

**Jacksonville Monthly Meeting**  
**Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business**

September 9, 2012

Elaine Martin, Clerk

**1. Worship**

**2. Reading**

“Our meetings can be where we practice making life heaven on earth... If we engage wholeheartedly, we'll find areas of disagreement, differences of approaches, even differences of values. How we handle those differences is critical. To make our meetings Blessed Communities, we have to be willing to face our issues, we have to be willing to tell our truth, and we have to be willing to hang in there in the difficult times. There are few things as destructive to a meeting community as keeping your truth hidden, or leaving when things don't go your way. And the extent to which people in the meeting make it safe for each other to tell their truth and safe to disagree will determine the over-all health of the meeting, and its possibility for being, for the people who are part of it, a living example of heaven on earth. Heaven on earth doesn't mean “no problems.” It means the full reality, the loving creative spirit at work in all our lives together, and the spaces between our lives.”

*Marty Walton, “Blessed Community,” p.8, 1994*

**3. Minutes of July 7, 2012 – Approved.**

**4. Treasurer's Report – Sue Watson (see attachment)**

- Bank balance: \$1,602.51
- Contributions to Meeting are a bit down from last year
- Paid two quarters' assessment to SEYM in August (\$600)
- Meeting deferred the decision about \$100 donation to Jacksonville Interfaith Council until the Clerk can speak with Stuart Smith.

Minuted (2012.5): Meeting approved contributing \$100 to Florida Coalition for Peace & Justice.

**5. Meeting Location** – The Clerk recommended that Meeting begin long-term planning for a meetinghouse. Our current financial resources limit us to temporary, low-rent or donated spaces. We should consider establishing a building fund and defining our long-term building needs (space for First Day School and other programs, accessibility, Meeting stability, etc.).

We discussed Brooke Stephens' offer to use her home for Meeting:

- Favorable comments: pleasant, welcoming atmosphere; good acoustics; comfortable seating; space for First Day School.
- Concerns: accessibility for mobile chair, ramp, restrooms; added travel distance for Friends coming from the coast and from St. Augustine; risk of damage to Brooke's property; prospect of Brooke's selling the house; possible hesitation on the part of new visitors to come to a private home; access when Brooke is absent.
- The Bonnie and Kenneth Hall will meet with Brooke to test accessibility.
- Brooke advises that the sale will be delayed for at least 1-2 years.
- She welcomed us to what she calls “consecrated space,” where both her mother and Sallye Brooks Mathis were cared for, visited and prayed with during their last days.

Decision deferred: Meeting agreed that we are favorable toward this move but will defer a decision until next meeting for business while some concerns are addressed.

Several Friends mentioned the long-term possibility of investigating bank donations of foreclosed properties to non-profit organizations

## 6. Newsletter

Minuted (2012.6): Meeting agreed that Bonnie Hall will take Bettie Freel's place as editor of the Jacksonville Monthly Meeting newsletter.

Bonnie asked that this be a group effort and proposed such content as celebrations of problems, joys, anniversaries,; queries, minutes, treasurer's reports; sharing of information about SEYM, FGC, etc.

Meeting deferred discussion of further matters such as publishing a web version of the newsletter; Kenneth Hall's offer to host the Meeting's website, digital and paper formats, distribution, etc.

**7. First Day School** – Hope Wilson has offered to do First Day School once a month. Linda Wilson has offered to do a 2<sup>nd</sup> First Day intergenerational ½ hour, followed by ½ of silent worship.

Meeting asked that the Clerk follow up with Hope and Linda to develop further plans.

**8. Recorded membership in Jacksonville Monthly Meeting** – Bonnie Hall and Wendy Geiger have each written letters requesting membership in the Jacksonville Monthly Meeting.

- Clearness Committee meeting for Bonnie Hall is scheduled for the weekend of September 22<sup>nd</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup>. Committee members will be Phoebe Anderson and Rebecca Miles of Tallahassee Meeting, and Al Geiger of JAX Meeting.
- The Clerk will schedule a Clearness Committee meeting for Wendy Geiger.
- Friends discussed the Clerk's concern about forming a Clearness Committee for Membership when JAX Meeting has so few recorded members.
- One Friend suggested that, in speaking with non-Quakers, we use the term "participant" to refer to both "members" and "attenders."
- The Clerk will invite Rebecca Miles to do a Quaker Quest presentation.

## 9 Announcements

- Fall Interim Business Meeting – SEYM will be holding FIBM in St. Petersburg on October 6<sup>th</sup> with Executive Committee meeting the night before. Saturday morning will be committee meetings and all are welcome to join a committee whether or not you are officially named to it. The afternoon is business meeting with reports. Hospitality is available from St. Pete Friends.
- Half Yearly Meeting – SEYM schedules HYM from Thursday through Sunday at Wekiva State Park. No business. Just hanging out, playing music, taking hikes, relaxing, and fellowship. More information will be available at FIBM.
- Wendy Geiger's book on Meeting messages – SEYM has decided to publish this book. An anonymous donor has come forward to help with the cost.