

**Orlando Monthly Meeting
Meeting for Business Minutes
8-14-2016**

Meeting Clerk, Stephanie Preston, opened the meeting at 11:48 am. Friends settled into worshipful silence.

Assistant Clerk, Liz Jenkins, read "Quaker Process in Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business."

Approval of the Minutes: Seventh Month minutes accepted as read. The Minutes of the current (August) monthly meeting will appear as "Pending Approval" on the web site this week.

8th Month Reflection from the Meeting Clerk

The gathering of consensus is more than a political method for reaching decisions—one that simply requires that no one says no. And it should not be thought of as a process of brokering votes until everyone is ready to vote in favor of a proposal. Rather, its aim is to explore concerns and the reality we live amidst and seek until we find a view that does justice to the complexity of reality and rightness. In the Quaker tradition, consensus is viewed as a practice of communal discernment that yields not only agreement but truth—a truth grounded in something beyond us." --J. Gray Cox *The Ways of Peace: A Philosophy of Peace as Action, Paulist Press, 1986*

Reflecting on SEYM *Faith and Practice*, Friend Cathy Gaskill gave her interpretation of the term "consensus."

Guest Presentation: Dr. Gloria Pickar, League of Women Voters

Dr. Gloria Pickar was invited to speak about the initiatives currently being taken for the prevention of gun violence in Florida. Dr. Pickar serves on the Gun Safety Committee of the League of Women Voters. She is seeking support from faith-based groups for the Florida Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence. This group is a non-partisan coalition of partners from around the state and nation, calling on our state officials to address the crisis of gun violence.

Dr. Pickar noted the reduction in mass killings during the time the ban on assault weapons was in effect. The law expired without action in 2004. Since then there has been a four-fold increase in mass killings.

The Committee promotes legislation to minimize the number of bullets used by all weapons (magazine capacity), end the danger of permissive "open carry laws," continue the prohibition of guns on college campuses and increase oversight of private gun sales. Also, they look to close the "No-Fly loophole," increase the use of successful background check procedures and use records of domestic abuse in limiting access to firearms.

A coalition of forty-four varied groups has joined in support of the Committee's efforts. The

website <http://gunviolenceflorida.org> has additional information. Another online source is <http://thefloridavoter.org/issues-2/gun-safety/> Already, the Committee has managed to assist preventing the expansion of the "stand your ground" law and promote the continued prohibition of weapons on campuses.

A brief question and answer period followed Dr. Pickar's remarks. The focus is on Florida and actions of the Florida legislature. The letter from LWV to Florida's government leaders (Governor Rick Scott, Speaker of the House Steve Crisafulli and Senate President Andy Gardiner) is attached. The Meeting Clerk previously emailed the letter to OMM members for their consideration and input.

Orlando Monthly Meeting's Response to Gun Violence in Florida

In keeping with our testimonies, Friends agreed there was an "opportunity for leadership" regarding this issue.

8-2016.01 Friends approve Orlando Monthly Meeting to join the Florida Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence.

8-2016.02 Friends approve the Clerk, on behalf of Orlando Monthly Meeting, to co-sign the *attached* letter drafted by the League of Women Voters of Florida. The letter, originally dated June 20, 2016, urges our state political leaders to make efforts to end gun violence in Florida through the following calls to action:

"First, we call upon you to enact legislation making it a crime to import knowingly, sell, manufacture, transfer, or possess a semiautomatic assault weapon or large capacity ammunition feeding device. Second, we call upon the state to implement comprehensive, universal background checks."

8-2016.03 Friends approve Clerk, acting on behalf of Orlando Monthly Meeting, to encourage Southeastern Yearly Meeting (SEYM) and its constituent monthly meetings to also join the Florida Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence and to sign the League of Women Voters call to action letter to state political leaders.

Friends approve Clerk's Minute: *Orlando Monthly Meeting Statement on Recent Violence*

8-2016.04 Orlando Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends carries a concern regarding recent acts of violence in the United States and the world.

"Do rightly, justly, truly, holily, equally to all people in all things; and that is according to that of God in every man, and the witness of God, and the wisdom of God, and the life of God in yourselves; and there you are serviceable in your generation, laboring in the thing that is good, which does not spoil, nor destroy, nor waste the creation upon the lusts"...

---George Fox, Epistle 200, 1661

We, Orlando Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, are heartbroken by the

mass shooting tragedy in our community at the Pulse night club on June 12, 2016, which targeted members of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer (LGBTQ+) and Latino population.

We deplore all forms of violence. We are grieved by violence perpetrated against people solely because of their identity and acknowledge the gifts and inherent worth of all members of our human family.

We bear witness to how the current climate of fear and polarization in our society creates a fertile breeding ground for the justification of violence towards those seen as “the other.”

We recognize that those disproportionately victimized by this divisive culture of “us” vs. “them” are members of historically oppressed groups including LGBTQ individuals, people of color, religious minorities, and women. We invite and welcome all to worship with us at Orlando Monthly Meeting.

As Quakers, we seek the light and hope in a world that often feels dark with despair. We believe that positive change begins with an inward examination of our conscience to ask ourselves how we are called to lead with love as the first motion.

Orlando Monthly Meeting minutes its commitment to working together as individuals and as a community, to live out our beliefs for the cause of peace.

We call upon Friends to engage in ongoing discernment, to follow the leadings of Spirit, to offer mutual support, to educate and hold one another accountable to create a more just and compassionate society.

Property Committee

Ray Jenkins, Property Committee clerk, submits the following report:

- 1) As regards the raised bricks in the walkway, we will post warning signs, and Bil Meeler will make the repair within a week or hire someone to make the repair over the next two weeks.
- 2) The broken toilet in the ladies room will be replaced, and the Handicap Conversion on the gender neutral toilet will be completed. I understand meeting agreed to the conversion, and the additional toilet cost is as mentioned.
- 3) We support the Young Friends Group's initiative to establish a Gardening Planter on the property with concerns regarding maintenance, size, and responsibility.
- 4) We are currently in a product and cost study for a Projector, Screen, and Sound System. We have established November as the target date for completion of the study, purchase, and installation of all of the new systems and devices. This will allow time to familiarize ourselves with the system before the Michener Lecture weekend.

5) An application has been sent out in response to a voice mail message requesting use of the meeting house for a 12-step program on Saturday nights from 7 pm to 8 pm. Upon receipt of the application we will meet to determine the committee's position on the matter and then present it to meeting at the next meeting for business.

Care and Community Committee

Minerva Glidden brought forth an ongoing concern dealing with specific, negative behavior which has resulted in the loss of meeting property, misuse of meeting facilities and uncomfortable statements solicitation and badgering. The report was a response to behaviors which have occurred, the feelings evoked and the need for remedies.

Friends considered the concern, offering practicalities and viewpoints in approving a policy. It was agreed the report would be returned to Committee for further consideration and then presented at the ninth month meeting for business.

The Care and Community recommends a minute of policy. Friends approve the following:

8-2016.05 When an individual or committee becomes aware that a registered sex offender is attending meeting, that individual or committee clerk will notify the Meeting's Clerk. The Meeting Clerk will then take the matter under discernment along with the Clerk of Young Friends Group and unite together on way forward.

Treasurer's Report - The monthly report was distributed by OMM Treasurer, Tom Gottshalk. A copy is attached.

The meeting concluded at 1:45 PM.

In attendance:

Bil Meeler
Bill Carlie
Cathy Gaskill
Chris Laning
Ed Lesnick
Gary Evans
Ingrid Swenson
Kate Joseph
Liz Jenkins

Minerva Glidden
Ray Jenkins
Robin Sibley
Stephanie Preston
Steve Phelan
Tom Gottshalk
Vicki Carlie

Guest: Dr. Gloria Pickar

Respectfully Submitted,

Ed Lesnick, Recording Clerk