

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

Minutes

12 Eleventh Month 2017

Opening worship

Meeting Clerk began the gathering with a quote:

Dearly beloved Friends, these things we do not lay upon you as a rule or form to walk by, but that all, with the measure of light which is pure and holy, may be guided; and so in the light walking and abiding, these things may be fulfilled in the Spirit, not from the letter, for the letter killeth, but the Spirit giveth life.

– The elders at Balby, 1656

Clerks

Jan Dahm Meeting Clerk.

Cynde Mercer Recording Clerk.

Attendees

Stan Abrams
Deborah Breedon
Vincent Cobb
Jan Dahm
Lisa Erazmus

Lori Hein
Chris Hugues
Karen Kessel
Cynde Mercer
Karen Putney

Peter Schmidt
Nancy Triscritti
Beverly Ward
Barbara Wolfe

Business

Minutes of Tenth Month were approved as submitted.

Treasurer Chris Hugues reported that we are currently about \$3900 below budget on donations.

Meeting accepted the Treasurer's report.

Committee Reports

Communications – Karen Kessel reported that the committee began publishing an electronic newsletter this month; the committee is considering creating T-shirts and or bumper stickers.

First Day School – No report.

Hospitality and Housekeeping – No report.

Library – Chris Hugues requested that the library purchase the Quaker Speak videos at a cost of \$40. Meeting approves.

Ministry and Counsel – Nancy Triscritti reported that the next Friendly Dinner is November 25. The committee will hold a Spiritual State of the Meeting after meeting for worship on November 26.

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Naming – No report.

Nominating – No report.

Peace and Social Concerns – Beverly Ward asked that the meeting approve the draft SEYM statement on Climate Change and Environmental Protection and action (Appendix A). Meeting approves.

Property – Chris Hugues reported that the recent work day was successful. A new paver path from the front walk to the back was laid down. The committee is still waiting on estimates for the accessible porch renovation before applying for grants to help fund the project. More information has been gathered on accessible hearing equipment, but needs further review. The meeting agrees that we need to hire a weekly cleaning service and approves hiring a member of meeting to clean at \$20 per hour. The committee has considered the issue of the entrance gate and suggest removing the gate and fence out front. Meeting approves leaving the gate open on a trial basis.

New Business

None.

Milestones

Barbara “Bo” Nicholson passed away on November 2, 2017. A Meeting for Remembrance will be held November 15 at the meeting house.

Calendar

See TampaFriends.org.

Closing worship

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Appendix A

Draft SEYM Statement on Climate Change and Environmental Protection

Faith Statement on Care for the Earth

It is our experience and testimony that the Light, Life, Love, and Wisdom of God calls us to preserve and protect the Holy creation of which we are part. It is contrary to the Spirit of God to waste or exploit nature on human greed or vanity. We are called to be good stewards of the earth, to live simply and sustainably, with care and reverence for all creation, preserving earth's biodiversity and abundance for future generations.

Therefore, we call on all our members of Congress, members of our state legislatures, our state Governors, and local governments to uphold and enact laws, regulations, and policies that protect our natural environment from pollution, habitat loss, and climate change.

We ask you to uphold the integrity of our environmental agencies and protect public lands. The environment belongs to all of us; it is the role of government to preserve it for future generations and defend it against exploitation by private economic interests.

Urgent Action is needed if we are to avoid the catastrophic impacts of climate change. All reputable scientists agree that Climate Change is real, and is caused by increased carbon emissions mostly from burning of fossil fuels. This threatens all life on Earth. Our glaciers are melting, our seas are rising, and our ecosystems are suffering disruption from a warming climate, seasonal weather changes, and more pests and diseases. Climate change is already threatening our economy, impacting our food supply, and causing flooding of coastal communities.

We ask our government to support society's transition to clean energy sources, and redirect subsidies from fossil fuel industries to support displaced workers and communities impacted by the transition to clean energy.

Clean energy is the energy of the future. Countries and communities around the world are proving that alternative energy and sustainable practices are not only viable, but can be a boon to economies. Clean and sustainable sources of energy are now readily available and comparable or cheaper in cost than fossil fuels. Solar and wind power create more jobs than fossil fuel industries.

"It would go a long way to caution and direct people in their use of the world, that they were better studied and knowing in the Creation of it. For how could [they] find the confidence to abuse it, while they should see the great Creator stare them in the face, in all and every part of it?"

---William Penn, 1693

In faith and unity,