

**From:** ymclerk@seymquakers.org <ymclerk@seymquakers.org>

**Sent:** Thursday, January 2, 2020 8:28 PM

**To:** [A Jacksonville Friend]

**Cc:** Mike Shell <bright\_crow@mindspring.com>; Diaz Clara <artbearclara@aol.com>; Ellie Caldwell <quakerellie@yahoo.com>; Vicki Carlie <vickicarlie7@gmail.com>

**Subject:** Re: Fwd: a Wendynote re Meeting

[Dear Friend],

First, my apology for not responding to you sooner.

In regard to Jacksonville Meeting moving to worship group status, the role of SEYM is limited consistent with Faith and Practice. SEYM has control over the process under which Meetings become recognized as affiliated with SEYM. SEYM does not set up or lay down Monthly Meetings, it only recognizes Monthly Meetings as affiliated after visitation and clearness is reached. We can advise and assist Worship Groups who wish to become affiliated Monthly Meetings. Affiliation with SEYM is not required for a group of Friends to become a Meeting, although that is typically the course taken.

Similarly, clearness and unity within Yearly Meeting is not involved in the process by which a Monthly Meeting is laid down. Yearly Meeting does recognize new Worship Groups that request recognition, such as the new Worship Group in St. Augustine. The Quaker Process in that case was for the Friends in St. Augustine to request that Orlando Monthly Meeting take the Worship Group under their care at Meeting for Worship with attention to Business. Unity having been reached, Friends then reported to Yearly Meeting that a worship group had been formed under the care of Orlando Monthly Meeting.

Quaker process for the establishment and laying down of Meetings is located entirely within the Meetings. Yearly Meeting does not supervise Quaker Process within the Monthly Meetings, it simply has no authority to do so. Yearly Meeting cannot continue to recognize a Monthly Meeting when the sense of that faith community is that a Monthly Meeting no longer exists.

Friends greet the news from Jacksonville with sadness that a Meeting of longstanding is being laid down. We also understand that interest in continuing to meet a worship group is strong and look forward to our continued association with Friends in Jacksonville in whatever form they feel led to adopt.

Bill Carlie, clerk