

**Jacksonville Monthly Meeting**  
**Meeting for Worship for Business**  
**October 16, 2016**

**Minutes**

**Attendees:** Elaine Martin, Willie Hager, Caroline Sheely, Al Geiger, Wendy Clarissa Geiger, Sue Watson, Mike Shell

.....The Divine Light is accessible to all people,  
Regardless of race, sex, age or material wealth.  
Everyone has the potential to respond to God within....  
Equality is not sameness. It is equality of respect.  
Every person is a child of God.

– *New England Yearly Meeting Faith & Practice*, 1985  
<http://neym.org/faith-practice/part-2/chapter-4/equality>

**Query:** How do I monitor and change the deep-seated prejudices I have acquired from my family, church, community, and culture?

**Minutes of September 11, 2016** – Approved.

**Treasurer's Report** – Sue Watson

- Balance sheet [\[see below\]](#).
- Meeting's checking account at Hancock Bank can currently be signed only by Sue Watson and Shannon Palmer.

**2016.10.16-1** – Jacksonville Monthly Meeting approves changing who is authorized to sign checks from our Hancock Bank account, removing Shannon Palmer and adding Elaine Martin and Michael Shell.

- Meeting's SEYM apportionment for FY 2016-17 is \$1,747, compared with the FY16 apportionment of around \$1,900, we paid in two parts.

**2016.10.16-2** – Jacksonville Monthly Meeting approves making a \$750.00 contribution toward our SEYM apportionment now and considering adding the second half later.

- Fundraising discussion
  - Several Friends suggested fundraisers to make sure we can cover our apportionment. Some MM's do hold fundraisers, though usually for special purposes.
  - Other Friends expressed concern that, as a Meeting, we should support ourselves rather than asking the community for support.
  - JAX MM apportionment is based on 7 members and 17 attenders (counted as ½ in the formula), a total of 24 Friends (15.5 units in SEYM's calculations).
  - Friends might consider the following in considering future personal contributions:
    - Meeting budgeted \$4,040 for the fiscal year, about \$340/month
    - 24 people contributing \$14-15 each month would cover the budget.
  - The Treasurer read last year's letter inviting contributions.
  - Friends were content to lay down for now the idea of fundraising.

**Newsletter** – Wendy Clarissa Geiger and Mike Shell

- Meeting supports Wendy's editorial aim of making the newsletter an inspiration for Friends. Monthly news and announcements are already included. As-needed announcements are being sent by email (AVP workshop announcements, for example).

- Our concern is to reduce costs and increase availability by sending in email format (e-newsletter) to all who are able and willing to receive that format.
  - We can attach a PDF as a printable/savable version of the email.
  - Meeting will decide later whether to make the PDFs available through the website.
- Meeting will continue to mail print copies to those who request it.
- Converting Wendy's typed texts to a email format is relatively easy. We will observe "fair use" of copyrighted text, images and cartoons, and, if uncertain, seek permission from content owners.
- The November issue will be produced using the current process.
- As recording clerk, Mike will work with Wendy to compile email and print mailing lists. He will contact all current recipients asking them to choose email or print.
- Mike and Wendy will draft an e-newsletter example for the November meeting for business.

#### **Website – Mike Shell**

- Mike asks friends to give input on "ease of navigation" for the website, as well as asking their acquaintances to test the site and give them feedback to share with him.
- Wendy pointed out that some *Friends Journal* and *Quaker Life* monthly meeting listings include website addresses.

**2016.10.16-3** – Jacksonville Monthly Meeting approves adding our website address <http://www.jacksonvillefriends.org/> to the Meeting listings in *Friends Journal* and *Quaker Life*.

#### **Second Hour Activity – Bonnie Hall (absent)**

- Mike will visit Bonnie over the next week or so to discuss how she wishes to proceed with the interrupted plan for Rex Ambler/Faith & Practice study.
- Mike also posed a query: Given Bonnie's ongoing health challenges, how can Friends take the Meeting to her where she is?

#### **Service Positions**

- Meeting approved new Clerk, Recording Clerk and Treasurer for 2017.

**2016.10.16-4** – Jacksonville Monthly Meeting approves Mike Shell as Clerk, Caroline Sheely as Recording Clerk, and Sue Watson as Treasurer, for 3-year terms beginning 1/1/2017.

- First Day School (FDS) – Elaine Martin agreed to care for FDS when children attend.
- There are several continuing positions:
  - Newsletter – Wendy Clarissa Geiger
  - Website – Mike Shell
  - Building Committee – Willie Hager.

**Scott Brown Workshop: *Creating a Culture of Peace*** – Oct 19th, 7-9pm, Florida Christian Center

**Alternatives to Violence (AVP) Beginners' Workshop** – Oct 21-23, Florida Christian Center

- Three facilitators and one other participant will stay with the Geiger's; Elaine and Willie will host a fourth person.
- The Treasurer gave Al Geiger a \$50 check from the AVP fund to cover food.
- Meeting will hold a potluck on First Day, Oct 23, before the 1-6pm final session.

#### **Fall Interim Business Meeting (FIBM) Update**

- Clerk shared the highlights published at <http://seymquakers.org/blog/2016/10/05/fall-interim-business-meeting-highlights-2/>
- Mike shared the concern expressed by ProNica <http://pronica.org/> board members during FIBM that the Nicaraguan political situation has deteriorated in dangerous ways.

### **SEYM Committee for Ministry on Racism "End Slavery for All" Minute**

- Friends discussed this minute and agreed to support it.

**2016.10.16-5** – Jacksonville Monthly Meeting approves the SEYM Committee for Ministry on Racism "End Slavery for All" minute as published by FIBM [[see text](#)]. We will explore ways to publicize the concern in our region and through our communication networks.  
<http://seymquakers.org/blog/2016/10/05/end-slavery-for-all/>

### **Florida Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence**

- Friends discussed this action and agreed to support it.

**2016.10.16-6** – Jacksonville Monthly Meeting approves joining the Florida Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence <http://www.preventgunviolenceflorida.org/> and signing the League of Women Voters call to action letter to state political leaders [[see text](#)].  
<http://www.preventgunviolenceflorida.org/the-coalitions-first-action-a-letter-to-florida-state-leadership/>

- Wendy recommended two books by Carolyn Baker which help folks to address the inner and collective turmoil which climate change and other ongoing crises stir in us.
  - *Navigating the Coming Chaos: A Handbook for Inner Transition*  
<https://carolynbaker.net/books/navigating-the-coming-chaos/>
  - *Collapsing Consciously: Transformative Truths for Turbulent Times*  
<https://carolynbaker.net/books/collapsing-consciously-transformative-truths-for-turbulent-times/>.

### **QUNO Statement on Climate Change**

- Friends discussed this statement and agreed to sign onto it.

**2016.10.16-7** – Jacksonville Monthly Meeting approves adding our name to the Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO) "Facing the Challenge of Climate Change: A shared statement by Quaker groups" [[see text](#)].  
[http://www.quakerearthcare.org/sites/quakerearthcare.org/files/attachments/quaker\\_statement\\_august\\_2016\\_on\\_climate\\_change.pdf](http://www.quakerearthcare.org/sites/quakerearthcare.org/files/attachments/quaker_statement_august_2016_on_climate_change.pdf)

### **Announcements**

- October 29<sup>th</sup> – Miami Meeting Retreat, "Communication and Trust," facilitated by Cecilia Yocum  
<http://seymquakers.org/blog/2016/10/11/miami-meeting-retreat-oct-29/>
- October 30<sup>th</sup> – Intervisitation Sunday <http://seymquakers.org/resources/spiritual-formation-program/>
- October 30<sup>th</sup> – Tampa Meeting open house for their new meeting house  
<http://seymquakers.org/blog/2016/10/14/tampa-meeting-open-house-oct-30th/>

Submitted by  
Mike Shell, Recording Clerk  
10/18/2016

**Jacksonville Friends Meeting - 2015-2016 (as of 10/16/2016)**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Contributions</b>	<b>Payment</b>	<b>Balance</b>	<b>Property Fund</b>	<b>Total</b>	
6/1/2016	Balance brought forward			1628.94	6/1/2016	Balance brought forward	\$1,150.00
6/5/2016	Florida Christian Center		-50.00	1578.94	7/29/2016	Specified donation \$100	\$1,250.00
6/5/2016		25.00		1603.94			
6/10/2016		250.00		1853.94			
6/10/2016		50.00		1903.94			
7/1/2016	Florida Christian Center		-50.00	1853.94			
7/1/2016		100.00		1953.94			
7/8/2016	Florida Christian Center		-100.00	1853.94			
7/17/2016		300.00		2153.94			
7/29/2016	Transfer to Property Fund		-100.00	2053.94			
8/25/2016	Alfred Geiger-Newsletter		-143.00	1910.94			
10/2/2016	Alfred Geiger-Newsletter		-59.36	1851.58			
10/16/2016	Florida Christian Center		-50.00	1801.58			
10/16/2016	Alfred Geiger-Newsletter		-50.38	1751.20			
<b>Totals</b>		725.00	-602.74		<b>AVP Fund</b>		
					6/1/2016	Balance brought forward	\$590.28

**End Slavery for All** – <http://seymquakers.org/blog/2016/10/05/end-slavery-for-all/>  
October 5, 2016, [Ministry on Racism](#)

The SEYM Committee for Ministry on Racism asks Monthly and Yearly Meetings to affirm, and publicize, the need for

1. The removal of the exception clause of the 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the US Constitution which otherwise abolishes slavery; and
2. Persons formerly in prison to have full restoration of constitutional rights and typical citizens' rights and responsibilities (such as freedom from housing and job discrimination).

The 13th Amendment reads:

Section 1. Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, **except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted**, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.

Section 2. Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

We see this in light of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) Testimony on Equality and our history of efforts to abolish slavery in the United States and among Quakers. Currently, persons in prisons involuntarily work in what amounts to slavery conditions and leave prison with severely restrictive conditions of freedom that shackle their efforts for normalcy, often for the rest of their lives.

We see this in light of former President Franklin D. Roosevelt's executive order removing the exception clause to the 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment, after which this action did not become law of the land. And we seek this in light of a person without a job seemingly contributing nothing to society, except get that person in prison and that person is worth \$30,000-\$40,000 per year for corporations using prisoners' labor.

Submitted by SEYM Committee for Ministry on Racism:

Wendy Clarissa Geiger, Cheryl Demers-Holton, Minerva Glidden, Susan Taylor, Ellie Caldwell

## League of Women Voters/FCPGV: Letter to Florida State Leadership

<http://www.preventgunviolenceflorida.org/the-coalitions-first-action-a-letter-to-florida-state-leadership/>

Posted on September 6, 2016



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
OF FLORIDA

June 20, 2016

**PRESIDENT**  
Pamela Goodman

The Honorable Rick Scott, Governor  
The Honorable Andy Gardiner, Senate President  
The Honorable Steve Crisafulli, Speaker of the House

Hand Delivered

**FIRST VICE PRESIDENT**  
Patricia Brigham

**RE: FLORIDA COALITION TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE**

Dear Governor Scott, Senate President Gardiner, and House Speaker Crisafulli:

**TREASURER**  
Theresa Francis-Thomas

We applaud your immediate statements to the LGBT and Hispanic communities, and to all citizens and visitors to the State of Florida, that you will not tolerate the targeting of any community with hatred or gun violence. But more must be done. This is a public safety issue. We urge you to put actions behind your words. The deadliest mass shooting in U.S. history occurred in Orlando, Florida. Accordingly, the undersigned coalition partners call on you to convene a special legislative session within fourteen days to implement the following legislative measures:

**SECRETARY**  
Patricia Drago

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
Shawn Bartelt  
The Hon. Annie Betancourt  
Sandra Colyer  
The Hon. Paula Dockery  
Anthony Dutton  
Elizabeth Pines  
Cecile M. Scoon  
Geanine Wester

**First, we call upon you to enact legislation making it a crime to knowingly import, sell, manufacture, transfer, or possess a semiautomatic assault weapon or large capacity ammunition feeding device.** There is simply no reason for private citizens to have access to weapons like the MCX Carbine firearm used to murder the 49 people in the Pulse Night Club in Orlando on June 12, 2016. These weapons have immense destructive power and do not belong in civilian hands. Florida should follow the lead of the seven states – California, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Hawaii, Maryland, New Jersey and New York, – which already ban assault weapons.<sup>1</sup> In addition, Florida should join the other eight states – California, Colorado, Connecticut, Hawaii, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey and New York, – that already prohibit large capacity ammunition feeding devices that hold over 10 rounds.<sup>2</sup>

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**  
Penny Walker Bos  
540 Beverly Court  
Tallahassee, FL  
32301-7530  
(850)224-2545

**Second, we call upon the state to implement comprehensive, universal background checks.** Both nationally and in Florida, legal access to guns is still too easy – and this tragedy is only the latest in a long line of examples. In particular, the state should require private parties (i.e., non-federally or state licensed dealers) to conduct a background check before selling any firearm.<sup>3</sup> Simultaneously, the state of Florida should ensure that all relevant records are provided to the FBI's National Instant Criminal Background Check (NICS).<sup>4</sup>

Any harm to any one of us is harm to *all of us* and must be addressed by the entire state. The undersigned coalition represents the broad spectrum of Florida citizens who share this conviction. And so we call on you, Governor Scott, President Gardiner and Speaker Crisafulli, to convene a special session within fourteen days and pass these measures to prevent gun violence in Florida.

Nationally Respected, Locally Engaged:  
The League of Women Voters of Florida  
[www.TheFloridaVoter.org](http://www.TheFloridaVoter.org)

## **A Shared Quaker Statement: Facing the Challenge of Climate Change**

[http://www.quakerearthcare.org/sites/quakerearthcare.org/files/attachments/quaker\\_statement\\_august\\_2016\\_on\\_climate\\_change.pdf](http://www.quakerearthcare.org/sites/quakerearthcare.org/files/attachments/quaker_statement_august_2016_on_climate_change.pdf) [Last update: September 2016]

Dear Friends worldwide,

The Statement below was developed by Quaker Earthcare Witness, the Quaker United Nations Office, and Friends Committee on National Legislation for their joint presence at events during the UN Climate Summit in September 2014.

A number of fellow Quaker organizations wished to add their name, including FWCC, which sent the Statement out to Quaker communities worldwide. As a result, we continue to receive signatures which we add to the Statement, uploading the most recent versions onto the QEW, FCNL and QUNO websites.

The Statement was originally written as a 'witness' of our role in anthropogenic climate change. Its aim was to inspire personal and community action; it was not meant to define a universal action, since the situation of Quakers worldwide is not universal. However, QUNO has produced a booklet describing individual Quaker actions, *A Call to Conscience*, which is available on its website, and we encourage you to write if your Meeting commits to community-wide action. We are also helping develop a resource for Quaker action on climate change.

The above Statement was revised in January 2015 to reflect the following concerns: that it have longer life by being non-date specific to continue its relevance, and that the language be less anthropocentric and more strongly acknowledge the grave dangers we face from climate change. It was revised in August 2015, to add the word 'anthropogenic' in clarifying the statement relating greenhouse gas emissions to the combustion of fossil fuels on the second page.

We have attempted to do this, while holding to the core message that Quaker organizations and Meetings have already upheld and signed.

If you wish to add your Meeting to this Statement, please contact Lindsey Cook as suggested at the end of the Statement.

If you do not wish to sign, but wish to use this material as a base for a Meeting-specific Statement, you are most welcome, but please take off the signatures.

In peace and with gratitude,

QEW, QUNO and FCNL  
August 2015

## **A Shared Quaker Statement: Facing the Challenge of Climate Change**

*"It would go a long way to caution and direct people in their use of the world, that they were better studied and knowing in the Creation of it. For how could [they] find the confidence to abuse it, while they should see the great Creator stare them in the face, in all and every part of it?"*

*William Penn, 1693*

As Quakers, we are called to work for the peaceable Kingdom of God on the whole Earth, in right sharing with all peoples.<sup>[1]</sup> We recognize a moral duty to cherish Creation for future generations. We call on our leaders to make the radical decisions needed to create a fair, sufficient and effective international climate change agreement.

As Quakers, we understand anthropogenic climate change (climate change due to human activities) to be a symptom of a greater challenge: how to live sustainably and justly on this Earth.

We recognize that the current rise of greenhouse gas emissions is leading to an unprecedented rate of increase in global average surface temperature of extreme detriment to the Earth's ecosystems and species, including human beings.

We recognize that catastrophic global climate change is not inevitable if we choose to act urgently. We recognize a personal and collective responsibility to ensure that the poorest and most vulnerable peoples now, and all our future generations, do not suffer as a consequence of our actions. We see this as a call to conscience.

We recognize the connections between climate change and global economic injustice as well as unprecedented levels of consumption, and question assumptions of unlimited material growth on a planet with limited natural resources.

We recognize that most anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions are created by fossil fuel combustion. We recognize that our increasing population continues to pursue fossil fuel-dependent economic growth. We recognize that the Earth holds more fossil fuel reserves than are safe to burn, and that the vast majority of fossil fuel reserves must remain in the ground if we are to prevent the catastrophic consequences of climate change. We therefore question profoundly the continued investment in, and subsidizing of, fossil fuel extraction.

We seek to nurture a global human society that prioritizes the well-being of people over profit, and lives in right relationship with our Earth; a peaceful world with fulfilling employment, clean air and water, renewable energy, and healthy thriving communities and ecosystems.

As members of this beautiful human family, we seek meaningful commitments from our leaders and ourselves, to address climate change for our shared future, the Earth and all species, and the generations to come. We see this Earth as a stunning gift that supports life. It is our only home. Let us care for it together.

Kabarak Call to Peace and Eco-Justice, 2012, p. 1