

Gainesville Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business
Second Month 9, 2011
Mona Morris, Clerk

Attendance: 17

From the silence Jim Morrison read the Query and Advices for 2nd month. Mona Morris read an article about spiritual health.

After adjustments to the agenda we continued with the minutes of last month's meeting which were approved. We agreed that the treasurer's report should be included in the minutes which, after approval, are sent out by e-mail.

Treasurer's Report: Bill Mitchell presented this report which is included with these minutes. We have not yet entered into a final agreement with Nationwide Insurance for the building, but we expect this to happen soon. Meanwhile we are still covered under our State Farm policy.

Ministry and Nurture Committee: Connie Ray presented the report which is included as addendum #1. After discussion we approved a recommendation of the committee:

11-2-5: Gainesville Friends Meeting approves our holding an all day Saturday retreat with Phoebe Andersen who will involve us in "The Nuts and Bolts of Quakerism."

Connie Ray will check with Phoebe Andersen about the dates of 5/7 or 4/30.

We asked the Ministry and Nurture Committee to schedule a meeting for worship outside on the grounds. We suggested 3/20 which is also the time of our yearly birthday party for the meeting.

As part of this committee report Mona Morris read the annual Spiritual State of the Meeting Report to Southeastern Yearly Meeting. This excellent report will be published in the SEYM documents in advance for SEYM.

Peace and Social Concerns Committee: Jim Morrison presented the report, telling us that the committee has decided to focus for the coming year on reducing the gap between rich people and poor people, and revitalizing our democracy.

The concept of community gardening is cropping up all over and we want to be a part of it. We held a lengthy discussion about the possibilities and kinds of community gardens in which we might involve ourselves. We decided to make a commitment to have a garden.

11-2-6: Gainesville Friends Meeting approves the formation of an ad hoc committee to plan for a possible raised garden.

Dick Beardsley, convener, and Mary Dewey agreed to be on this committee. They will ask some others not present today to serve too. They will write an article to be placed in the newsletter.

Jim Morrison's report, edited, is included with these minutes as addendum #2.

Film Committee: Jim Morrison reported that the January film was "Iron Jawed Angels," about Quaker Alice Paul and her tireless work to make women's suffrage a reality. In February in the Valentine's Day spirit, we will show a delightful romantic comedy, "Letters to Juliet." Possible films for the spring: The Oath, Why We Fight, Fresh, What A Billion Muslims Believe.

Fund Raising Committee: Walter Morris said that the Tom Neilson concert gave us \$67, after the \$300 we paid Tom Neilson. We will have to think about this before developing new projects. From the Chinese dinner and auction we realized \$300 to be divided between Pro-Nica, and Guatemala scholarships.

Meetinghouse Building and Landscaping Committee: Ryan Maitland and Jean Larson are working to find appropriate groundcover for the rock area. The committee plans to poll meeting members and attenders as to how we can best improve the meetinghouse.

Hospitality Committee: Mona Morris reported that the committee has some events scheduled. Quaker market dinners are set for 3/12 (St. Patrick's dinner) and 5/14 (local harvest dinner). Work days are set for 4/30 or 5/7, (depending on when we hold our retreat), 10/15 and 12/10. The Christmas party is to be held 12/11 at the rise of meeting. The crafts bazaar will be earlier this year on 10/29. For making bazaar projects we will try a schedule different from last year: for the next three months the group will meet on the fourth Sunday after Bible study.

Tim Fogarty has asked if the Pro-Nica Board of Directors Quarterly Meeting can be held in our meetinghouse on Friday evening and all day Saturday 4/15-16. They plan a Saturday night potluck to which they will probably invite people in the community. Approximately 15 people will come to the meeting; they will need overnight hospitality. Mona Morris will talk with Tim Fogarty about arranging this hospitality.

11-2-7: Gainesville Friends Meeting approves hosting the Pro-Nica Board of Directors Quarterly Meeting here on Friday and Saturday 4/15-16.

Firstday School: We are still muddling through.

Corresponding Clerk: Sybil Brennan reported that she bought stamps and has already used some of them. She would like us to let her know of important events in the lives of our members and attenders so that she can respond appropriately.

SEYM Interim Business Meeting Report: Sybil Brennan told us of some of her interesting observations at the meeting. Gary Arthur continued the report saying that the occasion was very much a gathered meeting in which members paid attention to concerns for the health and vitality of our youth program. SEYM meetings provide a spiritual retreat, social connections, and business meetings.

SEYM wants to make it easier for adults to work with children and youth. We will use a program called Shepherds Watch, a program for churches to use in making certain that the adults working with children have appropriate backgrounds. We no longer need fingerprints; we need submit only our Social Security number and birth date. The SEYM website gives further information and directions to follow.

The theme of the coming SEYM session is racial justice.

Scholarships for SEYM: After discussion we approved:

11-2-8: Gainesville Friends Meeting approves offering financial help for attending the SEYM gathering to anyone who requests it.

Connie Ray will submit an article to the newsletter stating that anyone who needs this financial help should contact the clerk, Mona Morris. The Ministry and Nurture Committee will sort this out.

The meeting closed with silence.

Laura Winefordner, Assistant Recording Clerk

Addendum #1

Report of the Ministry and Nurture Committee:

The Ministry and nurture committee continues to have a care for all members and tenders. We keep in contact with those people whom we have not seen in a while, including those who live out of state but are members here, and were once active. We have recently received letters from Phyllis Sherman and Lynn Sterba. It is good to keep in touch.

We have enjoyed the hospitality of Morris Trimmer for our meetings for two months. His step-daughter, Mary, has been very kind. Morris is walking every day and hopes to be back using his walker full time soon.

We continue to work on the brochure about our meeting. People who had not previously worked on it have helped us to see ways that it could be improved. We hope it will be ready soon.

We are starting our part of the process of determining our meeting's apportionment of the yearly meeting's budget.

The committee had decided to hold a retreat for the meeting sometime this spring. In light of the comments and concerns raised in the forum for "The Spiritual State of the Meeting," we have decided that Phoebe Andersen's workshop on "The Nuts and Bolts of Quakerism" is the best choice of possible retreats to answer the concerns and questions raised in that forum. We decided that the meeting should choose possible dates here in meeting for worship with a concern for business today.

We read and discussed "The Spiritual State of the Meeting" report written by our clerk, Mona Morris. We found it to be wonderful and well done.

Westerly monthly meeting of Westerly, Rhode Island has approved the request of Elliott Campbell and Smiti Nepal to be married under the care of its monthly meeting. Dick Beardsley and Laura Winefordner have agreed to serve on the Wedding Committee.

The committee is reading "What Is Quaker Quest?" and we'll discuss it next month with attention to its application in our meeting.

There is an interfaith gardening activity getting under way. We would like the meeting to participate.

Addendum #2:

Report of the Peace and Social Concerns Committee

At our last meeting (January 23) our goal was to decide on our major focus for the coming months. We recognize that the next few months will be difficult and challenging times with many assaults expected on funding for most of the social programs that we consider important. This will require frequent urgent action alerts on specific issues as they arise. Looking at the bigger, long-term picture, however, we decided to concentrate our efforts on two broad umbrella topics: 1) reducing the gap between rich and poor and ending poverty (including the problems of jobs, living wage, health care for all, homelessness, better education, social security protection), and 2) Revitalizing Our Democracy (including reining in the power of corporations, Wall Street, banks, and the very rich, ending corporate personhood, fair districting, campaign finance reform and government-financed elections, full disclosure of political contributions and who is paying for political ads, increasing citizen participation). In addition, however, we will continue to express our views on our traditional peacemaking concerns, including the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and our efforts to ban landmines and cluster bombs. Although it is probably not going to be on the agenda this year, we will continue to urge government and private efforts to deal with the problem of global climate change and the need for alternative clean and renewable energy sources. Walter also encouraged us to come up with a Quaker-inspired set of ideas describing what kind of society and economy we should have. One concrete local project we endorse is to encourage local organic gardening in homes, churches, and public places in cooperation with other churches. We will start out trying to work with a man who proposed an interface organic gardening project at the CMC on Saturday. We may also try to organize a forum on this issue. It was also suggested that maybe the Earth Care Witness Committee could be reconstituted to take leadership of this project. If this is not possible, we could encourage those interested in the project work among themselves and coordinate with other relevant committees.

On Sunday, January 30, Walter Morris led us in a thoughtful discussion of the book by Patience Schenk, "Answering the Call to Heal the World" with the 20 in attendance sharing their ideas. It was decided to continue the discussion later in the year.

Our committee helped Laura Winefordner coordinate a meeting with Michael Wajda from Friends General Conference when he met with 15 of us for a pizza and salad potluck for a very lively workshop.

On February 6 Cheryll Demers-Holton gave a presentation on end-of-life choices and spent an additional hour answering the never-ending questions from the 18 people who attended.

Our next forums will be on March 6 with Shauna Doran reporting on her trip to Haiti and her dream of establishing a permanent program in Haiti: Pro-Haiti. On April 3 we will show the film South of the Border and take advantage of our Latin America resource people, Tim Fogarty and Tom and Carol Clark.

Our next meeting will be on March 27 at 9:40.