

Orlando Monthly Meeting
Meeting for Business Minutes
3-12-2017

Meeting Clerk, Stephanie Preston, convened the meeting at 11:45 am.

Friends settled into worshipful, attentive silence in preparation for 3rd Month Meeting for Worship with an Attention to Business.

The Clerk offered a reading for Friends' consideration.

We are not for Names, nor Men, nor Titles of Government, nor are we for this Party, nor against the other, because of its Name and Pretence; but we are for Justice and Mercy, and Truth and Peace, and True Freedom, that these may be exalted in our Nation.~ Edward Burrough, 1634-1663

Treasurer Report - Tom Gottshalk distributed the February 2017 report. The Treasurer explained a unique item, line 5700. Funds were distributed for a course at Pendel Hill. The awardee withdrew the request and returned the funds by private check. Hence, the deposit for \$1238.82 is entered.

The Treasurer received \$2000 to fulfill the lease for automobile parking space by Lake Highland School. This amount was for 2016. An additional \$2000 is to be received in September for 2017.

A brief discussion was held regarding outside use of the Parking Lot. There have been several incidents when cars related to Lake Highland school activities were parked without permission. Our contract with Lake Highland is from 8 am to 5 pm. Violations have occurred. Bil Meeler discussed the situation with the Lake Highland school president, who was receptive and cooperative. Overall, according to Bil, the proper use of the lot has improved. Also, as negotiated, Cisney House residents are not using the lot.

Trustees Report - Chris Laning read a donation letter in honor of Orlando Quakers from real estate agent Terry Diederich. (On file)

2017-03.01 Orlando Friends express their appreciation to Terry Diederich for his professional assistance with the sale of Cisney House. We are thankful for his gracious donation to the Zebra Coalition in our name.

More discussion is needed regarding investing the funds from the sale of Cisney House.

Membership Matters – Stephanie Preston

2017-03.02 Orlando Friends acknowledge the receipt of a letter of resignation from Ingrid Svensen. (Attached)

The Meeting Clerk will compose a letter of appreciation to Ingrid for her involvement and service with the meeting.

2017-03.03 Friends joyfully approve the membership of Gary Evans to Orlando Monthly of the Religious Society of Friends.

A letter application for membership was read and joyfully referred to the Care and Community Committee for Gregory Allen-Anderson (Attached)

Property Committee - Ray Jenkins. The purchasing process was thoroughly explained by the Property Committee Clerk. (Attached; the Bid is included)

A request was accepted to purchase an additional, more powerful surge protector for the system. Fluctuations in the electrical grid, Florida's large number of electrical storms, and protection for system components requires a high surge protector signal. There is a service guarantee for equipment loss related to surge protection.

2017-03.04 Friends approve the recommendation of the Property Committee report to purchase the audio-visual system at the cost \$17,002.00.

2017-03.05 Friends express their gratitude to the Property Committee for their diligent work on the audio-visual project.

Property Manager – Bil Meeler announced he would be leaving the meeting and his position as he is returning to Arizona at the end of March. He assured Friends he will be available by phone and email should his assistance be needed.

2017-03.06 Friends express their appreciation to Bil Meeler, Property Manager, for his years of faithful service to Orlando Monthly Meeting. Friends gratefully acknowledge the myriad of contributions he has made to the physical and spiritual state of the meeting.

The meeting will have a Potluck in Bil's honor on March 26. A letter of recommendation (employment) will be composed regarding his professional accomplishments and dedicated service to OMM.

The Property Committee has a process to select a new Property Manager. (Attached)

Hospitality – Kate Joseph reported our invitation to the Muslim community is yet to be made. It has been difficult to contact representatives. (See February minutes)

Peace & Social Concerns – Committee of the Whole

- SEYM Position on the Exception Clause (Attachment)

Stephanie Preston presented two requests for discernment from SEYM Committee for Ministry on Racism.

Orlando Friends discussed a proposed SEYM minute supporting the removal of the “Exception Clause” of the 13th Amendment to the Constitution.

One Friend suggested the current political climate is a barrier to considering any constitutional amendment. Others wish to emphasize the end to forced labor in prisons, the “ban the box” objective to remove “felony convictions” on employment applications for parolees, the involvement of all “peoples of color” in the assessment process and the importance of mental health services to prisoners and parolees.

- SEYM Response to the FGC Assessment (Attached)

SEYM asked monthly meetings to consider a request for the yearly meeting to contribute funds for the Institutional Assessment of Structural Racism of Friends General Conference.

Friends elaborated on the purpose of the assessment, raised questions about the assessment process, and offered opinions about the benefits to the yearly and monthly meetings.

For April business meeting, Friends are requested to submit statements of concern to be addressed by the SEYM committee on racism regarding the FGC assessment as explained in the attachment.

The numbered minutes were accepted as read. Following a moment of silent worship, the Clerk ended the meeting at 1:40 PM.

In attendance:

	Kate Joseph
Bil Meeler	Liz Jenkins
Bill Carlie	Minerva Glidden
Chris Laning	Ray Jenkins
Ed Lesnick	Stephanie Preston
Gary Evans	Tom Gottschalk
Greg Allen-Anderson	Vicki Carlie
Jerry Knutson	

Faithfully submitted by Ed Lesnick, Recording Clerk

OMM TREASURER'S BUDGET REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 2017

Chart of Accounts	2016 Budget	2017 Revenue		2017 Budget	Remaining
				Proposal	
5100 Support Gifts	\$ 9,000.00	\$1,080.00	12.00%	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 7,920.00
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		\$1,238.82			
5800 Reserves allocated to budget	\$ 6,900.00	\$6,900.00		\$ 6,900.00	
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 86,250.00	\$87,218.82		\$ 95,900.00	

EXPENSES

OPERATING EXPENSES		Expenses	% of Budget		Remaining
6010 Repairs & Maintenance	\$ 8,000.00	\$103.15	1.29%	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 11,896.85
6040 Housekeeping	\$ 1,800.00	\$300.00	16.67%	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 1,500.00
6045 Pest Control	\$ 2,000.00	\$156.00	7.80%	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,844.00
6050 Grounds Care	\$ 2,600.00	\$0.00	0.00%	\$ 3,600.00	\$ 3,600.00
6090 Utilities, MH	\$ 2,800.00	\$369.58	13.20%	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 2,630.42
6100 Insurance	\$ 4,000.00	\$990.99	24.77%	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 3,009.01
6110 Utilities, WC	\$ 1,200.00	\$167.22	13.94%	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,032.78
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	\$2,000.00	16.67%	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
6500 Other Property Expense	\$ 500.00	\$108.29	21.66%	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 11,891.71
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$ 37,100.00	\$4,265.23	11.50%	\$ 53,800.00	\$ 49,534.77
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	\$1,225.00	17.75%	\$ 6,900.00	\$ 5,675.00
TOTAL CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES		\$ 34,465.00	\$1,225.00	3.55%	\$ 34,590.00	\$ 33,365.00
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$ 88,601.00	\$6,010.04	5.45%	\$110,263.00	\$104,252.96

General Fund 2017 Proposed Budget

Revenue	\$ 87,218.82
Expenses	\$ 6,010.04
Trustee Transfer	\$78,000.00
SEYM Budget for FY2017 will be:	\$5,998.00

General Fund Assets

Checking Acct. Bal.	\$85,523.89
Savings Account	\$30,144.55
TOTAL	\$115,668.44

PENDLE HILL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Beginning Balance	\$ 7,500.00
Awards	\$ 600.00
Ending Balance	\$ 6,900.00 (\$1225.00 Refunded)
Reserves in Checking (#9000)	

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

Letter of Resignation

February 14, 2017
Stephanie Preston
Clerk of Orlando Monthly Meeting

Dear Stephanie,

I am writing to resign my membership in the Orlando Monthly Meeting. As I have mentioned to you and others, I have found the commute between my home and Orlando meeting a deterrent to my participation in Orlando Monthly Meeting as an active, contributing member.

I appreciate the offers from you and others to discuss my resignation. However, I have spent much time reflecting on this action, and have made a decision.

My best wishes to you and all the others in Orlando Monthly Meeting.

Peace and Love,
Ingrid Swenson

Clearness Committee Recommendation – Membership of Gary Evans

2/14/2017 3:55pm

Gary Evans' Clearness Committee, for membership, met this afternoon. We are asking that the following Minute be brought forward at March's Worship with Attention to Business.

Proposed Minute: The Clearness Committee for membership, of Gary Evens, consisting of Ray Jenkins, Kay Lesnick and Minerva Glidden met with Gary Evens on February 14th 2017. We, the committee, joyfully recommend Gary for membership to the Orlando Monthly Meeting of Friends.

Brought forth by Minerva Glidden.

Gregory Allen-Anderson

7957 Sagebrush Place, Orlando Florida 32822
407-883-7115
barrysbeau@gmail.com

3/4/2017

Dear Stephanie Preston,

I am writing to formally request that I be considered for membership at the Orlando Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends.

I have a long and varied history in my spiritual journey. My first two spiritual homes were chosen for me. As a young child, I was in the Methodist church. In my youth, I was converted to Roman Catholicism (as a peace offering from my parents to my maternal grandmother) where I remained until young adulthood. In adulthood, I have been a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints and two Unitarian Universalist Churches. I have also had long periods where I had no church home.

For as long as I can remember, I have viewed religious literature and 'dogma' as largely unsuccessful attempts to grasp the ungraspable through metaphor and *histoires*. I have also always been drawn to the mystical approach to apprehending my relationship to the Universe, looking for its purpose, and my part in that.

I believe that I have found a home in the Orlando Monthly Meeting where I can continue to explore those themes in my journey through life. I believe that I have also found a community of fellow travelers, who though different in many ways, support each other on their respective journeys. That our members and attenders are the spokes that form the wheel that allows us to take action in the world. Spokes around a hub that may be God.

I understand that membership is a commitment to the wellbeing of the meeting and its participants. I am participating on two committees already and spend quiet time regularly to allow space for further leadings to arise. As a member, I will continue to offer my time, talent, and financial support to the best of my ability to support the continued wellbeing of our community.

If the meeting is so led, I would be honored to become a member, and am happy to take any further action that the meeting feels would help them in the discernment process.

Sincerely,

Gregory Allen-Anderson

Property Committee AV System Report

March 12, 2017

The Property Committee was asked to research the acquisition of an AV System for the meeting house.

1. Criteria The criteria for the proposed system is that it would give the Meeting the ability to give a presentation from a laptop (Michener Lecturer) (Conversation to Explore), watch a DVD to discuss the content, or stream Quaker Testimony related topics, from the internet. The ability to record audio from the system was also in the forefront of the purpose to acquire a system. That the system be user friendly for Friends that possess little or no technical expertise was imperative.

2. Process The Property Committee spent the last 7 months gathering information, interviewing vendors, reviewing proposals, and meeting with sales people and technicians. During that time the Property Committee kept The Meeting apprised of the status of the proposals we had received. After a thorough process of elimination we settled on one vendor with the capacity to perform all aspects of the installation. We found this vendor to be professional, reliable and technically proficient.

3. Proposal The final vendor proposal selected by the Property Committee was the proposal from the vendor Sound Stage. Sound Stage's proposal provided the sale, installation, training and service of the AV system required by The Meeting. The price of the Sound Stage proposal is \$13,632.07.

4. Recommendation It is the Property Committee's recommendation that, should The Meeting choose to move forward with installing an AV system, the Sound Stage system is our recommendation.

5. Financials Should The Meeting decide to move forward with the recommendation to install the Sound Stage AV system we request authorization of funds in the amount of \$13,632.07 (\$11,000 of which has already been budgeted) for the system. \$9,542.45 will be paid to Sound Stage upon acceptance of their proposal and the balance of \$4,089.62 will be issued upon completion of the installation. This committee requests an additional \$ 550.00 to be allocated to cover the cost of (1) a combination DVD Player and Streaming device, (2) a Wireless Mouse, (3) a lockable Wood Finish Storage Cabinet, and (4) an HDMI to VGA Adaptor. The Committee, in conjunction with Sound Stage, agrees that these items, while enhancing the usefulness of the system, are less expensive when purchased over the counter and can be added any time after the installation is done.

Henry Electric Company

P.O. Box 300112

Fern Park, FL 32730

407-834-4032

www.henryelectric.com

JOB ESTIMATE

Date 3-8-17

AMENDED ESTIMATE

To: Quakers of Orlando
Attn: Bill 407-580-3399
Email: bilmeelergardens@gmail.com

Work at: 316 E Marks Street
Orlando, FL 32803

Job Description: Miscellaneous electric

We will run a new 20-amp, 120 volt circuit for Projector outlet and screen power outlet.
Work will be done in wire mold and conduit.
Install an outlet for video equipment down closet to equipment.

Price: \$2,470.00

Payment terms: Net due upon receipt of invoice by check or cash when work is completed.

Note: If a permit is requested by owner, there will be additional fee

Estimated by: Manny Romero



Angie's List Super Service Award
2007 through 2015

A member of International Association of Electrical Inspectors

This estimate is for completing the job as described above. It is based on our evaluation and does not include material price increases or additional labor and materials which may be required should unforeseen problems or adverse weather conditions arise after the work has started.

Property Manager Replacement Process

Mar. 6, 2017

1. Officially advised of current Property Mgr.'s pending departure on or about April 3, 2017.
2. Contact Clerk of the Meeting and advise of situation and how we propose to move forward.
3. Request Property Manager Job description from Nominating Committee.
4. Request a detailed to do list, pending appointments and contacts list from outgoing Property Manager.
5. Meet with Property Committee and bring the team up to date on situation. Discuss way forward. Review to do list and pending appointments and make arrangements to temporarily cover them.
6. Contact Treasurer and assess budget for the Property Manager Payroll.
7. Get sense of the Property Committee's direction and present situation to Meeting.

Request from SEYM Ministry on Racism Committee

'End Slavery for All'

The Committee for Ministry on Racism asks Monthly Meetings to comment on, and/or approve, their draft of a minute entitled "End Slavery for All," which is attached below. Please send your comments to Susan Taylor at susantaylor410@gmail.com or Ellie Caldwell at caldwellellie@hotmail.com. The Committee will incorporate, and/or respond to, Monthly Meeting comments to prepare a final draft for Yearly Business Meeting.

END SLAVERY FOR ALL Second Draft

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.

Proposed FGC Institutional Assessment on structural racism

Winter Interim Business Meeting took up the proposed FGC Institutional Assessment on structural racism.

Both the SEYM FLGBTQ Representative (Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, & Queer Concerns) and the SEYM Committee for Ministry on Racism recommend that SEYM approve contributing funds for the proposed Institutional Assessment of Structural Racism of Friends General Conference. Please consider whether your Meeting approves, and empower your SEYM representatives and members to speak to this issue in April. Please see the reports below for background information: a segment from our FGC Representatives' report to WIBM, and a segment from the November Vital Friends FGC e-Newsletter that refers to this commitment and provides a summary for Friends. Also see the FGC Representatives Report in these Documents in Advance. (YBM 2017)

From FGC Representatives Report to WIBM 2017

Institutional Assessment Proposal

Quakers strive to put Spirit at the center of our lives. However, we are also cultural beings, socialized into the dominant culture. Structural oppression, for example, has played a profound role in the life and ministry of the Religious Society of Friends for over 350 years. Structural oppression doesn't diminish the presence of the Spirit in us or the vision of a "great people to be gathered." We wish to live our testimonies of equality and integrity.

The FGC Diversity Committee proposed, and the Central Committee approved an "Institutional Audit." With the help of outside consultants, an assessment would examine the structure, processes, and resources of the organization to help us see where we now regard structural racism, and develop steps to move us toward a greater understanding of and better structural form to overcome the racism inherent because of white privilege. This process involves the entire FGC organization including Central Committee members. Outside consultants will not make the assessment but will be hired to help FGC gain the skills and knowledge to undertake the assessment. The focus will be specifically on Friends General Conference as an organization (committee and staff structure). Our hope is that our experience with the assessment and the resulting work within FGC will be both informative and inspirational for yearly and monthly meetings, providing a model and specific ideas for change among FGC Friends.

The calling arose from several factors, among them:

1. Discriminatory actions by the college security services employees at the 2016 Gathering
2. Need to promote concrete and meaningful change that opens a window into other areas of exclusion in our organization (Age, Youth, Income levels, etc.)
3. Acknowledgment that several of FGC's member yearly meetings, plus a few congregations, have sent formal communications endorsing the request for an institutional assessment
4. Recognition that many FGC Friends are responding to the concerns of the Black Lives Matter movement

Two of the goals of an institutional assessment on racism:

1. Build institutional capacity around seeing and overcoming structural racism. FGC wants to acquire the skills to continue this work without the help of outside consultants. This would involve training FGC teams.

2. Name the barriers to full participation in FGC at all of its levels. FGC wants to be thorough in examining all levels and aspects of the institution.

Financial support is necessary. The assessment will be accomplished through Yearly Meetings, Monthly Meetings, individual donations, and grants. The approximate cost for the assessment is \$60,000 over a two-year period.

The SEYM Representatives to Central Committee ask the SEYM's Ministry on Racism to consider this project for discussion at WIBM.

From Vital Friends Newsletter, November 2016

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