

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

DRAFT

Minutes

10 Third Month 2013

OPENING WORSHIP

“*Love for one another* is another face of the experience of gathering. This love can be a basis of mutual support that is impossible to coerce from ourselves on the basis of mere knowledge that it is nice, or the right thing to do. Love, as a name for the Spirit herself, can empower and support the resurrected behaviors of humility, patience and gentleness.

Perhaps most significant for modern, liberal Friends is the invocation of ‘*the peace that binds you together.*’ In this context, it is important to point out that historically Friends have not understood peace only in the relation to outward, politically motivated wars--or as a calm demeanor or even as an undisturbed frame of mind. As in other matters, earlier Friends delved for the deepest, spiritual meanings of peace. They understood peace as the ongoing, reconciling work of God that integrates all disparate, dissonant people and creation into one harmonious, organic life together, moving them to relinquish enmity.”

---Patricia Loring, Listening Spirituality Volume II-Corporate Spiritual Practice Among Friends

CLERKS

Jan Dahm meeting clerk.

Cynde Mercer recording clerk.

ATTENDEES

Carol Ann Borchert

Jan Dahm

Lisa Erazmus

Chris Hugues

Cynde Mercer

Karen Putney

Lou Putney

Wayne Schucker

Nancy Triscritti

Barbara Wolfe

BUSINESS

Minutes of Second Month were approved as submitted.

Jan Dahm offered the following minute to recognize outgoing clerk, Cecilia Yocum. Meeting approves.

Minute One, Third Month 2013

Tampa Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends recognizes with loving gratitude the years of faithful service given by Cecilia Yocum as Meeting Clerk. Meeting deeply appreciates her willingness and generosity of spirit.

Treasurer Chris Hugues reported on the previous quarter. Our donations are below budget expectations, but our income slightly exceeds our expenses. Meeting accepts the treasurer’s report as submitted.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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First Day School – Nancy Triscritti reported that we need additional volunteers to teach and assist with, First Day School.

Hospitality – Nancy Triscritti reported that the committee needs additional volunteers to help with cleaning, opening and preparing the Meeting House each First Day and closing up after Meeting. The SEYM Secretary Search Committee has requested use of the Meeting House for interviews on Saturday, 16 Third Month. Nancy Triscritti will be hosting the meeting. Meeting approves.

Library – No report.

Ministry and Counsel – Karen Putney reported that the committee would like for the meeting to help recruit attendance for the AVP Workshop to be held 26-28 Fourth Month at the Meeting House. Friendly dinners are scheduled for 16 Third Month and 20 Fourth Month. Attender Mercedes Soca has requested financial support to attend Yearly Meeting. Meeting approves \$100 for this, per our policy of providing one-third travel costs for Yearly Meeting.

Nominating – No report.

Peace and Social Concerns – Karen Putney reported that the Meeting will be providing food to feed the Coalition of the Immokalee Workers during their march on Wednesday, 13 Third Month.

Property and Grounds – Chris Hugues reported that they have executed the contract with the architect and will be working with him on plans for the new Meeting House.

OTHER BUSINESS

Karen Putney brought forward the Friends in Need Fund policy on disbursements and suggested that perhaps the decision process for disbursement should fall to the Clerk of Ministry and Counsel, Meeting Clerk and Treasurer, rather than the Ministry and Counsel Committee. The following minute, approved by Meeting, was brought forth to supersede Minute One, Third Month 2008.

Minute Two, Third Month 2013

In seeking to serve members and attenders of our Meeting community, Tampa Monthly Meeting has established a Friends In Need Fund. This reserve fund consists of a yearly budgeted contribution from our general fund and any additional donations made to support the fund by individual members or attenders of the Meeting which include earmarked funds if approved. This fund allows the Meeting to offer financial support to members and attenders of Tampa Monthly Meeting in times of need. Discernment of what needs may possibly be met and how best to proceed will be made by the current Meeting Clerk, the Clerk of Ministry and Counsel and the Meeting Treasurer. Requests for aid and disbursements will be handled in a confidential manner and reports to the monthly meeting will reflect this understanding while seeking to keep the Meeting informed. Requests for help from this fund may be made by either the person in need or by one who sees such a need and brings this concern discreetly to the attention of those charged with oversight of the Friends In Need Fund. Recognizing our limited resources, disbursements from this fund can take the form of either an outright grant or a loan to be repaid as agreed upon by the committee and the member or attender requiring aid. Friends responsible for the discernment of how best to serve those in need may ask additional members/attenders of Tampa Monthly Meeting, as needed, to serve in seeking clearness on the best course of action. Recognizing that financial needs may arise suddenly and need to be dealt with in a timely manner, Friends who are responsible for disbursement of this fund may move forward in doing

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so without waiting to bring the matter before the Monthly Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business but, being responsible to report in that Meeting as soon as possible.

Karen Putney brought forth the subject of a guideline or policy on dogs attending Meeting to remind us that Friends made commitments to research other policies and draft an advice or query for dog owners. **Barbara Wolfe** offered to draft queries and advices for pet owners. **Jan Dahm** offered to research what other Meetings are doing about this issue. Friends will continue to hold this issue in their hearts for additional discernment.

MILESTONES

No milestones were brought forth.

CALENDAR

See TampaFriends.org.

CLOSING WORSHIP