

Jacksonville Friends Meeting
Meeting for Worship for Business

April 12, 2015

Minutes

Present: Wendy Clarissa Geiger, Al Geiger, Paul Hibschman, Michael Shell, Sue Watson, Elaine Martin

Friends shared on the query, How can we more readily believe in “that of God” in ourselves?

Minutes of March 8, 2015 approved

Treasurers Report

Sue noted that our fiscal year end is May 31, 2015. Sue noted that Meeting does not have funds at this time to cover the entire apportionment as the new fiscal years begins. Friends engaged in a general discussion of apportionment and the membership listing in the directory. Sue noted that Wendy corresponds with the members and attenders throughout the year and every year makes changes to the directory as needed. Elaine noted that based on the 2015-16 budget that was passed at Yearly Meeting, the apportionment per member/attender should not change very much.

Sue also noted that it is time to pay the Friends Journal ad.

Worship and Ministry

The clerk noted that this item remains on the agenda as a follow up to the called special meeting at which time it was determined that Paul would be the point person for issues related to Worship and Ministry or Care and Counsel. Paul noted that there is some need, although undefined at this time, to visit with Friends who are not attending Meeting. He also noted that there are no issues with worship or vocal ministry at this time. The clerk reminded Friends that we agreed to keep this issue in mind as we continue study of the Faith and Practice. Michael noted that he would add a note stating this when he sent the announcement and material for the Adult First Day school session.

Meetinghouse Committee

There was no report from the Meetinghouse committee since Jim Craig was not present and the committee members did not have any information to share. Elaine stated that she will reach out to him.

SEYM Yearly Meeting Report

Elaine reported that the Yearly Meeting body approved four minutes, two brought forward from the Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Concerns, (FLGBTQC) and one from the Committee on Racism summarized as follows:

We support the work of the Olympia Monthly Meeting and the Friends New Underground Railroad project to aid LGBTQ Ugandans who are fleeing their homeland for their lives.

We seek to formally sponsor the work of the Olympia Monthly Meeting and the Friends New Underground Railroad project by committing a contribution from the 2015-2016 budget in the amount of \$200.

We commit to read the pamphlet Living our Testimony of Equality—A White Friend’s Experience by Patience A. Schenck.

The Yearly Meeting body also approved the position of Earthcare Field Secretary. The proposed Earthcare minute was broken down into four separate minutes which will be available when minutes are posted. There was considerable energy around the issue and Friends made a request to the SEYM trustees for \$10,000 to start the process.

Wendy reported that PNC bank has decided to defund mountain top removal an action which the SEYM youth had been pursuing. It was noted that the Youth's action at the PNC shareholders annual meeting in Tampa was a deciding factor as PNC realized that the opposition to mountain top removal was national and not merely localized in Pennsylvania.

Wendy reported on the workshops she had attended and how spiritual, enriching and moving the Gathering was this year.

Al expressed discontent that despite our Nation's situation of 'endless war', there was no mention of it at the Yearly Meeting sessions.

ICARE report

Elaine reported on the ICARE training she had attending on the Investment Drive and explained the ICARE philosophy of pursuing and gaining investment in the organization from both corporate partners and the membership. Elaine reported that the Nehemiah Assembly, the annual ICARE action, is scheduled for Monday April 20th and that she will send an announcement to Meeting.

Faith and Practice Adult First Day School

Michael announced that next First Day April 19th, we will be holding the Adult First Day session on Concerns, Leadings and Testimonies. He asked Friends to read Chapter 3 of the Faith and Practice as well as the article by Derek Parker, “Why do we have Quaker Testimonies?” which will be emailed to Friends.

Moral Injury/ AVP/ Veterans Issues

Elaine reported on the recent developments concerning her work. There are five trained facilitators in Florida who are willing to work as a team to help get an AVP program started in Jacksonville. One of the facilitators, is also working on modules for healing from moral injury for Quaker House and has suggested meeting with the Veterans for Peace in Jacksonville to develop an AVP program to meet their needs. The Veterans for Peace are scheduled to have a Chapter meeting today April 12 and plan to discuss the idea. Elaine reported that she has contact information for someone who can set up the Moral Injury presentations for C.E. U. credits. She has also met another Disciples of Christ pastor and plans to pursue discussion and possible presentations on Moral Injury with him.

Wendy reported on the Moral Injury Presentation which had been presented by Lynn and Steve Newsom on March 25th.

Medicine Bottles for Malawi

Although not on the agenda, Friends discussed the request for medicine bottles for Malawi which had been forwarded to Meeting. Michael stated that he already has a box of them as he has been saving them knowing that they are recyclable. The request is to boil the bottles and remove the labels. There was

some objection to boiling the bottles. Nonetheless Friends agreed to collect the bottles and send to Malawi. A collection box will be made available.

Submitted by
Elaine Martin
April 17, 2015