

**Gainesville Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends
Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business
12 Second Month 2012 (APPROVED)**

ATTENDING: Dick Beardsley, Gene Beardsley, Bud Brennan, Sybil Brennan, Cheryl Demers-Holton, Shawna Doran, Mary Dewey, Jean Larson, Sandy Lyon, Bill Mitchell, Mona Morris, Walter Morris, Betty Odum, Connie Ray, Tim Ray, Don Smith, Javier Soler, Laura Winefordner, Annie McPherson, Clerk, Gary Arthur, Recorder

Meeting opened with worship.

The first month minutes were read and approved with corrections.

TREASURER'S REPORT by Bill Mitchell:

General Fund Balance: \$10,527

Contingency Fund Balance: \$20,000.

There were two large expenditures in January:

SEYM contribution, \$2000; Insurance, \$2678.69.

NEW BUSINESS:

Annie McPherson read the State of the Meeting Report and positive remarks followed. There was some concern expressed of the need for further accounting of births, deaths and Meeting activities.

2012.2.3: Meeting approves the Spiritual State of the Meeting Report submitted by Clerk, Annie McPherson. A copy will be forwarded for inclusion in the SEYM Documents in Advance for Yearly Meeting Gathering in April.

The report is included as an addendum to these minutes.

2012.2.4: Meeting approves and accepts Shawna Doran's offer to compile an additional report to share at Yearly Meeting Gathering. The document will include information on Meeting births, deaths and other significant events that have occurred over the past year.

Two notes of appreciation were read, regarding our Meeting's adoption of a local family in need for the December holidays. One was a letter from the Child Abuse Prevention Project, and the other a note from the family. Our support was received with gratitude for the concern expressed in our gifts. The correspondence has been archived.

Our Meeting Corresponding Secretary, Sybil Brennan, asked that Friends please let her know of those in need of a note or a card for any special occasion.

OLD BUSINESS:

The SEYM Budget AD Hoc Committee will meet on 2/19/12.

MINISTRY AND NURTURE COMMITTEE REPORT by Connie Ray:

Meeting for worship in nature is scheduled for 3/18/12. A potluck in celebration of the Meeting's birthday will follow.

The committee brought further information regarding the idea of holding a meeting-wide retreat. Members of the committee have been talking and corresponding with staff at Friends General Conference Traveling Ministries Program about it. Cheryl Demers-Holton described the event as beginning on Friday evening, 3/23/12 with a get-acquainted gathering and continuing on Saturday with an all day retreat on the topic of "Unity and Trust". Cheryl described the retreat as an effort to enrich our shared sense of the Spirit, to broaden our experience of community and to deepen our personal ties. The Committee offers the retreat in an effort to initiate an activity that will hopefully become a yearly event. Friends embraced the idea, and the following was approved:

2012.2.5: Meeting approves the expenditure of up to \$750 from the "Special Programs" budget line item to be used for travel expenses of two traveling ministers from Friends General Conference Traveling Ministries Program to lead our Meeting in a retreat on the topic of Unity and Trust on the weekend of 3/23 - 25, 2012 at the meetinghouse.

Another item discussed was that of the importance of encouraging those new to our Meeting to enjoy the experience of attending our annual Yearly Meeting Gathering. In an effort to do so, it was decided to offer enough financial support to an individual or family interested in attending Yearly Meeting, that when combined with funds available from SEYM, would enable them to attend without charge.

2012.2.6: Meeting will pay two-thirds of adult expenses and one-half of children's meals expense to enable a family or individual in the Meeting to attend the Annual Gathering of Southeastern Yearly Meeting. This money will come from the "Scholarships" budget line item.

PEACE AND SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE REPORT by Tim Ray:

Tim offered the committee's proposed minute of support for concerns expressed by the Occupy Movement. Interest was expressed in the sense of the minute, and further clarification was desired. The committee will make revisions to the minute, and bring it back for approval next month.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE REPORT by Walter Morris:

The following minutes were presented and approved:

2012.2.7: The two adult restrooms are to be designated unisex restrooms. Signage will be updated to reflect this change.

2012.2.8: Meeting will purchase 4 new chairs for the First Day School room for an approximate cost of \$532.

2012.2.9: Meeting will contract with Millhopper Lawn and Landscape Inc. to cut the lawn for \$50 per visit. The number of visits per month will be based on the committee's discretion.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. On Sunday, March 4, the Peace and Social Concerns Committee will hold a forum in response to the request received from Friends Committee on National Legislation for our five top priorities for legislative action by FCNL during the 2013-2014 session of Congress. Walter Morris will lead the session and our list of priorities must be submitted to FCNL by April 16, 2012.
2. Quaker Market Dinners are planned for February, March and April.
3. A Memorial Meeting for Tom Clark will be held on February 25, 2012.

Meeting closed with a period of silent worship.
Respectfully submitted,
Gary Arthur, Recording Clerk

ADDENDUMS:

Gainesville Friends Meeting

Spiritual State of the Meeting Report 2012

Gainesville Friends Meeting is in a healthy period of self-examination. We are looking at our business practices, asking ourselves about outreach, and wondering if we are welcoming to all. To examine the way we have always done things, we invited participation and feedback from those who attend our meeting by holding forums, worship sharings, and discussions about ourselves and our community.

We have experienced losses and we ask ourselves, “Are we providing opportunities for grieving?”

We have explored our role in the wider Gainesville community and we ask ourselves, “Are we seeking Light to enlighten our responsibilities to meet broader needs in our present era?” “Should we anticipate more requests to help in light of the current economic conditions?” “Should we set money aside for this?” “Can we find time to participate more fully in the wider community activities, needs, and events?”

Other concerns voiced recently include:

“Do we do enough for others?”

“Does the Meeting have financial integrity?”

“How effectively do we reach out to those in need in our Meeting?”

“Do we need a Committee for Sufferings?”

We acknowledge that Meeting for Worship is the center of our Meeting and a part of all that we do and all that we are as individuals and as a group. But worship is not the only important point on our Quaker path. The centeredness and unity that worship provides needs to be experienced and maintained in our committee and business meetings, as well as during all the other interactions that are integral to our Quaker experience. For many of us Friends, it is our relationships in Meeting that provide opportunity to challenge ourselves to live our faith.

We have made important strides in our First Day School and would like to attract more young families. But as with everything, we can look at the glass half full or half empty. We continue to have amazing young families and wonderful children in our Meeting. These young people bring new ideas and new energy. But, as is the nature of our modern life and the natural life cycles, young families and growing children move on to follow their life paths, having enriched all of our lives. Then, wonderful surprise, new young families find their way to our door.

A continuing concern, of course, is Meeting attendance. We have Friends who travel to come to Meeting; we have Friends with busy lives and family obligations. We are so grateful for those who come to Meeting and participate in our Meeting community any way they can. We need everyone.

In all of this we recognize that God’s presence is felt in ways beyond words.

Approved 2/12/12

Submitted by Clerk Annie McPherson