Adelphi Friends Meeting

2303 Metzerott Road, Adelphi, Maryland 20783

Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business, 01/09/2022

(Minutes approved 02/13/2022)

Note: This Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business was held via Zoom due to

the constraints on gathering due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The meeting opened with a period of silent worship.

The Clerk, Marcy Seitel, read the following aloud:

Queries from BYM Faith and Practice, modified for our specific time.

During this pandemic time: Are meetings for worship held in expectant waiting for

Divine guidance? Are Friends encouraged to share spiritual insights? Are special

gifts of ministry recognized and encouraged?

During this pandemic time: Do you come to meeting with heart and mind

prepared? Are you careful not to disturb the spirit of the meeting by late arrival or

in other ways?

The Clerk asked those in attendance to look at the minutes from last month’s

Meeting for Business with an eye toward correcting any mistakes. The recording clerk

will correct the spelling of asbestos in the December minutes. While the December

minutes correctly reflected the House and Grounds committee’s hope that a used play

set for the children could be moved and re-used on our grounds, it was noted that the

play set turned out to be in worse shape than we’d hoped. The committee will continue

to look into new play equipment. The December minutes were approved.

**Reading of BYM Anti-racism Queries for Use during Meeting for Business**

These are Queries to examine how our decisions may promote inclusiveness and allow

equal access. On behalf of the Change Group, Michael Levi read the queries aloud:

1. How could this decision affect those who have been harmed by racist behavior?

2. To what degree have privilege, class, stereotypes, assumptions and our ability to

include other perspectives affected by this decision? Will this decision promote

equity, diversity and inclusiveness? Will it enable us to be more friendly and

whole?

3. How will we provide for those most likely to be directly affected by our decision to

influence that decision?

4. How does this decision support the declaration of our Yearly Meeting that we are

an anti-racist community?

**A discussion concerning options for worship**

The Clerk noted that we had hoped to be able to try an experiment in February to meet indoors. They mentioned that when parts of Meetings meet at different times, they often begin to feel like separate groups. Adelphi has tried to include the people who prefer to meet together outside by sharing singing, worship, joys and concerns. It was

suggested that a bigger screen would allow in-person folks to see the Zoom attenders

more easily. It was noted that this is a continuing experiment. Reuben noted that with

the completion of Phase 1 of the renovation, the outdoor folks could meet in the

renovated meeting house basement. It was noted that if we meet in person at FCS, we

can use the school’s wifi. It was noted that the current outdoor sound quality is not good enough for the Zoom group to hear any ministry from the outdoor people unless they move to the microphone.

Bearing in mind that the Meeting charged the Clerk to be the decider in how we go

forward with these experiments, a member asked if the clerk has a support group. We

learned that the Clerk does have a support committee and consults with the Clerk of Children’s Religious Education, Ministry and Worship committee, and others, including the outgoing Clerk. A concern was raised about having the children outside all winter, noting that FCS does not want Children’s RE to meet in a classroom. Rob Duncan, clerk of Children's Religious Education Committee, said that some parents of younger children want their kids outdoors because many young children are not of an age to be vaccinated. We have already agreed to follow the protocols that FCS has adopted. We will need to check people’s vaccination status when meeting there. We may eventually have a blended meeting that would allow people at home to participate more fully with those who are able to meet at FCS. We heard reports on blended meetings from a member of Ministry and Worship Committee who has been consulting with other meetings that are trying various media for worship.

**Building Committee**

John Bassert, co-clerk, reported that he and others have been visiting the job site, and have observed that the renovations on the basement and Meeting room are going fairly smoothly. Waterproofing of the foundation is complete but backfilling the dirt around the building is not yet complete. All window wells will have covers year-round, and there will be adequate drainage. Drywall and insulation in the Meeting room is complete. Windows will be installed next week, as weather permits. The A/C heating and cooling units also will be installed next week.

In the basement, the ceiling will be complete with sound insulation and lighting by late

February. The basement flooring will be installed soon, and appliances will be

re-installed. We could be back in the Meeting House in April.

**Nominating Committee – Jamie Buss reporting**

First readings:

Assistant Clerk—Arthur Karpas

Continuing Quaker Education – Steven Keffer

Continuing Quaker Education – Sallie King

Outreach and Fellowship – MacKenzie Morgan

Pastoral Care – Mary Ellsberg

Peace and Social Concerns – Daqanna Harris

Second Readings:

Recording Clerk -- Ruth Flower – a two-year term, 2022-23

Memorial Garden -- Nicole Cintas, 2022-24

Ministry and Worship – Judith Goedeke, 2022-24

Meeting Approved these second readings.

The committee asks that committee clerks inform the Nominating committee

when there is a vacancy on their committee.

At this time:

Children’s Religious Education committee has 3-5 vacancies

Ministry and Worship committee is looking to increase diversity.

Pastoral Care committee needs more members, as demands have grown.

The monthly “cameo” description of one of the Meeting’s committees this month was an overview of Peace and Social Concerns, offered by co-clerks Connie Meyer and Charlie Goedeke. The committee’s current effort is focused on adding Adelphi Meeting to the list of supporters of virtual access to court hearings – Court Watch, P.G. There is currently a bill in the state legislature that would make virtual access to courts permanent.

A letter describing this effort and encouraging support was presented to the meeting.

This letter was approved, with a suggested change to be incorporated.

We, Adelphi Friends Meeting, write in support of SB/HB LR 1577, the Virtual Court Access Act. If passed, this bill would make virtual access to court proceeding permanent and uniform throughout Maryland.

Our community and the rest of the state would benefit greatly from this change.

For the past year, the courts have allowed virtual access in Prince Georges County. This policy arose from concerns about the COVID virus. There have been numerous other benefits from this policy, and we urge you to make it permanent and available throughout the state by supporting the attached bill.

Public access to courtroom proceedings has long been recognized as a cornerstone of the American legal system. It promotes public involvement, confidence, and accountability. It allows for witnesses who would otherwise not be able to be present. In-person attendance is difficult for many in our community. It can take hours to reach the courthouse and require a loss of pay from time off from work. For older residents and those with mobility issues there is an even greater burden. Virtual access has made attending court proceedings more

available to the community.

Quakers have a long history of involvement with the judicial system. Many early Quakers were arrested and jailed, and those who were not, followed Jesus’ instruction to “visit those in prison.” As shown by their involvement in the civil rights movement from the 1960s through today, Quakers have felt led to pursue justice for those who have historically been denied it. Adelphi Friends Meeting recognizes a continuation of this practice in attending court proceedings and standing witness to the treatment of individuals caught up in the criminal justice system. Virtual access to courts provides the powerful witness of a caring presence in the courtroom to assure those brought before the court that they are not alone and the prosecutors, defenders and judges that they are accountable.

The committee has been considering ideas that meeting might consider for

mini-reparations, and it is also planning a retreat this year.

**Review of the Minutes** – The Meeting approved appending Adelphi’s name to a letter

supporting virtual access to court hearings.

The Meeting also approved all the second readings for members who will undertake committee service and offices.

**Announcements**

Cheryl Morden, for Ministry and Worship committee, reminded members that we are

moving toward a meeting that will have multiple meetings: Zoom, Outdoor, Wednesday

noon, Bible Study Wednesday evenings, and now an experiment with a Sunday evening Zoom worship at 7:00 p.m., beginning this coming Sunday. The committee will be looking for input from members concerning the Spiritual State of the Meeting report, to be sent to the Baltimore Yearly Meeting office in April. A second-hour discussion on the Spiritual State of the Meeting in 2021 will take place on the fifth Sunday of January.

The Meeting sent light and love to our Friend Mosi Harrington, now in Holy Cross hospital. Wendy Eck,  Clerk of the Pastoral Care committee is in contact with Mosi’s daughters, and with friends who would like to help with food and chores or to visit with Molly.

The Meeting ended with a period of silent worship.

Marcy Baker Seitel, Clerk

Ann Marie Moriarty, Co-Recording Clerk