

# Gainesville Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business

First Month 9, 2011

Mona Morris, Clerk

Attendance: 14

From the silence Gene Beardsley read the Query for 1st month and Mona Morris read the advices.

After adjustments to the agenda we continued with the Treasurer's Report: in the absence of the treasurer Mona Morris presented this report. Why is the amount in the Ministry and Nurture Committee line printed in red? We noted with pleasure that \$72 more came in from the bazaar bringing the total to almost \$1000. We assume that we have paid in full for the new landscaping on the Hill. The treasurer's report is included with these minutes.

The minutes for 12th month were read and approved as amended.

We returned to treasurer's report. The annual incorporation report is due May 5, but the treasurer can go ahead and file it now. The listed officers will be Director/President Mona Morris, Director/Vice President Jean Larson, Director/Secretary Catherine Puckett, Director/Treasurer William Mitchell.

The treasurer recommends a change in the insurance for our meeting house.

**11-1-1:** Gainesville Friends will change its insurance provider from State Farm to Nationwide, accepting the policy from Nationwide Insurance described in the e-mail message from the insurance agent Ray Shakow to the treasurer. Nationwide has offered coverage for the meeting house as follows: Building valued at \$400,000 with \$40,000 for contents. Liability at 1,000,000 occ/\$2,000,000 agg fro general liability and \$1,000,000 for D&O liability. Annual premium is \$2785.

Mona Morris will notify the treasurer and Shakow that we accept this offer.

Ministry and Nurture Committee: Connie Ray presented the report. The committee continues to be concerned about the health of the meeting. The detailed report is addendum #1 at the end of these minutes.

Peace and Social Concerns Committee: Jim Morrison's detailed report is included with these minutes as addendum #2.

Film Committee: Our December film was "Joyeux Noel" (about the spontaneous Christmas eve 1914 WW I truce on the Western front and the Christmas goodwill shared by Scottish, French and German troops). We had a very sparse crowd because of the conflict with the Vets for Peace Winter Solstice Concert, but we had a nice discussion afterwards—and a number of people who could not attend expressed their hope that we will do a repeat performance. Our January 21 film will be "Iron Jawed Angels" (about

Quaker Alice Paul and her important role in the women's suffrage movement). On February 18 we will show "Letters to Juliette" and later in the spring, "The Oath" (March 18?), and "Fresh" (April 15?).

Fund Raising Committee: Walter Morris said that we are ready for the Tom Neilson concert this coming Friday evening. Tom Neilson has an appointment in Tampa on Saturday morning so he will probably not need overnight hospitality.

Meetinghouse Building and Landscaping Committee: (this is the correct name for the committee formerly called Building and Grounds.) Walter Morris read a recommendation from the committee and after discussion we approved:

**11-1-2**: Gainesville Friends Meeting approves the following addendum to the policy for use of the meeting house:

1. A donation of \$25 per day for persons or groups connected to the meeting except when the Meetinghouse Committee recommends less.
2. A donation of \$100 per day for persons or groups not connected to any Friends meeting except when the Meetinghouse Committee recommends less.
3. A damage agreement is required from any persons or groups not connected to any Friends meeting.

Library Committee: Betty Odom reported that the book group is pleased with the attendance at the discussions.

Hospitality Committee: Mona Morris reported that the committee is planning to have work days three times a year. We passed around the yearly schedule for those in charge of after meeting for worship coffee and surprises, asking for comments in case adjustments are necessary. Articles for the February 12 Chinese dinner and auction can be placed in the alcove or under the wooden table in the social room. Money raised from this auction will go for Guatemala scholarships and for Pro-Nica. Mona Morris will ask Morrie Trimmer or Tim Fogarty to be an auctioneer. For the Irish Quaker market dinner on March 12 Mona Morris will put out a sign-up sheet for food.

Firstday School: The committee has not met and it does not have a clerk. We discussed this matter at some length. For now we will let this rest, hoping that we will talk together and come up with some solutions by the next Meeting for Business.

Corresponding Clerk: Sybil Brennan explained that she writes letters when asked by the business meeting, by committees, or sometimes by individuals. She sends birthday cards and sometimes makes telephone calls. Connie Ray told us that Christine Rossiter's daughter Emily is in a hospital hoping to keep her baby from being born too early.

**11-1-3**: Gainesville Friends Meeting approves spending \$44 for a roll of stamps for the corresponding clerk. The money will come from the budget line for office supplies.

SEYM apportionment:The numbers are not yet ready for the newsletter.

Publicity: Mona Morris read the job requirements listed by Jean Chalmers for this part-time work. We'll put the description in the newsletter and also ask Jim Morrison to send it out by e-mail. We hope someone can do this for us.

Outreach: Could outreach to families with young children be a focus for us this year? We need to get together and do the hard work of deciding what to do and doing it.

Wedding: we received a request from Westerly Monthly Meeting in Rhode Island for us to involve ourselves in the May wedding of Elliott Campbell, grandson of Elizabeth Odom and Morrie Trimmer, and Smiti Nepal. Westerly Monthly Meeting would be responsible for the clearness process and Gainesville Meeting would be responsible for the marriage oversight. The plan presented is that an oversight committee would consist of two members from WMM. and two from GMM. We approved:

**11-1-4**: Gainesville Monthly Meeting accepts the request to appoint members to a marriage oversight committee when the Westerly Monthly Meeting's clearness committee has approved the marriage.

Mona Morris will contact the clerk of WMM with this information.

Santa Fe College: we received an invitation to participate in the colleges Religious Diversity Day, but the date is two days away, too soon for us to be able to take part in this activity.

Calendar: Phil Buskirk has created a fish print calendar for 2011. They are available for a contribution to the meeting. The library committee will find a place to display one of them.

Spiritual State of the Meeting: Mona Morris presented some responses to some of the Queries which were the basis of last week's meeting. Her report focused on what discourages people from attending business meetings, for instance, lack of understanding on how we reach decisions and how clearness is achieved. Our discussion provided a wealth of suggestions. We are considering having some sort of retreat. The clerk's report is addendum #3.

The meeting closed with silence.

Laura Winefordner, Assistant Recording Clerk

#### Addendum #1

##### Report of the Ministry and Nurture Committee:

The committee continues to exchange information about people in the meeting who are experiencing difficulties or changes in their lives. We are very excited about Shawna Doran's work in Haiti and wish her well. Morrie Trimmer seems to be recovering well from his surgery.

The committee has handed over a finished copy of the Emergency Evacuation Plan to the Meeting House, Grounds and Landscaping Committee for further seasoning and

editing before being brought back to the Meeting for Worship at the Concern for Business for final approval.

Kendal Corporation has notified us that it has no interest at the present in establishing a facility in North Florida.

We looked over the brochure to use in Northern yearly meetings urging members to retire to our area. Suggestions for changes were made.

We discussed a concern that has been raised about late arrivals for meeting for worship creating a disturbance for worshippers. A notice about punctuality was placed in the newsletter.

Several concerns about the overall health of the meeting, in particular the Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business, have been brought to us. We believe that a meeting wide retreat may be helpful in addressing these concerns. After the forum on "The Spiritual State of the Meeting" is held, we may get clearer ideas about what that retreat might include. We would like a seasoned Friend, preferably someone from outside our meeting, to facilitate such a retreat.

We discussed the "End-Of-Life" and "Emergency Information" forms. Southeastern Yearly Meeting has approved a set of forms that are included in our new Faith and Practice. The SEYM "emergency forms" are on the bookcase in the foyer. We try to keep them on the table under the pamphlet rack. We encourage everyone to fill one out so that next of kin can be notified quickly should there be an emergency while at the meeting house. The library has a notebook of forms and files for completed forms.

#### Addendum #2:

##### Report of the Peace and Social Concerns Committee:

We did not have a meeting in December because our regularly scheduled time, December 26, was so close to Christmas, and many of our members said they would be out of town.

We did send out an action alert supporting the Dream Act (which was blocked in the Senate by a filibuster), despite having a majority of supporters), but were surprised by the unexpected quick action (1) to repeal "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," (2) to pass the bill providing for more medical aid to the responders and cleanup crews who are suffering medical problems as a result of their heroic efforts on 9/11 and the cleanup that followed, (3) extension of long-term unemployment benefits, and (4) to ratify the New Start Treaty.

At our "Spiritual Life of the Meeting" discussion on January 2, our discussion included the role of the Peace & Social Concerns Committee in our Community Outreach Mission. The upcoming Forum on February 6 with Cheryl Demers talking about "End of Life Choices" also touches on a number of issues about which our committee is also concerned, including the role that government and community decisions play in facilitating rational and compassionate choices at the end of life, and the implications for the viability of social security, Medicare and Medicaid. (Note that the plan of the Obama administration to provide payment for doctors to provide end-of-life options counseling, was stripped out at the last minute because of Congressional opposition, charging that this amounted to setting up "death panels.")

We hope to organize several additional forums after the year (e.g., in March and April and May). We want to show the film: "What a Billion Muslims Think." We also

want to have Shawna Doran report on her trips to Haiti and her plans for future work there. At our next meeting on January 23 we will decide on our priorities for the coming months and invite any suggestions from our members and attenders.

Some of the issues we will discuss: Protecting and improving the Health Insurance Reform program, The problem of the growing gap between the rich and the poor and how our income and estate tax laws contribute to this, Ending poverty, Ending homelessness, Promote a comprehensive, fair and compassionate immigration policy and push for a revival of the Dream Act (which was killed by a Senate filibuster), Promoting real job creation measures, Protect social security, education, etc. (Fair economic policies), Strong climate change legislation: clean energy and reduced carbon emissions, Reducing the power of corporations and ending corporate personhood, Nov. 29 New Yorker article, Korten workshops, Promoting transparency in political advertising (the Disclose Act), ("Need to Know"—The Disclose Act, The Empty Chamber), Move To Amend (petition circulation), Banning land mines and cluster bombs, Reducing the military budget, and, as always, finding new ways to promote peace and justice everywhere.

### Addendum#3

#### Clerk's report

The called meeting for responding to the Queries for the Spiritual State of the Meeting –Jan.2, 2011:

The meeting began by clerk asking members to read all the Queries and after the silence to respond to a Query that most invoked speaking to. Most of the chosen Queries were 1,2,6, & 10 and to these I wish to report as my concern as Clerk. Other Queries were spoken to and will be addressed in the actual Spiritual State of the Meeting report.

Points of discussion that are matters of concern to me were:

Things that discourage attending Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business:

a) Meetings being too long, and the agenda not being announced until just before Meeting began.

b) Communications between members not felt as being equally considered, some feeling of not having what they say taken seriously.

c) Some not understanding of the terms "sense of the meeting" and "being 'in unity'" and the inability to determine personally when these terms did or did not occur.

d) Not being able to understand what "seasoning of a concern" meant and where this "seasoning" was supposed to occur. Not understanding that when a specific committee reported to business meeting a particular concern or formation of a minute they had done the seasoning . Some persons feeling "left out of a chance for discussing that concern" further resulting in not being able to trust that a full discussion had occurred before a decision to act was made.

Questions regarding the discussion:

1) Can the agenda be put out prior to the day of Business meeting?

2) Could there be a "Quaker 101 regarding Worship for the Concern for Business that was about the work of committees, how decisions were arrived at ie "seasoning of a concern," how committees brought concerns or minutes to Business Meeting?

3) Could there be a retreat type session or ongoing sessions about how to reach decisions and consensus?