

Tampa Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business

Minutes

9 Ninth Month 2013

OPENING WORSHIP

Meeting Clerk began the gathering with a quote from George Fox:

Stand still in that which is pure, after you see yourselves, and then mercy comes in. After you see your thoughts and the temptations, do not think but submit. Then the Power comes. Stand still in the Light and submit to it, and the other will be hushed and gone. Then contentment comes. When temptations and troubles appear, sink down in that which is pure, and all will be hushed and fly away. Your strength is to stand still... George Fox (1652)

CLERKS

Jan Dahm meeting clerk.

Cynde Mercer recording clerk.

ATTENDEES

Tom Blackburn
Jan Dahm
Lisa Erasmus
Jill Floerke

Chris Hugues
Dustin Lemke
Cynde Mercer
Karen Putney

Lou Putney
Wayne Schucker
Nancy Triscritti
Barbara Wolfe

BUSINESS

Minutes of Sixth Month were approved as submitted.

Treasurer Chris Hugues reported that donations are up over the past two months and expenses are slightly below budget. We are still below the budgeted amount on donations.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

First Day School – Nancy Triscritti reported that volunteers are needed for First Day School.

Hospitality – No report.

Library – No report.

Ministry and Counsel – Karen Putney reported that Worship Sharing has started again on Tuesdays at 7 p.m. Adult First Day School meeting for learning sessions will begin soon. The committee is considering discussions using *To Be Broken and Tender* by Friend Margery Post Abbott.

Nominating – No report.

Peace and Social Concerns – Dustin Lemke proposed two minutes on Syria and juvenile justice in Hillsborough County. Meeting approved both minutes. Also presented were the results of the committee's recent visioning session. See Appendix A.

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Minute One, Ninth Month

The violence and deaths in the Syrian civil war grieve the Tampa Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers), and we think the international community should respond. However, military strikes would only bring more violence and death to Syria. We ask for a political solution that relies on enhanced diplomacy, restricted flow of weapons to all parties in Syria, investigation of war crimes, and increased humanitarian aid. Military intervention will bring more violence to a region that needs a commitment to peace.

Minute Two, Ninth Month

The Tampa Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) has a deep concern for juveniles charged as adults in the court system of Hillsborough County. We are pleased with Judge Ralph Stoddard's request for a special division in the court system to deal with these juveniles, and we hope for rehabilitation and changed lives. We shall send a letter to the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit expressing our support of this idea.

Property and Grounds – Chris Hugues reported that the building needs to be tented and a workday is planned for Saturday, September 14 to prepare the building for tenting. Architectural plans for the new building were presented. Friends approved moving forward with a loan application. See Appendix B.

NEW BUSINESS

MILESTONES

No milestones were brought forth.

CALENDAR

See TampaFriends.org.

CLOSING WORSHIP

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Appendix A

Peace and Social Concerns Yearly Visioning

On August 17, 2013, the Peace and Social Concerns Committee of Tampa Friends Meeting held a lively and inspiring threshing session thinking of the year to come. We opened our time together with about 45 minutes of worship sharing. We analyzed what we had accomplished in the past year and then considered where our energies and concerns for the coming year seemed directed.

The following four major projects were strong concerns of ours. We include these with details in case anyone in the meeting has special information to help us or feels led to participate.

Major concerns:

1. **Alternatives to Violence Program.** After hosting a basic AVP workshop this year, we still desire to do more. We continue to consider hosting “mini-AVP” workshops, and perhaps we’d like to do advanced AVP workshops.
2. **Dream Defenders.** We’d like to help repeal the Stand Your Ground Laws and work on voter rights issues. One group that seems to be having some success is the youth led Dream Defenders here in Florida. So we’d like to explore their work, and see how we can help support a legislative change for Florida gun laws.
3. **Children’s Issues.** We will continue supporting Nancy Triscritti’s project at her elementary school of giving books to children so they have something to read over the summertime (to avoid the “summer slide” that causes lower income kids to fall behind in school). This is the third year we’ve supported this project, donating enough books for 10 children the first year (100 books) and 15 children last year (150 books). This year, we helped Nancy set a much larger goal and want to strongly support her in raising 500 books to help 50 children. We will gladly take new books, gently used books, or financial contributions. But other concerns were raised about trying to help children in our own neighborhood, partly as an outreach for our meeting so families see that we are concerned about kids. Possible ideas: a peace essay contest, a peace scholarship, a peace service project, working with a nearby Boys and Girls Club. Your thoughts?
4. **Letter Writing.** Last year we hosted a lobbying workshop and still feel led to support changes through legislative action. We are especially interested in finding ways to have letter writing campaigns in the Meeting House by using Internet “hot spots” or other means. We know FCNL has lots of excellent actions that we would encourage more folks to actually fill out. We also know that we could do more letters as a meeting. We also had other issues that we thought could be handled with simpler plans:
 1. Quaker Earthcare Witness (SEYM) minute (need to review minute and give thoughts)
 2. Assist Cece Yocum with an e-newsletter for Friends Peace Teams (help her find basic e-newsletter help)
 3. Analyze our support for organizations - is money all they need? how can we support them?
 4. Continued contacts with other Quakers
 5. Florida Impact speaker
 6. Researching the homeless newspaper, Epoch
 7. Continued support of the Coalition of Immokalee Workers

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Feel free to join us for our first-Sunday-of-the-month meetings. Everyone's input, support, and action is needed.

Dustin Lemke
Peace and Social Concerns Clerk

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Appendix B