

Annapolis Friends Monthly Meeting (AFM)
Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business (MfB)
Second Month, Second Day, 2025 (2/2/25)

Present were: Ellen McBride (clerk), Phil Caroom (recording clerk), Nona McNatt, Margaret Holmes, Cairn Krafft, Alison Barrett, Barb Thomas, Marjorie Kehoe, Sylvia Oliva, Nan & Sky Elsbree, Martha Lurz, Ruth Slavin, Ben Kilgore, Fahima Gaheez, Judy Brown, Minette Clarke-Swindel, Jack Lahr, Mary Barbera, Mary Pratt, Phyllis Singer, Karen Cunnyingham, Marcia Ormsby, Jack Hogsten, Kim Finch, Dot Walizer, Pat Schenck, Patty Robinson, Dan Campbell, Kathy Trimmer, Karl Richmond, Beth Chandler, Steve Poe, Diane Shandor and Jean Christianson.

We met both in person and via Zoom. We began with centering worship and screen-sharing of Baltimore Yearly Meeting's (BYM's) Faith and Practice queries as to meeting for worship, as well as reviewing of our AFM anti-racist queries. Our Clerk, participating by Zoom due to a bad cold, welcomed Friends and reviewed best practices in relation to our OWL system for remote participation by Friends unable to be physically present. She thanked Jean Christianson for holding our meeting in the light and other Friends for assisting with her remote clerking. She also mentioned her recent experience of explaining Quakers to some non-Quakers in her community, distinguishing our intent to wait and listen to Spirit rather than "just meditating."

For Stewardship & Finance (S&F) Committee, Jack Lahr presented the 2024-year-end Treasurer's Report and, for second reading, the proposed 2025 budget for a second reading. ([See attached](#)). He noted that S&F has recommended the use of our 2024 surplus donations to make up for the past two years' failure to increase the building fund. Friends approved both the proposed 2025 budget and the use of the 2024 surplus. Jack also thanked Karen Cunnyingham for her efforts preparing these documents. (More information and a recommendation as to the Melba Battin memorial gift will be presented at a later Meeting.)

For Ministry & Pastoral Care (MPC), Barb Thomas reported on various committee proposals for preparation of our 2024 Spiritual State of the Meeting (SSOM) report. The proposals include: 1) To hold worship sharing on our BYM queries on March 16 during the 11 am Meeting for Worship and possibly extending the time to 12:30 pm; Barb noted that "God has no hard stop." 2) For our early worship group, MPC has offered 3 options that the group will consider. 3) AFM committees will be asked to consider the queries as to their committee work. And, 4) MPC also will invite individual written responses from those otherwise unable to participate.

One Friend suggested, for 2026, that a SSOM time slot at 9:15 should be reserved. Some Friends suggested that Meeting for Worship should not be interrupted, considering possibly bumping a Meeting for Learning slot or committee meeting date. After discussion, Barb agreed to, again, take these comments back to MPC to find a non-MfW time for SSOM worship sharing. But, she also pointed out that 3/16 would be a committee meeting date so using that date at 9:15 might resolve Friends' concerns. Friends approved this substitution for a 3/16/25, 9:15 a.m. SSOM worship-sharing.

We also heard various announcements & updates:

For the AFM Green Group, Marjorie Kehoe reported three items:

1) She re-introduced the Green Group web page (tabbing through about us, committees, to Meeting House & Land, to the Green Group). This includes a mission statement. She also noted that there are various action plans also listed. (See <https://annapolisfriends.org/meetinghouse-lands-committee/the-green-group-home/>)

- 2) Future Green Group planting plans include: carts coming to the AFM patio that can “chase the sun,” vegetable gardens, and more.
- 3) She also reported a \$500 gift to AFM from Interfaith Partners of the Chesapeake (IPC) which recognizes our commitment to the environment and which can facilitate further plans. One Friend suggested sharing IPC “Learning Labs” with the wider community.

For Ministry & Pastoral Care Committee (MPC), Marcia Ormsby apologized if any of her past words have been hurtful to anyone. She then read a 2024 pastoral care report. (See attached report - [PASTORAL CARE 2024.docx](#)) She also noted that there has been no reimbursement requested for her donation of many bouquets and tree planting, mentioning this for possible future (tax?) recognition or consideration. Many Friends thanked Marcia for her generosity and for her service as “head huddler” for our pastoral care efforts. Some Friends, with appreciation, mentioned examples of pastoral care they have received. Another Friend asked why “worship” currently has been dropped from MPC’s title; others noted that this consolidation of two prior committees (Ministry & Worship and Pastoral Care) still is considered by our AFM Gifts and Leadings Committee as possibly transitional and not permanent, so that a decision on this eventually will return to MfB again for review.

For MPC, Barb also reminded Friends about the additional huddles known as “adult education” and “deepening quality of worship.” She and Judy noted that, with coordination by this adult education huddle, we are continuing our “Quaker Foundations: The Seekers Series”–which began with more than 50 participants last week. The series will continue through April 13, 9:30 am to 10:40 am in the Worship Room. (See flyer below these minutes.)

Finally, for MPC, Barb also thanked Friends for volunteering to assist in the nursery during the Seekers’ series. Under our safety policy, we need a pair of volunteers to work together so as to enable parents to participate in the meetings for learning. She encouraged more volunteers for future sessions.

For Peace & Social Concerns Committee (PSC), Margaret Holmes reported: 1) First, as to the Winter Relief seasonal homeless shelter program, our week starts tomorrow and runs through 2/10. We still need volunteers for some chaperon slots on Sun, 2/9. If Friends are available for these slots, they should contact Phil. We will republish the spreadsheet on AF_announcements email and Phil will email reminders to volunteers.

2) As to last MfB’s request for PSC to review QM questions, PSC has had two in-person meetings and put an AFM_announcements email request for Friends to answer 3 questions. Thus far, the Committee has received 10 responses and will extend the time for Friends to respond.

The next PSC committee meeting will be 2/13 at 7:00 by Zoom and, as to the Quaker Market questions, the committee again will invite everyone who is interested in reviewing with us the feedback we will have received by that date. We hope to bring a summary of Friends comments and recommendations. (The committee also noted that no Friends have recommended that AFM should stop, reverse or make any immediate changes to our 2025 Spring Market plans.)

Friends approved these minutes during the meeting. We concluded with brief centering silence.

-These minutes respectfully submitted. - P.Caroom, Recording Clerk

ATTACHMENT:

Quaker Foundations: the Seekers' Series schedule

1. Introduction To Quaker Faith And Practice — Jan 26 Elise Albert/Margaret Holmes

Discussion of the foundation of Quaker faith and spiritual practice and the Quaker concept of divinity (The Light, the Inner Teacher, the Christ within, continuing revelation).

Query: What brought you to Quakerism? What keeps you coming?

2. Quaker Faith, Testimonies, and Social Justice - Feb. 9 Jenny Isaacs/Martha Baer

How do our beliefs translate to our actions in the world?

Queries: Have you been inspired by your faith or your beliefs to be engaged in any social justice actions? If so, how does your faith sustain you? Which testimony feels most challenging in your life now?

3. Quaker Christianity And Quaker Universalism - Feb. 23 Phil Caroom/Judy Brown

Many people ask if Quakers are Christian. Quaker faith and practice arose in a Christian context, and yet many of the beliefs and practices are relevant and helpful for those who are not necessarily traditional Christians. Quaker Universalism allows for a deep and genuine appreciation of the arising of Spirit in all religions and spiritual paths.

Query: What was the religion or religious orientation of your childhood; how has that shaped you?

4. Quaker Process - March 9 Ellen McBride/Mary Barbera

Meetings for Business, reaching unity, committees, membership, structure of monthly meetings and yearly meetings, list of other Quaker organizations.

Query: How do Quaker decision-making processes reflect the principles of Quaker faith?

5. Seekers And Finders: The Early Quaker Movement And The Experiences That Defined Quaker Faith And Practice - March 23 Ann Riggs/Barbara Thomas

This session will give more context and background for the understanding of Quaker faith and practice – why no ministers (in unprogrammed meetings)? The idea that we don't just take from the teachings of others but find our own truth in the context of a community of seekers. (story of James Naylor?), Clearness Committees to search for "truth."

Query: Are there any things about the experience of early Friends that speak to you?

6. Quaker Worship And Vocal Ministry - April 13 TBD

What has been your experience of Quaker worship; have you had a range of experiences; do you have questions? We'll explore the intentions and experiences of Quaker worship; we will also talk about how we discern whether to speak in Meeting or not – what is the nature of vocal ministry that distinguishes it from just sharing ideas? What do we mean by Holding someone in the Light? Is that different from praying for them?

Annapolis Friends Meeting Proposed 2025 Operating Budget and 2024 Treasurers' report

	2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2024 Budget, amended*	2024 Actual	2024 Actual - Budget	Proposed 2025
Income						
Contributions	55,234	47,752	48,465	55,760	7,295	55,824
Rentals	7,137	16,481	15,000	17,185	2,185	17,000
Interest, Dividends		2,246	7,000	9,093	2,093	7,000
Other		512		388	388	0
Committee Contingency Fund Transfers*			1,246	1,246	0	
Total Income	62,371	66,991	71,711	83,672	11,961	79,824
Notes: Not included here is a \$20,000 contribution from Jim Battin in memory of his mother, Melba Battin. S&F will bring a recommendation on the use of those funds to a future business meeting.						
Expenses						
Committee activities						
CREC		49	300	36	-264	300
Communications		3,195	6,270	6,270	0	7,000
Library	293	136	400	129	-271	400
Meetinghouse and Lands **	29,330	22,795	28,000	24,655	-3,345	30,000
Ministry and Pastoral Care *	174	420	716	716	0	800
Outreach	95	1,800	1,800	1,625	-175	1,800
Peace and Social Concerns *	3,400	4,116	4,360	4,360	0	4,300
Quaker Market	180	494	550	243	-307	100
Stewardship and Finance		249	1,150	1,076	-74	3,600
Trustees		0	0	0	0	0
Independent Designated Funds	992	11,532	9,905	9,905	0	27,704
Quaker Causes	4,321	4,322	4,419	4,419	0	3,820
Apportionment	12,625	12,627	13,841	13,841	13,841	0
Total Expenses	51,410	61,735	71,711	71,711	67,274	79,824
Net	10,961	5,256	0	0	16,397	0

Notes:

Interest and Dividends includes FFC distribution (does not include unrealized gains/losses)

Ministry and Worship includes \$250 for Quaker Burial Ground

Outreach includes festival fees, internal expenses, \$100 GAIN dues. (The GAIN dues have not been paid for several years.)

P&SC includes \$2,000 for Lighthouse and \$2,000 to for ACT

Quaker Causes is 8 percent of last full year's contributions

* 2024 Budget included the following amendments through Committee Contingency Fund transfers. (Table reflects amount spent, which in some cases was less than amount approved.)

Purpose	Committee	Amount	Approved
Md Peace Action Education Fund	Peace & Social Concerns	\$250	May 2024, Stewardship & Finance
Postcarding supplies	Peace & Social Concerns	\$702	July 2024, Business Meeting
Replacement banner	Peace & Social Concerns	\$8	October 2024, Business Meeting
Additional expenses	Ministry & Pastoral Care	\$16	October 2024, Stewardship & Finance
Additional expenses	Communications	\$270	November 2024, Stewardship & Finance
TOTAL		\$1,246	

** In September 2024, AFM approved allocating the 2023 budget surplus of \$5,256 to MHL for anticipated additional expenses. However, MHL did not need the additional funds, so the budget reflects the original MHL budget.

Stewardship and Finance recommends designating the 2023 and 2024 surpluses and an extra \$7,500 in 2025 to the Building Fund to make up for not designating anything to the Building Fund in 2021-2023 and only \$5,000 in 2024. We propose that the extra \$7,500 in 2025 only be moved to the Building Fund if 2025 funds allow. (See next page.)

Annapolis Friends Meeting Funds, 12/31/2024

Designated Funds	2023	2024				2025		Fund Target
	Year End	Budget	Additions	Subtractions	Balance	Proposed transfers	Year Begin	
Peace and Social Concerns								
Emergent Social Concerns	1,299	1,105			2,404	955	3,359	2% of 2024 contributions
Peace & Justice Center	2,928	0			2,928		2,928	None
Retrospective and Restorative Justice	12,532	0		7,000	5,532		5,532	None
Meetinghouse and Land								
Building Fund	194,718	5,000			199,718	39,153	238,871	add \$10,000 each year
Capital Improvement	25,130	5,000	2,400		32,530	0	32,530	varies based on needs
Capital Replacement	42,047	5,000			47,047	5,000	52,047	add \$10,000 each year
Memorial Garden	2,410	-410		960	1,040	960	2,000	2,000
CREC								
Young Friend's Opportunity	2,000	0			2,000		2,000	2,000
Camping	2,500	0		1,634	866	1,634	2,500	2,500
Ministry and Pastoral Care								
Embraced Ministry	2,000				2,000		2,000	2,000
Suffering & Individual Emergency	2,500	2,500			5,000		5,000	5,000
Stewardship & Finance								
Adult Scholarship	2,400	100		409	2,091	409	2,500	2,500
Committee Contingency	18,390	-8,390		1,246	8,754	1,246	10,000	10,000
Trustees	0							
Founder's Fund	0	0			0		0	None
Total Designated Funds	310,854	9,905	2,400	11,249	311,910	27,704	361,267	

Money in the bank as of 12/31/2024

Truist Checking	\$99,629
Truist Saving	\$48,055
Truist Certificate of Deposit	\$103,239
Friends Fiduciary Corp (FFC)	\$204,534
Total	\$455,457

Quaker Market Distributions

Spring 2023	\$5,750	(\$250 to Capital Improvement for accessibility improvements)
Holiday 2023	\$9,850	(\$250 to Capital Improvement for accessibility improvements)
Spring 2024	\$8,100	(\$1,900 to Capital Improvement for accessibility improvements)
Holiday 2024	\$9,320	Not distributed as of 12/31/2024

Summary of AFM funds as of 12/31/2024

Designated funds	\$311,910
Undistributed 2024 Holiday Market	\$9,320
2023 "surplus"	\$5,256
2024 "surplus"	\$16,397
Battin legacy gift	\$20,000
Undesignated reserves	\$92,574
Total	\$455,457

Stewardship and Finance recommends designating the 2023 and 2024 surpluses and an extra \$7,500 in 2025 to the Building Fund to make up for not designating anything to the Building Fund in 2021-2023 and only \$5,000 in 2024. We propose that the extra \$7,500 in 2025 only be moved to the Building Fund if 2025 funds allow.

PASTORAL CARE 2024

Within the year of 2024, Pastoral Care concerns constituted visits, calls, cards, bouquets and gifts to about 20 people within our meeting. Many visits, multiple times and some with very complicated concerns, required outreach to other experts or associates. As we enter a new year we have noticed an increase in Meeting attendance and membership. Although very small, we do function with great care and oversight in supporting each other. It seems those needs are growing and those beloved Friends, aging will require increased attention. Let no one suffer alone.

An invitation from Pastoral Care outreach is open for anyone in need so that willing helpers can easily reach out and offer their specific gifts in a way that ensures privacy, eliminating unnecessary overlap. Visitation is a very special action, requiring great sensitivity to timing and location. Overwhelming our struggling Friends is almost as hurtful as is under serving. So, we strive for appropriate attention with just the right fit for receiver and giver.

It is obvious, that, in our beloved community, we all reach out to each other as we are called by divine voices. Those efforts are not tracked, nor even noticed by others, but remain within a sacred relationship that defies documentation and notification. We are eternally grateful for those relationships and recognize them as a wider branch bearing fruit that may well go unnoticed by the many.

Although, many have been attended, in no way is any reimbursement sought. However as we move forward, perhaps a re-consideration of budget may serve. Our committed committee has a bouquet, a tree, or several trees planted in recognition of our suffering Friends. Heretofore, there has been no impact to our budget; perhaps it's time to account for these gifts. Our beloved community stands at the precipice of enormous change as we emerge from the solitude of the pandemic, and as we greet an uncertain future. Let us keep each other close with the love and light that our Holy Mother has so profoundly taught.