



# **FORT MYERS MONTHLY MEETING**

## **OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS**

**Newsletter, Twelfth Month, 2021**

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### **Meeting for Worship During the Pandemic**

*Friends are now meeting for hybrid worship every 1<sup>st</sup> day at 10:30AM. Friends may meet physically outdoors (weather permitting) under the roof of the chickee hut on the Orange River in Buckingham.*

*Friends who prefer to meet via Zoom instead may do so. Each Friday an invitation to Zoom worship is sent to our entire e-mail list, identifying the hyperlink and meeting number. People may join early either physically or via Zoom at 10:00 a.m. for conversation and fellowship.*

*Midweek worship, in person only, is held at the chickee hut each Wednesday morning, at 10:30 a.m.*

*For directions to the chickee hut, call 239-313-6201 or e-mail the e-mail address above for directions.*

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

#### **Fourth Section:**

**How do Friends meet our responsibilities to the community and the world?**

#### **12. Peace Testimony & Nonviolence**

##### **Queries:**

- *Do we work for peace in the world? Do we nurture peace within ourselves?*
- *Do we “live in the virtue of that life and power which takes away the occasion of all wars”?*
- *Do we seek consistently to carry out this testimony for peace in all our relationships, including family, community, and work life?*
- *Do we as individuals and as members of a meeting seek to take part in the ministry of reconciliation between individuals, groups, and nations?*
- *Do we faithfully maintain our peace testimony?*

- *Do we reject military training, preparation for war, and participation in war as inconsistent with the spirit of Christ's teachings?*
- *Do we as a meeting take a stand and do all we can to remove the causes of war and violence?*

### Advices:

- *War is contrary to the life and teaching of Jesus. Seek through God's power and grace to overcome in our hearts the emotions that lie at the root of conflict.*
- *Strive for nonviolent approaches to conflicts in all aspects of our lives.*
- *Every human being is a beloved child of God and has that divine spark which claims our reverence. War is a denial of this truth.*
- *Friends' peace testimony is the positive exercise of good will calling us to lend our influence to all that strengthens the growth of international friendships and understanding.*
- *Cultivate an active spirit of love and peace.*
- *The first step to peace is to stand still in the Light... .George Fox, 1653*

## Fort Myers Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends Minutes of 12th Month 12, 2021

The Fort Myers Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends met on the 10th month 13th day with 17 Friends present in hybrid (online and in-person) format. The Meeting opened with a period of silent centering. Richard Frechette, Clerk read the following Queries and Advice from SEYM's Faith & Practice on the Friends' Peace Testimony & Nonviolence:

- Query: Do we work for peace in the world?
- Query: Do we nurture peace within ourselves?
- Advice: Strive for nonviolent approaches to conflicts in all aspects of our lives.

### 1. Ministry & Counsel Committee

Friend Nancy Fennell, Clerk of M&C, reported, "We need to be mindful to distinguish vocal ministry from announcements, saving the latter until after worship. Also, we need to respect the wisdom of keeping silence during the first twenty to thirty minutes of worship, allowing time to settle deeply. Traditionally, the only exception to that guideline occurs when we ask to hold someone in the Light."

Secondly, the Meeting was asked to consider the Spiritual State of the Meeting Report that has been drafted by M&C. The draft report was previously sent to all and was read at the meeting.

Friends responded:

- “This sounds like a very eloquent summary of the year.” “Well done.”
- “We should clarify that the assistance Friends provide each other is not just financial; it might be something like transporting those who can’t drive.”
- “It was not only COVID that spurred our search for a new spiritual space. A fund was begun years ago by Larry Butler, and by 2015 we had almost \$100,000 earmarked for buying or building a new Meetinghouse. So, while COVID may have been the immediate reason to move forward, Friends have been prayerfully considering this idea for many years.”

Friends asked M&C to take these comments into consideration, revise the draft as they deem appropriate and submit it to Friends at the January Meeting for Business.

**2. Financial Report for period ended 11/30/2021:** Treasurer Paul Davis reported that there was not much financial activity in November. However, we received a very generous \$10,000 contribution to the Meeting House fund from one of our members.

**General Funds**

Checking	6,225
Gen Fund Savings	40,401
Gen Fund Fr Fiduciary	32,666
<b>Total General Fund</b>	<b>79,292</b>

<b>Nov 2021 Income vs Expenses</b>	
Nov Income	\$ 350
Nov Expenses	\$ 210

**Meeting House Funds**

Savings	93,388
MH Funds Fr Fiduciary	15,200
<b>Total Meeting House Funds</b>	<b>108,588</b>

**FMMM Total Funds 187,880**

Friend Paul asked for a change to our usual practice that only the Treasurer sees the names of donors to the Meeting. Since our books are audited by a member of our finance committee, that person might also see the donors’ names and amount of each contribution. It was pointed out, however, that this had been a standard practice in the past, so it shouldn’t pose a problem.

**3. Final presentation of 2022 Budget**

Since the Treasurer has received no suggested changes to the draft budget presented in November, Friends were asked to approve it without discussion.

❖ **Minute 2021-MM-23:** Friends approve the 2022 budget

(2022 budget on following page)

## 2021 & DRAFT 2022 FTMMM Budget

Budgeted Expenses	2021	2022
Calusa Nature Center-Membership	\$250	\$0
Calusa Nature Center-Utility Payments	\$1,200	\$400
Environmental Working Group	\$100	\$100
Finance Committee-Banking & Corporate Fees	\$100	\$100
Finance Committee-Gifts/Contingency	\$100	\$100
Hospitality Committee	\$450	\$450
Meetinghouse Reserve	\$3,000	\$3,000
Ministry & Counsel-Care	\$1,000	\$1,000
Ministry & Counsel-Friends General Conference	\$1,200	\$1,200
Ministry & Counsel-General/Misc	\$300	\$300
Ministry & Counsel-Spiritual/Scholarships	\$1,500	\$1,500
Newsletter	\$300	\$300
Nominating Committee	\$100	\$100
Outreach Committee: Web Hosting	\$150	\$200
Outreach Committee: Friends Journal Listing	\$80	\$80
Outreach Committee: Phone	\$130	\$130
Outreach Committee: Zoom	\$650	\$650
Peace & Social Concerns-AFSC	\$600	\$600
Peace & Social Concerns-CIW	\$300	\$300
Peace & Social Concerns-Cultivate Abundance	\$100	\$100
Peace & Social Concerns-Educ. Concerns for Hunger	\$200	\$200
Peace & Social Concerns-Fair Housing	\$300	\$300
Peace & Social Concerns-FCNL	\$600	\$600
Peace & Social Concerns-Friends Peace Teams	\$300	\$300
Peace & Social Concerns-H. Chapin Foodbank	\$3,500	\$1,000
Peace & Social Concerns-Initiatives that may arise	\$1,000	\$1,000
Peace & Social Concerns-Lee Interfaith	\$500	\$500
Peace & Social Concerns-Mission Peniel	\$300	\$750
Peace & Social Concerns-Peace Day	\$100	\$100
Peace & Social Concerns-Quaker House	\$300	\$300

Peace & Social Concerns-Quaker Vol. Services	\$200	\$200
Peace & Social Concerns-Quality Life Center	\$500	\$500
Property Committee	\$150	\$0
Religious Education-1st Day School	\$50	\$50
Religious Education-Books/Misc	\$500	\$500
Religious Education-Retreats/Speakers	\$800	\$800
SEYM	\$2,700	\$2,800
Technology Committee	\$500	\$500
Total	\$24,110	\$21,010

#### 4. Peace & Social Concerns Committee

Carolyn Stanley, Clerk of Peace and Social Concerns Committee, received a request that our Meeting help extend the advocacy of an organization called “Floridians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty.” <https://www.fadp.org/>

- ❖ **Minute 2021-MM-24:** Friends approve adding our name in support of “Floridians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty.”

#### 5. Meetinghouse Committee (Covenant and Spiritual Space Sub-Committees)

Friend Paul Davis, a member of both sub-committees, reported that we have received a proposal for a lease from the Unitarians, but we have asked them to keep these negotiations on hold until the contracted engineering firm has completed a conceptual site plan. We should have their report within a month.

Friends Suzanne and Richard Frechette met with a contractor who advised them that due to the current building boom, it is taking much longer to carry out construction projects. When we go forward, we should make sure the yurt we ordered can withstand 160 mph winds and that it can be built with the equivalent of yellow pine, both of which are required in Florida.

Because of the delays, Friend Suzanne has moved our order with the Washington State-based company, Smiling Yurts, back a full year. The date we are required to make a decision on buying a yurt from them is now January 1, 2023.

In the subsequent discussion the following ideas were raised:

- We might consider renting a room on the UU campus where we could have small committee meetings as well as store our books and other materials that are now at IONA House.
- We should start paying for a small rented space on the UU campus immediately to help strengthen our relationship with the UUs.

- Two years ago, we discussed with the UUs the possibility of merging our library with theirs in a climate-controlled room.
- All the work that Friend Sue Oehl did on our library needs to stay intact if we merge our collections. If we do this, we should ask for a separate section for Quaker books.
- I don't think there's any great need to merge in any way with the UU church.

The Meetinghouse Committees agreed to discuss the idea of renting a small space on the UU campus to store our library and other materials and to hold small committee meetings.

## 6. Nominating Committee

Friend Carolyn Stanley asked the Meeting to approve the Nominating Committee draft report from last month, as there have been no changes to it since then.

❖ **Minute 2021-MM-25:** Friends approved the following Nominating Committee Report:

### ○ **Committees:**

- Finance Committee - Paul Davis, Sam DeOliveira, Helen Snodgrass
- Peace and Social Concerns Committee – Carolyn Stanley, Helen Fox, Susan Oehl, Hugh Pettigrew, Tom Miller, Jill Husson Martinez, Christine McBride, Donna Anderton, Karin Gelotte
- Environmental Concerns Committee: Vicki Scott Chris Ruhnke, Jim Koopman, Tom Miller, Paul Davis, Suzanne Frechette
- Religious Education Committee - Tom Miller and Donna Anderton, Jeannette Botha, Sheilana Massey, Susan Oehl
- Technology Committee – Pat Iyer, Paul Davis, (additional members needed!)
- Nominating Committee - Carolyn Stanley, Deb White, Jill Martinez
- Ministry and Counsel Committee (*This Committee nominates their own members; (appointment expires at the end of the year listed.)*  
2022 - Jeannette Botha; Nancy Murvine  
2023.- Paul Davis, Hugh Pettigrew, Deb White  
2024.- Nancy Fennell

### ○ **Other Responsibilities:**

- Clerk (3 year commitment) - Richard Frechette (until end of 2023.)
- Recording Clerk (3 year commitment) - Helen Fox (until end of 2023.)
- Treasurer - Paul Davis (2022 begins 2nd 3 year term).
- Newsletter Editor - Deb White
- Assistant Newsletter Editor for Circulation - Mary Smiley
- Name tags Producer - Mary Smiley
- Librarian - Susan Oehl

- **Annual Corporate Report:** “Fort Myers Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, Inc., a Florida Non-profit Corporation” (eligible for tax deductible gifts)  
Current Mailing Address: c/o Richard Frechette, 138 Pinebrook Drive, Fort Myers, FL 33907  
FEIN: 87-2655031  
Certificate of Status Desired: No  
The Officers/Directors of this Corporation are:
  1. Current Registered Agent: Paul Davis, 5530 Harborage Dr.. Fort Myers, FL 33908-4545
  2. Director Richard Frechette, 138 Pinebrook Drive, FM, FL 33907
  3. Director Jim Koopman, 7418 Grand Pine Road, Bokeelia FL 33922-3501
  
- **Religious Education Committee**  
Friend Tom Miller reported that the committee’s main focus has been on Quakerism 101. They have considered the idea of a retreat but have put that on hold due to the pandemic.

We closed in silent worship.

Respectfully submitted,  
Helen Fox  
Recording Clerk

## ***From Southeastern Yearly Meeting...***

### **Winter Interim Business Meeting**

**Saturday, January 15, 2022 • online on Zoom**

Join Friends from all over our region for committee meetings in the morning and business meeting in the afternoon. Documents In Advance are due in the SEYM Office December 15th. [Read more & register>](#)

### **Michener Lecture 2022, January 16th**

***Do Ye Not Know That Ye Are the Temple of God?***

The 52nd annual Michener Lecture & Seminars will be held **online** this year,

**Sunday, January 16th, 2022**, 1 pm Eastern Time. **Nancy Fennell**, Ft. Myers Meeting, will lead us in exploring the question, What does it mean to be “the temple of God?”

## NEWS FROM PEACE AND SOCIAL CONCERNS

Recently our Peace and Social Concerns Committee has considered a request from Tampa Friends Meeting that we write letters to our legislators opposing **Florida HB 211**. This Bill is currently called the **Vulnerable Child Protection Act** and as of Oct. 6, 2021 is in the Professions and Public Health subcommittee. The bill says, in part:

*"A health care practitioner who performs any of the following practices upon a minor, or who causes such practices to be performed upon a minor, for the purpose of attempting to change the minor's sex or for the purpose of affirming the minor's perception of the minor's sex if that perception is inconsistent with the minor's sex, commits a misdemeanor of the first degree . . ."*

After discussion and research into the issue, P&SC wrote and approved the following sample letter. Everyone is welcome to use it to write to their legislators.

### SAMPLE LETTER

Dear [Senator/Representative/Governor]\_\_\_\_\_,

As a [Quaker/Christian/your constituent/ ETC.], I am deeply concerned that the Florida legislature is considering a bill (HB 211) that would further marginalize transgender youths. These young people already face stigmatization, and as a result, have unacceptably high rates of depression, anxiety, substance use, self-harm, and suicide. Equally troubling, Florida HB211 would impose criminal penalties on pediatricians and other health care professionals for providing gender-affirming medical care to children and teens who identify as transgender or who are questioning their sexual or gender identity. Doctors, nurses, and other health care personnel would face jail time, fines, and even the loss of their medical licenses if they provide such services or cause such services to be provided by others.

As experts, pediatricians are uniquely positioned to care for all our young people.

The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that youth who identify as transgender have access to comprehensive, gender-affirming, and developmentally appropriate health care that is provided in a safe and inclusive clinical space. Their 2018 policy asserts that variations in gender identity and expression are normal aspects of human diversity.

Politics should have no place here. Decisions about medical care are difficult and complex. They should always be based on individual conversations between clinicians, patients, and families. Please support Florida health care professionals and all our youth by **opposing** HB 211.

Sincerely





## Reader's/Writer's Corner

*Most of us are avid readers, and some of us are writers, as well. Submit any essays, poetry or book reviews (400 words or less—about one news-letter page) that witness to the testimonies of Quaker life. Please email: [debwhitenfl@gmail.com](mailto:debwhitenfl@gmail.com)*

### To Think Upon a Friend



To think upon a friend this first day  
Is faith it will not be the last day,  
But one in many to come, even  
As time drops away,  
As all shadows vanish,  
And thou and I walk  
In the Radiance  
Of the endless day.

Theron White  
December 23, 2007

© Theron White May 2012

Last month's Religious Education seminar featured Susan Oehl discussing highlights of Quaker History. For copies of her talk, please contact Susan.

## USEFUL WEBSITES FOR FRIENDS

<a href="http://seymquakers.org">http://seymquakers.org</a> .....	Southeastern Yearly Meeting
<a href="http://www.fcnl.org">www.fcnl.org</a> .....	Friends Committee for National Legislation
<a href="http://www.fgcquaker.org">www.fgcquaker.org</a> .....	Friends General Conference
<a href="http://www.afsc.org">www.afsc.org</a> .....	American Friends Service Committee
<a href="http://fwcc.world">http://fwcc.world</a> .....	Friends World Committee on Consultation
<a href="https://pendlehill.org">https://pendlehill.org</a> .....	Pendle Hill: A Quaker retreat and resource center
<a href="http://www.quakerspeak.com">www.quakerspeak.com</a> .....	QuakerSpeak: A Quaker YouTube Channel
<a href="http://www.quakerhouse.org">www.quakerhouse.org</a> .....	Quaker House, Fayetteville
<a href="http://www.quakervoluntaryservice.org">www.quakervoluntaryservice.org</a> .....	Quaker Voluntary Service
<a href="http://www.quno.org">www.quno.org</a> .....	Quaker United Nations Office

## MEETING CALENDAR

<i>1<sup>st</sup> Days (Sundays)</i>	<i>Meeting for worship in a hybrid format: in person at Buckingham chickee hut or via Zoom. Conversational fellowship before worship at 10:00.</i>	10:30 am
<i>Each Wednesday</i>	<i>Mid-week worship at Buckingham chickee hut. This is in-person only.</i>	10:30 am
<i>Sunday 12/19/21</i>	<i>Quakerism 101: The Inner Light, led by Tom Miller</i>	1:00 p.m.
<i>Sunday 12/5/21</i>	<i>Potluck at Buckingham chickee hut</i>	Upon rise of worship

Contributions to the Meeting can be made payable to Fort Myers Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, and can be sent to:

Paul Davis, Treasurer

5530 Harborage Drive  
Fort Myers, FL. 33908



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

*Address Correction Requested*