

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

ATTENDING: Jen Ambrose Gene Beardsley, Cheryl Demers-Holton, Shawna Doran, Jean Larson, Sandy Lyon, Mona Morris, Walter Morris, Betty Odum, Connie Ray, Tim Ray, Laura Winefordner, Annie McPherson Clerk, Gary Arthur, Recorder

Meeting opened with worship.

The ninth month minutes were read and approved.

NEWSLETTER by Jen Ambrose:

A subscription form for the electronic newsletter has been included on the Meeting website. Requests may also include receipt of various electronic updates.

There is currently a delay on receiving the print version of the newsletter. This should be rectified by December. 75% of the Meeting receives the electronic version of the newsletter.

A Meeting Events Calendar has been added to the front page of the website.

MINISTRY AND NURTURE COMMITTEE by Cheryl Demers-Holton:

2012.10.31: Gainesville Friends Meeting joyfully approves the membership of Jen Ambrose and son, Hoyt Cotter.

A welcome potluck party for Jen and Hoyt is scheduled for Sunday, October 14, 2012.

TREASURER'S REPORT by Jean Larson:

General Fund Balance: \$8,691.87

Contingency Fund Balance: \$16,906.86

SEYM INTERIM BUSINESS MEETING REPORT:

Several Gainesville Friends attended last weekend's SEYM Executive Committee Meeting and the Yearly Meeting Interim Business Meeting on the following day.

Jean Larson reported on Gainesville Meeting's effort to communicate concerns to the Yearly Meeting over its priorities and finances. The minute we approved at the eighth month business meeting (2012.8.26; included in agenda) was read there, and EC approved a revised version to the satisfaction of Gainesville Friends.

Also at that meeting, Jean Larson submitted a report from Gainesville Meeting's forum on Yearly Meeting finances, which is included here as an addendum. The Yearly

Meeting acknowledged the report and suggested we send it out to all Meetings in SEYM, which we approved doing.

Friends present at interim business meeting also reported on some discussion about the YM Secretary's job description and possible changes there. SEYM plans to send a document out to all YM Meetings seeking input on that job description before the end of November. Gainesville Friends will have the opportunity to offer input on the subject at a forum scheduled for November 4, 2012.

A related forum to discuss our own meeting finances was scheduled for December 2, 2012.

Shawna Doran reported that SEYM Peace and Social Concerns Committee aims to improve communication between Meetings by implementing monthly committee calls via both internet and phone links, which will provide a means for local meetings to keep informed on concerns throughout the yearly meeting.

Finally, Sandy Lyon reported that the SEYM youth are actively involved in learning about the Imokolee Farm Workers efforts to receive fair trade wages for picking tomatoes in Florida. Meetings will be hearing more about ways to support our yearly meeting youth in this project. SEYM youth will not be having a work camp in the Gainesville area in 2013, as they want to continue the momentum they have in advocating these fair wage tomatoes in Publix supermarkets. Sandy Lyon will work through our meeting's Peace and Social Concerns Committee as this project moves forward.

PASTORAL CARE COMMITTEE REPORT by Gene Beardsley:

Dick and Gene Beardsley visited Amy Van de Porten, who has been receiving home care during her convalescence.

Dick and Gene are also visiting Hap Taylor every 2 weeks and taking her out for shopping and errands.

It was discussed that a job description for the Pastoral Care Committee is still pending.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE REPORT by Walter Morris:

2012.10.31: Meeting approves an agreement with Ross and Scott X-ceptional Cleaning Services to clean the meetinghouse twice monthly at a cost of \$150 per month.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. The Meeting Christmas party has been tentatively scheduled for December 16 after meeting for worship.
2. The Meeting Simple Gifts Bazaar will be held on November 17, 2012.

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

ADDENDA:

MINUTE FROM 8TH MONTH, 2012.8.26: Gainesville Friends Meeting recommends that SEYM require Monthly Meetings to submit their membership lists by January 31, and that at the annual gathering the Finance Committee present the SEYM budget along with the apportionments based on those membership lists.

Gainesville Friends Meeting Report to SEYM Executive Committee 10/05/12:

Gainesville Friends met on 9/16/2012 with a goal of envisioning the future of SEYM, with particular attention to fiscal matters. We value SEYM, and our priorities/expectations of SEYM are

- Communication among the meetings
- Making connections between Quakers
- Hanging on to young people
- Help with outreach
- Travel, inter-visitation

The meeting was convened to talk about the SEYM budget as a preliminary to a later forum on how Gainesville Friends Meeting spends its money. We noted that 38% of our monthly meeting budget goes to SEYM, and that portion has increased very significantly in the past several years as the SEYM budget increased. We started with a review of benefits, activities and products of SEYM and a brief overview of the 2012-2013 SEYM budget.

\$64,673	Administration (\$50,730 salary, taxes, benefits, travel for secretary)
1,400	Committees
9,260	Donations to organizations (\$4,000 for ProNica)
9,650	Youth, travel, contingency
\$84,983	Total

The budgets for Half Yearly Meeting and for the annual gathering are not included in the budget we approve because those gatherings are self supported. If they were included the administrative costs would be a smaller percentage of the Yearly Meeting budget.

We noted that many donations were in the \$100 to \$500 dollar range, FGC and FWCC received donations of \$1,200-1,450, and ProNica \$4,000. We thought of most of the funding as token funding, since the amounts are small relative to the budgets of the organizations. They are signposts of organizations we look to for speakers and presenters at our gatherings and our donations encourage further donations by individuals and monthly meetings. We raised the possibility of encouragement funding, say limited to a 3 year period, to help groups start new projects and emergency funding authorized on a one time basis, and thought it would be useful to have a process of review of donation

funding that involved monthly meetings prior to a final decision at the annual gathering. We noted that more than half of the SEYM budget as presented is for the SEYM Secretary and we understand she has announced her intention to resign at the end of the fiscal year or after the annual gathering. We would like clarity on the date when we will need a new secretary. We have shared with the sub-committee of EC that is working on a revised job description for the secretary some of our thoughts and have developed some queries for the Executive Committee related to this process.

Gainesville Friends Meeting has a different fiscal year from SEYM, and other meetings may as well. SEYM encouraged all meetings to have their meetings for business on 2nd First Days so that communication would flow more smoothly. We would like SEYM and monthly meetings to consider having all monthly meetings on the same fiscal year so that we can come to the annual gathering prepared to make decisions about financial matters. Here is a possible schedule:

Aug/Sept - SEYM contacts Meetings for membership information.

Oct/Nov - proposed apportionment and budgets are developed based on membership information and needs of SEYM

Meetings move to a calendar year and approve budgets that start January 1 and report on new officers who start January 1.

Winter Business Meeting - SEYM looks at proposed budget for the YM and Meetings bring their approved budgets

Annual Gathering – The budget is brought up for approval.

The process used by the Faith and Practice Committee for the development of that document is one applicable in other situations and we commend it to you: start with an initial drafting language in the summer, seasoning it at Fall Interim Business Meeting, sending it to monthly meetings for comment, followed by revision at Winter Interim Business Meeting based on the feedback, and presentation for approval at the annual gathering.

Queries for Monthly Meetings:

What do the monthly meetings most want from SEYM?

How can each monthly meeting assist with the work and growth of SEYM?

What process can we put in place to facilitate communication between SEYM and monthly meetings, and among monthly meetings?

How can monthly meetings and SEYM work together with our different fiscal years?
How can we make sure that SEYM has the information needed from the monthly meetings in the timely manner needed for determining the apportionment?

What process can we develop for discerning any modifications to our annual donations to organizations?

What practices for drawing in and keeping young people in our meetings? What practices can we adopt for outreach in general?

How can we encourage fellowship between Quakers across SEYM?

Benefits of SEYM:

Institutional Legitimacy for Meetings and Members

SEYM Faith and Practice (F & P Committee)

Website listing of meetings, SEYM resources, calendar, announcements

Vetting process for those caring for youth

Membership in Friends General Conference

Membership in FL Council of Churches

Visitation program for meetings (M & N)

List of available SEYM workshop presenters (YM Gathering Committee)

Pastoral Care for those who ask for help outside their meetings (M & N)

Support of Quaker related organizations and Florida social justice groups

Networking around Yearly Meeting Committees:

Earth Care, Racism, P & SC, Racism, Worship & Ministry/Nurture

Networking through SEYM reps to Quaker & social justice organizations, support of representative travel

Annual contributions to AFSC, AFSC-SERO, Earlham School Religion,

FCNL, QEW, FGC, Friends Journal, Friends Peace Teams, FUM

FWCC, Pendle Hill, ProNica, Quaker Life, QUNO, William Penn House

FL Coalition for P & J, FL Council of Churches, Florida Impact

(resources for lecture series, YM Gatherings, youth activities)

Activities and Products of SEYM:

FIBM (Executive Committee, Interim Business Meeting Clerk)

Half Yearly Meeting (HYM Gathering Committee)

YM Gathering with Walton Lecture (YM Gathering Committee +? Youth Committee?)

WIBM with Mitchner Lecture (Executive Committee, WIBM Clerk)

Special Teen Initiative (Youth Committee)

Directory of meetings (SEYM membership recorder, defunct pub committee)

SEYM Faith and Practice (Faith and Practice Committee)

Pamphlets from Mitchner, Walton Lectures (defunct pub. committee)

Newsletter/SEYM Journal

Certification of Registered SEYM Youth Program Workers

Website: links to meetings, calendar, announcements, Faith and Practice,

Electronic registration for Gatherings