**Adelphi Friends Meeting**

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

**May 15, 2022**

Approved June 12, 2022

**Opening Worship and Consideration of Queries**

We opened our meeting in worship. The clerk, Marcy Seitel, read the following queries from Baltimore Yearly *Meeting Faith and Practice*:

Do you make time for meditation, prayer, and worship?

Do you read the Bible, the writings of Friends, and other inspirational works, seeking new light?

Do you regularly seek God's guidance?

Are you open to guidance and support, and do you give thanks for them?

Do you share your spiritual insights with others and willingly receive from them in turn?

We settled into worship to consider the queries and to prepare for our business.

On behalf of the Change Group, Michael Levi introduced the Baltimore Yearly Meeting Antiracism Queries. Joanna Axtmann then read the queries and encouraged us to keep them in mind as we do our business together.

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 from our April 10 Meeting for Worship for the Conduct of Business were **approved** without changes. The minutes from our Meeting of March 13, that we deferred considering last month, were also **approved** without changes. Both sets of minutes had been posted for review on May 10.

**Clerk’s Mail** – Adelphi Hills Community Association requested that they be permitted to hold their meetings in the meetinghouse once again. The request was approved as a matter of course because the meeting is simply continuing a prior practice of hosting these community meetings. The clerk mentioned a desire to have an “official” liaison to the Adelphi Hills Community Association. Volunteers should speak to the clerk; we will hope to be able to approve a liaison at next meeting. Until then Mary Leonard agreed to continue being acting liaison.

**Update on refugee family** – Our work with the Lodin family continues. At present, this assistance is simply the work of quite a number of Friends in the Meeting, who responded to a regional call among Quakers for assistance. Perhaps the meeting should formally acknowledge and support this project, as part of the work that we do in the world. The clerk would welcome a discussion of this possibility at a future meeting.

**New technology in the meeting** **room**– Mackenzie Morgan demonstrated a multi-directional camera that focuses on the area of the voice of each speaker in the meeting house. As Mackenzie moved about the meeting room, we could see how the camera and the mike were able to pick up both images and sound in all parts of the room. The equipment was on loan from Mackenzie and Daniel Longwing. Meeting may want to consider purchasing a similar item at some time in the future.

**Nominations** – Cindy Sealls reported for the Nominating Committee, bringing a second reading of the name of Alex Jaden as a Trustee on the Friends Community School Board of Trustees. **Alex Jaden’s nomination was approved**. We also heard a first reading of the name of E. Brooke Carroll as a Trustee on the Friends Community School Board of Trustees and received some biographical information about her. The co-clerks of Nominating Committee, Jamie Buss and Arthur Karpas, will provide additional details upon request.

**Naming Committee** – Naming committee brings names for service on the Nominating Committee. Joanna Axtmann offered a first reading of Mary Leonard’s name to be added to the Nominating Committee.

**Building Committee** – Mary Leonard, co-clerk of Building Committee, reported on an upcoming joint meeting of Building Committee, Stewardship and Finance Committee, House and Grounds, and Trustees, for the purpose of discerning when we will know whether we can move ahead with Phase II of the building renovation.

**Children’s Religious Education** – First Day School had a wonderful start this spring, with five different classes (two of them meeting just once a month). However, the committee is concerned that there are currently only 3 members of the committee (with one member expecting to travel in the next 6 months). The committee is facing its most challenging season of the year, as it both prepares a summer program for children and begins to look for First Day School teachers for the fall. At present, they have no teachers lined up for the fall.

Nominating committee has been trying for months to recruit new members for CRE. The clerk suggested that any Friend can/should give names of people who may be interested in serving on the CRE committee. There were suggestions that current or former RE teachers could do a second hour (or cameo or gathering over potluck) on *how to teach* First Day School. Normally the committee explains this in a one-on-one with potential teachers. Members of the RE committee are not normally expected to teach; but lately there have been very few substitutes available to support the teachers.

We settled in worship to hold this need and concern in the Light.

**Spiritual State of the Meeting, 2021** – Cheryl Morden, clerk of the Ministry and Worship Committee introduced the second reading of the report of the Spiritual State of Adelphi Friends Meeting in 2021. Judith Goedeke, chief scribe of the report, related that several people came forward after the first reading with suggestions; their contributions were very helpful and have been incorporated into the document. The document was then reviewed again by Ministry and Worship committee, and some portions were trimmed. Judith summarized the changes in the document made since the first reading. Judith also mentioned two minor additional changes to the draft**. The 2021 Spiritual State of the Meeting was approved with these two additional changes.**

**Strawberry Festival Planning:** The Strawberry Festival Planning Committee (Carole Hoage, Martha Woods, Angelyn Flowers, and Ann Marie Moriarty) reported its decision that **we will not go forward with a Strawberry Festival this year**. There were not enough volunteers to carry the work of the festival, due to the continuing effects of the pandemic, aging of our meeting, the stress of many demands and needs of the meeting, and other factors. The planning group suggested that the meeting may want to have a committee to discern what to do about the Strawberry Festival in the future. If there is such a committee, Daquanna Harrison offered to be part of it. We left this suggestion for further discernment at another meeting.

We centered in the Spirit to take in this news.

**Change Group** – The Change Group, which functions under the care of the Ministry and Worship Committee, brought a draft minute concerning Adelphi Meeting’s Commitment to Anti-Racism. Last fall and this year, the Change Group polled the various small groups that were meeting to learn more and consider actions to oppose racism, to ask what should be in such a statement. The responses were distilled and written into a draft which was shared with Peace and Social Concerns Committee and Ministry and Worship Committee. The Change Group has already scheduled a Second Hour next Sunday, May 22, to give Friends an opportunity to discuss the proposed statement more deeply without the pressure of decision-making. Any questions, comments should go to any member of the Change Group and/or to the threshing session next Sunday. Michael read the statement, which is appended to these minutes [here](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1UGfSoNajS7H2PbKwRICecTz-o0PBf4NL/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=113074046623466452766&rtpof=true&sd=true).

**Peace and Social Concerns** – Charlie Goedeke requested on behalf of the committeethat Adelphi Meeting sign a petition in support of the *Health Care for All* resolution, which calls on the Maryland legislature to expand access to health care to all Maryland residents. The committee noted that, last year, we supported the*Health Equity Resources Act* – and it did pass and is making a difference. But additional legislation is needed to reach all Maryland residents. **We agreed to sign the petition** , which the committee had made available for us to [read here](https://healthcareforall.salsalabs.org/resolution/index.html?eType=EmailBlastContent&eId=5253a726-78dd-4527-9cad-bc95696d3da9).

Charlie also reported that the committee will be reviewing the minute on the environment that Adelphi meeting approved several years ago and trying to discern how the meeting may be called to act at this time.

**Travel Minutes –** The two travel minutes listed on the agenda will be taken up at a called meeting between now and June, as more information is needed.

**Finance Committee** – On behalf of the committee, Alden Meyer presented a new idea to secure funding for the next phase of the building project, to help address the gap between the construction costs and the nearly $1 million remaining in our Building Fund after paying for phase one of the project. The committee has previously shared information about “Friendly Loans” from individual Friends or other Meetings that can help fill this gap at lower interest rates than we can obtain from commercial lenders. The committee shared information that may allow more Friends to offer such “Friendly Loans,” by loaning funds from a self-directed IRA to the meeting for this purpose. Victor Thuronyi has offered to assist with details for Friends who want to explore this option. We heard a request for assurance that these loans can be paid back. Alden responded that these “Friendly Loans” are part of the whole financing package, including direct contributions, market rate loans, and planned giving (bequests). The Finance Committee is working to assemble an integrated financing plan for phase two of the building project and with the Building Committee and others, will bring a recommendation to Meeting for Business when that work is done. We will not go forward with additional borrowing for phase two of the project -- whether through Friendly Loans or a commercial mortgage - until the Meeting has fully considered the recommendation brought forward and has agreed that we can manage and wish to proceed with the second phase of the building renovation.

The committee requested permission to publish an announcement of this Socially Responsible investment opportunity to Friends in other meetings in our area, via Baltimore Yearly Meeting announcements. The first such announcement we published on the concept of friendly loans resulted in an expression of interest from a neighboring Meeting in making a substantial loan to our Meeting; the committee is hopeful that this announcement will also have positive results. **We agreed that an announcement could be placed with BYM announcements inviting Friends to consider this investment option.**

**Trustees** – Consideration of the Confidentiality Policy will be deferred to another meeting, given the lateness of the hour.

We agreed that we wanted **to express our appreciation** for the work of the **Continuing Quaker Education Committee** for the excellent series on Bayard Rustin.

Recording Clerk reviewed the decisions made today. We heard a reminder announcement about the meeting’s spring workday coming up next Saturday.

We closed our meeting in worship and Friendship.