

**Orlando Monthly Meeting
Meeting for Business
March 11, 2018**

Opening Worship The Meeting Clerk, Stephanie Preston-Hughes, called for Friends to gather at 11:45 am. The Meeting settled with a brief time of faithful worship.

Reading

“To be faithful, follow the process of discerning God’s will. Keep an open mind; otherwise, consciously or unconsciously, you will try to impose your own will on a situation. Give up trying to convert others to your viewpoint-instead, share your measure of the Light, respect the views of others and seek the reality that is unfolding. Leave outcomes to God.”

SEYM Faith & Practice (4th Edition, 2013)
Chapter 4: Blessed Community, Maintaining Unity

Treasurer's Report Treasurer Greg Allen-Anderson presented the February accounting. By budget projections, the Meeting should be at 17% of overall FY expenses. Hospitality, insurance, housekeeping are three items over budget. Some line items were adjusted. The over-budget items may be seasonal. Line items to be corrected appear in an updated Treasurer's Report. [Attachment]

Greg has been added as a signer to the Meeting account at the credit union. While undertaking the process of becoming a signer, Greg found that the bank account is in the name of the OMM Trustees. It is recommended we should pursue having a separate account in the Meeting's name. The credit union states the Meeting has to be a 501c3. Apparently, while the Meeting has a Tax ID number, we have not yet pursued 501c3 status. We would like to address this concern and ask the Meeting to approve a search for an accountant's assistance.

The Treasurer stated separating the funds and legal entities the Meeting will increase liability protections.

2018.03-01 Friends approve an allocation of up to \$3000 to hire professional service to help Meeting obtain a 501c3.

2018.03-02 Friends request the Trustees to review their current articles of incorporation to be consistent with the Monthly Meeting.

Friends accept the Treasurer's Report.

Membership matters were brought forth by the Meeting Clerk.

Traveling Friends

The clerk read the original travel minute of Ann Jerome & John Margerum (January 10, 2016) to Pendle Hill.

The Clerk read the returning letter from Pendle Hill to Orlando Meeting. [Attachment]

Ann and John experienced two beautiful years at Pendle Hill. Ann stated, "It is wonderful to back." They are eager to share their experiences in meeting for conversation. John commented the involvement with the community was a unique witness.

Jerry Knutson reminded Friends of the Meeting's scholarships for Pendle Hill sojourns.

Membership Transfer Request

The Clerk has received a request from Elizabeth Croce to transfer her membership from OMM to Haverford MM, Philadelphia YM. Following a discernment, the Clerk presented a recommendation to the Meeting to minute.

Elizabeth has been a member of Orlando MM (Deland WG) and Southeastern Yearly Meeting since childhood. After attending a Quaker school and graduating college, she is now a teacher in the Philadelphia area.

2018.03-03 OMM accepts the membership transfer request of Elizabeth Croce to Haverford (Pa) Monthly Meeting. [Attachment]

Membership of Chuck Deneen

The Membership Recorder, in consultation with Worship & Ministry and Care & Community Committees, recommends the membership of Chuck Deneen be laid down. He is a long-absent Friend who has been contacted regarding his membership, and who did not respond affirmatively to our discernment queries, and has not been involved with the Meeting in any other ways in the years he has been absent.

2018.03-04 OMM lays down membership of Chuck Deneen.

Clerk Update Stephanie Preston

The Clerk appreciates Friends response to her current situation. She will be taking a leave of absence from work and the Meeting to attend to her mother's care in Ohio in April. Meeting holds her in the Light and awaits to hear from her regularly.

Worship & Ministry

Spiritual State of Meeting The Clerk and Worship and Ministry Committee has completed their discernment in refining the final version of the "Spiritual State of the Meeting" report. "The 2017 OMM Spiritual State of the Meeting 2017" has been submitted to SEYM. [Attachment]

Thanks to Worship and Ministry, the Presiding Clerk and participating members for discerning and authoring the document.

Vicki Carli, Worship and Ministry Committee Clerk, requested consideration of two items.

2018.03-05 Friends approve Worship and Ministry's recommendation and Young Friends request to conduct occasional intergenerational movie nights in the Meetinghouse. W&M will bring further ideas & proposals to a future Meeting for Business.

2018.03-06 Friends agree to renew commitment to a rotation process of volunteer first day "Meeting Greeters." Worship and Ministry will oversee the process. Jerry Knutson will manage the assignment of volunteers for the six months he is present in central Florida. At other times, Minerva Glidden will facilitate the process of scheduling Meeting greeters.

FCNL Legislative Priorities Greg Allen-Anderson explained OMM's recommendations for the semi-annual survey of FCNL Legislative Priorities as discerned by monthly meetings. Orlando Friends participated in the monthly meeting discernment of FCNL priorities.

Steve Riddle had concerns about the document's scientific accuracy, in part: "Climate Disruption - We are already seeing significant impacts throughout the world, including here in the United States."

2018.03-07 Friends approve the submission of the OMM consideration of the FCNL priorities as written with one member standing aside. [Document Attached]

Property Committee Ray Jenkins, Committee Clerk, informed the Meeting of two property related matters:

Request for Meetinghouse Use We have a request for the use of the meeting house for Monday, April 16, 2018, 9 am to 5 pm. The event request is for 40- 60 people with use of the AV System, kitchen and tables. They have been advised of limited parking, and a fee of \$150.00 would be charged to for the use of the facility and any additional cleanup that may ensue. They have also been advised they need to show event insurance documentation and complete our use application before the event can be scheduled. When all criteria are met, we will move forward.

HVAC Report The Property Committee will continue to address the issue of service of air condition and heating system. Heinmiller Heating and Cooling made an assessment call and checked both systems inside and out. They concluded that the coils and lines are leaking and need to be replaced. The committee will get three bids for the replacement of the coils and move forward within the confines of the property budget. Should either repair or replacement prove, financially excessive the property committee will return to the Meeting with a recommendation.

Friends asked questions about the HVAC system. Concerns included the warranty and the quality of previous repairs.

Minute of appreciation: The Meeting wishes to recognize our ongoing gratitude for Friend Ray Jenkins. Our Meeting is blessed with his presence and role as Property Committee Clerk. Friend Ray's diligence, hard work, and expertise are gifts of grace to Orlando Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends.

Other concerns from Friends Needing Attention

Call for Fourth Month (April) 2018 Meeting for Business Items. Please submit these to Jerry Knutson and Ed Lesnick to prepare the agenda.

Following reading and one correction to the numbered minutes, the Clerk ended the Meeting with silent worship at 12:55 PM.

In attendance: Bill Carlie, Vicki Carlie, Minerva Glidden, Greg Allen-Anderson, Jerry Knutson, Tom Gottshalk, John Margerum, Ann Jerome, Kate Joseph, Ray Jenkins, Liz Jenkins, Stephanie Preston-Hughes (Clerk), Steve Riddle, Jacky Schroeder, and Ed Lesnick (Recording Clerk).

OMM TREASURER'S BUDGET REPORT FOR February 2018

Chart of Accounts	2017 Budget	2018 Revenue	% of Budget	2018 Budget	Remaining
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REVENUE

5100 Support Gifts	9,000.00	746.00	15%	5,000.00	
5200 Reimbursement/Use of MH	2,000.00	750.00	31%	2,400.00	
5500 Trustee transfers, yearly	62,000.00			62,000.00	
5600 Trustee transfers, Grants	16,000.00			16,000.00	
5700 Return Credit					
5800 Reserves allocated to budget	6,900.00	24,700.00			
5850 Donations for Special Ministry				5,500.00	
TOTAL REVENUE	95,900.00	26,196.00		90,900.00	

EXPENSES

OPERATING EXPENSES	Budget 2017	2018 Expenses	% of Budget	Budget 2018	Remaining
6010 Repairs & Maintenance	12,000.00	838.10	8%	10,000.00	9,161.90
6040 Housekeeping	1,800.00	2,150.00	27%	8,000.00	5,850.00
6045 Pest Control	2,000.00	156.00	8%	2,000.00	1,844.00
6050 Grounds Care	3,600.00	360.00	10%	3,600.00	3,240.00
6090 Utilities, MH	3,000.00	552.20	15%	3,600.00	3,047.80
6100 Insurance	4,000.00	1,293.54	29%	4,500.00	3,206.46
6110 Utilities, WC	1,200.00	120.66	10%	1,200.00	1,079.34
6120 Taxes, City Services	1,300.00		0%	1,300.00	1,300.00
6150 Professional fees	900.00	70.00	8%	900.00	830.00
6160 Property Agent	12,000.00		0%	8,000.00	8,000.00
6500 Other Property Expense	12,000.00	50.36	1%	6,000.00	5,949.64
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	53,800.00	5,590.86	11%	49,100.00	43,509.14

6060 Bank Service Charges	75.00		0%	250.00	250.00
6070 Phone	600.00	44.21	7%	600.00	555.79
6155 Treasurer's expenses	600.00	97.30	16%	600.00	502.70
7030 Outreach & Adult Ed.	1,000.00		0%	1,000.00	1,000.00
7050 Fellowship & Hospitality	3,000.00	625.95	21%	3,000.00	2,374.05
7070 Library & Subscriptions	250.00		0%	500.00	500.00
7080 Archives	50.00		0%	50.00	50.00
7090 Communications	400.00		0%	400.00	400.00
7100 Travel	2,000.00		0%	1,000.00	1,000.00
7110 Travel for SEYM	2,000.00		0%	2,000.00	2,000.00
7150 Care & Community	1,000.00		0%	1,000.00	1,000.00
7170 Peace & Social Concerns	100.00		0%	100.00	100.00
7200 SEYM Field Secretary for Earthc	1,250.00		0%	1,250.00	1,250.00
7210 Young Friends Group	3,000.00	450.00	15%	3,000.00	2,550.00
7220 SEYM	5,998.00		0%	5,998.00	5,998.00
7230 Worship & Ministry	250.00		0%	500.00	500.00
7500 Other expenses	300.00		0%	300.00	300.00
TOTAL ACTIVITIES	21,873.00	1,217.46	6%	21,548.00	20,330.54

Dear Stephanie,

Friendly greetings from Pendle Hill!

I'm writing to you in your role as Clerk of Orlando MM. Attached please find a two-page document including your original travelling Minute for Ann and John, and our Minute (from Pendle Hill to OMM) of appreciation for their service. We read this aloud as part of a Worship Share / Closing Circle a few days before they headed back to Florida. (We miss them very much.)

If it is customary for OMM Friends to do so, we welcome you to share this Minute with the body of Friends.

It would be lovely to greet you here at Pendle Hill one day (though, in January, it might be easier to convince Pendle Hillers to come visit you in Florida!?).

With a Grateful heart,
Jen

Jennifer Karsten
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Pendle Hill is a Quaker center welcoming all for Spirit-led learning, retreat, and community.

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Orlando Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends
316 E. Marks St.
Orlando, FL 32803

March 11, 2018

Haverford Monthly Meeting
855 Buck Lane
Haverford, PA 19041

Attn.: Terry Cooke, Clerk

Letter of Transfer of Membership for Elizabeth Croce

Dear Friends,

During the Meeting for Business at Orlando Monthly Meeting of Friends on March 11, 2018, we approved the Elizabeth Croce's request for transfer of her membership to Haverford Meeting.

Many of us, both in our Meeting and in Southeastern Yearly Meeting, have fond memories of seeing Elizabeth growing up and go off to college. We look forward to her visits to Florida.

We know she will enrich your fellowship, and we commend her to your faithful care.

In friendship,

Stephanie Preston, Clerk
Orlando Monthly Meeting

OMM Spiritual State of the Meeting 2017

Query #1. How do we support each other as members of this beloved community?

We try to support each other through listening and being present for each other---as best we can---in all we do. Many Friends and Attenders find our informal weekly coffee hour after silent worship to be a place for emotional connection and listening where we can experience ministry by being present with one another in conversation. We support each other in our journeys even as we undertake committee work, by having 'check-ins,' listening to all points of view, and working as a team, with trust and humor.

We create various opportunities for connection and inclusion. The ministry of music before silent worship, where Friends have the opportunity to come together and sing from our Quaker hymnal, is a source of joy and connection. Bible study before worship is a ministry for our homeless attenders and early arrivals that has given substantial support to regular participants. Our Conversation to Explore after worship, with its worship sharing/creative listening format, is a safe space where all are included and listened to.

The weekly Quaker Notes e-newsletter serves as a way to disseminate information to those unable to attend worship as well as remind Friends of the happenings at OMM. Visitors who sign the guest book are contacted by phone to extend our welcome.

We do what we can to support Friends facing life changes or difficulties. Friends reaffirmed our policy to offer support for regular homeless attenders by paying for a one week stay at a shelter on a case-by-case basis. The Care & Community Committee provides listening, clearness, and other assistance to individuals. An Advocacy team visited the Orlando office of US Senator Marco Rubio on behalf of a regular attender and her family to discuss immigration and advocate for the extension of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) to immigrants from Haiti.

A Friend recently married under the care of the meeting shared that the clearness process for marriage was a source of tremendous support for both her and her wife. The clearness committee members demonstrated great tenderness with the couple who felt deeply anchored by their presence during the ceremony.

The death of OMM/SEYM elder Cathy Gaskill is deeply felt in our community. Though her presence her at worship and business meetings is sorely missed, her memorial service at John Knox Village was an opportunity for her neighbors, friends, and family to gather together with her beloved Quaker community to celebrate her life.

#10. How does the spirit of worship extend into our committee work and into meeting for worship with a concern for business?

As we take up Friends' practice intentionally-- approaching interactions with one another in a spirit-filled way, ministering, listening, being present to Spirit and each other in Worship and other activities --- our Meetings for Business have become more grounded in the Spirit. Clerk's readings at the beginning of Meeting for Worship for Business help us center down and be reminded of our practice. Her careful use of silence draws us back into worship when necessary.

As one Friend commented, "It is no longer remarkable that things are working well."

Tasks that could have been contentious in Meeting for Business were worked through in a worshipful way. In January 2017 we finally sold Cisney House, and reached unity in providing the trustees a minute on how to invest the proceeds of the sale and other assets. The Michener Lecture was hosted by many able people coming together. Committees are functional and prepared for business meetings. The work of committees is trusted when brought forward to business meetings, though this was not always the case in years past.

We can be supportive of each other and more of a witness in community is because we are remembering to do things with and in the spirit.

Query #3. What was our meeting's witness in the wider community in the last year?

Orlando Meeting worked to connect and bring our witness to the wider community in a number of ways in 2017.

In terms of advocacy:

- ! Two Friends attended board meetings of the Orange County Library System in Summer 2017 to share our concern about the lack of access to computers and online resources by the homeless.
- ! A few Friends participated in an FCNL Advocacy Team training, and visited Senator Rubio's office, advocating for an extension of the Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for immigrants and a path for citizenship for these immigrants.
- ! A letter to the editor from Orlando Quakers, *Congress Should Pass the Dream Act*, was published by the Orlando Sentinel in December 2017.

We also connected with community groups in various ways:

- ! Friends attended the Annual MLK Memorial sponsored by City of Orlando and Interfaith Council of Central Florida. A group of Orlando Friends enjoyed food and fellowship with our Moslem neighbors on three different occasions at events hosted by the Islamic Society of Central Florida. A number of Friends attended an "Abolition 2020" event commemorating the lives lost at Hiroshima/Nagasaki and advocating for the abolition of Nuclear Weapons. Clerk represented Orlando Quakers at two community events sponsored by Interfaith Council of Central Florida
- ! Several outside community groups use the meetinghouse for their meetings, including Debtors Anonymous and the Citizens Climate Lobby.
- ! The installation of a new audiovisual system in 2017 allows us to virtually connect, as a group, to the wider Quaker world and to online events such as FCNL advocacy training. It will also allow us to host events for our local community and SEYM more easily.
- ! \$16,000 in grant money was donated to community groups in Central Florida, to disaster relief for refugees and Puerto Rico, and to Quaker-based aid organizations.
- ! A marriage under the care of the meeting provided a meaningful opportunity for 75 non-Quaker guests to experience a Quaker meetinghouse and worship for the first time.

#8. Are there places where the meeting isn't reaching fully for the Light?

We have improved, but feel that more open communication with one another is necessary. Sharing information after Meeting for Worship is helpful to those who do not attend business meetings.

We could reach out more intentionally members of the local LGBTQ+ community by publicly identifying ourselves as a safe space and welcoming community. Are there ways that OMM could partner with Zebra Coalition or The Center to provide shelter on cold nights given that many young LGBTQ+ people do not safe at homeless shelters? We could also be more involved in the interfaith community in Central Florida by hosting an event at OMM

While responsibilities are more widely shared than in the past, there is Concern that a greater share of the burdens is being carried by only a few people. For instance, even though many Friends have come forward to teach Young Friends Group, one person is still doing most of the work. If YFG is important to us, more people could volunteer to work one Sunday with the kids. We need to look into our hearts to see if there's more that we can do.

OMM does well at offering financial support to those in need, but could do even better. We could use the financial legacy from our past to help in the present. Since we have the privilege of being a financially secure meeting, why couldn't we expand our annual grants program?

#6. Where do we find hope in the meeting and in our spiritual life?

Our meeting realizes how blessed we are, in so many ways.

The presence of several new attenders contributes to the meeting, adds to our perspectives, and represents hope and new liveliness. More than one newcomer has shared that they feel very welcomed at meeting, noting that attending worship has enriches not only their spiritual life, but their lives in general. We find hope in serving as a home for seekers who are looking for greater depth in their spiritual lives.

Our Orlando Quaker community has the rare gift of a group of people gathering each week to listen and discern what spirit is asking us to do. An attender shared that they rejoice at how passionately engaged Orlando Quakers are about everything we do, tenderly considering each and every item on our monthly business meeting agenda.

We find hope in the continued presence of a formerly homeless attender whom the meeting was able to support in obtaining permanent housing. He shared that his hopes would not be as high as they are today without OMM. He expressed gratitude for Friends cheering him up and reminded us that whenever two or more are gathered, there is love.

We find hope in the growth and continuing support of one Friend's traveling ministry, which, in 2017, included presenting at the FGC Gathering and several yearly meetings.

We find hope in now having a firmly established financial legacy, in that releases present and future Friends from the burden of having to work too hard for, or worry about, money. This gives us more time to devote to spiritual growth, community, and witness. Way has opened for a number of Orlando Friends to serve in various roles within Southeastern Yearly Meeting.

From time to time, Friends experience Meetings for Worship that are deeply gathered. We feel blessed to have this Quaker way of worship.

Orlando Monthly Meeting
Discernment for FCNL Priorities 2018

Orlando Monthly Meeting met over two weeks to discuss social and political activism. As part of that discussion we engaged in a discernment process, primarily through worship sharing, to determine the national issues that we feel the Spirit calling us to engage with.

We appreciate the process that Friends Committee for National Legislation (FCNL) is engaging in to determine their priorities for the next two years. We feel this process creates space for God to work in our social and political ministries and that listening for and implementing the promptings of the Spirit is a vital part of what preserves the integrity of Friends' advocacy efforts and enhances their efficacy.

We are called to "Speak out for those who cannot speak, for the rights of all the destitute." (Prov. 31:8)

We reviewed the current FCNL priorities and feel strongly that all of them are worthy of continued attention and effort. We feel particularly strongly about the following issues:

Gun Violence - While it is part of our wider Peace Testimony, we find the issue of gun violence of particular concern in our local community, our state, and our nation. This epidemic of mayhem and death is completely unnecessary and due entirely to human failings, including those of our political process. This issue deserves as much attention and action as can be brought to bear on it.

Political Dysfunction - We believe that all people are equal before God and should have their voices equally heard by their government. The fact that this is not currently the case drives a great many of the inequities that we see in our country and fosters a sense of enmity among many of our citizens. We believe that we are called to:

Continue to encourage bipartisanship in Congress and to work with members of both parties in our advocacy work.

Work to broaden the voter franchise as much as possible, including the prompt restoration of voting rights to those with prior felony convictions, ensuring that voter identification laws are sensible and don't disenfranchise eligible voters, ending partisan gerrymandering, and ensuring that all eligible voters have ample opportunity to cast their vote.

Work to end foreign and unfettered corporate influence on our electoral process.

Economic Justice - We believe that all humans are beloved children of God and as such all are entitled to just portion of the earth's resources so that each may flourish as God intends. We feel we are called to:

Advocate for a health care system that ensures that the needs of all are met in a way that ensures each person's dignity is upheld and that none are forced into penury to pay for their care.

Work for the preservation of vital social safety net programs such as Social Security (including disability benefits), Medicare, Medicaid, and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

Advocate for policies that encourage full employment at a living wage.

Advocate for policies which decrease the level of income inequality which has become so extreme that it threatens the coherence of our nation.

While the three concerns above are more pressing, we feel that the following issues are the greatest long term threats to our nation and the world:

Climate Disruption - We are already seeing significant impacts throughout the world, including here in the United States. As human activity continues to change our climate we can expect these impacts to continue and to increase in severity leading to catastrophic levels of suffering that will disproportionately effect the most marginalized

populations. While many approaches to the problem should be explored, we feel that efforts to minimize the use of fossil fuels and accelerate the transition to renewable sources of energy deserve particular emphasis.

Nuclear Disarmament - Recent events demonstrate that nuclear weapons remain a profound threat to all life on this planet. We believe that we are called to stand firm in calling for a halt to nuclear proliferation and for a decrease in the number of nuclear weapons in the world with the end goal of eliminating them entirely.

Orlando Monthly Meeting is thankful for the impactful and enduring work that FCNL has done in representing Friends and promoting Quaker values. We appreciate the opportunity to share our concerns and look forward to working with FCNL on the many important issues facing our country.