

ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2025



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
(For those who prefer a more intimate worship experience, we have resumed small meetings for worship in the library at 10 am.)

Details for Sunday worship and for our Wednesday small meetings for worship as well as worship opportunities with the Macon Worship Group, in person and via zoom, are in the announcement sheet (link just above). The most up-to-date information about events can also be found there.

QUERY FOR JUNE

Do I respect that of God in everyone though it may be expressed in unfamiliar ways or be difficult to discern?

How do explore differences with grace, curiosity and deep listening?

STATE OF THE MEETING REPORT FOR 2024

as approved at Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business on May 18, 2025

Where your fear is, there is your task. – Carl Jung

This past year has called us to courage. As a spiritual community rooted in Quaker tradition, we have faced fears personal, collective, and structural—fears of speaking and listening, of change and inaction, of confrontation and silence. And yet, as Jung reminds us, it is precisely in these spaces of discomfort that our deepest work lies.

Throughout 2024, Atlanta Friends Meeting has continued to grow in spirit, size, and conviction. Our committees report a year of transformation and perseverance—responding faithfully to urgent social issues, nurturing the inner life of the Meeting, and attending to the practical needs of our spiritual home. Below are highlights and reflections from each committee’s contributions to our life together.

Ministry and Worship

Meeting for Worship remains the heart of our community. In 2024, we welcomed many new attenders drawn by a hunger for spiritual depth amid political and cultural unrest. This influx has challenged our practice of vocal ministry, prompting deeper reflection and the creation of a guide to worship. We began using a microphone during worship to ensure all messages could be heard—recognizing that if ministry is divinely inspired, it must be accessible to all.

Forums this year explored practices such as holding in the Light, membership, and the intersection of creativity and spirituality. We joyfully welcomed new members and held memorials for beloved Friends. The Macon Worship Group continues to flourish, and we now support four individual ministries under our care. Our work on reparations has evolved into a formal standing committee, reflecting our ongoing commitment to justice and healing.

Nominating Committee

This year brought new energy as attendance and volunteerism grew. The committee diligently worked on a major overhaul of the Handbook with new templates for clarity and consistency. This effort included deep collaboration with committee clerks and set a strong foundation for future transparency and discernment.

Care and Counsel

Care and Counsel reaffirmed its nurturing role, actively supporting Friends through compassionate outreach and practical assistance. Efforts included addressing the needs of unhoused individuals, contributing to memorial services, and ensuring ongoing support for homebound Friends. The continuation of traditions such as the Welcome Table and the thoughtful use of Quaker Quilts reinforced our Meeting's foundational ethos of care and connection.

CURAFM (Committee on Undoing Racism in Atlanta Friends Meeting)

CURAFM advanced implementation of the AFM Interpersonal Racist Incident Policy, offering training in restorative circles and facilitating community-building events. A confidential racial incident was addressed through peacemaking processes, even as the formal Standing Response Group remains in development. The committee remains committed to fostering anti-racism and accountability within our Meeting.

Quakers for Racial Equality (QRE)

QRE worked energetically across educational, spiritual, and advocacy realms. We hosted forums, expanded library resources, and co-sponsored efforts on voting rights, reparations, and land acknowledgment. Central to our work is a commitment to the Muscogee Creek people, on whose land our meetinghouse stands. Through partnerships and donations, we have engaged in acts of reparative justice and decolonization.

Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Concerns (FLGBTQC)

Our LGBTQ+ community grew deeper roots in 2024. Alongside potlucks, we added monthly game nights that fostered intergenerational bonds. We marched joyfully in Atlanta Pride and raised awareness about increasing threats to trans and queer lives, recommitting ourselves to solidarity in the year ahead.

Social Concerns Committee

The Social Concerns Committee remained a hub of action. Events addressed issues ranging from Gaza to voting rights. A standout effort was the year-long "Vote Now" banner project in collaboration with NAACP partners. We initiated a new Sanctuary Working Group in response to immigration policy fears and sponsored workshops for the LGBTQIA community. Despite a mid-year resignation, the committee remained resilient and active.

Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL)

The Atlanta FCNL Advocacy Team embodied persistence, lobbying for Pentagon budget reform and a ceasefire in Gaza. Through forums, vigils, and personal connections with lawmakers, they uplifted peace and fiscal responsibility. Their efforts contributed to meaningful co-sponsorships and built relationships critical for long-term change.

Administration Committee

From staffing to sprinklers, the Administration Committee managed the Meeting's physical and logistical needs with diligence. Major achievements included completing the website revamp, raising staff wages, replacing the stove with a greener option, and improving safety systems. Their care for the building grounds and long-term tenants reflects a stewardship rooted in faithfulness.

Landscape Committee

The ravine behind the meetinghouse has been a quiet focus of spiritual and ecological renewal. Invasive species were removed, native plants introduced, and a sacred space for nature-based meditation nurtured. This work complements our broader efforts toward harmony with Earth and all beings.

Gathered Meeting Retreat Committee

The Gathered Meeting Retreat Committee held its first weekend retreat since 2019, with the meaningful theme "The Story of Me, The Story of Us, The Story of Now," facilitating intergenerational connections and deeper spiritual reflection. Participants reported renewed spiritual intimacy and optimism for the Meeting's direction.

Library Committee

The Library Committee experienced substantial growth, both financially and in the breadth of its collection. Special collections were prioritized, especially around racial equity and language diversity, with significant additions of Quaker-themed fiction, poetry, and resources on Islam, reflecting the Meeting's evolving interests and commitments.

In a year shaped by unrest and renewal, the Atlanta Friends Meeting leaned into its fears and found within a call to deeper witness. We have not turned away from hard questions—about war, racism, belonging, or how to worship in truth. Instead, we are meeting them with the same spirit of listening that grounds our Quaker faith.

We remain a vital, growing, and courageous community, led by Spirit into the work we are called to do. Where fear has stirred among us, it has revealed our path which we walk together.

Submitted in faith and gratitude,
David Small, Clerk
May 18, 2025

STAYING CONNECTED WITH OTHERS IN THE MEETING / AFM DIRECTORY INFO

We want to be able to reach everyone so we can build connections within the meeting. In addition, the Office Coordinator often finds herself unable to reach someone because she doesn't have contact information. Therefore, she encourages everyone to include their info in the new directory!!!! This year we are asking EVERYONE to fill out their information again EVEN IF you are already in the last directory.

If you did not receive an email from Brent Wolff, the Directory Editor, with the link, please visit https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdnzsuzFnz4TGdidwd255MdZ7mltNgBFwBxml7j8sBPd_ojslQ/viewform?usp=sf_link.

If you do not have a google account, do not have an email address, have questions OR need help completing the form, please email atlantaquakers@gmail.com or contact the Office Coordinator in person or at 404-377-2474.

**PLEASE HOLD
IN THE LIGHT:**

Karen Head & family
Sayed Elbaz
Suzie Lippold's sister Beth
Judy Lumb
Myrna & Bob Trapp
John Michael
the family of River &
Calliope Yueh

*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
Administration: Jack Honderd, jkhonderd@gmail.com
Social Concerns: Karen Morris, karenth.1415@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, धारootuneotis@gmail.com
Nominating: Ellen McQueen (missliveoak@aol.com) and
Elizabeth Lamb (gelds@comcast.net)
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.

SAYMA NOTES

from Jennifer Dickie, Clerk (Clerk@SAYMA.org) of our yearly meeting, Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association (SAYMA), which is both an association of monthly meetings like ours and also an event

**SAYMA Sessions & Retreat 2025 [June 20 to 23 at Berea College in Berea, Kentucky]
Registration is OPEN at SAYMA.org**

From the YMPC Clerk, Melissa Preast: *In recognition of the challenges we are all facing and the resilience many have shown over the past year, I invite you into a space focused on building community and learning how we can love each other to the fullest in a way we each need. We have relationships that need to be repaired, errors to make amends for, old wounds and broken expectations that need the restorative nurturing love can provide. I know we have the capacity to heal if we live our foundational principles of love and Light by **Nurturing Community in our Broken Worlds**. (Read the full letter in the digital advance program at tinyurl.com/SAYMAadvanceprogram.)*

To learn more about this year's hybrid program we encourage you to read the [SAYMA Advance Program](#) that includes a schedule and information about speakers and programs. [It will be updated as information changes.] Workshop sign ups will be sent to registrants in late May.

Community Book Reading Opportunity at SAYMA 2025

During Annual Sessions there is time scheduled for a discussion of bell hooks' book *All About Love - New Visions*. Please consider reading it in preparation for a discussion group

- *All About Love: New Visions* is a book by bell hooks published on December 22, 1999, that discusses aspects of love in modern society. The book is organized into thirteen chapters, in which each chapter discusses an aspect of love. Within these chapters, hooks also provides the reader with reflections on her own journey of love, as well as analysis of society's teachings of love.

YAY! FGC Young Adult & Youth Gathering

Please spread the word that the **Young Adult & Youth (YAY) Gathering** [<https://www.fgcquaker.org/fgcprograms/the-gathering/yay/>] is happening this summer in person! It is an amazing chance for Young and Youngish Friends to gather, build community, and grow in Quaker Spirit and leadership! Registration is OPEN and waiting for YOU!

Letter from SAYMA URJ [Uplifting Racial Justice]

SAYMA.URJ wishes to thank SAYMA Friends for your contributions to URJ's Racial Justice Fund. Your contributions make it possible for URJ to provide emergency mutual aid to Friends of color in need. We are grateful that in April, we were able to pay a self-employed Friend's \$6000 medical deductible, and \$1600 June rent for a family of 8 that would have been evicted without our help. URJ and the Friends of color who benefited are grateful for your generosity.

Please continue to support URJ's Racial Justice Fund. At this moment, there are Friends of color who may not make it to the yearly meeting without your support. One family needs transmission work done on their vehicle to the tune of approximately \$2000. We also anticipate that other Friends of color will need travel money to get there. Some may just need gas money, while others may need to fly. And, that family of 8 will still need our help to pay their \$1600 rent for June--the good news is, they will be alright after that. Please give generously, as all people of color in this country are more vulnerable than usual during these times.

Ways to Support URJ

Remember, SAYMA Uplifting Racial Justice (URJ) provides support and advocacy for Friends of Color experiencing racism--ALL Friends of color are experiencing racism. To that end, URJ established an Uplifting Racial Justice Fund in 2019. It is a donor-restricted, tax-exempt fund. Donors may specify the purpose of donor-restricted contributions to the URJ Racial Justice Fund in one of three ways:

1. Make a contribution using this SYMA Square link: [<https://square.link/u/p53POqnX>]
2. Write a check with a SAYMA URJ in the Memo line of check or send a note with the check to SAYMA c/o SAYMA Administrative Assistant, Rob Collins, 5612 10th Ave. S, Birmingham, AL 35222-4104
3. Make a bank transfer using Zelle to SAYMATreasurer@gmail.com and send an email letting the treasurer know where to direct the funds.

For finance questions about URJ, please email treasurer@sayma.org.

For questions about URJ's operations, contact the URJ clerk at urj@sayma.org.

In Friendship,
Sharon "Star" Smith, URJ clerk

SAYMA's FAITH AND PRACTICE AVAILABLE IN BOOK FORM AND ONLINE

If you'd like more information about our yearly meeting, Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association's (SAYMA's) 2021 *Faith and Practice* is available in printed form at the meetinghouse in the literature rack by the front door. Donations of \$5 towards the cost of the book are welcome, just drop in the contribution slot or add to your next donation. You can also order a printed version online (for a cost of \$5.00) at <https://tinyurl.com/ywfy4s6n> or download as a free pdf at https://www.sayma.org/online_documents.htm.

POEMS OF RECONCILIATION

by patricia turner

I light the candle
for peace
with my surrender
of the tools
of anarchy
the small cuts
shredding the
soul with words.
my choice to strip away
the mask
of the violence
nestled
within
frees the world.

hope is the
gift I rest
within
and ride
this blue-green
wave to freedom

I renounce the
weapons of
thought and tongue
lay down the
burdens of perfection
and accept the glory
of being as I am
the design has
built in flaws
the artist prerogative
god's home
complete with
fault lines
the temple
of light, peace
and forgetting.

I look within
at the chaos
of need and want
I lay down
what has never
satisfied
and wait
as the storm
subsides
to reveal
the coat
of many colors
already my
inheritance.

We look barefaced
into the silent unknown
stare into the face of god
and see our reflection
in the pool of light
illusion, certainty,
mystery, the dark
matter of the soul
a compass without
arrows
you are not
time-wrecked
we are.

If I reach out my
hand
to you will you
come and visit
me
when the wars
have left nothing
and you are my
only shelter
mother-god.

FRIENDS GENERAL CONFERENCE IMPACT REPORT for 2024

Visit <https://www.fgcquaker.org/2025/05/05/2024-impact-report/> for the 2024 Impact Report for Friends General Conference (FGC). FGC is the umbrella organization for mostly unprogrammed yearly meetings like our yearly meeting, Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association. For general information about Friends General Conference, visit www.fgcquaker.org.

GETTING HELP THROUGH THE AFM ASSISTANCE FUND

The Care & Counsel Committee maintains an Assistance Fund for Members and Attenders for providing temporary assistance with financial emergencies. If you have a financial need, don't hesitate to ask. The information about the process and an application form are on the Atlanta Friends Meeting website in the Care and Counsel Committee section. https://atlantaquakers.org/wp-content/uploads/20200619-CC_Assistance_Fund_Guidelines.pdf has a description of the fund and instructions on how to apply: You can download the application form, found at atlantaquakers.org/wp-content/uploads/Assistance_Fund_Request_Form_2020_update.pdf, and fill it out, or you can email the information to the Clerk of Care & Counsel at afm.care.counsel@gmail.com.

HOW TO HELP OTHERS THRU THE AFM ASSISTANCE FUND

Would you like to help others through the AFM Assistance Fund? You can donate by check or online. **Check:** Make the check payable to Atlanta Friends Meeting and write "Assistance Fund" on the "memo" line. You can mail it to the meetinghouse address: 701 W. Howard Ave. Decatur, GA 30030 or drop it in the Contributions slot in the greeting room at the meetinghouse.

Online: Go to the Atlanta Friends Meeting website to the <https://atlantaquakers.org/contact-donate/> page and click on the Donate button to donate through PayPal or a credit card. Under Special Instructions, say your donation is for the Assistance fund OR send an email to the bookkeeper at afmbookkeeper1@gmail.com.

SUMMER RELIGIOUS EDUCATION – Sundays, thru August 3 (*HOW YOU CAN HELP*)

Summer classes will be held from May 25 to August 3, with the 2025 / 2026 Religious Education school year starting August 10. Over the summer, most Religious Education teachers take a break and committees sign up to teach for a week about how their committee contributes to the life of the Meeting. The Religious Education Committee will support the committees who sign up to teach. We will continue to need nursery volunteers and Doorkeepers for the Elementary class..

- If you are a committee and have not yet signed up, please reach out to Amanda Gendreau, Clerk of the Religious Education Committee, at 678-078-5212!
- If you are interested in being a doorkeeper this school year, this summer or next school year, please contact Amanda Gendreau! You can also continue to sign up on the volunteer sign up sheet, either at the meeting house or online at <http://tinyurl.com/afmvolunteers>.
- If you are interested in being a religious education teacher next school year, please contact Amanda Gendreau or Alison Mawle now!
- If you are interested in helping in the Nursery this summer, continue to sign up on the volunteer sheet and contact Amanada Gendreau or Nina Gooch for more information!

DISCOUNT FOR STEAM ROBOTICS AND PHOTOGRAPHY CAMPS THIS JUNE

Make555 is again offering two STEAM Robotics camps (June 9 to 13 & June 16 to 20) and a Creative Photography camp (June 23 to 27) this summer at the meetinghouse. For a 10% discount, use the code **Friends2025**. For more information, visit www.Make555.com or see the flyers by the front door of the meetinghouse.

FLGBTQC OPPORTUNITIES FOR WORSHIP & COMMUNITY – Sun, June 1 and Sat, June 7

On Sunday, June 1, Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Concerns (FLGBTQC) will eat together at potluck (look for the queer flag).

We will also meet for worship on Saturday, June 6, from 5 to 6 pm in the meeting room, joining FLGBTQC Friends from all over the U.S. and Canada online, with time for introductions and conversation from 6 to 6:30 pm. If Atlanta Friends cannot get to the Meetinghouse in person for this worship and want to attend online, please contact Jeremiah Gold-Hopton at jeremiah313134 at mac dot com for the international FLGBTQC Zoom link. Following this, at 6:30 pm in the meetingroom, Atlanta's local FLGBTQC group will hold their monthly game night, now on the first Saturday evening of each month. We gather for conversation, games and potluck-style food. Allies welcome! We encourage you to bring a board game or other tabletop game you'd like to share with the group. Just be willing to explain the game to new players, or (if it's your first time playing it) be willing to learn it along with the rest of us.

For more information about these events or about FLGBTQC, contact Nina Gooch or Derek Harootune Otis. To join the group email list and receive updates, contact Nina in the office.

SPIRITUAL JOURNEYS & ADULT FIRST DAY SCHOOL – Sundays, June 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

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 lives. On June 1, Chad Heilig will share his Spiritual Journey. (To hear Steve Leeper's Spiritual Journey shared April 6, visit <https://tinyurl.com/ym73s7ta>, and to hear Sayed Elbaz' Spiritual Journey shared May 4, visit <https://tinyurl.com/5rdua4bk>. If you'd like to find out more about sharing your own Spiritual Journey or if you'd like to listen to other past Spiritual Journeys, contact Mary Ann Downey.)

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.

On the second, third and fourth Sundays of the month in May, Adult First Day School will be discussing the book *How We Learn to be Brave* by Mariann Edgar Budde. You are welcome to join the discussion even if you have not read the book.

On fifth Sundays, Adult First Day School has worship sharing based on a query, either that month's query or another query.

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 more details or questions, please contact Elizabeth Lamb.

FIRST SUNDAY POTLUCK -- Sunday, June 1

Please join us for a potluck lunch following the rise of Meeting. Weather permitting, there are several outdoor tables for those who prefer to eat outside. Green Friends and FLGBTQC (Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Concerns) will meet during potluck this Sunday. (See details for Green Friends in the announcement sheet. FLGBTQC details above.)

If you can, please bring not only enough food for your family, but also extra for newcomers and guests.

VIRTUAL & IN-PERSON DOCUMENTARY NIGHTS – June 1, 8, 13, 22

For virtual documentary nights, participants watch the film online in advance, then meet online to discuss the film. For in-person documentary nights, participants watch the film together in person and then discuss it. Reservations are required for both. For reservations and links to watch the films for virtual documentary nights, check the announcement sheet or visit <https://documentarynight.wordpress.com/events/>. You can also contact attender Adam Hicks with questions at 404-414-8917 or CommunityDocumentaryNight@gmail.com.

Virtual: Sunday, June 1 from 7 to 9 pm, in honor of Father's Day. *The Story of Fathers and Sons*. Based on interviews with over 600 American men and boys, the film shows the diversity yet the universality of the father-son bond.

Virtual: Sunday, June 8 from 7 to 9 pm, in honor of Pride Month. *Common Threads*. This 1989 film focuses on the lives of six people memorialized in the NAMES Project's AIDS Quilt, which began in summer 1987 in a San Francisco storefront. Robert Epstein and Jeffrey Friedman (Co-Directors, Co-Producers) will be present for a guest Q&A!

In-Person: Friday, June 13 from 6:45 to 10 pm. *Copa 71*. The pioneering footballers who participated in the 1971 Women's World Cup tell their extraordinary story, giving insight into a tournament that witnessed record crowds but is largely written out of sporting history.

Virtual: Sunday, June 22 from 7 to 9 pm. *Free For All: The Public Library*. From the pioneering women behind the "Free Library Movement" to today's librarians who serve the public despite working in a contentious age of closures and book bans, meet those who created a civic institution where everything is free and the doors are open to all.

BOOKS BY AND ABOUT PEOPLE OF COLOR -- Thursday, June 5

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. The book for June 5 is *Wandering Stars* by Tommy Orange. All are welcome. They encourage anyone interested in a particular book to drop in. Upcoming books include:

July 3, *Rental House* by Weike Wang

August 7, *Soil: The Story of a Black Mother's Garden* by Camille Dungy

September 4, poetry selected by members of the group

October 2, *Earth Keeper* by M. Scott Momaday

November 6, *Dream Count* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

December 6, *My Documents* by Kevin Nguyen

For questions or the Zoom link, contact Susan Cole (cole2544@bellsouth.net).

CLARITY IN THE CHAOS: RESPONDING TO TRUMP'S IMMIGRATION POLICIES – June 5

The second Trump administration is rapidly and radically reshaping immigration policy. We've already seen the detention and deportation of green card holders, efforts to end birthright citizenship, mass deportations under wartime laws, and proposals to suspend habeas corpus for migrants. We invite you to join Dr. Austin Kocher—a legal geographer at Syracuse University and former researcher with the Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse (TRAC)—for a clear and critical breakdown of these developments. This talk will examine how these changes are unfolding across institutions, facing legal challenges in the courts, and transforming on-the-ground enforcement. It will also situate these shifts within a broader push for extraordinary executive authority, showing how immigration policy is being used to blur legal boundaries, consolidate power, and redefine national belonging. Kocher will help clarify the chaos and offer tools and strategies for understanding this rapidly evolving landscape.

Thursday, June 5 at 7 pm at the meetinghouse. For more information: anton@casaalterna.org.

FCNL'S CONTINUING REVOLUTION 2025: QUEER LIBERATION AND SPRIT-ROOTED JUSTICE Thursday to Saturday, June 12 to 14

Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) announces Continuing Revolution 2025: Queer Liberation and Spirit-Rooted Justice, a three-day overnight retreat from June 12 to 14, 2025. It will be held in person at Friends Place on Capitol Hill, and online through their partner, Pendle Hill. Continuing Revolution is an annual gathering of young adults (ages 18-35) seeking to connect their spiritual, political, and interpersonal lives. This year's retreat, coinciding with the World Pride celebration in Washington, DC, focuses on queer liberation. Participants will explore where their spiritual practice intersects with the collective pursuit for queer liberation. Learn more and register at <https://act.fcni.org/go/155288>. Full scholarships are available for Young Adult Friends, ages 18 to 35, for wider Quaker events like this by contacting Clive Gordon, Clerk of Ministry & Worship.

SAYMA ANNUAL SESSIONS: ZOOM MEETING FOR BUSINESS -- Saturday, June 14

This year at our annual sessions and retreat, the Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association (SAYMA) Yearly Meeting Planning Committee, in consultation with the presiding clerk, has changed our traditional pattern of daily meeting for worship with attention to business by limiting the number of hours we spend doing business during our hybrid gathering. In order to accomplish the necessary business for SAYMA, this year's annual session will include one virtual meeting for business prior to our hybrid session and possibly one following, if needed. Session I of our annual meeting for worship with attention to business will be held virtually on Saturday, June 14, 2 - 5 pm ET / 1 to 4 pm Central Time.

MEETING FOR WORSHIP WITH ATTENTION TO BUSINESS – Sunday, June 15

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.

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

Meeting ID: 896 8627 6751

Passcode: 789456

ABOUT MEETING FOR WORSHIP WITH ATTENTION TO BUSINESS

"Friends' decision-making is rooted in the spiritual oneness of a religious community. We reject majority rule for the higher goal of reaching decisions in unity, through distinctive attitudes developed by Friends over the centuries. Our process is democratic in the sense that everyone is encouraged to participate. However, it also goes beyond democracy in that it does not rely solely on human will or ability. Participants are expected to put aside personal desires and allow themselves to be led by a Guide beyond the self." (Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Faith and Practice 1998)

"Whenever we remember that we are in the presence of God, transformation is possible. Every task, no matter how mundane, becomes an act of worship, a word of praise offered to God. This is the basis for Quaker business practice. We call it 'meeting for worship with attention to business' because it is grounded in an awareness of God's presence!" (Friends General Conference)

Atlanta Friends Meeting guidelines for meeting for Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business are at https://atlantaquakers.org/wp-content/uploads/Guidelines_for_Meeting_for_Business.pdf. In addition, <https://www.friendsjournal.org/meeting-for-business-as-spiritual-rehearsal> talks more about the spiritual side of Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business as well as the ways the Quaker decision-making process differs from consensus. Another resource is Pendle Hill Pamphlet #307, *Beyond Consensus: Salvaging Sense of the Meeting*. The AFM library has two copies, and a description is at <https://pendlehill.org/product/beyond-consensus-salvaging-sense-meeting/>.

NEWCOMER WELCOME DINNER -- Sunday, June 18

On the 18th of each month, newcomers to Atlanta Friends Meeting are invited to dinner at the home of a member or long-time attender. You'll have a chance to get to know other new attenders as well as long-time Quakers in a casual setting. For more details, see announcement sheet.

If you would like to host a summer welcome dinner, please contact Jim Tolmach at jimtolmach@icloud.com or 404-294-5194.

REGISTRATION OPEN FOR SAYMA SESSIONS AND RETREAT – Fri to Mon, June 20 to 23

For more details, see the article SAYMA NOTES above or visit www.sayma.org. Advance Program, which will be updated as details change, is at <https://tinyurl.com/SAYMAadvanceprogram>. Full scholarships are available for Young Adult Friends, ages 18 to 35, for wider Quaker events like this by contacting Clive Gordon, Clerk of Ministry & Worship.

SEWING CIRCLE – Saturday, June 21

Join us for a Sewing Circle, meeting in the library on Saturday, June 21 at 3 pm. All art/craft mediums (that are easily cleanable!!) welcome as we create deeper community around shared interests. For more information, contact Lisa Magee, lisammagee@gmail.com.

FORUM: *FOUR DOORS TO MEETING FOR WORSHIP* – Sunday, June 29

Ministry and Worship Committee will host a forum on the classic Pendle Hill pamphlet by William Taber at 11:45 AM. Free copies of the pamphlet are available in the library.

MINUTES FOR FIFTH MONTH MEETING FOR WORSHIP WITH ATTENTION TO BUSINESS

May 18, 2025, held in person and via Zoom in a blended meeting

Minutes Recorded Pending Approval

Attendance: Don Bender, Judy Bender, S Boland, Jennifer Crumpley, Mary Ann Downey, Julia Ewen, Waman French, Clive Gordon, Bill Holland, Bill Hooson, Teri Key-Hooson, Martha Hutchins, Kathy Johnson, Elizabeth Lamb, Jamie Lockard, Georgia Lord, Judy Lumb, Alison Mawle, Susan May, Ellen McQueen, Karen terHorst Morris, Ron Nuse, Bob Place, Mary Place, Pramudji, Erin Ricketts, Jay Roache, Myrna Trapp, Andreas Ziegler, Austin Wattles, David Small (Clerk), Charles Hicks (Recording Clerk)

Worship

Query for the Fifth Month: Are our meetings for worship held in expectant waiting for divine guidance, with a living silence in which we feel drawn together in the Light by the presence of God? Does what I have to say improve the Silence?

Discernment

- **Nominating Committee** — Ellen McQueen reported for Nominating Committee.

Nominating Committee brought forward a series of names for consideration. David Small had a question. He anticipated that we would not have a Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business in June due to a prospective conflict with the annual SAYMA conference (this was corrected later in the Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, and we do expect to have a Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business in June since there is no conflict with the SAYMA conference), and he asked whether we should go ahead and approve the names. Hearing no complaints, the following minutes were approved.

Minute-05-18-25:01: On the recommendation of the Nominating Committee, Atlanta Friends Meeting approves Don Bender as Assistant Treasurer for a term of one year from 2024 through 2025.

Minute-05-18-25:02: On the recommendation of the Nominating Committee, Atlanta Friends Meeting approves Cathy Amanti as co-clerk of Religious Education for a term of one year from June of 2025 through May of 2026.

Minute-05-18-25:03: On the recommendation of the Nominating Committee, Atlanta Friends Meeting approves Arianna Rodriguez as a Religious Education teacher for a term of one year from July of 2025 through June 2026.

Minute-05-18-25:04: On the recommendation of the Nominating Committee, Atlanta Friends Meeting approves Cathy Amanti as a Religious Education teacher for a term of one year from July of 2025 through June 2026.

Minute-05-18-25:05: On the recommendation of the Nominating Committee, Atlanta Friends Meeting approves Margaret Nagawa as a Religious Education teacher for a term of one year from July of 2025 through June 2026.

Minute-05-18-25:06: On the recommendation of the Nominating Committee, Atlanta Friends Meeting approves Laura MacNorlin as a Religious Education teacher for a term of one year from July of 2025 through June 2026.

Minute-05-18-25:07: On the recommendation of the Nominating Committee, Atlanta Friends Meeting approves Amanda Gendreau as a Religious Education teacher for a term of one year from July of 2025 through June 2026.

Minute-05-18-25:08: On the recommendation of the Nominating Committee, Atlanta Friends Meeting approves Betsy Eggers as a Religious Education teacher for a term of one year from July of 2025 through June 2026.

Minute-05-18-25:09: On the recommendation of the Nominating Committee, Atlanta Friends Meeting approves Waman French as a Religious Education teacher for a term of one year from July of 2025 through June 2026.

Minute-05-18-25:10: On the recommendation of the Nominating Committee, Atlanta Friends Meeting approves Georgia Lord as a Religious Education teacher for a term of one year from July of 2025 through June 2026.

Minute-05-18-25:11: On the recommendation of the Nominating Committee, Atlanta Friends Meeting approves Charles Hicks as a Religious Education teacher for a term of one year from July of 2025 through June 2026.

Minute-05-18-25:12: On the recommendation of the Nominating Committee, Atlanta Friends Meeting approves Folami Prescott-Adams as a Religious Education teacher for a term of one year from July of 2025 through June 2026.

Minute-05-18-25:13: On the recommendation of the Nominating Committee, Atlanta Friends Meeting approves Asa Kramer-Dickie as a Religious Education teacher for a term of one year from July of 2025 through June 2026.

Minute-05-18-25:14: On the recommendation of the Nominating Committee, Atlanta Friends Meeting approves Dean Leeper as a Religious Education teacher for a term of one year from July of 2025 through June 2026.

Minute-05-18-25:15: On the recommendation of the Nominating Committee, Atlanta Friends Meeting approves Connor McMahon as a Religious Education teacher for a term of one year from July of 2025 through June 2026.

Minute-05-18-25:16: On the recommendation of the Nominating Committee, Atlanta Friends Meeting approves Elizabeth Tolmach as a Religious Education teacher for a term of one year from June of 2025 through June 2026.

Additionally, the Nominating Committee provided an update on the status of the Handbook revisions:

Nominating has eliminated committees listed in the existing Handbook that have been laid down or suspended and has identified new committees formed since the last Handbook update.

We crafted a new format for committee descriptions and have received updated descriptions, in the new format, for all but four committees: two existing committees —Religious Education and Young Friends Support, one re-forming committee— the Meetinghouse Committee, and one new committee — the Tech Committee.

The other committee descriptions have all been updated and reviewed by Nominating, with some back and forth continuing between Nominating and the committees to obtain clarification and/or missing information, but almost all of the descriptions have now been finalized, and Nominating is moving on to descriptions of positions held within the Meeting.

We expect to have a first draft of the complete Handbook by October, which we will submit to Meeting for Business in toto. In the beginning of this process, Nominating tried bringing new items to Meeting for Business piecemeal, but we discovered that that didn't work. We realized that we needed to gather all of the committee descriptions, in order to discern overlaps and/or discrepancies between committees, and to determine whether anything that the Meeting as a whole wished to support was falling through the cracks. For example, if one committee lays down a duty, is another committee covering it, or is the Meeting letting that go? And does that need to be brought to Meeting for Business for discernment?

So it has been, and continues to be a slow, but (we hope) thorough process.

Reports

■ **Ministry and Worship** — Clive Gordon reported for Ministry and Worship Committee.

1. Recommendation for membership by application of Elsayed (Sayed) Elbaz. The meeting has received a letter from Elsayed Elbaz requesting membership in Atlanta Friends Meeting. A clearness committee has met with him and found him clear for membership. Ministry and Worship unites with their report and recommends the meeting welcome Sayed into membership by application. Sayed shared his spiritual journey with Adult First Day on May 4, and a recording of that presentation is available. We encourage Friends to get to know Sayed and will bring this membership back in June for our further discernment.
2. We held a called meeting for worship on Saturday, May 3 to celebrate and recognize the gifts of ministry brought to us by Christina Repoley. Many Friends joined on Zoom and were present in the room. We express our thanks to Christina for bringing her ministry under our care. We thank the Care and Counsel Committee, and all other Friends who helped to make this meaningful period of worship possible. When we take a ministry under our care, we as a community, commit to support and uphold that ministry.
3. Ministry and Worship will be holding a forum after meeting on June 29 focused on the Meeting for Worship. We will use the Pendle Hill pamphlet *Four Doors to Meeting for Worship* as a resource. We encourage all Friends to attend and share their experience of worship.
4. In Ministry and Worship's joint meeting with the Care and Counsel committee, the two committees determined to not mention the Ministry and Worship and Care and Counsel committees in closing worship for 90 days at which point it would be revisited.

A Friend asked why the committees decided to not mention the two committees for ninety days. Clive said the impression was that there was a perception of hierarchy for the committees which the committees want to dispel. He said there would continue to be a committee mentioned but it would not have to be one of those two.

A Friend agreed and said it would be nice to highlight committees such as the Social Concerns Committee.

A Friend said we should continue to elevate that if people have questions about membership, marriage, or memorial services that they should be encouraged to approach the closer.

