

Jacksonville Friends Meeting
www.jacksonvillefriends.org

Clerk & Mailing Address

Mike Shell
2798 Forbes Street
Jacksonville, FL 32205



May 19, 2019

Dear Bill and Clara,

I am sending each of you a copy of this by mail and emailing copies to Vicki Carlie and Sue Watson, Jacksonville Meeting's treasurer.

Sue and I met on May 3rd to discern our shared responsibilities with regard to Jacksonville Monthly Meeting. It is clear to us that we must lay the Meeting down as of December 31, 2019—unless several seasoned local Quakers come forward to take on the hosting of regular meetings for worship and the management of monthly meeting business.

As you know from earlier correspondence and conversations, except for Wendy Geiger, Sue and I are the sole Jacksonville Friends recorded in the SEYM Directory who are still attending meeting for worship. In addition, since June of 2018, Sue and I have also been the only members or attenders at monthly meetings for business. After September and November meetings with such attendance last year, we discontinued scheduling monthly meetings.

On January 4th, I mailed a letter by USPS to each of the recorded Jacksonville Friends, laying out for them the situation I have described again here and asking for their input. I received only two replies, one from a member, one from an attender, neither of whom has attending since 2010, and both of whom supported laying the Meeting down. This past week I lunched with one other long-time member, also no longer attending, who supports this action.

Here are the steps Sue Watson and I agreed we will need to do by the end of the year:

- Close the Meeting's bank account and disperse the funds appropriately. (There is about \$590 in AVP funds in our account which will need to be returned to SEYM for use by other meetings and worship groups.)
- Advise Florida Christian Center that we will not renew our lease for 2020.
- Allow our liability insurance to lapse at the end of 2019.
- Discontinue the Meeting's subscription to *Friends Journal* and its inclusion in *FJ*'s bi-monthly listing of Quaker meetings.
- Advise Friends General Conference Quaker Finder www.fgcquaker.org/connect/quaker-finder of our change of status.
- Change our website home page www.jacksonvillefriends.org to indicate this change and, eventually, remove the site from public access.
- Compile and organize our archives and deliver digital copies to University of Florida.

What else needs to be done in the process of laying down a monthly meeting? What happens with the status of the eight recorded members (plus 2 Friends of Meeting and 10 Attenders)? What should I do with physical property of the Meeting (mostly books and papers)?

It is uncomfortable to me having to accept silence as consent. This is why I have spent an entire year seeking participation and feedback from Jacksonville Friends. I will therefore call a meeting for business in September to ask Friends once more if any of them wish to take on responsibility for the Meeting.

I am also disappointed that, despite emails to both of you last year, and despite sitting in on Ministry and Worship Committee at WIBM, handing out a written statement, and asking for agenda time at Gathering, Jacksonville's concern was last on the agenda on April 17th, allowing me no time to do more than repeat the summary I had given in January. I had hoped for a committed block of time for our concern, after the manner of a clearness committee session, but I failed to ask for that explicitly.

We in Jacksonville must proceed in good order with carrying out of our local business.

Please hold us in the light.

Blessings,

Mike Shell, clerk