

## **Minutes**

### **12 Second Month 2006**

#### *OPENING SILENCE*

#### QUERY 2 MEETING FOR WORSHIP WITH A CONCERN FOR BUSINESS

Are Meetings for Business held in the spirit of Meetings for Worship?

In decision making, do we promote a spirit of love, understanding and patience as we seek unity on an appropriate course of action?

Do I keep my remarks simple and speak only as the Spirit leads?

Am I able to unite in good grace with the Sense of the Meeting when my personal desires tend in another direction?

Do I maintain respect for others, however strongly our opinions may differ?

Are Meetings for Business seen as positive opportunities for testing and practicing our spiritual life?

#### *RECORDING CLERK*

Cynde Mercer recorded minutes of this Meeting for Business.

#### *OLD BUSINESS*

Minutes of 8 First Month Meeting for Business were read and approved with corrections.

The Treasurer's report was presented by Tom Blackburn and accepted.

#### **Minute 1 Second Month 2006**

**Tampa Monthly Meeting gratefully acknowledges the recent donation of stock valued at \$16,433.15. This generous donation made it possible to make a substantial payment on our mortgage principal.**

#### *NEW BUSINESS*

Nominating Committee – The committee brought forth a list of nominations to be finalized at Third Month Meeting for Business. (Appendix A)

Peace and Social Concerns Committee – The committee had a positive response from Senator Martinez about a meeting with the senator or his staff; Don Daughtry has organized an interfaith meeting for Saturday, February 25 at the Interbay YMCA; next first day there will be a vigil at the Orient Road jail to mark the third anniversary of the incarceration of Sami Al-Arian.

Property Committee – A successful work day was held but we still need to remove the tree over the shed that was removed; we will look into alternatives to building a new shed on the property, perhaps the use of the Pyramid gallery next door.

Worship and Ministry Committee – We should hold Friendly Dinners in smaller groups to have more time to visit with each other; a meeting retreat is being planned for next spring.

State of the Meeting report and letter to Tampa Meeting – The meeting approved of Clerk’s State of the Meeting report and letter to Meeting. (Appendix B and C)

*ANNOUNCEMENTS*

- 18 Second Month Tampa Meeting Yard Sale
- 19 Second Month Potluck after Meeting for Worship. Bring a dish to share
- 25 Second Month Friendly Dinner
- 26 Second Month Meeting for Learning: Reflection on the pamphlet *Four Doors to Meeting for Worship* by William Taber
- 3-4 Third Month Clerking Workshop with Arthur Larrabee at Palm Beach Meeting
- 13 Third Month Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business
- 20 Third Month Potluck after Meeting for Worship. Bring a dish to share
- 25-26 Third Month Pax Christi Florida retreat
- 12-16 Fourth Month Yearly Meeting in Leesburg. See SEYM.org for information.

*CLOSING SILENCE*

APPENDIX A

**Tampa Friends Meeting  
2006 Nominating Report**

<b>Clerk</b>	Karen Putney
<b>Assistant Clerk</b>	Nil Wilkins
<b>Recording Clerk</b>	Cynde Mercer
<b>Treasurer</b>	Tom Blackburn
<b>Fum Rep.</b>	Bill Ward
<b>SEYM Rep.</b>	Barbara Wolfe, Cecilia Yocum
<b>HOPE Rep</b>	Kennan Ferguson

**Ministry and Worship**

M.J. Arnaldi *	2004
Cecilia Yocum	2004
John Arnaldi	2004
Nancy Triscritti	2005
Kathy Ward	2006

Karen Putney – as clerk of Meeting

**Nominating**

Barbara Wolfe	2004
Lou Putney	2004
Nancy Triscritti*	2005

**Property and Grounds**

Bill Ward\*  
Lou Putney  
Cecilia Yocum  
Franko Triscritti  
Tom Blackburn  
Molly Miller  
Billy Lee

**Library**

Barbara Wolfe \*  
Karen Putney  
Sharon Olenski  
Francis Drake

**First Day School**

Nil Wilkens\*  
Cecilia Yocum \*  
Amy Souza  
Billy Lee  
Melissa Van Dyke

**Hospitality**

Nancy Triscritti  
M.J. Arnaldi  
Rick Souza  
Dustin Lemke  
Melissa Van Dyke

**Peace and Social Concerns**

John Arnaldi \*  
Steve Kinney  
Cecilia Yocum  
Bev Ward  
Andrea Walsh

\* clerk of committee

## APPENDIX B

### **State of the Meeting Report 2005 Tampa Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends**

Tampa Friends continue seeking to ground our work and witness through the living silence of our worship together. In considering the query regarding our Meeting for Worship we affirm our experience of feeling “drawn together in the Light by the presence of God.” This year, as any other, has presented joys, concerns and often the need for prayers. Yet in all this we continually feel strengthened and nurtured by our worshipful life in community.

All that we are called to in this troubled world reminds us of the importance, the centrality of our Meeting community in our lives. Through Meetings for Learning we continue to seek greater understanding of the Quaker path, of our Faith and Practice, of how we are led to witness, of the walk of individuals who are led to certain work - we have much to learn and more to understand. Tampa Meeting is growing with new members, new attenders and opportunities such as that afforded by a marriage coming under the care of our meeting. The simple ceremony, in the manner of Friends, celebrating the marriage commitment was aglow with joy and love. We continue to be blessed as the spirit of this couple’s love for one another enriches our community. We are blessed by the gifts of ministry shared in our Meeting for Worship as well as in offerings such as the laying of a labyrinth in our back yard. We heartily enjoy sharing our property responsibilities through specially called workdays as well as in spontaneous offerings such as the midweek building of new picnic tables, or the individual effort constantly applied to wrestling the incredibly prolific potato vine. Informal gatherings for fellowship, such as Friendly dinners at individuals’ homes, have strengthened our personal relationships and afforded opportunity for much laughter and sharing. We find the lengthening of our worship to include a space for joys, concerns and prayer requests to be shared and held in the Light has been essential to the care and nurture of our community. While our stated time for worship to begin is 10:00am, we often find that worship has begun before the appointed hour as we have settled into the silence in expectant waiting.

## **Tampa Friends Meeting Meeting for Worship for Business**

Friends continue to struggle with our grief and despair as the war continues. Our witness for peace has taken many forms including vigiling on street corners, visiting legislators, letter writing, radio editorializing and ongoing prayer. We have adopted the FCNL STEP resolution and seek to strengthen our voice with the help and direction of FCNL. We recognize our Meeting for Worship as the foundation of our witness both as individuals and as a community. It is in knowing the peace that passeth understanding that we can envision and work for peace in our world.

Recognizing the necessity for truth and justice in building a foundation for peace, members of our community have stood witness with the Muslim community of Tampa. Offering friendship and support to the Muslim community has been both trying and rewarding. The wider Tampa community has been strained by ongoing trials of “suspected terrorists.” This witness spoke to a concern for integrity and for the just application of the rule of law. It has been a burden to see the mistreatment of the incarcerated and their families, as well as the fear, disrespect and anger that has been directed at the Muslim community in general. Again, the energy required to accompany those seeking justice demands a patient, steadfast, determined presence and we are grateful that our meeting has been able to hold up those who are called to this work. As the acquitted have not been released from prison and may face further prosecution, this concern is ongoing and we would ask that our Friends be held in the Light as they continue to witness as they are led.

Tampa Meeting held a memorial service on 5, eighth month, the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Standing in downtown Tampa, we were mindful that our candle lanterns floating on our river were mirroring the witness of those who were standing at the riverside in Hiroshima. Our service was conducted in the manner of Friends worship and spoke powerfully to those from our Quaker community and to those from our wider community who participated.

Tampa Friends Meeting continues to seek the peace within that enables us to move forward and witness to the power of love. We attend Meeting for Worship seeking to be spirit led, seeking to discern what we are called to do and praying for the strength and guidance to be faithful to that call.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Putney, clerk  
Tampa Friends Meeting

**Tampa Friends Meeting  
Meeting for Worship for Business**

APPENDIX C

## **Tampa Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends**

1502 West Sligh Avenue, Tampa, Florida 33604

tampafriends.org

February 2006

Dear Friends,

The state of the meeting report attached is a reflection on the path taken by our Meeting in the past year. In considering how we will move forward in the coming year, the following information is shared with our members and attenders as an invitation to consider financial support of the Meeting.

In the budget as approved by our Meeting, we have made a commitment to property expenses such as our monthly mortgage payment to the Friends Meeting House Fund, power, water and basic supplies. We also have a commitment to pay our annual assessment to our Yearly Meeting of approximately \$76.00 per member and \$38.00 per attender in the coming year. In addition to these obligations, Tampa Monthly Meeting makes annual donations to support the work of Metropolitan Ministries, HOPE, Pro-Nica, SEYM, Friends General Conference, Friends United Meeting, American Friends Service Committee, Friends World Committee on Consultation, Friends Committee on National Legislation, Right Sharing of World Resources, Florida Impact and William Penn House. The witness of these organizations is well known to us and we appreciate the opportunity to support their work in a modest way in donations ranging from \$100 to \$150.

Looking to future projects that may require both sweat equity and funding in the coming year, we are looking toward replacing our garage with another structure and toward irrigating our property to allow us to begin landscaping.

Tampa Monthly Meeting is able to honor our commitments based on donations from members and attenders and from rental of our meetinghouse to member Cecilia Yocum for her psychology practice. In order to meet our financial obligations, monthly donations need to be approximately \$1,500. Currently our Tampa Monthly Meeting community has recorded, 14 adult members, 5 child members, 2 non-resident members, 24 regular attenders, 5 attending children and a handful of not quite so regular attenders.

Friends, Tampa Meeting shares this information with you to help with your discernment of how you might support our community in meeting our financial obligations. We understand that at any given time our individual circumstances vary greatly and support may come in other forms when financial

**Tampa Friends Meeting**  
**Meeting for Worship for Business**

support is not possible. We trust that your discernment on this need will be spirit-led and we are grateful for your presence in our Meeting.

In the Light,

Karen Putney, clerk