

Tampa Friends Meeting
Special Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business

Minutes

1 Fourth Month 2007

OPENING SILENCE

RECORDING CLERK

Cynde Mercer recording clerk.

ATTENDEES

John Arnaldi, MJ Arnaldi, Nicholas Autry, Tom Blackburn, Francis Drake, Billy Lee, Steve Kinney, Cynde Mercer, Sharon Olenski, Karen Putney, Lou Putney, Amy Souza, Melissa Van Dyke, Bill Ward, Kathy Ward, Nil Wilkins, Barbara Wolfe

BUSINESS

This is a special meeting for the purpose of recording a minute for Southeastern Yearly Meeting.

Minute 1 Fourth Month 2007

Tampa Monthly Meeting has taken seriously the charge to seek way forward in our discernment regarding our continued affiliation with Friends United Meeting. We recognize the pain and division within our Religious Society concerning the issues of marriage and chastity, as they are so differently defined among us. Our discernment was aided by the 1983 SEYM Minute regarding affiliation with FGC and FUM, which states, in part, "...Affiliation with any larger loose confederation of Yearly Meetings such as FUM or FGC is seen as promoting a spirit of fellowship and cooperation among Friends, rather than imposing conformity with any standards, practices, or doctrinal statements which are not acceptable to the inwardly illumed conscience of individual members." We feel this minute encourages Friends to be open to one another and to work together to find solutions to challenges within our Religious Society. We feel called to state clearly our love for our lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered brothers and sisters and seek to accompany them in the continuing struggle against oppression and discrimination. We recognize our commitment to the Religious Society Of Friends is one which requires that we not turn away from one another in seeking way forward. We are clear that relationship requires listening to each other and laboring with each other and we strongly support the work of those in SEYM who are involved in such interactions with FUM. Tampa Monthly Meeting has reached unity on continuing affiliation with FUM.

CLOSING SILENCE