Adelphi Friends Meeting (AFM) Timeline

Introduction

Adelphi Friends' first members included families with young children and its family-friendly atmosphere continues to this day. Maintaining an active First Day School program has remained a priority at AFM, with children being beloved participants in the community. AFM is also known in the wider community for its annual Strawberry Festivals, which have raised money for multiple purposes including charitable contributions and building expenses. We found in our interviews with AFM members that there has also been a history of helping refugee families during different crises over the years including families from Vietnam, Burundi, and Afghanistan. Finally, AFM members come from a variety of faith traditions including Buddhism, Catholicism, Fundamental Christianity, Judaism, Nontheism, and Protestant Christianity.



Group photo of the AFM community in 2019 standing in front of the Meeting House with the White House, the original AFM worship site, on the left. (Adelphifriends.org)

1900 - Irving Street Meeting House, Washington, D.C. was built. This was a pastoral Meeting.

Early 1900's- Herbert Hoover became a member of Washington Monthly Meeting (Irving Street).

1922 - The camping program now under the care of Baltimore Yearly Meeting (BYM) was born. Many AFM youth have attended a BYM camp and/or have worked on its staff. Camp records from 2015-2022 indicate that 49 campers connected to AFM have attended at least one camp. Additionally, many adult volunteers from the AFM community have worked to maintain the camps or serve as cooks, nurses, or maintenance workers during camp sessions.

1927 - Herbert Hoover was elected as president of the United States.

1930 - The Florida Avenue Meeting House was built for the Quaker president and those surrounding him. Most attendees of Irving Street Meeting switched to this new meeting location.

1947 - Irving Street Meeting ran out of funds for their building and pastor, and sold the property. The money was held at the Baltimore Yearly Meeting to be used for a future Meeting House. The Irving Street Meeting was still considered an organized meeting after selling their building.

1947-1955 - Four small groups of Quakers in Washington D.C. and its northeastern suburbs met regularly on their own and eventually would merge to create the Adelphi Friends community: the Irving Street Meeting community which included Joseph and Sallie Wetherald and their six children; some members of the Florida Avenue Meeting who did not want to travel so far; a small Quaker worship group promoted by Bob and Ruth Wetherald that met in Greenbelt; and a small group of Quaker students who met at the University of Maryland and was led by Elizabeth Haviland, a cousin of the Wetheralds. In 1955 these merged groups became known as the Northeast Suburban Friends Group. The groups' merging was assisted by the Executive Secretary of the Florida Avenue Meeting, Herb Hadley.

1955 - The parish hall of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in College Park, MD was found as an acceptable meeting place for the Maryland worship groups. The first meeting for worship was held on September 11th. This community then became known as College Park Meeting of Friends. Executive Director of Homewood Yearly Meeting in Baltimore, Jeanne Newman, and Jessie Tichener, clerk of Washington Monthly Meeting, began to actively serve in the establishment of this community.

The front of the White House, 2303 Metzerott Rd., Adelphi, MD (Anomalous_A Flickr post)



1956 - The College Park Meeting of Friends realized that the St. Andrew's facility was not adequately meeting its needs. Edith Birgfeld (a member of the community), Herbert Hadley, and Jessie Tichenor surveyed the area and declared Riggs and Adelphi Roads to be the center of Quaker folk in that community. Edith Birgfeld saw an advertisement in the newspaper for a house she thought was the perfect place for a new Meeting House. She and her husband went to look at the

property at 2303 Metzerott Road, Adelphi, MD, and it appealed to both of them. Edith put down a deposit of \$500 on the spot. BYM used the deposited funds from the selling of Irving Street Meeting

House to pay for \$28,000 of the required \$30,000 for the building. The building is what AFM now calls the "White House." The College Park Meeting and the Washington Meeting (Irving Street) merged, occupying the new building and forming Adelphi Friends. The new name of the Meeting was selected because of the property location. The unincorporated community of Adelphi takes its name from the Adelphi Mill, which was established in 1796.

1956-1966 - The new building was quickly realized to be too small. Some expansions were made to it, and fundraising was begun to build a new building. Strawberry festivals were one form of fundraising during this period.

Side view of the Meeting House (friendscommunityschool.org)



1966 - The new Meeting House was completed. Adelphi Friends continue to worship here to this day. The old wooden benches for the Meeting House were a gift through Alice Koenig and her mother from Moorestown Meeting, NJ. The benches date from about 1897.

1968 - A young adult associate member was a conscientious objector during the Vietnam War and was imprisoned as a result. The AFM community regularly wrote letters, visited, and supported him through his prison sentence in Petersburg, VA.

1970s-80s - Regular community-building coffee houses were held in the basement of the Meeting House where young friends, in particular, would sing, dance, play instruments, tell jokes, and do magic tricks, etc.

1975-1999 - AFM engaged in emergency housing work. In 1983 an Emergency Housing Committee was created. AFM housed homeless community members for short-term stays in the basement of the Meeting House. The Committee laid its work down in 1999.

1986 - Members of Adelphi Friends founded Friends Community School (FCS), whose students were first taught in the White House (after substantial improvements) and in the Meeting House. After multiple relocations, a new campus was built at 5901 Westchester Park Drive, College Park, MD, and

later expanded on. Today, the school has around 250 students in grades K-8. AFM holds a meeting for worship at Friends Community School once a year to celebrate the birthday of the school. The FCS Board of Trustees maintains a fixed number of Quaker members, many of whom have come from AFM. The school helps attract young families to AFM.

1991- AFM issues a public minute affirming lesbian and gay relationships, giving loving support to such persons in the AFM community.

1996- Harold Confer is released to carry out a ministry to burned churches in the South. AFM members and attenders, other Quakers, and Quaker school groups volunteered to rebuild seven arson-burned churches in Alabama, Mississippi, and South Carolina.

1997 - Theodore "Ted" Robinson becomes the first African American clerk of Adelphi Friends Meeting.

1998- Friends Community School becomes financially independent from Adelphi Friends Meeting and is incorporated as an independent corporation.

2002- AFM member Deborah James organized a tutoring project for Mother Jones Elementary School students with many AFM members and attenders serving as tutors.

Paid Ad in Al Hayat expressing apology for the torture of Abu Ghraib Prisoners (courtesy of Ray Lane)

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Adelphi Friends Meeting Adelphi, Maryland	Middlebury Friends Meeting Middlebury, Vermont	To the people of Iraq:	یلی الشعب الحراقی Ouakers)، وکاناس محبین للسائم، نود ان نظر
Azanvalk Moethly Meeting of the Religieus Society of Frienik Yoldown Heighti, New Tork	Middletown Tricrub Meeting, Concord Quarter Lima, Pernaphunia	As Americans, members of the Religious Society of Friends (Ouakers),	تحن كأمر يكأن، وكاعضاء في جمعية أسحقاء الدينية
Arres Friends Meeting Arres, Iowa Bethesda Friends Meeting	Peace and Social Concerns Committee of Mooresteem Friends Meeting	and people of peace, we abhor and are deenly sorry for the acts of aggression.	(كريكرز عن اشملز از دا و شديد أسفنا لأعمال الاعتداء والقمع
Schools, Maryland Scooldyn Monthly Meeting	Monestown, New Jersey Monthly Monthly of Triends of Philadelphia	oppression, humiliation and torture in Irag and elsewhere, and we humbly	و الآذلال و التعذيب التي تعرض لها التابن في العراق و اي مكان آخر ، وانتمس بتو اضع شديد كريم صطحكم.
Brooklyn, New York Bullalo Monthly Meeting Sulfalo, New York	Philadolphia, Perceylvania Meantain View Monthly Meeting	ask your forgiveness.	تحديثها وبان البطار البلاد والقاهر بكاتر بن
Balb Head Oswego Manthly Mosting Circles Concer, New York	Deriver, Coloredo New Paltz Friends Meeting New Paltz, New Tork	We affirm that the way to peace and understanding is through mutual	الاحترام المتبادل والعال تحقيا المحية، كمَّا نود ان
Byberry Frierds Meeting Philodelphia, Pessylvania	Peace and Service Committee of Newtown Friends Meeting Newtown, Paramiratia	respect and loving action, and are united in the following:	نزکد مشاطر نکم ایماننا بان:
Central Oregon Wership Group Senii, Oregon Charleston Friends Meeting	Ojal Friends Worship Group Ojal, California	God loves us, knows our faults, and	الد بحينا جميعا، و عليم باغلاطنا، وقادر على شقاننا جميعا.
Charleston Hierds Meeting Charleston, South Caroline Claremont Friends Meeting	Old Chatham Monthly Meeting Old Chatham, New York Olympia Friends Meeting	can heal us all.	اللديدعونا للمجمة والشبامح
Classmort, California Charlotte Friends Meeting Charlotte, North Carelina	Terrwyter, Webington Oxford Mertilde Meeting	God calls us to be loving and tolerant.	
Decorals Felends Meeting Decorals Iowa	Oxford, Ohio Bidgewood Friends Meeting Bidgewood, New Jerray	Violence leads only to more violence.	العلف لا بزدي الا في مزيد من العلف.
Detroit Menthly Meeting Detroit, Michigan	Rochester Monthly Meeting Rochester, New York	We reject acts of degradation, violence, humiliation, and torture.	نحن نشجب الأفعال التي من شانها أن تحط من قدر الأن
Doylestown Friends Meeting Doylestown, Perroghania Evanator Monthly Meeting	Sacramento Friends Meeting Secureerite, Celifornia	We call on ourselves and all persons to	الأخرين، وكذلك العنف، والاذلال، والتعذيب.
Evereton, Illinois Faktozoa Felanda Meeting	Sandpoint Frienzb Meeting Sandpoint, Idaho Sezville Monthly Neeting	live our lives in a manner that removes the orcasion for all war.	نحن نحث أنفسنا وجميع التلبي لأن نعيش حياتنا ساعين للنأي عن كل مسيدات الجرب
Fairboys, Alebama Jarona Mortibly Meeting Janon, Alaska	Ocean View, New Jersey Shelton Wership Group Shelton, Washington	the occasion for an war.	
Formington Friends Meeting Farmington, New York	Solehary Friends Meeting Solehary Printle Meeting	The Religious Society of Friends, also known	الست جمعية اصدقاء الاينية (والمعروفة ايضا بلسم
Galiddoro Friend: Meeting Golddoro, North Carolina Houten Worthip Group	Somernat Hills Monthly Meeting Brookside, New Josiey	as Quakers, was founded in England in the 17th century and now has members worldwide.	كريكرز) في انكلار افى القرن السابع عشر ، وتضم الأن أعضاءا من شتى أرجاء العالم إلا كان أعضاء جمعية
Houlton, Maine Housatonic Rienda Meeting	St. Petersburg Monthly Meeting St. Petersburg, Forida Tempe Monthly Meeting	Throughout their history Quakers have been witnesses for peace, with many refusing to engage	کریکرز و طی انکاد کاریغهم انسار ا للسلام، حیث ر فضوا انشار که فی انقال انان زمن انجر بی کلک عملوا
New Millord, Connecticut Rendal Worship Group Hanson, New Haraphine	Tempe, Arizana Yardhan Felerark Warship Group	in combat during wartime. Quakers also worked to end slavery in the United States and are strong	(الكويكرز) على انهاد العردية في الرلايات المتحدة الأمريكية و هم الأن يناسر ون بشدة عملية المبلاح حال
Lander Worship Group of Wyoming Friends Meeting	Varbon, Waihington Visalia Friends Meeting Visalia, Celfornia	advocates for prison reform. This message to the Iraqi people is from the Quaker meetings	السورن. أعدت هذه الراسلَة الى الشعب العراقي من قبل تجمعات الكريكرز في الرلايات المتحدة الأمريكية
Lander, Wyoming Landerme Friends Meeting Landerme, Pennsivasia	West Branch Monthly Meeting West Branch, Jones	(congregations) in the United States listed below:	والمنكورة أدناد. والمنكورة أدناد
Las Cruces Monthly Meeting Las Cruces, New Mexico	West Grove Monthly Meeting Chapel Hill, North Carolina Westflakt Meethly: Meethan	For more information about the Religious Society	المزيد من المعلومات حول جمعية استقام الدينية (كويكرز)
Live Oak Friends Meeting Houston, Texas Merchasing Friends Meeting	Haddonfield Quarter Cincuminzon, New Joney	of Friends (Quakers), please see www.quaker.org or www.quakerinfo.com	اقمد موقعینا علی شیکه المعلومات للاولیه: www.guskerinfo.com و www.qusker.org
Mendacino, California	Whittler Monthly Meeting Springelle, Iowa		
	A State of the second sec		

2004- AFM circulated a minute expressing our apologies for the torture of prisoners in the Abu Ghraib prison. The minute grew from vocal ministry in Meeting for Worship and was circulated among Friends. An Adelphi Friend, Stephanie Warner, located addresses and contact information for every Quaker meeting and worship group in North America that she could find. Fifty-four other Quaker Meetings in the US signed on to it. Our apology appeared as a paid advertisement in the Arabic language newspaper Al Hayat. **2005-** A Memorial Garden was created at the rear of the property on the southeast corner and procedures were established for its use. It was created through member sweat equity and funds from a bequest. The Memorial Garden Committee keeps a book with a Memorial Minute for each person who has died and has a stone in the Memorial Garden.

2006- The 50th Anniversary of Adelphi Friends was marked by a series of events, some of which involved envisioning the future of the Meeting. " Dream Teams" were subsequently formed and focused on a variety of long-term goals and needs within our community. One of the new goals that were born was a need to renovate the Meeting House. Another part of the Dream Team vision was providing structure and support for **Go Forth Projects**, member-led service projects coming from specific leadings linked to Quaker values.

2006- The first same-sex marriage under the care of the Meeting was celebrated.

2007- AFM issues a public minute on sustainability, acknowledging a visible crisis in the earth community.

2008- A Building Committee was formed to start discussing plans for a renovation.

2009- AFM supported a Friend and her family through a gender transition.

2010-2012- Adelphi Meeting Young Friends took part in an important service project with Fundación Esperanza de México in Tijuana, close to the Mexican/US Border, collaborating with workers to help build homes and living cooperatively in the Esperanza Posada. Each Young Friend funded themselves - applying for economic support from friends, family, and Peace & Social Concerns.

2012- AFM publishes a letter to other Quakers on LGBTQ inclusion with a concern that there are Friends in other Quaker Meetings and organizations who cannot be honest about their intimate relationships and fully included in their worship and work communities.

2013- A public minute on transgender inclusion was issued, welcoming transgender persons to worship and be supported by AFM.

2014- The Cornstalk Project, a nonprofit, was started with the aid of Go Forth. Its goal was to support widows and children in northwestern Kenya. It has supported over 30 families since.

2015- A Burundi Quaker family arrived in Maryland. Over the next several years Adelphi Friends helped them settle into a radically new life -- including things like tutoring English; teaching the teenagers to drive; sending Rahaloy, the youngest, to Opequon Quaker Camp; and negotiating the bureaucracies of the US immigration, education, employment, and medical systems. In return, Adelphi Friends was blessed with the company and culture of Friends in many ways similar to us and in many ways rather different.

2016- A public minute on gun violence, hate crimes, and racism was issued with a commitment to partner with organizations and individuals who identify and take concrete actions that "foster love where there is racism, understanding where there is hatred, and peace where there is violence."

2018- a public minute in support of the civil and human rights of transgender people was issued.

2020- With the rise of the COVID-19 pandemic in March, Meeting for Worship and Meeting for Business began to occur virtually on the Zoom platform. All use of the Meeting House for group gatherings was suspended.

2020- After the killing of George Floyd at the hands of police and increased national attention to the Black Lives Matter social movement, AFM members began creating accountability groups and taking specific actions in an effort to become anti-racist.

2021- Phase One of the building renovations begins.

2022- Phase One of the building renovation was completed. The Meeting House began to be used for in-person Meetings again. A virtual option remained for those who felt a need to continue worshiping from a distance.

AFM Friends of Note:

Three Generations at AFM: Alexander Barnes, Alex Barnes, Brianne Boylan, and Dmitri Barnes Longest attender at AFM: Carol Ann "Pud" Baker, whose mother, Alice Baker, was active in the early AFM community. Longest continuous member at AFM: June Confer, who joined in 1974. Youngest attender at AFM: Tamar Almagor Bourland (4 months old).

Prepared and submitted by: Toby Oerter and Lara Oerter, May 15, 2022

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