

Adelphi Friends Meeting Minutes
Meeting for Worship for the Conduct of Business
Third Month 12, 2006

Opening

The meeting opened with a period of silent worship. Two sets of queries were read, the traditional queries and the new ones being proposed by Baltimore Yearly Meeting.

Traditional Queries: 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?

Proposed Advices and Queries:

Advices: It is well for Meetings to consciously cultivate fellowship and community. The Meeting is enriched when all members and attenders participate actively. The working of the Holy Spirit in our lives is expressed through prophetic ministry, pastoral caring for each other, and the example provided by lives lived in the Light. As we worship, work, and laugh together, we forge bonds of trust, understanding and communication. When need arises to address contentious issues, they then may be addressed openly and honestly. When resolution is not immediate, the Meeting should make room for different expressions of continuing revelation, while persisting in earnest search for unity. Paradoxically, conflict thus experienced can also build trust and intimacy. Convictions which might divide or disrupt a Meeting can, through God's grace, help to make it creative and strong.

Queries: What helps our Meeting build trust of one another? How do we get to know one another in community? How do we make time in our lives for our faith community? What role does conflict play in the life of our community?

The agenda was amended and then approved. Twenty-nine friends were present.

The February minutes were read and approved as amended.

Clerk's Mail

A letter of thanks from the American Friends Service Committee for meeting's gift to them was read. We have a request from BYM's Working Group on Racism Among Friends to have a liaison from each monthly meeting and would like us to designate a liaison from our meeting.

Arthur David Olsen noted that Adelphi meeting's 50th anniversary is on Sept 17 of this year. The question of what to do to mark the occasion was referred to the Ministry and Worship Committee.

We were advised of the death of Bill Baumgartner, an attender at Adelphi, by his partner, Barbara Best.

It was also noted that Elizabeth Watson left this life on February 24 [Elizabeth, survived by her husband George, was a strong advocate for women's rights and the rights of gay, lesbian, bisexuals and transgendered people, and active in the Quaker Universalist Fellowship and beloved by many friends. She was 92 when she died.]

The deadline for an educational loan for secondary and college level education from BYM's Educational Funding Resources Committee is May 15, 2006. The application package is on the BYM Web site.

The FGC bookstore is in need of people to volunteer at the FGC Gathering this summer.

Finance Committee

Phil Martens presented the financial report for January and February and noted that income was low in those months. He expressed his concern that this pattern will lead to a shortfall, which brings some discomfort. We are doing ok, but the last two months have not been up to par. His report is attached.

Transfers of Membership

Our Corresponding Clerk wrote two letters this month to transfer membership for Friends from Adelphi: Trish Magyari Lorch's membership has been transferred to Baltimore Friends Meeting (Stony Run) and William Snyder's to Mount Toby Friends Meeting in Massachusetts.

Communication re Casa of Maryland

We received an e-mail from C. Paul Mendez, who had noted Adelphi's support for CASA of Maryland. He called attention to the comments of CASA's executive director, Gustavo Torres, who advocated confronting the families of the Minutemen who were making it difficult for day laborers to get work by frightening away those who might hire them. He suggested we might withhold our support for CASA, given the director's comments, which Mr. Mendez characterized as threats.

Subsequent to our receipt of that e-mail, Mr. Torres publicly apologized for his comments, and retracted completely his suggestion that there be surveillance or confrontation with the families of the Minutemen. There appeared to be no further need to discuss Mr. Mendez's request.

BYM's Search for General Secretary

BYM is searching for a General Secretary. The job description is available at our meeting and can be seen on the BYM website at bym-rsf.org.

Ministry and Worship – Reuben Snipper

Reuben presented the 2005 Spiritual State of the Meeting Report for a first reading. Friends listened to a reading of the report, and shared their affirmations suggestions for changes. Comments about the report should be given to Reuben Snipper as soon as possible so that they can be included in the revised report which will be presented for approval next month.

A report on the marriage of Jennifer Chapin Harris and Alexi Smith was given by Reuben. Their wedding was carried out in good order after the manner of Friends, and their marriage is under the care of our meeting. The ceremony, held at Sandy Spring Friends Meeting, was well attended by friends from Adelphi. The Oversight Committee was made up of Reuben Snipper, Judy Touchton, Helena Jareb, Ann Dunne, Rob Duncan, and Lainie Duncan from Adelphi, and Pat Powers from Sandy Spring.

Support Committee for Deborah James – Robb Oerter

As most friends know, Deborah James has been writing vignettes about her life. They give amazing insight into her life and spiritual development. These are organized into four segments, Spring, Summer, Fall, and Winter. She continues to work on the last section. There is more to this than just memoir. Deborah uses these vignettes in workshops to help people write about their own lives. Steve Woods, John Knight, Eric Hanson, John Wolfrum, and Chris Hough are helping her with the logistics, editing, and publishing of this work. That committee is hard at work. Deborah will do a workshop at Adelphi on April 23.

Pastoral Care – Rob Duncan

Stephanie Bean and Dave Diller would like to participate in the advanced training for the Marriage Enrichment Program. A prerequisite for participating in this training program is a minute of support from our monthly meeting, and the letter prepared by Rob Duncan, clerk of Pastoral Care, fulfills that requirement. There was not a clearness process as part of the preparation of this letter of support. This purpose of this letter of support is to confirm that they are active members of their meeting. **The meeting agreed that the Corresponding clerk would write such a letter on Stephanie and Dave's behalf, with information provided by the Clerk of Pastoral Care.**

Withdrawal of Membership

Margie Burns sent a letter to our meeting saying that she was withdrawing her membership from Adelphi Friends. Her withdrawal was received. It was noted that we do not approve withdrawals, but simply acknowledge them. Margie was appreciated for her commitment to peace concerns. Appreciation was also noted for her getting in touch with the members of her clearness committee for membership. A letter of acknowledgement and appreciation will be sent to Margie from the Corresponding Clerk.

Nominating Committee – Jo Francis

The meeting approved the second readings for committee service of the following friends: Robalee Chapin for Pastoral Care (06-08) and Alexander Barnes, for Representative to Prince George's County Community Ministries (06-08).

Adult Religious Education Committee – Tom Wolfe

A request was made to pay in full for the performance given on March 5 at the rise of meeting – a play written and acted by Rich Swingle, depicting the life and work of John Woolman – even though it puts the committee over budget. The event was originally in last year’s budget, but scheduling did not permit for it to take place in that fiscal year. It was noted that a request for such funds for this year should have been made clear before the event occurred. It was noted that the play was wonderful and good for our meeting. An increase in the 2006 budget was requested both to cover the expenses of this play and to cover expenses for the committee’s work for the remaining part of the year. **The meeting agreed to cover the costs of the plays performed on March 5 at our meeting.** The committee was asked to be in touch with the Finance Committee to request a revision to their 2006 budget line item amount.

Peace and Social Concerns Committee – Alexander Barnes

Sarah Wilton approached the committee a month ago ask for support of work being done regarding counter-recruitment in schools. Sarah brought a petition drafted by Montgomery County Coalition on Recruitment Issues, which has been recommended for approval by our Peace and Social Concerns Committee, for full approval by our business meeting. The report will be considered for approval at next month’s business meeting. A copy of the petition is attached to these minutes.

Request from Takoma Park Friends Meeting Preparative

Mary Jane Muchui noted that the left over produce from the Takoma Park Farmer’s Market is collected each week and transported to Shepherd’s Table. More people are needed to do this work. Ann Marie will forward this information to the newsletter.

Hospitality Coordinators – Helena Jareb

The Hospitality Coordinators requested that the Hospitality Committee be reinstated. The request was referred to the Ministry and Worship Committee and the Nominating Committee. Helena noted that the Hospitality Coordinators and helpers will take care of potluck over the summer, but will not oversee snacks on other Sundays of the month.

Clerk’s Request: At 1:30, Ann Marie asked if friends would be willing to stay until 1:45, which was approved. 25 friends were present.

Finance Committee – Karen Cunnyngham

The Finance Committee made a recommendation to the business meeting to change the meeting’s policy in regards to how the meeting receives and passes along funds designated for individuals in need in our meeting. In the past, donations have not been accepted from one individual to another through the meeting. Now, the Finance Committee would be comfortable receiving non-tax-deductible donations from friends designated for another friend who is in need. Friends should write on the memo line of their checks, “Friend in Need” so that the bookkeeping can be done properly.

The meeting agreed that donations can now be received for friends in need through the meeting. These donations will not be considered tax-deductible donations and are considered funds in addition to those designated for the Sharing Fund. This practice will allow friends in our meeting to help one another anonymously. When friends make donations to help a friend, they should mark their checks appropriately so that the Treasurer will know if the funds are meant for Adelphi's regular budget or meant to be passed through to the friend in need. Finance Committee will come back with a report on the progress of developing a minute next business meeting that clarifies how this policy will work.

A friend noted that this kind of reaching out should be encouraged.

The committee also is considering restructuring and possibly aggregating some of the "funds" in our budget – sharing fund, sufferings fund, etc. The committee will report back with a proposal in the near future.

Other business:

A question was raised of whether a claim concerning a friends' recent injury on the grounds of the Meeting should be filed with Guide One, our insurer. The information that was gathered suggested that the Trustees should, in fact, file that claim. Please refer to last month's minutes to more fully understand this matter.

Announcements:

The White House has a new roof as of this week. It is a 50-year roof and is a great accomplishment of the House and Grounds Committee.

Mugs and forks are needed for our kitchen. Friends are encouraged to donate them.

Closing

The meeting closed with 20 friends present, after a brief moment of silent worship.

Marcy Baker Seitel

Adelphi Friends Meeting / Finance Committee
 March 2006 Giving Report
 Monthly Giving Report page 1 of 1

\$0
 \$5,000
 \$10,000
 \$15,000
 \$20,000
 Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov

Monthly Actual Monthly Budget

\$0
 \$20,000
 \$40,000
 \$60,000
 \$80,000
 \$100,000
 Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov

Year to Date Actual Year to Date Budget

Fiscal Year 2006 Total Giving Needed.....	\$88,179
Donations December 2005.....	\$17,518
*Donations January 2006.....	\$4,933
*Donations February 2006.....	\$4,529
Expected Monthly donations.....	\$7,345
Fiscal Year-to-Date Giving: Dec. 1, 2005 to Feb. 28, 2006	\$26,980
Year-to-Date Giving Goal.....	\$22,036
Actual Giving compared to our Goal.....	+\$4,944

*Note that these monthly donation figures fall far short of our expected giving levels.

AFM Finance Committee members are: Cheryl Morden, Sharon Stout, Michael Levy, Arthur David Olson, Katherine Tall, Phil Martens, Debbie Bassert