

Annapolis Friends Monthly Meeting (AFM)  
Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business (MfW wAtB)  
6<sup>th</sup> Month, 6<sup>th</sup> Day, 2021  
(06/06/2021)  
Meeting Minutes  
Approved – Distributed

Note: The MfW wAtB was conducted using Zoom.

Present: Martha B. (clerk), Ellen M. (recording clerk), Peter M., Fran P., Judy B., Sylvia O., Dot W., Sheila B., Pat H., Phil C., Barb T., Jeanne W., Jon H., Sky E., Nan E., Karen C., Margaret C., Will C., Mary B., Pat S., Wes J., Carl B., Jack L., Cairn K., Phyllis S., Marcia O., Jenn D., Ruth S., Patty R., and Ted R.

9:00 am Opening: The clerk welcomed all and invited us to settle into some solid, silent centering worship. She shared her screen to display the Queries from Baltimore Yearly Meeting Faith and Practice (revised 2001) for the 6<sup>th</sup> month.

Breaking the silence, the clerk wished all a Good Morning and displayed the agenda before urging each of us to make decisions today in light of the AFM Anti-Racism Queries. She both displayed the queries on the screen and read them for the community.

Agenda:

1. 5<sup>th</sup> Month 2021 MfW wAtB Meeting Minutes Reviewed & Approved:
  - a. The meeting minutes as circulated with attachments were approved from the previous meeting held on 05/02/2021. See the attached.
  
2. Peace & Social Concerns (P&SC) – Emergent Social Concerns:
  - a. On behalf of P&SC, Phil C. requested approval to distribute Emergent Social Concerns Funds for situations that the committee deems to be urgent and unforeseen. These are non-routine donations. The committee acknowledged that there are many such concerns, especially related to the pandemic, but these three in particular were selected by the committee. Meeting was in unity to distribute these funds.
    - i. The Maryland Foodbank has had ongoing financial need from the beginning of the pandemic right up until today. The need, it was noted, increased by 400% during the pandemic and continues to rise. P&SC will distribute \$500 to the Maryland Foodbank.
      1. If F/friends would like to participate individually, you can go online to <https://mdfoodbank.org/donate/>
    - ii. Guilford College, a Quaker college, had severe, disastrous, and unforeseen, financial troubles due to the pandemic and the issues were going to be dealt with by using draconian measures, such as cutting

courses and eliminating staff, leading to a partial shutdown of the college. Alums stepped in and developed the Save Guilford College to raise funds and keep the college open. Although other Quaker colleges, such as Earlham, were also adversely affected by the pandemic, the situation at Guilford was particularly severe. P&SC will distribute \$500 to the Save Guilford College fund.

1. If F/friends would like to participate by giving individual contributions, you can go online to the SGC website:

<https://www.saveguilfordcollege.com>

iii. American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) has a mission in the Palestinian territories to provide assistance and help with seeking peace for the thousands of homeless people in the Gaza area. In the face of humanitarian needs from the recent Israeli-Palestinian war, P&SC will distribute \$500 to AFSC's Palestinian mission.

1. To learn more and participate as an individual, you can go online to <https://www.afsc.org/office/palestine>

b. A Friend reminded us that there are Historically Black Colleges and Universities that could use our assistance and would be in keeping with our Anti-Racist Faith Community declaration. The clerk reminded F/friends that they can send P&SC ideas for other causes for the committee to consider.

### 3. Path Forward Committee (PFC):

a. On behalf of the PFC, Karen C. reminded friends of the proposal that was emailed prior to MfW wAtB. See the attachment.

b. PFC brought the following recommendations for consideration. All were approved:

- i. No longer log visits. Masks are optional outside the meetinghouse. Masks optional alone in meetinghouse, but masks will be worn if more than one person is inside the meetinghouse. People are welcome to gather socially outside the meetinghouse when other events are not scheduled.
- ii. For Early Meeting, the original proposal allowed for in-person, outdoor to move inside if the weather is bad and only if there are too many people to fit comfortably on the porch. At the suggestion of a Friend, this proposal was modified to allow Early Meeting to move inside if the weather is bad no matter how many attendees and they can negotiate this decision among themselves.
- iii. Committees: In-person meeting attenders can determine between themselves if they want to wear a mask or not. Friends should be open and listening to each other, so that everyone's comfort level is respected. Open and caring conversation is encouraged. Note: we've not enhanced our cleaning protocols inside the meetinghouse and hybrid meetings have not started yet.
- iv. Memorial meetings may be held for AFM community members. Specific details do not need to be approved by business meeting. PFC and Pastoral Care will work together to develop the protocols for memorial

meetings. The Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines will be followed, as well as any federal, state or county regulations.

- c. This summer PFC will continue its work:
  - i. June: Working on hybrid/blended (note: both terms mean the same thing: in-person with technology for online participation). Some of the equipment was purchased – The Owl has landed and is in the nest – and the purchase of laptops will happen soon. It took longer than expected, but we are coming close. We will start exploring the hiring of tech staff, a professional who would take care of technology. Please provide any names of tech staff to PFC.
    - 1. PFC continues to seek feedback from F/friends regarding holding hybrid/blended. We still need to talk about when we will have blended meetings, such as MfW, MfW wAtB, Clerk’s Meeting, etc.
    - 2. PFC would like to develop protocols for rental groups. We will need plans for when others can come into the meetinghouse.
  - ii. July: If all goes well, we may bring a proposal to July MfW wAtB with regards to opening the meetinghouse to AFM social groups, AFM-affiliated groups and renters.
  - iii. August: PFC anticipates that we will be fully opening up the meetinghouse.

#### 4. Quaker Market Committee:

- a. On behalf of the Quaker Market Committee, Cairn K. provided the final report for the Quaker Spring Market 2021 that was held at Annapolis Friends Meeting on Saturday, 1 May, and consisted of curbside pickup of pre-ordered items only, due to the pandemic. Much joy was shared through the offering and receiving of plants, delicious food, Tent of Nations olive oil, and beautiful postcards depicting the meetinghouse. Items from Lee L.’s estate were invaluable towards helping boost Market proceeds. Proceeds provided \$4,875 for the disbursement of \$1,625 to each of the following three causes: Interfaith Power and Light (IPL-DMV), for their local work to inspire and mobilize people of faith and conscience to take bold and just action on climate change; the Ralph J. Bunche Community Center, as they work to address the current needs of the local historically black community through food distribution during the pandemic; and Friends United Meeting (considered as our “Internal” cause) for their COVID-19 Solidarity Fund, providing COVID relief in locations such as Belize and Africa. An additional \$100 was set aside for Young Friends to allocate according to their own discernment. The full report is attached.

#### 5. Children’s Religious Education Committee (CREC):

- a. On behalf of CREC and First Day School (FDS), Mary B. shared a report written by Nancy Jo S to provide a reflection on their work with the children this year. She expressed how much art has played a part in the online version of FDS meetings. There will be an in-person pizza party next Sunday to give the children a chance to gather together. CREC has functioned without a

- clerk this year. Appreciation was expressed for Jenn who provided leadership in the past that allowed the clerk-less group to step up and provide teachers and resource people in 2021. Mary expressed her own appreciation for all the F/friends who participated and collaboratively provide First Day School online. As a community, we will need to address what we will do for the teenagers.
- b. Next week the 25-Million Stitches project, which was a response to the refugee crisis, will be on display in California. A woman solicited panels from across the world and gathered more than 25-million stitches from children around the world. Our children participated in making a panel. There will be long banners of the panels on display.
    - i. For more information about the art installation, go online to <https://www.25millionstitches.com>
  - c. This year, the FDS made blankets as part of the Linus Project for children in need.
6. Announcements: The AFM fire alarm point of contact list needs to be updated and an additional person added, so that the Fire Department can communicate with AFM in a timely manner should they need to. Wes mentioned that he was contacted when an alarm went off last week and has an appointment with the alarm company on Tuesday, June 8<sup>th</sup>, at 8:00 am. Jeanne W. from Meetinghouse & Land volunteered to attend the meeting and to be added as a point of contact for the fire alarm.

Closing:

We ended with a moment of silence followed by the clerk inviting us to join in worship at 11:00 am and to have a wonderful weekend.

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](mailto:recording-clerk@annapolisfriends.org)

ATTACHMENTS:

- Meeting Minutes (approved) from the 5<sup>th</sup> Month MfW wAtB
- Quaker Spring Market Report – Final
- Path Forward Committee Summer Proposal (updated)