

**Jacksonville Monthly Meeting  
Meeting for Business  
June 17, 2018**

**Minutes - Approved as amended, 7/8/2018**

**Attendees:** Willie Hager, Elaine Martin, Sue Watson, Wendy Clarissa Geiger, Mike Shell.

**Reading**

*Can the spiritual disciplines of early Friends help us through hard times in the 21st century? The very question of spiritual discipline is complex for contemporary Friends. For the most part, we do not hold up an expectation that Friends should have any spiritual practice except for attendance at meeting for worship.*

*One rarely hears the term "spiritual discipline." Some of us bristle at the term "discipline," thinking of it as something administered by a teacher or parent rather than simply as a practice that develops proficiency. And among Friends "spiritual" can have a wide, and sometimes troubling, range of meanings.*

*We don't talk with one another about spiritual discipline because of our general hesitation about telling one another what spirituality is and how to develop it. As a consequence we are often left to find our way alone, without support, guidance, or milestones. Many of us get stuck or lost, or find ourselves going around in spiritual circles.*

—Patricia McBee, "Quaker Spiritual Disciplines for Hard Times,"  
[www.friendsjournal.org/quaker-spiritual-disciplines-hard-times](http://www.friendsjournal.org/quaker-spiritual-disciplines-hard-times)  
*Friends Journal*, August 1, 2003

**Worship**

**Minutes of April 8, 2018** – Approved as amended.

**Treasurer's Report** – Sue Watson

- FY 2017-18 Summary
  - Contributions \$3,646.00; Payments -\$3,936.09; Balance -\$290.09
  - Property Fund \$1,550.00; AVP \$586.98
  - Due to negative year-end balance, we did not spend \$100 of Community Donations line
- FY 2018-19 Budget
  - SEYM-Attendance Support – Meeting overran the budgeted \$150 in FY 2017-18
  - Activities – Used for group event supplies, etc., but has been zero the past few years
  - In-kind Donations
    - We record in-kind donations relevant to the Meeting's work so as to know actual costs outside of the general fund (e.g., travel to SEYM committee sessions).
    - Question: Does Meeting want to record food and snacks as in-kind donations?

**2018.06.17-1** – Jacksonville Friends approve the Treasurer's proposed FY 2018-19 Budget, totaling \$3,835 (see attached budget).

- Friends accepted the Treasurer's report.

**Update from Stuart and Casey Smith** – Mike read a June 1<sup>st</sup> email from these Jacksonville Friends. Stuart recalled a comment he made at an Interfaith Council event some years ago: *They asked about the Bible and I replied that we read it 'backwards.'* My explanation was that we had already found *The Truth through Meetings and then spent our spare time scanning the Bible to confirm our findings.*

**SEYM Executive Committee (EC) Report** – Mike summarized decisions from the June 9<sup>th</sup> EC meeting at Tampa Monthly Meeting (see Documents Archive for details [seymquakers.org/organization/documents-archive](http://seymquakers.org/organization/documents-archive)):

- Approved Admin. Secretary Vicki Carlie's proposal to subscribe to Zoom online conferencing service [www.zoom.us](http://www.zoom.us) to enable committee meetings and other live remote events.

- Appointed an ad hoc search committee to fill for Vicki's position when she retires next year.
- Approved a funding the new Youth and Young Adult Coordinator (YYAC) position for three years: 20% from Youth Committee, 40% from Trustees, 20% from the budget line for salaries, and 20% from donations and reserves.
- Requested that Orlando Monthly Meeting discern how to provide lodging for the YYAC.
- Requested that Earthcare Committee bring an evaluation of the Field Secretary for Earthcare (FSE) program to EC during Fall Interim Business Meeting.

### **Jacksonville Friends & FSE Program**

- Wendy proposed a meeting discussion considering the program from the local perspective.
- Mike will write an article for the July newsletter inviting this.
- Since the SEYM/EC target date is October FIBM, we should share our comments during or before September meeting for business.
- We need to do better at informing our own meeting and community about the FSE program.
- Willie has spoken informally with Beverly Ward about bringing her to Jacksonville for a public event as a local Peace & Social Concerns action. This event could draw in allies such as the St. Johns Riverkeeper.

### **ICARE Update – Elaine Martin**

- Elaine, Willie, and Amanda Nelson attended the May 22<sup>nd</sup> annual celebration of ICARE successes.
- Meeting was given awards for increasing our attendance at the Nehemiah Assembly since last year, for bringing more people than attend our weekly worship, and for number of people we included in the listening project.
- There is a renewed funding drive, with those who are team members invited to donate \$200.

### **April 4<sup>th</sup> Kings Bay Plowshares Action Update – Wendy Clarissa Geiger**

- Announcement: *The Importance of Resistance and Dissent: A public talk with Attorney Bill Quigley and the Kings Bay Plowshares Legal Team*, June 20, 7-9pm
  - Unitarian Universalist of Coast Georgia, 1710 Gloucester St., Brunswick, GA 31520
  - For information contact Beth Brockman at (919) 824-9283 or visit [kingsbayplowshares7.org](http://kingsbayplowshares7.org) or [www.facebook.com/Kingsbayplowshares](http://www.facebook.com/Kingsbayplowshares).
- Press Release: On June 18, 2018, peace activists will begin a “Hunger for Nuclear Disarmament” fast at the Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay, at 10:00 a.m. at the Stimson Gate, in Kings Bay, GA, seeking abolition of all nuclear weapons and justice for fellow activists who await trial (see [attached text](#)).
- Plowshares actions are done in secret in order to show how vulnerable US nuclear facilities are.
- Rep. Buddy Carter, R-Savannah, has said that this latest action is "an embarrassment" ([www.news4jax.com/news/georgia/7-protesters-detained-after-vandalism-at-kings-bay-sub-base](http://www.news4jax.com/news/georgia/7-protesters-detained-after-vandalism-at-kings-bay-sub-base)).
- This time the government response is more severe than previously.
- Friends agreed that meeting should seek ways to publicize the April 4<sup>th</sup> action and the ongoing story of those arrested.

### **Announcements**

- Wendy published an April 7<sup>th</sup> letter to the editor in the *Florida Times-Union* titled "To honor Martin Luther King Jr., embrace his vision of nonviolence" (see [attached letter](#)).
- Session 3 of "21<sup>st</sup> Century Quakerism" – Sunday, June 24<sup>th</sup>
  - 10:30-11:30am – Worship
  - 12:00-12:30pm – Potluck lunch
  - 12:30-2:30pm – Session 3 of “21st Century Quakerism” – We will discuss “Looking for God,” Chapter 2 of Ambler’s *The Quaker Way*, and the Quaker experience often called the *Light Within*.

Submitted by Mike Shell, 7/9/2018

**Jacksonville Friends Meeting Budget - FY 2018-2019**  
**Approved 6/17/2018**

<b>Income</b>		
	2011	\$2,188
	2012	\$2,908
	2013	\$3,422
	2014	\$4,609
	2015	\$3,719
	2016	\$4,171
	2017	\$4,000
	2018	\$3,600

<b>Expenses</b>		
	SEYM	\$1,760
	Meeting space rent	\$600
	Insurance	\$450
	Friends Journal Listing	\$105
	SEYM-Attendance Support	\$150
	Friends Journal Subscription	\$150
	Quaker Life Listing	\$20
	Activities & In-kind Expenses	\$0
	Meeting Literature	\$100
	Property Fund	\$100
	Community Donations	\$300
	Newsletter	\$100

<b>Total</b>		<b>\$3,835</b>
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## Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
June 15, 2018

CONTACT: Steve Baggarly  
757-469-6239

*On June 18, 2018, peace activists will begin a “Hunger for Nuclear Disarmament” fast at the Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay, at 10:00 a.m. at the Stimson Gate, in Kings Bay, GA, seeking abolition of all nuclear weapons and justice for fellow activists who await trial for an April 4<sup>th</sup> action of civil resistance at the base.*

St. Marys, GA—On June 18<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. four peace activists in support of the Kings Bay Plowshares action will begin a five day fast and public witness at and near the Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay, calling for immediate abolition of the U.S. nuclear arsenal and public support for seven people, now awaiting trial, who acted to convert “swords into plowshares” through a plowshares action at the base. Kings Bay is home port to six nuclear armed Trident ballistic missile submarines with the combined explosive power of over 9000 Hiroshima bombs.

**On June 19<sup>th</sup> the fasters will hold a public presence in front of the Glynn County Detention Center, 100 Sulphur Springs Road, in Brunswick, GA. They will be at the U.S. District Court at 801 Gloucester Street in Brunswick, GA on June 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>, and they will finish on June 22<sup>nd</sup> with a peaceful presence at the Kings Bay sub base.** For more information, please call Steve Baggarly at 757-469-6239. The public is invited to join them.

At each site, beginning June 18, participants in the liquids only fast will distribute fliers and hold banners, one of which says, “Disarm Trident...Love One Another.” They will also hand out copies of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, negotiated by 122 nations in July of 2017. The Kings Bay Plowshares action was the latest of 100 similar actions taken around the world since 1980 and the first plowshares action to take place since the global treaty banning nuclear weapons was signed.

Steve Baggarly, a former plowshares activist who will participate in the fast, said, “Most of the world is tired of being held hostage by omnicidal weapons and wants nuclear disarmament. The US and the 8 other nuclear powers who boycotted the Treaty negotiations are the outliers.” Baggarly added that, “Our true national security lies in achieving the long overdue objective of nuclear disarmament.” Fast participant Beth Brockman added, “Nuclear weapons are a theft from the poor. People here in Georgia and across the South are in desperate need of the resources squandered on the war economy.”

On April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2018, seven Catholic plowshares activists aimed to make real the prophet Isaiah’s command to “beat swords into plowshares.” Carrying hammers and baby bottles of their own blood, they hung banners, delivered an indictment and used crime scene tape at three sites on the Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay. Their call to “beat swords into plowshares” aims to eliminate all nuclear weapons and instead devote equivalent resources to meet human needs, end white supremacy, and alleviate environmental degradation.

The seven chose to act on the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the assassination of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who devoted his life to addressing what he called the “triple evils of militarism, racism and materialism.”

More information about the Kings Bay Plowshares action can be found at [kingsbayplowshares7.org](http://kingsbayplowshares7.org).

## ***Florida Times-Union* Letter to the Editor – April 7, 2018**

### **To honor Martin Luther King Jr., embrace his vision of nonviolence**

We have just marked the 50th commemoration of the “other birthday” of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.: April 4, 1968.

On that day, King was assassinated in Memphis, Tenn.

Vincent Harding — a major civil rights activist and historian who occasionally drafted speeches for King — would often say this about his friend:

“He became much more than there was time for him to be.”

It was a line that echoed the last words of the famous poem written by Robert Hayden about Malcolm X after Malcolm X, too, was assassinated.

But the voices and legacies of these two men have never died.

They have multiplied.

When I think, write or speak about King, I usually cry. But his longtime colleague, the civil rights giant Dorothy Cotton, will always tell me, “Oh, Wendy, don’t cry. Dr. King was such a happy man.”

But calling King “a dreamer” so discounts him; it dismisses him as being an idealistic, head-in-the-clouds fool.

So we should dig deeper than mainstream society steers us to do.

We should study nonviolence, which the folk singer and activist Joan Baez defines as “organized love.”

We should take the words of Jesus seriously, as King did.

We should understand that King’s vision of nonviolence remains just as practical and realistic today as it was then — and that the pursuit of military violence remains just as impractical and unrealistic today as it was then.

And we should remember why King always warned us that we have two choices:

Nonviolence.

Or nonexistence.

May we become much more than there is time for us to be.

**Wendy Clarissa Geiger, Jacksonville**

*A Quaker, Wendy Clarissa Geiger is a longtime Northside writer, activist, thinker and poet.*