

Annapolis Friends Monthly Meeting (AFM)
Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business (MfB)
Tenth Month, Fourth
Day, 2026 (10/4/26)

Present were: Ellen McBride (clerk), Phil Caroom (recording clerk), Ben Killgore, Martha Baer, Cindy Barry, Barb Thomas, Jean Christianson, Nan & Sky Elsbree, Lisa & Jon Hall, Fahima Gaheez, Karen Cunnyingham, Mike Baker, Sylvia Oliva, Martha Lurz, Kathy Trimmer, Kim Finch, Marcia Ormsby, Ruth Slavin, Dan Campbell, Majorie Kehoe, Phyllis Singer, Angela Hicks, Margaret Holmes, Kathleen Hudson, Judy Brown, Cairn Krafft, C.Jaye Mills,, Jeanne Ward, Ivan Torres, Steve Poe, Betty Sue Salvia, Dot Walizer, Jenny Isaacs and Nancy Jo Steetle.

We met both in person and via Zoom, beginning worship with centering silence and a display of Faith and Practice queries as to our peace testimony. Our clerk also reminded us that it is “World Quaker Day” with a focus on our peace testimony. In introductory comments, our Clerk also reviewed our anti-racist queries and welcomed Friends to our Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business (MfB).

As Recording Clerk, Phil Caroom presented our draft minutes from 9/6/26 MfB. Friends approved these minutes with a few amendments. Final approved version attached.

For Ministry & Pastoral Care (M&PC) Committee, Martha Baer reported that Mike Baker is seeking membership and a clearness committee for this purpose has been named.

For Quaker Market Committee (QMC), Cairn Krafft reported that the Quaker Market Committee is grateful to the AFM community for the thoughtful recommendations provided for consideration during the recent Quaker Holiday Market beneficiary discernment meeting. The discernment meeting resulted in the following recommendations for beneficiaries that align with our Quaker values and testimonies: the first \$250 to be allocated to Young Friends for their own discernment process, with 20% of the remainder allocated to each of the following five beneficiaries: Afghan Women’s Fund (AWF), AFM Building Fund, Fossil Fuel Treaty Initiative (FFTI), Friends Publishing Corporation (Friends Journal, Quaker Speak, Quaker Today Podcast), and the Wanda Alston Foundation. Friends are invited to attend Quaker Holiday Market on the first Saturday in December, 12.05.2026, and stay tuned for aspects of Market preparations that might bring them joy. (A longer version of this report is attached.)

For the Trustees, Phil Caroom also advised that a formal Request for Proposals (RFP) has been prepared to send to three architects who previously have sent us informal proposals, as well as some area African-American architects consistent with our anti-racism testimony. Responding to Friends’ suggestion, Phil also noted that women architects will receive the RFP. Once such architect proposals are received, Trustees request that AFM should form two workgroups who under Trustees’ supervision, first, would coordinate and oversee any later-approved work with architects, builders and engineers and, second, would explore and potentially make arrangements for possible financing and fundraising for an addition.¹ The groups would maintain steady

¹ NOTE: Trustees are referring to these groups as: 1) The Annapolis Building Coordination (ABC) workgroup will assist AFM Trustees and Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business (MfB) to: a) select the most appropriate contractors for possible addition design, general contractor and subcontractor roles – using a competitive bid process, specific criteria, and bearing in mind AFM’s anti-racist declaration. b) Within any construction process, ABC members designated by Trustees possibly may act as liaisons between Trustees and contractors to convey

communications with Trustees; the groups, together with Trustees, would provide monthly updates to MfB. Trustees have not yet recruited any Friends about serving on these two groups yet, pending MfB approval of these arrangements; these groups would be selected by Trustees on the basis of their experience with such matters and availability to spend significant time that would be required. One Friend asked if consultation with our original architect Evan Lippincott was planned; Phil responded that this is part of Trustees' plan with hourly compensation for Evan within the previously approved \$25,000 budget. Another Friend asked to clarify that the decision definitely to build has not been made; Trustees affirm that these next steps still are part of the information gathering process. Friends approved formation of these two ad hoc groups. Another Friend reminded us that we hope to include younger Friends (50 years and under) and attenders in this process.

For Stewardship & Finance (S&F) Committee, Jenny Isaacs reassured Friends that the Committee is ready to serve the Meeting with our impending FY2027 budget process in November and December. A Friend asked for the slideshow presented at a recent meeting for learning; Jenny promised to send out this link and post it on the AFM website's S&F webpage.

As to our Chesapeake Quarterly Meeting (CQM), Marcia Ormsby, who represented AFM at CQM, reported that Quarterly Meeting was held at Deer Creek Monthly Meeting in Darlington (Harford County), Md., last First Day. The meeting was well attended despite a nearby nor'easter. One highlight was that one Meeting is holding an 18 month learning process based on the recent Pendle Hill pamphlet "Patterns of Racial Wounding and Healing." Other meetings reported special efforts to welcome the LGBTQ+ community; sharing in breakout groups also was held after lunch. (The AFM report to CQM and the full report of the Quarterly Meeting are attached.)

For Communications & Outreach Committee, Barb Thomas reported on AFM Friends' participation in yesterday's local PRIDE festival, thanks to the organizational skills of Bonnie Peregoy. She also noted that AFM participates in a group of churches (Anne Arundel Affirming Alliance - AAAA) organizing to support LGBTQ+ folks; Derrick Williams and Diane Shandor are our current representatives to AAAA. We will ask that AFM's name be added to the AAAA flyer.

Other activities: Another Friend thanked Ben Killgore, Bonnie Peregoy and Kit Hanley for their organizing of Friends recent Friday game nights. Other Friends shared this appreciation. Another thanked Marjorie Kehoe and Green Group for their effort coordinating redbud seed harvesting this past weekend. And another reminded Friends that we have more and more children in our First Day School and volunteering there is fun!

information and concerns in relation to specific decisions needed, change orders, and other communications requiring timely responses. c) All decision-related communications will be put in written form for prompt review by Trustees. d) With Trustees' concurrence, ABC shall provide monthly written progress reports to MfB.

2) The Finance Option Reports Which Are Ready for Decision (FORWARD) workgroup will: a) report both to Trustees and S&F as to potential Quaker lending and grant sources, as well as internal fundraising campaign ideas before contractor & bids are received and considered by Trustees and MfB; and b) assuming Trustees and MfB agree to proceed with the addition, when a contractor is selected and a construction contract is signed, FORWARD will assist with preparation of financing applications for any loans or grants, and c) will organize an AFM fundraising drive with assistance from S&F by seeking pledges and preparing graphic / written materials to explain the fundraising goals to AFM members, attenders and others who might contribute. d) FORWARD's mission will be completed when sufficient financing is in-place for completion of the addition with follow-up implementation of loan payoffs being the responsibility of S&F.

For Communications & Outreach Committee, Angela Hicks also reported on AFM participation in the recent Kunte Kinte festival; despite the event being rain-shortened, Angela prepared amazing posters (can be viewed in the foyer) and AFM's website as to Black Quaker Voices (BQV) in history and today. Friends thanked Angela for this wonderful contribution. Another Friend suggested that we share this BQV display with BYM and Pendle Hill.

For Meeting House and Land (MHL) committee, Jeanne Ward reported that the accessible parking renovation is in committee and "significant progress has been made", although no money has been spent. The tiles for our new flooring are "in transit somewhere on the Atlantic Ocean" and will be installed when they arrive; there possibly could be a change in price due to tariffs. Kim also reported on a workshop by the Md. Energy Administration that encourages electrification with a grant program— just opening this week— for nonprofit and church organizations. MHL is looking for possible applications for such energy-related grant funding; perhaps, these might include renovation of our solar and EV equipment.

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

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Silent Announcements

- October
 - 4 (1st Day/Sunday),
 - 11 am, World Quaker Day of Worship & MfW
 - 12:30 pm, Potluck
 - 6, North County Worship at 7 pm
 - 8, Spiritual Friends Group at 4 pm
 - 9 - 12, DaySpring Silent Retreat
 - 9, Game Night 6 pm
 - 10, Bartram's Buddies (Work Day)
 - 11, Committee Clerks' Meeting 9:15
 - 16 (3rd Friday)
 - 6 pm, The Friendlies, Zoom only
 - 6 pm, Game Night
 - 25, Friends Writing Together, at 12:30 pm

Quaker Market Committee Report for MWAB 10th month

The Quaker Market Committee is grateful to the AFM community for the thoughtful recommendations provided for consideration during the recent Quaker Holiday Market beneficiary discernment meeting. The discernment meeting resulted in the following recommendations for beneficiaries that align with our Quaker values and testimonies:

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

Of the remainder, 20% to each of the following five beneficiaries:

- Afghan Women's Fund (AWF)
- AFM Building Fund
- Fossil Fuel Treaty Initiative (FFTI)
- Friends Publishing Corporation (Friends Journal, Quaker Speak, Quaker Today Podcast)
- Wanda Alston Foundation.

Since one of the goals of the Quaker Market Committee is to provide education regarding the beneficiaries, as well as funds, here is some background on each.

Afghan Women's Fund (AWF), with AFM's own Fahima Gaheez as Director, continues to find creative ways to provide hope and empowerment for women in Afghanistan, at a time when so many rights and freedoms have been stripped away. AWF's current projects are small, typically involving 20-25 women per project, but adding up to 100's of women who are being helped to start small businesses to help bring in money to support their families. Two types of businesses that AWF is currently focusing on are soap making and drying fruits and vegetables that can be sold at local markets. The dried fruits and vegetables reduce food waste and provide a source of produce in areas where the winters are harsh and fresh produce is unavailable. Considering the losses over the years for Afghan women, the courage our own Fahima has shown in saving girls' and women's lives and futures, and Fahima's translation of help at this time to be women's preservation of food for their own survival and economic opportunity, there was unity during the discernment that there could not be a more worthy beneficiary. <https://www.afghanwomensfund.org/>

The recommendation to include the **AFM Building Fund** as a beneficiary for Quaker Holiday Market 2026 is designed to honor and support the spiritually based process the AFM community continues as it discerns whether and how we might feel called to build an addition to our existing meetinghouse.

The **Fossil Fuel Treaty Initiative (FFTI)** is an alliance of nation states and a global network of civil society organizations advocating for a new binding legal instrument to drive a fast and fair global transition away from oil, coal and gas. They are supported by a diverse global network that includes thousands of health professionals, youth activists (including AFM's own Kallan Benson), social justice advocates, and civil society leaders. This movement also includes indigenous leaders, businesses, cities and subnational governments, and over a million individuals worldwide. As the recommender notes, it contributes to helping a global project initiated by mostly indigenous people around the world—a

project to take care of our Earth and all life, based on a deep spiritual movement for life. AFM's support of this project can provide hope for ourselves and for those people who are poorest and most vulnerable to climate change. It is also a way for the AFM community to embrace our environmentalist and anti-racist values (including anti-indigenous racism). This cause was endorsed by the Green Group.
<https://www.fossilfuel treaty.org/>

Friends Publishing Corporation has a mission to share the modern Quaker experience in order to connect and deepen spiritual lives, providing individuals and congregations worldwide a way to learn from and share that of God in each person. This is accomplished through three different avenues of communication: Friends Journal (a monthly print and digital magazine of Quaker thought and life, featuring first-person stories, art, poetry, and news), QuakerSpeak (a bi-weekly Quaker video project by Friends Journal that shares authentic Quaker voices through online video), and Quakers Today (a podcast exploring Quaker faith in contemporary life, featuring writers, musicians, and thinkers who are seeking wisdom and understanding in a rapidly changing world). An additional project, Quaker.org, provides an informational website offering basic resources about the Religious Society of Friends. These avenues of communication provide a phenomenal way to “get the word out” about who we are and to learn, ourselves, about a range of Quaker perspectives. It's a way to promote discovery of Friends by the younger generations, communicating through the most promising media.
<https://www.friendsjournal.org/>

The **Wanda Alston Foundation** provides housing, support services, and pathways to economic mobility for at-risk and homeless LGBTQ+ youth in the Nation's capital. The Foundation was formed in 2008 to honor the life and legacy of Wanda Renita Alston, a fierce LGBTQ+ activist, feminist, and organizer. The Wanda Alston Foundation was the first to establish a housing program for homeless LGBTQ+ youth in DC. Since 2008, they have helped over 200 LGBTQ+ youth prepare for life beyond their housing program by supporting them every step of the way toward independence. Their 20 residents in the apartment-style housing program work closely with a case manager to create a personalized plan that outlines their goals, from achieving stable housing to long-term aspirations such as completing their high school education, attending college, or building a career. Their goal is simple: to make sure every young person leaves their program with not just a place to live, but tools, confidence, and experience to thrive on their own. Another key program is the Foundation's Nine-to-Fine Initiative. Inspired by Dolly Parton's iconic 9 to 5, the Foundation launched the Nine-to-Fine Workforce Initiative to support LGBTQ+ young people in building and sustaining interest-aligned careers that advance education and long-term economic mobility. Nine-to-Fine is a structured workforce and education program designed for young people living at the Foundation's housing facility. The program supports participants as they move from unemployment or under-employment into meaningful work, education, or training aligned with their interests and goals. AFM's support of this beneficiary would provide a good way to practically serve local LGBTQ+ youth in their most vulnerable situation: homelessness, through an organization valued by those established in the field.
<https://wandaalstonfoundation.org/>

There will be many ways for Friends to support AFM's Quaker Holiday Market and beneficiaries, so please stay tuned to see what aspects might bring you joy to participate in. The Market date is 12.05.26.

Chesapeake Quarterly Meeting (CQM) minutes -
held 9/27/26 at Deer Creek Friends Meeting

After some technical difficulties, we met in person and virtually on 9/27/26 at Deer Creek Monthly Meeting (DCMM) – beginning with some hymn-singing (A Song of Peace and 2. Walk in the Light also known as “the George Fox song”) in DCMM’s tradition. About 25 Friends from six monthly meetings participated including Annapolis (Marcia Ormsby and Phil Caroom), Deer Creek (approximately 15), Gunpowder (Reb Pickard), Homewood (Donna & John McKusick), Patapsco (Jeff Soulen and Ken Stockbridge) and Stony Run (Laura McGuire).

With an introduction by Ken Stockbridge, we held an informal meeting for sharing shortly after 10 a.m. as to developments among local meetings. He noted that longtime BYM Douglas Eaby recently passed away and encouraged Friends to hold his family in the light. The local meeting reports included the following:

On behalf of Annapolis Friends Meeting (AFM), Marcia Ormsby offered a 3 page written report (attached). Highlights included recent storm damage to grounds and Meeting House, a series of well-attended meetings-for-learning on Quaker testimonies, the annual May “Quaker Spring Market” and preparations for a December “Quaker Holiday Market,” and initiation of a weekly Fridays “game night.” Plans for possible building of an addition to the Meeting House have reached unity to go to the next step, approving a budget to work with an architect to design accessible restrooms, more storage, and more worship space. Yesterday, despite bad weather, 25 Annapolis Friends participated in Annapolis’ annual Kunte Kinte Festival with a presentation on Black Quaker Voices. Ongoing programs include a book discussion group, Friends Writing Together, and more.

On behalf of Deer Creek Monthly Meeting (DCMM), Grace Maccarelli reported that long-time Friend Harriet Holloway recently passed away and a memorial service was held in April; a marriage ceremony was celebrated more recently, and a new member (Patricia Ernest) was welcomed. A community Juneteenth Celebration was joined by the Meeting. The Meeting’s annual Blueberry Festival was joined by many other community groups; it included presentations on Friends testimonies. A new DCMM website was recently launched; the Meeting also maintains a social media presence. This fall, plans are being made for a pumpkin-minigolf game to be offered at the Stepping Stone Farm Museum Fall Festival, **October 10th, 11am–4pm**. Plans also are underway for a drive-through live nativity one day (December 6 or 7) at the Meeting House with a live choir of angels and camel-impersonators.

For Gunpowder MM, Rep (locally “Rebecca”) Pickard reported that the Meeting continues participation in the McKim Center tutoring program this year, also offering a weekend summer camp to students. A recent marriage recently was performed under care of the Meeting. “Quaker Essentials” classes are offered on the third Thursday each month at 6:30 pm with “Quiet Days” on the second Saturdays (9am - 3pm).

For Homewood MM, Malachy Kilbride reported that the Meeting is a “bustling lively place” with 60 to 70 regularly attending meetings for worship and 25 at meetings for business– more than before the pandemic. In June, the Meeting held a marriage celebration and recently has marked 3 Friends’ deaths. The nursery now is full of children and a First Day School program welcomes 1st through 8th graders. There is a lively Young Adult Friends program. This summer, the Meeting joined with other peace groups to mark Hiroshima Day and Nagasaki Day; this included a public vigil in front of Johns Hopkins University as researchers at the school actively participate in U.S. nuclear programs. Other regular activities at HMM include a Quaker Foundations program, Spiritual Formation, and an active LBGT group holding “Queer Quaker Potlucks” with more than 15 attendance. The latter group also recently offered a program on “drag as a spiritual process” with an out-of-state speaker from a non-Quaker church. They also noted that the Meeting House recently participated in the Charles Village Garden tour with many visitors.

On behalf of Little Falls Friends Meeting, Mike – reported that the Meeting has been engaged in restructuring its committees to match those Friends participating. It has been a busy summer with a wedding under the care of the Meeting, two memorial services, some visitors from out-of-state doing historic research at the Meeting House burial ground.

For Patapsco Monthly Meeting (PMM), Jeff Soulen and Ken Stockbridge reported. A marriage was completed at the Meeting last week although, days before, the bride was diagnosed with COVID. Two other Friends met with the couple and held a 4 person wedding with masks and social distancing; the couple hopes to hold a more elaborate wedding some day in the future. This year, PMM has adopted a four-person clerking committee in lieu of a single Clerk of Meeting. There was a camping expedition last week and more children than in recent memory in the First Day School. The annual nominating process is in progress, making contact with every member of the Meeting, asking them about their individual spiritual journeys, and how they see themselves participating in the Meeting. “People actually look forward to calls from the Nominating Friends!” in the nature of spiritual support and nurture. Friendly Eights dinners also are being held in different groups (sometimes called, “Friendly gatherings” if more than 8).

For Stony Run MM, Laura McGuire SRMM asked Patapsco Nominating Friends if they’d share their questions. At SRMM, she noted, the annual Jazz Concert is coming up – now on a First Day (10/18/26) beginning at 2 pm with a reception and music at 3 pm; the featured band is “Dizzy Spells” with trumpet and tap, channeling Dizzy Gillespie and Afro-Futurism. Friends involved with the camping community will present a bonfire and camp songs on November 15th, 4pm; all are invited. New members continue to arrive–“a joy and a challenge...with new energy changing who we are. We are aware that we’ve relied on the same group of leaders for many years – some ready to turn over leadership, others not as ready. So, the Meeting is exploring ways to raise people up” with Quaker basics education on the 3rd First Day of every month. SRMM is working with Daquanna Harrison to read and implement the suggestions of “Patterns of Racial Wounding” (Pendle Hill Pamphlet 4954) and now is months into an expected 18 month process. SRMM also has a couple of building projects, getting bids to update the Meeting House HVAC system, external staircase repair, technology upgrades, and repairs at the Friends Burial Ground on Harford Road. A safety and security consultant recently prepared an extensive report on these issues and Friends are laboring with the balance between values and security plans.

Finally, she noted, Friends are invited to SRMM 12/6, 13 and 20th to join annual Christmas carol singing.

Ken noted our next CQM will take place in February. Written reports referred to in this Chesapeake Quarterly Meeting may be submitted for attachment to **ChesapeakeQM@gmail.com**.

We closed with a few minutes of centering silence and transitioned to Meeting for Worship. After a rich meeting for worship from 11 a.m. to shortly after noon, Friends enjoyed a bountiful potluck lunch followed by small groups for sharing via queries curated from the Thomas Gates’ pamphlet “Members One of Another” (Pendle Hill 371). These queries were a wonderful way to gather to nourish our bodies and souls. What emerged were four principles of successful meetings for worship building a growing beloved community:

1. Acceptance
2. Shared Values
3. Transformation
4. Forbearance

-These minutes respectfully submitted by Phil Caroom and Marcia Ormsby.

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NOTE: [Annapolis Friends Meeting 9/27/26 report is attached here](#).

Chesapeake Quarterly Meeting

September 27, 2026

Location: Deer Creek Friends Meeting

Monthly Meeting Sharing

Annapolis Friends Meeting

- The Adult Religious Education (ARE) group provided six 1.5-hour sessions on the **Quaker Testimonies**. The series was a success.
- The **storm damage** from the tornado-like winds that blew down 8 trees, crushed 16 sections of wooden fences, blew off 10 sections of the solar array, removed roofing tiles and a twelve foot section of rain gutter on the building is not yet repaired. The tree sections were removed.
- The annual AFM **Quaker Spring Market** (1st Saturday in May) was a tremendous amount of fun for many people and a blockbuster financially with the highest net proceeds recorded for any Quaker Spring Market (which tend to bring in less than Quaker Holiday Markets - 1st Saturday in December). 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 discernment regarding if Annapolis Friends Meeting should build an **extension** continues and \$25,000 was approved on September 6 to hire an architectural firm to provide drawings, so that more accurate cost estimates can be obtained.

- **Accessibility** for the 30+ year building is on our minds. Electronic accessible doors and an accessible ramp at the side door were installed. Next for consideration is the accessible parking area that is currently non-ADA compliant.
- The 30+ year **cork floor** in the multi-purpose / worship room has needed replacement for more than 6-years. The contract was signed and the contractor is scheduled to install the new floor by the end of October 2026. We will be replacing the old cork floor with new, fresh cork hopefully in the same pattern as was used in 1993.
- Recently, AFM scheduled a **Game Night** for members, attenders and their friends. The hope is to attract a younger group to the meetinghouse. The first Game Night will be held on Friday, September 25. The flyer states: Games Quakers Play! Board, card, trading-card, role-playing, and social games. We ask you to leave impatience, intolerance, and alcohol/THC/etc. at home, and just have some fun with people.
 - Play any of our games, or ones you bring
 - Open to all ages (kid-inclusive and kid-free play available)
 - Child care available
 - Anti-bigotry (Quakers are anti-racist and always welcome all ages, abilities, genders, sexualities, ethnicities, nationalities, and faith/non-faith backgrounds)
 - Alcohol/THC/etc. — free
- The Communications & Outreach Committee has been active with maintaining the website, media sites and group emails, as well as organizing participation in festivals.
 - **Kunta Kinte Festival** coming up on the 26th of September which will include giving local high school students the opportunity to earn service hours by joining our booth. This year our booth will feature **Black Quaker Voices: THEN • NOW • WORLD**, sharing the stories of historic Black Friends, introducing Black Friends living and serving in our communities today, and recognizing the global presence of Friends, particularly in Africa .

- The **Annapolis Pride Festival** will be on October 3rd and AFM will have our own booth at the same time as helping to serve at the Anne Arundel Affirming Alliance table with some of our interfaith F(f)riends. An AFM member, Bonnie, will paint faces at both festivals and we will have free water without plastics and lots of literature to hand out!
- The **Green Group**, nested in the Meetinghouse and Lands Committee, pursues spiritual learning from nature and stewardship of all life, organizing environmental initiatives (postcard campaigns, composting, garden care, eco-product displays) with IPC support, hosting events (One Water Partnership Hub, bird walk, rain barrel workshop, native plantings), seeking sustainable building practices, Edible Trail maintenance, a Native Tree Seed Harvest, and endorsements for the Fossil Fuel Treaty Initiative.
- Monthly, AFM enjoys meaningful social activities that connect us like:
 - A **book discussion group** (most recent book discussion was on one written by Judy Brown, a member of AFM, “The Choice: Seasons of Loss and Renewal After a Father's Decision to Die”),
 - **Spiritual Friends Group** patterned after the Spiritual Friends Program,
 - **Friends Writing Together**, and
 - the weekly **Fifth Night Light** where F/friends and family are prayed for and held in the Light.