

Annapolis Friends Monthly Meeting (AFM)
Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business (MfW wAtB)
4th Month, 5th Day, 2020
(04/05/2020)
Meeting Minutes - Approved

Note: The MfW wAtB was conducted using Zoom.

Present: Martha B. (clerk), Ellen M. (recording clerk), Carl B. (Zoom host), Ria H., Jean C., Dot W., Mary B., Sky E., Nan E., Mary B., Cairn K., Margaret H., Wes J., Sylvia O., Tom W., Julie T., Barb T., Karen C., Larry M., Sheila M., Peter M., Pat S., Joan M., Margaret C., Will C., Jeanne W., Phil C., Lee L., Kim F., Jennifer D., Marcia O., Doug M., Patty R., Kim B.

9:00 am Opening: We began with centering silent worship followed by the clerk welcoming all and calling out a roll call to allow everyone that came in using a phone to know who was participating. The 4th Month Queries from Baltimore Yearly Meeting Faith and Practice (revised 2001) were sent by email to the AFM Announce List prior to the meeting. The clerk shared her screen to show the agenda and explain some suggested ways to raise your hand.

Agenda Items:

1. Meeting Minutes from 03/01/2020:

- a. The recording clerk presented the 3rd month MfW wAtB Meeting Minutes with a request for approval. The minutes were not finalized at the end of the meeting last month. However, the draft of the minutes was distributed with a request for feedback and any changes. Two responses were received prior to March 15, 2020 and corrections made. At this, the 4th month MfW wAtB, the 3rd month meeting minutes were approved during the meeting with the noted word change and will be distributed with the 4th month's meeting minutes. See attached.
 - i. A friend noted that suggested word changes from the last meeting had not been included in the minutes: "slave" to "people who were enslaved" and "People who captured and enslaved human beings."

2. AFM Change Group:

- a. On behalf of the AFM Change Group, Phil C. reviewed the "Declaration as an Anti-Racist Faith Community" for AFM (The AFM Declaration) that was emailed to the AFM Announce List prior to the MfW wAtB. Based on discernment during our March 2020 Meeting for Business, the Change group respectfully brought forth the attached version of the Declaration as an Anti-Racist Faith Community. The minute is intended to be a living document that will help guide AFM when making decisions, any decision, to make for a more just world. This is intended to be an ongoing discussion. Although the Meeting embraced the Minute itself in March, the Change group requests approval to adopt the full document. See attachment.
 - i. Friends offered further enlightenment with regards to the actual wording of the George Fox quote and suggested that the whole quote should be included in the Background section and that "should be patterns and examples, so that we can" be added before "walk cheerfully...that of God in everyone" under the Recommended actions to better align with the meaning of the quote.

- ii. A friend suggested that the portion of the George Fox quote that is not included in the Declaration has to do with being a blessing to others and "... whereby and then you will be a blessing and them bless you."
- iii. A friend reminded Meeting that there was a minute approved by AFM a long while ago to hire people based on Affirmative Action (i.e., hiring minority contractors).
 - 1. A friend suggested that we keep these principles before us, so that the principles that were adopted are not filed, but continue to be used at each meeting.
- iv. A friend reminded that honoring African American Month was one way that AFM has already started to implement the Declaration as an Anti-Racist Faith Community.
- v. With the two suggestions listed above, the Meeting was in unity and the full document was approved and adopted.

3. Request for Maintenance Expenditure:

- a. On behalf of Meeting House & Land (MH&L), Kim F. shared several items to bring to Meeting, including:
 - i. The meetinghouse has been closed to all renters as per the State order and will not reopened until at least May 1st.
 - ii. Care of Meeting is assigned to Peace and Social Concerns during the 4th month, but they do not need to come by. Kim will be taking care of the meetinghouse until it reopens for use.
 - iii. Rentals have dropped off due to the current crisis and there will be an estimated \$4,000 loss in rentals this year.
 - 1. A friend suggested that AFM should not worry about the funding and know that we will be okay; funds will come in and we may need to cut some expenses.
 - iv. Spring workday was planned for April 25, but will not be held as an organized event. If individuals would like to complete some of the needed tasks, they are welcome to come by at any time and work at the meetinghouse independently. This could be a good time to organize the Market supplies in the attic.
 - v. There is a request for expenditures regarding exterior doors that need to be repaired. The information was provided in advance by email to the AFM Announce List that explained that there are five (5) exterior doors that need to be repaired. MH&L was requesting funding to make the repairs. The estimate is \$250 – 300 per door for a grand total of between \$1,250 and \$1,500.
 - 1. A friend clarified that M&L could repair the doors out of their currently approved operating budget that has at least \$1,000. The category of maintenance and repair would be appropriate.
 - 2. A friend requested that Meeting consider the AFM Minute related to the Affirmative Action and the new Declaration as an Anti-Racist Faith Community when hiring contract workers. The discussion followed about using the Minutes that are established.
 - a. A friend suggested that MH&L might develop a list of contractors that we could use going forward and who met the expectation of the two Minutes.
 - 3. The Meeting reached unity and approved the funding to repair the five (5) exterior doors with recommendation that MH&L further consult with Stewardship & Finance on where to draw the sources of funds.

4. Ministry and Worship (M&W):

- a. On behalf of M&W, Tom W. read the joyful minute: “A clearness committee met to consider Kim Benson's application for membership. The committee included Phil C., Sue P., Wes J., Cairn K., Jean C. and Bonnie P. We had a vibrant discussion with Kim, about her spiritual journey, her family, her future aspirations, and where she sees herself as a member of Annapolis Friends meeting. We talked about the incredible service and gifts which she and her family have already brought to the Meeting, including her own clerking of Children's Religious Education. M&W would like to joyfully accept Kimberly Benson into membership at Annapolis Friends Meeting.”
 - i. Jean C expressed unity and joy with the process.
 - ii. Kim's membership was warmly and jubilantly accepted.
 - iii. Kim expressed her own appreciation to Meeting.
- b. It was announced that the Easter event will be on Zoom, as well as the 11:00 am MfW and Meeting for Learning. In addition, Early Worship (8:00 am) will take place without any technology from each friend's separate location.

5. FCNL Priorities:

- a. On behalf of Peace & Social Concerns (P&SC) Committee, Phil C. presented the first draft of the suggested legislative priorities that the P&SC Committee supported. Historically, the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) requests Monthly Meetings to discern and provide a list of legislative priorities for FCNL to consider for the next two years. P&SC Committee requested AFM as a whole to consider the list and provide feedback. The intent is to hopefully come to unity at AFM prior to sending the list to FCNL. The list of legislative priorities was emailed in advance of the meeting using the AFM Announce List. See attached.
 - i. Note: FCNL has extended their due date for the input to May 1, 2020.
 - ii. Discussion included some suggestions for other legislative priorities, including improving and repairing justice system for immigrants and pandemic preparedness.
 - iii. While Meeting generally approved of the list, there was not time to hear from everyone, incorporate changes and reach unity. P&SC welcomes additional suggestions for improvement and will discuss input at their April 23 committee meeting. Individuals were encouraged to submit legislative priorities to FCNL independently of AFM's list.

Closing: AFM MfW wAtB ended without finalizing the minutes. The draft minutes will be distributed after the clerk and recording clerk can finalize the minutes. The meeting ended with centering silence.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen M., Recording Clerk

ATTACHMENTS:

- AFM MfW wAtB 3rd Month Meeting Minutes – Approved
- AFM Minute a Declaration as an Anti-Racist Faith Community
- FCNL List of Legislative Priorities, Draft from P&SC
- Silent Announcements (emailed in advance on the AFM Announce List)

Declaration as an Anti-Racist Faith Community - Minute, and Queries adopted by Annapolis Friends Meeting (AFM) on 4/ 5 / 20 [8th draft]

Background

“Be patterns, be examples in all countries, places, islands, nations, wherever you come, that your carriage and life may preach among all sorts of people, and to them; then you will come to walk cheerfully over the world, answering that of God in every one, whereby in them you may be a blessing, and make the witness of God in them to bless you.” - statement of George Fox - 1656.

Earliest Quakers resolved to see “that of God” in others and to live their beliefs including our testimony of equality. Yet, despite our own history of persecution, many Quakers over generations joined in buying and selling **enslaved people** before reaching clearness to seek abolition, education and other **human** rights.

Today, many Friends still benefit from systems that permit lesser educational and economic opportunities for nonwhites, *de facto* racial bias in law enforcement, and other routine discrimination in daily life. So, our faith again asks Friends to answer the Biblical call to “love thy neighbors” as ourselves.

Simply “addressing racism” is too weak. We must immerse ourselves in this concern and act. Our responses must kindly, but explicitly, acknowledge, illustrate, correct, and heal this infection that too often weakens social ties and effective citizenship. To do this, we must be authentic, logical, and empathetic.

We are encouraged by a practice adopted by Baltimore Yearly Meeting (BYM), Pendle Hill, and other groups to vet each of our decisions and actions using queries based on our Quaker practice.

Minute and queries

Annapolis Friends are called on an ongoing basis to hold ourselves accountable, individually and collectively, in our decisions and practices, our actions and inaction.

Friends are urged to use queries for this purpose. For example:

1. To place our decisions in context, how do we hear the voices and include the concerns of our neighbors in our decisions and actions? Do our assumptions and stereotypes, privilege and assigned social-status impede our efforts to be in community with our neighbors?
2. To consider the impact of our decisions, how might our decisions or practices promote fairness and inclusion of those harmed by racist behavior or systems?
3. To offer a model, how do our decisions or practices fulfill our intention to be an anti-racist faith community? Do they enable us to “let our lives speak” and to be more welcoming?

Recommended actions

Friends recognize that we cannot fully understand experiences of those we do not know. Therefore, we are called to “**be patterns and examples**” so that we can “walk cheerfully over the world answering that of God in everyone.” AFM’s Change Group recommends that we adopt this Declaration as a living document that later may be changed and may be part of our learning process. The Change Group also recommends as examples that, individually and as a Meeting, we:

-Make it our custom regularly to seek visits with our African-American neighbors and others we perceive as different in their faith communities and elsewhere to listen and understand their lives and their concerns;

-Invite our neighbors, regardless of race, origin or class, to share our friendship and our communities as they are led; and

-Seek and adopt ways we can act to end racism and other harmful-isms, to undo prejudices, and to make our communities more inclusive, diverse and whole.

FCNL priorities - seven (7) x 30 words - survey due 4/10/20 5/1/20:

(NOT NECESSARILY IN PRIORITY ORDER - FOLLOWING FCNL "WORLD WE SEEK")

- 1) U.S. policies on climate change, immigration reform, mass incarceration, racial and economic justice, and international cooperation for world peace each urgently require fundamental changes.
- 2) Climate change and environmental degradation trigger widespread poverty and migration. The U.S. again must lead international efforts to reverse these trends before it is too late for our children.
- 3) Immigrants, historically and economically, have made the U.S. great. A legal pathway to citizenship, rather than inhumane detention, should be offered to "Dreamers," refugees, migrant workforce, and their families.
- 4) U.S. diplomacy & international enforcement of human rights, economic development, & nonviolent change (e.g., International Criminal Court) are needed, not U.S. Presidents' undeclared wars via drones and other weaponry.
- 5) U.S. mass incarceration and racial oppression should be addressed by marijuana decriminalization and other new, community-focused public health paradigm for policing and corrections.
- 6) Extreme concentration of wealth among few individuals and large corporations threatens U.S. democracy. Citizens' United should be repealed with requirements that any corporate political contributions be regulated or published.
- 7) U.S. individuals, families, communities, businesses and governments must respond to our ongoing racial, religious and social divides with "truth and reconciliation," studying reparations and win-win resource allocation.

Dear Friends,

Given the complexities of gathering on-line for Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business and to use our time together wisely, important updates which do not require discernment and decisions are included below and will be included in the minutes. Please follow up directly with those who submitted the reports for clarifications, questions, or discussion.

**Silent Reports submitted for
Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business
April 5th, 2020**

Quaker Market Committee Report, 4th month, 2020

In third month, the Quaker Market Committee made the sad decision to cancel Quaker Spring Market 2020, due to concerns regarding the spread of the novel corona virus, COVID-19. We are hopeful to eventually still offer plants by donation, as way opens. If you are interested, please email Cairn K. (cairnkrafft@comcast.net) to be put on an interest list. Having already made a commitment to support the four causes chosen for Quaker Spring Market (Anne Arundel County Public Schools, Food & Nutrition Services; Chesapeake Climate Action Network; Muslim Voice for Peace and Reconciliation; and South Sudan Hope Network), it is our intent to carry those causes forward to support with the next Quaker Market. We look forward with hope to Quaker Holiday Market 2020, scheduled for 5 December.

~ Submitted by Cairn K. for Market Committee

Impact of Corona Virus Cancellations on Rental Income for 2020

MHL has adopted a policy that renters who choose to cancel events in response social distancing advice -- starting at the end of February and continuing, for now, through the end of April (at this time) -- will receive the option of a refund or rescheduling of the event. As many of the event cancelled were from long-term renters, we hope that re-scheduling will be an option for many, but for right now we cannot anticipate how long this closure will continue or how it will change behavior in the future.

Sheryl G.'s current estimate is that we will lose approximately \$4000 of rental income this year due to cancellations and refunds. Three-quarters of the money is attributed to long-term renters, who we hope will return to our facility in the future, and one-quarter is one-time renters. The good news is that our reputation as a rental facility is well known in the community at this point and is not damaged by the current events. To put a positive spin on this, we plan to move forward with several project at the meetinghouse we had begun planning for, to extent the our available monies are sufficient to cover the cost, but we are also interested in doing projects that will provide employment opportunities locally, such as replacement of the floor in the multi-purpose, carpentry repairs, and other similar projects.

We know there will be many on-going discussions about what long-term effects the current experience will have on how we interact as a community in a specific physical location, and expect further adaptations to develop as we have further understanding of "the next new normal" and look forward to other suggestions that may arise.

~Submitted by Kim F. for Meetinghouse and Lands

Pastoral Care Report

1. Our hearts go out to Lo H. and John K. as they rebound from the fire in their home Tuesday evening. Many thanks to Marcia O. for alerting us and helping Lo and John work through the challenges ahead. Pastoral Care will be giving them a grant through the Emergency Fund for Suffering.

2. The Emergency Fund for Suffering is available to Annapolis Friends for emergencies such as this. It is renewed in each year's budget up to \$5,000. Here is how the policy reads:

Upon a request for assistance, the Clerk of Pastoral Care will consult with the Clerk of Stewardship and Finance and the Clerk of AFM. After consultation, the Treasurer will disburse funds at the direction of the Clerk of Pastoral Care

3. If you knew *Dorothy Kinsman Brown*, a longtime member of our meeting who passed away last week at Collington, please send memories, stories and information to Barbara T., bthomas60@comcast.net so that we can begin to compose a Memorial Minute. Nan E. has offered these recollections:

Dottie was one of the first volunteers for Lighthouse shelter. This is when they first started. She was responsible for getting AFM involved. She worked tirelessly. They started out where the Bistro is now and had volunteers stay overnight like we do during winter relief. Dottie was active in other aspects of AFM. When market was outdoors in Edgewater she helped with that. Not an easy thing a one day set up and take down. Whew! She served on various committees. Always pleasant and welcoming each first day. I can't remember any other items. Whenever we have visited Collington she has always greeted us warmly.

~ Submitted by Pastoral Care: Barb T. (clerk), Mary B., Minette C-S, Jo Anna S, Lynada J., Larry M.

Update on Zoom Meetings at AFM

We have moved at lightning speed from a community that meets in person to one that gathers on-line. It has been an impressive effort with multiple people stepping-up and stepping-in to make it all happen. Through the generosity of an anonymous donor we were able to set up a Zoom-Pro account. Several Friends have stepped forward to provide technical logistics on meetings. Others temporarily volunteered their personal accounts during time conflicts. A delightful side effect, we have had the pleasure of seeing F/friends from afar including Hawaii and South America!

Given all the rapid changes, here are some helpful things to know:

Early Worship at 8 am on the 2nd, 4th, and 5th First days: Friends are worshipping from their homes at this time, experiencing the richness of spiritual connection without technology.

11am Worship will continue to be held weekly via Zoom through Sunday, May 3. Committee clerks will be touching base in late April to assess plans beyond that time.

Children's Religious Ed is meeting via Zoom and have been joining Worship as usual at 10:50. Check with Jen D-M for more information or if you want to help.

Meetings for Learning will be starting up again in the near future. M&W will be in touch as they are scheduled.

3rd Sunday Committee Meetings: We will be setting up "rooms" for those committees that wish to meet 9:15-10:45. It would be helpful to let Martha B know in advance if you plan to meet.

Other Committee Meetings, Friendly 8s, Writer's Group and other reasons to gather: The AFM Zoom account is available for use or, if the conveners comfortable, Google hangout or a free Zoom account may work for your needs. Contact Martha B for more information.

Zoom Hosts – Ellen M, Carl B, Martha B, and Julie R can schedule Zoom meeting on the AFM account. If available, they are happy to help you during a meeting or start the meeting and turn it over to you to host.

Need Help? Ellen M has offered to set up personal meetings with anyone who wants support with Zoom or Google Hangout meetings or chats.

Friendly Zoom Hints: To help make Meeting for Worship go smoothly, a few suggestions:

Before 11:

- Have your tea, coffee or other beverage ready and in hand.
- Come on in and find a comfortable place to sit.
- Rename your Zoom name, if desired.
- If you are calling in, we will see your phone number. Ask the Zoom host to change it to your name.

During Worship:

- Remember that movements are distracting during worship. If you must move around (e.g., stand, move to another location, interact someone at home), please turn off your camera.
 - When sharing a message, be sure to say your name first.
-

Helping Each Other

As we mourn the loss of our physical presence together at Meeting, opportunities emerge for us to find ways to maintain connection and community. It is important for each of us to reach out to others to check in on how each other is doing.

In an effort to make sure that everyone feels embraced and connected and has the support they need, here are **some additional points of contact:**

1. **Those in need of Light & Support:** **Mary B.** has agreed to be a first point of contact and resource for anyone who is feeling a need to be “held in the Light.” She will help connect you with others, if needed, and she compiles Fifth Night Light if you desire to be held in the Light by the AFM community.
2. **Those in need of Spiritual Connection:** **Jean C.** has offered to connect with you if you are looking for ways to continue spiritual connections even when we are not meeting together face-to-face.
4. **Those with Medical Concerns:** Feel free to contact **Marcia O.** if you are feeling uncertain (or panicky) about a medical concern. She has offered to help sort through options and identify resources you might find helpful. The final choices are yours, of course, but sometimes it is helpful to have someone knowledgeable to talk through medical questions with.
5. **Those needing Services:** There have already been a number people offering to pick up groceries, serve as a buddy to those who live alone, or help in other ways. Is there some help you are needing? Feel free to contact **Barbara T.** who will help match your needs with the services offered. Have a service you’d like to offer? Contact Barb to let her know the ways you are called to help.
6. **Those needing help with Zoom or Google Hangouts:** **Ellen M** has offered to assist anyone who needs support gaining comfort with online conferencing.
7. **Those with Great Ideas:** It’s exciting to think of the creative ways community, communication and connecting can emerge in this unusual time. If you’d like some help thinking through an idea or see a need that needs addressing, feel free to contact **Martha B.**

Contact information is available in the AFM Directory or e-mail clerk@annapolisfriends.org for help with connecting to the right person.

We will find our way through this together. We will care for one another along the way. We will be a stronger community for tackling the challenges together.

Queries for 4th Month - Personal Way of Life

Do you live in accordance with your spiritual convictions? Do you seek employment consistent with your beliefs and in service to society? Do you practice simplicity in speech, dress and manner of living, avoiding wasteful consumption? Are you watchful that your possessions do not rule you? Do you strive to be truthful at all times, avoiding judicial oaths?

Do you strive to develop your physical, emotional and mental capacities toward reaching your Divinely given potential? Do you cultivate healthful and moderate habits, avoiding the hazards of drugs, intoxicants, and over-indulgence generally? Do you try to direct such emotions as anger and fear in creative ways?

BYM Faith & Practice, 1988 (revised 2001)