

Annapolis Friends Monthly Meeting (AFM)  
Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business (MfW wAtB)  
10<sup>th</sup> Month, 1st Day, 2023  
(10/1/2023)  
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), Martha B., Alison B., Cairn K., Barb T., Stephen P., Sheila M., Marjorie K., Angela H., Jack H., Phil C., Margaret H., and Bonnie P.

Present on Zoom: Arielle J. (recording clerk), Ann R., Mary B., Patricia R., Phyllis S., Wes J., Jeanne W., Pat S., Ted R., Jean C., Diane S., and Ria H.

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

- 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 peacekeeping, conflict resolution and the elimination of violence? Are you working toward eliminating aggression at all levels, from the personal to the international?

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.

Friends asked for clarifications about the agenda and related changes, along with special acknowledgement about World Quaker Day this October 1st. The clerk of Ministry and Worship requested that a special noted video in celebration be shared out via the announce list after the meeting.

Agenda:

1) Quaker Market Committee (QMC):

- a) On behalf of Quaker Market Committee, Cairn K. shared the recommendations for the proceeds of the upcoming Quaker Holiday Market coming up this December 2nd.
  - i) \$250 to our Young Friends for their discernment
  - ii) 25% to each of three External causes:
    - (1) Germantown Elementary Backpack Buddies;
    - (2) Let's Go, Boys & Girls;
    - (3) and the USAP Community School
  - iii) And the final 25% dedicated to internal causes will be for the AFM/UU Church of Annapolis for support of our Afghan refugee family.
- b) More information and educational materials about the causes may be found in the full

QMC report attached.

c) Friends were in unity to approve the causes.

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

a) On behalf of P&SC, Phil C. shared the following request for approval and announcements:

b) Firstly, Phil gave a review of the designated Quaker causes, and noted a remaining balance to be decided on due to one organization seemingly no longer in operation.

i) P&SC recommends assigning the remaining funds to the Afghan Women's Fund.

ii) Friends approved the recommendation.

iii) The full list of the Quaker causes is attached.

c) 2nd, an announcement about an upcoming MD Peace Action co-sponsored awards program: The Peace Action essay contest for middle school essay entries across the state will take place on October 21st at 2:30pm and the committee is requesting to use the AFM meeting room for the event, along with asking Friends to attend and bring snacks as led.

d) Finally, Phil shared an announcement about the Racial Reconciliation Collaborative-Community Conversations session this October 14th at St. Philips. There will be a potluck lunch and Friends are invited to sign up to join the event.

e) Further details will be shared about both events in the announce list.

3) Called meeting on Retrospective and Restorative Justice Fund: Minutes from the September 24th called meeting are attached.

a) Friends who attended the meeting shared additional remarks about the discussion and decisions that remain to be made.

b) A request to use the October 22nd timeslot meant for another called business meeting to be used instead for a threshing or listening session due to many remaining unknowns and outstanding concerns.

i) Friends discussed the proposal, with clarification provided about the distinctions amongst the session options suggested, along with specifics of the outstanding concerns to be addressed, particularly around tax law and the additional work potentially placed on Friends.

ii) An additional request was made for more information to be provided before the threshing or listening session with specifics related to the outstanding issues to ensure a productive discussion.

1) The clerk noted that in addition to tax & legal uncertainty, questions remain about what we're led to do vs. what we're allowed to do. The clerk is requesting Friends to send any concerns or specific issues around our accounting and fundraising policy to her directly ([clerk@annapolisfriends.org](mailto:clerk@annapolisfriends.org) or [kcunyngham@verizon.net](mailto:kcunyngham@verizon.net)) to ensure we have all the information in order to decide the next steps.

2) Additionally, one Friend emphasized the need for all the voices to be in the room to identify and find unity in what all the questions are so that any next session can be productive.

#### 4) Nominating Committee:

- a) On behalf of Nominating Committee, Martha B. shared an update on the committee's work on the 2024 slate and upcoming events and that if Friends are led to discuss opportunities to take on roles within the meeting, they are encouraged to reach out.
- b) Additionally there will be an upcoming event this Sunday, October 8, 9:15-9:45 am. Between early MfW and 11am MfW. This will be an opportunity for our community to gather for fellowship, with some lite breakfast treats, and to hear some brief highlights about committees and opportunities.
- c) At today's potluck, there will another opportunity for an informal gathering to discuss committee opportunities, and other ways to become involved in our community.

#### 5) Outreach Committee:

- a) On behalf of Outreach committee, Marjorie K. and Bonnie P. shared an update about the Kunte Kinte festival later this month which has been rescheduled for Saturday, October 28th with reduced hours. The committee is still looking for volunteers to signup and help support our presence at the event, or even attend in general. Friends shared recommendations for refreshments, possibly hot cider due to the cooler temperatures.

#### 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 November 5th, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,

Arielle J., Recording Clerk

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

#### ATTACHMENTS:

- 9<sup>th</sup> Month 2023 MfW wAtB Meeting Minutes
- QMC Quaker Causes Report
- Peace & Social Concerns (P&SC) Quaker Causes List
- Called meeting on Retrospective and Restorative Justice Fund: September 24th Meeting Minutes

Annapolis Friends Monthly Meeting (AFM)  
Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business (MfW wAtB)  
9<sup>th</sup> 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 Kunte 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](mailto:recording-clerk@annapolisfriends.org)

#### ATTACHMENTS:

- 7<sup>th</sup> Month 2023 MfW wAtB Meeting Minutes

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

## **Quaker Market Committee (QMC): Holiday Market Causes**

Proceeds will be allocated as follows: \$250 to our Young Friends for their discernment; 25% to each of three External causes (Germantown Elementary Backpack Buddies, Let's Go, Boys & Girls, and the USAP Community School); and the Internal 25% to AFM/UU Church of Annapolis for support of our Afghan refugee family.

Since one of the goals of the Quaker Market Committee (QMC) is to provide education regarding causes, as well as financial support, here is some background on each:

**Germantown Elementary Backpack Buddies** is a weekend food backpack program operating at Germantown Elementary School in Annapolis, where last year 75% of students qualified for Free and Reduced Lunch funding. Because funds are insufficient to provide weekend food backpacks for all children, the Community School Manager works with the guidance counselor, teachers and the Bilingual Family Facilitator to identify recipient students/families who are in exceptional need. The needs may be due to factors such as illness, unemployment, or homelessness. Each participating student receives two breakfasts, two lunches, two snacks, and two dinners each weekend. The program was able to provide weekend food backpacks for 15 students last year, and hopes to secure sufficient funding to support at least the same number this year. Funding for this program flows through the school's Parent Teacher Association, which is a 501(c)3, although the program receives no funding from the PTA, since the program's services are not available to all students. QMC members felt led to recommend support of this local effort aimed at reducing food insecurity among children in the greatest need at one of our local Annapolis schools, which we view as a social justice issue. In addition, one of our AFM community members, Mary B., plays a very active role in this program, including working to secure adequate funding, even in the face of rising food costs and other challenges. This cause was last supported by Quaker Market proceeds in the spring of 2016, so it meets the committee's goal of not supporting causes more frequently than once every five years.

**Let's Go, Boys and Girls (LGB&G)** is a local 501(c)3 that partners with schools, youth organizations, and other non-profits in historically under-resourced communities to provide STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) learning experiences for youth from elementary school to post-secondary school age. They focus on serving youth adversely affected by racial, gender, and socioeconomic inequities in underserved communities in Baltimore, Annapolis and Anne Arundel County. QMC members were drawn to this cause as a small, local cause addressing social justice by helping to enhance the educational opportunities available to local children in under-served communities. More information can be found at their website <https://www.lets goboy sandgirls.org/>.

**The USAP Community School** is a residential 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade school that educates



high-achieving, low-income Zimbabwean students to excel at the world's top universities and return home to build society. Unlike other college access initiatives, they are very concerned to support students throughout their college years and help them make the transition home again to put their education to use on the African continent. The school is a flagship program operated by Education Matters Africa Foundation/Education Matters (an educational non-profit in Zimbabwe that is registered as a 501(c)3 in the US). The school has a Quaker affiliation, and places the values of integrity, equity, service and curiosity at the core of their community. Each Quaker Market, QMC hopes way will open to include at least one cause beyond our region or country. The USAP Community School resonated with committee members as a cause that could contribute a broader geographic outlook, since the school is located in Zimbabwe, as well as helping children in need by working to level an extremely unlevel educational playing field, helping them to transition home after their university education, and including a focus on values that we believe in. More information can be found at their website <http://edmattersafrica.org/usap-community-school-3/>.

QMC members felt led to recommend that the Internal 25% of Quaker Holiday Market 2023 proceeds be awarded to the joint **AFM/ Unitarian Universalist Church of Annapolis partnership that has managed support for an Afghan refugee family** that fled to the US over two years ago, after the fall of Afghanistan to the Taliban. This refugee family was assigned to us by Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area (LSSNCA) and we are acting as their co-sponsor agents in supporting their resettlement. Although Quaker Market proceeds are not available to provide ongoing support to the family, they could be used once to help provide support to the family during a difficult time, and to honor the time, funds and hard work that many members of both communities have invested on our behalf in the support of this Afghan refugee family.

**QUAKER CAUSES recommended for 2023:**

**Tier 1 - 3 x \$350 = \$1050**

Center of Help - 350.00

Ramallah Friends School 350

BYM STRIDE 350

**Tier 2 - 14 x \$200 = \$2,800,**

**\*assigning \$472 balance to Afghan Women's Fund**

BYM Camping Property 200

*\*Afghan Women's Fund 672*

Annapolis Immigration Justice Network, Inc. 200

Anne Arundel Conflict Resolution Center 200

Friends Peace Teams - Ukraine program 200

Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) 200

Friends Wilderness Center - 200

Interfaith Action for Human Rights (IAHR) 200

Peace Action (Maryland) 200

Friends General Conference (FGC) 200

American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) 200

Muslim Voice for Peace & Reconciliation 200

Quaker House (Fayetteville, N.C.) 200

Quaker Voluntary Service 200

Annapolis Friends Monthly Meeting (AFM)  
Called Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business (MfW wAtB)  
9th Month, 24th Day, 2023  
(09.24.2023)  
Meeting Minutes – Draft

Note: The Called MfW wAtB was conducted in person at the meetinghouse and with participants via Zoom.

Present in the meetinghouse: Karen C. (clerk), Ellen M. (recording clerk), Martha B., Sheila M., Martha L., Nan E., Sky E., Wes J., Kim F., Jack H., Marcia O., Sylvia O., Margaret H. L., Stephen P., Nathan S., Barb T., Kathy T., Dan C., and Phil C.

Present on Zoom: Diane S., Ann R., Minette S., Pat S., Jean C., Mary B., Jon H., Lisa H., Nancy Jo S., Marjorie K., Ria H., Ted R.

9:00 am Opening: Worship started and was held until 9:15 am when the clerk, Karen, welcomed all in attendance. The clerk shared that she was asked by Nominating Committee what brought her joy as a member of Annapolis Friends Meeting. Karen said she heard herself say with some level of surprise that she appreciated committee work because it gave her an opportunity to practice her faith, the centering and listening while doing something, asking herself what are we called to do. She reminded us that Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business was another opportunity to practice actively bringing spirit into the room as we conduct our business together.

The clerk reviewed the agenda and shared that this Special Called MfW wAtB was focused on the AFM Retrospective and Restorative Justice (RRJ) Fund, AFM's racial justice activities, and aspects of our fundraising policy as they relate to the RRJ Fund. The clerk noted a handout that listed the AFM activities related to the RRJ Fund, which is attached to these minutes and was distributed by email prior to our Meeting.

The clerk led us through a series of queries for worship and discernment (also previously shared via email):

Agenda:

- A. **Queries: The RRJ Fund description mentions Friends' testimonies of equality, peace and justice. How do these and other testimonies inform AFM's and individual Friends' racial justice work? How might we "let our lives speak" through the RRJ Fund? What are our aspirations for the RRJ Fund?**

The clerk talked about how helpful the discussions have been with the Clerk's Support Committee. The clerk invited Friend Sheila M., a member of the Clerk's Support Committee, to start us off on this first agenda item. Sheila provided a brief summary of how the Quaker testimonies are integral to the RRJ Fund, how integrity, peace, simplicity, equality, and community are as essential to the fund as they are to our Quaker practice. Friends were moved by the message.

- B. Queries: The RRJ Fund currently has \$1,600. Should we disburse some or all of those funds now to the three organizations identified by the Change group?**
- the Thurgood Marshall College Fund
  - the Native American College Fund
  - A.A. Community College's Black Male Initiative / Student Achievement Success program

**Is there any guidance we'd like to provide Peace and Social Concerns about future RRJ Fund disbursements?**

The clerk reminded us of how the current funds came into the RRJ Fund. The RRJ Fund was approved in September 2022 and received \$1,500 from the 2023 operating budget. This summer, Lynda Davis, a speaker invited to provide a presentation on "Journeying towards Retrospective and Restorative Justice", requested that \$100 be deposited to the RRJ Fund in acknowledgment of her contribution to our Meeting. That request was approved during the AFM MfW wAtB on September 3, 2023 bringing the total of the Fund to \$1,600.

Phil C. provided an introduction and background about how the Peace and Social Concerns (P&SC) Committee and the Change Group responded to the Baltimore Yearly Meeting (BYM) initiative that included the acquisition of a Black Lives Matter banner and how the AFM Change Group conducted an extensive study of how the current situation of oppression came about. The group decided that establishing a means for assisting with education was a powerful way to begin addressing the past and current harms of slavery and racism in a way that was congruent with Quakerism and our Meeting. They identified in the three organizations listed above as a way for AFM to begin. Friends joined in the discussion agreeing that many peoples have been harmed by systemic racism, including immigrants, Native Americans, and African Americans whether they had enslaved ancestors or not.

Friends voiced a range of perspectives, including whether to use the funds immediately or save for longer term investments.

The clerk read the RRJ fund description (attached), so that we could all hear it under the current discussion.

Questions arose about our other fundraising policies, including those associated with Quaker Market. The clerk suggested that we take tiny steps and not address all policies that need to be revised, but that we take this specific policy, the RRJ Fund, and make sure that it is up to date and expresses how we are being led at this time. The clerk suggested that we take up the other policies over time and as thoroughly as we are developing the RRJ Fund. It was clarified that the decisions we make today will only affect the RRJ Fund and none of our other policies.

Decision: Overall, there was a reaffirmation of having the RRJ Fund and using it to invest in the repair of harm as it was originally set up to do. The Meeting requested further guidance from the Change Group related to timing, distribution amounts, and organizations after hearing input from the sharing received at this meeting.

**C. Queries: The Change group proposes that some or all of the Founders' Fund be used for the RRJ Fund. Are we in unity with this proposal? If so, how much of the Founders' Fund should we use? Should we disburse some or all of that amount to three organizations listed above? If we are not in unity with using the Founders Fund for this purpose, should we establish an ad hoc committee to set guidelines for the appropriate use of the Founders' Fund?**

Phil C. noted that the original recommendation from the Change Group was to use the funds in the Founders Fund (FF) toward the RRJ Fund. He provided background information for how the FF was established, that the FF was set up by AFM for the support of Friends testimonies (i.e., simplicity, peace, integrity, equality and community) and noted some of the previous distributions made. He noted that the intent of the RRJ is consistent with all of the Quaker testimonies. At the current time, there is a little over \$10,000 in the FF and the money has not been used in many years. The Change Group is proposing that the whole amount in the FF be transferred to the RRJ Fund.

Nan E. asked us to worshipfully consider what we are being called to do and that we take a moment of worship, which the meeting did.

Friends spoke to the importance of being in unity, as a collective, and that we enter this as a commitment of the Meeting as a whole, not just to release it to P&SC and the Change Group to go it alone. We are all in this together. It was suggested that we should have more meetings like this to stay on top of it, such as quarterly meetings.

Decision: The meeting was in unity that all of the funds currently in the Founder's Fund be transferred to the RRJ Fund and that the balance be set to zero for the FF. Although the FF balance will be zero, Meeting agreed to maintain the FF. A friend noted that we were respecting and showing appreciation to the founders by transforming the funds in the FF into the RRJ Fund.

The final query was laid over to the October 22, Special Called Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business for worshipful discernment

**D. Query: The RRJ Fund is one of AFM's 14 Internally Designated Funds (IDF). (Examples of other IDF's are the Building Fund, the Young Friend's Opportunity Fund, Emergent Social Concerns, and Memorial Garden.) Our current practice is that IDF's are funded through AFM's annual operating budget and transfers between IDF's, not by individuals designating their donations to AFM for a particular IDF. The Change group has proposed fundraising drives to solicit individual contributions for the RRJ Fund. Are we in unity with allowing individual contributions to the RRJ Fund?**

Closing: The meeting was closed with a breath of silence and gratitude for all that was accomplished this day.

The recording clerk will send the approved meeting minutes to the AFM-Announce email list.

Respectfully submitted, Ellen M., recording clerk

Attachments:

- Activities related to RRJ Fund\_v2
- AACC - Black Male Init
- RRJ Fund description