**Adelphi Friends Meeting**

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

**04-10-22 Minutes**

(Approved 05-15-22)

**Opening Worship and Consideration of Queries**

*Do you respect that of God in every person?*

*Do you search yourself for and strive to eliminate prejudices such as those related to race, religion, gender, age, sexual orientation, and economic condition?*

*In what ways do you accept and appreciate differences among members of our community? Among your friends and associates?*

*How has the pandemic made it challenging to know and support one another, and what opportunities have emerged through this time to know each other better?*

*(Adapted from Baltimore Yearly Meeting’s Faith and Practice)*

**Antiracism 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?

**Minutes** - [March minutes](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1EKWJbr28Z-qStiO_eQUh4l6nRu2lDx0S/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=113074046623466452766&rtpof=true&sd=true) were not attached to the agenda; we will consider them next month.

**Clerk’s Mail and Announcements**

* We received a letter inquiring about how to submit a statement documenting conscientious objection to participation in war. Clerk reported that we would read such a letter in a Meeting for Business, to document the date when it was received, and then keep a copy among our records. We are currently working out exactly how the letter is kept on file, either at Adelphi or at the Yearly Meeting office.
* Updates about pandemic guidelines for worship. Clerk anticipates that we will be masked (in the meetinghouse) for a while yet, until the pandemic figures stabilize at a lower level. We heard a question about a process for discussing concerns about COVID protocols and the blended meeting. Clerk would like to think about this with the advisory group.
* Updates on the Lodin family, refugees from Afghanistan. It’s heartening to see so many people from Adelphi stepping forward to help this family settle in here, safe from a war zone. Clerk acknowledges that this work has been taken on in an ad hoc way. There is no budget, no committee designated for care and support in the broader community. We probably will want to consider whether we need a longer-term plan for what has, so far, been an emergency project.

**Nominating Committee Report**

Committee Co-clerk, Arthur Karpas, brought the *first reading* of the name of Alex Jaden to serve on the Board of Trustees for Friends Community School. Alex’s [resume and interview notes](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Hat2QDt_sM7j7m9dcN1vTKq5zNXRcOP1/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=113074046623466452766&rtpof=true&sd=true) were distributed with the agenda; Arthur Karpas summarized the materials.

**Ad Hoc Building Committee** – Clerk clarified that there will be no report this month.  Next steps are under the care of the Finance Committee and the Development and Stewardship Sub-Committee. There was a question about where the responsibility for landscaping belongs; a member of the building committee responded that it belongs with House and Grounds.

**Ministry and Worship Committee Report**

Committee clerk, Cheryl Morden, reported from Portugal that she and her family had had a nice time on the beach this morning, and that …

* The document on Discernment and Decision-Making is still being edited and will be brought to the May meeting for business for a second reading and possible approval.
* The Committee needs someone to clerk the meeting for worship on Easter Sunday, April 17. A laptop to link the blended meeting will also be needed.
* The Committee has invited members of House and Grounds and Building Committees to form an ad hoc task group to sort out the technology needed to support the blended meeting. Cheryl invited others with technical knowledge in the audio/visual field to join the task group

**2021 Spiritual State of the Meeting Report**, first reading.

Judith Goedecke introduced the report by noting how many Friends had touched and enriched the document as it moved through meeting processes (second hour, small groups, sending thoughts to Ministry and Worship Committee). She shared her sense that Friends who contributed ideas and reflections will see themselves in the document. Friends with further suggestions, corrections, and comments should contact Cheryl Morden, so that those contributions can also be used to help improve the document.

Judith then read the whole report. A few comments were received – questioning the inclusion of reflections by a single Friend when it does not support the relevant paragraph; additional information about the reason for one Friend’s objection to Zoom; and a revelation that there are two women’s groups as well as a men's group operating at Adelphi. The clerk thanked the committee for giving us a picture of ourselves.

**Children’s Religious Education** – Update on First Day School.

Committee Clerk Rob Duncan reported that the opening of First Day School last week went very well and remarked specifically on the committee’s joy about the support and the teachers who came forward. At least one satisfied First Day School student was heard to say, “I’m going home and telling my friends to come next week.” If that works, we’ll grow. And as we grow, we’ll have increased needs for teachers and spaces!

**Strawberry Festival Planning**

Martha Woods outlined the current status of the plans for a modified Strawberry Festival on June 4, as described in detail in the [handouts](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Fdtczu2xOuwWDLjpGlWVs3wsBychMNVT/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=113074046623466452766&rtpof=true&sd=true) for Meeting for Business and in Silent Announcements. Due to pandemic concerns, the whole festival will have to be outside. The working group needs at least a manager in place for each of the core activities in order to make a go/no-go decision about the festival. Martha asked Friends to think about their possible roles vis-à-vis some of these activities, and not to assume that people who used to do various jobs will be available to do them this year. Rob Duncan offered to manage the café and grill functions. Friends with questions should contact Martha Woods, Carole Hoage, Angelyn Flowers, or Ann Marie Moriarty.

**Finance Committee**

Reuben Snipper, Treasurer, presented four annual reports for FY 2021, which ended November 30, 2021. The reports included

* [Statement of Financial Position](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1y6Q7HHLExFTrsP-Hs2G-r6fEu1DCaY7I/view?usp=sharing),
* [Statement of FY2021 Income and Expenses](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1AHqqLYJhMQJKi5HbAbpH_mz6It25deBM/view?usp=sharing),
* [2021 Funds Summary Report](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1MeGdvlk4s24EewdEOjaN1m23HebxF0LT/view?usp=sharing) and
* [FY2021 Final Budget Actuals and 2022 Budget Amendments](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1SiPq4HoJYNDNihYovsjPAfNRSbUhho08/view?usp=sharing).

The documents had been made available to Friends prior to the meeting. The treasurer walked us through each document. A summary of his explanation is [attached here](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1VG58TwJ63sDBscsxnWmhFx4qWbQuYc8L/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=113074046623466452766&rtpof=true&sd=true) to these minutes.

We accepted the report with thanks for the thorough and careful work of the treasurer.

**Amendments to FY 2022 Budget**

Reuben Snipper, treasurer presented three amendments to the FY22 budget on behalf of the Finance Committee:

* to reflect that all the renovation money was spent in FY2022 rather than FY2021
* to stabilize the Peace and Social Concerns committee’s resources by budgeting $10,000 on line 35 of the budget, labeled “Community Orgs and Memberships,” whether or not there is a surplus, and
* to correct the assumption that the FY2022 budget would end in a deficit, a change in the amount of income expected

In these amendments, Finance Committee asked the Meeting to approve a change to the way we have funded the activities of Peace and Social Concerns.  The P&SC budget for FY2022 was to have been funded from a surplus of the prior year's budget.   At the beginning of March, the Finance Committee provided P&SC with its best estimate for that figure. However, when the books on fiscal 2021 were closed, the surplus was much smaller than anticipated.  The result is that the transfer to P&SC would have to come from Meeting's reserves, to meet the funding that Finance Committee and P&SC anticipated in March. The committee felt that it had committed to an amount, and were led to stick to that commitment to support their belief in the important, creative, peace-building work that P&SC is doing with outside groups.

However, since this change represents a different way to handle the funding of P&SC projects (dipping into reserves as opposed to funding solely from prior year's surplus), the committee is informing the Meeting of this change and asking for approval.

The committee’s goal is to shape future budgets so that P&SC is funded in the budget in the same manner as other committees. There is work to be done by the Development and Stewardship Subcommittee to determine how to achieve this outcome.

We heard questions about how the net income from Strawberry Festival is used. Finance Committee Clerk James Wilkinson answered that the donations to community groups were “de-coupled” from Strawberry Festival income years ago because the income is not realized until late in the fiscal year and is difficult to spend prudently within the same year. Another Friend recalled that unpredictability of the weather, and therefore of the net income from Strawberry Festival, precipitated the change. Last year, the meeting decided to direct the surplus of $15,000 to the Peace and Social Concerns Committee for distribution to community organizations. That transfer became the basis for the “Mini-Reparations” donations.

We heard a concern that amount budgeted in this budget change is too low. We heard some unclarity about the process for deciding which organizations receive funds through this line item. The Clerk explained that the committee makes the decision about the distribution of the funds in that category (line 35).

We approved the changes in the 2022 budget.

**Recording Clerk** – The recording clerk reviewed the decisions made today: accepting the FY2021 Financial Reports and approving the changes in the FY2022 budget.

**Upcoming events from Adelphi committees:** Ministry and Worship Committee announceda Memorial Meeting for Mosi Harrington on May 14 at 2 pm. There will be a sign-up posted for help needed.

**Announcements:** Acknowledging that our personal finances and abilities also change, the treasurer encouraged increased donations for this year, as we have increased our expected spending in the budget.

We heard disappointment that Meeting has chosen to reduce the donation to the scholarship fund at Friends Community School, and an encouragement to support the school’s auction which will occur on May 14 (after the memorial service.)

**Worship and closing:** We closed in worship and gratitude.