

Annapolis Friends Monthly Meeting (AFM)
Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business (MfW wAtB)
9th Month, 3rd Day, 2023
(9/3/2023)
Meeting Minutes – Approved

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

Present at the meetinghouse: Karen C. (clerk), Ellen M., Martha L., Barb T., Marjorie K., Nan E., Wes J., Sylvia O., Kim F., Bonnie P., Jeanne W., Phil C., Nathan S., and Diane S.

Present on Zoom: Arielle J. (recording clerk), Martha B., Ann R., Christina F., Linda P., Nancy Jo S., Jeanne W., Pat S., and Ria H.

9:00 am Opening: The clerk displayed and read queries from Baltimore Yearly Meeting's Faith and Practice: Outreach, Social Order while we settled into silent centering worship.

- **Outreach:** Do you, as the way opens, share Friends' principles with non-Friends? Do you witness to your Quaker faith by letting your life speak? Do you make non-Friends welcome in your meetings for worship? Do you find ways to encourage their continued attendance?
- **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?

The clerk then reviewed the meeting's agenda and the AFM Anti-Racist queries for use in our discernment and additionally provided a reminder of best practices for the hybrid meeting and for Friends attending on Zoom.

Agenda:

1) Children's Religious Education (CREC):

- a) On behalf of Children's Religious Education Committee, Martha L. shared updates about two CREC funds: the Camping Assistance Fund and the YF Opportunity Fund. Friends were in unity to accept the changes and the updated fund details are attached.

2) Outreach & Stewardship & Finance:

- a) On behalf of Outreach Committee, Marjorie K. shared an update about the Kunte Kinte festival later this month and that our application to participate has been accepted as sponsors, but are awaiting further details from the organization. The committee is requesting Friends' approval for additional spend required to

- participate in the festival.
- b) Friends were in unity to approve the additional expense while additional approving the use of funds from the Committee Contingency Fund to supplement those costs.
 - c) The committee is moving forward with planning and creation of new materials and handouts and will be reaching out for 8 volunteers to help participate.

3) Called meeting on Retrospective and Restorative Justice Fund:

- a) The clerk shared an update on the called meeting on Retrospective and Restorative Justice Fund which will take place on September 24th. The agenda proposed includes discernment to seek clarity on:
 - i) How AFM's RRJ activities relate to Quaker testimonies and what we're called to do.
 - ii) AFM's current fundraising practices and whether we're led to change them.
 - iii) Whether there are specific actions we'd like to take regarding funding the RRJ Fund, including using a portion of the Founders Fund and/or offering suggestions to Stewardship and Finance regarding the 2024 budget.
- b) Friends approved the proposed agenda and volunteers are requested to assist with notetaking during the meeting to fully capture the discernment. Additionally, on September 10th, there will be a discussion on "Journeying toward Justice and Repair", with Lynda Davis & Jean Christiansen to help with later discernment amongst Friends. The event will be hybrid and everyone is welcome to participate and encouraged to contribute to the conversation with their leadings.
 - i) Friends engaged in discussion about further ideas about how to approach the discussion, including particular consideration of what we are called to do not just in our leadings, but to participate more fully in the right ordering of the cosmos, in doing God's will on earth as it is done in heaven.
- c) Lunch will be provided and Friends are asked to reach out to the clerk in advance if interested in assisting.
- d) Finally, in lieu of reimbursement, Lynda has requested that AFM transfer another \$100 into the RRJ Fund. Friends were in unity to approve the request to transfer that amount from the committee contingency fund.

4) Nominating Committee:

- e) On behalf of Nominating Committee, Martha B. shared an update that the committee is kicking off work on the 2024 slate and the committee's ongoing outreach and engagement with Friends to think about in what ways they might serve our community. Friends are encouraged to stop and reflect on their relationship with the meeting, calls to lead or join new committees, along with additional consideration of taking on a clerk or co-clerk position.
 - i) Additionally, on October 8th, from 9:15-10:45 the committee will be providing breakfast and invite Friends to connect and use the time to share about the work being done in various committees and what opportunities are available.

5) Peace & Social Concerns (P&SC):

- f) On behalf of P&SC, Phil C. shared the following updates and requests:

- g) First, a request for input on the 2023 annual discernment for Quaker causes:
 - i) A report on the fund recipients from 2022 was recently shared to announce list for Friends to review. Additionally, Phil shared updates about possible changes for 2023 and past suggestions from Friends.
 - ii) The committee is hoping to complete the process in the coming month.
- h) Second, Phil shared a recap on the August 6th Nuclear Disarmament vigil, noting media coverage of Friends' participation, particularly highlighting Wes J. and others with past military backgrounds, along with suggested actions in the next month to keep up with the momentum, to possibly include letter writing, and reaching out to local political leaders.
 - i) Friends interested in participation in further activity are asked to reach out to Phil.
- i) Third, an update and announcement on the Racial & Reconciliation Collaborative effort:
 - i) The first RRC Community Conversation will take place on Saturday, October 14th at 12:30pm at St. Philips' Episcopal Church. Light fare will be provided and the event will be centered around discussion of our experiences with our community and racism, along with ways to make things better, ideas for activities, projects, and other initiatives to help improve racial relations in our community.
 - ii) A formal invitation will go out this week to religious groups in the county. Space in-person may be limited so those interested in participating are asked to pre-register using the details included in the invitation. Additionally, a hybrid option may be available.
 - iii) Finally, Friends are invited to help hang the new RRC banner temporarily today, more permanently next week (possibly after next week's Meeting for Worship)?
 - 1) A suggestion was shared to ask the county to post the banner along the main road.

6) Meetinghouse & Lands (M&L):

- j) On behalf of MH&L, Kim F. shared various updates about ongoing work on the meetinghouse, including the roof and skylights and an upcoming work day next Saturday September 9th 9am -12pm, as well as consideration and ongoing discussion of raising our rental rates (Friends are welcomed to provide their input).

Closing

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

The recording clerk will send the approved meeting minutes to the AFM-Announce email list before the next MfW wAtB on October 1st, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,

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

ATTACHMENTS:

- 7th Month 2023 MfW wAtB Meeting Minutes

- Updated Description of BYM Camping Assistance Fund
- Updated Description of the Young Friends Opportunity Fund

Annapolis Friends Monthly Meeting (AFM)
Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business (MfW wAtB)
7th Month, 2nd Day, 2023
(7/2/2023)
Meeting Minutes – Approved

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

Present at the meetinghouse: Karen C. (clerk), Ellen M., Mary B., Sylvia O., Phil C., Martha B., Jack H., Nan E., Sky E., Marjorie K., Diane S., Kim F., Wes J., Dot W., Margaret H., Marcia O., Bonnie P., and Betty Sue S.

Present on Zoom: Arielle J. (recording clerk), Jean C., Margaret C., Francis W., Will C., Joan M., Joseph M., Jeanne W., Pat S., Patty R., Ria H., and Phyllis S.

9:00 am Opening: The clerk displayed and read queries from Baltimore Yearly Meeting's Faith and Practice: Caring for Others while we settled into silent centering worship.

- Do you respect that of God in every person? Do you search yourself for and strive to eliminate prejudices such as those related to race, religion, gender, age, sexual orientation and economic condition? In what ways do you accept and appreciate differences among your friends and associates?
- Do you avoid exploiting or manipulating others to accomplish ends, however worthy?

The clerk then reviewed the meeting's agenda and the AFM Anti-Racist queries for use in our discernment and additionally provided a reminder of best practices for the hybrid meeting and for Friends attending on Zoom.

Agenda:

1) Ministry & Worship (M&W):

Martha B., reporting on behalf of Ministry and Worship, shared an update and recommendation for Joan M. to be welcomed as a member of Annapolis Friends Meeting. The clearness committee, consisting of Barbara Thomas (clearness committee clerk), Sylvia O., Joe M., and Martha B., met with Joan on two occasions during June for an enriching exchange, learning about Joan's spiritual journey, appreciating the many special gifts she contributes to this community, and offering our ongoing support to her. The meeting joyfully accepted the request and were delighted to welcome Joan M as a member of our community.

3) Nominating Committee:

- a) On behalf of Nominating Committee, Martha B. shared a few updates and calls for nominations.
 - i) First, Joan M. has resigned as clerk of Outreach Committee. The

committee and Meeting are grateful for her clerkship, and will continue to carry on the work in her absence.

- ii) Second, Martha shared a request for nominations or self-nominations to join various committees, particularly including Stewardship & Finance, among others.
- iii) Finally, Karen C. added additional remarks about openings and opportunities to join committees and work with BYM.

4) Meetinghouse & Land (MH&L):

- a) On behalf of MH&L, Kim F., shared an update about the ongoing roof project and planned upcoming work.

6) Peace & Social Concerns (P&SC):

- b) On behalf of P&SC, Phil C. shared the following updates and request for guidance:
 - i) First, a recent act of race-based vandalism occurred at the nearby Fowler United Methodist Church totalling over \$100,000 in damages. Friends are moved to make a donation from emergent social concerns to offer additional help and express solidarity.
 - 1) Friends discussed available funding options and additional ideas for means of showing our support as a neighborly Meeting.
 - 2) The committee will resume this discussion virtually and propose an official amount request to the Treasurer, along with sharing additional means and opportunities to provide assistance with the rest of the Meeting.
- c) 2 other announcements included:
- d) First, Nancy Jo S. has been approved to attend a national training conference of braver angels focused on improving communications in the tense political climate and she plans to come back and share her learnings with the Meeting.
- e) Second, as a followup to the Golden Rule visit and nuclear weapons discussion, Friends and Peace Action committee have come up with a proposal and invitation for Friends to hold a vigil on August 6th to commemorate the historical nuclear bombing events. The vigil for nuclear disarmament will seek to promote peace and consider ways we can work together to ensure that nuclear weapons are never again used, and hopefully draw attention to ways to eliminate the occasions of war.
 - i) Friends approved the proposal and shared in additional discussion about logistics and other considerations.

8) Clerk's announcements: The clerk shared the following announcements and proposals:

- a) First is a proposal to cancel the August business meeting. Friends were in unity to approve this proposal.
- b) Second, the next committee clerks' meeting will take place on July 23, 9:30, in-person and online. All are welcome to attend and each committee is encouraged to have someone in attendance.
- c) Finally, an update on the progress on deciding how to fund our Retrospective and Restorative Justice Fund and a recent Meeting for Learning and decision to arrange for an outside speaker to come and talk about reparations which will likely be a potluck

event in August or September.

- d) The clerk took the remaining meeting time to hold discussion and additional feedback about funding this initiative, reminding the meeting that no decisions are expected to be made today but offering the opportunity to share.
 - i) Friends engaged in lively discussion about how we support different groups and concerns, our intentions, and how we as a meeting fund various initiatives. Additionally noting ongoing inequities and opportunities for supporting restorative action, as well as possible ways to begin providing support incrementally, along with concerns about inaction.

Closing

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

The recording clerk will send the approved meeting minutes to the AFM-Announce email list before the next MfW wAtB on September 3rd, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,

Arielle J., Recording Clerk

recording-clerk@annapolisfriends.org

ATTACHMENTS:

- 6th Month 2023 MfW wAtB Meeting Minutes

Description of BYM Camping Assistance Fund:

1. **Fund Type:** Contingency, Continuing
2. **Name:** Camping Assistance Fund
3. **Purpose:** To provide assistance to Annapolis Friends Meeting member and attender families who need financial help to ensure their children, or children in their care, can attend a BYM camp.
4. **Restrictions:**
5. **Disbursement Authority:** Children's Religious Education Committee (CREC)
6. **Miscellaneous Information:** Target Floor is \$2500

Families seeking assistance should promptly contact the clerk of the CREC with the name of the camper, the camp, the duration of stay, and the total fees anticipated. In most cases, fund allocations for camping assistance will cover 33 percent of the total family BYM camping fees. Up to 50 percent of total fees may be awarded in the event that CREC determines there are extenuating circumstances of particular and special need (either financial or on behalf of the children involved). Please see *“Principles and Procedure Regarding Administration and Application, AFM Restricted Fund: BYM Camping Assistance”* for more details.

7/22/2015

Description of the Young Friends Opportunity Fund

1. **Fund Type:** Contingency
2. **Name:** Young Friends Opportunity Fund
3. **Purpose:** To enable young friends to participate in educational opportunities as they move forward in their spiritual paths. Educational opportunities will be broadly defined, to nurture the spiritual growth of young friends. Each request will be considered prayerfully and confidentially by members of the Children's Religious Education Committee, and the committee will seek Meeting's help if needed.
4. **Restrictions:** This fund will not provide for adult (over 21) scholarship objectives which come under the scope of the Adult Scholarship Fund.
5. **Disbursement Authority:** Children's Religious Education Committee.
6. **Miscellaneous Information:** This Fund provides financial support for enhancement of young friends' education and spiritual growth. The Young Friends Opportunity Fund was created to meet a need that presented itself to our meeting a few years ago as young friends, moving forward in their lives as young Quakers, found opportunities to attend Quaker schools and workshops, to travel, to participate in service projects, etc. Several of our young friends would not have been able to have these enriching experiences without financial aid from the Meeting. As way opened and the Meeting found resources to support these requests, a trustee at the time suggested that an ongoing fund be created to offer continuing support for this need. Meeting approved the new fund.
7. **Notes: Target Floor is \$2000**

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