

**Orlando Monthly Meeting
Meeting for Business Minutes
2-12-2017**

Meeting Clerk, Stephanie Preston, convened the meeting at 11:47 am.

Friends settled into worshipful, attentive silence in preparation for 2nd Month Meeting for Worship with an Attention to Business.

The Clerk offered a reading for Friends' consideration.

The following passage was written by Quaker Civil Rights Leader Bayard Rustin on March 30, 1944, in his letter to Warden Hagerman of Ashland Federal Correctional Institution in Kentucky while being imprisoned as a conscientious objector to military conscription in WWII.

Nonviolent resistance does not mean any one kind of action but a variety of methods in which ends and means are consistent. Thus, nonviolent resistance may first and most effectively be education, or when such an approach fails, direct action. The chief aim of such methods of dealing with social change is to so behave that the attitude of those who believe in a system which creates injustice shall be challenged, and over a period change their feeling, which in turn affects their ideas and their outward behavior. This is often a slow process and requires deft hands and a wide and considerate spirit.

The Clerk indicated the posting of the Agenda and requested Friends to be mindful of repetitive comments and vocal ministry as they are led to speak.

Trustees Report – Chris Laning announced the sale of Cisney House for \$1,058,251.28. The next step is to determine the best way to invest the funds. The Friends Fiduciary Corp., Charles Schwab, and others are to be consulted as way opens.

The meeting is grateful for the Trustees' tireless and productive efforts in the sale of Cisney House.

Treasurer's Report - Tom Gottschalk

Annual Budget: Friends received the 2017 proposed budget at the January meeting. The first reading was accepted. The new fiscal year budget, funded by the Trustees, provides \$62,000 in support of the meeting house and \$16,000 for grants.

2017-02.01 Friends approve the Annual Budget for 2017. (Attached)

Note: There were no changes to the budget presented approved at first reading in January.

The Treasurer noted the adding of line item 5700 to the budget's categories. The new line item is necessary for accurate recording and accounting. In response to a question about the

parking rental fee from Lake Highland Prep School, the annual fee for their use of meetinghouse spaces is \$2000. The school makes payment in the late summer.

The Treasurer's February report is received with gratitude. (Attached)

Membership Matters - Vicki Carlie, Membership Recorder, presented a request for transfer of membership from Frances Staley, who has settled in England and is transferred to the Chilterns Area Quaker Meeting, UK. The SEYM letter and the requested Britain Yearly Meeting certificate will be issued.

2017-02.02 Friends approve the transfer of membership for Frances Staley.

Nominations Committee - Recommends the approval of Gary Evans for the Communications Committee

2017.02.03 The OMM Nominations Report of officers and committee members for 2017 is amended to include Gary Evans on the Communications Committee.

Gary will serve as clerk of the communication committee.

Property Committee - In considering an A-V system, Ray Jenkins stated a meeting with the vendor is scheduled for February 18. The sound stage setup, schematic and updated changes in available equipment are to be discussed.

Parking for residents of Cisney House in the Meeting's parking area was raised. Following discussion on utilization, security, and liability, the Property Committee will discontinue the meetinghouse parking lot option for Cisney House.

The committee presented three requests for the use of the meetinghouse.

2017.02.04 The meeting authorizes the Property Committee to proceed and finalize Meeting House use by a 12-step group. (The details will be addressed by the Property Committee.)

2017.02.05 Friends approve the Citizens Climate Lobby request to use the meetinghouse on late afternoons, 2nd Sundays, monthly.

The Citizens Climate Lobby has worked with Quaker environmental groups and presentations. Their purpose corresponds with the SEYM's earth care initiative.

Ms. Carolyn Huff, on behalf of a home school program with about 15-20 children, requests the use of the meetinghouse as an inclement weather venue when they are unable to meet in their outdoor location. Property Committee recommends denying this request. Maintenance, scheduling, and OMM's liability are cited as reasons for our reply. The sense of the meeting is to accept the Property Committee's recommendation.

Worship and Ministry – Bill Carlie presented a summary report of the Traveling Ministry of Jerry Knutson for 2016. The OMM Traveling Ministry Report for 2016, the draft of the 2017 Travel Minute, and a requested budget for the Traveling Ministry for 2017 were read and commented upon by Friends. (3 Attachments) Bill made a statement regarding Jerry's ministry and its importance to our meeting's mission.

2017.02.06 Friends enthusiastically endorse Jerry Knutson's travel minute for 2017.

2017.02.07 Friends approve the budget for Jerry Knutson's travel ministry as presented.

Liz Jenkins and Vicki Carlie read the SEYM *State of the Meeting Report*.

OMM responds to the queries: *Are there places where the meeting is reaching for the Light? How does love manifest itself in our meeting, in our communities and the world?* Friends carefully considered the draft document.

2017.02.08 Friends approve the State of the Meeting Report, amended to include recognition of the OMM's "conversation to explore" sessions held three (3) times per month. (Liz Jenkins crafted the final report, which is attached)

Care and Community – Minerva Glidden stated the marriage clearness committee for Stephanie Preston and Elizabeth Hughes is Ray Jenkins, Greg Alen-Anderson, and Liz Jenkins.

A request was made to revisit the meeting's homeless attender policy. It is the sense of the meeting to reaffirm the policy. OMM will pay for one (1) week stay at a shelter for regular attenders on a case-by-case basis.

A commitment to care for others is reaffirmed on a case by case basis. It is also a sense of the meeting there is a need for members to assist the committee in this shared responsibility.

Hospitality - Kate Joseph gave feedback on our hosting of the Michener Lecture weekend. Because of unexpected attendance numbers, there was a shortage of metal cutlery on Saturday. Kate asked members to donate cutlery to the meeting

In recent times, Quakers of Orlando have been invited and attended regional Islamic events. In response, the Hospitality Committee proposes we do likewise. Two possibilities include attendance at worship and a potluck. Friends concurred that an April 30 invitation would provide enough preparation time, including specific foods and dietary needs.

2017.02.09 Friends approve inviting members of the Islamic Center of Central Florida to an event to be held at the meeting house and request the Hospitality Committee, with the assistance of membership, to plan the event.

Items for the 3rd Month Agenda

Peace and Social Concerns (Committee of the Whole) – Stephanie Preston. Due to time constraints, the following items of importance are removed from this Agenda and will appear as an early entry for consideration at the third-month meeting for business.

Monthly Meetings have be requested to consider two items from SEYM's Committee for Ministry on Racism. Members are encouraged to review these concerns for the March agenda. (2 Attachments)

- 1) Comment on and approve the draft of a minute entitled "End Slavery for All."
- 2) Approve SEYM contributing funds for the proposed Institutional Assessment of Structural Racism of Friends General Conference.

Other - Friend Cathy Gatskill offered several book and pamphlet titles for our consideration.

The numbered minutes are approved as read.

Meeting for Worship with attention to Business ended at 1:30 pm

In attendance:

Bil Meeler
Bill Carlie
Cathy Gaskill
Ed Lesnick
Gary Evans
Greg-Alan Anderson
Kate Joseph
Liz Jenkins
Minerva Glidden
Ray Jenkins
Stephanie Preston
Tom Gottschalk
Vicki Carlie

Respectfully Submitted,

Ed Lesnick, Recording Clerk

OMM PROPOSED BUDGET REPORT FOR 2017

Chart of Accounts	2016 Budget	2016 Revenue		2017 Budget	2017 + or(-)
REVENUE				Proposal	
5100 Support Gifts	\$ 9,000.00	\$7,354.34		\$ 9,000.00	\$ -
5200 Reimbursement/Use of MH	\$ 4,125.00	\$1,390.00		\$ 2,000.00	\$ (2,125.00)
5500 Trustee transfers, yearly	\$ 49,350.00	\$50,350.00		\$ 62,000.00	\$ 12,650.00
5600 Trustee transfers, Grants	\$ 16,875.00	\$15,875.00		\$ 16,000.00	\$ (875.00)
5800 Reserves allocated to budget	\$ 6,900.00	\$6,900.00		\$ 6,900.00	\$ -
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 86,250.00	\$81,869.34		\$ 95,900.00	
EXPENSES					
OPERATING EXPENSES			Expenses	% of Budget	2017 + or(-)
6010 Repairs & Maintenance	\$ 8,000.00	\$10,851.46	135.64%	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 4,000.00
6040 Housekeeping	\$ 1,800.00	\$2,000.00	111.11%	\$ 1,800.00	\$ -
6045 Pest Control	\$ 2,000.00	\$1,917.00	95.85%	\$ 2,000.00	\$ -
6050 Grounds Care	\$ 2,600.00	\$3,571.85	137.38%	\$ 3,600.00	\$ 1,000.00
6090 Utilities, MH	\$ 2,800.00	\$2,902.96	103.68%	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 200.00
6100 Insurance	\$ 4,000.00	\$3,946.68	98.67%	\$ 4,000.00	\$ -
6110 Utilities, WC	\$ 1,200.00	\$1,152.87	96.07%	\$ 1,200.00	\$ -
6120 Taxes, City Services	\$ 1,300.00	\$1,252.29	96.33%	\$ 1,300.00	\$ -
6150 Professional fees	\$ 900.00	\$70.00	7.78%	\$ 900.00	\$ -
6160 Property Agent	\$ 12,000.00	\$11,100.00	92.50%	\$ 12,000.00	\$ -
6500 Other Property Expense	\$ 500.00	\$781.21	156.24%	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 11,500.00
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$ 37,100.00	\$39,546.32	106.59%	\$ 53,800.00	\$ 16,700.00
6060 Bank Service Charges	\$ 75.00	\$57.50	76.67%	\$ 75.00	\$ -
6070 Phone	\$ 500.00	\$530.52	106.10%	\$ 600.00	\$ 100.00
6155 Treasurer's expenses	\$ 550.00	\$439.19	79.85%	\$ 600.00	\$ 50.00
7030 Outreach & Adult Ed.		\$0.00		\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
7050 Fellowship & Hospitality	\$ 400.00	\$169.67	42.42%	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 2,600.00
7070 Library & Subscriptions	\$ 250.00	\$201.00	80.40%	\$ 250.00	\$ -
7080 Archives	\$ 50.00	\$0.00	0.00%	\$ 50.00	\$ -
7090 Communications	\$ 400.00	\$62.93	15.73%	\$ 400.00	\$ -
7100 Travel	\$ 2,000.00	\$0.00	0.00%	\$ 2,000.00	\$ -
7110 Travel for SEYM	\$ 2,000.00	\$395.00	19.75%	\$ 2,000.00	\$ -
7150 Care & Community	\$ 1,000.00	\$0.00	0.00%	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -
7170 Peace & Social Concerns	\$ 100.00	\$0.00	0.00%	\$ 100.00	\$ -
7200 SEYM Field Secretary for Earthcare	\$ 1,250.00	\$1,250.00	100.00%	\$ 1,250.00	\$ -
7210 Young Friends Group	\$ 3,000.00	\$2,150.00	71.67%	\$ 3,000.00	\$ -
7220 SEYM	\$ 4,911.00	\$4,958.21	100.96%	\$ 5,998.00	\$ 1,087.00
7230 Worship & Ministry	\$ 250.00	\$0.00	0.00%	\$ 250.00	\$ -
7500 Other expenses	\$ 300.00	\$46.92	15.64%	\$ 300.00	\$ -
TOTAL ACTIVITIES	\$ 17,036.00	\$10,260.94	60.23%	\$ 21,873.00	\$ 4,837.00

CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

7300	Homeless Ministry	\$ 4,000.00	\$176.00	4.40%	\$ 4,000.00	\$ -
7400	Special Ministry Projects	\$ 5,000.00	\$3,217.82	64.36%	\$ 5,000.00	\$ -
8240	Meeting Projects	\$ 190.00	\$0.00	0.00%	\$ 190.00	\$ -
8330	Scholarships	\$ 1,500.00	\$775.45	51.70%	\$ 1,500.00	\$ -
8500	Donations	\$ 1,000.00	\$725.00	72.50%	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -
8600	Grants	\$ 15,875.00	\$14,625.00	92.13%	\$ 16,000.00	\$ 125.00
9000	Pendle Hill S.F. Award	\$ 6,900.00	\$0.00	0.00%	\$ 6,900.00	\$ -
TOTAL CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES		\$ 34,465.00	\$19,519.27	56.64%	\$ 34,590.00	\$ 125.00
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$ 88,601.00	\$69,326.53	62.87%	\$110,263.00	\$ 21,662.00

General Fund 2017 Proposed Budget

Proposed Revenue	\$ 88,601.00
Proposed Expenses	\$110,263.00
Short Fall	\$21,662.00
Proposed Trustee Transfer	\$78,000.00
SEYM Budget for FY2017 will be:	\$5,998.00

General Fund Assets AS of 9/30/16

Checking Acct. Bal.	\$12,814.58
Savings Account	\$30,125.97
TOTAL	\$42,940.55

PENDLE HILL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Beginning Balance	\$ 7,500.00
Awards	\$ 600.00
Ending Balance	\$ 6,900.00
Reserves in Checking (#9000)	

Presented by Tom S. Gottshalk, Treasurer
Orlando Monthly Meeting of the
Religious Society of Friends, Inc.
Proposed Budget for 2017

OMM TREASURER'S BUDGET REPORT FOR JANUARY 2017

Chart of Accounts	2016 Budget	2017 Revenue		2017 Budget	Remaining
				Proposal	
5100 Support Gifts	\$ 9,000.00	\$750.00	8.33%	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 8,250.00
5200 Reimbursement/Use of MH	\$ 4,125.00	\$0.00		\$ 2,000.00	
5500 Trustee transfers, yearly	\$ 49,350.00	\$62,000.00		\$ 62,000.00	
5600 Trustee transfers, Grants	\$ 16,875.00	\$16,000.00		\$ 16,000.00	
5700 Return Credit		\$13.82			
5800 Reserves allocated to budget	\$ 6,900.00	\$6,900.00		\$ 6,900.00	
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 86,250.00	\$85,663.82		\$ 95,900.00	

EXPENSES

OPERATING EXPENSES		Expenses	% of Budget		Remaining
6010 Repairs & Maintenance	\$ 8,000.00	\$59.62	0.75%	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 11,940.38
6040 Housekeeping	\$ 1,800.00	\$150.00	8.33%	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 1,650.00
6045 Pest Control	\$ 2,000.00	\$78.00	3.90%	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,922.00
6050 Grounds Care	\$ 2,600.00	\$0.00	0.00%	\$ 3,600.00	\$ 3,600.00
6090 Utilities, MH	\$ 2,800.00	\$143.95	5.14%	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 2,856.05
6100 Insurance	\$ 4,000.00	\$990.99	24.77%	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 3,009.01
6110 Utilities, WC	\$ 1,200.00	\$70.06	5.84%	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,129.94
6120 Taxes, City Services	\$ 1,300.00	\$0.00	0.00%	\$ 1,300.00	\$ 1,300.00
6150 Professional fees	\$ 900.00	\$70.00	7.78%	\$ 900.00	\$ 830.00
6160 Property Agent	\$ 12,000.00	\$1,000.00	8.33%	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 11,000.00
6500 Other Property Expense	\$ 500.00	\$72.09	14.42%	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 11,927.91
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$ 37,100.00	\$2,634.71	7.10%	\$ 53,800.00	\$ 51,165.29
6060 Bank Service Charges	\$ 75.00	\$0.00	0.00%	\$ 75.00	\$ 75.00
6070 Phone	\$ 500.00	\$44.21	8.84%	\$ 600.00	\$ 555.79
6155 Treasurer's expenses	\$ 550.00	\$28.78	5.23%	\$ 600.00	\$ 571.22
7030 Outreach & Adult Ed.		\$0.00		\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
7050 Fellowship & Hospitality	\$ 400.00	\$46.82	11.71%	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 2,953.18
7070 Library & Subscriptions	\$ 250.00	\$0.00	0.00%	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00
7080 Archives	\$ 50.00	\$0.00	0.00%	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00
7090 Communications	\$ 400.00	\$0.00	0.00%	\$ 400.00	\$ 400.00
7100 Travel	\$ 2,000.00	\$0.00	0.00%	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
7110 Travel for SEYM	\$ 2,000.00	\$0.00	0.00%	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
7150 Care & Community	\$ 1,000.00	\$0.00	0.00%	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
7170 Peace & Social Concerns	\$ 100.00	\$0.00	0.00%	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
7200 SEYM Field Secretary for Earthcare	\$ 1,250.00	\$0.00	0.00%	\$ 1,250.00	\$ 1,250.00
7210 Young Friends Group	\$ 3,000.00	\$400.00	13.33%	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 2,600.00
7220 SEYM	\$ 4,911.00	\$0.00	0.00%	\$ 5,998.00	\$ 5,998.00
7230 Worship & Ministry	\$ 250.00	\$0.00	0.00%	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00
7500 Other expenses	\$ 300.00	\$0.00	0.00%	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00
TOTAL ACTIVITIES	\$ 17,036.00	\$519.81	3.05%	\$ 21,873.00	\$ 21,353.19

CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

7300	Homeless Ministry	\$ 4,000.00	\$0.00	0.00%	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00
7400	Special Ministry Projects	\$ 5,000.00	\$0.00	0.00%	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
8240	Meeting Projects	\$ 190.00	\$0.00	0.00%	\$ 190.00	\$ 190.00
8330	Scholarships	\$ 1,500.00	\$0.00	0.00%	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00
8500	Donations	\$ 1,000.00	\$0.00	0.00%	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
8600	Grants	\$ 15,875.00	\$0.00	0.00%	\$ 16,000.00	\$ 16,000.00
9000	Pendle Hill S.F. Award	\$ 6,900.00	\$0.00	0.00%	\$ 6,900.00	\$ 6,900.00
TOTAL CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES		\$ 34,465.00	\$0.00	0.00%	\$ 34,590.00	\$ 34,590.00
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$ 88,601.00	\$3,154.52	2.86%	\$110,263.00	\$107,108.48

General Fund 2017 Proposed Budget

Revenue	\$ 85,663.82
Expenses	\$ 3,154.52
Trustee Transfer	\$78,000.00
SEYM Budget for FY2017 will be:	\$5,998.00

General Fund Assets

Checking Acct. Bal.	\$86,886.14
Savings Account	\$30,138.77
TOTAL	\$117,024.91

PENDLE HILL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Beginning Balance	\$ 7,500.00
Awards	\$ 600.00
Ending Balance	\$ 6,900.00
Reserves in Checking (#9000)	

Presented by Tom S. Gottshalk, Treasurer
Orlando Monthly Meeting of the
Religious Society of Friends, Inc.
Budget Report for Jan. 2017

OMM Traveling Ministry Report 2016

On January 10, 2016 the following minute was approved: “Orlando Monthly Meeting continues to take under its care Jerry Knutson’s ministry in spirituality, discernment, Quakerism, and Prisoner Visitation and Support (PVS). Worship and Ministry Committee will be responsible for seeing that Jerry and his Anchor Committee have the support they need.” The Anchor Committee consists of Stephanie Preston, Vicki Carlie, Bill Carlie and Bil Meeler.

Jerry presented two workshop over Easter at SEYM-Yearly Business Meeting (YBM) one on Prisoner Visitation and Support and the other on Friendly Bible Study. Due to a high probability of lightning, his workshop on Paddling and Birding was cancelled.

He presented workshops on “Spiritual Discernment—Receiving, Testing and Implementing Leadings from a Higher Power” at Orlando, Morgantown, WV, and Baltimore Yearly Meeting—Annual Sessions (BYM-AS). He submitted this manuscript to be considered for a Pendle Hill Pamphlet. The manuscript was accepted and with editing will be published in February as PHP#443.

At BYM-AS he presented interest groups on PVS and Meeting for Worship with Attention to Humor and Laughter. He also presented “Be Still and Cool in thine own mind and spirit and from thine own thoughts and then...” at Charleston, SC Quakers.

At FGC Gathering he facilitated his weeklong workshop on “Deepening your Experience with the Light.” Jerry also presented two interest groups on PVS. Lyn Cope was his elder and the elder support money from Orlando enabled her to attend the Gathering. He visited Prisoners at Hazelton, WV and Coleman, FL. While he was scheduled to present a workshop on PVS at Morgantown Quakers, no one attended.

He facilitated three daylong paddling adventures for SEYM Half Yearly Meeting (HYM) and has offered to become the co-clerk in 2017. On January 24, 2017, he became a registered SEYM Youth Worker in the Child Abuse Prevention Program (CAPP).

His weeklong workshop on “Deepening your Experience with the Light” has been accepted for FGC Gathering in Niagara Falls, NY. The workshop is open to High School and Young Adult Friends only. Jerry also plans to present workshops at SEYM-YBM, BYM-AS, SEYM-HYM and FGC Gathering. He also plans to attend the annual PVS training in Philadelphia and present other workshops as requested.

Jerry would like to thank the anchor committee for support, clearness and accountability. He is also grateful for the support from the Worship and Ministry Committee and Orlando Monthly Meeting. The endorsed travel minute for 2016 is returned to the meeting.

2017 TRAVEL MINUTE FOR JERRY KNUTSON (Pronounced canoe t –son)

Dear Friends,

Greetings from Orlando Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends in Orlando, FL.

We ask that you welcome and care for our member, Jerry Knutson, as he travels in the ministry with a concern for spirituality, discernment, Quakerism, and Prisoner Visitation and Support. Since April 2015, Orlando Monthly Meeting has taken under its care his ministry.

Jerry Knutson is a snow bird and has dual memberships in Orlando Monthly Meeting (Southeastern Yearly Meeting) and Monongalia Monthly Meeting (WV, Baltimore Yearly Meeting). He began worshiping with Quakers in the mid 80's. He was a residential student at Pendle Hill in 2002 and 2003. He was a Released Friend from Pittsburgh Monthly meeting from 2005 to 2014. He has been visiting prisoners in Maximum Security Federal Prisons since 2007. He received a Master's of Divinity Degree from Earlham School of Religion in May of 2014 with an emphasis in Christian Spirituality. He has facilitated/taught workshops in 23 states and Nakuru, Kenya.

Jerry's ministry, grounded in his education and long experience with Quakers, has enriched our meeting and we trust it will enrich your gathering as well.

In the Light,

Stephanie Preston,

Clerk Orlando Monthly Meeting

To acknowledge Jerry's visit, please endorse this traveling minute with your name, the name of your gathering, the date and any comments that you wish to add. Thank you.

2017 BUDGET TRAVELLING MINISTRY FOR JERRY KNUTSON

	Room Board & Registration	Mileage
6 Visits to Coleman FL prison x50=		300 miles
7 visits to Hazelton WV prison x 40=		280
SEYM-YBM	\$300	100
BYM	\$500	230
FGC Gathering Niagara Falls	\$500	740
FGC Gathering elder support	\$500	
PVS training Philly	\$600	600
HYM	\$100	
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	\$2500	2250 miles
		x.51/mile
		=\$1147.50
		Round to \$1200

2017 Budget = \$4000 (\$2500 + 1200 + 300 contingency)

2016 Budget \$4000 actual \$3217.82

2015 Budget \$3000 actual \$3600

State of the Meeting Report for 2016

Quakers of Orlando

Query #11: How does love manifest itself in our meeting, in our communities and in the world?

As the year opened, many members and attenders continued to meet in the Spiritual Formation Groups begun in 2015. They completed their reading of "Listening Spirituality" together and in some cases moved on to share and respond to additional texts. The existence of these groups has nurtured caring communication within our meeting and helped us get to know each other better. Our dedicated Hospitality committee makes this possible, too, through lively times of Fellowship together. Our carefully considered shift from Friday Night Friends gatherings to Fifth Sunday Intergenerational Potlucks has given us more extended time to converse and laugh freely with one another. We also consistently meet three times a month, after Fellowship time, for our "Conversations to Explore." These conversations are both gentle and lively and include a wide variety of topics. All of these times of coming together give us the opportunity to listen to each other and learn of each other's gifts and interests. This has made possible new openings such as the awarding of a meeting scholarship to attend Pendle Hill and the recognition of individual gifts and experience well-fitted to loving, enthusiastic service on a particular committee.

Early in the year our meeting renewed support of Friend Jerry Knutson's traveling ministry for the third year with the following minute approved 01/10/2016: "Orlando Monthly Meeting continues to take under its care Jerry Knutson's ministry in spirituality, discernment, Quakerism and Prisoner Visitation and Support." We gladly send him out from the heart of our meeting to the world beyond. He also continued to prepare his manuscript on discernment. This labor of seventeen years culminated in the publication of the manuscript as Pendle Hill Pamphlet #443 in February 2017.

In Sixth Month, our meeting responded rapidly with deep loving concern and practical help to uphold the many persons impacted directly and indirectly by the mass shootings at Pulse nightclub on 06/12/2016. We held a Meeting for Worship on 06/14/2016 in response to the event, which was attended by Friends and visitors alike. In addition, Friends in meetings throughout the United States and worldwide held worship concurrently in solidarity with Orlando. We opened Webster Cottage to Friend Jeremiah Gold-Hopton from Atlanta Meeting so he could serve multiple times peacefully protecting families from harassment during funeral and memorial services. In response to the Pulse shootings and our long held concerns with gun violence, our meeting also united in three minutes in Eighth Month 2016 to join the Florida Coalition Against Gun Violence, to co-sign the League of Women Voters action letter on gun violence originally dated 06/20/2016 and to encourage SEYM and its constituent monthly meetings to join Orlando Meeting in taking these steps.

Throughout the year, love has manifested itself in our meeting through our support of direct ministry to homeless neighbors through a Quaker Bible study group, participation in Worship and Fellowship, tangible help with practical needs, and guidance for life where it is mutually beneficial. Many in our meeting have worked patiently together on the details and dilemmas of this ministry and we continue to transform as we grow together.

During the summer and the fall of 2016, we reached out in love to those of other faiths in our community through active participation at events such as the Interfaith Council's series of talks on experiences of religious persecution held at the Holocaust Memorial Center and a community barbecue held at the Islamic Center of Orlando and attended by people of many

faiths and backgrounds in solidarity with our Muslim neighbors. These outreach and interfaith efforts are ongoing and we continue to see new ways to support each other.

In Tenth Month 2016, members of meeting gathered with friends and family of Tom Ensign to remember him with love. Members of Care and Community visited with Tom and reached out to his family with loving concern for an extended period of time before his passing and this remembrance. The members of our Care and Community Committee consistently remind us and inspire us to make ourselves more available to those among us and around us in need.

Tenth month was also the time when Young Friends participated in Trick or Treat for UNICEF raising funds for children experiencing the perilous journeys of refugees and migrants. Later in the year, Young Friends learned a number of ways to plant seeds of love, our youngest attender commenting on the “seed of good-heartedness” inside us.

In Eleventh Month, those in particular need of hope and a seed of good-heartedness found our doors open. We welcomed newcomers at that time and have seen some return for further worship and fellowship with us.

Over a number of years, culminating in 2016, the whole meeting has patiently and faithfully discerned way forward with our Incorporated Trustees on the meeting’s ownership and sale of the adjacent Cisney House property. Friends came together to seek clearness and unity in a loving and tender manner respectful of our human resources as well as with concern for our financial responsibilities both as fair and decent property owners and for future generations who may worship with Quakers of Orlando. The meeting feels deep gratitude for the many hours of work and careful examination of options provided by all who serve as our Incorporated Trustees.

Although committee meetings may seem unlikely venues for love, there has, in fact, been much love evident in much of our committee work whether in long-term committees such as Hospitality, Property and Worship and Ministry or in limited time committees such as Nominating and various clearness committees. Friends have sought to move past natural frustrations with each other as individuals and to listen more to the heart of each person’s concerns and contributions. Nominating Committee has been glad to listen to everyone willing to meet with the committee for wisdom and insight into how meeting might grow together. These insights have come from both experienced members of the meeting and persons more recently come to Orlando Meeting, one example being having a greeter at the door of our meeting house for a period of time before and just after the start of worship. Nominating Committee has also explored ways to simplify committee structure so the concerns of the meeting can be met without overburdening individual members. This is a work in progress.

The centrality of love in our meeting was, perhaps, best expressed in a message heard in worship recently on the importance of having a sense of belonging and the spiritual experience of community. The message concluded with the words:

“It is a community without edges and stretches to encompass the whole world.”

Query # 8 (modified): Are there places where the meeting is reaching for the Light?

As we lay down our concern for the care of Cisney House many of us in our meeting are aware of places within our meeting, our community and our world where we are reaching for the Light. We continue to grow in including, understanding, trusting and being tenderly present for each other.

- ! We seek this growth in active, Spirit-led committee work.
- ! We seek this growth in bridging the many inequalities and divergences present even in a loving Quaker community.
- ! We seek this growth in gathering the courage, energy and wisdom to bear witness to love and truth to our wider community and world.

We are aware of a need to center down, breathe and listen within for a time. It is important to us to avoid heedlessly scattering our energies and resources. Yet, we have some sense of urgency that our witness as Quakers is very timely and needed today. We hope to devote some time to a conversation on our vision for our meeting soon, but recognize that this needs some seasoning and new Light before we proceed.

With Love,

Orlando Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

SEYM Committee for Ministry on Racism

Winter Interim Business Meeting

January 14, 2017

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.

Institutional Assessment Friends General Conference (FGC)

Central Committee united around the need to undertake institutional assessment to uncover structural racism within our organization – and to prepare plans for dismantling such structures. We heard from many yearly and monthly meetings about the importance of taking this step. As part of our commitment to collaborate with our affiliated yearly and monthly meetings, we will be sharing our learnings from this assessment with Friends across the USA and Canada.

Although structural oppression doesn't diminish the presence of the Spirit in us or the vision of a “great people to be gathered,” it does create barriers that are stumbling blocks to full participation by many in our faith community. In dismantling these stumbling blocks, we must tap into the power of the Spirit while acknowledging the truth that structural oppression and systemic racism does spiritual violence to us all. To be faithful in this time we must do more than admit that such oppression and attitudes of privilege exist. We must act to eliminate them if we wish to be fully inclusive in ways that are more than mere words.

After getting bids from anti-racism consulting firms and building a draft budget, it's become clear that this assessment may cost as much as \$60,000. We will need financial support from meetings and individual Friends on top of their regular support for the FGC's ongoing programs and services. We do have some pledges in hand for this work, but we need many more.

From **Vital Friends**, FGC E-Newsletter, Barry Crossno, FGC General Secretary and FGC Staff. November 2016