

Jacksonville Monthly Meeting
Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business
March 12, 2017
Minutes

Attendees: Mike Shell, Caroline Sheely, Willie Hager, Elaine Martin, Al Geiger, Wendy Geiger

Quakers owe us INCLUSION. The inclusion I refer to is the responsibility of Quakers to increase the moral tone of truth-telling about exclusion. They owe us the courage and good sense to live beyond gossamer loyalties of racial clothing. We are owed a certain amount of internal thinking by Quakers who accept their provisional white identity without question. We are owed a grasp of inside of America's moral illness: its distortion of black vigor, the exacting horror and evil efficiency of being imprisoned by racism, and the interrupted white pleasures and profits of witnessing us as victims. They owe us the experiential evidence of their commitment to justice.

—Bill Brown, "What Do Quakers Owe Blacks?"
New England Yearly Meeting, *Healing Racism Tool Kit Project*
<https://neym.org/rsej/healing-racism>

Query: Without self-accusation or shame, what habitual thoughts, feelings and actions do we observe in ourselves that ignore the daily spiritual cost of being Black in America?

Worship

Minutes of February 12, 2017—Approved

Treasurer's report—Mike Shell for Sue Watson

The decision to send the final \$500.00 to SEYM and to donate \$300.00 to community donations, including Florida Coalition for Peace & Justice and Koinonia Camp, was deferred for April meeting.

A desire to work on proposed budget for fiscal year starting June 1 to include monies for people attending meetings was raised.

Second Draft of the "End Slavery for All" minute [[Appendix 1](#)]—Approved

Minute 2017.03.12-1—Friends approved the second draft of the SEYM Committee for Ministry on Racism minute, "End Racism for All."

SEYM support of Friends General Conference "Institutional Racism Assessment" [[Appendix 2](#)]—

Minute 2017.03.12 – We are in agreement with the general concept of FGC conducting an institutional assessment of structural racism. We are not in agreement with SEYM approving financial support until we have clarification on three concerns:

- 1. We want to know how much money will be required from our meeting.*
- 2. We want assurance that external agendas of the hired consultant will not influence internal process.*
- 3. We are concerned that an institutional process may not translate into deep personal commitment on the part of FGC, yearly meeting, and monthly meeting people.*

Sabal Trail Pipeline Update—

There is still uncertainty about what exactly is actionable. Willie and Wendy will provide more information at next monthly meeting.

Raiford inmate request for correspondence—

The clerk will investigate further before Friends decide whether to respond.

Submitted by
Caroline Sheely
3/22/2017

Appendix 1

End Slavery for All Second Draft

Action Request on the Thirteenth Amendment, for Further Seasoning for Suggested Approval at SEYM Yearly Meeting Sessions, 2017

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

1. The removal of the exception clause of the 13th Amendment to the US Constitution which otherwise abolishes slavery. Exception clause has been put in bold below.
2. Knowledge that the purpose of prisons should be to protect members of society and to prepare those imprisoned to return as productive members of their community through provision of comprehensive education and training.
3. Persons formerly in prison to have full restoration of constitutional rights, including access to housing and jobs.

The 13th Amendment reads:

Section 1. Neither slavery or 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 the power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

We seek this in the light of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) testimony on equality and our history of seeking to honor that of God in everyone through justice that restores. Currently, persons in prisons are coerced into working in what amounts to slavery. They leave prison with severely restrictive conditions of freedom that shackle their efforts for normalcy, often for the rest of their lives.

Appendix 2

Discernment on Suggesting Funding from SEYM for Friends General Conference (FGC) Institutional Assessment of Structural Racism

The Committee for Ministry on Racism is supportive of the planned Institutional Assessment that Friends General Conference (FGC) Central Committee has approved for the FGC organization itself, not to include affiliated yearly and monthly meetings. The Assessment will seek to find structural racism within FGC and recommend steps to remove it. FGC Central Committee approved calling the action "Institutional Assessment" rather than "Institutional Audit."

The SEYM Committee for Ministry on Racism will recommend financial support of the Assessment from SEYM once we have heard from the FGC General Secretary, Barry Crossno, that findings and recommendations from that Assessment will be sent to all affiliated Yearly Meetings and Monthly Meetings and that FGC commits itself to following the recommendations that come from its own review.

Susan Taylor, for the Committee