# Annapolis Friends Monthly Meeting (AFM) Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business (MfW wAtB) 10<sup>th</sup> Month, 2nd Day, 2022 (10/2/2022) Meeting Minutes – Approved

Note: The MfW wAtB was conducted from the meetinghouse in person and with participants using Zoom.

**Present at the meetinghouse:** Martha B. (clerk), Ellen M. (owl), Nan E., Sky E., Sheila M., Barb T., Dot W., Jack H., Jack L., Canby R., Jennifer D-M., Karen C., Peter M., Wes J., Phil C., Sylvia O., Susan D., Jo Anna S., Kim F., and Cairn K.

**Present on Zoom:** Arielle J. (recording clerk), Minette C-S., Mary B., Pat S., Julie R., Jean C., Diane S., Marcia O., Margaret C., Jeanne W., Joan P., Dot W., Ann R., Margaret H., Marjorie K., and Lisa H.

9:00 am Opening: The clerk displayed the 10<sup>th</sup> month Baltimore Yearly Meeting queries while we settled into silent centering worship and as we considered the queries. We were greeted by the clerk and her expression of gratitude to be clerking in-person and to have some of our community online:

10<sup>th</sup> Month: THE PEACE TESTIMONY

- Do you endeavor to live "in virtue of that life and power which takes away the occasion of all wars"?
- Do you work to make your peace testimony a reality in your life and in your world?
- Do you weigh your day-to-day activities for their effect on peace-keeping, conflict resolution and the elimination of violence?
- Are you working toward eliminating aggression at all levels, from the personal to the international?

BYM Faith & Practice, 1988 (revised 2001)

The clerk reviewed guidance for MfW wAtB, including that we speak from Spirit and to the center of the room or to the clerk, not engaging in cross-talk. The agenda was displayed on the screen, followed by the AFM Anti-Racism Queries which the clerk read, so that we could use the queries to assist us with our decision-making efforts.

#### Agenda:

1) Reflections from the clerk

- Martha B. shared reflections from her time as clerk of AFM and highlighted some key aspects of our community, encouraging us to double down on these in moving forward.
  - 1. **Showing kindness to one other**—even when it takes a little extra effort.
  - 2. Expressing appreciation
  - 3. Reaching out, welcoming and connecting
  - 4. Pitching in to help when you notice a need
  - 5. Considering how you can contribute to the life of our community

# 2) 9th Month 2022 MfW wAtB Meeting Minutes Reviewed & Approved:

a) The 9th month revised draft minutes were shared for review. No additional changes were noted and the minutes were approved.

# 3) Treasurer's Report:

a) On behalf of the treasurers, Julie R. shared an update on the treasurers report up to September 17th.

# 4) Nominating Committee:

a) Wes J. shared a brief update regarding the 2023 slate and encouragement for Friends to explore ways in which they might feel led to become involved, as the committee continues its outreach. They are hopeful to have a draft slate available for review at the next MfW wAtB.

# 5) Stewardship & Finance (S&F):

- a) 2023 Budget Preparation
  - i) On behalf of S&F, Wes J. shared a reminder for committees to have their budget requests turned in by October's 3rd Sunday committee meetings (Oct. 16). If they need updated budget information, they are encouraged to check with the Treasurers. S&F is hopeful to have a draft budget available by the next MfW wAtB.
- b) Fundraising and Financial Solicitation Policy status update
  - i) Wes. J shared that S&F is currently working on revising a draft of the fundraising and solicitation policy and proposed to hold a threshing session and separate designated meeting for discussion prior to bringing it to a MfW wAtB for approval.

# 6) Quaker Market Committee:

- a) Carin K. shared the committee's recommended causes identified through their discernment process to benefit from the Holiday Quaker Market (Dec. 3) proceeds and requested approval for these causes. See attachment for the full recommendation report. (see attached)
  - i) P&SC shared no concerns with the proposed causes and Friends were in unity to support the recommendations.

### 7) Urgent Call to Action: "Souls to the Polls":

a) In line with the recommended action of the group meeting about this, Phil C. shared an urgent call to action to support voting rights and access to the polls

through the "Souls to the Polls" initiative which invites area churches to sign up to provide rides in October to early voting places to those with limited access to transportation.

- Friends expressed willingness for AFM to participate in the program and the committee will connect with interested participants to organize the logistics.
- b) There was additional discussion about sending postcards to battleground states urging voters to get out to polls for those who may not be able to participate by giving rides.
- c) Friends can visit the <u>link here</u> for more information about the program and getting involved.

# 8) Retrospective & Restorative Justice Fund

- a) Following last month's approval to create a "Retrospective and Restorative Justice" independent designated fund, Phil C. proposed two recommendations for funding sources:
  - i) Recommendation #1: that AFM transfers the money currently in the Founder's Fund into the newly formed Retrospective and Reparative Justice fund (fund's formation approved at last MfB).
  - ii) Recommendation #2: Give permission for annual fundraising with designated contributions.
- a) Phil C. began the discussion by providing additional background and the historical context which led to adopting the "Minute as to Restorative & Retrospective Justice for Repair of the Harms of Racism," and the creation of the AFM fund to support these efforts. He also identified possible beneficiaries of the Reparations Fund and some background of the Founder's Fund's donors, Bish B. and Betty H. Friends joined in lively discussion about the proposed recommendations.
  - Several Friends shared their experiences with Bish B. and Betty H., noting that they thought these Founders would be in support of using the remaining money in this way.
  - ii) Some Friends expressed disapproval of transferring the full amount from the Founder's Fund to the R&RJ fund.
  - iii) Concerns were raised surrounding the process and work involved with multiple funding sources, perhaps needing more clarity on the logistics that would be required.
  - iv) Shared understanding of the importance of our commitment to reparations and moving forward with actionable efforts.
- b) Due to the time limitations, the Clerk proposed holding the discussion over for continued discernment. Phil suggested that, in the interim, a threshing session be held to provide more opportunity to share perspectives and find a way forward.

#### Closing

The MfW wAtB closed with a moment of silence, reflection and gratitude.

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 November 6, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,

Arielle J., Recording Clerk <a href="mailto:recording-clerk@annapolisfriends.org">recording-clerk@annapolisfriends.org</a>

### **ATTACHMENTS**:

- 9<sup>th</sup> Month 2022 MfW wAtB Meeting Minutes
- Quaker Market Committee Report
- September Chesapeake Quarterly Meeting report
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# Annapolis Friends Monthly Meeting (AFM) Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business (MfW wAtB) 9<sup>th</sup> Month, 4<sup>th</sup> Day, 2022 (9/4/2022) Meeting Minutes – Approved

Note: The MfW wAtB was conducted from the meetinghouse in person and with participants using Zoom.

**Present at the meetinghouse:** Martha B., Ellen M., Canby R., Peter M., Jack L., Barb T, Jack H., Dot W., Diane E. and Kim F.

**Present on Zoom:** Arielle J. (recording clerk), Minette C-S., Mary B., Wes J., Pat S., Julie R., Ria H., Jean C., Diane S., Marcia O., Margaret C., Will C., Phil C., Jeanne W., Larry M., Sky E., Joan P., and Nan E.

9:00 am Opening: The clerk displayed the 9<sup>th</sup> month Baltimore Yearly Meeting queries while we settled into silent centering worship and as we considered the queries. We were greeted by the clerk and her expression of gratitude to be clerking in-person and to have some of our community online:

9<sup>th</sup> Month: THE SOCIAL ORDER

- Do you promote social justice and make your life a testimony to fair dealing?
- Do you seek to understand and appreciate differing cultures and social values?
- Do you support fair treatment of all regardless of race, gender, age and other differences?
- Are you concerned for those in our society who are disadvantaged?
- Do you take your full share of civic responsibility by voting and giving service?
- Do you oppose the use of land, labor, technology and capital for human exploitation or in ways destructive to other living things?

BYM Faith & Practice, 1988 (revised 2001)

The clerk reviewed guidance for MfW wAtB, including that we speak from Spirit and to the center of the room or to the clerk, not engaging in cross-talk. The agenda was displayed on the screen, followed by the AFM Anti-Racism Queries which the clerk read, so that we could use the queries to assist us with our decision-making efforts.

#### Agenda:

# 1) 7<sup>th</sup> Month 2022 MfW wAtB Meeting Minutes Reviewed & Approved:

a) The 7th month draft minutes were shared for review. No additional changes were noted and the minutes were approved.

# 2) 2023 Nominating Committee Update:

- a) On behalf of the Nominating Committee, Wes J. announced that they had their first meeting to begin the process of connecting people with committee opportunities as they prepare the 2023 slate. The members of the Nominating Committee will be contacting everyone in the community to see how each person is led to support AFM in 2023. 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: CREC, Communications, Stewardship & Finance
  - Marcia: Library, Outreach, Trustees
  - Cairn: Nominating, Quaker Market
  - Martha: Officers, Pastoral Care, Path Forward
  - Barb: Meetinghouse & Land, Ministry & Worship, Peace & Social Concerns
- i) A Friend brought to attention the spiritual nature of this effort with a reminder for Friends to keep focus on fulfilling their spiritual obligations while connecting their gifts with those leadings. Another Friend reinforced the importance of clerkship with suggested resources and funds available for clerkship training.

# 3) Stewardship & Finance (S&F) 2023 Budget Preparation:

- a) On behalf of S&F, Wes J. kicked off the 2023 Budget process. He asked the Committees to review the current 2022 budget and to provide their input and drafts for the 2023 budget to S&F before the October Committee meetings. S&F also provided a reminder of the distinctions between independent and operating budgets, along with a request for all drafts to include a statement on the funding goal.
- b) The committee also brought forth recommended changes to a couple of existing S&F funds:
  - i) Adult Scholarship Fund: Friends requested to raise the amount that can be distributed to an individual be increased from \$250 to \$500 designated to account for increases in costs for programs over time.
    - 1) Friends were in unity to approve the request.
  - ii) Committee Contingency Fund: Friends requested to raise the threshold amount required for approval.
    - Friends requested clarification and concerns about raising the threshold amount and whether it would affect other funds. S&F agreed to have further discussion within the committee before bringing back to Meeting for Business.

# 4) Meetinghouse & Lands (MH&L):

a) On behalf of MH&L, Kim F. requested additional funds and reimbursement for overspending on basic operating expenses associated with the upkeep of the meetinghouse, as well as recent memorial services. MH&L requested a total of

- \$5,800 from the Committee Contingency Fund to be transferred to their operating budget to fund the rest of their operations for 2022.
  - i) Friends were in unity to approve the transfer.
- b) MH&L has also been notified by neighbors of the meetinghouse about possible security issues and the need for increased attention to activity on the grounds, particularly the parking lot and playground area. In order to address any issues, the committee proposed first evaluating the problem by installing two small security cameras: one at the front door facing the parking lot, and one at the side door facing the playground area.
  - Friends discussed the logistics for monitoring the camera activity and the expected timeframe and were in unity to approve the committee's proposal.
- c) The committee proposed October 15th from 9am 1pm for the Fall Workday.
  - i) Friends were in unity to approve this date and encouraged to mark their calendars to come volunteer and suggest projects.
- d) MH&L provided a brief gardening update and recommendation to Friends to join a webinar presentation on Thursday 9/8 at 7pm on "Changing the Aesthetics; Benefits of Pollinator Gardens."
  - Friends also discussed and agreed to initiate a regular gardening day at the meetinghouse to take place on the 1st and 3rd Mondays from 9-11am.
     All are welcome to join.

#### 5) Afghan Family Updates:

a) Phil C. shared an update on behalf of the Afghan Refugee Committee about the recent progress in support of the Baraski family. AFM will host the family on Friday, Sept. 30th for a potluck dinner at the meetinghouse. Full report attached.

#### 6) Restrospective & Restorative Justice

- a) Phil C. shared a reminder about the minute on Retrospective and Restorative Justice which was approved in January along with noting that we have yet to create a fund proposed as an action in the minute. As such, the committee brought forth two recommended actions:
  - i) Recommended action #1: Create a "Retrospective and Restorative Justice" independent designated fund.
    - 1) The clerk of S&F noted that some additional information was needed related to the funding goal.
    - 2) Friends approved this action with one Friend standing aside due to details being available on the Zoom screen but not in-person in the meetinghouse to review at the time of approval.
  - ii) Recommended action #2: Draw on the existing Founders fund for the initial setup, as proposed in earlier discussion when approving the minute.
    - 1) Friends shared in lively discussion about the fund's goals and sources with recommendation to first discuss and come to an agreement on recommended action #1 to create a fund.
    - 2) Friends agreed to revisit this recommended action in a later meeting.

# 7) Chesapeake Quarterly Meeting report:

a) Canby R., AFM's liaison for the Chesapeake Quarterly Meeting, shared a quick update about the next quarterly meeting taking place at Homewood Meeting in Baltimore on September 25th with a meeting for sharing and lunch from 10am -2:30pm. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

# Closing

The MfW wAtB closed with a moment of silence, reflection and gratitude.

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 2, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,

Arielle J., Recording Clerk recording-clerk@annapolisfriends.org

### **ATTACHMENTS**:

- 7<sup>th</sup> Month 2022 MfW wAtB Meeting Minutes
- Report from Adhoc Committee for Afghan Refugee Resettlement
- Committee Contingency Fund (CCF) Recommended Update
- Adult Scholarship Fund Recommended Update

#### **Quaker Market Committee 10th month 2022 Report**

The Quaker Market Committee met recently to consider possible beneficiaries for proceeds from AFM's Quaker Holiday Market coming up on Saturday, 3 December, 2022. Many thanks to those who put time and energy into identifying causes for the committee to consider. Recommendations based on our discernment are as follows:

- The first \$250 to our Young Friends for their discernment
- Of the remaining available proceeds, 25% to each of the following four organizations:
  - Internal
    - Judith Nandikove's Global Ministries (through FUM)
  - External
    - Hope for All
    - Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake
    - World Central Kitchen

Since part of the Quaker Market Committee's mission is education, here is some brief background information on each organization:

In August, AFM Friends were blessed by a presentation of the work of Kenyan Friend Judith Nandikove, whose **Global Ministries** organization addresses community and individual needs for multi-dimensional development and well-being. Programs include: support of feminine hygiene needs of women and girls in East Africa (facilitating continuation of schooling for teenage girls); construction of a hostel to accommodate Friends traveling in ministry and visitation in Kenya; addressing insecurities in food, health, water and affordable housing; education of children to eradicate poverty; and conducting peace workshops on domestic violence). Since Friends United Meeting, of which we are a member, will handle the administration and safe transmission of funds on our behalf, Pastor's Judith's work is being designated as our Internal cause. More information regarding her work can be found on her website Home (judynandikoveglobalministries.org).

Hope for All is a Christian ministry whose mission is to provide basic necessities (i.e., furniture, housewares, clothing, and personal items) to families and individuals without sufficient economic resources, including those transitioning from homelessness. They are a local organization serving residents of Anne Arundel County and parts of Baltimore City. They have won numerous awards for this work, and their supporters include many churches and partner organizations. In addition to making a financial donation generated by proceeds, we are also planning an in-kind donation of unsold furniture tailored to their needs after Quaker Market ends. More information can be found at their website <a href="https://hopeforall.us/">https://hopeforall.us/</a>

**Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake (IPC)** works to engage congregations in being good caretakers of our shared watershed. They envision a time when faith communities across the Chesapeake honor, care for, and protect the watershed we share so all our communities, and

future generations, may thrive. IPC works in two ways: by raising awareness of the power that people of faith have to restore clean water and environmental justice, and by offering hands-on assistance helping congregations plan, pay for, and install healing projects for their communities such as rain gardens, tree plantings, native plantings, and more. More information can be found at their website <a href="https://www.interfaithchesapeake.org/">https://www.interfaithchesapeake.org/</a>

World Central Kitchen (WCK), founded by Chef José Andres in 2010, was founded on the belief that food is a universal right, and that wherever there is a fight so that hungry people may eat, they will be there. In their work to provide emergency food relief, WCK has served more than 200 million nourishing meals around the world, including Ukraine, Afghanistan, the Bahamas, India, Indonesia, Lebanon, Madagascar, Mozambique, Venezuela, and the United States. WCK also works to: provide culinary training to empower local culinary and emergency response providers; support those most impacted by the climate crisis; provide educational and financial support to small food producers; move kitchens away from harmful wood and charcoal cooking; and, they offer a free text-to-order meal platform that provides restaurant-prepared meals for families experiencing food and nutrition insecurity. Some of their current activities are aimed at providing relief to those suffering from the impacts of Hurricanes Fiona and Ian, as well as recent flooding in Pakistan, and water insecurity in Jackson, MS. More information can be found at their website <a href="https://wck.org/">https://wck.org/</a>

For Friends' information, we anticipate accepting all of the usual categories of in-kind donations (including clothing and books) for Quaker Holiday Market 2022.

There will be plenty of ways for everyone to pitch in and help on this community-building fundraiser, so please stay tuned and mark your calendars to join in on AFM's Quaker Holiday Market on Saturday, 3 December!

# <u>Chesapeake Quarterly Meeting Report to Annapolis Friends Meeting</u> – Canby Robertson September 25, 2022

Held at Homewood Friends Meeting and Virtually

Following Meeting for Worship, and a lovely lunch catered by Homewood Friends members, Chesapeake Quarterly Meeting followed.

Approximately 18 people physically present, five Friends on Zoom.

Meetings with representatives present included:

Homewood, Gunpowder, Annapolis, Stoney Run, Patapsco, Patuxent, Sandy Spring. Little Falls and Deer Creek had conflicting obligations and were not present.

The meeting opened with a moment of silence after which Meeting for Sharing followed:

Homewood Friends Monthly Meeting was celebrating their 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year. John McKusick and Mary Rose Madden gave a presentation about the history of the Meeting including oral remembrances of older members. The Meeting originally met in a building on Eutaw Street. In 1917 the land was purchased on Charles Street and the new meetinghouse was built. It was designed to accommodate 300 people so Yearly Session could be held there. Mary Rose Madden's Homewood Friends Meeting oral history project can be accessed at this link: homewoodfriends.org/centenary.

Homewood Meeting tracks the names of every homicide in Baltimore and reads the names out in Meeting for worship. They participate in the monthly Rally for Black Lives interfaith coalition. Their First Day School is a "One Room Schoolhouse" all ages participating in single format. For new attenders there is a 20-minute introductory session being offered at the rise of meeting. This year there have been 3 new marriages and three births. Homewood is also subscribing to BREEZE software to track donations, facilitate data collection, and manage communication with members. They also support a number of Afghan refugees and have a Green Team program that maintains the native species gardens.

<u>Sandy Springs Monthly Meeting</u> recently hired a consultant to find way to be more racially inclusive. They have an active Refugee Support group. They continue participating with Quaker Speak videos and have an active Spiritual Journey Sharing Group.

<u>Gunpowder Monthly Meeting</u> continues discernment of its own worship practices. It has relaunched its Spiritual Friendship Group and completed a visioning retreat to decern how to allocate its financial resources. Gunpowder has also formed a partnership with McKim Center supporting summer programs and afterschool programs for downtown Baltimore youth. They are also active in helping Afghan refugee families.

<u>Annapolis Monthly</u> Meeting – AFM report to CQM attached

<u>Stoney Run Monthly Meeting</u> has hybrid meetings, virtual and in-person. The meeting has a Spiritual Formation group, supports Afghan refugees and are involved with Friends School. They host a jazz concert as a fund raiser annually. They hires a facilitator to help move the meeting toward cultural "pluralism" in their outreach efforts. In 2021 SRMM formed "trust" circles to

encourage personal growth and forward a non-judgemental relationship with others. An LGTBQ group has gathered and participated in Baltimore's gay pride festival.

<u>Patuxent Monthly Meeting</u> offers a hybrid meeting to reach members who are traveling or who have moved away. Quaker Speak videos discussions have taken place. First day School is meeting in a new annex which also has an apartment. Members have been trying to find ways to respond to racial trauma, LGTBQ and environmental issues. One group they partner with said of PMM, "though you are small, you are large in impact and effectiveness."

<u>Deer Creek and Little Falls Monthly Meetings</u> were not present for this Quarterly Meeting because they had previously scheduled a joint picnic at Falls Creek Farm, the new home of Harford Friends School which will focus on environmental practices in the school's curriculum.

<u>Patapsco Friends Monthly Meeting</u> now has 6 children in their First Day School and are making progress on having a hybrid meeting. Their Change Group has had 2 book discussions and plan more. A "First Nation Learning Circle" has held discussions after reading Indigenous people's poetry. Patapsco has partnered with a neighboring church to support an Afghan refugee family. Members of meeting have offered hikes to address environmental concerns and their Change Group is finding ways to be more active to addressing systemic racism.

Quaker Voice for Action (QVM) report was offered by Molly Finch. The group was formed about 3 years ago and advocates for just and equitable state policies and laws. It currently has 4 active volunteers and requests a liaison from each Friends meeting state-wide, whether part of BYM or PYM. For more information on issues to be explored this coming year, go to <a href="https://www.quakervoicemd.org">www.quakervoicemd.org</a>.

<u>Maryland Alliance for Justice Reform (MAJR)</u> Phil Caroom and Bob Rhudy reported that MAJR has become a state-wide ecumenical organization with its 2023 priority on reform of Maryland prisons including the establishment of an independent correctional omsbudsman and a renovated educational program.

Chesapeake Quarterly Meeting schedule for 2023 will be as follows:  $2^{nd}$  First Day in February – 212/23 at Gunpowder Monthly Meeting  $2^{nd}$  First day in June 2023 – 6/11/23 Last First day in September, 2023 – 9/24/23

Meeting was closed with a moment of silence after which Homewood was thanked for a very cohesive and productive Quarterly Meeting.

Canby Robertson

Chesapeake Quarterly Meeting September 25, 2022 Homewood Meeting, Baltimore

### **Annapolis Friends Monthly Meeting Report**

Canby Robertson

- 1. <u>Meeting for Worship</u> opportunities include a weekly in-person no-technology meeting at 8:00AM and a hybrid option at 11:00AM as well as a once-a-month Tuesday in-person meeting shared with The North County Meeting.
- 2. <u>Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business</u> is held on the first Sunday of each month at 9:00AM as a hybrid format.
- 3. Other regular activities at Annapolis Friends Meeting include:
  - A monthly Spiritual Friends Group
  - A monthly gathering of the <u>Friendly 8's</u>: made up of groups of 8 members who
    meet for a monthly dinner. Some groups meet in-person and some meet
    virtually.
  - A monthly gathering of the <u>Wednesday Meditation and Book Group</u> who gather to meditate and discuss books.
  - <u>Friends Writing Together</u> who meet on Zoom with other Friends from Hawaii,
     New Hampshire, and Maryland to explore their love of writing.
  - <u>Bartrum's Buddies</u> who meet every two weeks to maintain the gardens and grounds around the Meetinghouse.
  - <u>Environmental Stewardship Committee</u> who oversee:
    - o solar panels that provide electricity for the Meetinghouse
    - o on-going composting efforts
    - o and six electrical charging stations for electric vehicles
- 4. **Quaker Holiday Market** to be held the first Saturday in December
  - Two Markets are held each year one in May and one in December. The markets
    offer donated items including books, household goods, clothes, sports
    equipment, toys, and plants for sale. Also part of each Market is the much-loved
    Lunch Café with soups, quiches, and baked goods made by Annapolis Meeting
    members.
  - The first \$250.00 in proceeds is given to AFM's Young Friends for their discernment process to determine a beneficiary of their choice.
  - The Market Committee is currently in the discernment process to choose the charities and organizations to receive a percentage of the remaining proceeds of this Holiday Market.
  - Most years three 503C recipients are chosen to benefit from the remaining proceeds; one local, one national, and one international. Some of the causes we have supported in the past include efforts to address the climate crisis, homeless shelter support, aiding efforts to benefit child refugees, Afghan women's educational needs, providing refurbished computers to refugee families coming

to this country, and providing supplies to underfunded public schools in Maryland.

# 5. Afghan Refugee Relocation Project:

Annapolis Friends Meeting is participating in a joint effort with the Unitarian Universalist Church to resettle a family of five Afghan refugees. Housing, furnishings, computers and other needs have been provided. The parents are both participating in English as a second language courses to supplement their current skills and the children have started school.

Although the father is working, he is a civil engineer with expertise in cartography and has yet been able to find a job in his field. If anyone has suggestions or contacts to help in this area, please speak to Phil.

A dinner is being held at AFM to meet the family and enlarge their sense of community.

#### 6. Quaker Call to Action:

Friends have met 4 times to explore ways to support voting rights in battleground states with the possibility of organizing community conversations with other faith groups whose political leanings differ from Friends.

### 7. Retrospective and Restorative Justice Fund:

In September's MfWwAtB, AFM found unity to establish a fund to continue efforts to address historic and continuing issues of racism and inequality of African Americans, Indigenous People and other neighbors in our community.

The means to fund the effort will be decided in the near future.

#### 8. Urgent Call to Action:

Twelve members answered the Call and met in August.

Actions suggested from the meeting include:

1. A book group was formed to read "I Never Thought of It That Way" by Monica Guzman.

#### Suggestions for Actions:

- 2. A workshop conducted by Anne Arundel Conflict and Resolution Center be considered. It was suggested that we share the cost with other faith groups with similar interests and invite other faith groups with opposing interests to participate.
- 3. Short-term projects suggested include:
  - o Having a joint picnic or other social events with opposing faith groups to build community.
  - o Having a discussion group to explore the ideas in the Monica Guzman book to bridge divides with groups who hold opposing values.
- 4. Participation with "Reclaim Our Vote" to write post cards and send them to battleground states to support voting.
- 5. Participation in Annapolis' effort to get "Souls to the Polls" on Election Day.
- 6. To place a banner at the street in front of the Meetinghouse to join with St. Phillips Episcopal Church to focus on our common goals.



7. To participate in the "Racial Reconciliation Collaborative" started by St.