

Annapolis Friends Monthly Meeting (AFM)
Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business (MfW wAtB)
1st Month, 3rd Day, 2021
(01/03/2021)
Meeting Minutes - Approved

Note: The MfW wAtB was conducted using Zoom.

Present: Martha B. (clerk), Ellen M. (recording clerk), Carl B., Ann R., Sheila M., Margaret H., Jack L., Nan E., Sky E., Pat S., Mary B., Jenn M., Wes J., Ria H., Karen C., Tom W., Peter M., Margaret C., Will C., Marcia O., Dot W., Barb T., Jeanne W., Ted R., Jo Anne S., Jean C., Cairn K., Phil C., Fran P., Larry M., Pat H., Stephen P., Marjorie K., Ruth S., and Bonnie P.

9:00 am Opening: We began with centering silent worship. The 1st Month Queries from Baltimore Yearly Meeting Faith and Practice (revised 2001) were displayed on the screen. The clerk wished everyone a Happy New Year and welcomed all in attendance.

The clerk provided her reflections with regards to the previous year, including the sense that 2020 was a remarkable year for both transformation and stability. There were many tasks that we were challenged to identify, plan and make changes. Our community rose to the occasion in remarkable ways. For the future, the clerk, shared that she believes that there will be many more opportunities to invest our gifts. She expressed her gratitude for all that we've done and hopes that we, as a community, can further live into our commitment to be an Anti-Racist Faith Community.

The clerk shared our Declaration to be an Anti-Racist Faith Community and read the queries that we are committed to use while making decisions.

Agenda:

1. 12th Month MfW wAtB Meeting Minutes Review & Approve:

- a. The meeting minutes were approved from the previous meeting held on 12/06/2020 provided the requested changes were incorporated. See the attached. The minutes were sent prior to the meeting via email. The minutes were approved.

2. Quaker Holiday Market:

On behalf of Quaker Holiday Market, Cairn K. expressed gratitude and provided a yearend report (see attached). Without the ability to conduct in-person Quaker Markets this year, thought was put into finding a way to bring joy to those offering items and those receiving the items. The Young Friends received \$200 from combined Spring and Holiday Quaker Markets and they supported four causes of their own discernment as reported at the 2020 12th month MfW. From the 2020 Quaker Holiday Market, four

causes were financially supported with \$850 each (i.e., Chesapeake Climate Action Network, Feed Anne Arundel, Muslim Voice for Peace and Reconciliation, and South Sudan Hope Network). In addition, the Quaker Market Committee facilitated donations to Afghan Women's Fund and Friends of Tent of Nations North America. The Committee is grateful to all who have helped support Quaker Market efforts to benefit a wide variety of causes/populations in need during 2020. We would also like to express gratitude to Young Adult Friend, Bella Figueiredo, for her beautiful watercolor of the meetinghouse, which will be framed for display in the meetinghouse. We also look forward to using the digital image for future Quaker Market products. Please see the full committee report (attached) for more details.

3. Ministry & Worship (M&W):

- a. On behalf of the M&W, Peter M. expressed thanks to Elise A. who, for the past several years, wrote the final Spiritual State of Meeting (SSoM) reports. This year, Judy B. will be developing the final report. Peter shared the Baltimore Yearly Meeting (BYM) SSoM Queries on the screen and read each of the queries. The queries were sent by email to the AFM-Announce list on 12/30/2020 and that email is attached herein. Peter provided a review of the AFM process for this year's SSoM, including that the listening session is scheduled for a portion of the 11:00 am MfW on February 7, 2021. Nicole S. and Peter M. will take notes during the listening session. A draft SSoM report will be developed and the first reading will be in the 3rd month, so that AFM can submit the final SSoM to BYM by mid-4th month. Due to the inability to have in-person listening sessions, the process for this year will include individuals providing their sense of the SSoM based on the queries via email to M&W (ministry@annapolisfriends.org) to be received by February 8, 2021. This new process is intended to ensure that as many Friends as possible will be able to participate and provide their reflections. Young Friends will also participate in the SSoM process and additional information and details will be provided as to their process at a future time, but will be included for the mid-4th month due date.

4. Peace & Social Concerns (P&SC):

- a. On behalf of P&SC, Phil C. presented the Minute on Zero Fossil Fuel Use to be reviewed and approval of the Minute was requested. The draft Minute, which was distributed via the AFM-Announce email list, consisted of background, the Minute itself and recommended actions. Phil expressed gratitude to Will C. who has a long and abiding concern for the environment and who drafted the initial version of the Minute. Prior to the MfW wAtB, the draft Minute was distributed using the AFM-Announce email list and, during the meeting, the draft was read in full as the third draft. After much discussion exploring the scope the minute should embrace and the urgency of addressing climate issues globally, the minute was approved. Friends spoke to the importance of individual voice, Monthly Meeting actions, aligning the AFM minute with the work of Quaker organizations (i.e., QUNO, FGC,

FWCC) and a concern that we cannot speak for all Quaker voices. The following is a synopsis of some of the discussion and comments:

- i. A Friend expressed confusion as to if the actions were a local initiative or if it has a global horizon. The Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO) in Geneva has a full-time person working on climate change and it would be important to coordinate with the Quaker global voice on climate change. Phil noted that the action list in the draft was not an exhaustive list and that QUNO would be included in the outreach, as well as other organizations, such as the youth.
- ii. A Friend commented that it would be important to check with the wider Quaker world, such as Friends General Conference (FGC) and QUNO, prior to sending the minute to such organizations as the National Council of Churches (NCC), as an example. Checking with QUNO and FGC first would ensure that the Minute and the actions were in alignment with the more global Quaker efforts.
- iii. The clerk reminded Friends that we were being asked to approve the Minute itself, not the Background section or the Action section. Both the Background and the Action sections might be revised, updated and expanded, but the Minute would be the commitment to be approved at this time.
- iv. Two Friends expressed their approval of the Minute stating that the Minute was fine as it is.
- v. Phil expressed his sense that the Meeting does not need to conform to the exact language of the international Quaker organizations and that, perhaps, we could provide a cover letter to express our appreciation for the more global organizations when the Minute was distributed to other Quaker organizations.
- vi. A Friend expressed that the intent and the reach is important, that there is a need to agree upon the intent as an urgent matter.
- vii. Another Friend suggested that the language stay focused on the local rather than the global. Rather than shift back and forth, determine if the focus should be local or global.
- viii. A Friend could not over emphasize the urgency of the situation and the need to approve this minute. The Friend said that they felt joyful to see this minute and hoped it resonated with the community.
- ix. Clerk requested that there be a moment of silence and asked Friends to search their hearts to see what we can unite with.
 1. A Friend posed a question: Do you see a conflict or is it a proforma request to check first with the global Quaker organizations?
 - a. With regards to QUNO, a Friend responded, that there is a need to add to and support the global Quaker voice. If the Minute stays focused on the local, the Minute would be cogent as it is. In the past, Friends have been pretty sloppy when slipping between local, county, country and international. There have been efforts that actually

undermined the work of QUNO. The Friend recommended that AFM keep their focus on the local efforts, so that it will not undermine QUNO or simply check with them first.

2. A Friend received a leading during the silence that we should not stay local, that like John Woolman before us we should speak out.
3. Another Friend said that we have a responsibility to speak our truth to power. The situation is global and we (AFM) have a responsibility.
4. A Friend expressed that we need to have humility and yet not assume that our efforts will be undermining QUNO. The Friend was okay with moving forward and approving the Minute.
5. A Friend expressed gratitude for the initial focus on local versus global viewpoints; however, this Friend stated that we can move forward with the current Minute as is. By this meeting Minute, we may be informing the greater Quaker community of our intentions. This Friend would like to see us move forward to approve this Minute.
6. The clerk summarized the various views, including an urgency to approve the Minute, that it was a clear statement of AFM's intent, and that there was appreciation for the perspectives of humility with regards to the greater Quaker community.
7. A Friend commented that we (AFM) speak to the world.
8. A Friend posed a question, expressing that the clerk's summary seemed to be correct, but asked: What does that mean? Are we going to change the Minute? The Friend asked if we are being very preachy in the Minute? The Friend made a suggestion that the Minute be recast as what we at AFM are going to do and invite anyone (those beyond AFM) to join us. If we approve this Minute, this Friend reminded those in attendance, we (AFM) will need to actually make these changes, take these actions, live according to our convictions. This Minute is for AFM, not all Quakers. Conviction of only AFM, not all Quakers everywhere. The term Quaker will reflect the wider world and we need to be clear.
9. A Friend expressed the urgency to get this Minute approved, that this was at least the 3rd time that AFM has had a look at it.
10. The clerk expressed that she was not yet hearing unity, but was hearing urgency.
11. A Friend from the group who drafted the minute shared that the urgency is clear and is expressed in the Minute, that there is a need to spur others to join our efforts. This Friend thought that AFM can present the Minute in a constructive way and that the P&SC Committee can take the suggestion to reach out to

QUNO and establish a two-way conversation between the local and the global.

- x. The clerk asked the Meeting if they were feeling in unity with approving this minute understanding that there is direction from our community that we take this forth with humility to others outside of our community and not project it onto others. Unity was achieved and the Minute approved. The clerk expressed thanks for the care and depth of discussion.

5. Trustees:

- a. Although the Advocacy Guidelines were on the agenda for review and approval, the Trustees agreed to postpone this agenda item due to time constraints.

6. Path Forward Committee (PF):

- a. On behalf of the Path Forward Committee, Karen C. shared a brief update about the 2020 work of the PF Committee and the efforts going forward. She encouraged people to think about hybrid meetings, which are described as a meeting **where** some of those in attendance are meeting in-person and some of the attendees **are** meeting using an online platform for the same meeting. For example, we will be looking to have hybrid MfW and other meetings that will require Zoom technology (i.e., equipment) in our meeting room. The equipment would include a video camera, large screen, and microphones.
- b. The immediate need, Karen explained, was a request for Meeting from the AFM Weekend Spiritual Friendship / Community group to allow their very small group of 2 or 3 Friends meeting together in a hybrid fashion to open foyer doors with **up to two (2) people** sitting just inside, similar to the approved in-person MfW seating arrangement. Having two Friends inside the foyer would facilitate the use of technology and provide a warm space if need for one or two participants. The other AFM protocols would be followed (e.g., masks, social distancing, windows open). The group requesting this meets monthly for 1.5 to 2 hours per meeting and is seeking a more inclusive opportunity for spiritual enrichment. Karen read a letter that Jo Anne S. wrote about the request. The request was approved. The following points were discussed:
 - i. A Friend noted that running a heater with the doors open did not seem to be a good way to align with our commitment to prevent global warming.
 - ii. It was also noted that AFM is already using way less energy than we would if the full meeting was in-person as it was prior to the pandemic.
 - iii. A Friend commented that by approving this request we would be approving this method for anyone to request the same.
 - 1. In response, the clerk reminded Friends that Meeting had not empowered the PF Committee to make any changes without Meeting's approval. Therefore, each request would be brought

forward to MfW wAtB. Approving this request does not automatically give permission to all other groups. First PF Committee would discern if the request was appropriate prior to bringing the request to Meeting.

- iv. In response to Jo Anne's letter, a Friend asked for clarification about the number of people and it was reiterated that only **two (2) people** would be allowed inside the building sitting at safe social distancing, even if there were more than two people present for the Weekend Spiritual Friendship / Community Group meeting.

Closing: The clerk noted the time and that the meeting went longer than expected. She suggested that we take a 30-second moment of silence, which we did. She thanked everyone and said that she hoped to see us in worship.

The recording clerk will send the draft meeting minutes to the AFM-Announce email list, so that Friends can review the draft minutes and provide feedback. The minutes will be brought forth for approval at the beginning of the next MfW wAtB.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen M., Recording Clerk
recording-clerk@annapolisfriends.org

ATTACHMENTS:

- Meeting Minutes (approved) from 12th month MfW wAtB
- Quaker Market Committee Report
- Spiritual State of the Meeting Queries
- Minute on Zero Fossil Fuel Use

Quaker Market Committee Report

1st month, 2021

With no in-person Market due to COVID-19, we turned inward for Quaker Holiday Market 2020 to explore what items could be safely offered to our own community that would help bring joy to those offering the items as well as those supporting Market causes by purchasing them. Thanks to the generosity of Friends, there was Tent of Nations olive oil from Bethlehem, jars of 13 Bean Soup Mix assembled and decorated by Young Friends using dried beans donated by the community, exquisite hand-knitted and crocheted items, paperwhite narcissus bulbs, and food, glorious food! Soups and quiches, cakes, Christmas stollen, cookies and bourbon balls, all delicious. We hope that these efforts completed with love were able to spread a little Christmas joy and magic during times that have been difficult and sad for so many.

The following four causes were supported financially with Quaker Holiday Market 2020 proceeds, each receiving \$850: Chesapeake Climate Action Network, Feed Anne Arundel, Muslim Voice for Peace and Reconciliation, and South Sudan Hope Network. This is on top of the \$500 each of the same causes received from Quaker Spring Market 2020 (except Feed Anne Arundel, since the food component of Spring proceeds went to reduce school lunch debt in Annapolis Public Schools). Young Friends' discernment led them to support four additional causes with their portion of the 2020 proceeds (\$200), as they reported at meeting for worship with attention to business, 12th month 2020. The Quaker Market Committee also facilitated donations to Afghan Women's Fund and Friends of Tent of Nations—North America.

The Quaker Market Committee also picked up on other charitable opportunities since Spring Market, facilitating the donation of school and gardening supplies for an orphanage in Cameroon through Orphan Grain Train last spring, men's clothing for returning citizens through Voices for a Second Chance last fall, house plants for the Light House, and children's hats and mittens for those attending a pop-up Resource Fair at Tyler Heights Elementary in Annapolis in December.

Our hearts are filled with gratitude to the Annapolis Friends Meeting community for your support in 2020, and we look forward with hope to 2021, eager to see where the Quaker Market journey takes all of us in the coming year. On a final note, we would like to express gratitude to Young Adult Friend, Bella Figueiredo, who graciously provided the Quaker Market Committee with a watercolor of the meetinghouse. Cover for a new cookbook? Notecards? Framed original for display in the meetinghouse? Not quite sure where the watercolor journey will take us, but we wanted to express our gratitude to Bella for this generous gift, as well as the contribution of her talents to the success of Quaker Markets over so many years. Bella is planning to join us for meeting for worship today, and we will show off the watercolor, in addition to expressing our gratitude.



E McBride <emcb1514@gmail.com>

[afm-announce-Google] Queries for Spiritual State of Meeting session, 2/7

1 message

Peter Meredith <meredith.peter@gmail.com>

Wed, Dec 30, 2020 at 8:39 PM

To: afm-announce@googlegroups.com

Dear Friends,

As agreed at the current month's Meeting for Worship With Attention to Business, Annapolis Friends Meeting will devote part of its 11 a.m. Meeting for Worship on seventh day, second month to a listening session on the Spiritual State of the Meeting.

These sessions are held annually at the behest of Baltimore Yearly Meeting. We take notes at the session and develop a report. The report will be brought to business meeting in March, and a final version will be shared with BYM.

For 2021, the Ministry & Worship Committee is in unity in recommending that we use the queries circulated by Baltimore Yearly Meeting, which read as follows:

1. *How does Spirit prosper in your Meeting? How have you protected the Spirit this year?*
2. *What are Friends doing to support one another? How have you addressed the conflicts that have arisen this year?*
3. *What does spirituality mean to you and your Meeting? How does your Meeting reflect that? Has it been different or the same during 2020 with the coronavirus pandemic and discussions of racial equality, climate change, and the presidential election?*

To make sure we hear from as many Friends as possible, we are reaching out to Friends who experience Meeting outside the 11 am Zoom sessions, including the 8 am and 11 am meetings on the patio and the 8 am meeting at which the gathering is in spirit without benefit of technology. We would also like to hear from the children who meet while the 11am adult meeting is taking place, and we invite CREC to let us know how best to do this.

If you can't make it to any meeting that day, we would still love to hear from you. Please send me an email with your thoughts at any time before 2/8 and I will share them with Judy Brown, who will shepherd the report into being, and Nicole, who will be taking notes with me at the listening session.

In keeping with our practice, the listening session will not be recorded.

Thank you and Happy New Year,
Peter Meredith for Ministry & Worship

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Proposed: "ZERO FOSSIL FUEL" MINUTE:

BACKGROUND

We now live in a changing climate on track to make the Earth nearly uninhabitable by humans. The scientific evidence now is beyond credible question in showing that atmospheric carbon dioxide and other human-driven emissions

- increase global temperatures,
- dry the land and everything growing on it,
- increase the size and frequency of forest fires,
- warm the oceans,
- melt our icecaps and glaciers,
- raise our sea levels,
- flood our communities, and
- amplify the destructive power of wind, rain, and hurricanes.

(*NOTE: Following this minute is a first draft specifying CO2 parts per million in our atmosphere.)

Locally, our community, Anne Arundel County, and Maryland all face both stronger hurricanes and more frequent, extensive flooding. Around the U.S., the cost is staggering in lives and property from fire, wind, floods, and ever increasing heat. (Reference [National Climate Assessment](#)-- note: costs to be compared with wars, dustbowl.)

The rest of the world may suffer equal and greater consequences, particularly in areas exposed to the greatest impacts of sea-level rise and more violent storms. Too many areas lack economic resources to mitigate their ever-increasing injuries. With climate chaos driving economic disintegration and waves of immigration, genocide and wars also are imminent risks of this ongoing global disaster.

The U.S., as a nation, unquestionably has presented the single largest source of emissions causing climate change with our years of denial and inadequate government action; as such, the U.S. carries a special responsibility. We must address the causes of climate change, we must work with the [United Nations](#) and [other nations of the world](#) on this, and we must offer our best available leadership and resources to do so.

How can we assess the harm that is being done by our modern industries and the steps needed to undo it? In the three hundred thousand years of human history before 1850, atmospheric carbon dioxide (ACO2) never rose above 280 ppm (parts per million). Since 1850, our use of fossil fuels increased exponentially until today ACO2 has reached about 415 ppm, and still rises. ([Animated timelapse chart-CO2 increase since 1979.](#))

To reverse these trends of climate change and to maintain an inhabitable planet, we must cease as soon as possible the use of fossil fuels with a goal to restore ACO2 to 280 ppm or below. To do so, *we need to replace all existing fossil based power plants, world wide, with fossil-free plants.* Without prejudging the technology to replace fossil power generation, it is evident that any new fossil fuel infrastructure currently under construction must be abandoned before it is amortized and set in motion to continue our deadly trend of ACO2 increase.

MINUTE

Annapolis Friends Meeting, having studied the dangers of climate change and embracing our faith that that calls us to love our neighbors as ourselves, joins with Quakers and other people of faith:

-to live according to our convictions and to learn how to eliminate our own fossil fuel consumption as soon as possible;

-to call upon our governments and our power companies to abandon of all incomplete infrastructural designed to generate or distribute fossil based electrical power, including all planned, and not-yet-operating infrastructural investments; and

-to reach out to our brothers and sisters in other nations to seek as soon as possible a world-wide ban on any greater fossil-fuel generation.

We recognize that such a worldwide ban may impact most severely those nations, such as China and India that have major fossil fuel infrastructure planned and under construction. Therefore, we call upon our economists, diplomats and our representatives in the United Nations to devise plans to mitigate this loss and to assist in the international transition to clean energy sources.

What clean energy alternatives will prove the best replacement for our toxic tradition of fossil fuels? Could solar, wind, ocean-hydropower, and geothermal reach the level of efficiency needed? Could greater energy efficiency in our homes, our transportation, and, even, our military make a difference? Could the next generation of safer nuclear power with molten salt reactors be adopted? Could clean biofuels decentralize our current production models? We cannot foresee the details of this future. But, we cannot avoid knowing the continuation of human life and the natural world require these steps.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

Annapolis Friends Meeting recommends:

- 1) That this minute be circulated to other local meetings within Baltimore Yearly Meeting and elsewhere in the Religious Society of Friends.
- 2) That Friends should seek for the actions sought and the issues presented in this minute be made the subject of community forums and discussion -- by virtual means during pandemic times and in person when public health measures permit this. That Friends especially should seek to support the efforts of Fridays for the Future and other youth-led movements. That these efforts also should seek to embrace the young leaders in our public schools, AACCC, St. Johns College and the U.S. Naval Academy.
- 3) That Friends should seek for the actions sought in this minute also to be shared outside the Religious Society of Friends with other faith groups to seek united interfaith efforts.
- 4) That, as individuals, Friends should heed the example of John Woolman to live our lives in a way that removes fossil fuel and other causes of climate change, and that may serve as an example to others.
- 5) That, in carrying forward this message, Friends should remember that there is "that of God" in all our neighbors regardless of political and economic and differences and that our power of persuasion will come from more Light and less heat.

[Possible references: <https://upi.com/7039570> - study showing the most affluent are the greatest contributors to fossil fuel use]

* FIRST DRAFT OF "ZERO FOSSIL FUEL" MINUTE
including statistics as to ongoing atmospheric CO2 increase

"The past few years have seen increasingly damaging bad weather which scientists attribute to the steady increase in atmospheric carbon dioxide (ACO2) due to humanities use of fossil fuels(coal, oil and natural gas). In the three hundred thousand years before 1850, (while humans were evolving) ACO2 had never been above 280 ppm (parts per million). Since 1850 our use of fossil fuels has increased steadily and monotonically until today ACO2 is about 415 ppm, and rising.

"To maintain an inhabitable planet we must cease using fossil fuels (indeed to be "safe" we need to restore ACO2 to 280 ppm or below). It will be possible to replace fossil fuel power plants with nuclear or any alternative fossil-free technology, we need to replace all existing fossil based power plants, world wide, with fossil-free plants.

"Without prejudging the technology to replace fossil power generation, it is evident that any new fossil fuel infrastructure currently under construction will have to be abandoned before it is amortized.

"Accordingly, we call for abandonment of all incomplete infrastructural designed to generate or distribute fossil based electrical power. This includes all planned, and also not yet operating infrastructural investments. We need a world-wide ban. Unfortunately this will impact most severely developing nations, such as China and India that have major fossil fuelinfrastructure planned and under construction.

"We recommend that while construction capacity for nuclear plants falls short of demand, priority be given to the countries with the lowest per capita use of electricity. We also recommend banning the use of fossil fuels in private planes, and the return of all military forces to within their national boundaries and national air and sea space."

-prepared by AFM Friend Will Candler