

Jacksonville Monthly Meeting
Meeting for Worship for Business – Minutes
April 13, 2014
Elaine Martin, Clerk

Attendees: Elaine Martin, Sue Watson, Sue Williams, Doug Halpin, Terry Dixs, Bonnie Hall, Ken Hall, Al Geiger, Wendy Clarissa Geiger, Mike Shell.

1. Silence

2. Queries: *Mutual Care*

- How do we foster a spirit of community among the meeting's members and attenders?
- How does the meeting keep in contact with all of the meeting's members and attenders?
- How does the meeting assist couples and families to communicate, grow together, and rear children in a loving environment?
- Does the meeting community nurture the meeting's children?
- How does the meeting care for those who live alone, the sick, the aging, the widowed, the separated or divorced, and others with families affected by disruption?
- Do we assist Friends in need as their circumstances require?
- How do we labor with and care for those whose conduct or manner of living gives grounds for concern?
- How are visitors to our meeting made to feel welcome?

Southeastern Yearly Meeting, *Faith and Practice: [Queries & Advices](#)*

3. Minutes of March 9, 2014 – Approved.

4. Treasurer's Report – Sue Watson (*see [Financial Statement](#)*)

- SEYM sent Meeting thanks for paying the entire 2013-14 apportionment of \$2,518.

5. Golden Isles Worship Group

- This is a seasonal group (January-April) whose attenders sojourn from other meetings (*see [Spiritual State of the Meeting 2013](#)*)
- Wendy Clarissa maintains correspondence with several of the attenders
- Meeting will reach out to them at the beginning of their next season.

6. St. Augustine Worship Group

- Elaine asked Friends to share their views regarding the pending St. Augustine Friends request for support in starting a worship group
- Friends Bonnie and Ken Hall shared some information about the St. Augustine group
 - St. Augustine Friends are still in the discernment process, getting to know each other, and are not ready to make a formal request for worship group status
 - They are in conversation with Brent Bill of the FGC New Meetings Project (*see <http://www.fgcquaker.org/services/new-meetings-project>*), and Bonnie will speak with him during Yearly Gathering
 - They are looking to both Gainesville and Jacksonville Meetings for informal support
 - One of their number wants to have the Quakerism 101 series

- A Friend read the *SEYM Faith & Practice* section on worship groups ([Chapter XII. Establishing New Meetings](#) – see [Attachment 3](#))
- Elaine said that the SEYM clerk is proposing a YM committee on new meetings, and that this new venture would be relevant to the St. Augustine effort
- Jacksonville Friends offered various comments
 - One Friend with previous worship group experience said their sponsoring meeting waited for them to seek advice rather than intervening
 - Another spoke of the slow spiritual and practical process of becoming a worship group
 - A Friend reminded Meeting that letters were a traditional way of supporting distant meetings, that we could give St. Augustine the support of correspondence and phone calls (as well as visitation), and that there are alternatives to Quakerism 101
 - Another expressed support yet doubted that Meeting could sustain larger requests, such as buying the materials and sending Friends to lead programs like Quakerism 101
 - Several Friends spoke of Jacksonville’s current focus on rediscovering what being a meeting means for us and doubted that we are ready to support a worship group
- Elaine asked for a sense of the meeting, and Friends agreed to the following minute:

Minuted (2014.3) – Meeting is ready to support St. Augustine Friends in a sister relationship, but we do not feel that we presently have the resources and readiness to take a new worship group under our care.

7. Nurturing Community/Deepening Spirituality – Worship Sharing

- No April worship sharing or potluck due to Yearly Gathering
- May 18 – “Living in the World as Quakers,” queries developed by Tampa Meeting and offered by Wendy Clarissa (see [Attachment 4](#)).

8. Outreach/Community Activity – Friends discussed a range of possible activities

- Fundraiser Cookbook – Wendy Clarissa wishes to let the idea “simmer” for now
 - The suggestion to raise funds for SEYM, possibly to support Friends’ spiritual education at Pendle Hill or elsewhere
 - Morris Press Cookbooks (see <http://www.morriscookbooks.com/fundraising/fundraiser-keepsake-cookbooks.cfm>) has guidelines and instructions
 - Friends mentioned Williston Friends Meeting’s *Quaker Flavors* (see <http://www.amazon.com/Quaker-Flavors-Willistown-Friends-Meeting/dp/B000IF7ONS>)
- Wildflower Project
 - A suggestion to organize local groups to seed wildflowers along roads and highways
 - Friends discussed challenges, such as highway department concern that such plantings increase maintenance costs
- Sulzbacher Center Volunteering – See 3/9/2014 Minutes
- ICARE Restorative Justice Project
 - Elaine spoke about this project, which advocates giving first time juvenile offenders civil citations rather than criminal charges and diverting them into neighborhood programs
 - Florida leads the country and Duval leads Florida in incarcerating youthful first offenders
 - 69% are being convicted of crimes rather than receiving civil citations and intervention
 - Only 4% of youth with civil citations reoffend
 - Friends expressed interested in gathering further information and perhaps in partnering with the Unitarian Universalist Church of Jacksonville in activities related to this project
- Food Bank Donations – Friends could bring donations to Meeting.

9. Meeting Housekeeping

- Florida Coalition for Peace and Justice – Connie Guenther will speak with SEYM Youth Committee during Yearly Gathering
- Website – Ken is redesigning the format
- Newsletter – Bonnie is changing the format to be more in keeping with Quaker style of not sharing personal information of Friends
- First Day School – Friends are not currently troubled by noise from FDS.

Submitted by
Mike Shell, Recording Clerk
4/14/2014

Attachment 1: Financial Statement

Date	Description	Contributions	Payment	Balance
6/1/2013	Balance brought forward			\$2,455.87
6/7/2013		\$243.00		\$2,698.87
6/17/2013	SEYM		-\$1,400.00	\$1,298.87
6/17/2013	Brooke Stephens		-\$180.00	\$1,118.87
6/17/2013		\$185.00		\$1,303.87
7/1/2013		\$376.00		\$1,679.87
7/16/2013		\$100.00		\$1,779.87
9/6/2013		\$240.00		\$2,019.87
9/24/2013		\$800.00		\$2,819.87
9/24/2013	Friends Journal-listing		-\$60.00	\$2,759.87
9/24/2013	Move \$ to Property Fund		-\$500.00	\$2,259.87
9/30/2013	Heritage Landing HOA		-\$75.00	\$2,184.87
9/30/2013		\$75.00		\$2,259.87
10/3/2013	Dedge's Lock & Key		-\$101.65	\$2,158.22
10/12/2013	Brooke Stephens		-\$78.35	\$2,079.87
11/1/2013	Brooke Stephens		-\$80.00	\$1,999.87
11/8/2013		\$290.00		\$2,289.87
11/18/2013	Quaker Life		-\$16.50	\$2,273.37
12/1/2013	Brooke Stephens		-\$100.00	\$2,173.37
12/3/2013		\$815.00		\$2,988.37
12/3/2013	Move \$ to Property Fund		-\$200.00	\$2,788.37
12/15/2013		\$25.00		\$2,813.37
12/15/2013	Heritage Landing HOA		-\$50.00	\$2,763.37
1/5/2014	Brooke Stephens		-\$80.00	\$2,683.37
1/5/2014	FCPJ		-\$200.00	\$2,483.37
1/10/2014	Move \$ to Property Fund		-\$100.00	\$2,383.37
1/12/2014	SEYM		-\$500.00	\$1,883.37
1/12/2014	Friends Journal		-\$150.00	\$1,733.37
1/28/2014		\$200.00		\$1,933.37
1/28/2014	Move \$ to Property Fund		-\$100.00	\$1,833.37
2/2/2014	Brooke Stephens		-\$80.00	\$1,753.37
2/7/2014	Auto-Owners		-\$328.08	\$1,425.29
2/28/2014		\$250.00		\$1,675.29
3/9/2014	Wendy Clarissa Geiger		-\$26.50	\$1,648.79
3/9/2014	Brooke Stephens		-\$100.00	\$1,548.79
3/10/2014		\$650.00		\$2,198.79
3/10/2014	SEYM		-\$618.00	\$1,580.79
4/6/2014	Brooke Stephens		-\$80.00	\$1,500.79
Total		\$3,599.00	-\$4,506.08	\$1,500.79
To be Deposited	\$250			
Property Fund				
9/24/2013	Transfer from Operating acct		\$500.00	
12/3/2013	Contribution		\$200.00	\$700.00
1/10/2014	Contribution		\$100.00	\$800.00
1/28/2014	Contribution		\$100.00	\$900.00

Attachment 2: Golden Isles Worship Group – Spiritual State of the Meeting 2013

Golden Isles Worship Group is a seasonal meeting that gathers and functions from January through April. At present, there are no Friends who live in the area year round so the group is dormant during the remainder of the year.

As a result, the primary focus of the group is to provide spiritual fellowship to Friends who sojourn in the Golden Isles during the winter months. This fellowship is enhanced by once a month potluck meals, which allow us to develop a deeper relationship among our members. And we have informal business meetings when business needs to be transacted; this is done as a committee of the whole.

We feel sad that our numbers have diminished over the years and are now at very low ebb. With the relocation of Maud Tucker to the State of Utah and her subsequent death last year, we have no members who are year round residents of Brunswick and the Golden Isles in Georgia. All of us are sojourners from other meetings.

As an attempt to reach any Quakers visiting the area, we are listed on the FGC sponsored computer web site “Quaker Finder” as a seasonal worship group and we are included in the local newspaper’s weekly listing of religious services.

[See <http://www.fgcquaker.org/connect/quaker-finder/golden-isles-friends-worship-group>]

Attachment 3: Establishing Friends Worship Groups

In areas where no Friends meetings exist, individual Friends and those drawn to Friends’ ways are encouraged to meet together for worship and to seek divine guidance. A natural experience arising out of this shared worship is a desire to participate in the wider community of Friends by becoming a recognized worship group within the yearly meeting.

A Friends worship group may also be formed when an established monthly meeting has grown so large that it becomes desirable for a group to meet separately or when some of its members live a great distance from the established Friends meeting. Such a worship group should follow a similar path as described below.

A worship group is a gathering of persons who meet regularly for public worship after the manner of Friends and desire to be identified as a Friends group. This worship group becomes part of the Quaker faith community by relating to a monthly meeting and the yearly meeting.

As a Friends worship group develops, it asks to be taken under the care of a monthly meeting. If there are no nearby monthly meetings able to undertake the care for the new Friends worship group, it may apply to be directly under the care of the yearly meeting (SEYM). The monthly meeting or SEYM will appoint a committee of care (see advices to care committees at the end of this section) to be available for support and guidance, but this action does not presume any particular path of development. It does, however, create a recognized relationship with the Religious Society of Friends by establishing regular contacts within the wider world of Friends and providing an avenue for membership of individuals, which comes only through a monthly meeting.

A Friends worship group names one of the group to serve as the convener and correspondent. It is beneficial if the convener/correspondent is a member of the Religious Society of Friends. Communications from the monthly meeting and SEYM (and other Friends groups and organizations) are addressed to the correspondent, who is responsible for sharing these with the entire worship group.

Each Friends worship group should organize only to the degree that is right for it at a particular time, neither over-organizing nor avoiding whatever organization is needed to nurture the interests and concerns of its participants, including children. Organization also provides an avenue for contacts with other Friends groups and with the wider body of the Religious Society of Friends, both of which can enrich the life of the worship group.

Actions that may be carried out ONLY with the help and clearness of the monthly meeting that has care of the worship group include

- receiving requests for membership in the Religious Society of Friends,
- receiving or holding charitable contributions for tax deduction purposes,
- holding weddings or memorial meetings,
- or otherwise acting formally as an established monthly meeting.

If a yearly meeting committee of care has the care of the worship group, it will help the worship group make appropriate application to a nearby SEYM monthly meeting and will assist in the traditional Friends clearness process. This experience will help the worship group learn about and be guided in Friends practice. For a summary of this information, please read the “Advices for a Friends Worship Group” at the end of this section.

Any monthly meeting that takes on the responsibility of care for a worship group should notify SEYM and ask for a minute of recognition for this task. SEYM should then follow the development of this worship group by getting yearly reports from the monthly meeting having care of the worship group.

Attachment 4

'Living in the World as Quakers'
Worship Sharing – Reflections and Queries

Walking the Walk with God

"It is frequently said that to bear this world, we must become toughened, callous, hard. ...But the Eternal Presence, shining upon time, gives us, not a tough protection, but an exquisitely *tendered* spirit...."

---Thomas Kelly

"Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words."

---Ro. 8:26

"Hold me up, that I might be safe..."

---Ps. 119:117

How am I sustained in carrying my witness to the world? How do I stand firm in my faith?

When have I felt the presence of God carrying me through my work? How has this changed my witness?

Has my witness brought me to places that were a danger to my body or spirit? How did I stay faithful?

Have I felt the spirit of Christ open me and tender me that I might better be of service to the work God has given me?

"let each of you lead the life...to which God has called you." 1Cor 7:17