

Gainesville Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends
Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business
14, Fourth Month, 2013

ATTENDING: Dick Beardsley, Gene Beardsley, Sybil Brennan, Shawna Doran, Elizabeth Franco, Sandy Lyon, Bill Mitchell, Walter Morris, Mona Morris, Betty Odum, Connie Ray, Tim Ray, Laura Winefordner, Cheryl Demers-Holton, Annie McPherson, Clerk, Gary Arthur, Recorder

Meeting opened with worship.
The 3rd month 2013 minutes were read and approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT by Bill Mitchell:
General Fund Balance: \$12,918.29
Contingency Fund Balance: \$19,964.86

Bill shared the news that having been transferred to Alarion Bank, our Checking Account at Wells Fargo Bank has been closed.

He suggested that some monies from the checking account be moved to Friends Fiduciary Fund. Finance Committee will consider.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT by Laura Winefordner:
Several items regarding next year's budget were mentioned and input requested. They included: our yearly contribution to Southeastern Yearly Meeting; our contribution to Pro Nica; whether or not to include the donation to PICO (People Improving Communities through Organizing) as a line item; and amounts to be donated to Quaker organizations.

The final budget will be brought for approval next month.

SEYM GATHERING REPORT by Cheryl Demers-Holton
The report is included in the addendum.
Attending the Gathering this year from our Meeting were Tim and Connie Ray, Cheryl Demers-Holton, Betty Odum, Shawna Doran, Jean Larson, Laura Winefordner, Sandy Lyon, Sybil Brennan, Catherine Puckett and daughter, Cecilia Haecker, the Beardsleys' granddaughter, Ella Johnson, and Gary Arthur.

Several comments were shared by Friends here who attended and appreciated various workshops and opportunities to interact with Friends from other Meetings in our Yearly Meeting.

MINISTRY AND NURTURE COMMITTEE REPORT by Cheryl Demers-Holton:
Our Meeting Spring Retreat is scheduled for 5/4/2013 from 9:30 to 4:00. Friend, Nancy Fennell from Fort Myers Meeting will lead us.

Ministry and Nurture thanks members who offer to be greeters and asks they take responsibility for limiting greetings after rise of meeting to 3 or 4 minutes. Calling the room to order with the word "Friends" repeated a few times is generally all it takes.

The committee has put together an inquirer's packet, which includes 3 pamphlets that explain Quakerism and the process for meeting membership. M and N Committee members will distribute the packet to new regular attenders.

Rather than send approved meeting for worship with concern for business minutes out to a group of interested people or to the whole meeting list, M&N suggests sending the minutes to Connie Ray, who will post them on the meeting bulletin board .

M&N suggests that meeting for worship with a concern for business start at 12:45. The idea will receive further discussion.

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE REPORT by Mona Morris:

A request for overnight hospitality was received from 3 Friends traveling through Gainesville on their way from Maine to Fort Myers. Gary Arthur offered to host.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Sybil Brennan requested support for SEYM youth who plan to attend the upcoming Friends General Conference. The following minute was approved:

GFM2013.4.8: Meeting Approves sending a check for \$300 to SEYM for the "FGC Youth Event" to support our Yearly Meeting youth attending FGC Gathering in Colorado in July of this year. The youth will carry their concern and present a workshop on advocacy, stemming from their work supporting fair trade wages paid to Immokolee Farm Workers for picking tomatoes.

Meeting was asked to hold in the Light Ann Sunberg and Rolf Hanson, SEYM Youth Program leaders and daughters Kate and Lis. The family will travel together to FGC Gathering this July.

Gainesville Friends who have been demonstrating on Fridays for gun control legislation feel they've communicated their support of gun control and have discontinued the effort for now.

Friends wishing to include announcements in the Meeting Newsletter are asked to email details to Betty Odum or Jean Larson.

Our next Quaker Quest Discussion will take place on June 15 at the Buskirk's home in St. Augustine. There's the opportunity to go to the beach before potluck at 4:30 PM. A

discussion on the pamphlet, "Twelve Quakers and Faith" will take place after eating. Copies of the pamphlet are available from Connie Ray for a donation of \$7.

Tim Ray announced that Action Network / PICO-United Florida will visit us on May 5 at 1 PM to share with us their concern for wage disparity here in Alachua County.

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

ADDENDA:

REPORT FROM SEYM GATHERING, 2013

The theme for the Gathering was Friends Leading: Climate Change – A Crisis of Spirit, led by Roy H. Taylor III. Roy is a member of the Atlanta Friends meeting and rising clerk of Quaker Earthcare Witness. The first night we were introduced to Green Building for Homes and Meeting House, learning that the first and most important investment we can make in the greening of our dwellings is a case of caulk to seal our buildings inside and out. On Friday, we learned how to introduce transition to our cities and towns with community garden projects, one-step at a time.

During our meeting for worship with a concern for business, we spent time in discernment on our charitable donations and how best to offer resources to the diverse list of groups that speak to our passions. Jean Larson shared with the Meeting the Bean exercise our meeting did when looking at our own budget.

There was a diverse offering of workshops. There was writing, drawing, laughing and chanting. We shared Quakerism basics, First Day School challenges, translating worship into action with our business meetings, and examining how Quakers can become enablers. There were reports from the world conference in Kenya and on the work being done by FCNL, FGC and AFSC. Each workshop session offered at least one, usually two, workshops on our relationship to the earth and our responsibility to be good stewards, remembering the earth is a gift to be shared. And what would a gathering be without a plethora of committee meetings?

Our Young Adult Quakers returned this year to renew bonds and bless us with their energy. Offering service, comfort and love, they set up a spot in the front of the auditorium to wash feet on Thursday.

This year we were 168 in all, 15 coming for the first time.

The Healing Center offered peace and quiet with Reiki and tea.

The Faith and No-Practice Band once again brought us an intergenerational dance. With the help of Gary, we learned the steps to dance the night away.

Our own Faith and Practice, developed over a period of twenty-three years, is finished and will be available in book form by the end of April 2013. The e-book version will be available for Kindle or Nook from amazon.com and Barnes and Noble.com. We believe it will be the first electronic version of Faith and Practice in the United States.

The Yearly Meeting continues its support of ProNica.

Our consciousness was raised by a dramatic production by our youth explaining the plight of the Immokalee farm workers and the campaign to bring fair wage tomatoes to

Publix and other local supermarkets. They will be taking their concern to the Friends General Conference Gathering this summer.

Next year the theme will be Quakerism and Our Testimonies in the 21st Century with Brent Bill.