

Gainesville Friends Meeting  
Monthly Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

10 Second month, 2019

Jean Larson, clerk

Eleven Friends present

Peter Harrell read the Queries and Advices for 2nd month.

The proposed agenda was presented and additions/adjustments made.

The meeting settled into silent worship.

The minutes from the January 13 meeting were read and approved as presented. They will be sent to Bonnie for the website.

Gail Stallings read the Earthcare Committee report (attached.) Next week there will be forum with the Immokalee farmworkers.

Shawna Doran presented the Finance Committee report (attached.)

Finance Committee proposes that PayPal be used to allow electronic donations to the meeting. Friends who carried the concern for PayPal practices in Palestine were satisfied with the information provided. Friends were also interested in the costs associated with using PayPal.

There was a first reading of the following minutes from the Finance Committee.

*Gainesville Friends Meeting approves providing a way for a way for contributors to donate money electronically to the Meeting by adding a button on our website.*

*Gainesville Friends Meeting approves using PayPal to provide service for donating money to the meeting.*

Friends agreed to hold the minutes for a month when perhaps more Friends will be present.

Bonnie presented the Ministry and Nurture Committee report (attached.) Peter Harrell has been added to the Nominating Committee. Walter Morris is creating a chart to show which committee(s) need to be consulted for various interests or concerns.

**GFM MINUTE 2019.3** *Gainesville Friends Meeting joyfully welcomes Helen Hooley into membership by transfer. Approved.*

**GFM MINUTE 2019.4** *Gainesville Friends Meeting will spend \$400 for John Calvi to present a workshop March 15-16. Additional donations may be made for this workshop. The funds are to come from the Ministry and Nurture line item with additional funds from Inreach/Outreach. Approved.*

Friends discussed where funds could come from for the retreat. Inreach/Outreach committee also has funds. Shawna observed that the fiscal year ends May 31.

Bonnie will talk to Mona Morris about hospitality for the retreat.

**GFM MINUTE 2019.5** *Gainesville Friends Meeting will spend \$100 to rent the lodge at Poe Springs on April 27 for a Meeting Retreat. The funds are to come from the Ministry and Nurture line item. Approved*

The ad hoc committee for the retreat program is Bonnie Zimmer, Arun Blatchley, Ellie Clayton, and Gail Stallings

Bonnie Zimmer presented the Outreach Committee report. Doris Nabors and June Beverly have volunteered to serve on a committee to coordinate an event in conjunction with national Fellowship of Quakers in the Arts. Bonnie Zimmer will also serve on the committee. If others are interested, they should contact Doris.

Bonnie presented the Treasurer's report on behalf of Annie McPhearson. The transition of treasurer from Bill Mitchell to Annie has been accomplished.

**GFM MINUTE 2019.6** *Gainesville Friends Meeting thanks Bill Mitchell for his many years of service as the treasurer of our Meeting. We appreciate his steadfast commitment to our spiritual community. Approved*

Gene Beardsley reported that we collected \$550 for the Guatemalan scholarship fund.

Bonnie presented the Spiritual State of the Meeting Report (attached). Bonnie and Jean Larson drafted the Spiritual State of the Meeting Report. The meeting accepts the report rather than approves it. The report is sent to SEYM and is included in the annual directory.

Announcements: Jean made the announcements and read the calendar. There has been a request from Earthcare to consider having a screen in the Worship room, because showing a video in the social room has had issues. Ministry and Nurture needs to begin the discernment about making a change in the Worship room. The meeting is in agreement with sending the concern to Ministry and Nurture.

We read the approved, numbered minutes. The meeting settled into worship.

1. Finance Committee: Committee clerks are requested to submit budget requests for fiscal year 2019-2020 by the end of February.
2. March 15-16: John Calvi Workshop
3. April 27: Meeting Retreat

## **Calendar of Events**

### **February 2019**

#### **Tuesday, February 12**

12:00 pm Friendly Lunch - at the Meeting House

#### **Sunday, February 17**

9:40 am Peace and Social Concerns Committee

1:00 pm Coalition of Imockolee Workers presentation

#### **Friday, February 22**

**Deadline for Agenda Items for (next month) Meeting with a Concern for Business**

#### **Sunday, February 24**

9:40 am Peace and Social Concerns Committee (if needed)

1:00 pm Biblical and Spiritual Explorations

### **March 2019**

#### **Sunday, March 3**

9:30 am Library committee

9:30 am Meetinghouse committee

1:00 pm Forum

#### **Sunday, March 10**

1:00 pm Meeting for Worship for Business

#### **Tuesday, March 12**

12:00 pm Friendly Lunch - at the Meeting House

#### **Friday March 15 - Saturday March 16**

**John Calvi Workshop**

#### **Sunday, March 17**

9:40 am Peace and Social Concerns Committee

11:00 am Meeting for Worship in Nature

1:00 pm EarthCare Committee

**Friday, March 22**

**Deadline for Agenda Items for (next month) Meeting with a Concern for Business**

**Sunday, March 24**

9:40 am Peace and Social Concerns Committee (if needed)

1:00 pm Biblical and Spiritual Explorations

## EarthCare Committee Meeting

First Day, January 20, 2019

Present: Jean Larson, Gail Stallings, Dick and Jean Beardsley, Shawna Doran, Peter Harrell,

Doug White, Sandra Lyon, Ellie Clayton, Mona & Walter Morris, Anne and Phil Haisley

The Committee meeting began in the Social Room with the music video - "*We Are the World*" written by Michael Jackson and Lionel Richie, and a quote by John Woolman (above). (There were technical difficulties with the sound, and with ambient noise.)

We then moved into the Meeting Room settled into worship sharing on our first query, "*How do our experiences of Nature move us physically, emotionally, spiritually...*?" Many images and thoughts were shared, including the following: grounding, anchor, connected/interconnected, nourished, infinite, timeless, eternal, centering, endless source of amazement, expecting a surprise, amazing, freedom, excitement, alive, awestruck, wonder, reverence, peace, serenity/less stress, beauty.

The second query, "How do we envision...an Earth Restored"? proved more challenging. Among the thoughts and images shared were: clean water, clean air, clean Earth (no poisons or pollutants); healthy, thriving, wild, abundance of life, Earth/humans living in balance/harmony with Nature, working with Nature (permaculture..), peace, spiritual/physical, right sharing of Earth's resources, healthy food, water and air for everyone. Other contributions included: expanding the green in urban areas (roof top gardens), communities have the final voice in what effects their environment, ethical businesses with public charters, community banks, empathy, people being as interested in one another and we are in ourselves, the commons for the common good. Friends envisioned an Earth healed from the injuries we have inflicted on her, and humans living in a right (spiritual) relationship with Earth (as part of Nature), and with one another.

Friends agreed to hold over the remaining queries until the next meeting.

The meeting closed with *This Little Light of Mine*, *Simple Gifts* and *A Song of Peace* (3 verses).

A suggestion was made to look into installing a projection screen in the Worship/ Meeting Room.

Respectfully submitted: Gail Stallings

## **Finance Committee Report:**

**February 2019**

1. We believe that internet use is rising everywhere, and that many people are using internet banking services. We recommend providing a way to donate money electronically to the Meeting through our website.
2. Using PayPal would cost the least, and probably be the easiest to set up and use. Miami Meeting uses the Quaker Cloud, as do we, and their treasurer informed us that this provides a way to help us add a Donate Button using PayPal. We think that the @pay program could work as a second choice.

Concern about PayPal discriminating against Palestine seems to be a banking issue more than a PayPal issue. We found some research at Quora.com:

"Palestinian financial transactions are of special interest to the international community because of the need to monitor and report on the use of international aid sent to Palestinians.

"The problem is inherently with Palestinian banks, and not with PayPal itself. If a Palestinian has a bank account in a country that PayPal can establish a trustworthy business relationship, then they can use that bank account to access PayPal transactions.

"For example, PayPal in South Africa allowed anyone with a VISA or Mastercard account to purchase using PayPal, but not to receive funds. The reason was that the South African government was unable to audit these transactions. All South African banks are required by law to provide all the detail of all transactions by all people to the government, and this information is used to identify "people of interest". This problem was partially resolved when the South African government and PayPal agreed that one particular South African Bank (FNB) would perform all the PayPal transactions in South Africa.

"Potentially the Palestinians could resolve the problem in the same way - by appointing a single bank that would provide all the transaction details to international bodies currently involved in monitoring Palestinian criminal activities. This must be done in a way that "people of interest" are identified, monitored and denied access, in a similar way that the South African government is able to do this to South African citizens.

"Note that the people living in Israeli settlements have access to Israeli bank accounts and this inherently provides monitoring of their PayPal transactions and the Israeli police are able to use this PayPal transaction information in any criminal case. If a Palestinian has an Israeli bank account they would probably also be able to use PayPal."

## **Gainesville Friends Meeting Ministry and Nurture Committee Report Second Month 2019**

- The Ministry and Nurture Committee has added Peter Harrell to the Nominating Committee.
- Walter Morris is working on a chart to help Friends know which committee should be consulted for various interests or concerns.
- Having sorted out the membership status of Helen Hooley, her membership has been transferred to Gainesville Monthly Meeting.

**GMM MINUTE 2019:** \_\_\_\_ Gainesville Quaker Meeting joyfully welcomes Helen Hooley into membership of Gainesville Monthly Meeting.

- John Calvi (a Quaker healer and author) will be presenting a 2 day workshop for the meeting on March 15 - 16. We intend to invite Friends from Tallahassee, St. Pete's and St. Augustine to attend.

**GMM MINUTE 2019:** \_\_\_\_\_. Gainesville Quaker Meeting will spend \$400 for John Calvi to present a workshop March 15-16. Additional donations may be made for this workshop. The funds are to come from the Ministry and Nurture line item.

- The Ministry and Nurture Committee has scheduled a Meeting Retreat for April 27 at the Lodge at Poe Springs. The theme for the retreat will be "The Inner Journey." Ellie and Bonnie will be working on the program, but we would like 2 or 3 more Friends to help with the program as well as Friends to organize lunch.

**GMM MINUTE 2019:** \_\_\_\_\_. Gainesville Quaker Meeting will spend \$100 to rent the lodge at Poe Springs on April 27 for a Meeting Retreat. The funds are to come from the Ministry and Nurture line item.

**Gainesville Friends Meeting Outreach Committee Report  
Second Month 2019**

- The Fellowship of Quakers in the Arts (FQA) has announced the National theme for art projects for 2019. The theme is 'The Arts of Peace and Justice.' We participated in this national project in 2017 with a small art show in the Meetinghouse. Doris Nabors and June Beverly have agreed to convene a committee to plan an event this year. We need a few additional volunteers to assist them.