

Jacksonville Friends Meeting
Meeting for Worship for Business
October 11, 2015

Minutes

Present: Elaine Martin, Willie Hager, Sue Williams, Al Geiger, Sue Watson, Mike Shell, Paul Hibschman

Queries

- What is the condition of your light within? – Philadelphia YM
- How does the Truth fare with thee? – an old Quaker greeting

Minutes of September 20, 2015 – Approved with two corrections on page 2

- Michael would like to lay down his own role as facilitator for the Faith & Practice study
- Second hour – Columbia (SC) Meeting proposal

Meeting Location

- Willie Hager vfpjax@mail.com is succeeding Jim Craig chair of this task force
- Friends discussed two separate issues
- *Temporary location*
 - Elaine must move out by October 31st
 - Willie will investigate and report back on various temporary options, including his own home (1512 Iralou Road, 32254)
 - Friends agreed that the urgency obliges us to act despite the possibility of not meeting the short-term needs of individual Friends
 - Minuted – Friends reluctantly agreed that Meeting must accept a temporary location even if it does not meet our wheelchair accessibility and acoustical requirements.
- *Permanent location*
 - Discussion
 - Other permanent meeting houses tend to have a positive "energy"
 - For JAX Meeting to have a true "ministry of presence," we need to have a visible public setting to which we can invite the community
 - Recent options – Suggested by Wendy and Al Geiger; Willie will investigate
 - New Journey Church <http://newjourneyjax.com/>, 2214 University Blvd, 32216
 - Only available afternoons
 - Northside Presbyterian Church <http://www.pcusa.org/congregations/11082/>, 1901 Leonid Rd., 32218
 - Congregation in active and may offer use for free

Treasurers Report

- Donations through October 10th roughly match expenditures
- Minuted – Meeting will defer payment of approximately \$900 balance of SEYM apportionment due to potential costs of relocating.
- Minuted – Meeting will pay the \$48 annual subscription fee to *Friends Journal* plus a donation of \$52 (total \$100).
- Minuted – Meeting will donate \$50 from our building fund to the Tampa Meeting House fund.
- Minuted – Meeting will donate \$100 to Florida Coalition for Peace & Justice for repairs to the peace education center.

Meeting Community Building

- *Second Hour Proposal*
 - Friends are interested but will defer this topic until we are in a stable location
 - Meeting will also defer the continued study of SEYM Faith & Practice for the same reason
 - Friends want to designate one First Day for discussion of Living Our Testimony of Equality: A White Friend's Experience, by Patience Schenck, but will wait until Wendy can attend
- *Christmas Potluck in St. Augustine, December 6th, 10-2*
 - Minuted – Friends agreed to hold this potluck and express their gratitude to Bonnie for arranging it.

Website [Ken Hall was not in attendance]

- Elaine will help Ken to contact Heidi, who must sign off on transferring access to the domain name Ken as server host for the site
- Friends agreed that active, up to date communications are essential to our "ministry of presence"
- We therefore need to find a webmaster to maintain the website

Newsletter [Bonnie Hall was not in attendance]

- As with the website, Friends agreed that a regularly published newsletter (at least one page) is essential to our "ministry of presence"
- Bonnie has set November 1st as her deadline for publishing a newsletter issue
- Minuted – Meeting agreed that, in order to sustain regular publication of the newsletter, Wendy Geiger will assume the role of editor if circumstances prevent Bonnie from publishing a November 1st issue.

October 3rd Fall Interim Business Meeting (FIBM) Highlights

- Copies of the Clerk's report were emailed to Jacksonville Friends on October 9th
- Michener Lecturer, January 17th, will be Diane Randall, FLGC Executive Secretary
- Earthcare Committee – Documents have been sent to SEYM meetings re the proposed Field Secretary for Earthcare position (FSE)
 - JAX Friends should review and prepare comments on these documents
 - Discussion will be an agenda item during the next meeting for business
- Draft Personnel Policy (left pending in 2009 due to some concerns)
 - SEYM needs to adopt an approved policy, now that there are 2 part-time employees and the prospect of a FSE
 - JAX Friends should review and prepare comments on this policy draft
- New SEYM website: <http://seymquakers.org>
- Youth Committee
 - During FIBM, Young Friends planned, prepared and carried out a peaceful demonstration at a nearby Wendy's on behalf of the Fair Food Campaign of the Coalition of Immolakee Workers <http://www.ciw-online.org/>
 - The also visited a Taco Bell to express thanks that Taco Bell had joined the Campaign
 - Friends at FIBM were very moved by Young Friends creative, peaceful action
- Gathering Committee
 - 2016 Walton Lecturer will be Bridget Moix <http://www.insightonconflict.org/author/bridgetmoix/>
 - 2017 potential themes: "Quakers and the Environment" or "Restorative Justice"

JAX AVP

- Our local project was acknowledged by ~~FIBM attendees~~ [the Peace and Social Concerns Committee of SEYM](#) as a JAX Meeting ministry

- [The Peace and Social Concerns Committee of SEYM](#) offered funds to help with travel and hospitality for Friends attending Advanced or Facilitator workshops, as well as to help JAX Meeting host workshops
- [The Peace and Social Concerns Committee of SEYM](#) was impressed by the diversity of JAX AVP's group: former inmates, social workers, veterans, AME church members, etc.
- The local group will have a follow-up meeting on October 18th at the Five Star Vet [Center](#)

Reports & Announcements

- As directed by Meeting, Elaine send a letter to Jacksonville Coalition for Equality (JCE) in support of an amended Human Rights Ordinance which includes LGBT people
 - Minuted – Meeting asked Elaine to invite an Equality Florida intern to present a letter-writing clinic so that we can write City Council members on behalf of the HRO effort
- ICARE Report – A brief update from Elaine on the first round of the 2015-16 effort: house meetings to identify issues for ICARE focus
- Elaine sent our shipment of empty medicine bottles to Malawi, and we are laying down this project.

Mike Shell
1/11/2015