



## Third Haven Friends Meeting

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## March 2022 NEWSLETTER

" Thus, I travelled on in the Lord's service, as He led me. "

Fox, George. (His Memoirs)

### **Third Haven Friends Meeting Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business Thirteenth Day, Second Month, 2022**

**Opening Silent Worship** – Clerk Molly Brian opened the meeting with a period of silent worship at 11:20 a.m.

**Attending on Zoom** (all virtual) 26 Molly Brian, Mia Brown Echerd, Susan Claggett, Tom Corl, Stephanie French, Doreen Getsinger, John Hawkinson, Marsie Hawkinson, Kristina Herold, Janet Kemp, Larissa Kitenko, Bill Lane, Marie Leonard, Connie Lewis, Beth Mufson, Dee Rein, Nancy Robbins, Adrienne Rudge, Priscilla Sener, Brian Shean, Jonathan Slocum, Dona Sorce, Ben Tilghman, Kevin Walsh, Mary Yancey, Harvey Zendt

#### **Comments on Second Query (Deepening our Faith: Meeting for Business):**

Note the unhurried decision-making process of Quakers. Decision making in the manner of Friends is unique with little authority and much openness to revelation. The query beckons us to consider reaching decisions in the fullness of time but does not give us clearness to be ploddingly slow, or avoid reaching a meaningful decision. Decisions deserve weighty consideration, but that cannot be an excuse to avoid coming together in unity. Justice delayed is justice denied. A balance is needed. It is incumbent upon us to care for this tradition and pass it on to future generations.

**Approval of minutes** for January business meeting **Approved**

**Clerk's Desk- SQM February 27th- Molly Brian**

**Spiritual State of the Meeting Annual Report:** A link has been sent for previous reading, along with inclusion in announcements. Additions and corrections have been received and applied. This will be presented at quarterly meeting on February 27<sup>th</sup> and sent to Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. **Approved**

**Marriage under the Care of Meeting Clearness committee update:** Committee members Tom Corl, Marsie Hawkinson, Adrienne Rudge and Bill Schauer met with Sarah Claggett and Tim Nowicki. Pastoral Care committee supports this marriage under the care of the meeting on May 28<sup>th</sup>. **Approved**

**Donations:** Mark Beck's children propose to provide a teak sitting bench with small plaque honoring Mark on the bench. Location to be determined by property and grounds, probably replacing the bench in front of the Old Meeting House. We have also received a generous donation to the building fund in honor of Mark.

**Planning Committee Update- Tom Corl**

The committee's next Zoom meeting is on Feb. 16<sup>th</sup>. They will review a proposal from the specialist in American with Disability Act compliance. Diverse responses to the requests for proposals from 3 companies will be reviewed. Next steps decisions will be discussed as well. Those wishing to see these files may contact Molly Brian.

**Treasurer's Report (Year End 12/31/2021)- Financial Snapshot Ben Tilghman**

We enjoyed strong finish to calendar 2021, led by member contributions which were at 67% of budget against 50% of the year. Additionally, member contributions were close to 60% more than the previous year for the same time period. While some of this is anticipated as Friends consider their tax year, this is a robust close out of the calendar year. Expenses were at 47% of budget against 50% of the year. Overall, a very comfortable picture, but we are expecting to see the normal fall off in donations now that the year-end push is over. We are projecting that we will close out fiscal 21-22 comfortably on budget.

Assets held at Friends Fiduciary total \$345,362.00. Of that, \$96,137.00 is operating cash reserve, with the balance of \$249, 225 consisting of the Kemp Family Trust, Shoffner International Scholarship, and two Scholarship Funds which are managed by the Scholarship Committee. Funds at Friends Fiduciary experienced diminished income in calendar Q3, but posted a strong showing in calendar Q4, earning \$11,851 for Scholarship, and \$5,748 income for our cash reserve.

I recommend we keep on doing what we are doing. Seems to be working pretty well.

Headwinds to consider include inflation and instability in the economy.

We did send out year-end tax letters for use with the Internal Revenue Service. Contact the treasurer with any questions. Financial statements may be seen on our website.

**Annual Report of the Membership Recorder – Marsie Hawkinson**

New Member - Reinstated - Mary Yancey

Mary had been a member for several years and then resigned. For the last several years Mary has been an active presence and this year asked to be reinstated.

Deaths of Members -

Susan Dickinson - on February 13, 2021

Ken Carroll - on February 25, 2021

Sally Vermilye – on April 4, 2021

Mark Beck - on December 16, 2021

Two others who died were not members, but had been faithful attenders. One was Jane Escher (March 21, 2021). Jane had been attending Third Haven since the 1960s. Her family members were long time Quakers from Bucks County, PA. Another was MK Shean, an attender for the last several years who died on January 16, 2021.

**TOTAL MEMBERS:**

Resident - 83

Non-Resident - 53

total - 136

**Land Use Planning Subcommittee Update- *Mary Yancey***

The Land Use Planning Subcommittee is charged with planning improvements to the grounds of Third Haven Monthly Meeting (THMM.) We have looked back at the Guiding Principles formed several years ago to help structure our work. Participants in that activity felt a strong commitment to preserving history while moving our Quaker Meeting forward to meet our future needs. We have discussed several important values that may help us in this endeavor. We present these to all THMM to discuss. First and foremost, we value our grounds and our natural environment and want our planning to enhance the beauty of our land and the sanctuary of Quaker values it represents. As an initial step in this process, the committee reached out to members and attenders for responses to three queries. The **Summary Report on Discernment for the Purpose of Land Use Planning**, which includes the queries and responses may be seen on our website under the planning committee tab.

An initial survey from Lane engineering was enough to give to Morgan State University students, who are writing proposals for us as a class exercise. Our priorities were presented to the 9 students and their professor to come up with a comprehensive master plan. These will be presented on April 14 and May 9<sup>th</sup>. The next scheduled meeting will be March 10<sup>th</sup>.

**New Business**

**Quaker Voice Climate Change** related bills: Chesapeake Climate Action is asking organizations to sign on as endorsing a bill scheduled to have a hearing on Tuesday: Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022 (SB0528). Quaker Voice Md. has endorsed this bill. Updates on Quaker Voice topics of priority can be had by weekly emails, including links for information and proposed actions. Since the bill has not been available to the Meeting for consideration in advance, we did not endorse as a Meeting but encourage individual consideration and endorsement. Those interested in discussing climate action bills currently in the legislature should contact Dona Sorce, who will arrange a meeting.

**Closing Silent Worship** 12:30 p.m.

D. Rein

Recorder

## **Announcements**

<http://www.thirdhaven.org/announcements.php>

Calendar of Activities <http://www.thirdhaven.org/calendar.php>

Online directory <http://www.thirdhaven.org/members/dir.php>

The Third Haven newsletter circulates during the first week of each month to enable readers to review the minutes of the most recent meeting for worship with attention to business.

### **First Day School**

We are excited to finally be able to meet together in person starting this Sunday, March 6. We will gather with the Meeting at 10am in the brick Meeting House then the children will be going to the common room and outdoors for their own worship and education. I am hoping to play some games and enjoy some spring weather thinking of ways we can care for the Earth. Hoping to see as many families back to worship that can make it. Please call or e mail with questions/ideas. Susan Claggett, Clerk FDS

### **Every Thursday**

#### **Peace Vigil**

The peace vigil continues (weather permitting, of course) at 5PM Thursdays in front of the courthouse in Easton. Join John Turner and Nancy to stand for Peace.

John Turner 240-650-5540

### **Every Friday**

#### **Zoom Happier Hour 7 PM**

Zoom happier hour conversation is scheduled on Fridays at 7:00 pm. Typically, about 7-10 people use the hour to reconnect, share news and again, offer fellowship. Please consider joining our group. Use our Meeting for Worship link to join on Zoom.

### **March 6 [Sunday]**

#### **In Person Hybrid Meeting For Worship Reopens**

Since there has been a drop in the number of Covid cases, we plan to resume hybrid (combined live and Zoom) meetings for worship during March starting on March 6th. First Day donations of non-perishable food will be taken to the Neighborhood Service Center. Once we resume meeting in person at Third Haven this expression of support will be welcome.

### **March 6 [Sunday]**

#### **Spiritual Journey**

Marie Leonard will present her Spiritual Journey, at the rise of meeting for worship. This will be a hybrid program, in the brick meetinghouse and available on Zoom. Please join us.

### **March 13 [Sunday]**

## **Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business**

**Daylight Saving Time** in Maryland will begin at 2:00 AM on Sunday, March 13, 2022

### **Quaker Fund for Indigenous Communities**

Quakers from all parts of PYM who support Indigenous communities through grants as well as advocacy. have adapted a new name, Quaker Fund For Indigenous Communities (formerly known as the Quaker Indian Affairs Committee). The Quaker Fund for Indigenous Communities provides seed money for projects identified and implemented by Native communities in the Philadelphia area and throughout North, Central and South America. These include projects to support language and culture so that children and youth benefit from the transmission of unique heritages from elders in their communities. This is an area with urgency as the elders of Native communities pass away and take with them irreplaceable knowledge. The committee hopes to build the fund, based on restricted endowments, to develop long term projects. Contact is Cherie Clark

### **Quaker Earthcare Witness** *Here is the link to their resources*

<https://quakerearthcare.org/category/befriending-creation/>

They address the ecological and social crises of the world from a spiritual perspective, emphasizing Quaker process and testimonies. They seek to understand what it would mean to live in ‘right relationship’ with Earth and nature, and to act wherever they can to advance this cause. Their website is [www.quakerearthcare.org/](http://www.quakerearthcare.org/)

### **The Quaker Voice Maryland** <https://www.quakervoicemd.org/resources/advocacy-presentations>

website: <https://www.quakervoicemd.org>

e-mail [quakervoicemd@gmail.com](mailto:quakervoicemd@gmail.com)

to join their e-mail list

<https://www.quakervoicemd.org/get-involved/join-our-contacts>

### **Improve Our Announcements**

If any of you want to send an announcement for the Meeting to publish, please follow these simple guidelines.

- 1) Short and simple is best. Maximum 200 words. Include your contact number and email.
- 2) Test all links and e-mail addresses to make sure they work.
- 3) Keep your event current by sending out announcements no more than 3 weeks ahead of time.
- 4) Keep attachments small. Thank you, Friends.”

## **Trust Circles Opportunities coming**

The Trust Circles program will soon be asking for the participation by Third Haven members and attenders. For a preview of this program here is the link to an introductory video: [Overview of Trust Circles Video](#)



### **Background:**

#### **A. Aims**

The Trust Circle project seeks to assist Friends in achieving the following:

- To categorize ideas more and people less.
- To devote our time and energy to defining how we go forward together rather than focusing on who is to blame for what.
- To practice individual and corporate self-examination

that will lead to the avoidance of “othering” and the building of wholesome and trustworthy relationships and a sense of belonging across our worship community.

#### **B. The Beginning**

In 2018, the Baltimore Yearly Meeting of Friends invited all monthly meetings to support a vision of a beloved community by forming “Change Groups.” The purpose was to commit to helping lower barriers to the involvement of people of color in monthly Meetings. The Baltimore Monthly Meeting, Stony Run, responded to that invitation by developing a “Change Group.”

Also, in August 2019, Baltimore Yearly Meeting approved a document at the annual session titled, “Declaration by Baltimore Yearly Meeting as an Anti-Racist Faith Community.” In keeping with the concept of change groups and the declaration, several Meetings, including the Baltimore Monthly Meeting of Friends, held sessions about how to be more anti-racist. From these sessions, the idea of “Trust Circles” was formulated. The purpose of the Circles was to build trusting relationships across our Meeting that would make our working together as Friends simpler and easier and allow us to do more and be better than we had done or had been.

“Circles,” operationally defined, refer to groups of persons sharing a common interest. The interest, in this case, is establishing and maintaining wholesome relationships across all members of the Meeting. Although each Trust Circle begins with ten or fewer participants, in an ideal world, larger Circles will evolve that ultimately will become the entire Meeting and that the whole will be greater than the sum of the parts.

#### **C. Building A Conceptual Framework**

To assist in forming a common understanding of the importance of trust in building wholesome relationships, it is important to look at (a) some of the basic elements of trust, (b) strategies for building trust, (c) a description of “Trust Circles,” and more.

(a) Basic Trust Elements. Basic elements to explore for building and maintaining trust included the following:

- Trustworthiness – faith that each Friend can trust and be trusted by other Friends.
- Credibility – confidence that Friends are honest and dependable.
- Reliability – belief that Friends are consistent in their actions, and that those actions connect with their words (integrity).
- Intimacy - safety each Friend feels sharing who they are with other Friends.
- Other-centered – going outside of oneself while simultaneously letting others inside.

(b) Strategies for Building Trust. Building trust is not seen as a passive activity, but one that requires Friends to engage in certain behaviors so that we will be opened to establishing and maintaining a wholesome relationship with Friends across our Meeting. Strategies for doing this include:

- showing respect,
- being fair and consistent,
- cooperating and looking for ways to help,
- avoiding excuses and placing blaming,
- being accountable,
- honoring the feelings of others (e.g., not telling Friends what they feel or what they should feel), and
- avoiding giving unsolicited advice and proceeding with caution when advice is solicited.

(c) Trust Circles. The notion of Trust Circles was borrowed from the concept of “Talking Circles,” practiced by Native Peoples where persons of all ages are brought together quietly and respectfully for listening, sharing, and learning in an atmosphere of safety, dignity, and equality.

Each Trust Circle consists of no more than ten Friends to ensure that each has time to speak and to listen. Friends are asked to say whatever is on their minds within five minutes in response to a query that is designed to encourage contemplation and self-examination around social justice, othering, and trust-building issues. Members of the Circles are encouraged not to speak or otherwise interrupt when another Friend is speaking.

## **Planning Proceeds**

The Planning Committee has invited three architectural firms to discuss their candidacy. Each firm will present a charette to the committee as part of the process. A fourth architectural firm will evaluate our property from the viewpoint of the *Americans with Disabilities Act*.



### **Land Use Planning Committee Progress**

Priscilla Sener writes, “The Land Use Planning Committee (LUPC) has begun site evaluation work by graduate students from Morgan State University. Their work is a semester-long studio class focused on Third Haven's master planning for the grounds. The students first visited Third Haven with their instructor on January 27th. The visit began in the Old Meeting House with silent worship and some discussion of the history and testimonies of Friends. The students toured each building, all of the grounds, and ended the visit by sharing their own backgrounds and interests in landscape architecture with committee members. Most of them are adult practitioners furthering their professional education. Although they all live on the Western shore, many of them returned on their own to study site features in more depth. Several LUPC committee members joined a virtual classroom on February 17th. Student presentations of their first impressions of our site showed the deep impressions made on them by the silence and sounds, mature trees, and special qualities of light at Third Haven. Morgan students will be at Third Haven again on April 14th and May 9th to present their renderings and ideas to all interested members and attendees.”