

Orlando Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends
Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business
Seventeenth Day, Fifth Month, 2020 | May 17, 2020
(Via Zoom Communications)

Opening Worship: Friends were called to gather by Liz Jenkins, Meeting Clerk, at 11:51 am. The Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business settled with a brief period of silent worship.

Reading: “(Quakers) find unity not in our beliefs, which are multifarious, but in our practice – of listening to the promptings of love and truth in our hearts and being led by the Spirit as individuals and as worshipping communities. At least, this is the ideal to which we aspire.

We don't always get it right, of course. Too often, we are ego-driven rather than Spirit-led. Quaker Meetings and Quaker organizations then become battlegrounds, instead of peaceable and peace-making communities. We each push our own priorities and insist on things being done as we think fit. We can end up tearing each other and the meeting or organization apart.

This is a long way away from discerning ways forward which are in harmony with the loving purposes of God. We each need to recognize that we may be mistaken in our perceptions or in our analysis. And we each need to submit ourselves to the discernment process of the Meeting as a whole.”

Gordon Matthews, 9/11/2014: Excerpt from Blog Entry: “Quakers: ego-driven or Spirit-led?” from the Blog: “Let the Silence Ring: Reflections of an English Quaker.”

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Greg Allen-Anderson reviewed the budget vs. actual expense report for the period ending April 30, 2020. Over budgeted expenses include Communications – Zoom, Utilities – water leak problem, and Phone – extra service for Webster cottage.

The Trustees will be reviewing a quote received from Tom Sullivan, an insurance agent. A necessitated change to different underwriters has complicated the proposal.

The statement was made of the \$40K (capital improvements) \$18K has been spent on the new air conditioning system. The remaining \$22K will be for meetinghouse roof repairs.

Following additional comments, the Treasurer’s Report was accepted.

Attachment: Monthly Report, Orlando Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends for the period ended April 30, 2020.

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND CHECK-INS

Worship and Ministry: The anchoring committee for Jerry Knutson recommended, and Friends approved the following minute:

2020.05-01 Friends approve updating and extending the Travel Minute for Jerry Knutson, 4/1/2020 to 3/31/2022. (Attached)

Peace and Social Concerns: Stephanie Preston-Hughes reported there were no action minutes at the committee's meeting, May 14. Among the topics discussed were (1) developing ways to acknowledge indigenous people appropriately. (2) "No Way to Treat a Child." The concern addresses detention and maltreatment in the Israeli/Palestinian region. (3) The COVID19 pandemic has magnified the health care disparity existing throughout the country.

Peace and Social Concerns will continue to meet the 2nd Thursday of the month.

Nominating: Committee Clerk, Gary Evans, reported the Committee is organizing for an upcoming meeting.

Membership Matters: The Clerk read request for OMM Membership from Jared Silvia (attached).

2020.05-02 Friends request the Care and Community Committee to form a clearness committee for discerning membership for Jared Silvia.

Clerk's Report: Liz Jenkins reported her participation in WebEx Meeting: "Reopening Houses of Worship: Diverse Conversations & Perspectives virtual Town Hall Meeting with Mayor Jerry L. Demings & Faith-Based and Community Activist Humanistic Leaders," 5/14/2020. Nearly 400 people participated.

SEYM held a "Monthly Meeting and Worship Group Forum" on 5/16/2020. The Clerk responded to the queries posed in a response from Orlando Monthly Meeting.

Attachment: Monthly Meeting and Worship Group Forum 5/16/2020, 2:00 pm. Response from Orlando Monthly Meeting

The Clerk summarized the meeting's state *during the pandemic and the anticipated return to gathering in person*. The Worship and Ministry Committee is looking at alternatives in considering the process of reopening. The Property Committee will decide the procedure for outside group use of the meetinghouse.

The Meeting Clerk emphasized a preference for a step-by-step process in moving forward and recommended the Trustees be engaged in the process. The membership will make the critical

decisions in the eventual reopening. We are optimistic but aware of the ongoing uncertainties and changing circumstances.

In consideration of those most vulnerable to the coronavirus, Friends are in favor of continuing remote (Zoom) access to meeting for worship when the meetinghouse reopens. Furthermore, the use of Zoom can expand the meeting's connection with distant Friends. The audio-visual form of communication for the Friends' community could have benefits beyond the current crisis.

Two items for *Sixth Month 2020 Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business*: Trustees Report, a Property Committee report on "Regathering."

The date for Sixth Month 2020 Meeting for Worship with Concern for Business: Return to regular Second Sunday/Second First Day Schedule: 6/14/2020.

Review of Numbered Minutes: The two numbered minutes were approved as reviewed.

Closing Worship: Brief, silent worship concluded the Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business at 1:18 pm.

Attendance via Zoom Communications:

Liz Jenkins

Jerry Knutson

Ed Lesnick

Ray Jenkins

Greg Allen-Anderson

Gary Evans

Stephanie Preston-Hughes

Tom Gottshalk

Chris Laning

Minerva Glidden

Tom Richardson

Steven Riddle



Monthly Report

Orlando Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends
For the period ended April 30, 2020

Prepared by
Gregory Allen-Anderson

Prepared on
May 1, 2020

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Treasurer's Monthly Report

Meeting House Utilities – We have received the refund for the waste water charges in the form of a credit to our account with OUC, so we now have a large credit balance with them.

Communication - This is over budget due to the purchase of a ZOOM membership for the year.

Insurance-This continues to grind on. The agent states he is making progress.

Donations - This was a donation to the church that hosts the St. Augustine Worship Group. The worship group had more than enough funds to cover it.

Hospitality - Hospitality is likely to be under budget for most of the year since we can't share snacks via Zoom.

Profit and Loss

January - April, 2020

	Total
INCOME	
5100 Support Gifts	3,406.00
5200 Reimbursement/ Use of MH/ Parki	1,037.00
5500 Trustee transfers, yearly	99,000.00
5600 Trustee transfers for Grants	20,000.00
Total Income	123,443.00
GROSS PROFIT	123,443.00
EXPENSES	
6010 Repairs & Maintenance	1,546.94
6040 Housekeeping	1,400.00
6045 Pest Control	312.00
6050 Grounds Care	2,125.00
6060 Bank Service Charges	116.00
6070 Phone/Internet	884.56
6090 Utilities MH	6,578.74
6100 Insurance	3,131.38
6110 Utilities, WC	394.28
6155 Treasurers' expenses	94.95
6160 Property Care and Maintenance	2,675.01
6500 Other Property Expenses	648.93
7050 Fellowship & Hospitality	293.67
7090 Communications	374.75
7200 SEYM Field Secretary for Earthc	1,250.00
7210 Young Friends Group	1,002.09
7220 SEYM	3,394.00
7400 Special Ministry Projects	188.00
8500 Donations	1,000.00
8600 Grants	15,000.00
PayPal Fees	29.31
Total Expenses	42,439.61
NET OPERATING INCOME	81,003.39
OTHER INCOME	
Interest Earned	87.20
Total Other Income	87.20
OTHER EXPENSES	
Depreciation	394.12
Total Other Expenses	394.12
NET OTHER INCOME	-306.92
NET INCOME	\$80,696.47

Balance Sheet

As of April 30, 2020

	Total
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Bank Accounts	
1025 Bento	393.97
6020950 OMM Savings	30,295.81
6020957 OMM Checking	89,856.62
1026 Pendle Hill Scholarship Fund	5,400.00
Total 6020957 OMM Checking	95,256.62
PayPal Bank	2,054.18
Total Bank Accounts	128,000.58
Total Current Assets	128,000.58
Fixed Assets	
1800 Land	7,000.00
1901 Webster Cottage	23,500.00
1902 Acc Depr Webster Cottage	-23,500.00
Total 1901 Webster Cottage	0.00
1905 Air Conditioner Units 2019	2,736.00
Depreciation	-394.12
Original cost	15,000.00
Total 1905 Air Conditioner Units 2019	17,341.88
Total Fixed Assets	24,341.88
TOTAL ASSETS	\$152,342.46
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Total Liabilities	
Equity	
30000 Opening Balance Equity	20,656.16
32000 Retained Earnings	50,989.83
Net Income	80,696.47
Total Equity	152,342.46
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$152,342.46

Budget vs Actuals 2020

January - April, 2020

	Actual	Budget	over Budget	Total % of Budget
INCOME				
5100 Support Gifts	3,406.00	2,166.68	1,239.32	157.20 %
5200 Reimbursement/ Use of MH/ Parki	1,037.00	825.00	212.00	125.70 %
5500 Trustee transfers, yearly	99,000.00	99,000.00	0.00	100.00 %
5600 Trustee transfers for Grants	20,000.00	20,000.00	0.00	100.00 %
Total Income	123,443.00	121,991.68	1,451.32	101.19 %
GROSS PROFIT	123,443.00	121,991.68	1,451.32	101.19 %
EXPENSES				
6010 Repairs & Maintenance	1,546.94	2,666.68	-1,119.74	58.01 %
6040 Housekeeping	1,400.00	2,333.32	-933.32	60.00 %
6045 Pest Control	312.00	666.68	-354.68	46.80 %
6050 Grounds Care	2,125.00	2,366.68	-241.68	89.79 %
6060 Bank Service Charges	116.00	140.00	-24.00	82.86 %
6070 Phone/Internet	884.56	672.00	212.56	131.63 %
6090 Utilities MH	6,578.74	1,200.00	5,378.74	548.23 %
6100 Insurance	3,131.38	3,000.00	131.38	104.38 %
6110 Utilities, WC	394.28	440.00	-45.72	89.61 %
6150 Professional Fees		333.32	-333.32	
6155 Treasurers' expenses	94.95	100.00	-5.05	94.95 %
6160 Property Care and Maintenance	2,675.01	3,500.00	-824.99	76.43 %
6500 Other Property Expenses	648.93	833.32	-184.39	77.87 %
7030 Outreach & Adult Education		333.32	-333.32	
7050 Fellowship & Hospitality	293.67	1,300.00	-1,006.33	22.59 %
7070 Library & Subscriptions		166.68	-166.68	
7080 Archives		16.68	-16.68	
7090 Communications	374.75	166.68	208.07	224.83 %
7100 Travel		333.32	-333.32	
7110 Travel for SEYM		666.68	-666.68	
7150 Care & Community		333.32	-333.32	
7170 Peace & Social Concerns		833.32	-833.32	
7200 SEYM Field Secretary for Earthc	1,250.00	0.00	1,250.00	
7210 Young Friends Group	1,002.09	1,333.32	-331.23	75.16 %
7220 SEYM	3,394.00	3,394.00	0.00	100.00 %
7230 Worship & Ministry		166.68	-166.68	
7300 Homeless Ministry		1,333.32	-1,333.32	
7400 Special Ministry Projects	188.00	3,500.00	-3,312.00	5.37 %
7500 Other Expenses		100.00	-100.00	
8240 Meeting Projects		66.68	-66.68	
8330 Scholarships		500.00	-500.00	

				Total
	Actual	Budget	over Budget	% of Budget
8500 Donations	1,000.00	166.68	833.32	599.95 %
8600 Grants	15,000.00	0.00	15,000.00	
PayPal Fees	29.31		29.31	
Total Expenses	42,439.61	32,962.68	9,476.93	128.75 %
NET OPERATING INCOME	81,003.39	89,029.00	-8,025.61	90.99 %
OTHER INCOME				
Interest Earned	87.20	83.32	3.88	104.66 %
Total Other Income	87.20	83.32	3.88	104.66 %
OTHER EXPENSES				
Depreciation	394.12	1,000.00	-605.88	39.41 %
Total Other Expenses	394.12	1,000.00	-605.88	39.41 %
NET OTHER INCOME	-306.92	-916.68	609.76	33.48 %
NET INCOME	\$80,696.47	\$88,112.32	\$ -7,415.85	91.58 %

Vendor Payments Last Month

April 2020

Vendor	Date	Amount
AFSC Development		
AFSC Development	04/21/2020	-500.00
Bento		
Bento	04/17/2020	-29.00
Ferran Services and Contracting Inc		
Ferran Services and Contracting Inc	04/17/2020	-238.20
GuideOne Insurance		
GuideOne Insurance	04/09/2020	-1,319.32
GuideOne Insurance	04/11/2020	-249.25
Henry Electric, Inc.		
Henry Electric, Inc.	04/09/2020	-520.00
In Touch Cleaning LLC		
In Touch Cleaning LLC	04/09/2020	-200.00
In Touch Cleaning LLC	04/20/2020	-100.00
Jorge Arenas Landscaping and Lawnservice LLC		
Jorge Arenas Landscaping and Lawnservice LLC	04/06/2020	-425.00
LGBT+ Center		
LGBT+ Center	04/20/2020	-2,000.00
Massey Services		

Vendor	Date	Amount
Massey Services	04/09/2020	-78.00
ORLANDO Day Nursery		
ORLANDO Day Nursery	04/19/2020	-1,000.00
ORLANDO Rescue Mission		
ORLANDO Rescue Mission	04/21/2020	-1,000.00
Protect America		
Protect America	04/03/2020	-53.24
Right Sharing of World Resources		
Right Sharing of World Resources	04/21/2020	-500.00
Salvation Army		
Salvation Army	04/22/2020	-2,000.00
Second Harvest Food Bank of Cent. FL.		
Second Harvest Food Bank of Cent. FL.	04/19/2020	-5,000.00
SEYM		
SEYM	04/06/2020	-1,697.00
Spectrum		
Spectrum	04/01/2020	-116.97
Spectrum	04/03/2020	-189.64
United Against Poverty		

Vendor	Date	Amount
United Against Poverty	04/22/2020	-2,000.00
VUDU		
VUDU	04/17/2020	-2.09
Winter Park Day Nursery		
Winter Park Day Nursery	04/19/2020	-1,000.00
Not Specified		
	04/01/2020	-188.00

4/1/2020 to 3/31/2022 TRAVEL MINUTE FOR JERRY KNUTSON (Pronounced canoe t –son)

Dear Friends,

Greetings from Orlando (FL) Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends.

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

Jerry Knutson is a snowbird and has dual memberships in Quakers of Orlando, FL and Morgantown, WV. 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 received a Master of Divinity Degree from Earlham School of Religion in May of 2014 with an emphasis in Christian Spirituality. In 2017, Pendle Hill published his pamphlet (PHP #443) "Individual Spiritual Discernment: Receiving, Testing, and Implementing Leadings from a Higher Power." His pamphlet sold out in 14 months making it Pendle Hill's best-selling pamphlet. He has facilitated/taught workshops in 24 states, Washington DC, Bethlehem, Palestine and Nakuru, Kenya. He is also traveling with FWCC Traveling Ministry Corp.

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

In the Light,

Liz Jenkins,

Clerk Orlando Monthly Meeting

Endorsed by Southeastern Yearly Meeting

William Carlie,

Clerk SEYM

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

Request for Membership

From Jared Silvia to Clerk

May 6, 2020

Greetings! I wanted to write and formally begin the process of membership in the Orlando Meeting, and I suspected this was the correct way to start that process.

You know me pretty well at this point, but I wanted to, as is traditional, discuss my reasons for wanting to join the meeting officially as a member. I have attended when I can over the past few years, sometimes not being around for a while when work gets a bit stressful, but over the time since I began exploring Quakerism, especially where that exploration intersected with my attendance at the meeting and with the people there, I have found that I carry it with me in my life. As a teacher, as a writer, as a musician, and as a thinker, the fundamental principles of Quakerism and the lessons from seeking in silence with the community permeate my life.

My spiritual journey began in the world of Evangelical Christians, and I was devoutly involved in that world, attending evangelical schools, playing music in worship bands, traveling to ministerial conferences for young people, and seriously considering going into the ministry myself as a young person. Ultimately, though, the disconnection between the good teachings I found in the bible and the practices of the church, and, ultimately, the larger system of churches left a shadow hanging over my spirit. I found myself in attendance at church, but unmoved to sing, unmoved to hear, turning inward and seeking something. I left the church shortly afterward.

In the time since, I have tested my beliefs and found a new voice in what I fundamentally care about. I've explored many different ideas about faith, finding myself moved by meditation practices in Buddhism, and curious about different mystical conceptions of psychology, but after seeing a friend who also left the church as a young person find a home with Quakers in New York, I felt compelled to explore this tradition. I was extremely surprised and delighted that I did.

In my time with the Friends of the Orlando Meeting, I've arrived at numerous realizations about my own spiritual path that I can most easily summarize like this: I've been a Quaker this whole time without having the word for what I believed. The priorities of my life, of my spirit, the matters that call to me, the ways I want to challenge myself to improve... so many of these matters are utterly entangled with Quaker testimonies, and I have been seeking these very same things without having a clear picture of how they were connected.

As for seeking membership, what I want is a place to base myself, spiritually, officially, as I continue my exploration of the spiritual. As I was sitting in ORMC recently, asked about my religious preference (on a form or by a person, I can't remember which), I communicated that I was a Quaker. Before my surgery, the chaplain of the ward where I was situated came by and asked me if I had any spiritual practices that were comforting to me, and asked for clarification about if I was, indeed, a Quaker, because he rarely (maybe never) saw it on his documentation.

I said that I was, indeed, a Quaker, and asked him if he would sit with me and my wife in silent worship, which he was glad to oblige. When he left, and I thought about the whole interaction, I knew it was time for me to seek an official membership in OMM since it was apparent that I was externally comfortable practicing Quakerism in this rather vulnerable moment of my life. The roots are quite deep now, it seems.

Thank you for taking a look at this,
your friend, a friend,
Jared

[Jared Silva]

Monthly Meeting and Worship Group Forum 5/16/2020, 2:00 p.m.

Response from Orlando Monthly Meeting

How are we maintaining the connectedness and unity of our faith communities in these challenging times? How do we continue to “know one another in that which is eternal”?

Orlando Monthly Meeting began by combining coordinated worship at home with fellowship on Zoom. This soon became both worship and fellowship on Zoom. We have consistently reached out to invite those less familiar with this technology or reluctant to use it to join us and have seen more Friends follow through on these invitations over time. Our calls have also allowed us to check in on Friends to overcome isolation, among other needs. Friends in the Orlando area have also stayed in touch through our weekly "Quaker Notes" newsletter, our Facebook page, e-mails, phone calls, texts, and "snail mail," including notes to Young Friends. We have had more than one "newcomer" join worship as a result of communication through the website and through Facebook Messenger. We have been able to hold our regular committee meetings, including a clearness committee, and a Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business using Zoom. Meeting business is going forward and when we disagree, we continue to trust that time, faithful listening, and new Light can bring us to unity.

During this time, members and attenders joined together in holding a Friend in the Light, when he was hospitalized with serious pneumonia. He has recovered. As a Meeting, we continue to wrestle with inequities, blind spots, and misconceptions that keep us from growing closer to the beloved community. Our grants committee and Trustees have helped us to join together in giving at a time when that feels very important and we have come to a realization that we need to sit with Spirit and with each other in great patience as we discern right order and Spirit's way forward to serve our present and future community. The need for vision has not changed. Listening for new Light during worship and listening to really understand what each of us yearns for as we speak, continue to be among the ways we know each other in the insights and revelations that transcend time and earthly space.

How does the Spirit work within us and our Meetings through these times? What are we learning and where are we growing?

It has been a joyful surprise to realize that use of these newer telecommunications empowers us to overcome barriers such as distance, physical limitations, or heavy traffic so that Deland and St. Augustine Friends can worship with Orlando Friends and vice versa. It's also been a lovely surprise to join an SEYM Worship, Worship Sharing, or other activity and find others from our Meeting are "there" with us. In some ways we are worshipping more in the Spirit than ever before, although we truly miss breathing and being alongside each other and the healing power of hugs. We are learning new technologies, of course, but we are also learning fun things about each other's homes and pets, more in the manner of house worship of earlier Friends. We are also needing to learn patience with each other and to beware of disrespecting or feeling superior to those who may be less familiar with the current technologies. Knowing how to use some widget on Zoom does not automatically make any of us a deeper person spiritually. We are still just beginning to grow in understanding how we can be effective allies, creators, and advocates for those suffering the most in the present situation. We are learning not to be dismayed by anxiety, depression, or even angry impatience, but rather to listen to it as a deep desire for things to be better. Many of us have expressed how much our faith and our Quaker way of being is helping us to live bravely and lovingly in this new time. We have deeply valued our precious time focused on each other during online Meetings. We have just received a new request for Membership of our Meeting.