

Jacksonville Friends Meeting
www.jacksonvillefriends.org



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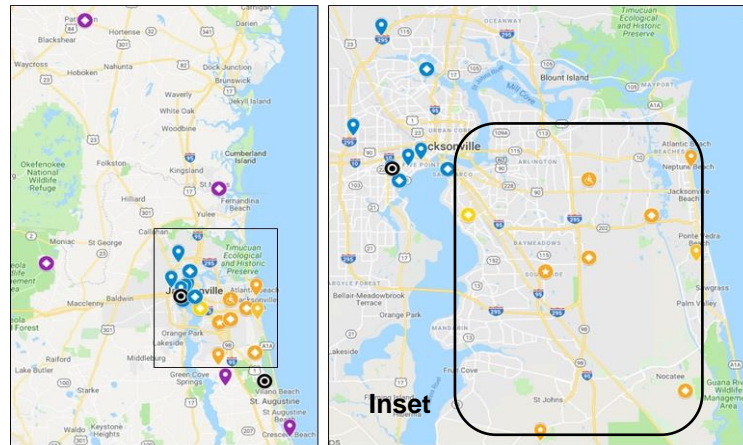
September 19, 2019

Dear Friends,

Treasurer Sue Watson and I met this morning to consider the reorganization of Jacksonville Friends from a monthly meeting into a more sustainable form, one which preserves the existing funds and recorded memberships of the meeting, yet which allows for the continuity and growth of a scattered yet enthusiastic group of Quakers and Seekers in the Jacksonville area.

As June Executive Committee acknowledged (SEC2019.05), there is no steady core of people who attend worship regularly and share the responsibilities of managing a monthly meeting. However, there are about two dozen people who want Quaker worship and fellowship but cannot meet regularly. More visitors still join us.

The map below gives a snapshot of this diverse group. The purple markers are outlying newcomers to the north and outlying inactive members to the south. The blue markers are Rivers/Westside Friends and Seekers. The yellow are Beaches/Southside folks.



Some of the Beaches group (inset) are already planning an experimental monthly Monday evening gathering for worship and refreshments. This group includes long-time members Heidi Lowey-Ball and Stuart and Casey Smith, as well as three newcomers who have recently relocated from northern Quaker meetings. In the next few months we will explore starting a Rivers group as well.

Sue and I agreed today that switching from monthly meeting to worship group would give Jacksonville Friends the practical oversight of a stable meeting for financial and membership matters, while allowing the local Quaker ministry to grow at its own pace. We will begin by asking Orlando Friends if they are willing to take Jacksonville on as a sister worship group along with the new group in St. Augustine. If they cannot do so, we will turn to Tallahassee Friends.

Once we have a likely meeting to take us in, we will hold a called meeting for business to ask Jacksonville Friends to approve the change. We have tentatively set Winter Interim Business Meeting as the time to bring this new arrangement before Yearly Meeting. I will keep you posted as things develop.

Thank you, and blessings,

Mike Shell
Meeting Clerk

CC: Ministry & Worship Committee, Bill Carlie, Nancy Corindia, Joel Cook, Richelle Ogle, Sue Watson