

Orlando Monthly Meeting of Religious Society of Friends, Inc. (OMM)

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business (MfB)

Eighth Month, First Day 9 August 2015

Minutes submitted by Stephanie Preston

Meeting opened with a period of silent worship at 11:50am

Review of Minutes-Reading of Minutes from Seventh Month Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business by OMM Recording Clerk Stephanie Preston

Requests for Membership-Letters requesting membership in OMM were received by OMM Clerk Bill Carlie from attenders Ray Jenkins and John Margerum. Care & Community Committee Clerk Minerva Glidden will coordinate follow-up contact with these individuals to initiate the clearness process for membership.

Report from Ad-Hoc Financial Committee (AHFC)-AHFC Committee Clerk Kate Joseph requests that it be laid down. (SEE ATTACHED DOCUMENT A).

MINUTE 1-Meeting approves the laying down of the Ad-Hoc Financial Committee (AHFC) given that the tasks it has been charged with undertaking have been successfully completed. Meeting expresses its deepest gratitude for the committee's expedient and faithful service to OMM during the past year. The current members of AHFC are willing to be reconvened in a future MfB as requested to assist with additional financial tasks.

Property Committee-Property Manager Bil Meeler reported that the HVAC system in Webster Cottage is currently not functional, thus making the building unsuitable for teaching First Day School. Estimated repair cost is \$1200 vs. estimated replacement cost of \$3700. Property Manager and Clerk of Property Committee Michael Luke both recommend replacement option.

MINUTE 2-Meeting approves expenditure of \$3700 of to replace HVAC system in Webster Cottage.

Grants Committee-Clerk of Grants Committee Bill Carlie reviewed the recommended allocation of OMM Grants Money (SEE ATTACHED DOCUMENT B). The committee has engaged in ongoing discernment on this matter throughout 2015. Assistant Clerk Liz Jenkins facilitated discussion on the proposal with committee members and Clerk answering questions from Friends.

MINUTE 3- Meeting approves the distribution of OMM grant monies in the amount of \$10,500 as proposed by the Grants Committee.

MINUTE 4-Meeting approves the re-allocation of funds in the amount of \$1500 from Homeless Ministry (Budget Line Item 7300) to Grants (Budget Line Item 8600) to account for the increased amount of grant money distribution. The overall amount under the heading of Charitable Activities remains unchanged.

Nominating Committee Report-Read by Stephanie (SEE ATTACHED DOCUMENT C).

MINUTE 5-Nominating Committee releases Ed Chew from his current role as a Trustee of the Orlando Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends effective at the conclusion of this 2015 Eighth Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business. OMM expresses its deepest appreciation for the years of service Ed has offered to the meeting, particularly his work of helping the meeting becoming legally incorporated.

MINUTE 6- Nominating Committee brings forward the name of Friend Frances Stacy to serve a three year term in the role of Trustee of the Orlando Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends effective immediately at the conclusion of this 2015 Eighth Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business and concluding at the end of December 2018.

MINUTE 7-Meeting approves Worship & Ministry and Care & Community committees to together identify at least three friends from among their committee membership who are willing to serve as a Naming Committee. Upon the approval of these names at 2015 Ninth Month Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, the members of this Naming Committee will bring forward for approval names of individuals to serve on a new Nominating Committee for a two year period beginning in January 2016 and concluding in December 2017.

Worship & Ministry Report-Worship & Ministry Committee Clerk Frances Stacy solicited feedback on possible topics for Conversations to Explore and Meetings for Learning (SEE ATTACHED DOCUMENT D). There was a vigorous discussion and loving expression from friends about what they would like to see moving forward. There was a clear sense that a more exploratory conversational approach and a less formalized instructive format is greatly appreciated by newer attenders and seasoned Friends alike. Clerk also shared information about the FGC Spiritual Deepening program (SEE ATTACHED DOCUMENT E) for consideration.

MINUTE 8-Meeting expresses its appreciation for the recent exploration of Quakerism and SEYM Faith & Practice during recent Meetings for Learning throughout the past year. At this time meeting encourages Worship & Ministry to return to a more open and informal discussion format as previously occurred in Conversations to Explore.

Trustees Report-Trustee Vicki Carlie reported that the roof of Cisney House parking structure was replaced last week. There will be a tour of a currently vacant Cisney House apartment tomorrow on Monday 8/10/15 at 12:00pm for those interested in learning more about the property

Meeting closed with a period of silent worship at 1:18PM.

The following Friends/Attenders (17) were present for all or part of the meeting: Bill Carlie, Stephanie Preston, Liz Jenkins, Frances Stacey, Ray Jenkins, Tom Resta, Christine Henry, Vicki Carlie, Mary Ellen Meagher, Cathy Gaskill, John Margerum, Minerva Glidden, Tom Gottshalk, Kate Joseph, Lily Hollister, Chris Laning, Bil Meeler

LA

Subject: laying down financial committee
From: Kate Joseph (kljmsmc@yahoo.com)
To: williamcarlie@embarqmail.com;
Cc: elizabethjenkins1@gmail.com; scpreston@yahoo.com;
Date: Friday, August 7, 2015 9:03 PM

Friends

The Ad Hoc Financial Committee members propose we lay down the committee. We think that it performed the tasks assigned to the best of our ability. We would like to do this at the next Meeting for Business.

If at any future date there are specific tasks to be done, the committee can be reconvened as appropriate.

Kind regards
Kate Joseph

B

Grants Committee Report 2015

8th Month 2015

Members of Grants Committee have had several meetings to discern the proposed distribution of grants for 2015. Our discernment has led us to recommend the following distribution:

- \$4,000-SEYM Field Secretary for Earthcare
- \$2,500-Speak Up Florida
- \$875-American Friends Immigrant Services
- \$875-Aged Out Foster Kids Program (FaineHouse.org)
- \$750-Orlando Day Nursery
- \$750-Winter Park Day Nursery
- \$500-ProNica
- \$250-Friends Uganda Safe Transport

\$10,500 Total for Grants

The Grants Committee understands that this proposed distribution of Grant funds over spends the budget of \$9,000. Several of these organizations have received larger grants in the past and are still performing the same important work. However our intent to stay at least near the budget total while attempting to meet new opportunities, has limited funding for each organization this year. We unite in each recommendation and request Friends consider reallocation of funds within the budget to provide for these Grants.

Faithfully submitted

Bill Carlie, Clerk of Grants Committee

Members:

Kate Joseph

Stephanie Preston

Tom Gottshalk

Minerva Glidden

C

August 2015 Nominating Committee Report

Members of Nominating Committee were requested to engage in discernment this summer regarding planned vacancies of two officer positions. Trustee Ed Chew requests release from his role of Trustee as soon as possible and Bill Carlie will conclude his role of Clerk at the end of December 2015. Nominating Committee has been in dialogue with various Friends regarding their gifts and leadings that might serve Orlando Monthly Meeting in such aforementioned capacity. We have reached clearness as a committee on bringing forward one name to serve as a Trustee at this time, and remain in discernment regarding the vacancy for Clerk. Nominating Committee joyfully notes that several individuals have acknowledged leadings to serve in the role of Trustee in the future, though way is not open for them to begin such service presently. We trust that spirit will guide them to clearness and way will open in due time. We hold in the light all those who have served and who are willing to consider doing so. Nominating Committee requests that Friends of OMM discern whether they are led to serve as Clerk beginning in January 2016 or to prayerfully consider whether fellow Friends among us may have gifts to serve in this capacity.

We bring forward the following minutes for consideration:

PROPOSED MINUTE:

1. Nominating Committee releases Ed Chew from his current role as a Trustee of the Orlando Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends effective at the conclusion of this Eighth Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business. OMM expresses its deepest appreciation for the years of service Ed has offered to the meeting, particularly his work of helping the meeting becoming legally incorporated.
2. Nominating Committee brings forward the name of Friend Frances Stacy to serve a three year term in the role of Trustee of the Orlando Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends effective immediately at the conclusion of this 2015 Eighth Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business and concluding at the end of December 2018.
3. Nominating Committee requests that a new Nominating Committee be named before the end of the current year to serve a two year term from January 2016 to December 2017. This committee will be responsible for proposing the slate of officers to serve beginning in January 2017 and would also bring forward names for filling any interim vacant positions, including those anticipated in the near future for Trustees.

Faithfully,

Stephanie Preston, Clerk of Grants Committee

Members:

Tom Gottshalk

Bil Meeler

Meetings for Learning Topic Ideas

Our gatherings after worship on Sundays have one of three main intents: Meeting for Business, Exploring Quakerism, and Conversations on various topics. Worship and Ministry Committee invites Friends to offer suggestions on topics, presenters, and types of presentations we would welcome.

For example, for Quakerism, would we like to invite people from other meetings to give a presentation? Would we be interested in having a workshop? A meeting retreat?

Here are some ideas for topics for Exploring Quakerism:

Quaker Biographies – stories of notable Friends

Well known Quaker stories

Review, discuss Pendle Hill pamphlets – wide range of topics

Exercises from Quaker Quest, Alternatives to Violence, or other workshops

Worship Sharing (in small groups, with prepared queries)

Here are some ideas for topics for Conversations with the theme Peaceable Kingdom:

A series on different kinds of prayer: reciting, mindfulness, responsive, Taizé, Labyrinth, etc.

Watch a short documentary film and discussion on various topics

Bible study around a topic

Invite recipients of our grants to share updates of their programs

Invite community speakers on topics of interest. Non-profits love to reach out to groups

Do an art or craft exercise with a theme of deepening spirituality or building community

Do a movement exercise with a theme of deepening awareness

What other ideas or guidance do Friends wish to give the Committee?

Spiritual Formation : Deepening Spirituality Ideas

As Friends we honor and respect our own and other's beliefs, and acknowledge that each person's spiritual journey is unique. Worship and Ministry Committee would like to facilitate opportunities for Friends to explore and deepen our spirituality. What spiritual groups and resources can the Meeting offer that would best speak to Friends' interests in spiritual growth?

Here is a list of some practices Friends have used to explore & deepen their spiritual lives. Do any of these speak to your condition?'

On August 30 Worship and Ministry Committee will facilitate a discussion of the wishes of the Meeting in this regard. We invite you to review the spiritual deepening methods described here, and reflect on which speak to you. You may be drawn to more than one, or know of others. Please bring your thoughts and questions to the Conversation on August 30, or speak with a Worship and Ministry Committee member.

Individual Spiritual Practices: a person performs the practice on a daily or regular basis, and approaches the activity with the intention of being open to what God might be saying to them.

Some examples of individual spiritual practices include: prayer, meditation, lectio divina, spiritual journaling, singing or chanting, fasting, reading the Bible or other spiritual materials, mindful movement, walking the Labyrinth, spiritual dance, spiritual drawing, etc.

Spiritual Groups: two or more people meet on a regular basis, over a predetermined length of time, with the intention of being open to how God, the Divine or the Light is moving in their lives, and sharing with the group. The format, leadership, materials used, and special focus can vary. These groups are different from discussion groups in that they are closed, maintain confidentiality, and are intended to create a space where people can share their spiritual lives on a deep level for a limited period of time. Some examples of spiritual groups include:

Spiritual Friendships: two people meet on a regular basis and take turns sharing about what is going on in their spiritual lives. They may also share their ponderings, questions and concerns. They may include responses, such as reflection, questions, more in depth discussion, prayer, or other responses they have agreed to include in their sharing.

Covenant Groups: a group of four to ten people meet around a particular theme, or topic, or intention. A clearness committee, or women's spirituality group could be an example, or also a group that wants to do a spiritual practice together. The group could also use published materials for 6 or 8 weekly sessions around a theme.

Spiritual Companion Groups: groups of four to six people who meet for 12 sessions over a six month period. Participants follow a program that includes readings, a spiritual practice, and a commitment to attend the whole course. This spiritual formation program is presented by SEYM Worship and Ministry Committee, and a full description of the program and readings can be found on the website at www.seym.org.