

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

Minutes

13 Fourth Month 2014

Opening worship

Meeting Clerk began the gathering with a quote:

“In [silence] therefore, we still every motion that is not rooted in God. We become quiet, hushed, motionless, until we are finally centered. We strip away all excess baggage and nonessential trappings until we come into the stark reality of the kingdom of God. We let go of all distractions until we are driven into the Core. We allow God to reshuffle our priorities and eliminate unnecessary froth. This silence of all creaturely activity enables us to hear God.”

—Richard Foster, Prayer-Finding the Heart’s True Home

Clerks

Jan Dahm meeting clerk.

Cynde Mercer recording clerk.

Attendees

MJ Arnoldi and friends
Tom Blackburn
Jan Dahm
Lisa Erazmus
Jill Floerke
Chris Hugues

Cynde Mercer
Karen Putney
Wayne Schucker
Janet Thompson
John Thompson
Nancy Triscritti

Bill Ward
Kathy Ward
Nil Wilkins
Barbara Wolfe

Business

Minutes of Third Month were approved as submitted.

The Treasurer reported that our income year to date is slightly behind our budgeted amount and our expenses are below budget.

The Treasurer presented the 2014-2015 budget for the first reading. Most expense categories either stayed the same or had modest increases. The largest expense increase is for the cost of building a new meeting space. The monthly mortgage for the current meetinghouse and the new meeting space is projected to be about \$1700 per month (about \$600 more than our current mortgage payment).

Karen Putney, of the ad-hoc fundraising committee, presented a draft letter (Appendix A) to be sent out to the meeting requesting individuals to discern their ability to increase their contribution to the meeting in light of the new mortgage obligations. Meeting approves the letter.

Committee Reports

First Day School – No report.

Hospitality – No report

Library – No report

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Ministry and Counsel – Nancy Triscritti reported that upcoming Friendly Dinner dates are April 26, and May 24. Worship Sharing sessions are being held weekly on Tuesdays at 7 p.m. at the Meetinghouse. We continue our Food Pantry, an ongoing collection of non-perishable items for use as needs present. The committee also suggested that we read the queries and advices at the end of Joys and Concerns instead of at the beginning of meeting.

Nominating – No report.

Peace and Social Concerns – Karen Putney reported that the committee is bringing forward a draft letter from our meeting to Rep. Kathy Castor requesting her support to repeal HR 2324, a blanket authorization for military deployment without congressional approval. Meeting approves the letter. We would also like to share the letter with Friends at yearly meeting in hopes other meetings will be led to such action also. We also need someone(s) to sit at a Quaker table at the March Against Monsanto. The committee is also working with SEYM youth in an action at PNC Bank's shareholder meeting on April 22 to protest PNC Bank's support of mountain top mining. Nancy Triscritti reported that the meeting has collected more than 500 books for school children who do not have access to books at home.

Property – Chris Hugues reported that the building was tented this past month.

New Business

None

Milestones

No milestones were brought forth.

Calendar

See TampaFriends.org.

Closing worship

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Appendix A

DRAFT

Queries Regarding How Tampa Friends Will Pay for New Meeting House

Dear Friends,

We have found unity on our need and determination to move forward with the building of a new worship space. The Property Committee has worked with an architect and is now consulting a builder seeking the most cost effective way to make this happen. Property has also submitted a request to refinance our current loan with the Friends Meetinghouse Fund. This loan had been paid down substantially and we have heard from FMF that our request will be granted but we need to be clear about exactly how much money we need to borrow. The ad-hoc fundraising committee has met to consider other possible sources of funding. We are clear that our monthly financial obligation, which includes our mortgage as well as operating expenses, will be going up.

In order to move forward, we need to ask ourselves how we each may be led to 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 support is not possible. We do not wish to pressure one another or cause embarrassment around that often sensitive issue of giving. However, it would greatly help us move forward in a responsible way if we each could take time for discernment on the following queries and return/mail them to the address below. Even if financial support is not possible at this time, it would be good to hear back. You may sign the form or not. We share this to help each of us think through what we will do to financially support this project so that we may move forward in a responsible and successful manner.

Am I, or we as a family, clear that I/we wish to contribute to and support the building of a new meeting house as it is currently planned? _____

What amount, if any, would I/we contribute as a "down payment" within six months?

What amount, if any, would I/we contribute as an increase above my/our regular giving to the meeting for a period of several years? _____per month

Please return to:

Tampa Friends Meeting
1502 W. Sligh Ave.
Tampa, FL 33604