

**Jacksonville Monthly Meeting**  
**Meeting for Worship for Business – Minutes**  
**September 14, 2014**  
Elaine Martin, Clerk

**Attendees:** Elaine Martin, Sue Watson, Doug Halpin, Bonnie Hall, Ken Hall, Bess Wilson, Jason Inswasty, Michael Shell

**1. Recording Clerk**

Minuted (2014.8) Jacksonville Monthly Meeting respectfully accepts Michael Shell's request to lay down his position as recording clerk. Jacksonville Friends are grateful for Michael's expert and faithful service.

Minuted (2014.9) Jacksonville Monthly Meeting approves Jason Inswasty for the position of recording clerk and is grateful for his willingness to serve.

**2. Approval of Minutes of June 8, 2014**

Minutes approved.

**3. “What do we want to be as we grow up as a Meeting? And “Where do we want to live?” Queries**

In keeping with a sense that Meeting desires to continue the work we had started this summer of attending to our sense of who we are as a Meeting and how we want to move into the future, queries were read.

E. Martin shared that she had been contemplating “Do I live in thankful awareness of God's constant presence in my life” and related her experiences

Friends agreed to revisit the queries next month.

**4. Treasurer's Report -Sue Watson**

Paid the entire annual assessment of \$1933 to SEYM and made a donation of \$100 to ICARE.

According to S. Watson this was the first time that we as a Meeting were able to pay the entire annual assessment in one payment.

\$1356.03 in account (\$456.03 in general account and \$900 in Meetinghouse Fund)

**5. End of Summer potluck in St Augustine**

Announcements were made concerning the end of the summer potluck to be held at the Amenities Center of the Heritage Landing Development September 21, 2104

B. Hall announced that the Center requires that guests sign in and noted that there will be two sign in sheets, one for the Heritage Room and one for the Patio area. Bonnie asked Friends to comply.

B. Hall also reminded Friends that the Center has strict rules prohibiting wet bathing suits and towels in the Heritage room. Water damages the wood floors.

Andrew Martin will provide childcare during the meeting for worship.

Insurance waivers required?

**6. Florida Coalition for Peace and Justice / Sustainability Living Center**

Friends further discussed holding a Meeting for worship, potluck and activities at the FCPJ/SLC in Hampton, FL on October 19<sup>th</sup> which had been carried over from Sixth Month.

E. Martin reported that she had talked to Paul Still at FCPJ/SLC who offered activities to include a presentation on the organization, general tour of the grounds and tour of one of the eco-houses and an additional 45 minute hike for anyone interested.

Sense was that Friends were in agreement with the plan and E. Martin will confirm with Paul Still and offer invitations to Gainesville Friends and St Augustine Friends to attend.

Friends agreed to explore carpooling options if necessary.

E. Martin announced that the FCPJ/SLC will be holding a special planning meeting November 15, 2014 as they are looking for input on how the organization can move forward.

#### **7. Worship Sharing – “Healing”**

Tabled till next month with tentative time for November.

#### **8. Quaker House**

A suggestion for a monetary contribution to Quaker House had been carried over from Sixth month.

E. Martin reported that Steve and Lynn Newsom, co-directors of Quaker House, plan to travel through Jacksonville in late October and have requested hospitality and have offered to do presentations on either “The History of Quaker House” or “Moral Injury”.

Friends discussed the services for Quaker House which include help with conscientious objector status, domestic violence counseling and education on moral injury. Website: <http://www.quakerhouse.org>

E. Martin is interested in a presentation on moral injury and willing to provide hospitality to the Newsoms.

B. Wilson thought that there would be interest in the subject from members of the University of North Florida (UNF) staff and faculty.

B. Hall suggested that if the numbers get large to have it at the amenities center.

Sense of the Meeting was not make a monetary contribution at this time, but to offer hospitality to the Newsoms and work to promote Quaker House to the greater Jacksonville area.

#### **9. Adult First Day School – Faith and Practice**

S. Watson suggested making Adult First Day School part of the monthly worship sharing since the last time it was done it was given a separate schedule & timeframe.

This separate schedule & timeframe was suspected as having contributed to the low attendance.

B. Wilson envisioned it as part of the worship sharing and a bit more teaching & group oriented of a process.

B. Hall stated that it should be that individuals should read the chapter beforehand for better spiritual understanding.

B. Wilson felt that it is too much to expect that everyone read with the complexities and responsibilities of normal life and felt that if there was a visitor coming to the meeting that it was possible this would make them feel unwelcome and we would want them to feel welcome.

B. Wilson indicated that she would be willing to lead the discussion on a faith and worship topic.

S. Watson felt that the less onerous that we make Adult First Day School, the more likely it is that more people will be involved.

Friends were in agreement on this sentiment.

D. Halpin and B. Hall volunteered to put together a program based on the Faith and Practice.

B. Hall asked for B. Wilson’s assistance in the matter and she agreed.

The sense of the meeting was to move forward in this direction and report at the next Meeting for Worship for Business.

#### **10. Meetinghouse Committee – Jim Craig**

Matter will be held over because Jim not present.

#### **11. Earthcare Minute - proposed minute from SEYM Earthcare Committee for discernment**

2014 approved SEYM Earthcare Minute for passed out for reference.

M. Shell read the proposed minute aloud for the meeting.

There was a general sense of confusion about what is being proposed and what was being sought from the meeting.

B. Wilson, M. Shell, and S. Watson did not feel strongly about the matter and felt it was more a matter of individual concern.

M. Shell indicated that he would be willing to contribute funds but not time.

E. Martin felt that the SEYM was looking for input from the meetings and indicated that she would research the matter in the original email.

The sense of the meeting was to articulate some questions about the minute in a letter and send them to the SEYM Earthcare Committee.

Inswasty who would compile them and submit them for further review.

This letter would be done for the meeting and not individually.

E. Martin suggested that letter be sent to Earthcare Committee prior to the Fall Interim Business Meeting (FIBM) to be held October 4<sup>th</sup>.

J. Inswasty also suggested that any decision on the minute would be premature without W. Geiger present who wanted to weigh in on the matter.

(Attached to these minutes are copies of the letter sent to the Earthcare Committee from Meeting and a copy of the email sent to the Earthcare Committee from W. Geiger)

#### **12. Justice Ministry Committee – Elaine Martin**

E. Martin and M. Shell will continue to work with the Unitarian Universalist Church of Jacksonville Justice Ministry Committee on ICARE programs and initiative and will report to Meeting on the activities.

M. Shell indicated that he was looking for a way to bring the public libraries into it and would report on any progress he makes on the matter.

#### **13. First Day School**

E. Martin asked the Friends at the meeting to pray on the matter of First Day School and hold it into the light in hopes to find a way open.

B. Wilson made the point that education has a long tradition in Quakerism and it would increase the spiritual life of our meeting.

#### **14. Newsletter – Bonnie Hall**

B. Hall indicated that newsletter coming along, but she was having problems and led to start doing it again.

Additionally she was trying to figure out a way of doing it where there is more community involvement.

B. Wilson made the suggestion of incorporating some of the news from the greater Quaker community as a way of creating more involvement with the greater Quaker Community.

B. Hall indicated that this was not the problem and the issue was more that the meeting itself did not have enough involvement with the newsletter and she felt that there was something inherently wrong with having what is supposed to be a community newsletter and a lack of interest in it from members.

B. Hall suggested that in order to get more involvement that individual members should feel free to contribute content.

B. Hall also stated that if there was no interest in the newsletter from the meeting that she would no longer do it.

#### **15. Website - Ken Hall**

K. Hall indicated that the hosting for the website is expiring this month and that we will be at a new site this weekend.

#### **16. Donations - Clara White Mission**

Explanation of the mission and its goals.

S. Watson raised questions about what type of donations were most needed by the mission.

S. Watson looked up the mission on the internet and read for the meeting that they are looking for clothing, funds for haircuts, beds, sheets, toiletry items, shampoo, snack food items, books, magazines, school supplies, etc.

Target date for when we want to collect things (November proposed for a donation in Thanksgiving).

#### **17. Announcements:**

World Quaker Day – October 5<sup>th</sup> Call for Peace and Ecojustice.

#### **19. Tampa requests money for their new meetinghouse**

E. Martin made Meeting aware that Tampa was soliciting contributions for their new meetinghouse.

Jason Inswasty, Recording Clerk

and

Elaine Martin, Clerk

November 1, 2014

Dear SEYM Earthcare Committee,

We the members of the Jacksonville Friends Meeting recently had an opportunity to contemplate the Proposal and Minute From SEYM's Earthcare Committee For a Released Friend to do Environmental Work at our monthly business meeting. After adequate reflection and contemplation on the minute along with the accompanying preface we found ourselves as a Meeting left with unanswered question and nagging concerns relating to the matter that collectively gave us pause in approving or disproving the SEYM's Earthcare Committee's proposed minute. Thus, we thought it prudent to write this letter and ask for clarification on some of the portions we felt were nebulous and/or would benefit from an improvement in structure.

The following is a list of thoughts, concerns, and questions on the proposed minute that we the Jacksonville Friends Meeting would like the SEYM's Earthcare Committee to address in order to give us (as well as other Meetings reflecting and contemplating the approval or disapproval of the matter) the ability to make what we feel is an informed decision regarding the minute.

1) Certain members of our Meeting expressed discomfort with the use of the term "released friend" as it occurs in the title, preface to, and body of the proposed minute. By definition, a released friend is a friend whose leading to carry out a particular course of action has met with the approval from a Meeting which then promises to provide such support as would allow the Friend to follow that leading. So the leading comes from the individual friend, not the Meeting, or in this case, the Yearly Meeting. Thus the usage of the term in this context does not seem proper or fit within the parameters of what the SEYM Earthcare Committee seems to be proposing.

2) It was felt by other members of our Meeting that the first paragraph of the preface to the proposed minute constituted an appeal to emotion. Of particular concern was the usage of the term "planetary suicide" which was the clearest example of an appeal to emotion and frankly a polemic. Also the statements that there are "400 ppm of carbon in the atmosphere," "biosphere's optimal capacity for life as we know it is 350 ppm," or that carbon levels "continue to rise" are equally unnecessary for the same reason. The only seeming purpose of these statements is to appeal to reader's the desirability to avoid the self-described outcome of "planetary suicide." While this may not have been the intention of the SEYM Earthcare Committee when drafting the preface, this is how it nevertheless reads and the entire preface would benefit from its exclusion.

3) There were concerns from members of our Meeting with respect to the "initial job description." Firstly, some members felt that the job description was a bit nebulous. It was felt that if Meetings were going to have to contribute to funds to this type of position the job description should be clear and have set goals and a purpose. Other than providing a liaison to other like-minded Quaker environmental organizations and working with monthly meetings which are functionally secondary responsibilities; the main responsibility is to "[w]ork within their own leadings and the guidance of the Spirit in work within

the SEYM on planetary healing” includes no specifics. As such, it was felt that it would be impossible for us as a meeting to make an informed decision regarding pay someone to engage environmental work when we are unclear what their primary responsibility would be.

4) With respect to the job description itself, there was concern among our members that it was not included as part of the proposed minute offered by the Earthcare Committee and was instead part of the preface. As a meeting we thought it prudent that any job description provided for the position should be included in the proposed minute. Exclusion of the description from the proposed minute has the possibility of resulting in confusion due to its proximity to the actual minute. For example, members may opt to approve or disapprove the minute based on the initial job description when it is not part of the minute being proposed. Thus, the importance of the job description to any decision regarding the minute necessitates it being included in the minute.

I am sincerely thankful to the members of the Earthcare Committee for their obedience to their leadings and faithful persevering discernment in their work to produce the SEYM Minute on Climate Change. Thank you. This important step is exemplary and as many Friends endeavors are, addresses in a conscientious and respectful manner a serious miscarriage in our fragile human understanding and affairs. I do believe however that deep discernment as to what the direction and next step is, trusting that way will open, is the best course of action. The intent of the proposed minute as written creating a position with a job description appears to be a foregone conclusion and as such runs ahead of the Guide. I am not comfortable with this and would caution that we proceed with discernment.

Jason Inswasty

Recording Clerk

Jacksonville Friends Meeting

9/30/2014

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**a Wendynote re a released Friend dealing with the Climate Crisis**

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**From :** julalf@juno.com

Tue, Sep 30, 2014 08:47 PM

**Subject :** a Wendynote re a released Friend dealing with the Climate Crisis**To :** emartin227@comcast.net

Dear Elaine,  
I see what I did...I didn't write dot com for Jason's e-address. Here's  
my two cents.  
Wendiferous

----- Forwarded message -----

From: <julalf@juno.com>  
To: jinswasty@gmail  
Cc: mjklingelftq@comcast.net, bletsch@bellsouth.net,  
greenebank@earthlink.net, julalf@juno.com  
Date: Sat, 27 Sep 2014 01:07:47 -0400  
Subject: a Wendynote re a released Friend dealing with the Climate Crisis

Dear Jason,  
I'm sorry. I forgot to put your e-address in my Jacksonville Meeting  
lists. There are three Jax Friends who send e-mail to Jax MM folk:  
Elaine Martin, Michael Shell, and myself. Elaine said you're collecting  
and sending to the appropriate Southeastern Yearly Meeting person(s) Jax  
Friends' comments and questions regarding the proposed released Friend  
dealing with the Climate Crisis amongst SEYM meetings and worship groups.  
Here, below, are my comments and questions for you to forward on. Thank  
thee. I'm sending them on to a few persons on the Earthcare Com. of  
SEYM., Mary Jo Klingel, of Ft. Lauderdale Meeting, and Barb Letsch and  
Jack Bradin, of Palm Beach Meeting. Oh, and my father, Alfred, also, on  
the Earthcare Committee.  
Gentle blessings,  
Wendy

From: <julalf@juno.com>  
To: emartin227@comcast.net  
Date: Sat, 13 Sep 2014  
Subject: Re: Meeting for Worship & Meeting for Worship for Business  
9/14/14 - from Wendy

Dear Elaine,

Regarding the Earthcare Minute for a "released Friend" to be hired:

SEYM Friends have difficulty agreeing on the SEYM budget as it is...How  
are we going to agree to fund an individual? Are we going to release  
him/her to follow his/her OWN leadings when they may conflict with the  
Earthcare Committee's ideas or the clarity of leadings that may manifest  
in meetings and worship groups as time goes on (or currently)?

In the Earthcare Minute approved at Annual Sessions of SEYM in April  
2014, isn't there words to the effect that we behave in productive ways  
and, also, behave in denial of the Climate Crisis? Are we going to  
change our ways further with someone prodding us along, checking up on  
us, producing more guilt than there already is within us that we aren't  
doing enough?

Are we sloughing off (or transferring) the responsibilities to  
nudge/urge/instigate change within ourselves, our homes, our meetings and  
worship groups onto this proposed released Friend as her/his  
responsibilities? For we don't have the time to do it ourselves? But,  
we'll pay for someone else to do it, even though the released Friend may  
come from amongst SEYM?

Have we as individuals - and other individuals and groups we're connected to - done all we can muster to confront the Climate Crisis and need a released Friend to travel amongst SEYM meetings and worship groups to give pep talks in order to do more? to be a connecting or focal "point/person?" Are there SEYM Friends who will be a support committee for the released Friend? From the same or different meetings or worship groups? Would the SEYM administrative secretary be responsible for coordinating the released Friend's schedule?

Well, these are my current questions. Thanks.

A comment... Several years ago, wondering how the SEYM Worship & Ministry Committee could address the Climate Crisis, I asked this of that wise soul amongst us, Joel Cook. Immediately, Friend Joel responded that, "What SEYM Worship & Ministry Committee can do is help meetings and worship groups deepen our meetings for worship so we'll more readily be able to hear what God is asking us to do regarding the Climate Crisis." By the way, I highly recommend reading NAVIGATING THE COMING CHAOS - A handbook for Inner Transition, by Carolyn Baker (about \$24 through amazon).

Gentle blessings of lovingkindness,  
Wendy Clarissa Geiger  
Jacksonville MM  
904-764-1722  
julalf@juno.com

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The #1 Worst Carb Ever?

Click to Learn #1 Carb that Kills Your Blood Sugar & Don't Eat This!  
<http://thirdpartyoffers.juno.com/TGL3141/542b4f6cea3c14f6c47a9st01vuc>

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