

Tampa Friends Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business

Minutes

7 Fifth Month 2023

Clerks: Nil Wilkins (Meeting Clerk) and Dustin Lemke (Stand-in Recording Clerk).

Attendees: Marjorie Arnaldi, Dika Boire, Chris Hugues, Dustin Lemke, Lou and Karen Putney, and Nil Wilkins.

Take Action:

Treasurer's Report

Chris Hugues told us that donations for the month of April were nearly \$2600 which allowed finances to be slightly better this month since we took in more than we spent.

We purchased additional letters and numbers for the sign out front; the new letters and key are in the worship building.

The air conditioner blower and installation for the front building was finalized at \$511.

TECO electric bill is still running on the higher side.

Approved Minute:

Set asides for the labyrinth, mural, and porch are no longer needed and will be rolled into the general reserves.

Meeting accepted the treasurer's report.

2023-2024 Proposed Budget – Second Reading

Discussion was held about how much to pay for the SEYM apportionment for 2022-2023. Chris Hugues said we can afford to pay approximately \$1500 right now, which is not the full amount. He said that when the current year ends (May 31), a better determination with completed budget information could be made in June. Additional spending issues were also raised concerning termite infestation costs and the kitchen floor replacement.

Approved Minute:

Meeting will set aside \$1000 for the kitchen floor first. After that, the leftover income will be an accrual (charged to this year's 2022-2023 budget) that will pay the SEYM apportionment up to the amount they have suggested (approximately \$3100), depending on the leftover 2022-2023 income as of May 31, 2023.

Discussion was had about whether to include a line item in the budget to add reserves each year. There was no agreement about doing this now with the current budget deficit.

Meeting approved the Proposed Budget for 2023-2024.

Minute on Reproductive Healthcare

Reproductive healthcare encompasses a wide spectrum of medical care, including abortion. As with any medical care procedure, the decision whether to choose an abortion or not, is between the pregnant person and their doctor.

Tampa Friends recognize that when speaking of abortion, there are larger issues involved – poverty; the need for a safety net of free resources to support pregnant individuals and their families, encompassing healthcare; housing; counseling; access to nutritious food; good, safe childcare; good schools; and adoption support. The word abortion is a distraction from the need for a broader discussion requiring revamping of the entire healthcare system in this country and the need to address other systems of structural violence.

The issue of reproductive healthcare and abortion is a test of Friends' testimonies of equality and integrity. True equality means full autonomy over one's body. True integrity means our actions should reflect our beliefs and testimonies. Therefore, our position on abortion should be one of supporting choice for an individual.

Approved Minute:

In keeping with our Quaker testimonies of equality and integrity, the Tampa Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) respects and supports the right of individuals to choose abortion. In addition, we call on our government to address the broader social issues surrounding reproductive healthcare and systems of structural violence.

The June Executive Committee of the Southeastern Yearly Meeting will be held at the Tampa Friends meetinghouse on June 10. We are looking for volunteers to help with food and set up.

Meeting for Worship on July 9 – We need assistance setting up Zoom from the meetinghouse this day, and Cynde Mercer might be available to do so.

Approved Memorial Minute for Caroline Lanker:

Tampa Friends Meeting remembers the life, work, and witness of lifelong Friend Caroline Lanker who died December 12, 2022. Caroline was a recorded member of Tampa Monthly Meeting and faithful member of Lake Wales Worship Group. Caroline's commitment to her Quaker faith guided and illuminated her unique presence in our world. A wide variety of friends and family attested to this fact in a Memorial Meeting for Worship held on February 11, 2023, in Lake Wales, Florida. Those in attendance shared tears and laughter as family, friends, and acquaintances shared stories of her faith in action: to her family, to peacebuilding, to human rights, to serving a variety of Quaker organizations including Southeastern Yearly Meeting and Friends Peace Teams, to birding, to her work with IBM and NASA, to folk dancing, and to simply walking joyfully over the earth. It was a blessing for Tampa Friends to be able to worship by

Zoom with Caroline in her final years. It was especially fitting that the open doors of her home sometimes brought us the ministry of birdsong.

Calendar of events:

May 7 (2pm) – Brass Quintet concert Forest Hills Methodist Church.

May 14 (9am) – Adult First Day Program (AFDP), hybrid.

May 21 (11:40am) – potluck at the meetinghouse.

May 28 (9am) – tentative Adult First Day Program (AFDP), hybrid.

May 31 (7pm) – Committee of the Whole, Zoom only.

Updates:

A member of the UCC church is planning a student piano recital at the meetinghouse in May.

The Committee of the Whole met in April and will meet again in May; the focus is on improving the organizational structure of the meeting.

We are considering hosting an activism workshop soon.

Minutes for 9 Fourth Month 2023 were approved as presented.

The Meeting ended with closing worship.