**Adelphi Friends Meeting**

**Meeting for Worship for the Conduct of Business**

**February 13, 2022**

Approved March 13, 2022

The meeting opened with a period of silent worship, gathered via Zoom due to the continuing coronavirus pandemic.

**Opening Worship and Queries**

Clerk Marcy Seitel read the Baltimore Yearly Meeting queries on *meetings for business*, modified for our specific time:

Are meetings for business held in a spirit of worship, understanding and forbearance? When direction seems lacking, is this seen as a challenge to a more prayerful search for truth?

Do we humbly set aside our own preconceived notions as to proper action, seeking instead Divine guidance as to the right course?

Is the Meeting aware that it speaks not only through its actions but also through its failure to act?

*How is our experience of meeting for business online helpful to our process, and how does it deter our process?*

Do you participate regularly in meetings for business, discharge faithfully your committee responsibilities, and assume your share of financial support of the Meeting?

Baltimore Yearly Meeting’s Antiracism Queries were read by Joanna Axtmann on behalf of the Change Group. Joanna reminded us that we should all be watching our deliberations with an eye to these queries:

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 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?

Cheryl Morden, clerk of Ministry and Worship Committee asked whether someone would hold the meeting in the Light; Michael Levi volunteered.

**Clerk’s Mail**

The clerk noted several pieces of mail, including yearly reports from Quaker organizations. The clerk encouraged Friends to learn more about Quaker organizations. [A list is on page 2 of [BYM’s 2021 Yearbook](https://www.bym-rsf.org/file_download/inline/72ec223b-58df-4873-ab4d-6932fd764f37).]

[Quaker Voluntary Service](https://quakervoluntaryservice.org/about-us/) wrote to ask for individual donations, and [Fellowship of Reconciliation](https://forusa.org/) also sought donations. We heard from a person who is incarcerated; the clerk will respond and refer the request to Baltimore Yearly Meeting’s prison ministry.

**Helping Afghan refugees:** Several Friends from Adelphi answered a call from Bette Hoover of Sandy Spring Meeting to offer immediate aid to Afghan refugees located in Prince Georges County. Bette relates to a larger interfaith network of volunteers, which is in turn connected with refugee services. Adelphi’s group is being matched with two families. Various household goods are needed. If Friends have extra items to share, they should let Jamie Buss know; she will then respond as to which items are needed. Marcy Seitel will inquire about where to send money donations. If you can help in other ways – paperwork, job hunting, transportation – please let Marcy know.

**Meeting approved the minutes** of our January meeting for business, with a couple of date corrections and a bit of proofreading. The [final version of the January minutes is here](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1cWJ-vYdFxCnUBhhlS_E6lwnqqUyf1nk_/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=113074046623466452766&rtpof=true&sd=true) and will soon be on the Meeting’s website.

**Nominating Committee**Jamie Buss presented the report of the Nominating Committee, bringing a first reading of the following names and assignments:

**Susan Gonder** for Continuing Quaker Education, 2022-24
**Lynn Brown** for Ministry and Worship, 2022-24
**Samseen Saeed**, Friends Community School Trustee through 6/25, for a second term of three years\*
**Tanisha Edmonds**, Friends Community School Trustee through 6/25, a second term of 3 years\* as a trustee, following a 2-year term as a parent representative. FCS Trustees Governance committee requested a 4-year term. Nominating committee will be happy to consider a one-year extension at the completion of the 3-year second term.
**April Downs**, Adelphi Friends Meeting trustees one year extension through 2022
\* FCS terms coincide with the school year

The Committee also brought the following nominations for a second reading:

Arthur Karpas, Assistant Clerk, 2022-23

Mackenzie Morgan, Outreach & Fellowship, 2022-24

Mary Ellsberg Pastoral Care 2019-24, second term

Daquanna Harrison, Peace & Social Concerns, 2019-24, second term

**Meeting approved these nominations.**

Nominating Committee listed the committees that are looking for additional members:

Children’s Religious Education - 3, Continuing Quaker Education – 1, Finance - 2,

Hospitality – 3, Nominating - 3 or 4, Ministry and Worship – 1, Pastoral Care - 2,

Trustees - 1.

If you are drawn to any of these opportunities, contact a member of Nominating Committee (check [Breeze](https://adelphi.breezechms.com/tags/view/831751)). To join Nominating Committee, contact Joanna Axtmann or Martha Woods who are the *Naming Committee*.

**Report from Building Committee**

John Bassert presented a verbal report: Phase 1 is almost complete. The work inside is done. The few remaining items on the outside – the sidewalk behind the meetinghouse and the stairs at the Southeast corner of the building -- will be completed by the end of next week. John anticipates a final walkthrough next Friday.

To move back in, we have a lot of work to do. **Building Committee asks all Friends who are able to come to the meetinghouse next Saturday, February 19, at 10 a.m.** We are finding movers to return the large benches to the meetinghouse, but additional materials and items need to be moved from the white house to the meetinghouse.

Once we are physically moved back in, the Building Committee can begin to focus its efforts on Phase II. We owe a fair amount in fees for permits for phase II. The Building Committee will be seeking the advice of the Finance Committee and the Development Sub-Committee to assess whether we should proceed with obtaining these permits.

There was excitement and there were comments and questions. We heard appreciation for the building committee and all that they’ve done – didn’t expect completion so soon. We heard enthusiasm for a celebration of the re-opening of the meetinghouse, including a celebration of the children’s new play structure, and a hope that the occasions could be coordinated.

We heard caution about wet weather close to moving day (tracking mud in on new floors). We heard a concern to locate the schematics for the placement of the benches and a suggestion that we mark the benches in some way, in case of any future moves.

We heard questions

- about the materials to be used for the back stairs from the meeting house (A: wood, Trex and vinyl railing.)

- about changing the latch on the back door from the meetinghouse (A: no plans at this time; may be House and Grounds’ concern.)

- about carpet in the meeting room (A: No plans at this time.)

We took a few moments to center in worship, and then moved on to the report of the House and Grounds Committee.

**House and Grounds Committee – On Updating the Outdoor Play Structure**

After much research and consultations with Children’s Religious Education Committee and Finance Committee, the House and Grounds Committee has decided to replace the previous play structure with some “higher-end residential play equipment” that could accommodate 10 to 12 children at the same time. The details were provided in the [Committee’s report](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1qdosePHeqvSWSuNMgMNgVO0ebuLUGLUV?usp=sharing). Clerk Patrick Mulvey described the major parameters.

The new structure will be similar in size to the previous structure, but sturdier. It will be sited in the same place and, if necessary, could be disassembled and moved. The cost of the unit would be between $6,000 and $12,000, plus a modest fee for delivery and installation. The cost would come from the Meeting’s Reserve for Replacement Fund.

We heard support for stronger structures and a hope that the play structure could be installed before our re-opening celebration. We heard a request to involve children in the selection of the equipment (and an offer of ideas on how to do that.)

We heard concerns about the play yard gates and about parts of old play equipment still present in the play yard. House and Grounds committee noted the concerns.

After a few moments of quiet worship, we turned to the report of the Children’s Religious Education Committee.

**Children’s Religious Education Committee**

In a [full report](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1qdosePHeqvSWSuNMgMNgVO0ebuLUGLUV?usp=sharing) and a power point presentation, Rob Duncan reported on the Committee’s plans for reviving the First Day School program in the coming months. The Committee finds hope in anticipating that the pandemic is coming to an end, and that the renovation of the meeting house would once again allow for First Day School programming.

The Committee’s plans comprise three seasons, beginning perhaps in March with the spring session, then a summer season, followed by fall. For now, all classes will be at the meetinghouse, and outdoors if the temperature is above 60 degrees and it is not raining or snowing. Children will be masked.

The Committee envisions four groups, with slightly different schedules with the grade-school children meeting only 3 times a month, and the infants and pre-schoolers meeting every Sunday. Middle and high school students will meet once a month, not necessarily on Sunday and not necessarily at Adelphi. The Committee is looking for two adults to staff this older group *consistently* once a month.

Rob Duncan summarized the commitment to the youth safety policy, and pointed to the [full document](https://www.adelphifriends.org/policies/practices-procedures/#youthsafetypolicy) on the meeting’s website.

A Friend noted that [Friends Journal](https://www.friendsjournal.org/how-to-retain-young-families-in-quaker-meeting/) has an article this month about how to develop an intentional intergenerational faith community.

**The Committee needs help**

- *With the move-back to the White House:* On February 19 and 26 – join with House and Grounds Committee to clear the white house, to clean the children’s spaces, and move RE materials etc. back in.

*- Commitments from adult volunteers*

 1 volunteer to work with the paid childcare person, Pouran, every Sunday
 3 adults for grades 1 -3, and 3 adults for grades 4 - 6, three Sundays a month
 2 for middle and high school students, once a month

We heard a comment that the 6 - 12th grade group seems too broad an age range. We heard questions about numbers of children expected for different classes and which rooms would be used. (A: The Committee does not know how many children.) We heard a question about where Kindergarteners go? (A: Normally with the pre-school group, but we usually recognize when a child needs to be with a different group.) We heard a question about whether Junior Meeting would continue. (A: It is laid aside for now, given the challenge of re-starting the whole First Day School program.) One Friend volunteered to support the continuation of Junior Meeting by attending.

We heard concerns about a problem that occurred in January when there was inadequate or inconsistent adult supervision. The committee commits to review and comply carefully with the youth safety policy, which calls us to ensure that adults *stay with the children* at all times.

We heard that the proposal seemed to start in the wrong place – embracing a future without examining where we are, and a suggestion that an apology about the incident that happened in January would be a better place to start. We heard members of the Committee apologize and express a commitment to ensure that the safety issue that happened in January never happens again. Committee members noted a need for more clarity about when a child is in a class and when the child is returned to their parents.

The RE Committee committed to continue to consult with parents about unresolved concerns.

**The Meeting accepted the plan brought by RE with the understanding that the plan will grow and change as we experience it.**

We paused for worship, and then looked at the rest of our agenda.

**Ministry and Worship Committee –**

**On Quaker Discernment and Decision Making in Adelphi Meeting**

Because our business to this point had taken longer than expected, Cheryl Morden, Clerk of Ministry and Worship, asked that the first reading of this document be delayed until next month. The [document is available here](https://docs.google.com/document/d/18AyIVJwDvFA_QgBfJiUo77IjUlKbFfrDyWEX7upRiP8/edit?usp=sharing), and it will be brought for a first reading next month.

Friends are asked to read and consider it between now and March 13, and to send questions, comments, and suggestions (as early in the month as possible) to [Cheryl Morden](https://adelphi.breezechms.com/people/view/8067384). Friends are also asked to hold these queries in their hearts as they review the work that we’ve done together (so far) on our understanding of how we make decisions together:

1. Are there questions for clarification?
2. Do the contents of the document speak to you?  What speaks to you?
3. Is there anything that raises a particular concern for you?

**Minutes of Decision**

The recording clerk read the following minutes of decision:

- Meeting approved the minutes of our January meeting for business, with corrections.

- Meeting approved the nominations reported by the Nominating Committee for a second reading.

- Meeting accepted the plan brought by Children’s Religious Education Committee with the understanding that the plan will grow and change as we experience it.

- Meeting held over the document on “[Quaker Discernment and Decision Making](https://docs.google.com/document/d/18AyIVJwDvFA_QgBfJiUo77IjUlKbFfrDyWEX7upRiP8/edit?usp=sharing)” prepared by Ministry and Worship Committee for first reading at our next business meeting.

**Upcoming events from Adelphi committees**

**Peace and Social Concerns Committee** is having a retreat this month and welcomes ideas about things to focus on this year. Send your thoughts to Connie Meyer or Charlie Goedeke.

**Ministry and Worship** will convene the Quarterly Committee Coordination Meeting, on Saturday, March 5, from 10 to 12. The Zoom link will be sent to participants; be sure to let Cheryl Morden know who is coming from your committee.

**We closed our meeting in worship and with gratitude for being together.**