

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

**DRAFT**

**Minutes**

**14 Third Month 2010**

*OPENING WORSHIP*

QUERY 3 – HARMONY WITHIN THE MEETING COMMUNITY

Are love and unity maintained among us?

When differences arise, do we settle them in a spirit of love and humility?

Am I careful not to hold an idea too firmly, knowing that another may bring me closer to the truth?

Am I patient and considerate towards those I find difficult to understand or like?

Do I demonstrate a forgiving spirit?

Do I have concern and respect for the reputation of others?

When people are hurt, do we take care to hold them up with a tender heart?

*RECORDING CLERK*

Nil Wilkins recorded minutes.

*ATTENDEES*

John Arnaldi

M.J. Arnaldi

Chris Hugues

Steve Kinney

Dustin Lemke

Nancy Triscritti

Janet Harris

Karen Putney

Lou Putney

Wayne Shucker

Andrea Walsh

Nil Wilkins

Barbara Wolfe

Cecilia Yocum

*BUSINESS*

Review of the Minutes of 14 Second Month was held over for next month's business meeting.

The Treasurer's report was accepted as presented.

Meeting approved the following minute:

**Minute 1 Third Month 2010**

**The Tampa Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends expresses its appreciation for the loving work of Nil Wilkins as clerk of the meeting for the past three years.**

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Nominating – no report.

Ministry and Counsel – A recommendation was brought forward from the committee on the meeting's response to individuals who come to the meeting house asking for money. The meeting agreed this will involve having the individual who is clerking worship that day as well as one other person going outside

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

### **DRAFT**

with the visitor and inviting them to worship with us, explaining that we do not give money to individuals and offering them a written list of agencies that might be helpful to them as well as a 3 day bus pass. Final approval of the recommendation was held over for next month's business meeting for time to gather additional information. **TO DO: Steve Kinney** will contact HART for information regarding bus pass costs and any expiration dates attached to them. **Cece Yocum** will bring a copy of the written list of agencies. The committee also announced that instead of a Friendly Dinner for April, Friends are encouraged to participate in a pot luck and Friends Peace Teams presentation at the St. Pete Meeting House on Saturday April 24 beginning at 6pm. A car pool is being organized and details will be announced as the date approaches. Friends are asked to consider bringing a large pot luck item as the gathering is expected to be a large one.

Website Ad Hoc Committee – Chris Hugues reported that he has only received one comment to date to his emails requesting input from Friends on our meeting website. **TO DO: Chris Hugues** will email specific items relating to website content for Friends to comment on, in hopes of getting more responses.

Outreach – **TO DO: Steve Kinney** will work on placing an ad in the USF newspaper, *The Oracle*, to make students aware we are here.

Peace and Social Concerns – Two items were brought forward from the committee. First, a recommendation that the committee hold a planning workshop with heavy involvement from the meeting to discern where to head for the coming year. The meeting decided to hold a brown bag workshop on May 1, from 10am to 2pm at the Tampa Meeting House. **TO DO: Dustin Lemke** to work on an agenda for the workshop. Second, the committee recommended the meeting select a date for a Coalition of Immokalee Workers spokesperson (farm worker) to speak to Friends to familiarize us with their issues. The meeting decided to close Meeting for Worship early at 10:50 a.m. on March 21, to have Joys and Concerns and announcements done by 11:15am for the speaker to have 45 minutes before pot luck begins. **TO DO: Dustin Lemke** to arrange for the speaker. **Karen Putney** to research the Coalition of Immokalee Workers.

Hospitality – No report.

Library – No report.

First Day School – No report.

Property and Grounds – The committee announced there is rotting associated with the smaller meeting house sign and suggested replacing this with new wording, for example the FCNL “We seek” statements. **TO DO: Friends** are to contact Andrea Walsh with ideas for wording on the sign. **Lou Putney** to prepare a mock up and get a price for the sign with the “We seek” wording. **April 17 Work Day**.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

FCNL Priorities Discernment – Meeting approved the report in Attachment A submitted by Karen Putney and also approved Karen Putney sending the report to FCNL.

A Buddhist group expressed interest in using Tampa Meeting House. **TO DO: Karen Putney** to contact St. Pete Meeting for information on the fee they charge groups to use their meeting house.

See SEYM.org for information about yearly meeting. Register by 3/20/2010.

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

**DRAFT**

Cece needs help with taking things to Yearly Meeting for the children's program for anyone having spare room for a puppet and puppet theater.

CALENDAR

See TampaFriends.org.

*CLOSING WORSHIP*

**ATTACHMENT A**

**TAMPA MONTHLY MEETING FCNL PRIORITIES DISCERNMENT**

Members and attenders of Tampa Monthly meeting gathered on February 28, 2010 to consider the work and witness of FCNL and where we might be led in setting priorities for our work in the 112<sup>th</sup> Congress. In preparation, the priorities set for the 110<sup>th</sup> and 111<sup>th</sup> Congress and the Preamble to the FCNL Policy Statement were made available. This discernment allowed us to give voice to and consider a wide range of concerns.

I. We seek a world free of war and the threat of war:

Advocacy for building U.S. capacity for peaceful prevention and resolution of deadly conflict continues to be a pressing priority.

It seems a "key moment" in history for the work of arms control and disarmament. Especially in the area of nuclear disarmament. Our voice and effort is most important here.

The increasing militarization of our country is of grave concern. The worship of military personnel is worrisome as they should more truthfully be seen as people victimized by our policies and actions.

II. We seek a society with equity and justice for all:

Corporations and the power they wield are a serious threat to our society. The Supreme Court decision handing them even more power is devastating. It seems time to state this concern in our priorities.

We need to advocate for civility and engagement in public discourse.

III. We seek a community where every person's potential may be fulfilled:

The current depression has not affected everyone and has exacerbated the divide between the rich and poor. We have moved even further from this goal and live in a society in which what is fair, right or just is not recognized let alone possible. The scales have been so weighted in favor of the wealthy they have broken and the poor have been cast aside.

IV. We seek an earth restored:

Climate change and need to deal with pressing energy issues remains an important priority. There does not seem enough focus on energy conservation and efficiency in the ongoing "what to do" debate.

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

**DRAFT**

Individual efforts are fine but what are larger entities like corporations required to do? More effort on regulation, enforcement, setting strict standards.

Would like to see priorities in this area more concrete and close to home – such as mountaintop removal, clean water, etc.

Another serious concern that affects us across our range of priorities is the power of media and the serious roadblock to truth seeking that it has become. At best consumers are offered 2 opposing views but rarely is enough accurate, verifiable information offered to help in finding the truth of a matter and in coming to an informed decision. The need for free and open press and newspapers committed to information dissemination and not tied to corporate/commercial bottom lines is essential.

In conclusion, we recognize that the priorities as set out in the previous Congress still address pressing areas of concern where Friends efforts are needed and offer a viable framework for work in the coming Congress.

We did find the following statement from the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress priorities to speak to what we are feeling though in moving forward we would find it more complete were it to include language to address our concern over the militarization of our county.

“Friends call for a government that is accountable to its citizens – a government that acts with transparency and integrity, seeks the common good, and protects the vulnerable. We call on our government to restore and preserve the rule of law and balance of powers among the branches of federal government; to shift federal priorities to reduce the disparities between rich and poor; to address environmental crises; and to respect the methods and findings of scientific inquiry in developing and assessing policy.”

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Putney

Tampa Monthly Meeting