

From: bright_crow@mindspring.com <bright_crow@mindspring.com>
Sent: Friday, January 3, 2020 4:40 PM
To: ymclerk@seymquakers.org
Cc: 'Diaz Clara' <artbearclara@aol.com>; 'Ellie Caldwell' <quakerellie@yahoo.com>; 'Vicki Carlie' <vickicarlie7@gmail.com>
Subject: Jacksonville Friends Worship Group & your email of January 2nd

Dear Bill,

Thank you for sharing your [January 2nd] with me.

During 2019, I visited or spoke by phone with nine longtime Jacksonville Quakers, only two of whom were still attending weekly meeting for worship.

Quaker integrity expects that we listen to and consider all voices, so I wanted to hear from all of those Friends who had been part of Jacksonville Meeting longer than I. I have also spoken with four newly relocated members of northern Quaker meetings, as well as with half a dozen or so local seekers who attended occasionally during the past year or two.

With the exception of [one Friend], all of these people have been supportive of laying down the formal structure of a monthly meeting. Instead, since they still long for Quaker worship and fellowship, most of them have embraced the idea of continuing the community worship and life of Jacksonville Friends by less formal organizational means. I am sad that [one Friend] does not seem ready to open herself to the leadings, longings and real collective actions of these other local Friends.

January 12, 2020, will be our last weekly Sunday morning worship, but also the fourth monthly Sunday evening gathering of a reincarnated [Jacksonville Friends Worship Group](#), hosted by Heidi Lowey-Ball at her Neptune Beach home. The sense of community among Friends at these new gatherings seems sweet and hopeful.

We have yet to resolve the status of our recorded members or to connect with a monthly meeting willing to take Jacksonville Friends under their care. However, we will continue our worship group gatherings whether or not we find such an arrangement. I am also starting to encourage a sister relationship between Jacksonville Friends and the St. Augustine Worship Group.

I will attend Executive Committee on January 17th and WIBM on the 18th, in the hopes of reaching closure on the transition we are already accomplishing.

Thanks to you, Clara, and numerous other SEYM Friends who have been supportive mentors and guides through this process.

Blessings,
Mike



Mike Shell, Meeting Clerk
Jacksonville Friends Meeting
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From: ymclerk@seymquakers.org <ymclerk@seymquakers.org>

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

To: Wendy Clarissa Geiger <quakerwendy@gmail.com>

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

Wendy,

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 what ever form they feel led to adopt.

Bill Carlie, clerk