

# FORT MYERS MONTHLY MEETING

OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

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Newsletter, Ninth Month, 2016

*Mailing Address:*  
902 Big Pine Way  
Fort Myers, FL 33907

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**Clerk:** Nancy Fennel (239-989-2503)  
**Recording Clerks:** Kathy Hale / Richard Frechette  
**Treasurer:** John Battin

• 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the Month: Pot Luck Lunch  
• 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Month: Meeting for Worship  
With Attention to Business

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*“We are not for names, nor men, nor titles of Government, nor are we for this party nor against the other...but we are for justice and mercy and truth and peace and true freedom, that these may be exalted in our nation...”*

– Edward Burrough, English Quaker (1659)

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## **QUERIES & ADVICES** *from Faith & Practice of Southeastern Yearly Meeting*

**To what extent is our personal life in accord with Quaker principles?**

### WITNESS

#### **Queries:**

- Do our lives reflect Quaker testimonies?
- Are we open and responsive to continuing revelation, and do we incorporate it into our spiritual life?
- Is our Quaker witness characterized by humility and a willingness to learn from others?
- Do we recognize that the Spirit works in the world through us?
- Does our witness lead us to the condition in which we “walk cheerfully over the earth answering that of God in everyone”?
- Do we as a meeting try to share in the religious life of our wider community, availing ourselves of opportunities for worship and service with other local religious groups?

#### **Advices:**

- Strive to keep true to the testimonies of integrity and simplicity.
- Try to keep before us the essential truths, and test our life by them.
- Endeavor to make our lives consistent with the high principles we profess. This involves the often-difficult discernment not only between good and evil but also between the better and the best.
- Live adventurously. Let not failure discourage us.
- Witness so that others can perceive the presence of God within.

**MINUTES OF THE FORT MYERS MONTHLY MEETING  
OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS  
Ninth Month 11, 2011**

The Fort Myers Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends met in Iona House on Ninth month 11, with ten Friends present, after a hiatus for the summer season. The last meeting was Sixth month, 12, 2016. Last week, Ninth month, 4, the meeting was informed that the Friendly Forest event at the CNCP would be earlier in October than usual, and we were asked to provide candies and snacks for the children as we usually do. Joan Culver offered to purchase the snacks and deliver them to CNCP. During a called meeting the following minute was approved:

- ❖ **2016MM08:** The Meeting agreed to reimburse Joan Culver up to \$100 for snacks for CNCP's Friendly Forest snacks.

Today's meeting opened with silent worship. Clerk Nancy Fennell broke the silence by reading advices and queries on the subject of Witness to our Quaker traditions.

**Ministry and Counsel Committee** has not met and has no report.

**Clerk's Report.** The Clerk read to us from the annual spiritual state of the meeting report from the smaller Clearwater meeting, illustrating the ministry of their meeting. Nancy Fennell also read us a letter from the Baton Rouge Friends Meeting to acknowledge our recent gift to them in response to the flooding in southern Louisiana. We also received a newsletter from the Friends Ugandan Safe Transport Fund reporting on their ongoing work, which we have contributed to during the past year.

**Treasurer's Report.**

See attached report. Note that we need to increase our contributions at this time of year.

The **Finance Committee** has no report, according to Clerk Joan Culver.

**Nominating Committee Report.** Clerk Nancy Howell reported that the Committee has succeeded in making arrangements with Richard Frechette to take over the editorial work on the Newsletter, which largely consists of computer work. Mary Smiley is willing to continue her work as the Assistant Editor, in maintaining the lists of the readers, making the paper copies of the Newsletters, and mailing them or delivering them at Meeting.

The Nominating Committee now needs to recruit individuals to replace the work of Mary Wickes, who is withdrawing at least temporarily. She has done a wonderful job of Clerking the Religious Education Committee this year, and it is important to find a strong replacement so we can have a program of adult education this fall. The Clerk is calling a meeting of the Nominating Committee, before worship (at 9:30) on the 4<sup>th</sup> First Day of Ninth month, in Iona House.

**Outreach Committee:** In the absence of Clerk Pat Iyer, Nancy Howell made the report of topics discussed and actions considered in two recent telephone conference meetings.

The Outreach Committee would like to see us have a permanent sign on Ortiz Avenue stating that Fort Myers Friends Meeting worships here on Sundays at 10:30. All welcome. We also feel that if we get families with young children to attend, it will be necessary to have space on the CNCP campus for First

Day School. Joan Culver reports that this is not a good time in the year to get the Board of CNCP to consider such a proposal, but that she will raise it with them when the time is right.

The Outreach Committee wants to merge our concern with community issues of hunger with our Meetings needs to reach out to new people. Hence we propose displaying a collection point in our kitchen and remind F/friends and attenders to bring food contributions to Meeting each week. The following minute was proposed and accepted by the Meeting.

- ❖ **2016MM09:** The meeting agrees to keep a box for food contributions in the Meeting House, and Connie Summerlin has volunteered to support this project by delivering the contributions collected to Harry Chapin Food Bank.

The Outreach Committee is seeking Meeting approval to open a Facebook outreach page, with photos of members of our meetings, and discussion between members and visitors on-line. Several members of our Meeting reminded the Committee that they personally do not want their photo to appear in public. The Meeting came to no conclusion about having a page, but several wanted to explore further what such a page would look like.

**Peace and Social Concerns Committee Report:** John Battin, Clerk of PSC, reminded the Meeting that, at the time of her death, Dee Hohimer left \$5,000 to the Meeting for responding to indigent concerns, and the committee has been trying to formulate a policy for the use of this money. After considerable research on the needs of the indigent in Lee County, the PSC committee has isolated two projects that they feel would be the best use of these funds.

As we learned several weeks ago from the visit of two of the active leaders, "Pennies for Community Progress" needs to educate the public to get the County Commissioners to put their proposal for establishing a Children's Services Council on the ballot in 2018. This kind of expense is difficult to raise funds for, and there is no doubt that having such a Children's Services Council in Fort Myers would be a great help to indigent families. The Peace and Social Concerns Committee proposes to use \$2,500 to advance this project.

For the balance of the bequest, PSC investigated a new organization, called "Into the Jordan" an evangelical ministry for exploited women, which provides counseling, housing, tutoring, etc. to women struggling with addiction and sexual exploitation. The need seems to be strong, the support offered appropriate to the needs, and the financial records were found to be clear and forthcoming. The PSC Committee proposal gives \$2,500 earmarked for emergency housing for clients of this organization. John Battin answered a few questions about the two organizations investigated.

The Clerk of the Meeting raised the issue of whether the PSC committee was authorized to spend all of the money, or whether the Ministry and Counsel Committee had the right to control some of it. The Clerk informed the Meeting that Richard Frechette, the Clerk of Ministry and Counsel, had sent her a proposal for reserving some of the money for emergency support of indigent members and attenders of our meeting, but the proposal he submitted had not been discussed with his committee, it was just a first draft of a proposal. The Ministry and Counsel acting clerk, Phyllis Stanley, informed the Meeting that M&C had not discussed it, or felt any need to do so quickly. John Battin reminded the Meeting that we have money in the budget for emergency help to members and attenders. The meeting then discussed in depth which committee was charged with disposition of this money. The Finance Committee had considered it at an early stage, and had passed it on, primarily to PSC. The meeting went into silence to discern a way forward that is loving to all parties involved, responsive to Dee's wishes, and consistent with Quaker process.

After the silence, we discussed the original Minute that was passed during the early months of 2016, to see if that Minute had specified clearly which Committee or Committees was to be involved. Unfortunately none of us had the minutes handy for reference, but our recollection was that Finance Committee

had proposed a minute asking Peace and Social Concerns to make a proposal to the Meeting for Worship for Business to disperse the bequest.

John Battin reaffirmed that the current proposal is the Committee's response to the Meeting's request. The Meeting came into unity on the following minute:

- ❖ **MINUTE 16MM10:** The Fort Myers Monthly Meeting will distribute Dee Hohimer's bequest for aid to the indigent as follows: \$2,500 to the organization "Pennies for Community Progress"; and \$2,500 to the organization "Into the Jordan" (to be earmarked for the establishment of safe housing units for the indigent women it serves)

**Hospitality Committee Report :** The Committee finds it can discuss its issues while arranging the chairs before worship, so there is no need for regular meetings. Currently, all is well.

**Properties Committee Report:** The committee has been corresponding on the subject of the description of the committee's activities.

- ❖ **MINUTE 16MM11:** The meeting approves buying a ticket to the upcoming CNCP fund-raiser event for Joan Culver, at a cost of \$125.

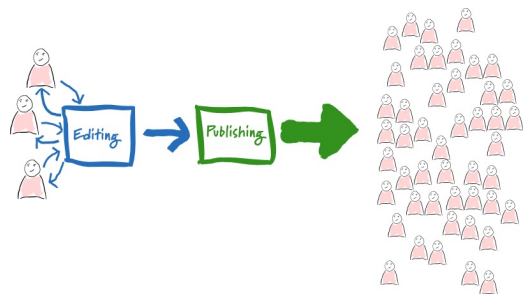
The acting recording clerk read back the numbered minutes of this meeting, and these minutes were approved. The meeting ended with a period of silent worship.

*Nancy Howell*  
*Acting Recording Clerk*

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## **NEWSLETTER CHANGES HANDS:**

For soooo many years, Jeanette Botha has served as the Meeting's Newsletter Editor/Publisher. Month after month, Jeannette took on the tasks of laying out the next month's activities, transferring the business meeting minutes, and encouraging (entreating? coaxing? prodding?) us to forward news and items of interest to her for inclusion. We are so grateful for her effective work, for her patience and for her dedication.



Richard Frechette will try to fill those shoes... Mary Smiley will continue to serve as distributor.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**

General Fund Cash on Hand - June 1,2016	\$4,149.58
General Fund Contributions -June - August, 2016	\$3,605.00
Budget Outlays June - August, 2016	<u>\$(3,320.26)</u>
Cash On Hand August 31, 2016	<u>\$4,434.32</u>
Meetinghouse Savings - June 1,2016	\$45,895.43
Interest Earned	<u>\$40.50</u>
Meetinghouse Savings - August 31,, 2016	<u><u>\$45,935.93</u></u>
General Fund Savings - June 1 ,2016 **	\$12,554.29
Interest Earned	<u>\$11.07</u>
General Fund Savings - August 31,2016	<u>\$12,565.36</u>

	<b>General Fund Contributions Year To Date</b>	<b>Contributions Budgeted For Year</b>	<b>Contributions Still Needed For Budget</b>
	\$11,270.00	\$17,920.00	\$6,650.00
<b>Budget Category</b>	<b>YTD Outlays</b>	<b>Budgeted Outlays</b>	<b>Outlays Unspent</b>
SEYM	\$2,176.00	\$4,500.00	\$2,324.00
Ministry & Counsel	\$35.00	\$3,120.00	\$3,085.00
Religious Education	\$232.72	\$1,200.00	\$967.28
Newsletter	\$236.20	\$400.00	\$163.80
Hospitality	\$200.76	\$400.00	\$199.24
Finance Comm.	\$230.00	\$1,400.00	\$1,170.00
Nominating	\$-	\$100.00	\$100.00
Properties	\$1,025.00	\$1,950.00	\$925.00
Peace/Social Concerns	\$2,700.00	\$3,850.00	\$1,150.00
Mtngnse Resrv.	\$-	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
<b>Total Outlays</b>	<b>\$6,835.68</b>	<b>\$17,920.00</b>	<b>\$11,084.32</b>

\*\* General Fund Savings total includes \$5,000 amount of Dee Hohimer's bequest.



## Quaker Meetinghouse – Uxbridge MA – 1770

The Frechettes have long been associated with a secular non-profit organization which has the purpose of caring for the historic Uxbridge Quaker meetinghouse and cemetery, and its heritage. It contains some of the architectural quaintness of meetinghouses of that time, such as a movable divider in the meetinghouse to allow for separate business meetings for men and women; and no plumbing, but there is a 2-holer outhouse in the adjacent carriage shed.

This Quaker Meeting was an important part of local history and Quaker history. Its members included leaders in the anti-slavery and women’s suffrage movements - Abby Kelly Foster, and the Underground Railroad - Effingham Capron.

During the mid-1800s and beyond, the Meeting suffered both from its own quietism tendencies and the Industrial Revolution (which changed the demographics of Uxbridge and its surroundings). After years of dwindling membership, the Meeting was laid down around 1904. The meetinghouse and cemetery remained unused and deteriorated for years. Then in 1952 the Quaker Meetinghouse Association was formed, received title to the meetinghouse and cemetery, restored the building, and continues to maintain it. It is used for a variety of educational and civic activities. There are open houses during the summer. There is now a small Quaker worship group that meets there weekly, and the Association sponsors an annual inter-faith service on Thanksgiving morning which is well-attended by the folks from many of the local faith communities.

A booklet about the Quakers from the Uxbridge Meeting will shortly be in our Meeting’s library.

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### REMEMBER

#### Note from the Editor:

- Please send articles, favorite passages, book reports and items of interest to Friends.
- Please send important dates, news of Friends/friends, etc.
- Those wishing to receive the newsletter by email, please contact the editor.  
(Editor’s email address: [Rich.Frechette@gmail.com](mailto:Rich.Frechette@gmail.com))

## USEFUL WEBSITES FOR FRIENDS

<http://seymquakers.org>  
[www.fcnl.org](http://www.fcnl.org)  
[www.fgcquaker.org](http://www.fgcquaker.org)  
[www.afsc.org](http://www.afsc.org)  
<http://fwcc.world>  
[www.quakerspeak.com](http://www.quakerspeak.com)  
[www.quakerhouse.org](http://www.quakerhouse.org)

Southeastern Yearly Meeting  
Friends Committee for National Legislation  
Friends General Conference  
American Friends Service Committee  
Friends World Committee on Consultation  
QuakerSpeak: a Quaker YouTube channel.  
Quaker House, Fayetteville

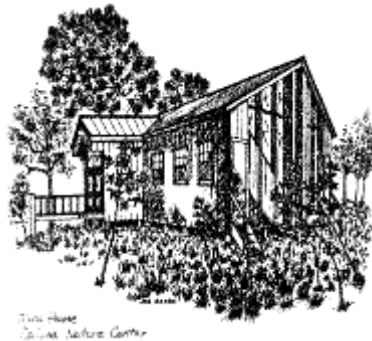
peace.

It does not mean to be in a place  
where there is no noise, trouble  
or hard work. It means to be in  
the midst of those things and still  
be calm in your heart.

(unknown)

## CALENDAR

9-18-16	Meeting for Worship	10:30 am
9-25-16	Meeting for Worship	10:30 am
10-1-16	SEYM Fall Interim Business Meeting @ Palm Beach	
10-2-16	Meeting for Worship	10:30 am
	Pot Luck lunch – all are welcome!	At rise of Meeting
10-9-16	Meeting for Worship	10:30 am
	Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business	At rise of Meeting
	Last Chance Book Club	At rise of Meeting
10-16-16	Meeting for Worship	10:30 am
10-23-16	Meeting for Worship	10:30 am
10-30-16	Meeting for Worship	10:30 am



**Friends Meeting of Fort Myers  
Religious Society of Friends  
c/o Richard Frechette, Editor  
138 Pinebrook Dr.  
Fort Myers, FL 33907-5988**

Address Correction Requested