

Jacksonville Monthly Meeting

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business - Minutes

Elaine Martin, Clerk

May 20, 2012

1. Worship

2. Queries – The Clerk invited discussion. Some key themes are summarized below.

- *Is Meeting for Business held as a Meeting for Worship in which we seek divine guidance for our actions?*
 - Meetings for Worship and for Business are much the same, in that both challenge Friends to seek discernment regarding both individual and group leadings. A key difference is that Meeting for Worship has no agenda, while Meeting for Business does.
 - In Meeting for Business, Friends desire to create a safe space in which they can voice truthfully disagreements, angers and hurts, as well as agreements and affections.
 - The individual's decision to "stand aside" (or not) when the "sense of the meeting" differs from her/his own view, is an important part of the discernment process. Standing aside may be recorded anonymously, or the Friend may ask to be recorded by name.
 - The crux of Quakerism is taking the time to get past ourselves, so that we can hear what God wants.
- *Are we tender and considerate of different views, coming to a decision only when we have found unity?*
- *Do we give prayerful support for our clerk that she may be sensitive to the movement of the Spirit among us?*
 - The Clerk described speaking at Yearly Business Meeting as "representative of JAX Meeting," while other YM attendees tended to speak as individuals, rather than representatives.
 - Similarly, in Meeting business matter, she seeks to express and represent the sense of the meeting as a whole and not as herself

3. Minutes of March 11, 2012, approved. [Note: There was no April Meeting for Business.]

4. Treasurer's Report – Sue Watson

- \$1391.51 in the account
- Will send \$300 to YM in June as our first quarterly payment
- Once Vystar branch near Treasurer's home is completed will to move Meeting's account there.

5. Yearly Meeting Business Update – Clerk reported that there were three items from the Yearly Meeting Business meeting that Jacksonville friends may want to discern either as a meeting as a whole or as part of a committee or as individuals.

- Gainesville Minute re Occupy Movement ([Attachment 1](#))
 - Currently in SEYM's Peace and Social Concerns Committee (P&SC)

- Orlando Minute re Mass Incarceration – Cathy Gaskill of Orlando Meeting spoke about the “prison-industrial complex.” P&SC is crafting a minute, which the Clerk will share at a future Meeting for Business. Friends may wish to consult several relevant sources:
 - Richard K. Taylor, “A Quaker Stand Against Mass Incarceration,” *Friends Journal*, March 2012, p.24 ([Attachment 2](#): PDF accompanying these minutes)
 - Michelle Alexander, *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness* (see and listen to “Legal Scholar: Jim Crow Still Exists In America” <http://www.npr.org/2012/01/16/145175694/legal-scholar-jim-crow-still-exists-in-america>)
 - Federal injunction against the detention provision of the National Defense Authorization Act, signed 12/31/2012 (see <http://thinkprogress.org/security/2012/05/17/485772/federal-judge-ndaa-indefinite-detention/?mobile=nc>).
- FGC Stewardship Services –Larry Jalowiec larryj@fgcquaker.org, Director of Stewardship Services for Friends General Conference (FGC), spoke about planned giving for FGC and supporting philanthropy, and he offered workshops on “right investing,” and free individual Quaker financial planning.
 - Friends has a brief discussion of Quaker tax protests
 - The Clerk shared queries on stewardship and outreach from Philadelphia Yearly Meeting ([Attachment 3](#)).

6. **Quaker Quest** <http://www.quakerquest.org/> - Barbara Vanderhoff

- This program was presented at YM, and Barbara wants to study it further, in order to propose that JAX Meeting make use of the model
- Barbara described the principal aims as (a) to bring JAX Meeting members and attenders together in a process of discerning how to present the Meeting publicly, and then (b) to do a series of public meetings
- Barbara will prepare a proposal for June Meeting for Business.

7. **Outreach**

- Literature – June Applen asked the recording clerk to assume responsibility for continuing the work of developing JAX Meeting literature for visitors. He asked that the discussion of the “How We Worship” draft be deferred until a future Meeting for Business.
- Long-term planning for a Meetinghouse – The Clerk suggested that Friends consider how to do long-term planning, even though our present rental situation is adequate for now.

8. **Queries** – Philadelphia Yearly Meeting – for reflection ([Attachment 3](#))
 Stewardship of Resources
 Ministry of Outreach

Submitted by Mike Shell,
 Recording Clerk
 5/28/2012

Attachment 1

Minute on Support of the Occupy Movement – Gainesville Monthly Meeting*

The Gainesville Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) is grateful to the Occupy Wall Street movement for elevating national debate to include greater consideration for global economic and social justice, and to our local Occupy Gainesville movement for seeking practical ways to strengthen these values here in our community.

As Friends, we add our voices, affirming that speaking truth and striving for equality are consistent with our long-standing Quaker testimonies. Friends believe that there is that of God in every person. Occupy demonstrators have – through nonviolent protest, consensus-based decision-making, and inclusive assembly – expressed a faith in the worth of all people that is consistent with our Quaker values. They have also expressed a trust in the world's willingness to listen, and to respond with courage. As Quakers, we respond by listening, by seeking the ways in which we are called upon to respond as individuals, and by opposing any endeavor to silence those who are exercising their right to speak truth.

We share with the Occupy movement a longing for a society with political, social, and economic institutions in place that sustain and enrich all forms of life on the planet. We look towards a just and equitable world where all people live and thrive in the virtue of the life and power that take away the occasion for war.

- Jen Ambrose Cotter

*Adopted by the Gainesville Monthly Meeting on March, 11, 2012

Attachment 3

Queries

Stewardship of Resources

- How well do we manage our assets to support our families and our faith community?
- How well do we connect our values to our financial decisions?

FGC – Stewardship Services Program

- Does our Meeting serve social and economic justice in its use of property and money?
- How does our Meeting engage its members in the support of the Meeting's work, its ministry, and the upkeep of its property?
- How does our Meeting engage its members in the support of quarterly and yearly meetings and other Quaker organizations?
- To what extent does our Meeting rely on current members for financial support and what role does endowment income serve? Does the Meeting consider carefully the appropriate role of invested funds?

Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, *Faith and Practice*, Stewardship of Resources, p.213

Ministry of Outreach

- What are we doing as a Meeting to communicate our presence and our principles to the community around us? Does our Meeting's ministry of outreach lead Friends to share their spiritual experiences with others?
- What are we doing to invite persons not in membership to attend our meetings for worship and to encourage their continued attendance? How does the Meeting welcome visitors? Are we sensitive to the needs and hesitations of each visitor?
- How does our Meeting encourage its members to seek opportunities to meet and work with Friends worldwide?

Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, *Faith and Practice*, Ministry of Outreach, p.212