

Minutes of the Meeting for Business
Jacksonville Friends Meeting
The Religious Society of Friends
January 8, 1995

Present: Debbi Rasmussen, Jean Lawrence, Mary Peel, Joanne Herrmann, Heidi Lowey-Ball, Paul Sanderson, Pat Murphy, Noel Palmer, Daisy Palmer, Julia Geiger, Al Geiger

1. Friends are reminded that the majority of our expenses for the year remain to be paid. There is about \$500.00 in the checking account.
2. A donation of \$19.11 has been received from the estate of Robert W. Ferguson, Jr., on behalf of Maggie Smith. The Clerk will send a thank you.
3. Friends discussed continued membership in the Interfaith Council of Jacksonville in light of an increase in dues to \$150.00. Of concern is the fact that this amount seems out of proportion to donations made by this Meeting to Quaker groups. A question was also raised as to whether anyone in Meeting feels led to participate in IFC at this time. Many positive aspects of memberships in the council were pointed out. Friends approved continuing our membership for another year with a commitment to reevaluate the issue in 1996.
4. Julia Geiger expressed concern about previously regular attenders who haven't come to Meeting in some time. Friends approve sending our good wishes to these people. Julia will write. A suggestion was made to write to all visitors soon after they attend Meeting.
5. Friends wish to thank all of our children and Heidi Lowey-Ball for their work on the Meeting banner. It's gorgeous!

Debbi Rasmussen, Clerk

Minutes of the Meeting for Business
Jacksonville Friends Meeting
February 12, 1995

Present: Al Geiger, Noel Palmer, Daisy Palmer, Paul Sanderson, Mary Peel, Jean Lawrence, Debbi Rasmussen, Tanya Lawrence, Haldan Gates, Stuart Smith

1. Stuart Smith reports a balance of \$744.11 in the checking account, and notes that there are still expenses to be paid for the year. Interfaith Council dues have been paid. Tanya Lawrence reports that \$18.75 has been deposited by the Meeting children for the Nicaragua school supply fund. In addition, further donations have brought the total collected to \$28.00.
2. Debbi Rasmussen and Tanya Lawrence presented a draft of the 1995 State of Society report. The report was approved as read with minor editorial changes.
3. Debbi Rasmussen and Haldan Gates reported on the interfaith worship service that was held on February 5, 1995. Our children's art work was on display at this very moving service.
4. Jacksonville Meeting has been asked to help oversee a new worship group that is forming on Tybee Island in the Savannah, Georgia, area. Friends discussed the process through which worship groups affiliate with Southeastern Yearly Meeting and the responsibilities of correspondence, visitation, and worshipful support of this new group. Friends are in unity in wishing to participate in this process. Mary Peel and Jean Lawrence are willing to serve as the first visitors. This information will be shared with Nadine Mandolang (SEYM secretary) so that plans can proceed. Others willing to assist include Stuart Smith, Debbi Rasmussen, Al and Julia Geiger.


Deborah Rasmussen, Clerk

Minutes of the Meeting for Business
Jacksonville Friends Meeting
March 12, 1995

Present: Debbi Rasmussen, Heidi Lowey-Ball, Jean Lawrence, Pat Murphy, Joanne Herrmann, Al Geiger, Julia Geiger, Noel Palmer, Daisy Palmer, Paul Sanderson

1. Jacksonville Friends agree to establish a Meeting telephone listing on a trial basis for one year. The phone will be located in the home of Debbi Rasmussen, Geoffrey and Haldan Gates. At the end of the year Friends will reconsider the value of the directory listing versus the cost.
2. Mary Peel, Jean Lawrence, and Nadine Mandolang (Tallahassee Meeting) will visit Tybee Island Friends to begin exploration of the formation of a worship group there.
3. The April Meeting for Business will be held the first Sunday of the month due to Yearly Meeting, April 5-9.

Debbi Rasmussen

Jacksonville Friends Meeting
Minutes of the Meeting for Business
April 2, 1995

Present: Debbi Rasmussen, Julia Geiger, Al Geiger, Jean Lawrence, Joanne Herrmann,
Mary Peel, Paul Sanderson

1. Friends have been asked to consider whether Southeastern Yearly Meeting should move the date of its annual gathering from March to June. The benefit of this change would be to accommodate school schedules and to make the gathering more accessible to families with children in school. However, such a change would make it more difficult for SEYM "snow birds" to attend Yearly Meeting. In addition, the gathering would be held in a hotter part of the year. After discussion, Friends find unity in recommending that the Yearly Meeting be held in the early spring as has been the case in recent years. We note that Easter weekend might be a good gathering time as many schools are on vacation then.

Debbi Rasmussen

Jacksonville Friends Meeting
Minutes of the Meeting for Business
May 14, 1995

Present: Debbi Rasmussen, Geoffrey Gates, Mary Peel, Julia Geiger, Al Geiger, Stuart Smith, Noel Palmer, Daisy Palmer, Betsy Brown, Joanne Herrmann, Jean Lawrence

1. Tallahassee Meeting has asked Friends to consider making a contribution to their meeting house fund. Jacksonville Friends agree to think about the request, and discuss it more fully at the next business meeting.

2. The treasurer reports that funds are sufficient at the moment with \$440.00 in the checking account. Our donation to Bartram School has been made. The meeting telephone has been installed, and the first bill was reviewed.

3. The following new members of Jacksonville Friends Meeting are recorded:

Lisa Perrin
Dorothy Ruege Nielsen
Kathleen M. Wood
Glenn A. Wood
Laura K. Wood

All of these Friends have become members through transfer from the former Ogeechee Monthly Meeting which has been laid down.

4. There was some discussion about changing the day/time of the adult discussion group. It seems, however, that the current time, 9:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings, is still the best for now. Friends support the idea of hiring a baby-sitter for the discussion period in order to accommodate parents who wish to participate.

5. Mary Peel and Jean Lawrence reported on the visit to Tybee Island Friends last week. The gathering went well. Friends in the Savannah area will continue to meet for worship every other month, and will explore ways to strengthen their Meeting community. Jacksonville Friends remain committed to supporting this small gathering as best we can. We note that our new members (above) who live in the Brunswick area may be able to offer support to Savannah area Friends.

Debbi Rasmussen

SOUTHEASTERN YEARLY MEETING
OF THE
RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

30 Fifth Month 1995

Dear Friends,

Enclosed is:

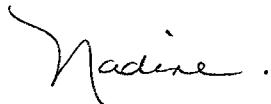
- the final draft of the section of SEYM Faith and Practice about Business Procedure. The top two paragraphs (III. The Monthly Meeting) have already been approved and are included here for context and easy printing. Please refer Friends to section "A. Business Procedure" only.
- a proposed Advice on Equality, Caring for One Another, to be added to the advices.

The Discipline Committee would also like to know how you have used the queries and advices and if you would like to have them rewritten. (If you need copies of the SEYM Faith and Practice or the Queries, please order them from Nadine Mandolang, SEYM, 1822 Medart Drive, Tallahassee, FL 32303 (904) 422-1446.)

Please bring these two items before your Meeting for Business and return minutes of your approval or concerns to Cathy Gaskill, PO Box 93, Windermere, FL 34786. Please include your response to whether or not we should rewrite the Advices and Queries.

We request your response as soon as possible. You may take this to your next Meeting for Business in June or ask a committee to consider and prepare it for Meeting for Business in July. If your response will be later than July 15, please let Cathy know your process and when you plan to have it to her.

You may call Cathy with any questions (407) 876-2191.



Nadine Mandolang
Secretary, SEYM

for

The Discipline Committee
Cathy Gaskill, Convenor
Lyn Cope-Robinson, Doris Emerson, and Christine O'Brien



Deborah Rasmussen, Clerk

Jacksonville Friends Meeting
9149 Arundel Way
Jacksonville, FL 32257

July 9, 1995

Dear Cathy Gaskill,

Jacksonville Friends Meeting has now had an opportunity to reflect upon the Advice proposed as an addition to the section "Caring for One Another" in the Southeastern Yearly Meeting book of Faith and Practice. We are in unity in finding the proposed Advice inappropriate for our book of discipline.

The first sentences of the proposed Advice reflect views which we embrace - that all human beings are of equal worth and that the Spirit transcends female and male attributes. We are, however, distressed by the tone of stridence that permeates the Advice as a whole. In reading through other Advices in our Faith and Practice, we are struck by the language of love and caring, by the expression of wisdom gained over the long experience of Friends seeking to live by the Spirit both as individuals and in community. The proposed Advice, on the other hand, strikes us as angry and negative in tone. It seems to us out of place among Advices that offer Friends a positive reflection on the life of the Spirit as manifest in the world.

We note particularly the content of Section 6 in the SEYM Advices which begins: "Seek to understand the causes of social ills and work toward their removal. Be not content to accept things as they are but keep an alert, sensitive and questioning mind." This section goes on to note that "Friends' belief in 'that of God in everyone' should lead to reverence for life and integrity in every human being," and clearly addresses the reality that Friends encounter challenges to that conviction in many ways within our society. This section of Advices lovingly reminds Friends to overcome such challenges, insisting upon the inherent worth of all.

We feel that the proposed Advice adds nothing and, in fact, detracts from this important message. We would deeply regret its inclusion in our Yearly Meeting's book of Faith and Practice.

On behalf of Jacksonville Friends Meeting,

Deborah Rasmussen, Clerk

Jacksonville Friends Meeting
of The Religious Society of Friends
Minutes of the Meeting for Business
June 11, 1995

Present: Debbi Rasmussen, Geoffrey Gates, Julia Geiger, Al Geiger, Jean Lawrence, Heidi Lowey-Ball, Mary Peel, ShawnaKim Lowey-Ball, Ben Lowey-Ball, Haldan Gates

1. ShawnaKim Lowey-Ball agreed to assume the job of treasurer for the children's collection of change.
2. Friends approve offering Tallahassee Monthly Meeting a work day when they've moved into their new meeting house rather than sending a donation of money. Debbi Rasmussen will write a letter to that effect.

Debbi Rasmussen

Jacksonville Friends Meeting
Minutes of the Meeting for Business
May 14, 1995

Present: Debbi Rasmussen, Geoffrey Gates, Mary Peel, Julia Geiger, Al Geiger, Stuart Smith, Noel Palmer, Daisy Palmer, Betsy Brown, Joanne Herrmann, Jean Lawrence

1. Tallahassee Meeting has asked Friends to consider making a contribution to their meeting house fund. Jacksonville Friends agree to think about the request, and discuss it more fully at the next business meeting.

2. The treasurer reports that funds are sufficient at the moment with \$440.00 in the checking account. Our donation to Bartram School has been made. The meeting telephone has been installed, and the first bill was reviewed.

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4. There was some discussion about changing the day/time of the adult discussion group. It seems, however, that the current time, 9:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings, is still the best for now. Friends support the idea of hiring a baby-sitter for the discussion period in order to accommodate parents who wish to participate.

5. Mary Peel and Jean Lawrence reported on the visit to Tybee Island Friends last week. The gathering went well. Friends in the Savannah area will continue to meet for worship every other month, and will explore ways to strengthen their Meeting community. Jacksonville Friends remain committed to supporting this small gathering as best we can. We note that our new members (above) who live in the Brunswick area may be able to offer support to Savannah area Friends.

Debbi Rasmussen

Deborah J. Rasmussen, Clerk
Jacksonville Friends Mtg.
9149 Arundel Way
Jacksonville, FL 32257

June 14, 1995

Peter Doan
3342 Nottingham
Tallahassee, FL 32312

Dear Peter Doan:

Thanks for your informative letter about the new Tallahassee Meeting House. Jacksonville Friends are excited for you, and hope all goes well in closing, moving, etc.

We feel unable, at this point, to offer a contribution to your house fund in money, but would like to offer some time and energy instead. Friends propose scheduling a work day at some time when you are ready. We would be happy to spend a Saturday cleaning, painting, landscaping, hammering, sawing, moving things, or doing whatever would be helpful to you in getting settled. We propose inviting Friends from St. Simon's Island and the Savannah area as well, to provide a time of fellowship for these more isolated Quakers. We'd also like to invite ourselves to stay over Saturday night and join you for worship the next day!

If this idea meets with your approval, please suggest a date (or choice of dates) that might work. We would like to avoid the following weekends if possible: July 29-30, August 12-13 and 26-27, September 9-10 and 23-24, October 7-8 and 21-22.

Looking forward to hearing from you!

Yours in the Light,

Minutes of the Meeting for Business
Jacksonville Friends Meeting
July 9, 1995

Present: Debbi Rasmussen, Geoffrey Gates, Jean Lawrence, Tanya Lawrence, Heidi Lowey-Ball, ShawnaKim Lowey-Ball, Mary Peel, Henriette Groot, Stuart Smith, Casey Carpenter Smith, Joanne Herrmann

1. Friends have been asked to consider a new advice for the SEYM Faith and Practice. A copy is attached. Friends found unity in disapproving the advice, finding its content unnecessary as an addition to our Faith and Practice, and its tone inappropriate for advices. Our concerns will be sent to the Faith and Practice Committee of SEYM through Cathy Gaskill. (Copy attached.)
2. Friends feel that it would be advisable to set up a committee structure within Jacksonville Friends Meeting in order to share the Meeting's work. The following committees were formed: Worship and Ministry: Mary Peel, Jean Lawrence, Julia Geiger (with her consent); Peace and Social Concerns: Al Geiger, Henriette Groot; Child Care/First Day School: Casey Carpenter Smith, Heidi Lowey-Ball, Jean Lawrence.
3. Debbi Rasmussen announced that this will be her last year as Meeting Clerk. Friends should plan to appoint a new Clerk as of June 1, 1996.
4. Friends will gather in Darien, GA, on Sunday, July 16, with the St. Simon's Island and Tybee Island worship groups.


Debbi Rasmussen, Clerk

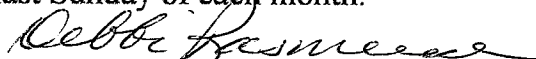
Minutes of the Meeting for Business
Jacksonville Friends Meeting
August 13, 1995

Present: Stuart Smith, Casey Carpenter Smith, Henriette Groot, Julia Geiger, Sue Williams, Paul Sanderson, Al Geiger, Bill Nunez, Mary Peel, Joanne Herrmann, Linda Knapp, Dan Knapp, Debbi Rasmussen

1. The treasurer reports that Meeting funds are in good order.
2. The First Day School Committee presented a report outlining a plan for children's activities. Friends will be asked to volunteer to spend an occasional Sunday with the children. Friends approved the following:
 - to hire a permanent baby-sitter whose primary responsibility will be care of the smallest children during Meeting for Worship and Meeting for Business.
 - a volunteer sign-up sheet will be available at Meeting for Business
 - to include in each newsletter the schedule of events for children and the list of volunteers for the month.
3. The Worship, Ministry and Oversight Committee presented a report with several recommendations. Friends approved the following:
 - That after Meeting for Worship we enter into a time of Worship Sharing before we have introductions and lighter social sharing.
 - That on Business Meeting Sundays we have a 15-20 minute break between Meeting for Worship and Business Meeting.
 - That one of the Queries or Advices be presented at the beginning of Meeting for Business and printed in the Newsletter prior to Meeting.
 - That the agenda for the Meeting for Business be printed in the Newsletter.
 - That the treasurer present a written statement of the Meeting's financial standing at the Meeting for Business.
 - That newcomers be signed up for 3 free issues of Friends Journal at the discretion of the W,M,O Committee.

Friends will consider three additional recommendations at the next Business Meeting.

4. The newsletter deadline will be the last Sunday of each month.


Debbi Rasmussen, Clerk

Minutes of the Meeting for Business
Jacksonville Friends Meeting
September 10, 1995


Present: Stuart Smith, Casey Carpenter Smith, Debbi Rasmussen, Mary Peel, Joanne Herrmann, Jean Lawrence, Jennifer Ray

The Meeting for Business opened with the reading of a Query.

1. The Meeting has received a request from the Mandarin area Unitarian Church to participate in a worship service focused on non-violence to be held on Oct. 15. Joanne Herrmann will pursue this.
2. FCNL has requested use of the Meeting mailing list for fund raising purposes. Friends decline to send the list because: 1) many of us are already receiving FCNL literature and we wish to prevent duplication, and 2) individuals should be able to decide for themselves whether or not they want their names and addresses distributed. Friends approve announcing FCNL's request in the newsletter and sending the names and addresses of anyone who so wishes.
3. Tallahassee Meeting has accepted our offer to join them in a work day at their new Meeting House in lieu of a cash donation. Friends approve going to Tallahassee on Saturday, October 28. Those who wish may stay overnight for worship in Tallahassee the next day.
4. Friends considered three recommendations from Worship, Ministry and Oversight. The following were approved:
 - responsibility for the keys, signs and Quaker literature will rotate on a monthly basis. Whoever accepts this responsibility must be prepared to arrive at 9:30 a.m. to open the door for the discussion group.
 - a one day retreat will be planned for the winter.
 - Meeting children will receive a card from the Meeting on their birthdays.

The inclusion of worship sharing at the end of Meeting for Worship was discussed. Friends approve trying a new format: we will allow a few moments for worship sharing before the closing circle. The Clerk, or whoever is responsible for closing Meeting for Worship, will briefly announce when this time is to begin. An article on worship sharing will appear in the next newsletter.

5. The treasurer presented proposed budget guidelines for the next fiscal year, beginning September 1, 1995. Friends approve.


Debbi Rasmussen, Clerk

*Filed
9/10/95*

Jacksonville Friends Meeting Budget 9/95-8/96

balance 8-31-93 \$580.30

balance 8-31-94 \$494.04


balance 8-31-95 \$751.67

	Budget '93-4	'94-95	'95-96
FCNL	100	50	
FWCC	100	25	
AFSC	100	25	
Friends Journal	27	30	27
Quaker Life		25	28
SEYM	300	500	500
Bolles/Bartram	275	300	300
Books & pamphlets	50	100	100
Postage & copy	35	50	100
Babysitter	400	100	500
Interfaith	50	50	75
Conferences	100	100	100
Misc.	100	100	100
Special Contributions		100	100
Bank Fee		5	10
Telephone		500	500
Balance 8-31-95	\$751.67		
contributions (Sept.)	<u>265.00</u>		1016.67
expenses (Aug)			
Clerk (phone, copies, babysit)			<u>58.15</u>
Balance 9-30-95			958.52

Minutes of the Meeting for Business
Jacksonville Friends Meeting
October 8, 1995

Attendance not recorded.

1. The treasurer's report shows the account to be in good order.
2. Worship, Ministry and Oversight report: We hope to have a retreat, including the St. Simon's area friends, toward the first of the year. Friends should think about topics.
3. Child Care report: Friends approve continuing to employ a regular babysitter even though she rarely has children to watch at this point. Heidi Lowey-Ball will talk with her about ways of welcoming young children when they do attend. Whoever has the keys and is responsible for opening the Meeting Room should be prepared to pay the sitter in cash.
4. The Savannah Worship Group seems to be "laid down" as the Powers family has moved to Ireland.
5. Jacksonville Friends have agreed to attend a work day at the new Tallahassee Meeting House on October 24. Al and Julia Geiger, Mary Peel, Heidi, ShawnaKim and Ben Lowey-Ball, and Joanne Herrmann plan to participate.
6. Newsletter deadline is always the last Sunday of the month.


Debbi Rasmussen, Clerk


Minutes of the Meeting for Business
Jacksonville Friends Meeting
November 12, 1995

Present: Debbi Rasmussen, Stuart Smith, Al Geiger, Julia Geiger, Paul Sanderson, Linda Knapp, Heidi Lowey-Ball, Sue Williams

1. The Queries for the month were read.
2. The Treasurer's report shows the account to be in good order.
3. Worship, Ministry and Oversight report: Mary Peel has sent a letter to inform Friends that after careful prayer she has decided not to attend Jacksonville Friends Meeting any longer. Friends express regret, and wish Mary well in her continuing spiritual journey.

A new format for the adult discussion group will be considered at the December potluck. The group will not meet again before that time.

4. Friends were unable to attend the October work day in Tallahassee as planned.
5. Friends were reminded that the present clerk will be laying down her position effective June 1, 1996. It seems too early to form a nominating committee, however, and the question will be addressed again after the first of the year.


Debbi Rasmussen, Clerk


Minutes of the Meeting for Business
Jacksonville Friends Meeting
December 10, 1995

Present: Debbi Rasmussen, Julia Geiger, Al Geiger, Sue Williams, Joanne Herrmann, Stuart Smith, Casey Carpenter Smith, Heidi Lowey-Ball, Paul Sanderson, Jack Wright (visitor)

1. The Queries of the Month were read.
2. The Treasurer's report shows the account to be in good order.
3. Worship, Ministry and Oversight report: the clerk has spoken with Mary Peel in acknowledgment of her letter, and has confirmed that Mary does not wish to lay down her membership in the Society of Friends at this time.

Julia Geiger suggests that the Meeting ask Noel and Daisy Palmer to lead an adult discussion group during their stay here in the winter. There will be no discussion group meeting until further notice.

4. Friends have received a letter from Albuquerque, NM, Monthly Meeting concerning the well being of our members Josiah and Ruth Russell in St. Augustine. Julia Geiger will respond.


Debbi Rasmussen, Clerk