**Adelphi Friends Meeting**

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

**March 13, 2022**

Approved May 15, 2022

**Opening Worship and Queries**

We centered in worship to begin our business together. Clerk Marcy Seitel read the following queries from Baltimore Yearly Meeting’s Faith and Practice:

Are love and harmony within the Meeting community fostered by a spirit of open sharing? Do you endeavor to widen your circle of friendships within the Meeting, seeking to know persons of all ages and at all stages of the spiritual journey? Does the Meeting provide for the spiritual refreshment of all members and attenders? Do Friends provide spiritual and practical care for the elderly, the lonely, and others with special needs?

The clerk then asked how these queries might seem different at this point in the pandemic.

Joanna Axtmann read the following antiracism queries on behalf of Adelphi Meeting’s Change Group. Jolee Robinson reminded us that we should all be holding these queries and watching how they help to inform and shape our decisions today:

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?

**Minutes**The minutes of our [February meeting for business](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1hRFcaaVs9MWQBcTO1lL9jbaRb0nCUh3o/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=113074046623466452766&rtpof=true&sd=true)were approved as amended to clarify that our current Youth Safety Policy does call on us to have adults present with the children at all times.

**Clerk’s Mail and Clerk’s Report**

* Toby Oerter requested a second hour to present the first draft of his history of Adelphi Friends meeting. The second hour is scheduled for March 20.
* The Yearly Meeting has requested data that is relevant to the apportionment of responsibility for the Yearly Meeting’s budget.
* The clerk received two requests for memorial meetings for worship, which were passed on to the Ministry and Worship Committee. The first, for David McCandlish, father of Georgia McCandlish, a former attender at Adelphi when a teen, was held on March 12. The other memorial meeting requested is for our long time meeting member, Mosi Harrington. Mosi’s memorial meeting will be held on May 14th at 2:00. We will have a lot to do to prepare for this event, which we anticipate will be very well attended.

We heard that our assistance to the Afghan refugee family continues well. Language assistance is being arranged, and cash donations are, so far, keeping pace with needs for cash, mostly to purchase food, as food assistance has not yet begun. The family expects to be moving into a townhouse by the end of the month. They will need all the things that go into making a home.

**Plan for Moving to an In-Person Meeting for Worship**

The Clerk reminded us that, at the onset of the pandemic, meeting asked the clerk to make the decision about when, and under what circumstances, we should re-open the meeting house for in-person worship in consultation with an advisory group, which the meeting approved. The Clerk reported that, in consultation with the advisory group, she is presenting a plan for us to return to in-person worship on Sunday March 20, while continuing virtual worship on Zoom for those who do not wish, or are unable, to join in-person worship at this time. The clerk described the requirements and procedures for in-person worship, as laid out in the [written plan](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1BVNQJDIlRnPJIe52ogESfr_wIOD76Opy/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=113074046623466452766&rtpof=true&sd=true) attached to these minutes.

We heard a concern about requiring all in-person participants to show vaccination cards. The concern voiced was that this requirement is contrary to our value of integrity. Clerk had considered this but concluded that the importance of treating everyone equitably – people we know and people we don’t know – took precedence. We have an obligation to take care of our full community, including those who are vulnerable.

We anticipate that there will be an outdoor in-person meeting as well, but it will not be possible to “blend” audio and visual connections with Friends in that gathering.

The Clerk reminded us that these steps are a continuation of our experiments, and that the decision to return to the meetinghouse, in a “blended” meeting (connected to those not physically present through Zoom) is for this pandemic time, and not a permanent decision. The Clerk asked for volunteers to check vaccination cards and four Friends offered to assist with this task.

**Strawberry Festival**

Carole Hoage will convene a group to talk about a modified Strawberry Festival – primarily outdoors, June 4. She needs 2 or 3 volunteers to plan – and lots of volunteers to participate in putting it on. Please contact Carole in Breeze.

After a few moments of worship, we turned to other business.

**Ministry and Worship Committee**

Cheryl Morden, clerk of Ministry and Worship, brought the committee’s document, [Quaker Discernment and Decision Making in Adelphi Friends Meeting](https://docs.google.com/document/u/0/d/18AyIVJwDvFA_QgBfJiUo77IjUlKbFfrDyWEX7upRiP8/edit) for a first reading. Cheryl reported on the process by which the committee and the meeting participated in producing this document, filling a need for a common reference on our practice. She invited questions for clarification and asked for substantive questions and reactions to be submitted by email or a phone call to members of the committee.

After the summer of 2020, Ministry and Worship and Continuing Quaker Education Committees were asked to hold sessions about Quaker process. There were four sessions in the spring of 2021 on four parts of the document, plus a final session for reflection. The document was brought back once for comment and has gone through a total of a dozen drafts.

We heard a recommendation to have the document include a practice of committees responding to each person who submits comments on a document or policy. Clerk clarified that it is up the committees to discern how (and if) they incorporate responses in a document, and then it is up to the meeting as a whole to discern whether the whole document reflects their shared understanding.

We heard a recommendation that the queries could be reformatted into an independent handout made available at each meeting for business, and that the clerk could have the document available for reference as needed.

The clerk reminded us that none of our policies or documents form a “creed.” They are, rather, guidance for our practice together. The document will come back for a second reading next month

We took a few moments of quiet worship (to let the Spirit in.)

**Nominating Committee**

Jamie Buss, co-clerk of Nominating Committee, reported five nominations for a second reading. **The meeting approved:**

Continuing Quaker Education Susan Gonder 2022-24

Ministry & Worship Lynn Brown 2022-24

Friends Community School Trustees Sameen Saeed through 6/25 (2nd term)

Friends Community School Trustees Tanisha Edmonds through 6/25 (2nd term)

Trustees Adelphi Friends Meeting April Downs 2019-22 (one year extension)

Jamie Buss asked clerks to please inform Nominating Committee if someone is laying down their service. And committees continue to need more help, especially Children’s Religious Education.

Joanna Axtmann mentioned that Naming Committee (herself and Martha Wood) would be glad to receive suggestions for service on Nominating Committee, noting that this service is a great way to get to know everyone in the meeting!

**Children’s Religious Education**

Connie Meyer reported for the committee that they have received “phenomenal support” from the Meeting, both in cleaning the white house and preparing it for the children’s programs, and in stepping forward to volunteer to be with the children in First Day School. (Seventeen Friends have volunteered, though more volunteers are still needed for the nursery.) Everyone has now been trained on the Youth Safety policy and the teachers have formed teaching teams. The committee is providing activities for now – games, crafts, stories until the April 3 grand opening of First Day School.

Now what the committee needs is to get the children back. Many families with children have not been attending Meeting because it has been so difficult to maintain a meaningful First Day School experience. We were all asked to reach out to families to let them know about the re-start of First Day School. The committee is also considering making a presentation to parents at FCS, to invite their children to participate. Perhaps the FCS weekly newsletter would run an article about it.

**House and Grounds**

Patrick Mulvey reported for the committee that the playground equipment has been purchased and will be delivered and installed this Friday, March 18. Mulch will be added to the surrounding area on Saturday (beginning at 10 a.m.) by willing volunteers. There are still some smaller pieces of equipment suitable for younger children. The committee will clean and examine this equipment and invites parents of smaller children to consult with Patrick about what would be attractive to that age group. The purchase and installation of the equipment and the mulch will come to about $10,200 ($9,200 + $1,000 for the “drop zone”), which will come from the reserve for replacement. It will all be safe to use on Sunday the 20th.

We heard a question about needing safety signage for the play yard – e.g. “use at your own risk,“ “use only from dawn to dusk,“ etc. House and Grounds will consider this with the help of Trustees and Children’s Religious Education committee.

We paused for a few moments of gratitude and celebration for the programming and equipment being prepared for the children.

**Finance Committee**

James Wilkinson report on current projects and discernment that the committee is undertaking:

* We are very close to having resources enough to cover all construction costs for Phase 2 of our renovation. We need to determine the impact of the long-term debt to the Meeting’s operating budget, and the level of fundraising needed to service that mortgage debt. Current estimates are that the “carrying costs” may add as much as 30 to 35% to the meeting’s budget.
* How to raise the cash/capital needed to pay off bank loans and “Friendly loans” through bequests and other gifts. We’re close to getting the loans that we will need; we’ll look to bequests to pay off the Friendly loans.

**Development and Stewardship Sub-Committee**

Alden Meyer reported as subcommittee clerk, noting that Ann Marie Moriarty, Pat Nutter, Victor Thuronyi, and Diane Rutherford are the other members of the subcommittee. The sub-committee is beginning to contact members of the meeting to see how they envision their participation in the long-term financing of the renovations.

**Building Committee**

Mary Leonard reported for the committee on the completion of Phase 1! Many thanks to John Bassert who served as “clerk of the works,” staying on top of all phases of the renovation. The work was completed ahead of schedule and under budget. Building Committee, Finance Committee and the Development Sub-committee are now involved in new assessments of the cost of Phase 2. The costs are reduced because Phase 1 is completed. On the other hand, costs have gone up in the intervening two years.

**Treasurer,** Reuben Snipper, added a request for Friends to begin increasing their regular donations *now* to help support our mortgage, year to year.

**We approved a** [**Minute of Appreciation to the Ad Hoc Building Committee**](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1JtiLWzpoydWuUur8jQbAqqxhegGkYGiK/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=113074046623466452766&rtpof=true&sd=true)(attached to these minutes), reviewing the magnitude and complexity of the work this group has undertaken since 2017, noting their careful involvement in decisions every step of the way, and expressing the meeting’s profound gratitude for their faithful work.

As our business came to a close, we again centered in worship.

**Recording Clerk** reviewed the decisions we made today.

We heard announcements of upcoming events, and closed in worship.