

Annapolis Friends Monthly Meeting (AFM)
Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business (MfB)
Seventh Month, Fifth
Day, 2026 (7/5/26)

Present were: Ellen McBride (clerk), Phil Caroom (recording clerk), Ben Killgore, Judy Brown, Martha Baer, Derrick Williams, Marcia Ormsby, Jean Christianson, Sylvia Oliva, Mary Barbera, Margaret Holmes, Marjorie Winslow, Dot Walizer, Jon & Lisa Hall, Martha Lurz, Nan & Sky Elsbree, Joan Para Miller, Barb Thomas, Barbara Stavac, Mike Baker, Cairn Krafft, Angela Hicks, Kim Finch, Mary Pratt, Nancy Jo Steetle, Minette Clarke-Swindell, and Betty Sue Salvia.

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

From last month’s (6/7/26) meeting, Friends were asked to approve final minutes. After brief discussion and one amendment, Friends thanked our Clerk and Reporting Clerk for this effort and approved the June minutes. (See attached.)

As to the recent (6/12/26) destructive storm, Dot Walizer described her amazement at all the damages to AFM. She proposed a minute recounting the extensive damage and giving thanks to a number of Friends who volunteered for the initial clean-up work. Friends adopted this minute. (See attached.) One Friend also asked whether we might note the location of some of the oldest oaks under which Friends worshiped before construction of the Meeting House; Friends agreed to explore the possibility assuming the remaining stumps might be safe to leave in place.

As to our pending MfB schedule, Ellen McBride noted that we traditionally take a “summer vacation” from Meeting for Business to permit more Friends to attend Baltimore Yearly Meeting (BYM) Annual Session at the beginning of August. Friends approved skipping the August MfB. She also noted that the following Meeting for Business normally would fall on Labor Day weekend. For these reasons, she suggested that we move the next MfB to 8/23/26.

One Friend noted that we traditionally have held an MfB on the Labor Day weekend. Another pointed out that this coming meeting might be an especially important one as to the decision to build, not build, or discern further as to construction of the Meeting House. After much discussion, including whether this would be a “rush” or whether further preparation or threshing might be needed, one Friend suggested that, due to the long-term scope, this question might need more than a single MfB or threshing. Another suggested there might be some sense of urgency due to the need for accessible restrooms. Friends agreed to stay with our regular MfB on the Labor Day weekend, but also to seek a threshing session before this date. Friends also approved holding a Threshing Session on 8/23/26 at 9:15 a.m. Another Friend proposed that we also might add some midweek Threshing Session(s) by Zoom; Friends approved this as well.

As Clerk of AFM Trustees, Phil Caroom offered proposed practical guidelines for how committees should collaborate with Trustees, as well as related reference materials. After discussion and one correction, Friends approved the proposed guidelines. (See attached.)

One Friend also urged that we should consider the question of whether Friends’ confidence is restored such that they might be inclined to make pledges or donations towards the proposed addition to the Meeting House. Due to the shortness of time remaining, we agreed to defer the

issue of potential fundraising or financing to be part of our later, overall discussion of “build, no build or further discernment” to be part of another MfB or threshing. Other Friends urged that we should be mindful of how our Meeting responds to mistakes, so that we do not engage in antagonistic criticism and discourage Friends from any committee service for fear of possible failure.

For Meeting House & Land (MHL) Committee, Kim Finch related two decision requests:

1) As to storm damage remediation, MHL has obtained three bids for fallen trees removal and grounds clean up. The recommended service would cost up to \$7,500 (the low bid); MHL is considering accepting the low bid and will be presenting the bid to the Trustees. These funds initially will be taken from AFM’s operating funds; later reimbursement from insurance or transfers from the Committee Contingency Fund may occur. *[NOTE: The Clerk of MHL and Clerk of S&F suggested that the Contingency Fund transfer could be authorized prospectively but, due, to shortness of time, this question was not submitted to Meeting for approval.]* One Friend proposed possibly leaving part of some historic oaks if this is possible to be done safely. After discussion, Friends approved MHL to engage tree removal services up to \$7,500.

2) As to replacement of the MPR flooring, it appears that an additional up to \$3,000 capital improvement funding –beyond \$30,000 originally approved– may be needed for the floor replacement project. After a brief discussion, Friends approved this increment “as long as it gets done.”

3) There is a MHL report providing updates about recent projects (See attached)

We concluded shortly before 11 a.m. after a quick review of Silent Announcements:

- S&F has approved \$300 in Committee Contingency Fund transfer to Peace and Social Concerns (PSC) for Get Out the Vote (GOTV) postcards
 - QMC Response to the March 1 Request (attached)
 - Baltimore Yearly Meeting Peace & Social Concerns Letter (attached)
- July 7 (Tuesday), North County Worship 7 pm
- July 9 (Thursday), two events-
 - Spiritual Friends Group 4 pm
 - Green Group 7 pm
 - July 11 (Saturday), Bartram’s Buddies (Workday) 9 am
 - July 12 (Sunday), Committee Clerks’ Meeting 9:30 am
 - July 13 (Monday), Ramp construction

We closed with brief centering silence.

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

Proposed: “**APPRECIATION**” MINUTE

BACKGROUND:

On the night of June 12, 2026 (Friday), the rain fell and the wind blew, a massive storm ripped through our quiet neighborhood, uprooting trees, splintering branches and creating a potentially dangerous situation for members and attenders on our property. We learned later that the storm included a microburst that had tornado force winds. Several homes on Dubois Road were damaged with trees falling.

At least eight large trees fell on the Annapolis Friends Meeting (AFM) property, including two that struck the roof and wall of the Multi-Purpose Room. Fortunately, there was minimal damage to the roof. At least eight sections of fence were crushed and about a dozen solar panels were blown off the solar array and onto the lawn. It was a fierce storm.

Our neighbor across the street, Glenn Woodruff, sent a text message to the Clerk of Meeting alerting her of the trees that hit the building and the solar panels that were strewn about the lawn. The Clerk notified the Clerk of the Meeting House and Lands (MHL) committee. The AFM Bartram’s Buddies and Green Group had already planned a work day on the property and were shocked when they arrived to see the destruction.

The dedicated team of volunteers that assembled on the morning of Saturday, June 13, wielded chainsaws, rakes and other tools to begin the clean up, remove fallen limbs from pathways and make our property safe, while others provided water and food during the cleanup effort.

MINUTE:

Annapolis Friends Meeting minutes our thanks and appreciation in recognition of the efforts of Friends who worked to stabilize our Meeting House and grounds on Saturday, June 13, 2026.

All of us at AFM thankfully express our gratitude and appreciation to Kim Finch, Dan Schmoyer, Mike Baker, Mark Taylor, Jett Greenwood, Bonnie Peregoy, Luke Peregoy, Ellen McBride, Jean Christianson, Angela Hicks, Barb Thomas, Syliva Olivia, and Marjorie Kehoe for their efforts on our behalf.

Respectfully submitted,
Dorothy Walizer & Ellen McBride

INTRO. for proposed Trustee guidelines

Before reviewing the proposed new guidelines this a.m., I'd like to review what got us started in drafting them:

Late last year, this Meeting for Business approved "up to \$10,000" for architects to do a set of preliminary drawings for our possible addition to this building. A couple of Friends communicated with the architect's firm and our then-clerk of Trustees signed a contract for these services. But, unfortunately, neither she nor the other Friend who considered the contract read it carefully enough to realize that we didn't get the \$10,000 limit into the contract. So, the architect --not realizing our requested limits--put in many more hours than requested and initially billed us \$48,000 instead of \$10,000. (I'd like to note here that the contractor was acting in good faith & the problem was our oversight in not reading the contract.)

Since then, a slightly different set of Meeting trustees negotiated to get us out of that contract. We had other reasons also to want to find another architect if we are going forward – reasons that did not just relate to this initial bill.

So, the Trustees' guidelines that we're bringing for possible approval today are designed to avoid a repeat of such an oversight or miscommunication like this in the future. And, if we're continuing with plans to build an addition to the Meeting House, we hope these guidelines will help that process to go more smoothly and to keep us as close as possible to staying "within our budget."

I'd like to mention one more point before reviewing the proposed new guidelines themselves. Which is this. We know Friends--like most humans-- aren't perfect in our lives, generally, or even in our efforts to make all the best possible decisions in our Meeting. None of us is perfect and we all sometimes make mistakes. (The same is true of us collectively in our Quaker Meeting --like any faith group we can think of--from time to time, we fall short of perfection, regardless of our organizational efforts.)

That, of course, is the reason that Quakers do well with our "sense of the meeting" decision-making vs. executive decision-making. It's also a reason that, as Quakers, we commit to looking to "that of God" and to each others' good intentions, rather than condemning one another for well-intentioned mistakes.

So, as Friends, our goal is to learn from this, to set more clear guidelines, and to move on to focus on our vision, rather than being stuck in criticizing one another -- as many of us should share these responsibilities.

I apologize for this lengthy introduction. Hopefully, it helps with the context. So, on with our [proposed new guidelines](#).

AFM Trustees guidelines - responsibilities & other committees: (adopted 7/5/26)

NOTE- Guidelines are p.1 only; the appended pages are reference & background info.)

Responsibilities: AFM Trustees, per state law (Corp. & Assoc. Art., 5-301.1 and following sections), our articles of incorporation and bylaws, are responsible for the “management of the activities and affairs” of the Meeting as a corporate entity.

Consistent with Friends’ testimonies and policy decisions of AFM’s Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business (MfB), Trustees are responsible to “hold title [ownership of funds and property] and execute legal business pertaining to property...held by the Meeting. ... [While Trustees have the] fiduciary obligation to preserve the assets of the Meeting, they must also be continuously sensitive to the spirit of the Meeting and its wish to fulfill the social testimonies of the Society of Friends.”

Collaboration with other AFM committees: The Trustees may “designate one or more committees, which to the extent provided in ... resolutions or in the [By-Laws](#) of the corporation, shall have and may exercise all the powers of the Board of Trustees in the management of the activities and affairs of the [AFM] corporation.”

AFM Trustees have designated AFM’s various committees to perform responsibilities consistent with Meeting’s guidelines and fund descriptions. For example, the Capital Expenditures Fund description currently says “Meeting House and Lands (MHL) committee is authorized for disbursement authority up to \$1,000 for “capital expenditures” as opposed to replacing existing fixtures, but must recommend and obtain MfB approval for larger amounts.

In general and absent emergent circumstances, Trustees recommend that committees should seek multiple (at least three) estimates for expenses over \$5,000, also keeping in mind the availability of minority contractors in light of AFM’s anti-racist testimony.

To further clarify appropriate cooperation between Trustees and other AFM committees, the following additional requests are made:

Committees should notify Trustees, preferably via email as soon as possible, of proposed details and contracts when they anticipate asking MfB approval as to:

- any expenditure of \$10,000 or more, whether in a single payment or series of payments;
- incurring any loan or debt in the name of AFM;
- hiring an employee (whether occasional or longer term) who would be directed or supervised by AFM;
- taking action which could require additional insurance coverage; or
- taking action which could require a government permit or license.

If in doubt, committees are encouraged to ask Trustees whether such notice is needed. Such notice may enable Trustees to offer proactive advice or to ask for more needed information which, it is hoped, ultimately may lead to better and quicker decisions consistent with our Quaker process.

Trustees’ process: Trustees, in order to respond to questions or to provide approval on the above matters, together should share the questions and information provided before reaching a decision together. Meetings to consider such questions may be held in-person, electronically (e.g. by Zoom), in hybrid form (combining in-person and electronic), or virtually (by email with all available trustees). A majority of Trustees may act together if all Trustees are not available to meet.

FOOTNOTES / RESOURCES from which the above guidelines are drawn - not part of the proposed guidelines:

MD Code, Corporations and Associations Article - excerpts as to religious corporations:

§ 5-306. Trustees, general powers

- (a) The trustees have the power to:
 - (1) Have perpetual existence under the name of the religious corporation;
 - (2) Purchase, take, or acquire by gift, bequest, or in any other manner and hold any interest in any assets in the State;
 - (3) Use, lease, mortgage, sell, or convey the assets in the manner that the trustees consider most conducive to the interest of the religious corporation;
 - (4) Generally manage any assets of the religious corporation; and
 - (5) Adopt rules and ordinances for conducting their affairs as necessary and convenient to accomplish the purpose of the religious corporation, including:
 - (i) Appointing the time and place of a meeting of its members; and
 - (ii) Determining the number of members necessary to constitute a quorum.
- (b) The provisions of this section do not authorize any sale, mortgage, or other disposition of any asset of the religious corporation which is held under an instrument prohibiting that sale, mortgage, or other disposition.
- (c) By resolution, the trustees may authorize one or more of their members to:
 - (1) Execute any instrument required to be executed by the trustees, including any deed, mortgage, or other conveyance of assets which are to be sold, transferred, or encumbered; and
 - (2) Attest and affix to the instrument the corporate seal, if any.

§ 5-307

- (a) The trustees shall:
 - (1) Keep an accurate record book;
 - (2) Allow inspection of the record book by members of the religious corporation; and
 - (3) Allow the proceedings recorded in the record book to be presented before a public meeting, if required by five or more members of the religious corporation.
- (b) Unless the plan provides otherwise, the trustees shall be elected and their successors continued at the time and place ordinarily used for public meetings of the church, by the individuals who, according to the custom and usage of the church, have a voice in the management and direction of congregational or temporal affairs.

Excerpts from [BYM Faith & Practice](#): [Paraphrased] Trustees should be recorded members of the Meeting. By joint decision, they may co-opt other members and attenders to assist in Trustees responsibilities; but, for confidential matters, Trustees also may hold closed meetings.

[Quoted] “Any Meeting that accepts substantial funds for investment or holds appreciable real property is encouraged to incorporate and to appoint trustees. Those Meetings not incorporated should also appoint trustees to hold title and execute legal business pertaining to property and securities held by the Meeting. Trustees should be appointed in accordance with applicable laws, and for specified terms. A local Meeting is incorporated in the state of its location; therefore the law of that state prevails.

The trustees, like other committees of the Meeting, are selected by the Meeting and are expected to act for the whole Meeting in carrying out their responsibilities under the law. Thus, while trustees must be conscious of their fiduciary obligation to preserve the assets of the Meeting, they must also be

continuously sensitive to the spirit of the Meeting and its wish to fulfill the social testimonies of the Society of Friends.

The Meeting, in turn, should be sensitive to the legal responsibilities of trustees which can, in certain circumstances, make them personally liable for actions taken in the name of the Meeting. The Committee of Trustees alone is held legally responsible for the administration of Meeting property, real and personal. On behalf of the Meeting, the trustees, as its legal representative, may borrow money when necessary. They are the legal holder of property and securities, preserve the principal of donated funds, and have the power to accept stocks, bonds, or other securities in exchange for short-term loans to other Friends' organizations. Trustees and Meetings holding gifts in trust must see that these are appropriated as designated by the donors. If however, these purposes become obsolete, the trustees should seek advice from the Meeting. The Yearly Meeting has adopted a set of specific advices.

“The trustees shall be directed by the Monthly Meeting’s wishes, and shall consider these wishes in their transactions, being ever mindful of the conditions prescribed by donors. The trustees should keep accurate records of the terms of the trusts held by them on behalf of the Meeting and report at least annually to the Meeting. No Meeting property may be distributed among individual members of a Meeting. If any Monthly Meeting ceases to exist, its property passes to the Yearly Meeting. The Baltimore Yearly Meeting Trustees, in concert with the trustees, if any, of the Monthly Meeting involved, make a recommendation to the Yearly Meeting for the sale or other use of the property.”

...[From Advice to monthly meeting:] “Trustees and other financial officers should seek to be as responsive as possible, within the limits of legally imposed restrictions, to the considered judgment of the whole Meeting on matters of policy. Care must always be taken that the Meeting’s paramount role as a mutually supportive religious fellowship is not weakened by over-much concern for the custody of property or investments.”

Except from AFM Articles of Incorporation (adopted 4/13/79) as to Trustees and committees: “[6]The activities and the affairs of the corporation shall be managed by a Board of Trustees... [The Trustees may] designate one or more committees, which to the extent provided in ... resolutions or in the By-Laws of the corporation, shall have and may exercise all the powers of the Board of Trustees in the management of the activities and affairs of the corporation.”

“[7] No part of the net earnings of the corporation shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, or other private persons, except that the corporation shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in Article Third hereof. No substantial part of the activities of the corporation shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the corporation shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office. Notwithstanding any other provision of these articles, the corporation shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on a) by a corporation exempt from Federal Income Tax under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law)”

Excerpt from AFM Bylaws (revise 4/22/07):

7. Action without meeting. Any action required or permitted to be taken at any meeting of the Trustees, or of any committee thereof, may be taken without a meeting, if prior to such action consent thereto is given by all members of the Trustees, or of such committees as the case may be, and such consent is recorded in the minutes of proceedings of the Trustees or committee.

8. Manner of decision-making. Trustees shall act in the manner of Friends and shall be guided by the "Faith and Practice" of Baltimore Yearly Meeting. The Trustees' decisions shall be guided by the actions of the membership at monthly Meetings for Worship with a Concern for Business, except when action is required before a Meeting can be held.

Report from Meetinghouse and Lands Committee

Funding Requests and Project Status and Update – July 5, 2026

Storm Damage at the MH

On the evening of June 12th, a sudden and severe storm occurred in the Annapolis area. We received a message from our neighbors that there had been a “microburst,” damage to properties along Dubois Road, and the electricity was out. Visiting the site early June 13th (ironically it was Workday) was a challenge due to fallen trees blocking roadways including Dubois Road. To assess the situation, specifically damage to the MPR roof, trees which were leaning on the building were cut.

MHL contacted our insurer, Guideline One Insurance, to initiate a claim. We were quickly assigned an insurance adjuster in their Iowa office, and a local investigator was identified to document the damage, who visited the site on June 19, 2026. MHL and the Insurance Adjuster have been coordinating to submit the requested documentation of damage for the claim. We have \$2500 deductible on the claim we submit.

Necessary Tree Work

Moving forward with removal of dead and dangerous trees, we needed professionals to come in to deal with falling and fallen trees as an immediate concern. We met on-site with three companies who are bonded and licensed. We have two proposals: one for \$5500 and one for \$7500. A third proposal is expected on Wednesday afternoon. **MHL is requesting approval from the Meeting for Business for up to \$7500 for tree removal and trimming** to move forward with this work for immediate safety reasons. We have been informed that the trees that have fallen or been damaged will only be covered for tree work if they fall on the building.

Roof and Gutter Repair

Our next step is to contact roofing contractors to give us estimates on repair of the roof, gutter, and soffit over the back terrace. We have contact information for one contractor at this time but would welcome suggestions from the community about companies that they recommend.

Side Door ADA Ramp: Construction of the accessibility ramps on the east side of the building are scheduled for July 13-14.

Playground Renovations: Work on installing the new playground is on hold until the tree work has been completed in the area. There are several large oaks on a portion of the playground that we are hoping to use or sell as firewood.

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. We have continued to work with the contractor, and a revised contract was received for \$31,675 in June but there are some outstanding concerns as we focus on durability and appearance. **MHL is requesting approval from the Meeting for Business for an additional \$3000 of funding for the replacement of the multi-purposed room floor.**

Solar Array #2 Rejuvenation: Mike and Phil spent last May workday repairing Bob's array. Funding up to \$2500 was requested and approved in June MfB from the designated Capital Improvement and Replacement Fund to add a safety shut of switch and other electrical upgrades as needed. A claim for recent storm damage to Solar Array#2 is being requested in the insurance claim submitted to Guideline One

Roof and Chimney Repairs: We are seeking contractors for 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

Quaker Market Committee Silent Report

7th month 2026 MfW with Attention to Business

During Annapolis Friends Meeting's 3rd month 2026 meeting for worship with attention to business (MWAB), "A Friend proposed that because QMC raised about \$21,000.00 in 2025, QMC might consider giving AFM a good-faith donation for loss of rental, use of water/electricity and wear [wear] of the building. As the discussion started, the clerk suggested that the topic needed further discussion than we had time for, considering the heavy agenda. The clerk requested that QMC consider this request, meet, discuss and discern how to move forward." [Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business Minutes, March 1, 2026]

The Quaker Market Committee (QMC) has met for discernment regarding this question. We realized that AFM already has a mechanism in place to handle the issue. For example, a donation from Quaker Market (QM) proceeds to AFM's Capital Replacement Fund, in recognition of high costs to maintain the meetinghouse and grounds, could easily be accomplished through QMC's existing beneficiary discernment process. This process consists of solicitation of beneficiary ideas from the AFM community, research regarding potential beneficiaries, and spirit-led discernment by QMC (and other interested AFM community members), followed by request for approval by MWAB.

This process occurs twice a year, in conjunction with Quaker Spring and Holiday Markets, providing two opportunities a year for Friends to recommend needs that they believe are important. These requests could be for an external 501(c)3, or for an internal need of Annapolis Friends Meeting.

The internal portion of QM proceeds (typically 25%) has taken a variety of forms, such as:

- Special projects associated with the AFM community (e.g., AFM's solar panels, 2012)
- AFM internally designated fund (e.g., AFM's Building Fund, 2026)
- Quaker organizations AFM is part of, and in some cases specific projects (e.g., Friends World Committee for Consultation Climate Emergency Fund, 2024)
- Community members' spiritual ministries (e.g., Kallan's work on climate for the World Council of Churches, 2025)
- Non-Quaker Organizations with which AFM or a committee has a partnership (e.g., Light House Shelter/Conflict Resolution Center, 2004).

Quaker Markets have for decades made good-faith donations to AFM and will continue to do so through the mechanism of Internal causes. Concerns about costs related to hosting Quaker Markets can be addressed through the existing QM beneficiary discernment process. Quaker Market Committee is grateful to be part of this Annapolis Friends Meeting tradition.

Baltimore Yearly Meeting

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To: All BYM Local Worshipping Communities

RE: **Three Peace and Social Concerns Minutes Coming to BYM 2026 Annual Session**

Dear Friends -

Greetings from Baltimore Yearly Meeting. My name is Doug Vaughn, and I am the current Clerk of BYM Peace and Social Concerns Committee. I am writing today to alert your local worshipping community to three items that will appear on the business agenda at BYM's 2026 Annual Session. BYM Peace and Social Concerns Committee recommends the following Minutes and Actions be endorsed by Baltimore Yearly Meeting:

1. Shepherdstown Harms Minute

This Minute was authored by Shepherdstown Friends Meeting and has subsequently been endorsed by the following BYM Meetings: Hopewell-Centre, Annapolis, Stony Run, Patapsco, Bethesda, Patuxent, Frederick, Gunpowder, and Adelphi. The Minute articulates the concerns of Friends regarding the harms caused by our current government. A copy of that minute is attached and [available here](#).

2. Apartheid-Free Communities Pledge

The [Apartheid-Free network](#), a coalition of communities who pledge to work together to end Israeli apartheid is convened by the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC). This coalition, formed in 2022, following the emerging consensus among the international human rights community that Israel's treatment of the Palestinian people amounts to the Crime of Apartheid includes now over 1200 congregations, faith communities, solidarity organizations, non-profits, campus groups and businesses. Some BYM Meetings, including Adelphi, Bethesda, Frederick, Annapolis, FMW, and State College have signed the Apartheid-Free Community [pledge](#) which is attached and [available here](#).

3. Statement on genocide from the eight Quaker organizations

In fall of 2025, "after long periods of discernment, eight Quaker groups signed a statement calling Israel's war in Gaza genocide. The statement calls for a permanent ceasefire in Gaza and for Palestinians to have full access to humanitarian aid." [Read more in Friends Journal](#), also attached. The statement is attached and [available here](#).

We request that Monthly Meetings and other local worshipping communities consider all three items in your corporate discernment before Annual Session. To aid in your discernment, the BYM Peace and Social Concerns will be holding two information and listening sessions:

- Thursday, June 25 at 7:00 pm EST via Zoom at <https://afsc-org.zoom.us/j/84800022733?pwd=E7fbrwvIznSHnHtjclBbiJsCVCQWUR.1> (this link is also available on the BYM webpage under "Events")
- In Person, Thursday, July 30 at 4:15pm at Annual Session during Interest Groups

In addition, you may contact the Committee at Peace@bym-rsf.org.

Sincerely,

Doug Vaughn
Stony Run Friends Meeting
Clerk, BYM Peace and Social Concerns Committee
vaughndoug77@gmail.com

Steph Bean
Adelphi Friends Meeting
Presiding Clerk, BYM
YMclerk@bym-rsf.org

Shepherdstown Friends Meeting Minute on War in Iran

As members of the Quaker community in Shepherdstown, West Virginia, we are spiritual heirs to 375 years of testimony and action against all war and violence. We reaffirm the Quaker Peace Testimony of 1660 which states: "We utterly deny all outward wars and strife and fighting with outward weapons, for any end and under any pretense whatsoever. And this is our testimony to the whole world."

As Quakers, we believe in the sacred worth of all individuals. This belief underlies our Peace Testimony and leads us to acts of compassion and support for anyone who is suffering. A sustainable and workable peace requires understanding and addressing the root causes and differences that drive nations to war.

As a spiritual community, we call for an immediate and permanent ceasefire, and a commitment to diplomacy and peacebuilding. We join the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL), the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), and other Quakers in urging the United States Government to pursue non-violent pathways to peace through diplomacy, international cooperation, and peacebuilding actions:

- **Immediate Ceasefire:**
Congress should prioritize an immediate and permanent ceasefire and reject billions in funding for war. Expanding military funding risks further civilian casualties and human suffering.
- **Humanitarian Concerns:**
We mourn the deaths of Iranian civilians and U.S. service members. We condemn the U.S. missile strike that reportedly killed over 100 girls at an Iranian school. We decry the destruction of schools, houses, power plants, bridges, and basic infrastructure, which violates both U.S. law and international law. We abhor genocidal threats "to wipe out a whole civilization."
- **Congressional Action:**
Shepherdstown Friends Meeting opposes all war. We urge Congress to assert its constitutional authority to take action to ensure that no president can unilaterally lead the nation into war. Bypassing Congress in decisions on war and peace prevents the debate and the time needed to understand the root causes of conflicts and to find non-violent resolutions.
- **Diplomacy Must Be the Path Forward:**
Diplomacy, negotiations, and sustained international cooperation are the only viable path forward to military de-escalation, regional stability, and lasting peace.

Adopted by the Shepherdstown Friends Meeting, WV, May 10, 2026

<https://shepherdstownfriends.org/where-we-stand>