

Annapolis Friends Monthly Meeting (AFM)
Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business (MfW wAtB)
9th Month, 5th Day, 2021
(09/05/2021)
Meeting Minutes - Approved

Note: The MfW wAtB was conducted using Zoom blended with in-person participation from the meetinghouse. MfW wAtB was not held in August.

Present: Martha B. (clerk), Ellen M. (recording clerk), Carl B., Diane S., Nan E., Sky E., Jack L., Mary B., Wes J., Ann R., Ria H., Sheila M., Barb T., Phyllis S., Patricia H., Martha L., Marjorie K., Karen C., Jean C., Jeanne W., Phil C., Lisa H., Margaret C., Will C., Kim F., Jo Anna S., Jenn D., Kallan B., Nancy Jo S., Mary D., Patty R., and Larry M.

9:00 am Opening: The clerk welcomed all and invited us to settle into some silent centering worship as we considered the AFM Anti-Racism Queries. The queries were displayed on the screen while we centered. Upon wishing us a good morning, the clerk put the agenda on the screen and explained that we were experimenting with a “blended” meeting where there will be people on Zoom and some in the meetinghouse.

Agenda:

- 1) 7th Month 2021 MfW wAtB Meeting Minutes Reviewed & Approved:
The meeting minutes as circulated with attachments were approved from the previous meeting held on 07/04/2021. See the attached.

- 2) Children’s Religious Education Committee (CREC):
 - a) On behalf of CREC, Martha L. shared next year’s theme for the First Day School (FDS). They plan to have each committee come to FDS one time per month to talk about that committee and how it relates to the rest of AFM. In addition, they are asking every member and attender to schedule a time to come to FDS as a guest to share with the children something of interest (e.g., an aspect of Quakerism, their spiritual journey, hobbies, or crafts). These efforts offer a way for the children and adults in AFM to interact and get to know each other better. All were requested to send an email to the committee (children@annapolisfriends.org) to sign up. It was noted that FDS has between 2 and 8 children at any meeting and meet remotely on Zoom.

- 3) Pastoral Care:
 - a) On behalf of the Pastoral Care Committee, Barb T. read the memorial minute for Lee Lougée. Friends shared their love for Lee and the minute was approved. It was noted that her ashes will be interred at AFM. The hope, in consultation with the family, is that the Memorial Meeting and interment will take place in the Spring. See attached.

4) Ministry & Worship:

- a) On behalf of M&W, Ann R. requested that AFM approve writing a letter in support of Kallan B. with regards to her travels to the U.N. Conference of the Parties (COP26, the 26th meeting of this group that was formed in 2017). Kallan will participate in COP26 in early November in Scotland. M&W intend to have the letter available prior to her leaving in October and will minute our support for Kallan's ministry of care of the earth while she travels in Europe and visits with Glasgow Quaker Meeting and other Friends. To learn more about Quaker Earthcare Witness, the organization that Kallan is representing at the conference, point your browser to: <https://quakerearthcare.org/about-us/>. Meeting approved preparation of a letter of support and expressed gratitude to Kallan for the work she is doing.
- b) On behalf of the Education Committee, Ann R. announced that there will be a 90-minute online presentation on October 3rd after 11 am Meeting for Worship to mark World Quaker Day. Information will be provided with regards to the global community of Friends. In addition, the Education Committee will be planning Meetings for Learning for the Fall.

5) Path Forward Committee:

- a) On behalf of the Path Forward Committee (PFC), Karen C. shared that the committee recommends holding with our current practices and that these practices remain as they are through the end of December. In light of the recent COVID trends, PFC recommends caution in further opening up our meetinghouse and proposes no further openings to ourselves, affiliates or renters at this time. Meeting approved this proposal. See attached for details.
 - i) Questions brought forward included:
 - (1) Will memorials include food? As previously approved, the PFC & Pastoral Care Committee will take up each memorial request and individually develop appropriate protocols.
 - (2) Is the next step dependent on the AACO rates going down? PFC would like to hold steady with these recommendations through the end of December. In the meantime, PFC will continue discussion, collection of facts and discernment of next steps.
 - (3) For Early meeting, what is meant by "virtually" on the proposal? Better wording might be "remotely" or "physically apart".

6) Peace & Social Concerns / Change Group:

- a) On behalf of P&SC/Change, Phil C provided a report on the Quaker Causes discernment process and the emergent social concerns distributions. He and Jo Anna S. presented some possible initiatives to support Afghan refugees in our area. On behalf of Change Group, a brief update on the reparations discernment process was also provided.
 - i) P&SC requested approval of the list of Quaker Causes that were recommended by the committee and the list was approved as presented. See attached.

- (1) A Friend mentioned that the Annapolis Immigration Justice Network, Inc. is taking on a lot of challenges with the Afghan refugees and it was recommended that P&SC consider AIJN as an emergent social concern.
 - (2) A Friend spoke of the Samaritan Visits as an organization that could be added back to the list because their needs are great.
 - (3) Friends were encouraged to consult the list of Quaker Causes for opportunities for individual giving should they be led.
- ii) A group of AFM friends have begun to consider how we might support Afghan refugees coming to our area. Jo Anna S. referenced a PowerPoint as she explained the facts about the Afghan airlift and the voluntary agencies to process these refugees for resettlement. AFM can help with individual donations, set up housing, transportation, and mentoring. P&SC is in contact with other Annapolis faith communities to network with them. Friends were asked to approve this group working on behalf of AFM to further determine how we might support local efforts. This was approved. Friends were asked to indicate their individual interest in being part of this effort in a chat.
 - iii) Phil updated the community on the reparations discernment process and a brief update on their discussions and potential next steps.

7) Stewardship & Finance (S&F):

- a) On behalf of S&F, Wes kicked off the 2022 Budget process. He asked the Committees to review the current 2021 budget and to provide their input for the 2022 Budget to S&F before the October Committee meetings.

8) Nominating Committee:

- a) On behalf of the Nominating Committee, Wes announced that they are beginning the process of connecting people with committee opportunities as they prepare the 2022 Slate. The four members of the Nominating Committee will be contacting everyone in the community to see how each person is led to support AFM in 2022. Wes also encouraged committees to look at the viability of current subcommittees and standing committees and consider if any need to be changed or laid down. Nominating Committee will be in touch with each committee to discuss how things are going and what needs may be ahead for its work:
 - Wes: Communications, Nominating, Stewardship & Finance
 - Barbara: Meetinghouse & Land, Ministry & Worship, Peace & Social Concerns
 - Cairn: CREC, Quaker Market, Pastoral Care
 - Marcia: Library, Outreach, Trustees
- i) A Friend expressed the concern that AFM is not having significant conversations about the viability of our future existence given the current world circumstances. The clerk noted the Friend's concern, indicating she will follow up for a more significant conversation about this and suggested that Nominating Committee also follow up.

Closing:

The MfW wAtB closed with a moment of silence and great gratitude. The clerk invited us to join in worship at 11:00 am and to have a lovely 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 on October 3rd.

Respectfully submitted,

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

ATTACHMENTS:

- Meeting Minutes (approved) from the 7th Month MfW wAtB
- Lee Lougee Memorial Minute
- Path Forward_2021-09
- Recommended 2021 Quaker Causes List

Lee Lougee Memorial Minute
Approved by Annapolis Friends Meeting
September 5, 2021

Lee Lougee passed away on March 28, 2021, following a battle with cancer. She was born May 25, 1945 in Poughkeepsie, NY. A graduate of the University of Maryland, she earned three Master's degrees, in speech pathology, counseling, and English as a second language. She worked for the Anne Arundel County Board of Education as a speech pathologist for almost 40 years.

Lee was immensely proud of her son Jay, her daughter Jody, and her three grandchildren. She was devoted to philanthropic causes and helping children, volunteering with CASA, hospice, and peace and conflict mediation. Lee loved adventure, traveling widely, singing in the Annapolis Chorale, writing poetry, gardening, and engaging in deep chats.

At Annapolis Friends Meeting, Lee was dedicated to outreach, greeting newcomers and following up with warm notes. She loved worship sharing and ensured that queries touching the heart and soul were regularly at our Meetings for Learning. For years, she organized an annual vigil for the International Day of Peace.

A regular and enthusiastic attender of BYM Annual Sessions and Women's Retreat, Lee was known for spreading love and peace as she warmly connected with all who crossed her path.

Our dear Friend Lee Lougee leaves behind a legacy of love and beautiful memories. She had only recently moved from Severna Park to Friends House in Sandy Spring, Maryland, where a memorial service was held. An additional memorial service and interment of her ashes is planned at Annapolis Friends Meeting in spring 2022.

Path Forward recommendations for September business meeting

Path Forward recommends that AFM continue with our current practices, described below, through December. In addition, we recommend allowing Children's Religious Education to meet occasionally at the meetinghouse with appropriate protocols. Finally, we recommend pausing on any further reopening of AFM's meetinghouse—to ourselves or outside groups—through December.

AFM activities are dependent upon volunteers (Zoom hosts, Owl operators, convenors, greeters, etc.) Please consider how you can pitch in, to help relieve the burden carried by others.

Early Meeting for Worship (2nd, 4th, and 5th Sundays)

- 8 am Meeting for Worship gathers remotely, spiritually connected, without technology.
- Also meets in person outside (without technology). Masks are optional; chairs are physically distanced. The group may move inside if weather is not conducive to meeting outside. Masks, physical distancing, and good ventilation are required when meeting inside.

11 am Meeting for Worship

- On 2nd, 4th, and 5th Sundays, meets only by Zoom.
- On 1st and 3rd Sundays, meetings are blended (in-person and Zoom).
 - Masks are required in the meetinghouse; chairs are physically distanced; and people are encouraged to socialize outside. The meetinghouse fan is on, at least one window is open, and the meeting room doors are left open. Refreshments are not served.
 - People may also choose to sit outside (without a designated Ministry and Worship convenor). Masks are optional while outside; chairs should be physically distanced.

Committees, other internal AFM groups, and Meeting for Worship for the Conduct of Business

- Committees and other internal AFM groups may meet inside or outside the meetinghouse. Meetings must be on the AFM calendar. Only one group at a time in the meetinghouse and preferably not back-to-back. Assistance with technology may be available on a case-by-case basis.
- Masks are recommended when meeting inside. However, groups may agree among themselves in advance that masks are optional. Everyone stays physically distant.
- Refreshments are not permitted. Exceptions are water and packaged snacks consumed outside and at a good distance from anyone else.
- Meetings for Learning and similar open AFM activities are held only by Zoom or outside.
- Meeting for Worship for the Conduct of Business will be blended (in-person and Zoom).

Individuals

- May visit the meetinghouse when an in-person meeting is not scheduled. Masks are optional if alone in the meetinghouse.
- May gather socially outside when other events are not scheduled. Masks are optional. Refreshments are not permitted (except for water brought from home).

Memorial meetings

- May be held for AFM community members. Path Forward will work with Pastoral Care to ensure that the family's needs are met and COVID precautions are observed.

AFM-affiliated groups, BYM committees, renters

- AFM meetinghouse and grounds are not open for any non-AFM events or business.

**Recommended 2021 Quaker Causes List
Peace & Social Concerns**

Quaker Voluntary Services	400
Ramallah Friends School	400
BYM STRIDE	400
Tier 1 - 3 x \$400= \$1200	
BYM Camping Property	200
Annapolis Immigration Justice Network, Inc.	200
Anne Arundel Conflict Resolution Center	200
Friends Peace Teams	200
Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL)	200
Friends Wilderness Center (*balance after = division)	321*
Interfaith Action for Human Rights (IAHR)	200
Peace Action (Maryland)	200
South Sudan Hope Network	200
Friends General Conference (FGC)	200
American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)	200
Friends Theological College in Kenya specifically designated for its principal Robert Wafula	200
Muslim Voice for Peace & Reconciliation	200
Quaker House (Fayetteville, N.C.)	200
Friends Journal	200
Tier 2 - 15 x \$200 = \$3,000, with balance to FWC* \$3,121	
COMBINED TOTAL	\$4,321