

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

Minutes

14 First Month 2018

Opening worship

Meeting Clerk began the gathering with a quote:

Let all that you do be done in love.

1 Corinthians 16:14

Clerks

Jan Dahm Meeting Clerk.

Lisa Erazmus Recording Clerk.

Attendees

Deborah Breedon

Amy Clark

Vincent Cobb

Jan Dahm

Miki Epperson

Lisa Erazmus

Lori Hein

Chris Hugues

Dustin Lemke

David Nicholson

Karen Putney

Lou Putney

Peter Schmidt

Nil Wilkins

Cecilia Yocum

Business

Minutes of Twelfth Month were approved with correction.

Treasurer Chris Hugues reported that Friends need to revisit the discernment on contributions - namely do we give to the organizations to which we donate at the levels that we budgeted? After some discernment and discussion, Friends approved the donations as budgeted with its \$50-per-organization bump up. Information was brought forward regarding a pending request for additional monies for Friends Peace Teams.

Friends need to make a decision regarding our donations to ProNica. Karen Putney gave a report on the status of ProNica from what was reported by Caroline Lanker (TMM) at SEYM WIBM. Peter Schmidt gave additional information after which Friends discerned how donations to ProNica were going to be handled. Due to several Friends being absent from Business Meeting, the decision was held over until the next Business Meeting or until such time as more information could be gathered.

Meeting accepted the Treasurer's report.

Committee Reports

Communications – Jan Dahm presented the report for Karen Kessel. The committee is still seeking people to help with social media and the newsletter and will help anyone learn. Karen is hoping to get the January newsletter out by First Day.

First Day School – No report.

Hospitality and Housekeeping – No report.

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Library – No report.

Ministry and Counsel – Dustin Lemke reported that our retreat led by Susan Taylor, Tallahassee Monthly Meeting, will be held Saturday, January 27 from 9 am-5 pm at the meetinghouse. Lunch will be served. The theme is "Each Moment, Living in the Spirit." Friends will gather for dinner at a local restaurant and this will serve as our January Friendly Dinner.

Discussion regarding an alternate starting time for Meeting for Worship will be held over for continued discernment by Ministry and Counsel and then brought forward to Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business. Friends were reminded that work on the sign could not move forward until this decision was made.

The Spiritual State of the Meeting Report was presented by Deborah Breeden for first reading (Appendix B).

Naming – Jan Dahm reported that the committee has been formed and is in midst of the discernment process.

Nominating – Peter Schmidt presented the 2018 nominations for second reading (Appendix A). Friends approve.

Peace and Social Concerns – No report.

Property – Chris Hugues reported that the hearing assistance system is in place but will need a few tweaks as it is tested by those who need it most.

The porch renovation is still in the preliminary stage. Initial bids have been too high so it may require an alternate plan with a carpenter laying out the frame and us finishing it.

Work days will be coming up in the near future to do additional landscaping and cleanup.

The sign needs to be revisited and specific design questions discussed.

The meeting will need an additional insurance rider for sexual misconduct coverage.

New Business

None.

Milestones

None.

Calendar

See TampaFriends.org.

Closing worship

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Appendix A

2018 Committees and Positions

For committees carrying a three-year commitment, the dates given note the year through which the individual will serve. Unless otherwise noted, committee members and clerks serve for one year, and may be asked to serve again for additional terms.

Clerk Jan Dahm 2018
Assistant Clerk Lisa Erazmus 2018
Recording Clerk Cynde Mercer
Treasurer Chris Hugues

Ministry and Counsel
Lisa Erazmus 2020
Dustin Lemke 2019
Nancy Triscritti, clerk 2020
Nil Wilkins 2018
Jan Dahm - ex-officio

Nominating
Peter Schmidt, clerk 2019

Property and Grounds
Lori Hein
Chris Hugues, clerk
Karen Putney
Lou Putney
Peter Schmidt

Hospitality and Housekeeping
Karen Putney, clerk
Nil Wilkins
Barbara Wolfe
Rose Yerrakadu

Library
Lisa Erazmus
Karen Kessel
Karen Putney, clerk
Peter Schmidt

Peace and Social Concerns
Beverly Ward, clerk
Rose Yerrakadu
Roy Yerrakadu
Cecilia Yocum

Communications
Karen Kessel, clerk
Dustin Lemke
Cynde Mercer
Karen Putney

First Day School
(CAP Certified)
Elizabeth Mitchell
Karen Putney
Cecilia Yocum

Web Keeper
Cynde Mercer

Keeper of the Calendar
Karen Kessel

Friendly Dinner Coordinator
Nancy Triscritti

Archives and Membership Recorder
Nil Wilkins

Keeping in Touch Cards Coordinator
Dustin Lemke

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Appendix B

2018 Tampa Monthly Meeting Spiritual State of the Meeting Report

How has our Meeting for Worship or other Meeting activities nurtured our spiritual growth?

Tampa Friends actively engaged in various activities to establish space for all to feel welcome, wherever they are on their spiritual path. Intentional gatherings along with regular Meetings for Worship include Adult First Day School, mid-week Spiritual Reflection, Retreats, and Friendly Dinners. These activities are forward looking, and the consistency of these activities create a solid foundation for nurturing each person's spiritual growth and are crucial to our viability as a Meeting. As a community we hold one another in the Light as we respond to our individual callings and seek to nourish the seeds of others. Using the new Meetinghouse to host musical guest concerts and other events offers the opportunity to welcome people from the broader community who might be intimidated by an unfamiliar form of Worship. As we invite seekers, we encourage people whose spiritual journey leads them through our Meeting onward to their own spiritual home.

Where do you find hope in the Meeting and in our spiritual life?

The new Meetinghouse serves as an invitation to the local community to learn more about Quakers as there is ample space for more people to be present. Attendance at Meeting for Worship has grown from 8 to 12 people to upwards of 25 people. This past year we have welcomed four new Friends into membership. Hope is found not only in the number of new attendees but in the depth of participation of all.

Those whose daily lives keep them from being fully engaged, find ways to be active within the Meeting by providing transportation, hospitality, and discernment. Meeting for Worship, silence, centering, and fellowship offers respite from the vitriolic negativity in society and the "world." The contrast between methods of communication among Friends compared to present day media is a significant source of hope; where comforting, encouraging, and simply the sense of oneness gleaned from seeing each other at Meeting for Worship is nurturing to Friends and attenders. Friends expressed a sense of missing out when unable to attend Meeting for Worship and hold a concern to be able to share about Quaker values with others. Worship ignites hope and carries a sense of Presence into our daily lives. This brings a sense of fullness to those inner empty spaces and serves as a lifeline. Living our lives with integrity is observed by people in the community during each of our activities and serves to bring hope to the broader world. As part of the "younger" Southeastern Yearly Meeting, Tampa Friends are sensitive to Florida Friends having more adult convinced Friends than birthright Friends and are aware that being open can bring new people to Quakerism. Tampa Friends are sharing their gifts within the Meeting as well as in local, regional, national, and international manners of witness. This reflects the courage of our Meeting and of Quakers in general to face what may seem to be insurmountable odds to undertake actions that would dismay many in more powerful positions. We find this faith and practice to be nurturing.

What would we like Meeting to be to meet our needs and the needs of those who would attend Meeting?

We continue outreach toward members and attenders who have been absent from Meeting for Worship for a while by sending "Thinking of You" cards. We also stay connected through social media, our website, and our newsletter.

The sense of growing leadership shared among more Friends is paired with a vision of using the Meetinghouse and first building as a community center with activities taking place where people are welcome each day or night of the week. Thoughtful use of Tampa Meetinghouse

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space to bring Friends' message to the world may include informative presentations from Quaker groups that continue our ongoing witness. Additionally, sharing individual experiences of Friends meeting challenges of daily work, such as teaching, and how viewing work through a Quaker lens transforms it into ministry, has a positive impact on all touched by it. Tampa Friends value the diversity of the people in our community and are interested in strengthening and deepening relationships among them. Other ways to expand in-reach as well as outreach include participating in 'letters to the editor' efforts in the newspaper, accessing the valuable resources in our library, sharing conversations regarding ways to be a Friend, adding a hearing-assistance system to the Meetinghouse, and making physical improvements to the property such as upgraded signage and an expanded porch with wheelchair access between the two buildings.

How has our Meeting given witness to love within our Meeting, in our communities, and in our world?

Tampa Friends have a strong and intentional commitment to the spiritual state of the Meeting as stewards of "the ground on which we stand." We recognize that nurturing the spirit is an ongoing effort and not static. We seek to bring Quakerism into all our activities and interactions within the Meeting and beyond in a faithful manner, seeing "that of God" in each individual that we encounter.

First Day Meeting for Worship gives us the spiritual means to live in love throughout our lives. Our commitment to deep and meaningful Worship is evidenced through actively remaining present with and for one another.

The love and care for one another in Meeting and beyond was especially poignant for those present for the memorial service held for Barbara "Bo" Nicholson.

Witnessing to love in action equips us to meet the challenges of the current climate of political divisiveness and societal negativity. The ongoing commitment to peace work among Tampa Friends through service to Friends Peace Teams, Friends Committee on National Legislation, Right Sharing of World Resources, and Southeastern Yearly Meeting Earth Care Field Secretary manifests as love in action.

Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business serves as witness to how we make decisions. Each of us has the opportunity to serve and the responsibility to grow within Meeting. As we speak from the silence in vocal ministry we are careful to remain present for all in attendance and consider our faithfulness to the ministry we are given to speak.