



# FORT MYERS MONTHLY MEETING

OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

**NEWSLETTER, TWELFTH MONTH, 2022**

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*Newsletter Editor:* Deb White: [debwhitenfl@gmail.com](mailto:debwhitenfl@gmail.com)

## **Meeting for Worship**

*Friends are 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, also known as Peace Acres!*

*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.*

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

## SEYM Queries & Advices

### 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 11, 2022**

The Fort Myers Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends met in hybrid format on the 12th month 11th day with ~13 Friends present. The Meeting for Business opened with a period of silent centering.

Clerk Richard Frechette read the following Queries from New England Yearly Meeting:

- Is every aspect of your life open to the transforming power of God? What stands in the way?
- Are you open to the many ways Spirit may speak to you?
- Do you recognize divinely inspired insight? Can you distinguish between divine leadings and your own needs or desires?

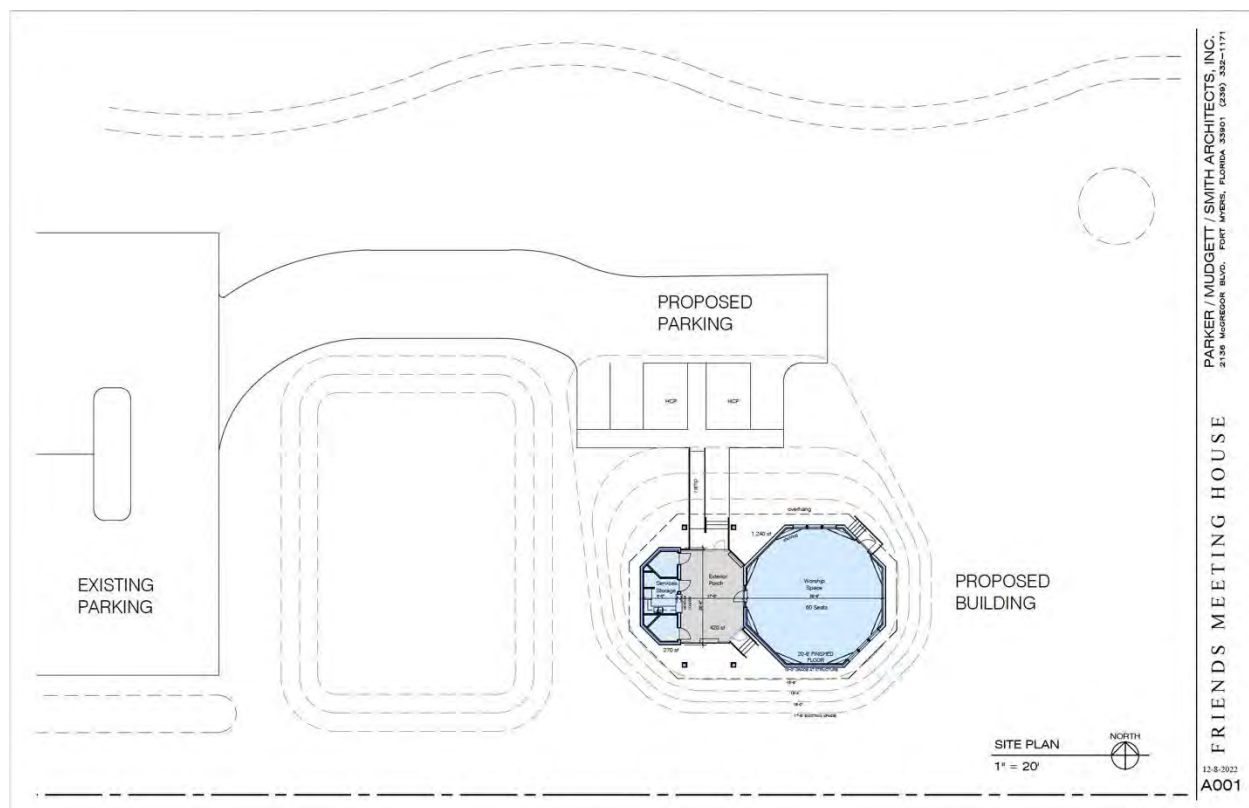
Insightful commentary followed:

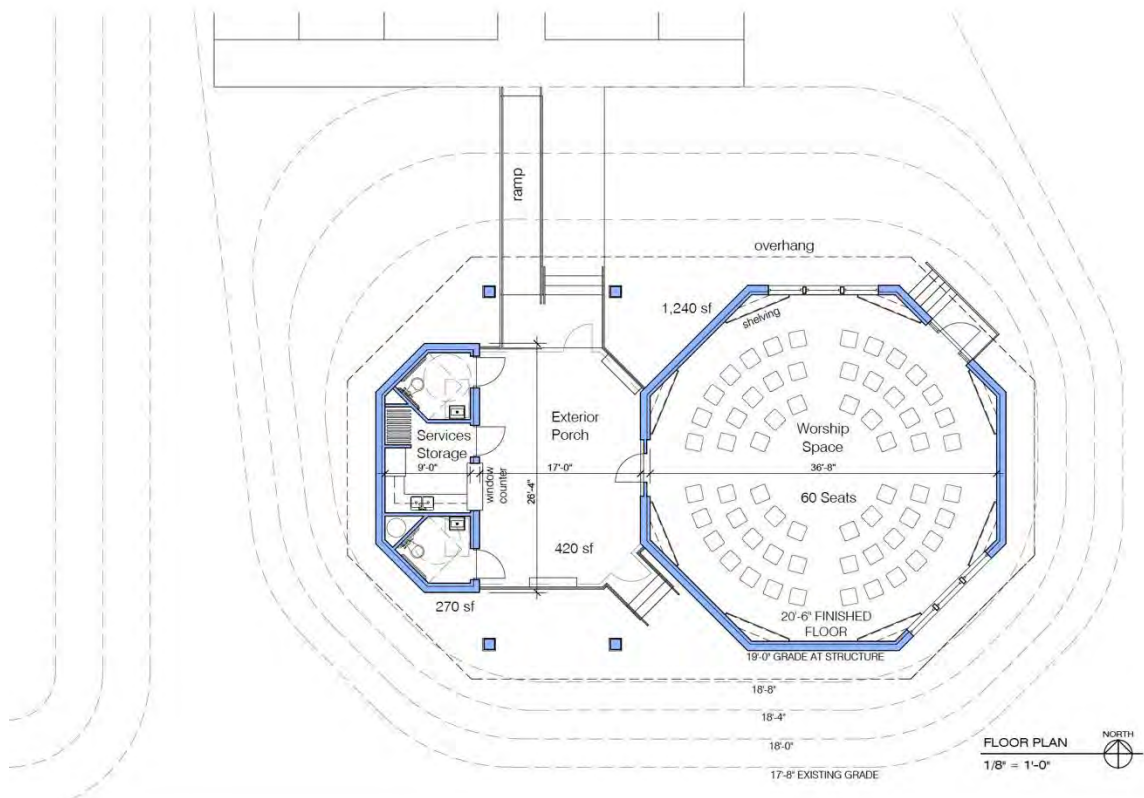
- "Recognizing what Einstein said: 'the very mind that created the problem is not the mind that is going to solve it.' Discerning spirit-led messages involve big, complex questions. It's a quest, a journey, an everyday commitment."
- "I try to avoid creating a dichotomy between self and spirit, with the spiritual coming from a different source that is somehow more valid than our own needs. Our own needs are valid sources and we should learn to share in that way."

## Meeting House Committee

The Committee shared the architect’s modified design with attendees. The roof, which covers the entire structure (Meetinghouse, outbuildings, and gathering porch) is now envisioned as a “stretched octagon.” There would be 400 sqft of outdoor gathering space. The outbuildings (2 handicap unisex bathrooms and a combined kitchenette-storage) would be situated directly across from the door to the worship space. The gathering space would be large enough (about 2/3<sup>rd</sup>s of the area under the Chickee Hut) to set up for potluck. A short stairway (two steps) would lead to an area under the roof overhang where we could add more potluck tables. The porch would be surrounded by a railing for safety. The handicap ramp with an 18” slope could be replaced by an inclined walkway. The door to the worship space would be solid for privacy. A second exit door from the worship space leading to a landing and stairs to the backyard would be glass with a transom above, adding more light. Each of the angles of the octagon inside the worship space could have built-in book shelves for our library and some extra storage. The ceiling of the worship space would be 18 ft. at its highest point. The walls would be 10 feet high, so the whole space would feel open. Air conditioning via ductwork would reduce the height of the ceiling somewhat, compared to a mini-split system. A decision on this will come later; the safety of the airflow will be our main concern. All the committee members agreed that we liked the octagonal design very much.

We have signed the contract with the engineering firm (Morris & Depew) and they will get back to us next week with their educated guess about the number of parking spaces we might need to add – or not. Then it goes to the County for approval.





PARKER / MUDGETT / SMITH ARCHITECTS, INC.  
2138 MACREGOR BLVD., FORT MYERS, FLORIDA 33901 (239) 332-1171

FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE

13-8-2022  
A101



NORTH (ENTRY) ELEVATION



WEST ELEVATION

EXTERIOR ELEVATIONS  
1/8" = 1'-0"

PARKER / MUDGETT / SMITH ARCHITECTS, INC.  
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FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE

13-8-2022  
A201



PARKER / MUDGETT / SMITH ARCHITECTS, INC.  
 2136 MacGregor Blvd., Fort Myers, Florida, 33901 (239) 332-1171  
 FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE  
 12-8-2022  
 A202

Jeff's estimate of the prospective cost follows:

FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE		Revised 08 DEC 2022	
Estimate of Project Costs			
Meeting House	1,240 sf @	\$200 per sf	\$248,000
Covered Porch	420 sf @	\$120 per sf	\$50,400
Service Building	270 sf @	\$240 per sf	\$64,800
Sitework			\$30,000
<b>Construction Sub-total</b>			<b>\$393,200</b>
15% Contingency			\$58,980
<b>Construction Total</b>			<b>\$452,180</b>
Civil Engineering Fees			\$38,000
Architectural Fees			\$38,000
Permit Fees			\$20,000
Septic Analysis and Design			\$6,000
<b>Soft Cost Sub-total</b>			<b>\$102,000</b>
<b>Project Total</b>			<b>\$554,180</b>
<p>Reduced Sitework number contingent on no new parking being added, but allows for a compacted gravel drive to the building from the existing parking lot.</p>			
For Enclosed Porch add \$40,000 with 15% contingency			\$46,000
For Parking Lot add \$40,000 with 15% contingency			\$46,000

- Discussion: According to Treasurer Paul Davis, with the pledges that have been made for January 2023 we are very close to funding the basic project as outlined above. We would need an additional \$22,000 to make it work if we do not need to add any additional parking. There are two possible scenarios for our parking requirements: 1) we would need to add two handicapped parking nearer the building (or we might decide we want to add two HC spaces and two regular ones); 2) the County may tell us we need to construct additional parking spaces to accommodate everyone who might come to the site (including UU's) at any given time. This would raise our costs considerably.

If we need to raise another \$ 68,000 - \$100,000 for additional parking we would need considerably more donations in the form of gifts or low interest loans. We would need to do a fundraising appeal to our widest audiences. However, Friend Paul reminded us that we have achieved the lowest possible cost for the project; a large, high-end development is scheduled to go in to the empty lot next door.

A Friend mentioned that Friends Fiduciary has in the past lent money to Meetings that are building Meetinghouses. The Treasurer will check into this. Friend Nancy Fennell added that FtMMM has a long history of supporting the building of other Meetinghouses: "It's customary practice that the information is sent out to all the Meetings in SEYM and that some support will be given."

Several Friends thanked the committee for their work and expressed both their excitement about the new structure and their concerns about costs.

Our next step is to wait for the engineering report, which should be coming in the next several weeks, to get a better idea of the parking situation.

## Treasurer's Report for period ended 11/30/2022

### FMMM Funds Report 11/30/2022

#### General Funds

Checking	6,735
Gen Fund Savings	40,427
Gen Fund Fr Fiduciary	28,376

**Total General Fund 75,538**

#### Meeting House Funds

Savings	277,440
MH Funds Fr Fiduciary	13,204

**Total Meeting House Funds 290,644**

**FMMM Total Funds 366,182**

Nov 2022 Income vs Expenses	
Nov Income	\$ 60
Nov Expenses	\$ 977*
* \$500 Floridans against Death Penalty, \$300 lan relief	

Treasurer Paul Davis reported that this week we received a \$7,100 in donations to the Meeting House fund and \$3,900 for the General Fund. Both these additions will appear in the December report.

Friend Paul also mentioned that we've received checks from the Clearwater Meeting (\$100 or \$150) and the Ann Arbor Meeting (\$1000) for Hurricane Ian relief.

- ❖ **Minute 2022-MM-12** FtMMM authorizes the Peace and Social Concerns Committee to decide on appropriate organizations for the two recent donations.

**Prospective 2023 Budget**

Friend Paul reported that we have kept about the same amounts for the line items from last year. He pointed out that SEYM requests the largest donation, amounting to a little over \$100 per person per year. This is not required; we can reduce it if we need to augment the Meetinghouse Fund. Whatever we don't use in next year's budget goes back into our General Fund. This fund is unrestricted, and could also be added to the Meetinghouse Fund if needed.

- ❖ **Minute 2022-MM-13:** The FtMMM accepts the 2023 budget as presented by the Treasurer.

	A	B	C	D
1	<b>2021, 2022 and 2023 FTMMM Budget</b>			
2	<b>Name</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
3	<b>BUDGETED EXPENSES</b>			
4	<b>Calusa Nature Center-Membership</b>	\$250	\$0	\$-
5	<b>Calusa Nature Center-Utility Payments</b>	\$1,200	\$400	\$-
6	<b>Environmental Working Group</b>	\$100	\$100	\$100
7	<b>Finance Committee-Banking &amp; Corporate Fees</b>	\$100	\$100	\$100
8	<b>Finance Committee-Gifts/Contingency</b>	\$100	\$100	\$100
9	<b>Hospitality Committee</b>	\$450	\$450	\$450
10	<b>Hurricane Ian (Clearwater)</b>		\$2150	\$-
11	<b>Internet</b>		\$500	\$500
12	<b>I storage</b>		\$1100	\$1,428
13	<b>Land Lease</b>			\$2,000
14	<b>Meetinghouse Reserve</b>	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000
15	<b>Ministry &amp; Counsel-Care</b>	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
16	<b>Ministry &amp; Counsel-Friends General Conference</b>	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$1,200

17	<b>Ministry &amp; Counsel-General/Misc</b>	\$300	\$300	\$300
18	<b>Ministry &amp; Counsel-Spiritual/Scholarships</b>	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500
19	<b>Newsletter</b>	\$300	\$300	\$300
20	<b>Nominating Committee</b>	\$100	\$100	\$100
21	<b>Outreach Committee: Web Hosting</b>	\$150	\$200	\$200
22	<b>Outreach Committee: Friends Journal Listing</b>	\$80	\$80	\$80
23	<b>Outreach Committee: Phone</b>	\$130	\$130	\$130
24	<b>Outreach Committee: Zoom</b>	\$650	\$650	\$650
25	<b>Peace &amp; Social Concerns-AFSC</b>	\$600	\$600	\$600
26	<b>Peace &amp; Social Concerns-CIW</b>	\$300	\$300	\$300
27	<b>Peace &amp; Social Concerns-Cultivate Abundance</b>	\$100	\$100	\$100
28	<b>Peace &amp; Social Concerns-Educ. Concerns for Hunger</b>	\$200	\$200	\$200
29	<b>Peace &amp; Social Concerns-Fair Housing</b>	\$300	\$300	\$300
30	<b>Peace &amp; Social Concerns-FCNL</b>	\$600	\$600	\$600
31	<b>Peace &amp; Social Concerns-Friends Peace Teams</b>	\$300	\$300	\$300
32	<b>Peace &amp; Social Concerns-H. Chapin Foodbank</b>	\$3,500	\$1,000	\$1,000
33	<b>Peace &amp; Social Concerns-Initiatives that may arise</b>	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
34	<b>Peace &amp; Social Concerns-Lee Interfaith</b>	\$500	\$500	\$500
35	<b>Peace &amp; Social Concerns-Mission Peniel</b>	\$300	\$750	\$750
36	<b>Peace &amp; Social Concerns-Peace Day</b>	\$100	\$100	\$100
37	<b>Peace &amp; Social Concerns-Quaker House</b>	\$300	\$300	\$300
38	<b>Peace &amp; Social Concerns-Quaker Vol. Services</b>	\$200	\$200	\$200
39	<b>Peace &amp; Social Concerns-Quality Life Center</b>	\$500	\$500	\$500
40	<b>Property Committee</b>	\$150	\$0	\$500
41	<b>Religious Education-1st Day School</b>	\$50	\$50	\$50
42	<b>Religious Education-Books/Misc</b>	\$500	\$500	\$500
43	<b>Religious Education-Retreats/Speakers</b>	\$800	\$800	\$800
44	<b>SEYM</b>	\$5,400	\$5,613	\$6,600
45	<b>Technology Committee</b>	\$500	\$500	\$500
46	<b>TOTAL</b>	\$26,810	\$27,573	\$28,838



## **Nominating Committee**

Clerk Deb White reported that each fall the Nominating Committee studies the list of responsibilities needed to be taken on in order for the Fort Myers Friends Meeting to run smoothly financially, practically, and according to our Quaker Faith. They ask members and attenders to consider their strengths and decide how they are led to help care for Fort Myers Friends Meeting. The Nominating Report is presented at the November Meeting with attention to Business for discussion and a final report is presented in December for approval.

The following committees (with the exception of Ministry and Counsel) are open to all members and attenders. Each committee chooses their own Clerk. The first meeting of the year should be called by the first member listed, who shall serve as Convener until a clerk is selected. Friends are welcome to join any of these committees throughout the year.

The Committee has made several changes: Hospitality and Properties have resumed their former status as regular committees. We will consider updating the Outreach Committee at a future time. Currently, our outreach is primarily done through our web page, and some concerns have been expressed about that.

The Membership Recorder keeps track of all the data. Friend Richard has been doing this and will continue in this role. The process for keeping track of new visitors should be put in place; in the past we've had a visitor sign-in book. Richard asked today's visitor for his email address and will send it to Ministry & Counsel.

Committee membership for next year is detailed below.

❖ **Minute 2022-MM-13:** The FtMMM accepts the Nominating Committee Report for 2023.

**Finance Committee** - Paul Davis, Sam DeOliveira, Helen Snodgrass

**Peace and Social Concerns Committee** – Carolyn Stanley, Helen Fox, Susan Oehl, Hugh Pettigrew, Jill Husson Martinez, Christine McBride, Karin Gelotte, Jim Koopman

**Religious Education Committee** - Jeannette Botha, Sheilana Massey, Susan Oehl, Deb White

**Technology Committee** – Pat Iyer, Paul Davis, (additional members needed!)

**Nominating Committee** - Deb White, Jill Martinez, Carolyn Stanley

**Ministry and Counsel Committee** **nominates their own members** (appointment expires at the end of the year listed.)

2023 - Paul Davis, Hugh Pettigrew, Deb White

2024 - Nancy Fennell, Helen Fox

2025 - Nancy Murvine.

**Hospitality Committee** - Richard and Suzanne Frechette, Nancy Howell, Susan Oehl, Chris Ruhnke, Vicki Scott

**Properties Committee** - Richard Frechette, Cheryl Keen, Chris Ruhnke

In addition to the committees, there are a few individual responsibilities. Most of these volunteers have agreed to continue in their position for the 2022 year.

**I. 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

FEI Number: 65-0607361

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
4. Director Carolyn Stanley, 14093 Mystic Seaport Way, Fort Myers, FL 33818-7700
5. Director Helen Fox, 7418 Grand Pine Road, Bokeelia, FL. 33922-3501

## **II. Fort Myers Monthly Meeting Individual Jobs.**

**Clerk** (3 year commitment) - **Richard Frechette** (until end of 2023.)

**Recording Clerk** (3 year commitment) - **Helen Fox Treasurer** -

**Paul Davis** (2nd term ends 2025).

Asst. Treasurer - Sam De Oliveira Newsletter Edi-

tor - Deb White

Assistant Newsletter Editor/Circulation - Mary Smiley Librarian - Susan Oehl

## Ministry & Counsel Committee

Clerk Nancy Murvine reported that Clearwater Meeting's \$1200 gift for Ian relief has been distributed and a note of thanks sent to Clearwater for their generosity. Money has been sent to two members of our Meeting. The remaining funds were sent (after consultation with Peace and Social Concerns) to New Image Tabernacle, a member church of the LIFE organization.

Friends were encouraged to speak to any of the queries that have been sent around by email to help construct the Spiritual State of the Meeting report. Some of the responses are noted below:

- While our hybrid set up is working very well for Meetings for Worship and Business, we are still challenged to pull the community together in other ways. Not everyone can come to the monthly potluck. Friend Sue Oehl has initiated the idea of a discussion group over zoom; we want to support this effort and others like it. Please call or email Sue if you are interested. 239 222-8749 [sisietree@gmail.com](mailto:sisietree@gmail.com)
- One Friend and several attenders dropped out of our Meeting last year. What can we do to support individuals better?
- Hybrid worship has been very effective in bringing people to Meeting that would not have a chance to attend due to distance, health concerns, etc.
- Some vocal ministry of late has been spiritually grounded. I hope that continues in the future.

If anyone has anything more to add, please call or email Clerk Nancy Murvine by December 15. The report will be finished by end of the year.

The meeting closed in silent worship.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Helen Fox, Recording Clerk

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*Would you like to get to know each other better?  
Would you like to discuss current topics of interest?*

Starting in January, Susan Oehl is facilitating the first of a Zoom monthly discussion group on any topic worthy of consideration. Not only Quaker topics but current events, such as Affirmative Action, justice, peace, religion or politics can be discussed.

The group will be following certain rules, e.g. respect of other's opinions, no interrupting someone who is speaking, polite disagreement, no name calling, and raising one's hand in order to be called on.

Anyone can propose a topic and lead the group to discuss it. A short reading (less than a page) if wished, can be sent to participants to read beforehand.

If you have any comments or suggestions, or are interested in such a group-please contact Susan Oehl at: 239-222-8749 or sisietree@gmail.com

Contributions to the Meeting can be made payable to Fort Myers Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, and can be sent to:  
Samuel De Oliveira, Assistant Treasurer  
FtMMM  
14180 Vindel Cir  
Fort Myers, FL. 33905

## MEETING CALENDAR

12/25/22	Christmas Day	
12/25/22	Meeting for Worship in a hybrid format: in person at Peace Acres or via Zoom An informal conversation time begins at 10:00 am	10:30 a.m.
Each Wednesday	Meeting for Worship at Peace Acres. This is in person only.	10:30 a.m.
01/08/22	Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business	upon rise of worship

## USEFUL WEBSITES FOR FRIENDS

<a href="https://pendlehill.org">https://pendlehill.org</a> .....	Pendle Hill, Quaker Retreat and Resource Center
<a href="http://seymquakers.org">http://seymquakers.org</a> .....	Southeastern Yearly Meeting
<a href="http://www.fcni.org">www.fcni.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="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 Nation