

Fort Myers Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends Minutes of 3rd Month 8, 2020

The Fort Myers Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends met in Iona House on 2^{3rd} month 8th day with 12 Friends present. The Meeting opened with a period of silent centering. Out of the silence, Clerk Joan Culver read this SEYM query regarding Harmony Within the Meeting Community: *“Do we respect that of God in each person, though it may be expressed in unfamiliar ways or may be difficult for us to discern?”*

The first query of the survey relating to our physical facility asks: *“What can we do to insure we make a spirit -led decision?”*

The decision-making process in a Meeting must be based on listening. Joan noted that, almost to a person, people spoke to the need to listen to each other. She read some responses.

“ Allow silence to help inform us especially during these times when the going might be rough”

“...when listening is done fully and openly enough, Spirit will lead us..”

“Pray, be kind and respectful”

A summary of all responses to all queries will be sent to all. The threshing session is postponed for now.

Treasurer’s report.

FMMM Funds Report 2/29/2020

General Funds

Checking	7,422
Gen Fund Savings	40,352
Gen Fund Fr Fiduciary	24,242

Total General Fund **72,016**

Meeting House Funds

Savings	84,064
MH Funds Fr Fiduciary	11,281

Total Meeting House Funds **95,345**

FMMM Total Funds **167,361**

February 2020 Income vs Expense	
February Income	3,984
February Expenses	165

Calusa Nature Center is having a fund raiser event at the end of March at Babcock Ranch to support their summer camp. Friends are encouraged to attend. The Meeting will make a small donation to the event. [*Note, this event has been postponed*]

L.I.F.E. Nehemiah Action: Friends raised a concern that the Nehemiah Action planned for March 9 comes at a time when people are being encouraged to not attend large crowd function because of health risks associated with COVID-19. The Meeting is in full support of the goals of the Action. But many may choose to not attend because of this health issue. We recognize that each individual in the Meeting can make his/her own decision about attending or not. Friends expressed the need to show support to Carolyn Stanley, our representative to LIFE.

- ❖ **2020-MM06:** We ask the Clerk to draft a letter to our elected officials explaining our potential low attendance at LIFE's Nehemiah Action, but expressing the absolute importance of addressing the goals of LIFE regarding affordable housing and day care and the proper use of civil citations for youth. This letter will be given to Carolyn Stanley to be read at the Nehemiah Action, if appropriate, and will be sent to the local press. We will publish the letter in our newsletter and encourage individuals of our Meeting family to communicate to the elected officials. [*Note a letter was not read but will be written and sent to the newspapers*]

Our Relationship with our Native American Predecessors. Chris Ruhnke and Susan Oehl were asked to design a public document for hanging in Iona House. Expenses will be paid by the Meeting.

The **Environmental Working Group** is currently focusing most of its attention on supporting Chris Ruhnke's leading to establish a greenway along the Yellow Fever via the 20-20 effort.

We are weighing the potential conflict of using reusable dishes and cups for ecological reasons and disposable items to address the current health scare. We will have disposable items available for the April Potluck. [*if held*]

The minutes were reviewed and approved. Friends closed in silent worship.

Respectfully submitted,
Richard Frechette
Co-Recording Clerk