

Jacksonville Friends Meeting Numbered Minutes – 2016

2016.01.10-1 – Friends approved the Treasurer's proposal to send Southeastern Yearly Meeting (SEYM) a donation of \$1,000 to cover the remaining \$933 of our annual apportionment.

2016.01.10-2 – Friends approved staying in the Florida Christian Center for the 6-month contract. At that time Friends will decide whether to extend the contract.

2016.01.10-3 – Friends approved following potlucks with a discussion of Quaker faith and practice using the Rex Ambler book, *The Quaker Way: A Rediscovery and SEYM Faith & Practice*, under the leadership of Bonnie Hall.

2016.01.10-4 – Jacksonville Friends Meeting joins with Ft. Myers, Miami, St. Petersburg, Tampa, and Tallahassee Meetings in sponsoring the Alternatives to Violence (AVP) within Southeastern Yearly Meeting. From meeting members and attenders, concerned Friends of Jacksonville may be identified and encouraged to go through the AVP training courses to become facilitators, who will then spread the AVP training experience within our community, as asked and led. The Meeting is asked to support the program by providing hospitality, if requested, discernment/ clearness for trainees and facilitators, as asked, and holding funds designate for the AVP program.

2016.03.13-1 – Friends approved paying for two more Meeting directional signs for the walkway.

2016.03.13-2 – Friends agreed that Jacksonville Meeting will co-sponsor the event [Wage Peace's hosting of David Swanson on May 20th, sponsored by Veterans for Peace].

2016.03.13-3 – Friends approved reimbursement of printing and postage for the Meeting newsletter beginning with the April 2016 issue. The expenditure will be reviewed during preparation of the next fiscal budget.

2016.04.10 – Friends approved an annual donation to Quaker House of \$100.

2016.05.08 – Friends approved moving \$200 to the property fund.

2016.06.12 – Friends approved the FY 2016-17 Budget as written.

Budget - 2016-2017		
Income	2011	\$2,188
	2012	\$2,908
	2013	\$3,422
	2014	\$4,609
	2015	\$3,719
	2016	\$3,800
Expenses	SEYM	\$2,000
	Meeting space rent	\$600
	Insurance	\$350
	Friends Journal Listing	\$70
	SEYM-Attendance Support	\$150
	Friends Journal Subscription	\$150
	Quaker Life Listing	\$20
	Activities	\$100
	Meeting Literature	\$100
	Property Fund	\$100
	Community Donations	\$300
	Newsletter	\$100
	Total	

approximate

2016.09.11-1 – Meeting agreed to *Friends Journal* \$150 as budgeted for FY 2016-17

2016.09.11-2 – Meeting approved adding an archive of past Meeting Minutes to the website.

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.

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.

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*.

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.

2016.10.16-5 – Jacksonville Monthly Meeting approves the SEYM Committee for Ministry on Racism "End Slavery for All" minute as published by FIBM [[Appendix 1](#)]. 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/>

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 [[Appendix 2](#)].
<http://www.preventgunviolenceflorida.org/the-coalitions-first-action-a-letter-to-florida-state-leadership/>

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" [[Appendix 3](#)].
http://www.quakerearthcare.org/sites/quakerearthcare.org/files/attachments/quaker_statement_august_2016_on_climate_change.pdf

Appendix 1

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 13th 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 13th 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.¹ 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.²

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
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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.³ Simultaneously, the state of Florida should ensure that all relevant records are provided to the FBI's National Instant Criminal Background Check (NICS).⁴

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.

Appendix 3

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 [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.^[1] 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