

Gainesville Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business on Dec. 20, 2009

Karen Porter, clerk

Catherine Puckett, recording clerk

I. Queries: After a worshipful silence, Karen Porter read the Queries for the twelfth month. Nineteen people were present.

II. Minutes for the 11th Months: These were approved.

III. Treasurer's Report: Bill Mitchell reported. We have a big deficit this month because we paid the insurance (\$3,500). We also paid SEYM \$2,000 (the 2nd quarterly payment). Jean Larson pointed out that the amount we took in during November 2009 was 3,272.83, and we spent \$7,233.12, a deficit of nearly \$4,000. Although this is an especially expensive month, donations to the meeting are on track so far. However, spending is more than expected, so it is important for donations to stay on track as well. Jean Larson suggests that the letter to members be sent out. Jean Chalmers suggests that if we lower the mortgage payment to \$500 we can still increase the amount when we want to do so (contributions earmarked for the mortgage go to the mortgage). Mona Morris noted that the Bazaar's Children's Corner should contribute to the flooring in the children's room; \$120 was made by the Children's Corner so this amount needs to be subtracted from the bazaar total amount.

MINUTE 09-12-11: The meeting decided to continue paying \$1,000 a month on the mortgage for the time being, dependent on actual future contributions/receipts. The meeting approved.

IV. Old Business:

A. Gary Arthur's Request for Membership Transfer: Karen Porter read the Palm Beach Monthly Meeting letter transferring Gary Arthur's membership to the Gainesville Friends Meeting. The Palm Beach Meeting spoke very highly of Gary Arthur and how much they will miss him, but they know he will be an invaluable member of the Gainesville Friends Meeting. The Palm Beach meeting enclosed a minute about Gary's transfer of membership and their love for him. The Gainesville Friends Meeting Corresponding Clerk will respond to Gary Arthur about the letter and the minute. Karen Porter will write the West Palm Beach Meeting about Gary's transfer of membership. Ministry and Nurture will work with Hospitality on the best way to welcome Gary Arthur into our meeting. Paperwork will be given to Annie McPherson.

Minute 09-12-12: The Gainesville Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends gladly and with great joy welcomes Gary Arthur's transfer of membership from Palm Beach Monthly Meeting to Gainesville Friends Meeting. Welcome, Gary.

- B. **Calendar:** Our Clerk suggests doing the calendar for three months; she will make copies of the calendar and give it to Bill Mitchell to put on the website.
- C. **Stamp Project:** Sybil Brennan reported. Sybil thanked the meeting for the many stamps this project has received over the last few years. However, the Stamp Project contact person (Brad Hathaway of Mattapoisette, Mass., Monthly Meeting – New England Yearly Meeting) has changed because of illness. The new contact person is Earl Walker, Claremont Monthly Meeting. Sybil would like to request our continued participation in this project. As a result of it, more than \$71,000 has gone to Quaker projects, large and small. Sybil would like to ask that SEYM continue doing the collection too.

The meeting agreed. The new contact's name is Earl Walker, Claremont Friends Meeting, 449 Alamosa Drive, Claremont, Calif. 91711-1942.

V. New Business:

- A. **Kuwesa Project of the Rural Service Programme:** The Clerk received a letter asking for us to use our tax-exempt status for the work of the Kuwesa Project. However, this project is not registered as a non-profit business. The meeting would like to have some questions answered before reconsidering this request. The meeting also noted that if this project is supported it should occur periodically, not continually. The meeting asked Peace and Social Concerns to investigate with an attorney or a CPA about this being a "pass-through" for funds and not an official Quaker project. Jim Morrison (clerk, Peace and Social Concerns) will correspond with the project staff. It was also suggested that PSC check with Iowa Church about how they are supporting this project. Betty Odum suggested supporting our own projects first.

VI. Committee and Other Reports:

Peace and Social Concerns: Jim Morrison reported. Single-payer healthcare did not go through. The committee received more than 100 signatures on the fair-districting petition. This week, the Supreme Court of Florida approved the two ballot initiatives on this. In January, the committee will start a two- or three-month series dealing with the question of developing a just economy. Carol Clark will lead

the first forum. On Jan. 15, they will show the documentary, *Capitalism: A Love Story*. Jim Morrison will also lead a book discussion on *Agenda for a New Economy*.

Ministry and Nurture: Connie Ray reported. In November, the committee agreed upon a plan for disturbances in worship. For an indefinite period, there will be a simultaneous meeting in the library; members will be asked to sign up for a Sunday to worship in the library. Gary Arthur reported to the committee on the retreat plans with Nancy Fennell. The purpose of the retreat is to deepen our experience of worship and community. Mona Morris and Betty Odum have agreed to help with the arrangements. The Clerk of the Meeting was asked to prepare a "Spiritual State of the Meeting" report (for SEYM) that will be more than a list of things that have happened. The committee is working on a handout about deciding when to speak in worship; this handout will be placed on the entrance table. Walter Morris will lead the January Study Program, *Twelve Quakers and Jesus*, on January 29th.

Gary Arthur asked the meeting if he could be put on the Ministry and Nurture Committee. Sybil Brennan noted that there is a standing nominating committee to whom this information should be given; they deliberate and decide. Betty Odum will let Gary Arthur know the process. The clerk refers this matter to nominating.

First-Day School Committee: Jim Porter reported. The floor experience was painful in that it caused hurt feelings and dissension. It was also, though, a learning experience. Jim Porter notes that we have been blessed month after month by friends from the EarthCare Witness with their enlightening and engaging first-day school programs. They have made his job easier and the children have grown immensely.

Hospitality Committee: Mona Morris reported. Mona Morris made up a calendar of clerks. The committee would like each meeting committee to have at least two months in a year where that committee is responsible for finding people to volunteer for hospitality duties. Hospitality Committee is not on the list because its members always help as volunteers. However, concern was expressed about driving away clerks with an additional duty. Several clerks admitted they are already overwhelmed and expressed concern that people on their committees are also overwhelmed. The meeting decided that on non-potluck Sundays we will return to simpler fare and no plates.

For Year 2010: Coffee and Surprises Committee Rotation Assignments: January, Library; February, Ministry and Nurture; March, Peace and Social Concerns; April, Meeting House and Grounds; May, Fundraising; June, Earth Care Witness; July, Library; August, First-Day School; September, Peace and Social Concerns; October, Meetinghouse and Grounds; November, Fundraising; December, EarthCare Witness.

Meetinghouse and Grounds: Walter Morris reported. The committee brought forward two minutes:

Minute 09-12-13: The floor in the First-Day School has been completed. After inspection of the floor, the Building and Grounds Committee recommends the Meeting pay Doug Butler two hundred fifty dollars as to the verbal contract agreed to between him and the committee. The meeting approves.

Minute 09-12-14: All non-maintenance work on the building and premises will be done by outside professionals unless the business meeting decides otherwise. The meeting approves.

Bud brought a concern to the meeting for business in which he read a letter in which he expressed his concern and disappointment that the September business meeting approved the removal of a nursery-grown magnolia tree for reasons he did not think had been thoroughly investigated. Bud expressed concern that the meeting sometimes approves things without enough expertise behind the decision. He would like the committee system followed more carefully and would like important decisions be threshed in the relevant committees. Other concerns he had were that he wasn't asked to move the tree before it was cut down, and that the meeting gave permission to check with the city on cutting down the hackberry tree on the city right of way. He asked that the meeting rescind the recommendation that we go to the city and ask permission to cut down the hackberry tree. Karen Arrington said that Bud Brennan speaks her mind as well about the hackberry tree, which is a native tree and provides habitat for some native species. She suggested that the meeting find a better way to season possibly contentious issues and advertise that they will be discussed at a specific business meeting. Jean Larson noted that in the matter of the floor, we had one group speak and make one decision, then we had another group speak, resulting in a different decision. The tree issue is similar, Jean said, with one group speaking and then deciding, then another group wanting to overturn that decision due to key members not being present. Jean suggested that the meeting should not make any decisions about such issues unless everyone is present and without having more time and seasoning.

Jean Chalmers will consult with Brad Thompson about not contacting the city about the hackberry tree and will ask if he would like that in a minute. This matter will be resolved in a future business meeting.

Dick Beardsley would like to consider a meeting for healing in these matters. Many people, he said, have been hurt by the floor and the tree decisions. No one, said Dick, had bad intentions, but the whole meeting needs healing and perhaps needs to be held in the light.

Library Committee: Bruce Lyon has put in a new printer/scanner and computer. Sybil Brennan noted that Friends Journal will have to go out of business if they don't

get back on track financially. The meeting should look into this; we may want to get their news article for the next business meeting.

VII. Information Items:

- A. Parents Night Out: Dec. 19: there was a wonderful parent's night out; it went well.
- B. Fundraising Committee: The fundraising committee has not been a committee in the last two years. They will meet on Jan. 10; the committee consists of Sybil Brennan, Polly Dougherty, Walter and Mona Morris, Doris Nabors, Walter and Sheree Sims. They will report back at the next business meeting.

The meeting ended with silence.

Respectfully submitted by Catherine Puckett

Calendar:

1. 01/03/10 Su: 9:30 a.m. LC, HC, MC: 1 p.m. Forum (Quaker approach to a just economy); 2:30 p.m. FBG: Jean Larson, Quaking.
2. 01/15/10: Film Night (Capitalism: A Love Story – Michael Moore)
3. 01/16/10 and 01/17/10: Winter Interim Business Meeting
4. 01/17/10: 9:30 a.m. Singing
5. 01/23/10 “Hoover” Quaker Dinner (6 p.m.)
6. 01/24/10 Peace and Social Concerns
7. 01/24/10: Bible Study at 12:45
8. 01/29/10: Quaker Study Program, Walter Morris
9. 01/30/10: Chinese Dinner to benefit Guatemalan and Pro Nica Scholarship 6 p.m.
10. 01/29/09 Fr: QSP, Twelve Quakers and Jesus, Walter Morris
11. 01/31/10: Forum: TBA
12. 02/07/10: LC, HC, MC
13. 02/07/10: 2:30 p.m. Friendly Book (Jim Morrison) – Agenda for a new economy
14. 02/13/10: Quaker Valentine Dinner (potential for concert)
15. 02/19/10: Film Night: In America
16. 02/21/10: Singing at 9:30 a.m.
17. 02/26/10: Quaker Study Program, 6 p.m.
18. 02/28/10: Peace and Social Concerns
19. 02/28/10: Bible Study – 12:45 p.m.
20. 03/07/10: LC, HC, MC; 2:30 p.m. Friendly Book Group, creative poems and stories
21. 03/13/10: St. Patrick's Dinner – 6 p.m.
22. 03/21/10: 9:30 a.m. singing

23. 03/26/10: Quaker Study Program
24. 03/27/10: March 27 – all day – 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
25. 03/28/10: 9:30 a.m. Peace and Social Concerns
26. 03/28/10: Bible Study at 12:45 p.m.