

ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2024



Current and back issues of the newsletter are available at <https://atlantaquakers.org/newsletter/>

<https://atlantaquakers.org/announcement-sheet/> will always have the most recent announcement sheet

Meeting for Worship each First Day (Sunday) in Person & via Zoom, 10:00 am.
Details for Sunday worship and for our Wednesday small meetings for worship, in person and zoom, are in the announcement sheet (link just above).

QUERY FOR APRIL

Do you make your home a place of affection where God's presence is felt?
Can you keep a sense of humor and avoid taking yourself too seriously?

SCHEDULING TIME AT FERGUSON CABINS FOR SPIRITUAL AND RECREATION RETREAT

The Ferguson cabins on beautiful Lake Burton in Tiger, GA are open now to schedule for the 2024 season beginning May 1. The cabins were gifted to AFM by Dwight Ferguson in 1983 for spiritual and recreational retreat by AFM individuals, families and groups. For more info and availability, go to the Ferguson cabins' site at <https://atlantaquakers.org/ferguson-cabins/>. To request a reservation, send an email to thefergusoncabin@gmail.com or call / text Joan Thompson at 404-273-3489.

SUMMER OPPORTUNITIES FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNITY AND SPIRITUAL DEEPE NING

Mark your calendars for opportunities to deepen spiritual life, spiritual community and fellowship with friends. Scholarships available from Atlanta Friends Meeting.

One of the ways we grow in our Quaker path is by gathering with other Friends. There are three opportunities this summer for you to gather with Friends.

Atlanta Meeting has set aside scholarship assistance to encourage your attendance. Consult the registration information, consider your needs and let meeting facilitate your participation. In addition, to partial scholarships for anyone in the meeting, we have full scholarships for Young Adult Friends (ages 18 to 35). Ministry and Worship has created a scholarship subcommittee; contact either Bill Holland (wwholland@mindspring.com) or Mary Ann Downey (madowney@mindspring.com) to get an application form. For some of these events, you should check with Ministry and Worship before registering for the event, so plan accordingly.

Atlanta is a member of Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association. We hold an annual gathering to conduct business, workshops and interest groups. More information and registration information will be forthcoming.

Theme: "Becoming Breath of Spirit"

Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting (SAYMA), Thursday, June 20 - Sunday, June 23

Berea College, Berea, Kentucky

<https://www.sayma.org/>

Think of hanging out for a week with hundreds of Quakers! Workshops, Interest Groups, youth programs, plenary sessions. Meet Friends from across the United States and Beyond who share our liberal tradition. Limited Online programs are available.

Theme: "Rooted in Story"

Friends General Conference, Sunday, June 30 - Saturday, July 6

Haverford college, Haverford, Pennsylvania.

Early Registration, April 1

General Registration, May 1

Registration Closed, May 31, 2024

<https://www.fgcquaker.org/fgcprograms/the-gathering/>

<https://www.fgcquaker.org/fgcprograms/the-gathering/about-the-gathering/advance-program/>

Atlanta Meeting will hold an in person retreat in early September. This is a great opportunity to worship and learn together.

Theme: TBD

Atlanta Friends Meeting Gathered Meeting Retreat, September 6 - 8

Facilitator – Christina Repoley

Lutherranch Retreat Center, Tallapoosa, Ga. <https://lutherranch.org/>

PLEASE HOLD IN THE LIGHT:

Anton Flores

Eric Glenn

S. Bowman

Bill Hooson

Diane Green and her brother

If you wish to have requests for holding in the light included in this monthly newsletter and in the announcement sheet, please give the names to a member of Care & Counsel.

Atlanta Friends Committees and Other Contacts

Clerk of the Meeting: David Small, afmclerk1@gmail.com

Office Coordinator: Nina Gooch, atlantaquakers@gmail.com

Treasurer: Stacey Sharer, afmtreasurer1@gmail.com

Ministry & Worship: Clive Gordon, 404-534-1091

Finance: Paul Mangelsdorf, 770-677-4280

Social Concerns: Kevin Moran, moran.kevinmoran.kevin@gmail.com

Administration: Steve Collins, shcollins75@gmail.com

Care & Counsel: Jennifer Crumpley, afm.care.counsel@gmail.com

Quakers for Racial Equality: Susan Firestone, susanfires@gmail.com

Committee on Undoing Racism in AFM: Lissa Place, lissaplace@yahoo.com

Religious Education: Amanda Gendreau, AmandaGendreau5@gmail.com

Young Friends Program Coordinator, Asa Kramer-Dickie,

afm.young.friends@gmail.com

Library: Derek Harootune Otis, dharootuneotis@gmail.com

Nominating: Lissa Place, lissaplace@yahoo.com

Newsletter Editor: Nina Gooch, atlquakerltr@gmail.com

Webmaster: Emma Bingham, afm.web.wizard@gmail.com

Bookkeeper: Jonah McDonald, afmbookkeeper1@gmail.com

For info about these and other committees, visit or download the AFM Handbook from <https://atlantaquakers.org/handbook/> OR contact the Clerk of the committee you're interested in.

MARY ANN DOWNEY'S MINISTRY FOR SPIRITUAL GUIDANCE 2023

A report by Mary Ann Downey, whose ministry is under the care of the meeting. A Friend with a ministry under the care of the meeting first discerns a leading to meet a specific need. After finding clearness with a committee appointed by Ministry and Worship and on the recommendation of Ministry and Worship Committee, Meeting approves taking the ministry under our care. The Friend meets regularly with a support committee appointed by meeting and reports annually to meeting about the ministry.

End of year reflections lead me to wonder about the year's travels, both the visible, other places we travel to, as well as those we find when we turn to the light within. I'm grateful for the gifts of mind, body, and spirit that make both fun and possible. The words in a song by Carrie Newcomer spoke to me in 2023: "Time to take more time and travel less ground." My ministry in 2023 focused on the needs and requests for service in our Atlanta Friends Meeting.

In January, I organized a meeting forum, "A Celebration of Ancestors and Elders." We began by listening to the song "Enduring Grace" by Deidre McCalla with the words, "We all stand on someone's shoulders when we reach for higher ground." Sally Ferguson, Don Bender, and I offered prepared stories about Friends no longer with us, before encouraging everyone gathered to offer their memories. The stories helped us remember and celebrate some of the shoulders our meeting stands on.

In February, *Friends Journal* published "What We Can Say Now," an article I wrote about our meeting's recovery from the pandemic, old Friends returning in person and online, new people of all ages filling the room, and the empty places of those who died from 2020-2022. Gabe Ehri, Executive Director of Friends Publishing Corporation suggested I write this article as a follow-up to a 2013 article I wrote, "Telling Our Stories". That story was about our project since 2007 inviting one Friend each month to tell the story of their spiritual journey, what brought them to meeting and keeps them coming. We continue this project and now have a rich archive of stories collected. Every Friend who offers their story tells me that preparing and sharing it helps them grow spiritually.

One of the questions that I ask story tellers is how meeting helps them and how they help meeting. These questions led me to write about my experience in meeting, especially asking for help and led to "Lessons in Giving and Receiving," published in the November issue of *Friends Journal*. In the article I wrestled with the queries "What makes it hard for me to ask for help when I need it? How do I learn to balance giving and receiving help? How do we create a community where we all give the gifts we have, as we are able, and know that when we need help, we can ask and receive it?" Our worship sharing on these queries was deep and rich before meeting for worship with attention to business.

Our Friends Lynn Leuszler and Georgia Lord, who have served the meeting in a variety of ways since 1981, asked for my help in June 2023 after Lynn decided to end further treatments for several chronic conditions. Their loving partnership in 40 years of marriage and Georgia's request for a support committee to help her meet the demands of his decision, led to the creation of a 'share the care team', consisting of nine teams of two friends. We met with Lynn, Georgia, and their son David to hear Lynn say, "I'm tired and I want you to let me go." Before Lynn's passing September 22, two members of the team checked in at least weekly to find the help needed and support them in his last four months. The meeting gathered October 14 for a memorial service celebrating his life and I worked with Georgia to write a memorial minute.

The article, "What We Can Say Now", noted, "we recorded memorial minutes for six Friends in 2020, five in 2021, and eight in 2022". I prepared and submitted eight of these to *Friends Journal*.

I continue helping Friends requesting membership and marriage clearness committees, addressing conflicts within our community, and supporting former Quaker Voluntary Service Fellows. I clerked the anchoring committee for Julie Hliboki to discern laying down her ministry under the care of our meeting. Bill and I continue to support the Macon Worship Group, meeting online every Wednesday night and in 2023 began gathering once a month in person.

My anchoring committee, Nan O'Connor, Dave Thurman, Lewis Fuller and Bill Holland meets with me monthly to help me discern the work that is mine to do and I'm grateful for their faithful guidance.

A poem by Rosemerry Wahtola Trommer explores the question, “Is this the path of love?”, and it is now a daily guide for how I want to live, how to discern the loving thoughts, words, and actions on the path of love. Knowing I’ll often fail, I accept the challenge. And I know there is no single answer, that walking the path of love is a life-long journey, not a destination. I take comfort from the advice of the poet Rilke who wrote that we must learn to live the questions until we can live our way into the answers.

STATE OF THE MEETING REPORT FROM MACON WORSHIP GROUP

Over the last year, Macon Quakers, known formally as Macon Worship Group under the care of Atlanta Friends Meeting, has experienced a number of changes that we feel indicate growth in a positive, satisfying direction, and we appreciate the opportunity to have a voice in the wider Quaker community that is SAYMA [Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association] and to share our many recent developments.

Early last year, the group began meeting outdoors in person every 4-6 weeks in Macon locations such as The Labyrinth at Mulberry Methodist Church, The Peace Fountain at Tattnell Square Park, and The Art Garden at Wesleyan College. These meetings complemented our ongoing Zoom gatherings held weekly on Wednesday evenings and provided additional context for strengthening community. While the simplicity and enjoyment of nature enhanced our experience, we began to desire a less transient approach.

Eventually, we secured a monthly indoor meeting location within Centenary United Methodist Church at 1290 College Street in downtown Macon, adjacent to the Mercer University campus and Tattnell Square Park. We meet in the large, well-lit, yellow “round room” off the sanctuary and have been very comfortable there since our first meeting in December 2023. We spend roughly 30 minutes in silent worship, followed by sharing of joys and concerns and, lastly, enjoying refreshments and fellowship. Attendance has ranged from 8 to 17 at these meetings.

Centenary has generously waived rental fees for us; however, we have agreed to earmark \$30 of our collections each month as a gift to the church. We continue to utilize our financial account through Atlanta Friends Meeting and anticipate receiving periodic balance updates, hopefully through the establishment of an attendance rotation at Atlanta’s Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business sessions. Our only expense at this time is our website, which we have agreed is in critical need of updating. We appreciate the use of attenders’ personal Zoom account at this time for our regular online meetings.

Outreach efforts are ongoing. Last fall, we offered to the community an “Introduction to Quakerism” session with Bill Holland and Mary Ann Downey in which approximately 10 people attended. We also maintain a Facebook presence and send *The Macon Quakerly*, a weekly email newsletter received by 62 addresses. Our newsletter features a very thoughtful and personal original reflection written typically by Bill Holland, although in more recent months, other Macon attenders have provided contributions. We share these reflections on Facebook and with our Atlanta Friends as well and have often received word that they are appreciated by readers, sometimes even outside our expected sphere of influence.

Interesting to note, while the number of our regular attenders at either our Zoom or in-person meetings exceeds our pre-pandemic numbers, the composition of attenders is now entirely different, except for Macon Clerk Kellie Divis and Bill Holland and Mary Ann Downey from Atlanta. There is no current attender who attended prior to 2021, and only one new current attender has a Quaker background. As such, in many ways the group has completely started afresh, and there is a great

need for ongoing support from Atlanta. We encourage our Atlanta f/Friends to visit Macon to share seasoned experiences, insights, and encouragement.

We would also like to note that Macon has had representation at SAYMA and has consistently sent two youth to participate in the SAYF [Southern Appalachian Young Friends] retreats via Atlanta Friends Meetings throughout the year. We appreciate the opportunity for this inclusion and wish to continue seeking ways to build our youth community.

At our February meeting, we held a worship sharing opportunity in which the group considered the three SAYMA queries intended to facilitate state of the meeting preparation. Contributions included the descriptors “authentic,” “naturally-developing,” “grounding,” “consistent,” and “sustaining.” There were also expressions of interest in eventually increasing the frequency of in-person worship opportunities both at Centenary and outdoor locations, and our clerk Kellie Divis revealed her leading for the group to consider transitioning to a new clerk soon, as she has held the responsibility since spring of 2018. Along with our need to strengthen involvement with Atlanta and further emphasize outreach (e.g., website updating), these statements will inform the direction of our future efforts. We feel gratitude for the connection we have to each other and look forward to journeying on together.

We close with two statements directly provided by regular attenders of the worship group:

“Both the weekly Zoom meetings and the monthly in-person meetings have given me opportunities for community that I have been missing for several years. Finding a regular place and time to meet face-to-face has been such a blessing and a joy, and those monthly meetings are something that I look forward to as they approach. The in-person meetings give us a chance to get to know one another in a deeper way, to feel the connection with each other, and know that whether we are silent or sharing, we accept and love each other. When we say that we hold each other in the Light in our sorrows and our joys, we are also being Light for one another. Weekly reflections shared by Friends give us perspectives and insights that grow our faith. I believe knowing we can bring our joys and sorrows and lay them before our Friends in Meeting, knowing that we will not be judged or critiqued as we share, and bending low to listen to someone’s heartache in Meeting has made it possible for us to feel connected in ways that overcome the chaos and turbulence in the world around us and within us. I am not a Quaker (yet), but attending Quaker meetings has answered a need within me that has long been unanswered.”

“When I first decided to come to a Quaker meeting, I did not expect it to become such an important part of my life. As someone who is interested in many faith traditions, with many unconventional and eclectic beliefs, I did not see myself becoming regularly involved in an organized religion. But when I arrived at the meeting for worship, I found the practice to be immediately resonant. I loved the meditative aspect of the silence, and always appreciate the thoughtful insights and vulnerable sharing from the community. The more I learned about the Quaker faith, the more I found that appealed to me. I was struck by the simple yet radical egalitarian message that each person has the Inner Light. There is no higher authority to dictate interpretations but rather each person is seen to have something to offer through their own special contribution and insights. I think this naturally encourages us to listen to one another more, rather than instructing on the ‘correct way.’ This is confirmed by my experience in the meetings, where it is not so important what you believe, but how we show up for one another. As someone who feels constantly misunderstood and an outsider, being able to have that sense of community is something I am eternally grateful for.”

MARTA UPDATE

The north station entrance/exit at East Lake MARTA Station onto Howard Avenue is closed thru October 2024. To get to the meetinghouse from the station, take the south exit and continue east along College Avenue (between the station and the tracks) towards the meetinghouse (and Wahoo's), crossing at the official railroad crossing at Atlanta Street.

SEEKING RESIDENTS IN CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS 6 & 8

Atlanta Friends Meeting's FCNL (Friends Committee on National Legislation) Advocacy Team is seeking individuals who live in either Congressional District 6 (Roswell, Alpharetta, Cumming, Dawsonville, Ball Ground) or Congressional District 8 (Perry, Valdosta, Mill Valley, Forsythe, Cochran, Tifton, Fitzgerald, Hawkinsville, Moody AF Base). The congressional representatives from these districts serve on the House Appropriations Committee. Knowing people who live in these districts would allow the Advocacy Team to lobby on issues important to FCNL and Quakers. If you live in, or know someone who lives in, either of those districts and you or they are interested in being a contact person for lobbying efforts, please contact Cathy Amanti (cbamanti@gmail.com).

VOLUNTEERING FOR CASA ALTERNA

The sign-up sheet to volunteer to purchase groceries and other needed items for Casa AlternA guests through June 2024 is at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C084FA5A72DAAFBC16-48267792-grocery>. There is also a new role – offering transportation (and sometimes coaching) for long-term residents of the Grant Park Casa AlternA house on their grocery runs. None of the residents have vehicles. For some, shopping in a North American grocery store is a new experience. A few need help with budgeting, using coupons, etc. Spanish proficiency is not required. Stumbling with the help of a translation app can help break the ice and makes for good laughs. If you are able to help with transportation, please reach out to Anton Flores-Maisonet at anton@casaalterna.org. Your support of this work is making a huge impact on the lives of asylum seekers as they find their way in a new country. Your help is greatly appreciated. Visit the Casa AlternA website at <https://casaalterna.org/> for more updates.

VIDEO AND DONATION LINKS: "339 MANUMISSIONS & BEYOND PROJECT" PRESENTATION

Please see the video of the 9/23/ 2023 presentation on the “339 Manumissions and Beyond Project” by Avis Wanda McClinton, Dennis Gregg, and Davis Satten Lopez. This Quaker-led project to restore family histories of descendants of people formerly enslaved by Quakers includes a collaboration between Haverford College and Howard University for a website with accessible genealogical materials, and a majority Quaker, majority African American fund advisory board. This is a reparative project with the full recognition of the damage done to the enslaved Africans and the generational wealth gained by the Quaker enslavers. Restoring the descendants' family histories is a small but important attempt to repair some of the damage. The speakers as well as the co-sponsors, Chattanooga Friends Meeting and University of Tennessee at Chattanooga Department of History, encourage us to share the video and fundraising information with F/friends.

Subject: Livestream video link. 339 Manumissions and Beyond Project

<https://livestream.com/utc/the339/videos/237686131>

For more information and to contribute:

<https://friendsfiduciary.org/339-manumissions-beyond-project/>

TO FIND FREE DOCUMENTARIES ONLINE

To find free documentaries on a variety of subjects, check out the flyers page on the Community Documentary Night website: <https://documentarynight.wordpress.com/flyers/>. There are flyers for holidays, movements like [Black Lives Matter](#), and topics like [Journalism](#), [Transportation](#), and [Sustainability](#). The flyers are filled with film posters based on those themes. Each poster is hyperlinked so that all you have to do is click on the poster and it will take you straight to where you can watch the films for free.

VEGAN / PLANT BASED RECIPES FOR POTLUCKS AND YOUR OWN KITCHEN

For those wanting to contribute a vegan/plant based meal for the monthly potluck and not sure where to start, here is a simple tip. To find a recipe for the vegan version for the foods you love, all you need to do is to just type "vegan" in front of that food name in your web search. If that doesn't work, the website Nora Cooks (<https://www.noracooks.com/>) is a great place to find simple vegan recipes with fewer ingredients. If you're looking for more challenging and delicious dishes, check out these websites: Sweet Potato Soul (<https://sweetpotatosoul.com/recipes/>), Forks Over Knives (<https://www.forksoverknives.com/all-recipes/>), Pick Up Limes (<https://www.pickuplimes.com/recipe/>), and Rainbow Plant Life (<https://rainbowplantlife.com/category/recipes/>).

CALL FOR WORKSHOPS FOR SAYMA RETREAT AND SESSIONS proposals due Monday, April 1

This Summer, Friends from Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association [SAYMA], our yearly meeting, will gather at Berea College in Kentucky for our annual Retreat and Sessions, from 1:00 p.m. on June 20 to 1:00 p.m. on June 23. As with last year's Retreat and Sessions, we will gather both in person and virtually.

Your Yearly Meeting Planning Committee is inviting Friends who are so led to present a workshop as part of our annual Retreat. Workshops that connect to our theme are central to the retreat experience. The Planning Committee often hears that Friends are grateful for the many rich workshop offerings. Our theme this year is: *Becoming Breath of Spirit*. As you seek to discern your leading to offer a workshop, we invite you to interpret this theme in whatever way feels right to you, including but not limited to "The breath of Spirit will be present and available in this workshop." We invite you to share from your knowledge, experience, resources, and your own measure of Light to address the theme as you are led. We invite proposals whether for in-person attenders, virtual attenders, or a hybrid of both. You may suggest a one-part or two-part workshop. You may offer to repeat the same workshop on the second workshop day. Your proposed workshop should be 60 to 90 minutes in duration. The deadline for receiving proposals is Monday, April 1, 2024. To submit your idea/s, use the 2024 SAYMA Workshop Proposal Form that can be found on the SAYMA website (sayma.org) at <https://forms.gle/DyxDuwFbpygQp9hS9>. If you have difficulty with the form, or would like a written copy to fill out, please feel free to contact Steve, by text at 828-775-5905 or email: steve.livingston.personal@gmail.com

BOOKS BY AND ABOUT PEOPLE OF COLOR -- Thursday, April 4

The book group reading works by and about people of color meets at 1:30 p.m. on the first Thursday of the month in person in combination with Zoom. On April 4, they will discuss *This Other Eden* by Paul Harding. For questions or the Zoom link, contact Susan Cole (cole2544@bellsouth.net). Future books include *The Fraud* by Zadie Smith on May 2.

NEW MONTHLY FLGBTQC GET TOGETHER – Thursday, April 4 & continuing

The Atlanta Friends Meeting's Friends for LGBTQ Concerns will be hosting our first Board Game Night on Thursday, April 4th, 2024 -- and you're invited! The event will be held at the meetinghouse, beginning at 7PM. Bring any board game you're interested in playing. The only requirement is that you be willing to teach the game to others, or learn along with them if you're playing it for the first time. A selection of board games will also be provided by the meetinghouse and organizers.

To RSVP, please use the following form: [April Game Night RSVP](#). The form also allows you to include information about guests, dietary restrictions, and contributions to potluck. Refreshments will be provided, but food and drink brought from home are very welcome! (If you are not able to attend this event, no worries -- mark your calendars for the next one! Atlanta FLGBTQC plans to host a board game night or similar event on the 4th of every month going forward.) Details for each event will be sent out via the Atlanta FLGBTQC mailing list a couple weeks ahead of time. If you'd like to be on this list, contact Nina at atlantaquakers@gmail.com.

HOSTS NEEDED FOR SAYMA REP MEETING ON APRIL 6

Atlanta Friends Meeting is hosting the Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association (SAYMA) Representatives Meeting on Saturday, April 6. If you are able to host a Friend on Friday and/or Saturday night, please contact Alison Mawle at zumilla@gmail.com

REGISTER FOR SAYMA REPRESENTATIVE MEETING -- Saturday, April 6

To register for Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association's (SAYMA's) spring Representative Meeting (RM 152) on Saturday, April 6 at the Atlanta Friends Meetinghouse, visit <https://forms.gle/xqTmdwnWjJbfAtiu8>. You must register for either virtual (via Zoom) or in-person attendance, so you can be counted for the lunch meal or so you can join virtually as it will be hybrid. If you have any questions about registering, please contact Susan Phelan at saymaoffice@gmail.com

MACON QUAKERS WORSHIP – in person Saturday, April 6 & via Zoom on Wednesdays

On April 6, the Macon Worship Group, which is under our care, meets for worship in-person, as they do every first Saturday, at Centenary United Methodist Church, 1290 College Street, Macon, GA, at 2:00 pm. Enter through the side door on Ash Street.

This is in addition to the weekly Wednesday evening meeting for worship via Zoom at 7 pm: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85017745787?pwd=RUQ3OGJPenMrYktXemlxL1d2R3Q2Zz09>

Meeting ID: 850 1774 5787

Passcode: 22Light

SPIRITUAL JOURNEYS & ADULT FIRST DAY SCHOOL – Sundays, April 7, 14, 21, 28

Each first Sunday of the month in Adult First Day School, we listen to how a Friend in our meeting answers questions of God's leadings as well as questions about what brings them to this meeting, what led them to become a member or not, and what they believe now. We call these stories Spiritual Journeys, stories where Friends describe their understanding of God and religion in their life. On April 7, Sallie Carpentier will share her Spiritual Journey. (To hear Shannon McNeal's Spiritual Journey heard on March 3, visit <https://tinyurl.com/bd8fwkne>. To listen to other past Spiritual Journeys, contact Mary Ann Downey at madowney@mindspring.com.)

We offer a standing invitation to all attenders and members – those new to meeting, transfers from other meetings, or longtime Atlanta members and attenders – to share your answers to these questions. Some Friends find it helpful to do this as an interview. For more information and to schedule a time to tell your story, contact Mary Ann Downey at madowney@mindspring.com.

Adult First Day School meets in person at the meetinghouse, and people can also join via Zoom. (Zoom details in the announcement sheet; see link at top of page 1.) For questions, please contact Elizabeth Lamb. On April 14, Adult First Day School will begin discussion of a new book. See the announcement sheet for details. On fifth Sundays, Adult First Day School usually has worship sharing based on a query, either that month's query or another query.

POTLUCK – Sunday, April 7

Please join us for a potluck lunch following the rise of Meeting on the first Sunday of the month. Weather permitting, we have tables outside for you to enjoy. Atlanta's FLGBTQC (Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender – and genderqueer, nonbinary and genderfluid – Concerns) will eat together at potluck, and Green Friends will meet during and afterwards. If you can, please bring not only enough food for your family, but also extra for newcomers and guests.

FGC MONTHLY VIRTUAL WORSHIP FOR NEWCOMERS -- Mondays, April 8 and May 13

Are you a newcomer or seeker interested in worshipping with Friends? Do you have questions about what happens in the Silence? Join Friends General Conference's (FGC 's) Spiritual Deepening for **monthly** worship and reflection about this unique spiritual practice on the second Monday of the month! Upcoming Dates: April 8 and May 13 at 6:30 pm Eastern / 4 pm Pacific. This offering is free, simply register to access the zoom link at <https://www.fgcquaker.org/event/newcomers-worship/>.

ENCOUNTERING SPIRIT RETREAT -- Friday to Sunday, April 12 to 14, register by April 10

Online spiritual retreat to explore our experience of the Light, held by Friends General Conference (FGC). Encountering God is a key experience of our Quaker faith. *What can Early Friends teach us about finding Truth? Where does encounter happen? How do we open ourselves to the gift of direct relationship?* This April, join Quakers and newcomers as we explore these themes through online worship and workshops, offline spiritual practices, and various opportunities to learn from each other. This online retreat is a new experimental “unconference” inspired by the spirit of FGC's keystone program, the Gathering, but more spontaneous and less structured than the Gathering. Registration will close Wednesday, April 10, 2024. Registration Fee: \$75-125 sliding scale, work grants available. More information and registration at FGCquaker.org/encounter.

QUAKER PERSPECTIVE ON ART AND SPIRITUAL PRACTICE -- Friday, April 12

Mary Ann Downey will be speaking at the High Museum of Art the evening of April 12 as part of *Seeing with Spirit*, a “casual, thoughtful conversation connecting art and spiritual practice.” She will be speaking on a Quaker Perspective on Art and the Creative Process. Mary Ann has chosen one of the Edgefield Potters pots as a focus. *Seeing with Spirit* is one of the offerings of the Monthly Oasis event from 6 to 9 pm on the second Friday. Other offerings include yoga, meditation, labyrinth walking, art making, quiet time in the galleries and others. She will be in conversation at 7:15 and 8:15. Here is a link to the page: <https://high.org/event/april-oasis/> (scroll down to see Mary Ann’s description). For High Museum members it is free, for others there is a fee.

REGISTER SOON FOR SAYMA JUNIOR YEARLY MEETING RETREAT held April 19 to 21

Laura Lane, Clerk of SAYMA's (Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association's) JYM (Junior Yearly Meeting) and Laura MacNorlin (2024 JYM Coordinator) hope that many of you will be able to join the Nashville Friends Meeting for the Spring JYM retreat for families. It's a great time for kids and families to reconnect before we see each other at Berea College this summer. Please fill out this short registration form at <http://tinyurl.com/bdhmx42r> so that the Nashville folks can finalize plans. It is especially important to fill this out soon if you and your family will need accommodations for this weekend. See registration link for a rough schedule.

WELCOME DINNER – Thursday, April 18

Newcomers to Atlanta Friends Meeting are invited to dinner at the home of Waman French and Greg Johnson at 6:00 pm on Thursday evening, April 18. Address is 2417 Woodacres Road, Atlanta, 30345. You’ll have a chance to meet other new attenders as well as long-time Quakers in a casual setting. Please call 404-786-4141 or email wamanf@gmail.com if you plan to come.

(If you are interested in hosting a later Welcome Dinner, held on the 18th of each month, please contact Jim Tolmach at 404-294-5194 or jimtolmach@icloud.com.)

MEETING FOR WORSHIP WITH ATTENTION TO BUSINESS – Sunday, April 21

Stay after meeting for worship, whether in person or via Zoom. Meeting for Business will be held in a combined format about 11:45, using the Zoom coordinates for Meeting for Worship. The minutes for last month's meeting are below.

To find out how meeting for business works, please visit https://atlantaquakers.org/wp-content/uploads/Guidelines_for_Meeting_for_Business.pdf and <https://www.friendsjournal.org/meeting-for-business-as-spiritual-rehearsal>, which talks about the spiritual side of Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business as well as the ways Quaker process differs from the usual understanding of consensus.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89686276751?pwd=M29EYlIFWEhSQUtZRVVPalFFYmVDQT09>

Meeting ID: 896 8627 6751

Passcode: 789456

QUAKER RESOURCE: DISCERNMENT

"Discernment, on the most basic level, is about differentiating my will versus God's will," JT Dorr-Bremme explains. Although it often takes place within the whole of a Quaker meeting, or among members of a committee, it can be as simple as one Friend turning to another for help thinking through an important decision. "It's an incredible gift—it gives a person a sense of really being attended to, that what they say matters. And that's an act of love, that giving of oneself in terms of time and attention and saying, 'I care about what you have to say, and I'm going to put my whole being into hearing what that is.'"

Listen to / watch the entire video or read the transcript at <https://quakerspeak.com/video/what-is-discernment/>.

MINUTES FOR THIRD MONTH MEETING FOR WORSHIP WITH ATTENTION TO BUSINESS
March 17, 2024, held in person and via Zoom in a blended meeting
Minutes Recorded Pending Approval

Attendance: Mike Aland, Richard Allen, Cathy Amanti, Steve Collins, Jennifer Crumpley, Jennifer Dickie, Mary Ann Downey, Sally Ferguson, Anton Flores-Maisonet, Clive Gordon, Lucinda Hastings, Charles Hicks, Bill Holland, Bill Hooson, Teri Key-Hooson, Martha Hutchins, Kathy Johnson, Georgia Lord, Paul Mangelsdorf, Sue May, Kevin Moran, Karen terHorst Morris, Elizabeth Muller, Ron Nuse, Lissa Place, Mary Place, Aaron Ruscetta, Bert Skellie, Karen Skellie, Jim Tolmach, Myrna Trapp, Elizabeth Valera, Christopher Ian "bigSofty" Wells, Brent Wolff, Austin Wattles, David Small (Clerk), Emma Bingham (Recording Clerk)

Worship

Query for the Third Month:

Do we recognize that we speak through our inaction as well as our action?

Source: Philadelphia Yearly Meeting

Discernment

Nominating Committee —

Lissa Place reported for Nominating Committee.

Nominating Committee would like to honor Carolyn Coburn Allen for all of her hard work as Personnel Liaison since 2017. She has served two 3 year terms, and is willing to continue until the end of the year. We would like to approve her in this role until the end of 2024.

Minute-03-17-24:01: On the recommendation of Nominating Committee, Atlanta Friends Meeting approves Carolyn Coburn Allen for Personnel Liaison. She has been in this role since 2017, and is approved through December 2024.

Nominating committee would like to bring back the name Emma Bingham as Web Manager. This role is for a one year commitment that can be extended.

Minute-03-17-24:02: On the recommendation of Nominating Committee, Atlanta Friends Meeting approves Emma Bingham as Web Manager until January of 2025.

Lissa explained that the term goes through January (instead of through next March) to keep terms on a calendar year schedule and not have them end at odd times.

Ministry and Worship Committee —

Clive Gordon reported for Ministry and Worship Committee.

- Transfer of Membership of Bill Cox. Bill Cox became a member of Atlanta Meeting by application in December 2022 (Minute 12-18-22:02). Bill has moved to Chattanooga and has become active in the Chattanooga Friends Meeting. He has requested care of his membership be transferred to Chattanooga.

Minute-03-17-24:03: On the recommendation of Ministry and Worship Committee, Atlanta Friends Meeting requests Chattanooga Friends Meeting to accept the membership transfer of Bill Cox. Bill was an active and engaged member of our meeting and we are glad to hear he has become a part of your community.

- Continued support of Ministry of Mary Ann Downey 2024.

Atlanta Meeting has a procedure for supporting Friends with a particular leading for ministry. By recognizing particular ministries, the meeting creates a relationship of mutual accountability between the minister and the meeting. This includes the annual appointment of an anchoring committee who meets regularly with the friend and an annual report to meeting.

Ministry and Worship has received the annual report of the ministry of Mary Ann Downey. It was circulated in advance and we encourage you to read it. It will be published in the newsletter and attached to the minutes kept on file. As all is in good order, we now recommend to meeting the continued support of this ministry and the re-appointment of the anchoring committee. There are two proposed minutes:

Support for Ministry of Mary Ann Downey

Minute-03-17-24:04: Atlanta Friends Meeting recognizes and supports the continuing ministry of Mary Ann Downey. Our meeting is enriched by her faithfulness.

Appointment of Anchoring Committee to Support the Ministry of Mary Ann Downey in 2024

Minute-03-17-24:05: On the recommendation of the Ministry and Worship committee, Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the following Friends to serve on the anchoring committee supporting the ministry of Mary Ann Downey: Dave Thurman, Nan O'Connor, Lewis Fuller, and Bill Holland. We thank these Friends and Mary Ann for their faithfulness.

Reports

Ministry and Worship Committee —

Clive Gordon reported for Ministry and Worship Committee.

- Recommendation of Membership by Application of Charles Hicks. Charles Hicks has applied for membership in the Atlanta Friends Meeting. A clearness committee has met with Charles and Ministry and Worship unites with their recommendation to approve membership. We hope Friends will get to know Charles and we will bring this recommendation back for discernment in fourth month.
- Announcement of Threshing Session on March 31. We invite everyone to a meeting for threshing on issues arising from the war between Israel and Palestine, the Biden administration's response, and how those events impact us as we try to live out our testimonies, especially our testimonies of Integrity and Peace in an election year.

The Threshing Session will be held after meeting on March 31. We have asked Bill Hooson to clerk the session.

We invited Bill to clerk partly because of his experience internationally working with the YMCA, traveling to regions of conflict, and because he has relationships on both sides of this conflict. He also was a past clerk of Ministry and Worship Committee.

- Ministry and Worship Forums for 2024.

June 30 Forum will focus on the Meeting for Worship, using William Taber's Four Doors to Meeting for Worship.

September 29 Forum on Membership.

December 29 Forum on Spirituality and Creative Practices.

- Scholarships for FGC, SAYMA and Gathered Meeting Retreat. Ministry and Worship has funds available to support Friends who wish to attend the Friends General Conference Gathering and Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting. We will be announcing this in meeting. We encourage all Friends interested to attend these wider gatherings of Friends as they can be a rich source of inspiration and growth.

A Friend asked if there is continuing funding for young adults to attend those gatherings. Clive replied that funding will come from the Kenworthy bequest to attend these gatherings, and Ministry and Worship is administering these funds. Friends should email M&W to start the process of requesting funds.

A Friend asked about young Friends who are not in Atlanta but feel they are part of the Atlanta meeting. Where should they go to seek funding? Jennifer Dickie, clerk of Yearly Meeting Planning Committee, said the Kenworthys gave money to SAYMA for travel to Quaker gatherings. This money is administered by the Young Adult Friends committee of SAYMA.

Nominating Committee —

Lissa Place reported for Nominating Committee.

The Nominating Committee would like to bring forward the name Christina Repoley as a member of Ministry and Worship. If approved, her term will start in April 2024-December of 2026.

Nominating Committee - Handbook —

Lissa Place reported for Nominating Committee.

Nominating Committee would like to report on the progress we have made with the Handbook. We have been working to make the process smoother and more clear in the Handbook. The Handbook is important in Quaker Meeting because it is one accessible place that holds the institutional memory of how things work here. As many committee descriptions have not been reviewed in at least 15 years, we think it is time to do a complete overhaul of the handbook. This way we will have a current and accurate recording of the processes at AFM. Because we rotate service for all positions of leadership at Quaker Meeting, it is easy for things to get lost as leadership changes. In addition, writing a clear system of how to revise the handbook and make it a living document for the committees to review whenever things change on the committee will make this system much easier. For these reasons, all committee descriptions that were given to Nominating Committee are on hold while we work on this process. We will keep working on it monthly and will keep Business Meeting informed of our progress.

Because there are so many pieces to publishing a new Handbook, we have asked Ann Ritter who has expertise in publishing to help sheppard this project through. This means that she will be the one

making sure all the pieces come together and nothing gets left out. She will work with the Nominating Committee and coordinate getting all of the descriptions through Meeting for Business. In addition to the committee descriptions, she will also make sure the personnel and descriptions for other positions in Meeting are updated.

We would like to invite Care and Counsel, Ministry and Worship, and anyone else who would like to join Nominating Committee for this process. Our hope is for each Committee Clerk to be paired with a member of the Handbook subcommittee of Nominating Committee who will work with them through the entire process. This will allow the committee to know what the committee clerks are thinking so that they cannot get too far into working on their descriptions before they know they are on the right track. The most important thing is that all the jobs in Meeting are completed by someone. If a committee drops a job from their description, it is the Nominating subcommittee's job to make sure another committee picks up any important jobs, or asks the original committee to pick up that job. It is our hope that this clear communication with each committee Clerk will set clear expectations for what is needed in the Handbook and avoid excessive rewrites.

Our first step in this process is to present a generic format for each committee description to Business Meeting for approval so that the Nominating subcommittee can use it in their conversations with Committee Clerks. This template will make all submissions to the Handbook uniform in nature. That format will be presented today to the body for eventual approval, just as each part of the handbook will be approved through Business Meeting.

We appreciate the input from Ministry and Worship and Care and Counsel last month. Unfortunately we did not see it in time to respond before it was presented at Business Meeting. After discussing it at our last meeting, Nominating thought it would be in right order to give a report of our process rather than start a new committee. Nominating Committee has made a lot of progress on the Handbook and we think it would delay this already lengthy process to form a new committee. We would, however, like to open up the process to anyone who is interested in participating. This over 100 page document needs all the help it can get, so we really need help from as many people as possible, on Care and Counsel and Ministry and Worship, and any other Committee or individual who would like to participate. We need people who are policy wonks who like to write and like to edit as well as people who are curious about how Quaker process works and would like a big picture view of what happens at Meeting. We are also looking for people with ideas about an ideal process for how to update the handbook from now on. This process will be written into the Handbook so that future Nominating Committees won't have to go through this process of discerning what is asked of them.

Thank you for your patience in this process. We welcome your comments and suggestions.

A Friend asked what the objectives are for this work. Lissa replied that there hasn't been any discussion about particularly changing the handbook. It already has policies and procedures, positions and jobs, etc. There have been some conversations about adding things, but so far the objective is to update what we already have and make the process of updating clear.

Nominating Committee - Formatting —

Lissa Place reported for Nominating Committee.

Lissa presented a proposed format for entries in the handbook.

Format for AFM Handbook:

Purpose: This explains why the committee exists

Membership: Please outline the following:

- Who needs to be a member of AFM on your committee and who can be an attender
- Who needs to be approved through Business Meeting on your committee?
- If necessary, what is the specific number of people that is needed on your committee. Please list up to how many members of AFM and/or attenders included in that number

Terms: Please answer the following questions:

- How long is a term on your committee?
- Are terms consecutive or not? Possible verbiage, “terms are 2 years with up to 3 consecutive terms”
- Mention ideal staggering of terms

Meetings:

1. How often does your committee meet?
2. Are your meetings open or closed? Meaning are people allowed to visit your committee meetings?

Duties: What is the work of your committee and how is it done?

Other: Are there any specific additional items special to your committee that have not yet been covered? Please detail them here.

A Friend asked if we could make sure that the first time we have an acronym, that we spell it out.

Another Friend asked if we could add a line noting when entries in the handbook were last updated. He also asked if we could come up with specific years for updating certain entries.

A Friend asked if this format guide is itself an entry into the handbook. Lissa replied that it probably should go into the handbook in order to make sure the process is as transparent as possible.

A Friend said she looked through the handbook, knowing that this item was coming to meeting for business. She noted that there is a designation about when entries were updated, and most are in 2000, so it has been a while. She also said she noticed some places where the purpose for a committee or position wasn't clear. The front of the handbook also describes the process for updating (which was approved in 1999), and we have lapsed on that during the pandemic, but prior to that, Nominating did a good job of checking every year to see if committees had any updates. There is a need now to make updates again.

Lissa suggested that we have something like every 5 years, committees need to update their descriptions, in order to prevent not updating them for 20 years.

Finance Committee —

Paul Mangelsdorf reported for Finance Committee.

Finance realized the need to develop investment and endowment policies, with our growing amount of invested funds. They are also updating the donation policy. Paul first discussed options Finance has researched for our investments (including the endowment), and then he discussed these three draft policies: [Financial Assets and Investment Policy](#), [Endowment Policy](#), and [Donation Policy](#). Friends should review these policies, as they will come back for discernment in 4th month.

Paul explained that the existing investment funds and the endowment are two separate things.

The purpose of an endowment, which we are establishing now, is to sustain the meeting for all time by generating income that the meeting can use. The money in the endowment will be invested in the markets, and we can take roughly 4% income from the endowment to spend in the annual budget each year.

In contrast to the endowment, we can use our existing checking, savings, and mutual fund investments at any time. The checking and savings accounts are used for the meeting's regular expenses. In practice, Paul explained, we never touch the investment account. It was created in the hopes that we could earn more on that money that is not currently being used for regular expenses, and we could withdraw from it at any time, but we haven't yet. The earnings have just been reinvested.

Paul further clarified that our existing sources of income are contributions, rent, and the existing investment portfolio that we do not currently draw from. The endowment will add another source of income in that we will expect to take money from it each year.

Paul then discussed our investment options. Our existing investments are currently in the IMPAX Sustainable Growth Fund (formerly PAX World Fund). This is an ESG (environmental, social, and governance) fund. However, though it exists to promote values related to those three things, it doesn't necessarily align with all our values as Quakers. Therefore, Finance looked into the options for where else we could invest our funds.

Below is Finance's breakdown of the options for where AFM should invest, with a recommendation for the best option:

As we look to expand the amount of funds that AFM has invested (i.e., the current IMPAX Sustainable Growth Fund and the new endowment funds) it is appropriate to consider the appropriate investment vehicle. We are looking for a relatively low-cost investment vehicle that meets our investment policy guidelines and equally importantly is consistent with our Quaker values and mission. We also want an investment manager who actively engages in shareholder initiatives that are consistent with our values.

After reviewing the investing environment, we identified a number of choices that seem to meet the above guidelines. This list is not necessarily all inclusive but broadly covers:

- Socially Responsible Mutual Funds
- Investment with an Investment Advisor, experienced in ESG investing that would be willing to customize a portfolio for us
- Invest with an advisor that has a portfolio that already meets our investment guidelines and is consistent with our Quaker Values

Socially Responsible Mutual Funds –

Leading providers of ESG families of mutual funds include IMPAX, Praxis (owned by Everence, a Mennonite based organization) and Calvert (a subsidiary of Morgan Stanley). The issue with these investments is that while they generally align with our social values, they do not do so with respect to the Peace testimony with the exception of Praxis funds. However, the Praxis funds are quite expensive, as annual fees are close to 1.00% on all products and all have a 0.25% 12b-1 fee. More importantly Praxis Funds all charge a front-end load ranging from 1.5% to 4.25% for stock funds and 1.0% to 3.75% for Bond funds. The Impax funds are relatively less expensive with annual fees ranging from 0.90% to 1.25% and with a 0.25% 12b-1 fee. The Calvert funds are the least expensive with annual fees running around 0.90% to 0.95% with no 121-b fees. They, however, are also least consistent with our all-in values.

Investment with an Investment Advisor, experienced in ESG investing that would be willing to customize a portfolio for us –

There are two providers of Socially responsible investing portfolio management that provide those services to Quaker Organizations with portfolios that are tailored to meet Quaker Values. These are The DeBurlo Group and Trillium Asset management. The problem is that we do not meet their minimum investment size. DeBurlo group is generally looking for \$2MM or more portfolio size and Trillium wants \$4MM or greater. Calvert also will customize portfolios (although we are unaware of any Quaker organization who is their customer). They, however, have a minimum investment of \$25MM.

Invest with an advisor that has a portfolio that already meets our investment guidelines and is consistent with our Quaker Values –

Friends Fiduciary is an organization, founded by Quakers and with an all-Quaker Board, that invests for Quaker organizations to a set of investment guidelines that are consistent with Quaker values and Testimonies. We already exceed their minimum investment amount. Their annual fee is 0.72%. The other nice feature that Friends Fiduciary has is that they will plan your endowment spending for you and distribute funds twice a year to achieve that endowment spending rate. Their board recommends an endowment spending rate, but we can choose a different one.

The Finance Committee is seeking approval to transfer our existing investment funds to Friends Fiduciary and additionally to establish a separate Endowment Fund at Friends Fiduciary.

A Friend asked if we can invest outside the investments that Friends Fiduciary would choose for us. Paul explained that Friends Fiduciary is a pooled fund, like a mutual fund. We can make recommendations to them, but they invest according to their guidelines and everyone shares equally in what they invest in (e.g. if we have 1% of the fund, we get 1% of the gains/losses). Investing with Friends Fiduciary doesn't preclude us from investing money somewhere else, if we decide to in the future, though.

Changes to the donation policy

The main change to the donation policy is that Friends can now donate to the endowment specifically.

Paul noted that Friends Fiduciary has been processing donations of stock for us, even though we are not currently a customer (it costs a little extra because we are not a customer, though).

Finance also added to the policy that we take donations from trusts, etc.

A Friend asked about the policy about donating items that require sale. Paul said this is part of the existing policy (it is not a change). The purpose is, for example, to prevent people from donating a car. Paul will add to the policy that the meeting for business can make an exception to the policy if needed.

A Friend said the Finance Committee is doing an impressive job with all of this work..

The new endowment policy

The endowment, as discussed previously, is intended to provide a long-term foundation for our annual budget.

A Friend asked whether it would be better to use the term "guidance" instead of "rule" in the endowment policy. Paul said "spending rule" is a term of art for endowments. Over time, the market averages 8.5%, and you pay 0.5% to the investment manager, and there is 3% inflation, which

brings you down to 5%, which may be lower or higher based on the market performance. The way you decide what amount you can withdraw each year constitutes the spending rule.

The new investment policy

This policy is very similar to the one that Friends General Conference and Quaker Voluntary Service use (which Paul also wrote). This same policy, which Paul originally got from the Cambridge Friends School, has been adapted for various other Quaker organizations.

One thing that is important in the policy is to keep our balance at any particular financial institution under the FDIC limits.

Paul went over the policy with Friends Fiduciary as well, and there are no conflicts with their policies.

A Friend asked about excess endowment spending. Should there be language about how it is approved? Paul will add that it first needs to be approved by Finance Committee and then brought to Meeting for Business

Administration Committee —

Steve Collins reported for Administration Committee.

Friends may have noticed some of the recent work on the concrete walkways and sidewalks around the Meetinghouse. Over the years, the concrete has settled in places, presenting a tripping hazard. Thanks to Jack Honderd, a contractor was engaged to grind down some of the higher spots near the front of the building, replace some of the sinking concrete at the rear of the building with small stones, and level the small slab outside the exit door on the west side of the meeting room so that the door will open properly. Because the building was constructed over the MARTA line and backfilled soil, this type of maintenance will likely be required periodically.

Administration agreed that the escutcheons will be replaced. These are the covers that go around the sprinkler heads. We need to do this before our next fire inspection. Administration has found a contractor to do this.

QVS —

Steve Collins reported about Quaker Voluntary Service.

Steve Collins, former clerk of the Atlanta QVS Support committee, reported on national QVS plans for the coming year. The 2024-25 fellowship year will run from late August 2024 through mid-June 2025 in four (4) cities — Boston, Philadelphia, Portland, Oregon, and Minneapolis-St. Paul. Minneapolis is back after a brief hiatus, but Atlanta is not.

While reopening the program in Minneapolis will greatly depend on the number of Fellows who enroll in the program, QVS is faithfully moving forward with restoring the program there. Friends there have been pushing to restore the program there, and there is a house available for it (unlike here). As Friends may recall, in April 2022, the national QVS staff and board made the difficult decision to take a “sabbath year” from serving in Atlanta. This was to allow QVS to fulfill its mission and “center the experiences of incoming Fellows.” Because there were fewer applicants that year, they wanted to ensure that there were enough Fellows for full and robust intentional communities in as many cities as possible. QVS, like other service organizations across the country, has faced significant recruitment challenges experienced by service programs across the country.

In January 2024, QVS held a special virtual briefing to share with supporters the program shifts recently approved by the Board of Directors. Some steps that QVS has taken to recruit Fellows include:

- Shortening the program to 9.5 months from the last week in August to the middle of June. Many Fellows participate in QVS their first year out of college, and this new structure will follow the same cycle as the school year that they are used to. A shortened program cycle will also open up opportunities to collaborate more closely with summer camps.
- Increasing the personal stipend for Fellows to \$225/month, up from \$150/month; and
- Adding short summer programs for college-age and high school students. The college program will be about six weeks long, giving students a taste for QVS and the Quaker way, while having an opportunity to gain some professional experience. Both are expected to be implemented in 2025.

A Friend wondered whether, if we were to make more noise about reopening QVS in Atlanta, would we be able to do it? Steve said if anyone wants to do this, he can put them in touch with people. Another Friend said he recently talked to someone in QVS about this. He said the proposed summer programs (which the students would pay for) could help fund QVS during the year.

A Friend said he felt that Atlanta and Asheville both could hold QVS sites. He noted there would need to be fundraising to buy a house.

A Friend thought the summer program option would be good for building a pool of applicants, e.g. maybe recruiting summer program attendees from Southern Appalachian Young Friends.

A Friend said he had heard from QVS that one problem was with the organizations that the QVS participants work for: either the org trains them and they leave (which is bad for the org), or they do such a good job that they are offered a permanent position and therefore take up a space that a future QVS fellow could use. Steve said the organizations are under financial strain as well.

Clerk's Items

The clerk spent last Monday at a teach-in at the Friends School of Atlanta. The Friends School would like more input from the meeting. There is not as much interaction between the meeting and the school as the school would like. Dot Lopez (head of the school) and the clerk are meeting to figure out ways to promote more structured engagement.

A Friend said she had heard from Dot that she would be giving a State of the School address at the meeting. It has been scheduled for April 28 (4th Sunday) at 11:45am. There was also a meet-and-greet with Dot at the meeting a few months ago. [EDITOR'S NOTE: This event has been changed to August 25. More details will be available later.]

Richard Allen said he remembered he played his Easter pieces for the school a few years ago, and he volunteered to play them again if they are interested.

The clerk reiterated that the Friends School is making an effort to build their relationship with the meeting, and challenged the meeting to do the same.

Announcements

SAYMA Sessions and Retreat will take place June 20-23. The **deadline for proposing a workshop is April 1**. Contact Jennifer Dickie if you have any questions about offering a workshop.

Approval of Minutes from 2nd month 2024

Newsletter – Atlanta Friends Meeting (atlantaquakers.org)

Minute-03-17-24:06: Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the 2nd month 2024 minutes.

Closing Worship

