

**Gainesville Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends
Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business
11 Third Month 2012**

ATTENDING: Dick Beardsley, Gene Beardsley, Bu Brennan, Sybil Brennan, Jean Larson, Sandy Lyon, Bill Mitchell, Mona Morris, Walter Morris, Betty Odum, Karen Porter, Connie Ray, Tim Ray, Don Smith, Laura Winefordner, Cheryl Demers-Holton, Acting Clerk, Gary Arthur, Recorder

Meeting opened with worship.
The second month minutes were read and approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

Report from the Ad Hoc Committee on SEYM Budget by Shawna Daran:

The committee brought a minute of concern regarding recent SEYM budget cuts of 21.5% from our YM contributions to organizations and increases in the YM Secretary's salary over recent years.

We heard a concern for maintaining a fair wage and benefits package for our secretary. Concerns were expressed over the budget, especially with regard to the recent upgrade of the SEYM newsletter to a journal and a desire not only to maintain but to increase our contributions to organizations.

The minute was approved, and Friends asked that it be sent to the 3 Yearly Meeting Clerks and to all SEYM Meetings.

2012.3.10: Gainesville Meeting recommends to SEYM the reduction of the position of YM secretary from full-time to two-thirds time, with the understanding that the reduction will be made in the areas of publications and web services.

We propose this change be considered for implementation in the budget to be adopted for FY 2014, to be approved at YM Gathering in Spring 2013, giving the change time for seasoning.

Further, with regard to Budget FY2013, we urge SEYM trustees to maintain our current level of donations to organizations through use of moneys from the SEYM Trustees Funds.

TREASURER'S REPORT by Bill Mitchell:

General Fund Balance: \$11,555.10
Contingency Fund Balance: \$20,000.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT by Sybil Brennan:

In the upcoming Nominating Committee report, we can expect several changes to be recommended. First, that the Budget Committee be renamed the Finance Committee. The committee would be responsible for creating the budget along with supporting the treasurer and adding new funds and line items. Next, Ministry and Nurture Committee will remain, but a Pastoral Care Committee would be named, as well. The Reading Group would be named a separate committee from Library Committee, and its responsibilities would include adult Quaker Education. Responding to a request for creating the position of Meeting Archivist, the duty of archiving hard copies of minutes and other "scrap book" material would be given to the Clerk of Library Committee and Assistant Recording Clerk. All other committee categories would remain the same.

Ministry and Nurture Committee has been asked to seek clarity on the Meeting's need to reactivate the Meeting Handbook.

FIRST DAY SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORT by Sandy Lyon:

Sandy described recent activities and plans by the committee and much appreciation was expressed for her committee's work. The full report can be found as an addendum to this report.

2012.3.11: Appreciation was expressed for Sandy Lyon's inspired leadership of the First Day School Committee.

PEACE AND SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE REPORT by Tim Ray:

The minute on support of the Occupy Movement, having been seasoned by the committee was brought back, read and approved.

2012.3.12: Minute for Support of the Occupy Movement

Gainesville Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) is grateful to the Occupy Wall Street movement for elevating national debate to include greater consideration for global economic and social justice, and to our local Occupy Gainesville movement for seeking practical ways to strengthen these values here in our community.

As Friends, we add our voices, affirming that speaking truth and striving for equality are consistent with our long-standing Quaker testimonies. Friends believe that there is that of God in every person. Occupy demonstrators have -

through nonviolent protest, consensus-based decision-making, and inclusive assembly - expressed a faith in the worth of all people that is consistent with our Quaker values. They have also expressed a trust in the world's willingness to listen, and to respond with courage. As Quakers, we respond by listening, by seeking the ways in which we are called to respond as individuals, and by opposing any endeavor to silence those who are exercising their right to speak truth.

We share with the Occupy movement a longing for a society with political, social, and economic institutions in place that sustain and enrich all forms of life on the planet. We look toward a just and equitable world where all people live and thrive in the virtue of the life and power that take away the occasion for war.

2012.3.13: Gainesville Friends appreciate the work done by Jen Ambrose Cotter and Peace and Social Concerns Committee to complete our Meeting's Minute on Support of the Occupy Movement.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE REPORT by Walter Morris:

Our dish sanitizer is broken and repair parts are unavailable, thereby creating the need for purchasing a new unit. Since local building code requires us to meet restaurant standards, a professional model is required.

2012.3.14: Gainesville Friends Meeting authorizes Building, Grounds and Landscaping Committee to purchase a professional quality dishwasher at a cost of up to and not more than \$6000.

The committee was asked to relocate the garbage disposal to the opposite sink as part of the installation of the new unit.

Noting that our contingency fund balance will be lowered by this action, Finance Committee is asked to confer with our treasurer to determine how that fund is replenished.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Social Concerns Committee invites Friends to attend a meeting sponsored by PICO United Florida, a network of Florida Churches, to be held on Thursday, March 15 at Mt. Carmel Baptist Church in Gainesville. The gathering will provide an opportunity for sharing stories about how Gainesville families are affected by poverty and income disparity.

Meeting Calendar:

Saturday March 24: Meeting-wide Retreat on Building Unity and Trust will be held on Saturday, March 24. Our leader will be Mary Ann Downey, a

Friend from Atlanta, Georgia Monthly Meeting. Mary has served as clerk of meeting, as well as clerk of other meeting committees including Ministry and Worship. Her Meeting supports her leading to facilitate retreats for other meetings, and she is sponsored by the Traveling Ministries Program of Friends General Conference. This will be an interactive workshop, focused on building the community's foundation for decision-making and Quaker process with emphasis on our spiritual journeys and the naming of gifts. As Mary Ann puts it, the more we know each other and recognize the gifts we bring, the more we're apt to grow in unity and trust.

Sunday March 25: A follow-up forum on the retreat, led by Mary Ann Downey.

Sunday April 1: Forum on the plight of Florida's Immokalee Farm Workers.

Sunday April 15: Our next Business Meeting will be held Third Sunday of April, as the second Sunday is Easter, and various members will be at YM Gathering.

Sunday May 6: (Earth-care Witness Forum) Mary Dewey will talk about her work in the Community Garden. A trip to the garden will follow.

Saturday April 28: Meeting Work Day.

Meeting closed with a period of silent worship.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary Arthur, Recording Clerk

ADDENDUMS

FIRST DAY SCHOOL UPDATE:

Our First Day room is now better able to accommodate our growing Young Friends and new Wee Friends. Earlier this month, four student size chairs were delivered and unpacked with great delight. The boxes were played with immediately; the chairs will serve us well for many years. A walk through gate was installed at the doorway to keep our Wee Friends from wandering. We now have washable rugs in front of the dollhouse and toy cubby.

We are increasing our efforts to more deliberately teach Quaker testimonies, faith, process and practice. In addition to continuing to have an adult from the meeting share a story or short program as part for First Day School, we will be sending friendly letters. Once a month our families with children will

receive a Friendly Letter talking about some aspect of being a Quaker. The letters will be printed on attractive paper, mailed or e-mailed and archived on the web page. We will also keep a notebook of the letters in the First Day room.

We are increasing opportunities for our Young Friends and their families to participate in service learning projects. We have a colorful list of our testimonies and will soon have a poster Choose to Make a Difference and a resource book, Doing Good Together.

While we may not be able to offer the comprehensive kinds of youth programs like larger congregations or faith communities can, we can move forward and better use the gifts within our meeting to nurture our children in word and deed.

The sign up sheets for both the weekly storyteller and caregiver as well as the monthly letter writer are on the bulletin board in the First Day room.

Sandy Lyon Clerk, First Day School