

Tampa Friends Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business

Minutes

DRAFT

11 Twelfth Month 2022

Clerks: Nil Wilkins (Meeting Clerk) and Chris Hugues (Stand-in Recording Clerk)

Attendees:

Meetinghouse attendees: Chris Hugues, Cynde Mercer, Nil Wilkins, and Cece Yocum

Online attendees: Jan Dahm, Miki Epperson, Lisa Erasmus, and Karen Putney,

Calendar of events:

- December 11 and 18 – Friends Peace Teams en las Americas fundraiser – items on display in front building; sign holiday cards (see above)
- December 16 – 19 – Half Yearly Meeting at Wekiwa Springs State Park in Apopka, FL – see seymquakers.org
- December 18, 11:30 am potluck at the meetinghouse
- January 1, noon – 8th Annual CommUnity Potluck Gathering at Rowlett Park, 2401 E. Yukon St., Shelter #218 – Chris will contact the group to make sure Tampa Quaker Meeting is listed as a co-sponsor. We're asking Friends to consider this event in lieu of a January Friendly Dinner.
- January 8, 11:30 am – Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business

Reports and Minutes

Take Action:

- Concern on Reproductive Rights has been laid down for the time being as there did not seem to be unity in our approach.
- Cece and Robin are working on the very important issue of Tampa Friends concerns about LGBTQ issues in Florida, but needs help and input to move forward in the form of ideas and direction. Please reach out to Cece if you'd like to help.
- The clerk sent a letter to Equality Florida including a donation by a Friend – we asked to be contacted about future plans.
- Worship on Potluck First Days – while it is a gift to be able to meet via Zoom each week for worship, there is a strong desire to bring those who are able to the Meetinghouse one First Day a month. This will be on Potluck First Days so that there's multiple events on the day that some people may make the trip to a live

worship. While the Zoom link will remain active on those weeks, the Meetinghouse will not join in, and it will need to be hosted and clerked by someone online. This entails making sure folks are muted or unmuted appropriately and removing any potential Zoom-bombers. We encourage those who can to come to the Meetinghouse, but are leaving the option available for online worship for those who cannot make the trip.

- The Friday newsletter will be combined with the weekly email once the two email lists are reconciled so that folks only get a single email each week.
- The Meeting's website will be transitioned to a less full-functioned website that is more informational rather than interactive to simplify the maintenance process.
- A Google Phone number has been set up for Tampa Quakers 813.575.0313. It can be activated at any time and can be sent to any individual(s). Some expressed concerns about privacy and dealing with sensitive and/or ranting calls, but there are not many calls and this will be a learning experience. It's a good idea to transition to this type of voicemail so that it can easily be transferred to someone who is able to call back in a timely fashion at different times during the year.
- A holiday card project has been set up to reach out to distant Friends and Friends we haven't seen in a while. Cards will be signed by in-person attendees and sent out on December 18. There will be an insert in each card:

Enclosure:

**From Tampa Friends Meeting
During This Holiday Season**

As we give thanks, celebrate peace, and reflect on a new year, we send our love to you. With the "new normal" from the pandemic, we are reminded to seek the Light like those Quakers who came before us.

We continue to hold Meeting for Worship weekly and find ourselves valuing more and more that time for communal worship. We are also building community by resuming some pre-pandemic activities like Adult First Day programming, potlucks, and Friendly Dinners (knowing that breaking bread together leads to a better understanding of each other).

Your involvement with Tampa Meeting over the years is meaningful and important to us.

Have a wonderful and peaceful holiday season.

The World We Seek

We seek a world free of war and the threat of war.

We seek a society with equity and justice for all.

We seek a community where every person's potential may be fulfilled.

We seek an earth restored.

From FCNL

Ministry and Counsel – We have submitted dates for February to participate in SEYM's Listening Project.

Activism – see Take Action section above.

Nominating: this is still in progress.

Treasurer's report: Chris reported a \$1,000 memorial gift in memory of David Nicholson. Donations are up during October compared to the immediate previous months. With this increase, we are much more in line with where donations need to be for the year. Friends accepted the Treasurer's report.

Property: Chris Hugues reported that we need to address the termite damage in the front door of the front building. He is also checking out the eaves in the back building where there is some minor damage. The AA group is reducing their presence to 2 days a week due to reduced attendance since COVID made ZOOM meetings a possibility. The UCC church is very interested in using the meetinghouse, but now would like to meet every week. This presents a bit of a problem as it will restrict our use of the building for after meeting events. Conversation/negotiations are continuing.

Learning: Due to a large number of events scheduled for January AFDP will tentatively resume in February.

Community: We having after-meeting snacks and fellowship each First Day along with monthly Potlucks on the 3rd First day of each month. In lieu of a January Friendly Dinner, we encourage Friends to attend the January 1 CommUnity Potluck Gathering at Rowlett Park.

Treasurer's Reports: Donations were lower than expected in November, leaving us with a Prorated Income through November of \$15,135.51, a deficit of \$1,132 through the fiscal year to date. Expenses through November (2Q Fiscal Year) were \$18,721 with the primary contributors being the mortgage (\$7,932.50), insurance (\$4,975.85), lawn maintenance (\$3,450), and electricity (\$1,429.56). Please consider making donations to help us with our operating expenses, or to increase your existing donations.

Minute:

Friends approved the following minute in appreciation of Cynde Mercer:

Tampa Friends express our deep gratitude and acknowledgement to Cynde Mercer for her many years of dedicated service to communication for the meeting, with thoughtful consideration of needs and a focus on providing information through the weekly newsletter and the website.

Minutes for Eleventh Month were approved with changes. The meeting ended with closing worship.