

**Jacksonville Monthly Meeting
Meeting for Worship for Business
April 10, 2016**

Minutes

Attendees: Elaine Martin, Sue Watson, Al Geiger, Wendy Clarissa Geiger, Mike Shell

Query: "We are not called to be effective – we are called to be faithful."

– *Daily Readings from Quaker Writing Ancient and Modern*,
edited by Linda Hill Renfer (1995)

In what ways might we limit our witness by attaching to outcomes and effectiveness rather than being still in the knowledge that we are faithful?

Minutes of March 13, 2016 – Approved with correction of two typos

Treasurer's Report – Sue Watson

- Minuted – Friends approved an annual donation to Quaker House of \$100.

Yearly Meeting Gathering Report (March 23-27, 2016) – Elaine Martin

- See *SEYM 2016 Epistle* [below](#)
- Peacebuilder Bridget Moix delivered the Walton Lecture on our theme "Active Peace: Friends Ministry of Hope in a Despairing World"
- 2017 Michener Lecturer will be Susan Waltz <http://fordschool.umich.edu/faculty/susan-waltz>, and 2017 Walton Lecturer will be Peterson Toscano <https://petersontoscano.com/>

Website Content Discussion

- The Recording Clerk proposed posting approved minutes on the Meeting website, but one Friend expressed discomfort with the idea.
- Friends agreed to announcing upcoming events on the home page and the calendar
- A Friend suggested adding a "quote of the month"

April 17th second hour activity

- Friends agreed to follow potluck with a worship sharing on the queries: "In what ways do we acknowledge our sorrows? In what ways do we address our sorrows?"

Newcomers Packets

- A Friend proposed sharing copies of this packet with other SEYM meetings.
- Friends will consider taking copies to the next gathering.

Announcements

- ICARE – Nehemiah Assembly, April 11th, Abyssinia Baptist Church, 7pm
- AVP Facilitators Training – April 29, 30 and May 1, Jacksonville (location & time TBD)
- David Swanson War is a Lie – May 20th, Florida Christian Center, 7pm

Submitted 4/19/2016
Mike Shell
Recording Clerk

SEYM 2016 Epistle

<http://seymquakers.org/blog/2016/04/09/seym-2016-epistle/>

Loving Greetings to Friends Everywhere:

Southeastern Yearly Meeting gathered in Fruitland Park, Florida, in Third Month 23-27, 2016 with 133 Friends in attendance, including 17 children. The joyous comments about the beauty of our setting by visitors from Quaker organizations, reminded us to appreciate how fortunate we are to meet at The Life Enrichment Center on Lake Griffin. We are ever mindful of the benefit offered us by nature as we worship beneath the ancient live oaks and listen to the ministry of birdsong.

Peacebuilder Bridget Moix delivered the Walton Lecture on our theme 'Active Peace: Friends Ministry of Hope in a Despairing World' in which she shared a framework of understanding to guide us in our peacemaking efforts. In her workshops, YM Friends heard stories of peacemakers from around the world and were led through a series of small group discussions exploring our stories and where we sought the spiritual nurture needed to be peacemakers. Sharing from her extensive life experience as a peacebuilder, Bridget gave us valuable insight into the wealth of peacemaking efforts around the world as well as concrete resources to support our work and witness for peace.

Friends expressed gratitude for the quotes and queries, which gave rise to spirit, led reflection in our worship sharing groups. We delved deeply in personal consideration of the theme 'Active Peace', seeking to recenter and renew ourselves to be strong in meeting the challenges ahead, and to be open to act upon the leading of spirit. We are also grateful to the many Friends who shared their gifts and leadings through a wide variety of informative and inspiring workshops.

Our youth are continuing their climate change work and witness with focus on water issues. They brought forward strategies in which both individual Friends and Monthly Meetings can participate in addressing this concern. Part of this work includes creatively raising donations to support the Field Secretary for Earthcare.

Friends were excited to receive a report from the Field Secretary for Earthcare Search Committee. Having developed a job description and an ad, SEYM is moving forward to fill the position. Friends look forward to fulfilling our commitment to act on climate change.

The Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) report was another highlight of our gathering. Hearing the epistle of 320 Friends from around the world, who gathered in Peru, while seeing their faces, was a touching opportunity to connect with our brothers and sisters from around the world. SEYM Friends mirrored this connection among Friends through our active participation in conversation, study, worship and intergenerational dance and play.

SEYM Friends feel renewed in our call to be faithful and look forward to using what we have shared and learned in seeking to fulfill our call to be active peacemakers.

In the Light,

Joel Cook, SEYM Assistant Clerk, Presiding