Ellen McBride (clerk), Phil Caroom (recording clerk), Martha Baer, Nan & Sky Elsbree, Jeanne Ward, Kim Finch, Ben Kilgore, Patty Robinson, Martha Lurz, C. Jaye Mills, Jack Hogsten, Minette Clarke-Swindell, Jean Christianson, Colleen Lyons, Kathy Trimmer, Mary Barbera, Dan Campbell, Cindy Barry, Sylvia Oliva, Zean Gassmann, Barb Thomas, Dot Walizer, Mike Baker, Karen Cunnyingham, Joan P. Miller, Mary Pratt, Cairn Krafft, Jenny Isaacs, Diane Shandor, Angela Hicks, Marcia Ormsby, Barbara Stavac, Sue Salvia, Frances Wayne, Lisa & John Hall, and Steve Poe.

We met both in person and via Zoom, beginning worship with centering silence and a display of Faith and Practice queries as to “home and family.” In introductory comments, our Clerk reviewed our anti-racist queries and welcomed Friends to our Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business (MfB).

From a prior meeting, Friends were asked to approve revised minutes from 12th Month (12/07/2025) to incorporate budget notes inadvertently omitted. Friends approved.

For Meeting House & Land (MHL), Kim Finch reported various items and related two decision requests:

- 1) It was requested that up to \$2,500 be approved for additional electrical services to add a safety shutoff switch for the Solar Array #2 and other electrical concerns with a newly-located, licensed electrician. Friends approved this request.
- 2) It was requested that up to \$7,000 be approved from our Capital Expenditures fund for the installation of the side door ramp now that our application for a permit recently was granted. Friends approved.

As an update on projects, MHL noted various items including that our automatic doors now are installed and functional, that removal of some old playground equipment has been completed in preparation for new playground equipment installation next week, and that plans are in progress for replacement of the MPR cork floor. (See attached summary for complete list.)

NOTE: Friends approved the minutes to this point on 06/07/2026. Approval for the remaining minutes will be requested at the next MfB on 07/06/2026.

For Ministry & Pastoral Care (M&PC) Committee, Martha Baer requested Friends’ approval to revise one paragraph in the Spiritual State of the Meeting (SSoM) report to add a paragraph inadvertently omitted from the approved report. (See attached revised draft.) Friends approved.

For the Stewardship & Finance Committee (S&F), Jenny Isaacs reported that a reciprocal financial review is in progress with Terrance McCormally of Herndon, Va., Monthly Meeting on 5/17/26 with Jenny and treasurer Dot Walizer sharing AFM financial records. In exchange, Annapolis Friends will perform a similar review for Herndon Friends Meeting. The group used a very detailed checklist about Friends’ practices and a written report is expected within the next month. She also noted that S&F is continuing work on a recommendation for a possible revision of our current fundraising / donations guidelines.

For Trustees, Phil Caroom reported on two items: 1) An unrestricted bequest was received from the Estate of Wes Jordan for \$50,000. The Trustees determined that this money should be deposited into AFM's highest interest earning account (that is, a Friends Fiduciary account). Trustees do not have a recommendation at this time as to the use of the funds. They wish to defer such a recommendation, pending AFM's choice to build or not to build the proposed addition.

2) The Trustees are requesting that MfB approve a final \$1,000¹ payment to the Broadhurst architectural firm to release AFM from the contract and to legally confirm our right to use the architectural drawings and renderings. He noted that, in fact, AFM already has made further use of the documents and that disputing the final payment in court promptly would result in legal fees much greater than the additional \$1,000. Marcia Ormsby is recorded as disagreeing with this payment, but standing aside. After discussion, Friends approved this final payment.

Two Friends reminded us of our commitment to use Black contractors; one also urged that we make sure that we have sufficient expertise to avoid future problems and to support our decision-making as we go forward with any possible addition.

For the Advisory Group for Selecting the Plan (AGSP), Colleen Lyons reported that AGSP and Trustees continue to seek a sense of the Meeting as to the potential addition to the existing building --most recently with specific attention to the range of possible costs. The current rough construction estimate is between \$1.0 to \$1.3 million, although we do not yet have sufficiently detailed architectural plans for definite estimates. Our MfB preliminarily might need to authorize \$50,000 to \$60,000² to enable potential contractors to provide definite estimates and to provide other information that we might need to go forward with building. AGSP recommends that MfB begin the process by holding another threshing or specially-called MfB to consider the options to build, not build, or continue discernment. AGSP hopes that his process will be transparent, collaborative and practical in looking at the needs of our Meeting and in which unity can be achieved.

One Friend expressed concerns about spending so much money that might be spent to benefit the community; other Friends suggested that the Meeting House itself is a resource that already does benefit the community so that, potentially, an addition might benefit the community still more and might work better for our Meeting's own needs as to accessible restrooms, storage, etc. Friends agreed to arrange a threshing or specially-called meeting for business to share more information--including engaging with Friends and attenders under age 50-- before Meeting is asked to make a preliminary "build" decision, a decision to authorize the \$50-60K preliminary study costs, or both. Friends expressed gratitude for AGSP's work to-date.

For Peace & Social Concerns (P&SC) Committee, Phil Caroom reported that some Friends including two from AFM (himself and Angela Hicks) have made plans to establish a 501c3 corporation to be known as Friends Acting to Implement Reparations (FAIR) that would operate a Friends' fund to help resolve racial disparities due to past discrimination for Black and Indigenous minorities by making grants to improve community resiliency and comparative equity. He requested that AFM permit the group to use Meeting's mailing address as its business address, as

¹ It was explained that the full amount requested for the right to use the digital drawings and other documents actually would be \$3,000; however, as the architect still holds a \$2,000 retainer from Meeting, only \$1,000 additional would come from AFM accounts.

² If AFM's decision ultimately approves building, this preliminary \$50,000 to \$60,000 would be included as part of the estimate \$1.0 M to \$1.3 M.

done sometimes in the past with West River Quaker Burial Ground, Maryland Alliance for Justice Reform, and other groups initiated by Annapolis Friends. There would be no monetary cost for AFM and no legal obligations. Friends approved this request.

[NOTE: Running short of time, we deferred approval of the final segments of these minutes until our July MfB. At that MfB, the minutes then were approved.]

Silent Announcements, provided online, include pending meetings:

- June 11, Spiritual Friends Group on Zoom
- June 11, Green Group
- June 13, Bartram's Buddies (MHL Workday)
- June 14, Meeting for Learning on Community
- June 14, Haiku Day (Library Committee).

Other agenda items became Silent Items, as we ran short of time; these included the following reports, not requiring current action:

- A Quaker Market Committee report has been shared online with AFM Friends. (See attached.)
- As previously approved by MfB, an Op-Ed Letter prepared by Angela Hicks and co-signed by our Clerk has been sent to various newspapers, although not yet published. (See attached.)
- Our PSC Committee has requested \$280.60 from the Committee Contingency to pay for postage for Get Out The Vote (GOTV) postcards. As permitted by AFM guidelines, the S&F committee is taking this under consideration and will discuss it at their next meeting, June 21.

We closed with brief centering silence.

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

Meetinghouse and Lands Committee Project Status List – June 7, 2026

ADA Automatic Doors: Installed and fully functional now. Minor adjustments to hardware and locking still need to be completed. Mechanism will be adjusted when ADA ramp is installed.

Side Door ADA Ramp: Permit was approved by AA county last week. We have three bids for construction of the project. Mike has contacted multiple contractors and has received three bids: two for around \$6,500 and one for \$2,300. Funding up to \$7,000. from the designated Capital Building and Replacement Fund will be requested at June Meeting for Business.

Playground Renovations: Funds were requested and previously approved for up to \$1500. Mark Taylor is leading this project, which has two major tasks: to disassemble and remove existing playground equipment and replace it with new and safer equipment. Replacement equipment will be picked up on June 7, 2026. The bulk of the work will be done on the MHL Workday on June 13th, and we are asking for volunteers to assist with major work on that day.

There was a concern about a hornet's nest in a tree near to the playground area. A local exterminator came to the site on June 5, 2026, and could not find any evidence of an infestation. We agreed to call them in the future if the problem reoccurs.

There is tree trimming and removal needed in the playground, field area, and the memorial garden. This will initially be done in-house, and an estimate from our tree service will be requested if further work is needed for larger trees and limbs.

MPR Floor Replacement: We are working with Brothers Flooring on replacement for the floor of the "in-kind" and we previously were approved funding for the project of up to \$30,000. Mike has given old (original) cork tiles from our attic to the contractor to do a test installation, which was inspected and found satisfactory. Installation will take up to six working days: three days to remove the existing flooring, and three days to replace the flooring. We are looking at dates in August or September to implement.

Solar Array #2 Rejuvenation: Mike and Phil spent last May workday repairing Bob's array. We are collaborating with a new electrician, Ryan Wayson of Wayson Electrical Contractors, who has identified replacement parts that are needed to get the array working again. Funding up to \$2500 is requested from the designated Capital Improvement and Replacement Fund to add a safety shut of switch and other electrical upgrades as needed.

Roof and Chimney Repairs: We are seeking contractors for roof and chimney repairs that are needed on the chimney wall and roof which is causing humidity issues in the MPR which was identified when we had an Interior Environmental Study conducted last fall. Funding will be requested when scope of work is finalized and estimates are reviewed.

Respectfully submitted, Kim Finch and Jeanne Ward, Co-clerks, MHL Committee

Voices from Annapolis Friends Meeting
Spiritual State of the Meeting Reflections—2025–26
Drawn from Worship Sharing during Meeting for Learning
and Offerings from Three Committees

*Quotation marks indicate a particular comment by a Friend or committee.

We are grateful for the newcomers and young friends who are able to find their voices and community at AFM. We are grounded by both experienced and younger Friends exploring, seeking with us and enriching us with new spiritual insights.

Spiritual Diversity:

Each seeks their unique concept of “Divine Spirit” and are each “Friends of Truth” in diverse ways. We struggle in our diversity, to bring truth to the world and to each other as a group—not just as individuals. One Friend asked, “How do we bring together the various communities within AFM into deeper friendship? Might we develop “elders” as companions and models to help us learn? How can we better share leadership?” Another offered appreciation and reverence for our several worship communities. With joy, a Friend declared: “I love this Meeting! It is the most important part of my life.” She spoke of being in a sacred space and the importance of listening to those who are not like us.

One committee notes a variety of understandings as to the meaning of spirit and spiritual practice. Accommodating that diversity calls us to operate with maximal tolerance, respect, and discipline, remaining aware that automatically privileging our own interpretations over those of others is an obstacle to our quest for unity and forward movement.

Another committee aspires to respect spiritual diversity and feels grateful for the ongoing learning. The current discussion around adding an addition to the meetinghouse is an excellent example of deep listening and respect.

Helping Tenderly:

The Divine within ourselves aids us in knowing when we are in harmony with Spirit’s guiding. From this inner Light comes responsibility to find action, love, tenderness, and energetic movement. “Offering tender help is one of the hallmarks of our meeting.” We try to be of practical assistance but are aware that in some cases (like mental health issues) we might not have the skills and talents. We are developing resources to suggest, such as grief support groups. As many Friends have passed this year, we have been able to assist their families both practically and with spiritual energy. “We need to encourage a culture of recognition and gratitude, rather than immediately moving on to the next task.”

Can we use tenderness not only as a guide for how we speak but also as a guide for how we listen? We need to speak what is hard to hear—tenderly. One committee has witnessed interactions that cannot be characterized as "tender." "This query helps to find language to articulate a goal for our behavior towards each other throughout the Meeting." "Forgiveness and Light overcomes conflict." A Friend with serious illness offered gratitude for the Light and love she has received, helping her navigate through difficult situations in so many ways.

Helping one another follow leadings:

Formal ways include clearness committees, committee work, spiritual formation. Less formal are readings for spiritual discernment and spiritual partners; we could do more to nurture such partnerships. One Friend wondered, "Where do I need to be present in this extremely active Meeting? I need to be led, not pressured." One Friend was grateful for the guidance of our committees in worship (M&PC), discernment (Religious Ed), and service (P&SC). "We support and focus the leadings of others, as needed. Peace starts in the heart. We have to resist being overwhelmed." We have the ability and responsibility to find the light of God in everyone. Light shows in action on matters we feel are important. Our Nominating Committee renamed itself the Gifts and Leadings Committee as that is how we approach the opportunity of matching Friends with AFM needs.

On Community, Friends noted: We are blessed with community —listening to God in us and acting from Spirit as a community. But some of us are yearning for a stronger social community that leads to a diverse and loving community that can respect differences and build connections not just at Meeting on Sunday but all the time, with regular sharing and deep caring among all members and attenders. We need to share leadership, becoming servant leaders so community can come together and work for all of us.

Social Action and Deepest Beliefs: The question of "What is mine to do?" remains the best indicator for each individual. Before becoming a Quaker, one Friend thought Spirit was something outside but now realizes Spirit is the connection between us and the outer world—the reverence when we recognize this and are in harmony with each other. Our doors are not as open to the wider community as they could be. Spirit leads us to social action but do we reach out with reverence?

Friends cited actions flowing from our "deepest beliefs" such as supporting care of the earth and learning from the diverse knowledge of Native Americans. Another Friend offered tangible ways AFM acts including support of LGBTQ+ population, those harmed by racism, the differently abled, and underprivileged populations (through work with the Light House shelter, Winter Relief, and Quaker Market beneficiaries.) "As a Meeting, the engagement by Friends has been a strong indicator of our spiritual growth as a community." One committee is grateful for our No Kings participation, solar panels, stewardship of land, and the prospect of building an addition to our building to expand

our outreach. One Friend prays that, as we move along in our decisions about building, we keep a sense of God's abundance in our hearts. How can all our needs be met? How can we discover God's leadings?

A Friend asked, "How do we fill up the empty chairs? What prevents seekers from becoming part of our community?" One Friend noted that we need to love our differences not just accept them. Another offered that we need to open our doors to the wider community through social action, reaching out beyond our silos. "Then the chairs will be filled and Spirit will prosper among us." Another noted: Our worship gatherings and communities have strengthened and grown over the last year.

"The Spirit of God lives in our sacred, worship space. We need to open our minds to receive it. We need to give up our resistance to God's Spirit. We pray that we keep a sense of God's abundance and how all needs can be met through God's leadings."

Sixth Month Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

Quaker Market Committee Report on Quaker Spring Market 2026

AFM's 2026 Quaker Spring Market was held on 2nd day 6th month, on what turned out to be a beautiful day in so many ways. The weather was gorgeous, we had a steady stream of customers, delicious food, a super-abundance of unique flea market treasures, a diversity of plants for the garden, and so much joy evident for shoppers and volunteers alike, as volunteers worked to display our terrific donations to their best advantage, and shoppers found just the items they needed to clearly bring them joy!

Quaker Spring Market 2026 was a blockbuster financially, as well, with the highest net proceeds recorded for any Quaker Spring Market (which tend to bring in less than Quaker Holiday Markets). The total available for disbursement is \$9,050.00, with \$250 going to Young Friends for their discernment process, and \$2,200 going to each of the four causes approved at 3rd month meeting for worship with attention to business:

- Annapolis Immigration Justice Network
- Anne Arundel County Watershed Stewards Academy
- Ralph J. Bunche Community Center, and
- AFM's Building Fund.

The Quaker Market Committee would like to express deep gratitude to all who contributed to AFM's Quaker Spring Market 2026 in so many ways, with donations of: food (including hamburgers/hotdogs/rolls/condiments); plants; flea market items; olive oil/tapenade/soap through the Olive Oil Ministry; sauces from Condiment Station; online sales of small vintage items; event sales from Afghan Women's Fund; off-site storage; communications and advertising; setup, sorting/display and packing up for partners; accounting, etc. We were particularly happy that our Young Friends were able to join in on Quaker Spring Market activities, adding to the joy and energy all present experienced and enjoyed!

As the Quaker Market Committee has worked over the years to minimize any financial burden from Quaker Markets to the meeting community (for example, by now funding the POD entirely from proceeds), we are also mindful of the amount of physical work that goes into these events. Starting with Quaker Spring Market 2026, the Quaker Market Committee therefore made the difficult decision to no longer accept furniture. We know this was a disappointment for some shoppers, as well as long-time partners such as Hope for All that have put our in-kind furniture donations to good use in the past for their work with folks transitioning out of homelessness. As it turned out, however, listening to our volunteers and following Spirit in this way opened the event up to more joy, providing more room to breathe both physically and metaphorically. Two benefits from this decision were that some of this Market's super-abundance of flea market treasures could now be displayed on the front porch, and volunteers didn't need to wrestle the furniture into display position early Saturday morning and wrestle it back into partner pickup position if it didn't sell. Big benefits that translated into more joy for all.

The elimination of the furniture category certainly lightened the physical burden, but it did not reduce it to a level manageable by our AFM volunteers. Help from AFM volunteers supplemented, as in the past by help from friends and family and limited paid help did bring the workload to a manageable level. The limited paid help for QSM 2026 was funded by individual donations rather than proceeds, after communications with and research by trustees provided clarity that in order to pay casual helpers from proceeds, AFM would need to purchase a workman's compensation insurance policy. As way opens over the summer, the Quaker Market Committee will work on the issue of the best way forward regarding funding of needed help, with input from trustees. We will also be considering the question that has been raised as to whether a portion of Quaker Market proceeds should be donated to AFM beyond what current practice has provided. After we have had opportunity to season these thoughts, QMC intends to bring them back to meeting for business to gather additional light.

Finally, the ripple effects of in-kind donations to Quaker Markets extend far beyond the joy of items purchased during the events. We work hard to connect unsold items with targeted partners who we believe can put them to good use. For QSM 2026 these partners included:

- Orphan Grain Train (clothing, bedding, bikes, toys, school, medical & craft supplies, etc.)
- Hope for All (housewares and bedding for those transitioning out of homelessness)
- NAACP (children's books to give away at meetings)
- Prison Book Ministry
- Books for International Goodwill
- Partners in Care (home décor)
- Goodwill
- Baltimore Cultural Center (ethnic art)
- Smartwool's SecondCut Project (socks with issues upcycled into new products)
- Annapolis SPCA (blankets donated for this purpose)
- Marshall Hope Corporation (baby clothes and equipment)
- Light House (paper carryall bags used by their food pantry)
- GreenDrop (collecting items not taken by our other partners, for donation to Purple Heart).

Again, deep gratitude to all who were able to get involved in Quaker Spring Market, and looking forward to working together on QHM 2026 to build community, model our testimonies, and raise funds for and awareness of causes that align with our Quaker values. Quaker Holiday Market is scheduled for 5th day 12th month (normal pattern of first Saturday in December).

A Quaker Witness in a Time of Constitutional Strain

Members of the Religious Society of Friends – commonly known as Quakers – have long believed that seeking and speaking truth is a spiritual responsibility. Our faith teaches that every person carries inherent dignity and that governments must protect the conditions in which human life and liberty can flourish.

Recent events in our nation and around the world have deepened concerns about the strength of those protections.

Violence and loss of life in Minnesota have shaken communities and renewed urgent questions about accountability, civil rights, and the proper use of government authority. We mourn those who have died and hold their families and communities in the Light. Their loss reminds us of the ongoing need to protect the dignity and rights of every person.

At the same time, headlines recount growing destruction and loss of life resulting from the expanding war involving Iran. Such developments raise serious questions about the use of military force and about the constitutional responsibilities of our government in matters of war and peace.

Taken together, these events reflect a troubling pattern that extends beyond any single moment. They point to failures to protect First Amendment freedoms, failures to provide due process of law for all people, and the weakening of constitutional checks and balances that limit the concentration of power.

We have also witnessed rising tensions surrounding press freedom and academic independence, aggressive enforcement actions that have frightened immigrant communities, and reductions in programs that support the most vulnerable among us. Cuts to programs such as SNAP and Medicaid deepen hardship for families already struggling to meet basic needs.

For Friends, these concerns are not partisan. They are moral.

Quakers have long spoken when conscience compels us. Our tradition includes early opposition to slavery, persistent witness for peace during times of war, and advocacy for equality when it carried personal and political risk.

That history reminds us that democracy depends not only on institutions but also on the willingness of citizens to defend them.

Nearly 250 years ago, the Declaration of Independence affirmed that all people are endowed with certain unalienable rights – among them life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Those words remain both an aspiration and a responsibility. Protecting them requires vigilance, humility, and the courage to speak when the dignity of human life and the health of democratic institutions are at stake.

We offer this reflection not as partisans, but as people of faith concerned for our neighbors and for the democratic principles that have long guided our nation.