

Adelphi Friends Meeting
Meeting for Worship for the Conduct of Business
Sixth Month 12, 2005

DRAFT MINUTES

Opening

Meeting opened with a period of silence. Our Clerk, Ann Marie Moriarty, read the queries for sixth month and Friends considered these in silent prayer. The queries for the month are on Home and Family:

Do you make your home a place of affection where God's presence is felt? Do you practice family prayer? Do you share your deepest beliefs and interests with all in the family? Do you grow together through sharing prosperity and adversity? Can you keep a sense of humor and avoid taking yourself too seriously? Do you establish family standards including the mutual obligations of children and adults?

Are you as children learning to be accountable for your own actions? Do you as parents help your children to grow in independence and responsibility? Do you consider the needs of grandparents and older members of the family circle?

The agenda was approved with two additions.

The April minutes, held over from the last meeting, were approved as amended. The May minutes were approved as amended.

There was no clerk's mail this month.

Ann Marie reminded friends that Baltimore Yearly Meeting is offering two days free for annual sessions for those who will be attending for the first time. Please talk with Ann Marie if you are interested.

Alan Mahood's transfer of membership was completed.

Pud Baker reported that about \$7000 had been raised so far from the Strawberry Festival. The receipts have mostly been turned in, so it is likely that the amount will not be less than \$7,000. Some silent auction items have not been claimed yet, so the amount may still go up a bit.

Ann Marie reported that Alice Koenig, one of the Meeting's founding members, left Meeting a bequest in her will. The amount to meeting, according to her daughter, is approximately \$10,000, of which 90% is being sent at this time, with the balance to come when the disposition of the estate is final. Our meeting has asked Alice for guidance on how her mother would have wanted the funds to be used.

Mosi Harrington reported that there are no summer events planned for the Memorial Garden or for the series on death and dying. There will be events planned for the fall and winter.

Pastoral Care Committee – Rob Duncan

The meeting approved with delight the membership of Pat Nutter and the associate membership of her children, Robin and Galen Jones.

Rob reported that Pastoral Care had discussed Bill Samuel's resignation. The committee made the decision to think about how individual spiritual needs are being met in our meeting. The committee noted that it is always sad to lose someone with the kind of depth that Bill brings, but we want to honor his spiritual journey. The meeting agreed to accept the resignation of Bill Samuel from Adelphi Friends Meeting and his planned affiliation with Cedar Ridge Church in loving affirmation of his spiritual journey.

Ann Marie clarified that the usual process is to request a meeting with people who resign membership, in order to discuss that decision, but inasmuch as Bill's search has been one he has spoken of thoughtfully and straightforwardly for many years, the committee felt that it did not lack clarity, and recommends that we accept this resignation.

Friends noted that there are activities of Cedar Ridge Church that provide the opportunity to offer nurture and also connection with our community. A letter will be sent to Bill to acknowledge our appreciation of his service.

Directory – Marcy Seitel

The 2005 directory is now finished and available for Friends. Some information in the directory has already become outdated. An updated version is always available on Adelphi's website, at www.Adelphifriends.org. Suggestions on how to make the directory more usable for newcomers are welcome.

Peace and Social Concerns – Martha Wenger

The committee brought the Iraq STEP (Sensible Transition to an Enduring Peace) Resolution, formulated by Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL), for approval from business meeting. **The meeting agreed to lay over a decision on this STEP Resolution until next month so that more people can have time to consider it thoughtfully.** A copy of the resolution follows:

Iraq STEP Resolution (Sensible Transition to an Enduring Peace)

On April 13, 2004, President George W. Bush stated that "as a proud and independent people, Iraqis do not support an indefinite occupation and neither does America" and that the U.S. will remain in Iraq "as long as necessary and not one day more"; and

on February 17, 2005, Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld assured the Senate Armed Services Committee that "we have no intention, at the present time, of putting permanent bases in Iraq"; and

on February 2005 the Wall Street Journal reported that 60% of the people in the United States think that the Bush administration should set a public or private timetable for withdrawing U.S. troops from Iraq; and

former Secretary of State James Baker, former Pentagon official Anthony Cordesman, the International Crisis Group, and other respected leaders and analysts have said that it is critical that the U.S. government declare now its intention to fully withdraw from Iraq; and

political parties opposed to the ongoing U.S. military presence won the overwhelming majority of votes in Iraq's January 2005 election and a clear majority of voters interviewed in exit polls cited their desire to see an end to the military occupation as a major impetus for voting; and

the perception that the U.S. intends to permanently occupy Iraq aids insurgent groups in recruiting supporters and fuels violent activity; and

many insurgent groups have expressed a willingness to engage in political dialogue if the U.S. clearly states its intention to withdraw from Iraq; and

we can best honor the lives and memories of all who have died in Iraq by expediting the end of the war, bringing U.S. troops home as quickly as possible, and supporting the Iraqi people in rebuilding their country; and

a clear statement of intent to fully withdraw U.S. troops and bases does not imply the setting of a particular deadline, time frame, or exit strategy; and

such a statement would send a strong signal to the people of Iraq and the international community that the United States does not have imperial intentions in Iraq and affirms that the Iraqi people will regain through their elected representatives the full exercise of national sovereignty, including control over security and public safety;

Therefore, the Adelphi Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends holds the people of Iraq, the U.S. troops and international troops and humanitarian workers in Iraq, the leaders of Iraq and the United States, and all others affected by this war in the Light; and

the Adelphi Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends calls on the United States Congress to adopt a sense of the Congress resolution declaring: "It is the policy of the United States to withdraw all U.S. military troops and bases from Iraq".

The Peace and Social Concerns Committee requests Monthly Meeting to send a copy of this resolution to our members of Congress. The Peace and Social Concerns Committee also notes that the FCNL resolution after which this is tailored includes "And be it also resolved that this ...Meeting... will send a copy of this resolution to the local media." and commends that action to Meeting. Friends were asked to think about whether and how local media should be informed of our actions. The National Council of

Churches approved this resolution this week and made their decision known in a press release.

Legal support for same sex marriage through Amicus brief – Ann Marie Moriarty reporting in place of Jen Chapin

Jade Eaton reported on her review of an *amicus* brief on same sex marriage in Maryland. The meeting agreed to sign on to this brief to let those in the courts know what we believe. This action makes public the stand we have already taken and made public within the yearly meeting and the Religious Society of Friends. The brief will be presented to the lawyers arguing *Deane v. Conaway*, the lawsuit challenging Maryland's refusal to grant marriage licenses to same sex families. The lawyers will file the amici briefs with the court on Tuesday, June 14.

Ministry and Worship – Jolee Robinson

Jolee presented the committee's draft of guidelines for the use of electronic communications. Friends looked over the draft and briefly discussed the issues presented, which are as follows:

Use of Electronic Communications:

- 1) The agenda for upcoming Meetings for Worship for the Conduct of Business could be emailed out to all on the distribution list, as well as being posted (hard copy) in the entrance lobby, so that Friends and Attenders would have adequate opportunity for review. Minutes – both draft and final – from Meeting for Worship for the Conduct of Business could be distributed using the email distribution list. This would require that we follow the practice of agreeing on the wording of the minutes of decisions made in Business Meeting, during Business Meeting.
- 2) The Meeting's email distribution list should not function as an electronic discussion forum, but instead should be limited in use to the distribution of announcements, agenda, and minutes. We have the concern that discussion via email, even within a committee, can lead to misunderstandings. Our Quaker process is to sit with one another and wait upon the Spirit, then discuss issues face to face, guided by a clerk who is listening for the Spirit moving among us. This process is essential to grounding our decisions on God's guidance. Therefore, we suggest that email be used only for the above stated purposes.
- 3) The clerk or the assistant clerk of Meeting should be the person responsible for approving the distribution of messages (other than announcements, agendas and minutes) on the email distribution list. Therefore, announcements should be sent directly to the clerk, who will forward them, as appropriate, to the list manager. Also, we suggest that the guideline for the use of the email list be the same as the guideline for the use of the Meeting's postal mailing list.

Some of those present spoke of the positive impact that e-mail conversations have on their committee work, that electronic communication can foster a deeper exploration

of some topics. Appropriate ways for the meeting's e-mail list to be used were also discussed, including organizing support for people in our meeting.

The meeting decided to lay over the decision about the proposed guidelines on electronic communication until next month so that more friends would have a chance to reflect on them.

Nominating committee – Robalee Chapin standing in for Glenn Riley.

The meeting approved Phil Martens to serve on the Finance Committee.

Finance Committee – Cheryl Morden

The meeting approved the Finance Committee's recommendation to add another \$400 to the camping scholarship line item of the budget, and to increase the general contributions line by the same amount to meet the needs of a meeting family that has requested support for two children who want to attend a Quaker camp.

After a brief discussion, **the meeting approved changing the fiscal year for Adelphi Friends Meeting to December 1 through November 30. The 2005 fiscal year will therefore be an 11-month year for the 2005 budget, beginning January 1 and going through November 30.** This topic had been discussed at the May business meeting and was brought forward this month for approval.

The meeting agreed that the term of the treasurer and the assistant treasurer will coincide with the fiscal year, and not the calendar year.

Cheryl presented the 2005 budget for Adelphi Friends Meeting, set up to reflect the changes needed to support the change in fiscal year. This was considered a first reading of the budget. Those with questions and concerns should contact members of the finance committee.

A friend asked about the policy that guides the amount budgeted for health insurance for the White House resident. Ann Marie will check on minutes in the past that address the issue of health insurance coverage for the White House resident.

Questions about memorial garden were asked. It will be clarified at a future meeting whether special funds can be set up for things such as the memorial garden.

It was affirmed that the income received from the Strawberry Festival and the outreach donations to organizations should not be linked.

It was affirmed that it is not fiscally prudent to pay out all the outreach donations once a year, and the finance committee recommended to continue giving to organizations two times through the year.

Other Business

Harold Confer, on behalf of himself and June, asked permission from the meeting to park their recreational vehicle in the meeting's parking lot during the times that

meeting and other events are not being held. Questions about liability were raised, but Harold and June said that they have insurance to cover any damages. **It was decided that the House and Grounds Committee should consider this request.**

Carol Ann/Pud Baker announced that there will be a second hour to evaluate this year's Strawberry Festival and a questionnaire will be distributed to friends before the second hour.

The meeting expressed appreciation to the four coordinators of the Strawberry Festival.

A friend raised the concern that a printed agenda made before a business meeting is not in the spirit of gathering and discerning the business that is to be done at the time of a business meeting. Concern was expressed that those part of our meeting will come to meetings only when business that particularly interests them is raised. Another friend spoke to the helpfulness of being able to know the agenda for a meeting ahead of time. Friends reached no decision, but held the concerns in the Light.

Closing

After a brief period of silence, the meeting was closed.

Attachments:

Finance Committee proposal and 2005 draft budget
Report on *amicus* brief

PROPOSAL

1. Shift Adelphi's fiscal year by one month from January to December to December to November.
2. Approve a revised 2005 budget that will allow for a revenue neutral transition to the new fiscal year.
3. Recommend that the terms of the treasurer and assistant treasurer should be adjusted to coincide with the fiscal year.

BACKGROUND

Need to address the end-of-year uncertainty created by uneven cash flow in contributions, in which a large percentage of the annual budget flows in during the last two to three weeks of the year. (Prompted by the prospect of budget shortfall, giving habits, and tax considerations.)

LOGISTICS

Budget planning starts in September, with first reading in October and second reading in November (ideally).

Synchronizing with Baltimore Yearly Meeting – apportionment is assessed on a calendar year (mixed messages about this, we're checking on whether it can be calculated on our fiscal year or on a calendar year). There is a variety of fiscal years among Monthly Meetings in Baltimore Yearly Meeting. Quarterly contribution schedule. We can devise a schedule that is consistent with a December – November fiscal year and with BYM's calendar fiscal year.

Synchronizing with Takoma Park Preparative Meeting: Takoma Park made this same shift in 2003.

Impact on contributions to community and Quaker organizations: No impact. Pay the first half of next year's contribution in December. For their purposes, they will have received the full amount that we pledged.

RATIONALE

Income bulge early in the year.

Considered May - April, July – June and October – September. First would be more complicated and potential transition costs. Other two have problems related to the seasonal life of the Meeting. July – June would make budget preparation coincide with Strawberry Festival preparations. October – September means the preparation season would fall over the summer, when many people are away.

Cons: Don't know the extent to which the giving lump in December is in response to end-of-the-year pleas and therefore whether the bulge will decrease if December is instead the first month of the fiscal year.

| | 12-month | 11-month | Notes |
|--|---------------|--------------|--|
| Income | | | |
| Donations/Cash | 84470 | 53610 | Was \$54182 in first 11 months of 2004 |
| Dividends/Interest | 125 | 125 | |
| Grant for sign language interpretation | 2000 | 2000 | |
| Strawberry Festival. Net (Gross-Expenses) | 7000 | 7000 | |
| Takoma Park Insurance | 200 | 200 | |
| Takoma Park Apportionment. | 2040 | 2040 | |
| Use of Building | 0 | 0 | |
| Balance Forward | 4000 | 4000 | |
| Set-aside for 2005 apportionment | 3000 | 3000 | |
| Gross Income | 102835 | 71975 | |
| Expenses | | | |
| Quaker Organizations Total | 10000 | 5000 | Halved |
| Baltimore Yearly Meeting | | | |
| Apportionment | 18320 | 9160 | Halved |
| BYM camping property | 1550 | 775 | Halved |
| BYM camping program | 2200 | 1100 | Halved |
| Permanent Education Fund | 100 | 50 | Halved |
| Baltimore Yearly Meeting Total | 22170 | 11085 | |
| Property & Maintenance | | | |
| Electricity | 2650 | 2430 | Down by about 1/12th |
| Gas | 4120 | 3780 | Down by about 1/12th |
| Insurance | 1850 | 1850 | Not a monthly bill |
| Other (House & Grounds) | 12300 | 12300 | |
| Resident's Health Insurance | 4500 | 4130 | Down by about 1/12th |
| Supplies | 450 | 420 | Down by about 1/12th |
| Telephone | 960 | 880 | Down by about 1/12th |
| Trash Service | 1545 | 1420 | Down by about 1/12th |
| Water & Sewer Service | 800 | 800 | Quarterly (not monthly) bill |
| Property & Maintenance Total | 29175 | 28010 | |
| Programs & Committees | | | |
| Adult Religions Education | 950 | 950 | |
| Camping Scholarships | 1000 | 1000 | |
| Clerk's Expenses | 50 | 50 | |
| Conferences & Seminars | 400 | 400 | |
| Finance Committee/Treasurer | 2000 | 2000 | |
| Friends Community School Blackburn Scholarship | 8700 | 4350 | Halved |
| Library Committee | 400 | 400 | |
| Memorial Garden | 0 | 0 | |
| Ministry & Worship Committee | 915 | 915 | |
| Silent Announcements | 400 | 370 | Down by about 1/12th |
| Sign Language | 2500 | 2300 | Down by about 1/12th |
| Newsletter Committee | 1000 | 920 | Down by about 1/12th |

| | | |
|--|---------------------|---------------------------|
| Nominating Committee | 50 | 50 |
| Outreach & Fellowship Committee | 275 | 275 |
| Pastoral Care Committee | 50 | 50 |
| Sharing Fund | 800 | 800 |
| Sufferings Fund | 750 | 750 |
| Peace and Social Concerns | 100 | 100 |
| Records Committee | 0 | 0 |
| Religious Education | 750 | 750 |
| Child Care | 2500 | 2300 Down by about 1/12th |
| Safe Haven | 400 | 400 |
| Trustees | 0 | 0 |
| Programs & Committees Total | 23990 | 19130 |
| | | |
| Community Organizations and Memberships | 10000 | 5000 Halved |
| | | |
| Transfer to Reserve for Replacement | 7500 | 3750 Halved |
| | | |
| <hr/> Expenses Total | <hr/> 102835 | <hr/> 71975 |
| | | |
| Net Income/(Deficit) | 0 | 0 |

Report on request for Adelphi Friends Meeting to join an *Amicus* Brief in Deane v. Conaway

Background:

Adelphi received the following request from plaintiffs in a civil law suit against the State of Maryland:

Dear Friends,

Attached is a draft *amicus* (friend of the court) brief to be filed by a coalition of religious groups and leaders in Deane v. Conaway, the lawsuit challenging Maryland's refusal to grant marriage licenses to same sex families. We are sending it to you because you have previously indicated either an interest in signing onto the brief, **or** an interest in reviewing the brief to determine whether you would join it.

We hope to have as broad a coalition of mainline religious groups and leaders as possible, to demonstrate to the court that the religious community is not united against full civil marriage equality for gay and lesbian couples. One point of the brief is to show that many religious bodies and leaders distinguish between civil marriage and religious marriage, and to emphasize that a ruling that the plaintiffs are entitled to the former has no bearing on the ability of religious bodies to determine for themselves whether or not to sanction the latter.

When we first received the request, we did not have a copy of the brief. The coalition sent us a copy of the *amicus* brief this week. **The brief will be filed on June 14 (Tuesday!)**

Points about the *amicus*:

Amicus curiae brief is a phrase that literally means "friend of the court" -- someone who is not a party to the litigation, but who believes that the court's decision may affect its interest." William H. Rehnquist, *The Supreme Court*, page 89. Some friend of the court briefs provide valuable information about legal arguments, or how a case might affect people other than the parties to the case. The *amici* in this case want to make sure that their views of marriage are not misrepresented or ignored in the courts deliberations.

This *amicus* brief argument is strictly on the issue of the separation of church and state. Some same sex marriage legal arguments are based on the equal protection clause of the Constitution. The brief we are being asked to join does not use that argument. It is strictly about the first amendment's anti-establishment clause (separation of church and state). The introduction accurately sums up the argument in the brief:

The *amici* strongly support the careful separation of church and state. They do not ask this Court to accept or adopt their approval of the committed relationships of same-sex couples on religious grounds. Rather, the *amici* submit this memorandum to reinforce the separation of religious doctrine from civil law by informing the Court that committed relationships among homosexuals are approved by substantial segments of the religious community and the Court's ruling as a matter of civil rights will not and cannot decide these issues for any particular religion.

The brief also quotes the AFSC's statement on same sex marriage.

If we want to join we must do the following immediately:

1. Agree to be a signatory.
2. Send a "statement of interest" –the reason Adelphi has an interest in the outcome of the case. This be relatively short. I have attached two samples of statements of interest of organizations to other *amicus* briefs on the same topic.
3. Direct Ann Marie as Clerk to send it to the lawyers.

Recommendation as to Statement of Interest:

I suggest that, should we agree to join the *amicus* brief, as our statement of interest, we simply identify ourselves and then repeat a portion minute on same gender marriage: for example:

Ann Marie Moriarty, Clerk, Adelphi Friends Meeting, Religious Society of Friends (Quakers), Adelphi; Maryland: On May 12, 1991, Adelphi Friends Meeting adopted a minute concerning Same Gender Marriage that states in part: [quote first or first two paragraphs of the minute].

As we are not becoming a party to the case, I do not think a trustee needs to sign anything and in fact, I think it is more appropriate for our Clerk to be named in our statement of interest [the preceding statement is not a legal opinion, just my gut reaction]

Respectfully submitted,

Jade Eaton

SAMPLE STATEMENTS OF INTEREST FROM SIMILAR CASE IN OREGON

The American Friends Service Committee is a Quaker Organization committed to the principles of non-violence and justice. It seeks in its work and its witness to draw on the transforming power of love, human and divine. We nurture the faith that conflicts can be resolved nonviolently, the enmity can be transformed into friendship, strife into cooperation, poverty into well being, and injustice into dignity and participation.

Rabbi....: I believe that decisions about the religious service of marriage should not be made by the government. I also agree that safeguarding religious freedom means that the government should never force a clergy person to perform a wedding between consenting adults, nor should the government prevent a clergy person from performing a wedding between consenting adults. Separation of church and state is a key building block of greatness of our country. It must be protected.

FIRST TWO PARAGRAPHS OF ADELPHI'S MINUTE

Our understanding of the spirit of Christ as reflected in the Gospels, leads us to affirm one another and our loving responsible relationships. To do so, strengthens our community, opens us to the full richness of the diverse loving relationships in our Meeting, and gives the persons in such relationships the support of a loving community.

We accept and appreciate diversity in our community and welcome all who share our search for Truth. Just as marriage between a man and woman may provide nurture to both the couple and the meeting, committed same-gender relationships may also be a source of spiritual growth. We recognize the Light in all sincere, loving, supportive relationships, which are characterized by growth and in which faith, hope, love and truth abide.