

Gainesville Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends
Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business
10 3rd Month 2013

ATTENDING: Dick Beardsley, Gene Beardsley, Shawna Doran, Jean Larson, Sandy Lyon, Bill Mitchell, Walter Morris, Mona Morris, Betty Odum, Connie Ray, Tim Ray, Arnold Van der Porten, Laura Winefordner, Cheryl Demers-Holton, Acting Clerk, Gary Arthur, Recorder

Meeting opened with worship.

The 2nd month 2013 minutes were read and approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT by Bill Mitchell:

General Fund Balance: \$9,437.20

Contingency Fund Balance: \$19,464.86

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE REPORT by Mona Morris:

The following events are planned:

1. St. Patrick's Dinner, 3/16/13
2. Outdoor Worship 3/17/13. Pot luck lunch to celebrate Meeting Anniversary
3. Meeting workday 3/23/13
4. Welcome celebration for Morrie Trimmer's wife, Gui Ying 3/24/13
5. Forum on Gun Control, 1PM, 4/7/13. Tim Ray leading; invitation to be extended to Mennonite Fellowship.
6. Quaker Dinner 4/20/13. A "Get Acquainted Dinner" as a time of welcoming new members and attenders.
7. Pizza and Game Night, 4/27/13
8. Lunch for Meeting Retreat Day, 5/4/13
9. 5/18/13 Quaker Dinner to celebrate Earth Care Witness, emphasis on Local Foods, program to include showing of the film, "3/11"

Prayerful attention was given to the request from Bill Rapp of Lake Wales, who wants to visit Gainesville to work on the SEYM archives at UF. The following minute was approved:

GFM2013.3.6: Meeting approves offering hospitality to Bill Rapp of Lake Wales for three nights' use of the meetinghouse for a place to stay while he works on SEYM archives housed at University of Florida.

SPIRITUAL STATE OF THE MEETING REPORT by Cheryl Demers-Holton:

A first draft of the report was shared. Connie Ray agreed to draft the final document, which she will forward to Annie McPherson and Cheryl for proofreading / editing. Upon

completion, the report will be sent to Cheryl, who will make 75 copies to carry with her to the YM Gathering to share with other Meetings. The first draft is included here as an addendum.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT by Laura Winefordner:

A budget worksheet was distributed and reviewed. Comments were shared over amounts of donations for organizations and committees. Social Concerns Committee was asked to bring more information about Action Network / PICO in order for Friends to discern the recommended contribution to that organization.

Regarding our Yearly Meeting finances, a letter to Ann Jerome, SEYM Executive Committee, was read. It asks that the 6-week overlap of salaries for the incoming and outgoing secretaries be reduced to 2 weeks.

PEACE AND SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE REPORT by Tim Ray:

The committee is presently concerned with the issue of "wage theft" in Alachua County. The concern arises over hourly wage earners being asked to do extra work without being compensated for their time. Since there is no Florida State Labor Department to deal with the situation, a local task force is working to develop a County ordinance to deal with the problem.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT by Jean Larson:

GFM2013.3.7: Meeting approves the addition of both Shawna Doran and Gene Beardsley to Earth Care Witness Committee. Laura Winefortner is approved to be the new Corresponding Secretary.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. **CALENDAR:** Saturday, March 16, 6:00pm St. Patrick's Day Dinner: Irish blessing, Celtic notions and Irish food
Sunday, March 17, 9:30am Singing; 11:00am Outside Meeting for Worship: bring chairs
Monday, March 18, 9:00am Deadline- news for Newsletter
Saturday, March 23, 9:00am Spring Cleaning Workday
Sunday, March 24, 9:30am Peace & Social Concerns Committee Meeting
Wednesday, March 27 to Sunday, March 31, SEYM Annual Gathering
Tuesday, April 2, 11:30am Friendly Lunch
Sunday, April 7, 12:45pm Forum: Quakers for Gun Control
2. **KEEP AMERICA BEAUTIFUL** National Work Day. Jean Larson will lead a group to pick up trash on the Meeting property, including our nearby tributary to Hogtown Creek. Volunteers may contact Jean for more info and to sign up.
3. **CONCERN WAS EXPRESSED** regarding announcements after meeting for worship.

That concern and one for beginning business meeting promptly at 12:45 were sent to Ministry and Nurture Committee.

4. COFFEE ROTATION is posted on large table on left as you enter social room.

Meeting closed with a period of silent worship.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary Arthur, Recording Clerk

ADDENDUM:

DRAFT, GAINESVILLE FRIENDS MEETING SPIRITUAL STATE OF THE MEETING REPORT:

Gainesville Friends gathered February 3rd to worship together and share the Light in response to the Queries from Southeastern Yearly Meeting Ministry and Worship Committee. This is the basis for our State of our Meeting Report.

- How well do our meetings for worship with a concern for business lead to a corporate search for and revelation of God's truth?
- How does the spirit of worship extend into our committee work and into meeting for worship with a concern for business?
 - From one Friend... "Revelation of God's Truth in business meeting is kind of heavy....eternal God's truth? Does God care how we spend our money?"
 - We have become more efficient in doing work in committees and bringing Minutes to the Meeting.
 - This year we have looked beyond our own Meeting's work to look at SEYM and our relationship with SEYM.
 - There is a spirit of listening in business meeting. Friends gather to listen to each other and find Spirit together.
 - There is less spirit of contention and more of a good sense of corporate seeking.
 - Committees spend time on their work and their interactions with each other and meetings become more worshipful. When things are worked on in committees, Meeting has trust that it has been threshed and seasoned. It is easier in monthly Meeting for Business.
- What was our meeting's witness in the wider community in the last year?
 - Meeting has been fortunate to have a clerk of our Peace and Social Concerns Committee that has led the Meeting in taking a wider witness in our community. We are more in touch and faithful to the wider local faith and peace community.
 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day march had some Quakers attend, but not many. We should be more present in this march every year.
 - We had outreach tables at the University of Florida, Santa

Fe Community College, the Bo Diddly Downtown Plaza events, Religious Diversity week, and participated in the PRIDE festival.

- We have a silent but faithful witness of members who contribute to folks in need. It is beautiful!

- The Meeting is very welcoming to newcomers (said by a new member). The silence is profound and messages speak to our condition.

- We placed ads/announcement about our Meeting in newsletters, programs and on the radio.

- How do we support each other as members of this beloved community?

- The Meeting has a feeling and spiritual quality that supports each person. This spiritual support is so important.

- We are interested in each other and care for each other. We keep track of folks and interact regularly. There is a sense that Meeting is a part of our everyday lives.

- Sense of sharing – we share rides, ask for help, care for each other when we are sick, share and want to know about our families. We question and are concerned when we don't see someone.

- We have a newly formed Pastoral Care Committee.

- Do we do enough to listen and help? It can hurt when we do not extend ourselves to others in Meeting. We can always do a better job.

- How has our meeting for worship or other meeting activities nurtured our spiritual growth?

- We had a retreat this year that nurtured us and that was very meaningful.

- We had a Forum "Living Our Convictions" led by Karen Porter, that discussed a Friends Journal article by Nadine Hoover.

- We go to Ocala to worship with Friends.

- Meeting for Worship is key to our spiritual growth.

Attendance at worship is so important. Friends expressed the personal need to worship together and commented that it is always fulfilling. It is something that is bigger than our individual selves.

- "I feel different after participating in worship with Friends. I can't imagine life without it."

- "I go to worship for myself and my spiritual life"

- "Worship is a mystery...no corrections or cross talk...it is a mystery and it happens. How? We don't know."

- When we gather together to read and discuss articles, pamphlets, ideas etc., it nurtures our spirit.

- "I enjoy every minute of children in worship. Their innocence warms the cochols of my heart".

- Friends expressed gratitude for Meeting for Worship.

- Meeting nurtures our children and this helps spread our Quaker values and presence out into the world.

- When Nadine Hoover came to talk with us about Friends Peace Teams it nurtured our Meeting.
 - Worship is foundational.
 - Has there been a deepening and strengthening of the sense of the Divine Presence in our midst during the past year? Do we feel a sense of our individual spirits fusing into an undivided group as we worship? Do we leave our meetings filled with a sense of love and peace and courage to meet the challenge of Spirit filled living?
 - Most cases, it is peace and love. Sometimes you can get agitated and upset from worship. The feeling of the presence of God may not always be peaceful. Sometimes it shakes things up.
 - The presence of God is not always felt. That is OK.
 - Where do you find hope in the meeting and in our spiritual life?
 - I find hope at 1st Day School and when retirement brochures are being distributed. This can bring both elders and children to Meeting. This strengthens Meeting.
 - Hope is intrinsic to a spiritual life. It is built in automatically.
 - “When I first came to Meeting, I was in awe of Quakers and Quaker history. But now, I find hope in hearing stories of the struggles of Friends now. I find hope in hearing about the everyday struggles of living. The Meeting has been a support through all my trials”.
 - It’s one foot in front of the other. We accept what happens. If 2 people show up for an activity, that is great....no criticism, no stress. We are happy. Hope calls us to be faithful to our leadings and concerns. It is not dependent on other people’s participation.
 - It is a comfort to come to Meeting when we live in a troubled conflicted world. Meeting is an oasis. This gives me hope – it is a wellspring of hope.
 - How is God’s presence being experienced in our meeting?
 - We find something in Meeting....inclusive and warm. If that is not God’s presence, what is?
 - When I leave Meeting, I feel that I spent time at the Well. I feel better, more fulfilled.
 - The children’s program is a good example to God’s presence.
 - It is refreshing to be a part of a spiritual community that works together despite differences. This is God’s presence. We do not give up on each other. We are aware of each other’s shortcomings, yet we advocate for each other.
 - Self acceptance!! Lifts depression.
 - God can liberate us from bad feelings and gives freedom.
- Our questions are answered.
- Agape – we have lots of it.
 - Are there places where the meeting isn’t reaching fully for the

Light?

- We could do better reaching out to the wider community. We need to grow. How are we going to grow? We need more “save the planet” activism.
- Individual leadings energize us. We need to do more to encourage folks with leadings. It makes our Meeting vital.
- Social issues impact all parts of our Meeting – all committees. Our Fundraising Committee was moved to organize a gun control protest. Concerns have no committee boundaries. We need to not be restricted or limited by protocol.
- We need to put the name “Quaker” out in the community.
- We need to take more advantage of Quaker resources; like Friends Journal, educational resources and materials.
- We need someone to take up the mantel and be more active in Quaker Earthcare Witness. We need more focus here.
- Do you have other reflections on the current condition of the meeting—places where you see new life emerging, loss or sadness that you want to share?
 - Births: SHAWNA
 - Deaths: SHAWNA
 - New members: Jen Ambrose and her son Hoyt Cotter, John Schoonbeck – transfer from New Paltz Meeting.
 - There is a shift in First Day School. We have more toddlers and less school age children. The caregivers who offer to help with the children find that they share with each other and it is like a meeting for worship. We have new equipment, larger chairs, a changing table and a new floor for the children’s room. Meeting is very supportive of the children’s program.
 - Our retreat this year had low attendance. We hope to have more Friends with us this coming up year.
 - We have new folks attending Meeting. It is encouraging.
- Especially in this time of economic uncertainty, are we taking stock of the meeting’s financial health and planning for ways to help those in need?
 - We appreciate the work of the Finance Committee who looked at our meeting finances, donations and distribution. We are mindful of the economy and Friend’s ability/inability to contribute.
 - We are being proactive and prudent.
 - We are fortunate to have a treasurer who has been in that position many years. It brings us stability.
- What has already and would nourish you in our meeting?
 - Quaker dinners. We get together and eat and have fun. It nourishes us in many ways. It encourages us to not take ourselves so seriously.
- What do I need to say about our meeting?
 - Our Nominating Committee has been creative and flexible..really looking outside the box. Friends allowed to share gifts to

the Meeting in ways they can give them.

- “I love the way Meeting has been lovingly adaptive”
- Everyone chips in.
- Greeters have been very helpful. It is wonderful to come to Meeting and be formally greeted – newcomers and oldcomers alike. They also close Meeting for Worship.
 - The use of our kitchen is on the honor system. It is carefree (mostly) and everyone does what has to be done.
 - Meeting every year to answer these queries for the Spiritual State of the Meeting report is a great experience for our Meeting. It has been enjoyable and brings us closer together. A loving listening spirit is the room.
 - Thanks to SEYM M&W Committee for preparing these queries.