In attendance were Kathy Funkhouser, David Kunz, Julie Kunz, Karen Lockett, Katie Bliss, Ethan Bliss, Pat Beach, Lynn Diviak, Steve White, Richard Broadbent, Carlotta Joyner, Michele Hartley, Jennifer Brooks, Greg Tobin, Betsy Tobin, Annette Breiling, Karen White

Hybrid Meeting began with technical difficulties and worship

**2020-10-01 Frederick Area Ministerial Association (FAMA) Report – Katie Bliss**
(attachment 1)

Katie shared the activities of FAMA throughout the year. These activities were face-to-face prior to the onset of the pandemic. The face-to-face activities ended in March. Many Faith Communities are experiencing similar stresses during this pandemic. We appreciate Katie representing Frederick Friends Meeting in the FAMA group. This report is **accepted** with gratitude.

**2020-10-02 Peace and Social Concerns (P&SC), Count Every Vote! Maryland – Annette Breiling** (attachment 2)

P&SC requests Meeting to co-sponsor this letter. Count Every Vote! Maryland seeks to assure election integrity. Meeting approved becoming a co-sponsor of this letter. One Friend shared, “This is basic democracy.” P&SC will follow up to let the organization know to add our name and to assure the letter gets sent to our elected officials.

**2020-10-03 Peace and Social Concerns, Charitable Giving 2020 – Pat Beach**
(attachments 3, 4, 5)

Pat shared the process, decision and concerns associated with this year's charitable giving discernment. Meeting thanks the Committee for the care they put into this work. Pat Beach and Ellen Lerner did a wonderful job steering this work. Meeting **approved** the recommended charitable contributions.

The responses P&SC received during their work are captured in attachment 4. The disparity of views led P&SC to **recommend** threshing sessions before the next cycle begins.

**2020-10-04 Update on Search Committee – Betsy Tobin**

Susanna Laird agreed to work on Search with Betsy. Betsy has had several conversations
with Nominating Committee about the gifts they would like to have brought to their work. Betsy thanked a Friend for the nudge to move this process along.

Meeting for Worship for the Conduct of Business was impacted by technical difficulties experienced by both Clerks this 1st Day. Clerks appreciate the patience and light sent our way.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Funkhouser, Clerk

Betsy Tobin, Recording Clerk
Dear

We write to you because we share the concerns of a bipartisan group of over 100 current and former senior government and campaign leaders and other experts that this year’s Presidential election may be compromised.1 Specifically, we are concerned that many votes will not be counted. As an elected official, you have a leadership role in our community and we look to you for help in ensuring election integrity. We therefore write to ask you to agree to and sign the following agreement.

1Transition Integrity Project. Preventing a Disrupted Presidential Election and Transition (8/3/20)

Count Every Vote! Maryland Agreement

I agree to:

1. Vote and publicly encourage my constituents to vote.
2. Insist on the counting of all lawful ballots under applicable state law before agreeing that election results are legitimate.
3. Inform my constituents that I will take all measures available to me to contest any results that do not include the counting of all lawful votes.
4. Publicly support people who peaceably demonstrate in favor of all votes being counted.
5. Insist on a peaceful transfer of power if a complete and legal vote count requires it.

Your leadership will be key to assuring a fair election. To sign Count Every Vote! Maryland Agreement go to: https://forms.gle/BWM52N6S75gF9k4K9
If you have any questions or concerns about this, please contact Jean Athey at nvtraining2@gmail.com.

We plan to publish a growing list of public officials signing this agreement beginning October 12th.

**SPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS**

**Faith Leaders/Organizations**

*Most Reverend Denis J. Madden, Auxiliary Bishop of Baltimore*
Archdiocese of Baltimore
Episcopal Diocese of Maryland
*The Rev. William (Bill) Gohl, Jr., Bishop, Delaware-Maryland Synod*
Evangelical Lutheran Church of America
*Rev. Dr. Wanda Bynum Duckett, District Superintendent, Baltimore/Washington Conference*
United Methodist Church
Amazing Grace Lutheran Church
Association of Roman Catholic Women Priests
Baltimore Yearly Meeting Peace and Social Concerns Committee (Quakers)
Central Maryland Ecumenical Council
Council on American Islamic Relations
Homewood Friends Meeting (Baltimore Quakers)
Mt. Ennon Baptist Church
Sandy Spring Friends Meeting (Quakers)
St. Ignatius Peace and Justice Committee
Stony Run Friends Meeting (Baltimore Quakers)

**Community, Social and Political Organizations**

Anne Arundel County Branch NAACP
Anne Arundel Peace Action
Baltimore Action Legal Team
Baltimore Nonviolence Center
Baltimore Peace Action
Baltimore-DC Pax Christi
2020-10-11 Frederick Friends Meeting for Business Minutes

Be the Change
Chesapeake Climate Network Action Fund
Chesapeake Physicians for Social Responsibility
Friends of Latin America
GMOM
Howard County Peace Action
Maryland Peace Action
Maryland Poor People's Campaign
Maryland United for Peace and Justice
Peace Action Montgomery
Prevent Nuclear War/Frederick
Prevent Nuclear War/Maryland
Prince George's County Peace and Justice Coalition
Rebuild, Overcome, and Rise (ROAR) Center at UMB
During a typical year, face to face meetings are held monthly, September through May, in each religious organization where a minister or other representative is a member of FAMA. The format is to have lunch first, provided by Canapes or the host church. Lunches are paid by an annual fee of $90 from each member church. Lunch is followed by announcements of coming events in each church or organization, and lastly, a speaker explains the work of a local group to other churches. This year, normal meetings were held September through early March, with an abrupt shift to Zoom meetings in April, once the pandemic hit. And rather than suspending the meetings during the summer, as normally done, members chose to continue to meet by Zoom each month throughout the summer.

Here are a few notable happenings:

In October FAMA worked with Frederick Interfaith to plan and hold the Multifaith Concert for Peace at the Evangelical Reformed United Church of Christ.

In November, FAMA worked with Frederick Interfaith to plan and hold the Multifaith Thanksgiving Service at the Asbury United Methodist Church. I provided a query for the service, and asked attendees to then share with someone new one practice they felt was important to their faith, but that may seem strange to others. A lively interfaith exchange ensued.

Also in November, long-time pastor of Unity Church of Frederick, Reverend Toni Fish, stepped down after 18 years.

In March, most FAMA religious organizations switched to fully virtual services. Conditions and procedures for safe reopenings were shared widely throughout the community.

Also in March, FAMA donated $4500.21 to the Frederick COVID Emergency Relief Campaign.

By mid-summer, many religious organizations had invited reduced levels of congregants to return to their houses of worship, while also still delivering services virtually.

In September, all present at the monthly meeting reported being exhausted by maintaining leadership and comfort to their congregations during this taxing time, saying that this year there was no summer “down time” to recoup. Additionally, there are concerns over financial stability, given reduced in-person services, especially during the upcoming holidays. Lastly, maintaining both in-person and virtual services are taking a toll, and there is no predicted end in sight.

Respectfully submitted,

FAMA Representative
Katie Bliss
Hello Friends,
With this report, recommendations and two attachments Pat and I feel that our work is concluded regarding distribution of the 2020 Charitable Giving Funds. Our process follows, but if you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to call on us. Thank you for this opportunity to serve the Meeting.

Peace & Social Concerns Committee Report -
Distribution of 2020 FFM Funds Requested for Charitable Giving

Annette Breiling, P&SC Clerk, sent an initial P&SC proposal for distribution of the funds allocated for Charitable Giving but then recused herself to avoid any appearance of possible conflict with her involvement of the Friends Meeting School. Since that time Ellen Lerner and Pat Beach have been receiving comments and recommendations from Friends who have been most generous in sharing those.

Meeting members comments are included in the compilation statement attached. This summary indicates a primary concern around the donation recommended for Friends Meeting School. These recommendations were both generally in favor and opposing this support by suggesting changing the amount recommended.

Because the comments vary widely in how to approach agreement, we now recommend the following:

1) that the funds be distributed as originally proposed by the Peace & Social Concerns Committee, and that

2) there be threshing sessions (possibly 3 - virtually if not in person) established to develop a way of addressing all of these concerns for future P&SC giving.

Because some see the Friends Meeting School as more affluent than other selected groups, we would ask that the gift to FMS be designated for scholarships only.

We are both extremely grateful for this opportunity to be part of a process of sharing in receptivity, compassion and understanding.

Pat Beach
Ellen Lerner
Comments and Suggestions on the Issue of the 2020 FFM
P&SC Charitable Giving Recommendations

General Notes:
1. While no consensus was reached, a general theme emerged that donations should steer more towards local needs.
2. Some Friends added their thoughts as a matter for consideration, but then stepped aside as they felt that their thoughts were their contributions for all to consider.
3. The list below is not based on who said what, or even in the order in which they were received. They are grouped by topic for ease of reference.
   4. Several comments made references to other ways for arriving at donations. Since they were not the Concern that we were charged with, we did not address them at this time.

We set them out here for possible future consideration, if the Meeting is so led.

Comments Relating To Friends Meeting School
1. Questions about the amount of the allocation to FMS - $300 being the largest amount that is donated. Is this appropriate in the face of intense hardship in the coming months?
2. Stipulate that our donation is to be used for scholarships for a member of the BIPOC population
3. FMS is a ministry – a leading – of equal importance to all other leadings amongst us.
4. FMS offers exposure to our testimonies
5. Contributions should be designated as being for financial aid.
6. FMS offers diversity across socioeconomic, staffing, and minorities. This offers many children their only exposure to and integrated society of equality.
7. Makes a heavy commitment to needs based aid.
8. Promotes caring for others and works diligently at community outreach.
9. The Quaker testimonies that families are exposed to make the world a better place.
10. 39% of students come from homes with insufficient funds to meet basic needs.

Suggestions for Other Donations
11. Resources should speak to covid19, our youth and impacted community.
12. Puma’s outreach in the Congo serves children in need.
13. Would like to see an increase in donation amount to Able and Willing.
14. Donate to RISE
15. Allocations are not going to make or break anything – we are talking about attention and intention to the marginalized. The donation to the Friends Meeting School (FMS) should instead go to someone who does not have enough to eat. The acute basic needs of many need attention.
16. Able and Willing has been our traditional recipient for many years and it has accomplished much in those years. Many of us have contributed directly.
17. All support should go to the hungry and homeless, which is our most pressing need right now.
18. Reduce the amount to FMS, and send the remainder to Able and Willing, or ibelieveinme.com
19. Questions about the donations to private schools ("haves" and "have nots") and the difference between Congo and the U.S.. Consider that children in Congo get access to an education otherwise denied. Supports for donations to Congo.
20. Consider temporarily reducing AFSC and FCNL donations – these groups reaffirm our Quaker identity, but have been receiving greater donations from many others in these times. Consider temporarily redirecting some or all of these funds to local needs – Frederick County Covid Relief, which only FFM contribute to (not the broader Quaker community), or perhaps to the RISE covid relief fund.
21. Make an even split amongst three organizations with a concern raised for considerations in particular for youth of color - Boys and Girls Club, Blessings in a Backpack are good examples.

Suggestions for Other Ways to Allocate Funds
21. Use a matching fund process for all donations – match gifts from members.
22. A concern raised for matching donations – those with less may not be able to afford to donate, thus being denied a voice. Creates a bias.
23. Concern for bias in matching gifts is legitimate – constraints can be added to the matching gift idea, such as matching up to a X amount of dollars so as to prevent bias toward the more wealthy Meeting members.

Comments For Further Consideration
24. There is a difference between helping undocumented immigrants and people who can pay a substantial tuition for private school.
25. Saddened about the small amount that we set aside for charitable giving – would like to see us use the $10,000 bequest as funds for giving, as the money is just sitting there.
We thank you for the opportunity to serve the Meeting, and pray that our format and final suggestions aid in finding consensus amongst Friends.

Respectfully submitted,
Pat Beach
Ellen Lerner
Peace and Social Concerns Committee has the task of recommending to M4B in October how to distribute its budgeted $1500 for charitable contributions. The first column below shows the distribution that was approved for 2019. The second column shows tentative recommendations for distributing the money for 2020. A major factor influencing the suggested changes is to focus primarily on local needs. There is a Covid-19 Relief fund, run by the Community foundation, that is supporting a number of local nonprofits that are serving those who are struggling locally due to Covid-19. $300 is suggested for this fund (rather than disaster relief to the Bahamas). There is also a particular need to provide food and other basic needs for undocumented residents. There is a special fund to address that need, coordinated by ACLU and RISE (Resources for Immigrant Support and Empowerment). So we are suggesting $200 for that fund.

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<tr>
<th>Approved Distribution for 2019</th>
<th>Suggested Distribution for 2020</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Able and Willing International Education Foundation</td>
<td>Able and Willing International Education Foundation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friends Meeting School</td>
<td>Friends Meeting School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Emergency Disaster Relief (aid to Bahamas)</td>
<td>Frederick County Covid-19 Relief</td>
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<tr>
<td>Religious Coalition for Emergency Human Needs</td>
<td>RISE Covid-19 Relief for Undocumented Immigrants</td>
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<td>ACLU to support immigrant issues in Frederick County</td>
<td>FCNL</td>
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<td>AFSC</td>
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<td>Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake</td>
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