

Jacksonville Friends Meeting  
 Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business - Minutes  
 Elaine Martin, clerk  
 December 11, 2011

1. Worship

2. Queries – The Meeting Community: Chosen by the Clerk out of a leading to ask how we love and care for Meeting, each other, and ourselves, how we add the “heart dimension” to our decisions.

Do we trust sufficiently the goodwill of our meeting members and attenders to make our needs and concerns known? Do we love one another so deeply that each other's needs are recognized and addressed? As members of a spiritual community do we actively work to maintain love and unity?

*Intermountain Yearly Meeting -Mutual Care*

Are we sensitive to each other's personal needs and difficulties and do we assist in useful ways.

*North Pacific Yearly Meeting – Mutual Care*

Is the Meeting a safe, loving place? When we become aware of someone's needs, do we offer assistance? Are the meetinghouse and the Meeting property physically accessible to all?

*Philadelphia Yearly Meeting – Care for the Meeting Community*

Reading from Baltimore Yearly Meeting –

It is not easy to find community and fellowship in the modern world. Many Friends view relationships within the local Meeting as similar to partial relationships established with people met regularly at work, at play, and in the neighborhood. It is perhaps too much to expect that we all will make the Meeting central to our lives. But unless the Meeting fellowship can be made to speak to something deep in our lives, our Society falls short of fulfilling the true spiritual needs of its members.

*Baltimore Yearly Meeting Faith and Practice – Fellowship and Community*

3. Minutes of November 6, 2011 approved.

4. Minute of Appreciation to Stuart Smith, outgoing Treasurer

Minuted – Stuart P. Smith has been attending meeting since the mid-eighties when he came to Jacksonville as interim headmaster for Jacksonville Episcopal High School. For many years, Stuart represented Jacksonville Friends Meeting on the local Interfaith Council, for which we are grateful.

For Jacksonville Friends and all others, Stuart lets his life speak. Stuart seems to only speak when sharing his wisdom in his deliberate and measured voice that reflects a lifetime of Quaker habits. Stuart has an endearing sense of humor.

In the early nineties, after Loderick Harris gave up treasurer duties, Stuart took on that role for Jacksonville Friends Meeting. Stuart has been our faithful treasurer until late 2011, when Sue Watson became treasurer of the Meeting. Stuart's regular monthly treasurer's reports have been a vital and dependable part of the Meeting's structure.

We thank Stuart for his dedication to the financial well-being of the Meeting and staying on as treasurer when he would have rather transferred duties to another Friend earlier than it happened.

Thank thee, Friend Stuart P. Smith.

#### 5. Treasurer's Report, Sue Watson – See [Attachment 1](#)

- As of 12/5/2011, payments exceeded contributions by \$178.40.
- The secondary liability insurance is still being paid on Stuart Smith's credit card.
- Discussion of SEYM apportionment – Meeting agreed that further discussion should be on the agenda in a future meeting for worship with a concern for business.

Note: The Clerk shared the following information with the Treasurer and Recording Clerk subsequent to this meeting:

- The SEYM apportionment for Meeting is \$1,747, which is based on Meeting record of 9 members at \$102.75 (\$924.75) plus 16 attenders at \$51.38 (\$822.08)
- 17 apportionment units at \$102.75, 9 plus 8 (1/2 for attenders)
- SEYM fiscal year is June 1 through May 31, so the apportionment is due prior to May 31<sup>st</sup>
- SEYM would be delighted with periodic payments throughout the year.

#### 6. Meeting location, Shannon Palmer

- Two possible locations have been ruled out. Operation New Hope uses their space on weekends, and Bethel Baptist Institutional Church did not express an interest.
- Evergreen Cemetery <http://evergreenjax.com/>, 4535 Main Street, Jacksonville, Florida 32206
  - The building with the staff lounge and locker room is available
  - There would be no cost to Meeting, since the cemetery does not receive donations
  - Secondary liability insurance costs the same as for the SPAR building (\$168/yr.)
  - Plenty of parking
  - Only a security guard is present on weekends
  - Shannon showed Friends a video of the location.

Minuted – Friends will meet at the Evergreen Cemetery location on January 8, 2012, for meeting for worship and business.

- Doug has no response from his Riverside contacts. Wendy knows them and will follow up.
- Mike will ask Sue Williams about her Riverside contacts.
- The Geigers will follow up with their contacts for The Sanctuary.

#### 7. Calendar – Friends will not meet on Christmas Day, but we will meet on New Year's Day.

## 8. Spiritual State of the Meeting Report for 2011

Note: Jacksonville Friends will meet at the Geiger's farm on 1/5/2012, at 7 PM, in for a worship sharing to develop the 2011 Spiritual State of the Meeting report.

- The target date for this year's report is 1/15/2012, in time for SEYM's Winter Interim Business Meeting (WIBM), although there is leeway for a later date.
- Wendy Clarissa Geiger will draft the statement and circulate it for comments, as she has done in previous years. She welcomes input from Friends.
- Note: Please read and ponder "JAX 2010 State of Meeting" and "SEYM 2012 State of Meeting Queries" (sent as PDFs) in preparation for January 5<sup>th</sup>.

9. Jerome Knudson event @ Savannah Monthly Meeting – Savannah MM has invited both Jacksonville and Charleston Friends. They will decide their final plans at meeting for business today. Our Clerk will notify Jacksonville Friends once she has the final information.

10. JAX Meeting literature, June Applen ([applenjune@gmail.com](mailto:applenjune@gmail.com), 768-3648) – June shared various drafts for literature which Friends could give to give to visitors.

- Included were handouts on "Basic beliefs," "How we worship," "Stages of meeting for worship" (sent as PDFs), and models for a brochure about JAX Meeting.
- All JAX Friends are invited to write a paragraph on the subject "How would you speak to a newcomer" and to send it to June. Other input is also welcome.

11. Episcopal High School, Interfaith Dialogue, 2/8/2012 – The Clerk is preparing for this event, and several other Friends will also take part.

12. Website <http://www.jacksonvillefriends.org/>, Shannon Palmer – Shannon continues to welcome input, critique and content from JAX Friends.

13. 2012 Mitchener Lecture, Patty Levering, "Listening to Hear: Deepening Faith, Nurturing Community," 1/15/2012, 1-5 PM – Orlando Friends Meeting House (see PDF flyer).

Meeting closed with silence.

Michael Austin Shell  
Recording Clerk 12/20/2011